

6th April 1938

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume III, 1938

(24th March to 12th April, 1938)

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1938



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Legislative Assembly.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6th April, 1938.

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.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before we take up the questions I ought to remind the Honourable Members that there are two lists of questions today: one is the list of questions set down for answer on the 5th, and the other is of those set down for answer today. This arrangement was arrived at in accordance with the suggestion made by the Leader of the House which seemed to have found general acceptance. At that time I expressed my doubt whether this arrangement was in accordance with the rules which require that only five questions can be put by one Member on one day. I take it that Government having made the suggestion will not refuse to answer orally more than five questions of a Member if there are more than five questions in his name taking both the lists together. But, so far as one list is concerned, according to the ordinary rule not more than five questions can be asked by one Member. This special arrangement is certainly straining the rule, and I think Government ought to consider, when an emergency like this arises, whether there ought not to be some provision of meeting that emergency, that is to say, if for any particular reasons as on this occasion, there is no sitting of the Assembly on a particular day, whether some arrangement cannot be arrived at for disposing of the questions put down for that day. What I want to do today is this—not more than half an hour will be allowed to each list, that is to say, taking the list for 5th April, if all the questions on that list are not finished within half an hour, I will take up the questions put down for today.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

ABOLITION OF THE FIRST CLASS CARRIAGES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1164. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) whether Government have consulted the various railway administrations with regard to the abolition of the first class carriages on State Railways as recommended by the Wedgwood Committee;
- (b) whether they have received replies from any of the railway administrations; if so, what is the nature of those replies, and
- (c) when they expect to come to a final conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the remarks in connection with paragraphs 71 to 78 appearing on page 5 of the "Statement showing the action taken by the Railway Department, (Railway Board) on the paragraphs in Chapters III to XI of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee's report (1937)".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the answer to clause (c)?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (b) and (c) are answered together.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not see, Sir, how there can be any answer in that report as to when they expect to come to a final decision in the matter.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will refer to the answer to the question, he will see that a certain decision has been taken.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member how to get hold of the document to see that.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: A copy of the document was supplied to the Members of the House. I do not know what the Honourable Member has done with his copy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: To the previous question the Honourable Member answered that they are consulting the Railway Administrations in the matter, and that after their replies have been received they will come to a decision. What I want to know is when they expect to come to a decision over the matter.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Obviously not until all the replies have been received.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Pending receipt of these replies have Government issued instructions not to construct any more first class carriages?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If there is a possibility of the abolition of the first class, will it not be wise to issue such instructions?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will refer to the document I have mentioned he will find the answer to his question.

CONCESSION IN POSTAGE RATES ON SPECIAL NUMBERS OF NEWSPAPERS.

1165. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) whether the concession postage rate, as normally charged on a newspaper, is extended also to the special numbers in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government will give reasons why the same practice is not adopted in British India?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) and (b). The information is not available. It has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. K. Santhanam: With reference to answer to (b), is the information in respect to (b) also not available? It is about India.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Obviously I cannot answer part (b) until I am in a position to answer part (a).

NEPAL POST OFFICE.

1166. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) when the Nepal Post Office was opened;
- (b) what is the financial position of the Nepal Post Office; and
- (c) whether the Nepal Government contributes anything towards its expenses; if so, how much?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The office was opened more than half a century ago. The exact date is, however, not known.

(b) The information has been called for and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative; the second part, therefore, does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the post office is there for the benefit of the Nepalese Government also?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Primarily for the benefit of the British representative there.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If it is secondarily for the benefit of the Nepalese people why did not Government make representations for a contribution from the Nepalese Government?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member assumes that it is for the benefit of the Nepalese people: I have just said it is primarily for the benefit of the British representative.

Seth Govind Das: Though it is primarily for the British representative, is it not secondarily for the benefit of the Nepal Government and, under the circumstances, do not Government think it proper that they should get a contribution from the Nepalese Government.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that Government have considered this matter and decided not to ask for a contribution?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: It has been considered.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is this the only post office or are there other post offices on the borders of Nepal and in Nepal?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I should like to have notice of that question.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO SEVA SAMITI BOY SCOUTS.

1167. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state:

- (a) who are the final authorities that give concessions in Railways;
- (b) whether applications have been, or were, received to give Railway concessions to Seva Samiti Boy Scouts, such as are given to certain Scout organisations at present; and
- (c) if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Railway Administrations have powers to grant concessions, so long as the fares charged do not infringe the authorised minima.

(b) and (c). Scouts belonging to the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts Association are already allowed the same concessions as are given to scouts belonging to the All-India Boy Scouts Association.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether an appeal is allowed for getting these concessions from the Railway Administrations to the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I should like to have notice of it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any list showing the names of social and humanitarian societies which have been given these concessions.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: My memory is that there is a list and that I gave a reference to it in answer to a recent question. I will give the Honourable Member more exact information if he will approach me.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what are the conditions under which concessions are given?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That too is a question which I answered some days ago.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not in the discretion of the Agent to grant or refuse these concessions?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have just said that the Railway administrations have powers to grant these concessions.

Mr. K. Santhanam: May I know whether these concessions have been compared and an attempt made to standardise them?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I should like to have notice of that question.

PURCHASES MADE BY RAILWAYS.

1168. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state the value of the total purchases by railways during 1937-38?

(b) What percentage of this total was handled by (i) the Railway Board, (ii) the Indian Stores Department, and (iii) Stores Departments of the railway administrations?

(c) What precautions are taken in the purchases by the Railway Board and the Stores Department of the railway administrations (including Company-managed Railways) to scrutinise the list of purchases in order to ascertain whether the same are manufactured in India, or can be manufactured?

(d) How much of the total purchase at the hands of these agencies consisted of articles of Indian origin and Indian manufacture, and what percentage does it bear to the total?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (d). The information will be available in September next and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) A close liaison exists in regard to purchases of stores between the Indian Stores Department, the Railway Board and Railways. Purchases by the State-managed Railways and the Railway Board are made strictly in accordance with rules for the supply of articles required to be purchased for the public service. The Honourable Member is also referred to the Memorandum by the Financial Commissioner of Railways on the policy of the Railway Board in the matter of stores purchases at pages 196 and 197 of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways held on 30th and 31st January, 1936—Volume XII—No. 6, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House.

Since 1937-38 the Home indents of Company-managed Railways have been scrutinised both by the Railway Board and the Indian Stores Department with a view to determine if the articles indented for in those indents can be obtained of Indian manufacture.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE ALL-INDIA RADIO.

1169. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state the total capital outlay in connection with the All-India Radio Department?

(b) Is it possible to give an approximate figure of this outlay in connection with the various stations in India?

(c) How much of the capital equipment purchased consisted of materials of Indian origin or fabrication?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The capital grant for the development of broadcasting amounts to Rs. 40 lakhs. The amount spent upto February 28th, 1938, was Rs. 20,22,043.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The percentage of the capital expenditure on equipment incurred on materials of Indian origin or fabrication is small.

Statement showing the details of Capital Expenditure incurred from the special Broadcasting Fund of Rs. 40 lakhs upto 28th February, 1938.

Name of Station.	Amount.
	Rs.
Delhi	8,28,743
Bombay	2,02,201
Calcutta	1,80,249
Dacca	1,16,780
Peshawar	50,129
Lahore	1,38,128
Lucknow	1,36,250
Madras	2,37,112
Trichinopoly	1,32,451
Total	20,22,043

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government are making any attempt to inquire, through firms and Chambers of Commerce, whether some of the equipment required for the new stations may not be fabricated in India?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Our technical staff are fully aware of where they may purchase the necessary equipment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have made any attempts to get these materials in India?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes: tenders are issued.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government have made sure that these things cannot be manufactured in India?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The fact that Indian firms do not respond to the tenders is fairly good evidence that this equipment is not yet manufactured in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire whether it is proposed to secure a report from the Industrial Research Bureau on the subject as to which of the items in the Indian Radio-receivers, transmitters or other things can or cannot be made in this country with a little effort?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The services of the Indian Stores Department are at our disposal for that purpose.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Honourable Member knows that his predecessor said in this House that in the near future arrangements will be made to have cheaper radio sets in the interests of the rural population?

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

KALYAN POWER HOUSE AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR GETTING SUPPLY OF POWER FROM TATA COMPANIES.

1170. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state the present position of the Kalyan power house? Is it working at full capacity, or, is the generation of power there suspended?

(b) Have there been any negotiations between Government and the Tata group of power companies for the supply of power to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and/or the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway? Have these negotiations terminated in a contract?

(c) At what rate is the supply secured for railways for the future?

(d) Has the power company retained the right to discontinue such a supply after notice?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The Kalyan Power House is supplying about 40 per cent. of the current consumed by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. It is not working at full capacity.

(b) Yes. General agreement has been arrived at regarding the terms of the contract but there are still certain minor details to settle. These are under discussion with Messrs. Tata Sons & Co. and the Railway Administration concerned.

(c) The rate is based on what it would have cost the Railways to extend the Kalyan Power House and to take over the full load.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (c) of the question, what is the rate?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I must ask for notice of that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I point out, Sir, that the question is very clear and notice has been given: my question is: "At what rate is the supply secured"?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I can give no further reply than I have already given to part (c): it is the rate at which we could have supplied ourselves.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give to Members of this House a reply to this a little later?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: When I have an opportunity of seeing the contract in its full form, I shall consider the advisability of laying a copy on the table of the House.

CURTAILMENT OF ENGLISH PROGRAMMES IN BROADCASTING STATIONS.

1171. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

(a) whether he has seen a letter from Mr. J. W. Bottoms in the *Statesman* of the 21st March, 1938;

(b) whether Government have considered the suggestion therein as follows: "Would it not be a better policy to concentrate on the vernacular programmes and cut down English broadcasts to the news, special broadcasts of functions—with important speeches—and sporting events of general interest in India and leave us to hear about covered wagons, cutties and old home towns from elsewhere?"; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of curtailing English programmes and saving public funds?

— **The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart:** (a) Yes.

(b) Government understand that English programmes broadcast by All-India Radio are listened to and appreciated by a large number of Indian as well as European listeners.

(c) I will have further enquiries made and consider the point.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if there are any programmes in Sindhi for the interests of the Sind people who are very fond of music?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: My information is, no.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why not? When it is in Urdu and English and other languages, why not for Sindhis?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am perfectly prepared to consider the Honourable Member's request that Sindhi programme should be put across.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the suggestion made by this gentleman writing in the *Statesman* that the English programme given in this country is inferior and that when a better programme could be secured from any other European stations and that Indian money should be saved? Have they considered this?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes. Government certainly have considered the letter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the conclusion to which they have come after the consideration?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government reserve the right to differ from that gentleman's opinion.

RUNNING OF ROAD TRANSPORT SERVICES BY RAILWAYS.

1172. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways state:

- (a) whether Railway Administrations should get the permission of Government if they want to run road transport services;
- (b) whether any railways have asked for such permission and are running such services; if so, which railways and for which lines; and
- (c) whether these services have been working at a profit?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes, except in cases in which the road transport services are not being financed by Government and provided that the Railway Company running the service is not subject to the provisions of section 51 A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

(b) and (c). Sanction has been given for the North Western Railway to arrange for the running of a bus service between Lyallpur and Jhang. So far as I am aware at present, this service has not yet been introduced.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I know at present that no railway company has taken the permission of the Government of India and is running buses?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That is my information.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE RATES BETWEEN BURMA AND INDIA.

1173. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) whether Government have received any definite replies from the Government of Burma with regard to the reduction of the Indo-Burman postal rates;
- (b) if so, what is the nature of the reply; and
- (c) whether they have been able to work out the financial effect of the increase of the rates?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b) I place on the table a copy of a Press Communique issued on the 29th March, 1938.

(c) The precise financial effect could not be worked out. The increased rates resulted in a reduction in the volume of traffic but in an increase in the total revenue.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

NEW DELHI, THE 29TH MARCH, 1938.

Press Communique.

Prior to the separation of Burma from India, the rates of postage and of air surcharge for postal articles including parcels between India and Burma were the same as for those in the inland post. From the 1st April, 1937, Burma was constituted as a separate and independent Government. From the same date the Empire rates of postage were made applicable for all correspondence between India and Burma and the air mail fee was fixed at 2 annas per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for letters and packets and $\frac{2}{3}$ anna per postcard. The rates of postage on parcels exchanged between the two countries were also revised being fixed on the basis of the Imperial Parcels Postage Scheme. These rates involved a very large increase over those existing prior to the 1st April, 1937, and the question of reducing these rates has been under the consideration of the Government of India in consultation with the Government of Burma.

2. The Government of India are now glad to announce that with effect from the 1st April, 1938, reduced rates of postage will become applicable for all postal articles from India to Burma as indicated below :

Rates of postage now in force.			Rates of postage applicable from 1st April 1938.		
1			2		
Rs. A. P.			Rs. A. P.		
Single	.	0 2 0	Single	.	0 1 0
Reply	.	0 4 0	Postcards. Reply	.	0 2 0
Not exceeding 1 oz.	.	0 2 6	Letters	Not exceeding 1 tola	0 1 6
Each additional 1 oz.	.	0 2 0		Each additional 1 tola or part thereof.	0 1 0
For every 2 oz. or part thereof.		0 0 9	Printed papers.		
Not exceeding 10 oz.	.	0 3 6	Business papers.	For the first 5 tolas or part thereof.	0 0 9
Each additional 2 oz. or part thereof.		0 0 9		For every additional 5 tolas or part thereof.	0 0 6
For every 2 oz. or part thereof with a minimum charge of 0-1-6 whatever the weight.		0 0 9	Samples		
For every 2 oz. or part thereof		0 0 9	Registered Newspapers.	For each copy for the first 10 tolas or part thereof.	0 0 6
				For every additional 10 tolas.	0 0 6
Not over 3 lbs.	.	1 4 0	Parcels	Not over 1 lb.	0 12 0
Over 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs.	.	2 8 0		Over 1 lb. but not over 2 lbs.	1 0 0
Over 7 lbs. but not over 11 lbs.	.	3 12 0		Over 2 lbs. but not over 3 lbs.	1 4 0
Over 11 lbs. but not over 20 lbs.	.	6 0 0		Over 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs.	2 8 0
				Over 7 lbs. but not over 11 lbs.	3 12 0
				Over 11 lbs. but not over 20 lbs.	6 0 0

Air Mail Surcharge—

0 0 9 each.
0 2 0 per $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
0 2 0 per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Postcards 0 0 6 each.
Letters 0 1 6 per tola.
Packets 0 1 6 per tola.

3. It is understood that the Government of Burma have notified similar rates of postage and air fee for articles from Burma to India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I know—I understand that the Government have reduced the rates now—what will be the Government forecast about the financial effect of this reduction?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am not prepared to make any forecast.

REPRESENTATION OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE UPPER AIR OBSERVATORY, AGRA.

1174. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state the number of clerks from the Depressed Classes employed in the Upper Air Observatory, Agra; (i) since

the issue of the Home Department Resolution, No. F.-14/17-B./88-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934, and (ii) employed at present?

(b) Is it a fact that none of those employed from the Depressed Classes have ever been confirmed?

(c) Is it a fact that no preferential treatment was meted out to members of the Depressed Classes at the time of the last recruitment of clerks for the Observatory Office?

(d) Is it a fact that there is no 'fair representation' of members of the Depressed Classes in the Observatory as required in the above quoted Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to ensure a 'fair representation' of the Depressed Classes in the Observatory Office?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) (i) Three.

(ii) Two.

(b) No.

(c) Due consideration was given to the applications of those candidates who stated that they belonged to depressed classes.

(d) I have no reason to suppose that the number appointed since the Resolution referred to gives them an unfair representation.

(e) The Director General of Observatories is fully aware of the desirability of giving the depressed classes a reasonable share of the appointments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that so few people belonging to the depressed classes are appointed to this department, will Government consider the advisability of giving some scholarships to these people to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge so that they can qualify themselves for these posts?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am not aware that these depressed classes have not ordinary opportunities to qualify themselves for the posts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member not aware of the fact that the depressed classes are too poor to educate themselves sufficiently to qualify themselves for these posts?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I suggest that it is the responsibility of the provincial administrations.

EXTENSION TO CERTAIN PLACES OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY LINE.

1175. ***Mr. Kuladhar Chalhha:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at to take up the Jorhat Provincial Railway by the Railway Board;

(b) if so, whether the Branch Line from Cinnamora junction to Titabar junction will be maintained as before;

(c) whether Government propose to abolish the line and extend the Assam Bengal Railway from Jorhat town station to Moriani, or whether it is the intention of Government to lease it out to the River Steamer Services as before; if so, why;

(d) whether Government are thinking of extending the Assam Bengal Railway line from Jorhat town station to Sibsagar town parallel to the Trunk Road, a distance of only 34 miles; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the present route from Jorhat Town to Sibsagar Town is about 64 miles by rail?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (c) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(d) No.

(e) The distance by rail from Jorhat to Moriani is 11 miles and from Moriani to Sibsagar Town 44 miles.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know how long it will take to come to a decision? It has already taken two years.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am afraid I cannot give any approximation.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: In the last Session, you told us the same thing.

DIVERSION OF CERTAIN TRAINS TO ENABLE THEM TO TOUCH BENARES AND ALLAHABAD.

1176. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): (a) With reference to his reply to starred question No. 116 on the 26th August, 1937, will the Honourable Member for Railways state whether any further examination has been made of the Janghai-Phaphamau section of the East Indian Railway as regards its capacity to bear heavy traffic?

(b) What will be the cost of strengthening the section to enable the Calcutta-Bombay Mails to run over it?

(c) What will be the difference in time if the Calcutta-Bombay Mails are diverted over this section travelling at the maximum rates trains are permitted to travel over this section?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

(b) About Rs. 12 lakhs.

(c) Forty minutes longer.

POSTAGE RATES FOR LETTERS BY AIR MAIL AND SEA MAIL BETWEEN INDIA AND EUROPE.

1177. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

(a) if it is a fact that all letters meant for England and European countries are now taken by air from India;

(b) if any change in the postage on such letters has been made; if so, what;

(c) if it is a fact that the postage on letters weighing between half an ounce and one ounce has been doubled;

(d) if so, under what authority Government have increased the postage; and

- (e) if Government are prepared to consider the desirability of permitting those who want their letters to go by sea, the benefit of the lower postage?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) All letters addressed to countries in Europe which are participating in the Empire Air Mail Scheme are carried by air.

- (b) Yes; the postage rate is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per half ounce.
 (c) Yes.
 (d) Under section 10 of the Indian Post Office Act.
 (e) No.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What are the reasons for increasing the rates?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am afraid I do not quite understand the implication of the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that the transit of mails through ships has been abolished now?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes, to those particular countries to which I have made reference.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that this new arrangement is going to cause a loss of Rs. 11 lakhs and this loss is only intended to benefit the richer classes of this country and of Great Britain?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know with regard to clause (e) of the question, why is option not being given that those letters of that kind also should be sent by sea?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Because it is an essential part of the scheme that all mails should go by air.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member intended to say that this new arrangement is not going to cause a loss of eleven lakhs of rupees?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member asked me whether it was intended for that purpose.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wanted to ask whether it has caused a loss of Rs. 11 lakhs or not.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I want notice of that question.

ABSENCE OF WIRE-FENCING ALONG THE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN JHANSI AND MANIKPUR.

1178. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): (a) with reference to his reply to starred question No. 204 on the 31st August, 1937, will the Honourable Member for Railways state if any further enquiries

have been made regarding the loss of life of men and animals due to lack of wire-fencing along the railway line between Jhansi and Manikpur on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Are Government considering the desirability of getting proper wire-fencing put along the track?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) No.

(b) No. Our present policy is not to maintain fencing except in suburban and industrial areas, around station yards, and in the immediate neighbourhood of important level crossings.

GIVING OF CERTAIN FACILITIES TO NEWSPAPERS.

1179. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) if it is a fact that proposals have been mooted in the House that newspaper offices should be given the privilege of sending more than one copy of the same issue of their paper in the same bundle at the newspaper rates; and
- (b) if Government have considered the proposals and if so, whether they are thinking of giving any facilities to newspapers in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Yes.

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(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES SUFFERED BY CERTAIN RAILWAY COMPANIES IN BENGAL.

1180. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (i) the approximate amount of losses suffered from year to year since 1917 by each, the Bengal Provincial Railway Company, Limited and the Howrah Sheakhala Railway of Messrs. Martin and Company, owing to the construction of the Howrah-Burdwan Chord line by the East Indian Railway;
- (ii) the compensations annually paid to each of the companies mentioned in (i) for the losses referred to by them from the very beginning; and
- (iii) the basis of the calculation of the losses and the compensations mentioned in (i) and (ii), respectively?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (i), (ii) and (iii). The annual compensation to the Bengal Provincial Railway Company was fixed on the basis of the anticipated difference between the gross earnings of that railway before and after the opening of the Howrah Burdwan Chord, and the amount so fixed, Rs. 11,000 per annum, was accepted by the Company as a permanent arrangement.

The compensation paid to the Howrah Sheakhala Light Railway is based only on the gross earnings of the Howrah Burdwan Chord Railway from

goods and coaching traffic between Howrah and (1) Dankuni, and (2) Begampur and from coaching traffic between Howrah, and (1) Akhdanga and (2) Tajpore.

In these circumstances, there has been no occasion to ascertain the actual losses to the railway companies on account of the construction of the Howrah Burdwan Chord, and further it is extremely difficult, to calculate these losses with any degree of accuracy. Government have therefore no information regarding them.

The sums actually paid as compensation by the East Indian Railway to the Howrah Sheakhala Light Railway for the years 1919-20 to 1936-37 are given in the statement which I place on the table of the House.

Statement of Compensation paid by the East Indian Railway to the Howrah Sheakhala Light Railway.

1919-20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14,419
1920-21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	24,559
1921-22	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	30,578
1922-23	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37,688
1923-24	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	38,328
1924-25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37,625
1925-26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	37,359
1926-27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35,576
1927-28	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35,851
1928-29	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	49,484
1929-30	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	53,820
1930-31	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	48,656
1931-32	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	44,958
1932-33	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	40,602
1933-34	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	39,322
1934-35	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	42,999
1935-36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	44,421
1936-37	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	43,526

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is it not a fact that the Bengal Provincial Railway Company have represented to the Railway Board about the actual losses they are undergoing, and have not the Railway Board accepted the company's figures as fairly accurate?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I do not think that question in regard to the Bengal Provincial Railway Company arises out of the answer I have given.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: The Honourable Member's reply was that there was no occasion to ascertain the actual losses to the railway companies, and my question was, was not an estimate of the losses been brought to the notice of the Railway Board and have not the Railway Board accepted the figure as correct? Numerous representations have been made to the Railway Board.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I must have notice of that.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know why two different principles are followed in regard to making concessions to two different railways?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That is as a result of the fact that two different bargains were struck with two different companies.

INCOME ACCRUED TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY FROM CERTAIN STATIONS LYING ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY LINE.

1181. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the annual incomes which accrued from year to year to the East Indian Railway from the reserved stations and other two stations of Belmari and Group of the Howrah-Burdwan Chord line, which two lie on either side of the Bengal Provincial Railway line since 1917?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have no information.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will Government collect the information and supply it to the House?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Because I do not think it is possible to do so.

TRAINS RUNNING ON THE HOWRAH-BURDWAN CHORD LINE.

1182. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that originally only one Up and one Down train used to run on the Howrah-Burdwan Chord line and that the number of trains was later increased, and if so, since when and what is the number of trains at present running on the line?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, particulars are not readily available showing when the number of trains was increased, but, from the 1st April, 1938, the number of trains running daily, except on Saturdays, and stopping at stations on the chord line is ten in each direction, of which three run only over a part of the chord line.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: In view of the fact that more trains are required to run over the Howrah-Burdwan Chord is it not desirable and justifiable to pay more compensation to the Bengal Provincial Railway Company?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: No, Sir. I do not accept the Honourable Member's conclusion.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATUS OF THE POST OFFICE AND THE POSTMASTER AT HUNTERGANJ IN THE HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

1183. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Branch Postmaster of Hunterganj in the district of Hazaribagh some four years back used to get Rs. 60 a month as his monthly pay, besides contingent allowances, house rent and other advantages, whereas the present incumbent (Postmaster) is getting Rs. 10 only as his monthly pay and nothing else;

- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether there has been comparatively any decrease in the amount of work and consequently a decrease in the income of the post-office at Hunterganj from before and if so, to what extent; and
- (c) if it is a fact that the postal Inspector in his recent inspection note of the Hunterganj post office, has proposed the appointment of an additional village postman to meet the heavy work of the post office, and if so, whether it is in the contemplation of the Department to improve the status of the post office and the postmaster there and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The pay of the departmental branch postmaster, Hunterganj, before it was converted into an extra-departmental office in January, 1934, was Rs. 55 per month. He received Rs. 2 as rent for the office and Re. 1 as fixed contingent charge, but no house rent allowance. The extra-departmental agent in charge of the office who is a part-time employee of the department receives an allowance of Rs. 10 per month.

(b) and (c). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, to whom a copy of this question and the reply will be forwarded for such action as he may consider suitable.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A VILLAGE POST OFFICE AT SILA-ICHAK IN THE HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

1184. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Is the Honourable Member for Communications aware of the fact that in the district of Hazaribagh, the distance between Hazaribagh post office and the Simaria village post office is 30 miles, and that there is no village post office between the two and if so, whether in compliance with the petition submitted to the Divisional Superintendent of Hazaribagh on behalf of the people of Sila-Ichak and some other forty neighbouring villages, situated between Hazaribagh and Simaria, it is in the contemplation of the Department to take early steps to open immediately a new experimental village post-office at Sila-Ichak?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, to whom a copy is being sent for inquiry and such action as he considers desirable.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO SENIOR POSTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1185. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the total number of posts of Station Masters grade I or A, carrying salaries of Rs. 480 and above and of Station Superintendents, Goods Inspectors or Goods Foremen, on each of the following Railways:

- (i) Great Indian Peninsula Railway,
- (ii) East Indian Railway, and
- (iii) Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) How many of the above-mentioned posts are held by Indians other than Anglo-Indians on each of the aforesaid railways? If none, why has no Indian been so far appointed?

(c) Is it not a fact that one of the recommendations of the Acworth Committee was that 75 per cent of the senior posts on Indian Railways should be given to Indians?

(d) What efforts, if any, have been made by the Railway Board to train Indians and appoint them to these posts?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (d). As regards (a) and the first part of part (b), the available information will be found in the 'Classified lists of Subordinate staff of Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways, on rates of pay of Rs. 250 and above', copies of which are in the Library of the House.

As regards the second part of part (b) and part (d), recruitment to these posts is not generally made direct but by promotion in which case communal considerations do not arise. I may also add that several Railway administrations have area schools for the training of subordinate supervisory staff of all communities which provide courses of training for probationers in the subordinate grades, refresher courses and promotion courses.

(c) No. The recommendation of the Acworth Committee was that greater facilities should be provided for training Indians for the superior posts in railway services and the process of their employment in such posts should be accelerated.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I want a definite answer. Is it not a fact that there is no Indian in these posts?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If the Honourable Member will put down a definite question I will give a definite answer.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already put down a definite question in part (b). "How many of the above-mentioned posts are held by Indians other than Anglo-Indians on each of the aforesaid railways? If none, why has no Indian been so far appointed?" I want to know, is it not a fact that there is no Indian?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have referred the Honourable Member to the available statistics

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know whether at present Indians and Anglo-Indians are being recruited according to the percentage fixed, or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I am afraid I do not understand the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether this 75 per cent. that has been fixed for these senior posts whether appointments in these grades

are being given according to that percentage or given to the Anglo-Indians more and Indians less?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have informed the Honourable Member that the percentage of 75 was not recommended and it is not in force.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any ratio by which it goes now?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: There is a Home Department Resolution, dated the 4th July, 1934, a copy of which I am sure is in the Library of the House, which lays down the principles on which recruitment is carried out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if it is followed on these railways?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the recommendation of the Acworth Committee that the employment of Indians in the higher grades should be accelerated has been carried out? Has there been any acceleration?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Certainly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I gave figures in the course of the Railway Budget debate.

Mr. Manu Subedar: To a similar question of mine a similar reply was given. I wanted above Rs. 400 and my Honourable friend wanted above Rs. 430. But we are given figures by lumping up from Rs. 250. We know that between Rs. 250 and 400 you have many Indians. The specific question which my Honourable friend is asking, and I repeat it, is whether there are any Indians there getting more than Rs. 430?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I referred the Honourable Member to the available statistics we have.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it not a fact that for the purpose of getting service Anglo-Indians are included under the category of Indians?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Certainly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I draw your attention to clause (b) where there is a specific question. "How many of the above-mentioned posts are held by Indians other than Anglo-Indians on each of the aforesaid railways? If none, why has no Indian been so far appointed?" There is a specific question.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member may refer to the statistics.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: The statistics do not give a list of persons holding appointments above Rs. 430.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The names are given.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena: No. The names are not given.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: My information is that the names are given.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: May I ask whether any Indian is there at all? That is the only question.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Indians as distinguished from Anglo-Indians, the question I meant, Sir.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The question is 'if there are no Indians, why has no Indian been appointed'?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: The Honourable Member is merely asking the original question in another form?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The question is not whether this is in another form. This is a supplementary question arising out of the main question. Is there an Indian and if there is none, why has no Indian been appointed?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: If it is a supplementary question then I should like to have notice of it.

†1186*, 1187* and 1188*.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO THE KALKA-SIMLA HILLS MOTOR UNION TO FLY THEIR CARS IN DELHI.

1189. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) the total number of cars permitted to run on hire in Delhi and New Delhi under hire numbers without taxi-meters and whether this number is included in the 29 cars referred to in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 833, and if not, why not;
- (b) the reasons under which these cars are exempted from taxi-meters;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Simla Kalka Hill Motor Union, Limited, stated that, as they do not run their cars on mileage rates or by distance and as their customers do not like to hire cars with taxi-meters, they should be exempted from fitting taxi-meters to their cars on the ground that those meters would not only be useless to them but would be a positive hinderance to their business;
- (d) the reasons why the exemption asked for was not granted; and
- (e) the reasons on which exemption from fitting of taxi-meters is granted to the 29 cars which are said to be used by hotels and tourists?

† For these questions and replies thereto, see pages 2670—72 of these debates.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Sir, with your permission, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1189 and 1190 together. I have called for the information and will lay it on the table, when received.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO THE KALKA-SIMLA HILLS MOTOR UNION TO PLY THEIR CARS IN DELHI.

†1190. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait:** Will the Honourable Member for Communications state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Kalka Simla Hill Motor Union, Limited, offered to fix taxi-meters to their cars, but the Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi, refused to pass their cars whether with or without taxi-meters on the ground that they were outsiders;
- (b) if the reply to the preceding part be in the negative, whether the said Union will be granted licences to run their cars on hire in Delhi and New Delhi;
- (c) whether it is a fact that rule 68 of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules referred to in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 833 does not give any powers to the police authorities to refuse the certificate required by rule 13-A *ibid*; and
- (d) whether the Kalka Simla Hill Union, Limited, made written applications to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi, on the 16th November and 22nd December, 1937, which have not yet been replied to?

ACCIDENTS DUE TO LACK OF WIRE-FENCING ALONG THE RAILWAY LINE IN ALLAHABAD CITY.

1191. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) if the main East Indian Railway lines and shunting lines run at a distance of less than 50 feet from residential houses in the thickly populated municipal city area of Lukerganj, Allahabad, off Khusrubagh cabin, Allahabad Junction;
- (b) if the line is unprotected except for four wires loosely erected;
- (c) if a resident of Lukerganj, touching whose compound the railway lines pass, applied to the East Indian Railway for a protective barbed wire, corrugated or wall fencing to prevent children and cattle being run over;
- (d) if the East Indian Railway refused to give the protection asked for; and ordered her (Srimoty Nirodbala Raychowdhurani) to erect the protective works at her own expense; and
- (e) if any accident occurred here a few years back when a woman was cut to pieces and recently a cow and cattle were run over?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Enquiries are being made from the Railway Administration concerned and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No 1189.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DEHRI-ON-SONE STATION.

1192. ***Mr. Ramayan Prasad:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to change the name of Dehri-on-Sone, an East Indian Railway station, to Dalmianagar;
- (b) if he is aware that there is a strong feeling against this and the public and the people of the place are carrying agitations; and
- (c) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to abandon the proposal in view of the strong feelings and sentiments of the public?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I understand from the Agent of the East Indian Railway that proposals for a change in the name have been submitted to him.

(b) Protests against the proposal referred to have been received.

(c) This is a matter which must be left to the Administration to settle in consultation with the Government of Bihar, to whom, I understand, a reference has been made by the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

TAXES ON VENDORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1193. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if last year the contract for Hindu sweetmeats, tea stalls and the refreshment room at Delhi main station was sold to Messrs. Ballabh Dass Eshwar Dass as a trial, and no taxes had to be levied on foodstuffs if this trial did not prove successful?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Agent, North Western Railway, made a confidential enquiry and it was proved that Messrs. Ballabh Dass Eshwar Dass were selling food prepared with bad ghee and inferior quality of stuff?

(c) Are Government aware that the trial of the above-mentioned contract proved an utter failure?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Tylden-Pattenson, Member, Railway Board, abolished the system of taxation on foodstuffs, while he was Chief Commercial Manager on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that Mr. Highet, Member, Railway Board, while Agent, North Western Railway, decided that no taxation would be charged on foodstuffs and that under letter No. 23-Ac./05, dated the 20th November, 1934, he circulated the same to all the members of the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee?

(f) Are Government aware that the Agent, North Western Railway, deputed Mr. Ranjit Singh to assess the vending contractors who had recommended very high taxation?

(g) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state who is Mr. Ranjit Singh and what is his position in the Agent's office?

(h) Are Government aware that the Agent, North Western Railway, has issued orders to recover these taxes from vendors from 1st April, 1938, and that he has informed the vendors that their contracts will be cancelled if they will not be willing to pay these taxes?

(i) Will the Honourable Member please state why such taxes have been levied? And do Government propose to stop the taxes on food-stuffs, or charge a very nominal licence fee, if needed. If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The contract referred to was given on trial.

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

(d) I have not been able to trace any records bearing on this point which, it would appear, has reference to action taken about eleven or more years ago on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

(e) Yes.

(f) I understand this was done.

(g) He is a junior Assistant Commercial Officer in the Claims Section under the Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway.

(h) and (i). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 126 on the 28th March, 1938.

GRANTS TO INDIAN STATES FROM THE ROAD FUND.

1194. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications state to how many Indian States grants have been made from the Road Fund? How many States are left out?

(b) On what basis are these inclusions and exclusions made?

(c) On what basis is the amount distributed?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (c). The shares of States in the Road Fund are calculated in the manner laid down in paragraph 3 (1) (b) (iii) of the Resolution on road development adopted by this House on the 10th February, 1937. States with a petrol consumption of a lakh of gallons or more are allotted shares direct, but those with a consumption of under a lakh of gallons participate in the Fund in the following manner.

The shares of States forming a geographically contiguous group in an Agency are pooled and placed at the disposal of the Political Officer who makes grants in rotation to the several States for specific works of importance. Each grant is not ordinarily less than Rs. 5,000.

When the share of an isolated State exceeds Rs. 2,500 it is allotted to the State direct, but when it is Rs. 2,500 or less it is added to the sum available for general distribution in the following year and the State has a claim for consideration for an occasional grant for an approved scheme.

I may add that special grants are also made from the Central Reserve when a scheme has development value and is of benefit to more than one State. The number of States which have so far received grants from this source is 42.

REPRESENTATION *re* BALANCES BELONGING TO INDIANS IN IRAN.

1195. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Commerce Secretary state:

(a) whether Government have made representations to the Government of Iran or to His Majesty's Government in regard to balances belonging to Indians, which they are unable to bring over to this country;

- (b) whether they have received replies to their representation; and
 (c) if so, to what effect?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The replies received have for the most part merely drawn attention to the Iranian Exchange Law and relevant Regulations and explained the impossibility of granting exchange except in accordance with that Law, which is in no sense discriminatory against Indians. His Majesty's Legation at Tehran are prepared to take up with the Iranian Government any individual cases of hardship which are brought to their notice through the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that Indians are getting as much facilities as other nationalities are getting?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have no reason to believe to the contrary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government have examined the representations and are satisfied that the position of Indians is not adversely affected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already said that I have no information which indicates that that is not so.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government have received any representation from Indian merchants and exporters from here to Iran over this matter.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would like to have notice of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: On a point of information. I want to know whether the questions of yesterday which were not answered today will be treated as unstarred?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes. Otherwise all the arrangements will be upset.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN INDIA.

1196. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) With reference to the remarks of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar on the 6th October, 1936, in this House, will the Commerce Secretary state whether the enquiry promised by him with regard to securing in India a class of higher accountants, who would be given the designation of "Chartered Accountants in India", has taken place?

(b) What is the result of such an enquiry?

(c) Is the legislation which was envisaged in the remarks of the Honourable the Leader of the House at that time proposed to be undertaken soon?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, do Government propose to forbid the use of the words "Chartered Accountant" by any accountant working in India, and only permit the display on his board the words "Registered Accountant", which is the official designation of a high class accountant recognised by Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). The matter is still under consideration.

(d) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the discontent among qualified Indian auditors on account of the discrimination which exists in this country, which gives English qualification a greater place than the highest Indian qualification?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have not had my attention drawn to the particular grievance which the Honourable Member has mentioned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government received any representation from the Society of Accountants and Auditors in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would require notice of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that this last statement was made on the 6th October, that is six months back? May I know whether this matter has been under consideration continuously for six months and they have been unable to come to a conclusion?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is impossible to answer a question of that kind.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they been considering it continuously at all? I want an answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is difficult to answer the question whether it is being considered continuously.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I want to know whether they are considering it at all?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have replied that the question is under consideration.

MONEY SPENT BY THE TEA CESS COMMITTEE IN PROPAGANDA.

1197. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Commerce Secretary state:

- (a) the total amount of money spent by the Tea Cess Committee in propaganda for the last year;
- (b) in which countries they have been spent and how much in each; and

- (c) the various methods of propaganda adopted and how much in each of them?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Annual Report of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board (formerly designated the Indian Tea Cess Committee) for the year ended 31st March, 1937, which furnishes the required information. A copy of this Report is in the Library of the House.

(c) For propaganda in India Honourable Member's attention is invited to the report referred to above and for propaganda in foreign countries, to the annual report of the International Tea Market Expansion Board for 1937, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the expenditure countrywise is also given there?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member had better look into the report and if he does not find the information which he wants, then he can come up with a question.

FIXATION OF THE PRICES OF PETROL.

1198. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Commerce Secretary state:

- (a) whether he is aware that there is a combine of the various petrol selling companies in India;
- (b) whether they fix the price of petrol by agreement; and
- (c) whether Government have considered the matter that the prices so fixed are very much higher than the cost of petrol should warrant?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government are not aware of the existence of a combine, or of the extent to which prices are fixed by agreement between the various companies.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if there is any control of Government over this fixture of the price of petrol?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there is a pool among the petrol companies and did they not know about the existence of this pool in connection with the inquiry for protection which was held some years ago. Have Government no information about the fixing of price of petrol by these companies?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: This question was thoroughly discussed in answer to supplementary questions on the 10th March last.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: During the course of the supplementary questions on that day, is it or is it not true that it was admitted by Government that there was a combine? That was what Mr. Dow admitted.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It was not admitted that there was a combine.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Is it true that there is a combine?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: All the available information in the possession of Government was given during the course of the supplementary questions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the Government have made any inquiries as to whether there is a combine for the fixing of the prices of petrol and kerosine against the poor man in this country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not see why it should be necessary for Government to make inquiries as to the extent to which these various companies collaborate in fixing prices.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not, in the interests of the poor, the duty of Government to inquire into the prices of petrol and kerosine?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is an argument.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Government feels itself irresponsible with regard to the actions of these companies?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know whether the Honourable Member is entitled to put questions regarding the feelings of Government.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would like to know if there is any control or any sort of information being obtained from these companies in the interests of the public.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already answered that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member has not replied at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Apparently he has no further information.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Last time Mr. Dow was heckled and he silently admitted that he knew what was alleged to have taken place, namely, a combine for the fixing of the price of petrol sold in the town of Delhi. He did not deny that he purchased his own consumption at the rate of Rs. 1-9-0 per gallon. Is it a fact, as alleged by the Honourable Member for Larkana, that the Government are combining with these companies and not doing anything for the benefit of the public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What is the question, Sir.

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN PRODUCTS IN EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE INDIA.

1199. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Commerce Secretary state:

- (a) the exhibitions outside India in which Indian things are exhibited;
- (b) what has been the cost of taking part in these exhibitions in the last financial year; and
- (c) whether it has been possible to find new markets for any of our products consequent on these exhibitions; if so, for which articles and where?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the annual and quarterly reports of the Indian Trade Commissioners in London, Hamburg and Milan. Copies of the annual reports are in the Library of the House. The quarterly reports are published in the *Indian Trade Journal*, copies of which are also in the Library of the House.

(b) A sum of £5,800 was provided in the High Commissioner's budget for 1937-38 for expenditure on publicity, including participation by the Indian Trade Commissioners, London, Hamburg and Milan, in exhibitions and fairs held within their respective jurisdictions, and so far as is known, the whole of this amount has been utilised for the purpose.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: May I ask if there is to be any exhibition in Scotland in a short time, whether any Indian stalls are to be there, and whether the Government of India are in any way participating in that exhibition?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That there is going to be an exhibition at Glasgow is a well-known fact. With regard to the latter part of the question I must ask for notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: All these exhibitions are in Europe, are they?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Does not the Honourable Member know?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is why I ask the question, I want an answer.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a question of geography. I really fail to follow the Honourable Member. He asked:

“Will the Commerce Secretary state:

- (a) the exhibitions outside India in which Indian things are exhibited. . .”

I have given a reply to that. What is the further question?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I ask whether all these exhibitions are in Europe or outside Europe?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: London, Hamburg and Milan are in Europe.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are there any countries outside Europe in which we are taking part in an exhibition?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The answer I have given is quite clear.

CHANGES IN THE NOMINATED OFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE INDIAN
LEGISLATURE.

1200. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena** (on behalf of Mr. Sri Prakasa): Will the Honourable the Law Member state:

- (a) if it is a fact that there are quick and constant changes in the nominated official members in the Indian Legislature;
- (b) if the officials nominated are so nominated for a definite period, or for the whole term;
- (c) if they have to resign formally before their places are taken by others, or their resignation is taken for granted when a change is made;
- (d) if there are gazette notifications about resignations of members and further nominations in their places; and
- (e) if persons are allowed to take their seats before such notifications?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Changes in the nominated official personnel are made as the exigencies of official business both inside and outside the Chamber require.

(b) They are not nominated for any definite period.

(c) Both tender and acceptance of the resignation of the resigning Member are necessary to the creation of the vacancy in which the new Member is nominated.

(d) Yes.

(e) If by "before such notifications" the Honourable Member means before the date of the relevant documents the answer is "no". If he means before the date on which the Gazette containing the notifications is published, the answer is "yes".

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is a summons issued to everyone so nominated?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether a summons is considered essential for Honourable Members of the Assembly before they can come and take their seats in this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: A summons is issued at the beginning of the Session; subsequently, no summons is issued.

INSPECTORS OF RAILWAY LABOUR ON THE NORTH WESTERN AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

1201. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Labour Secretary please state whether all the Inspectors of Railway Labour posted on the North Western and the East Indian Railways are non-Hindus?

(b) Is any tenure fixed for these posts?

(c) How long have the present incumbents at the headquarters of the Railways been there?

(d) When were the changes made last?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes; though I may point out that there is no inspector at Calcutta.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). The Inspector at Lahore has been there for one year and eight months and is now under orders of transfer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to clause (a), why is it that they are all non-Hindus?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: For the simple reason that one person can either be a Hindu or a non-Hindu; he cannot be half a Hindu and half a non-Hindu.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would like to know whether these appointments are made on some principle, or according to some ratio, or by favour. Why are Hindus not there?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member wanted to know why it was that there was no non-Hindu. I have explained that there is no inspector at Calcutta and there is only one at Lahore, and he can either be a Hindu or a non-Hindu. We cannot find a person who is both a Hindu and a non-Hindu.

RECRUITMENT AND COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF LABOUR INSPECTORS.

1202. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Labour Secretary please state when the last recruitment of Labour Inspectors was made?

(b) Were the posts advertised? If so, in which newspapers and in how many issues of each?

(c) What expense was involved in these advertisements?

(d) Before the advertisements were issued, was any register of candidates maintained?

(e) Were any of these candidates, or others, called separately and considered for the appointments? If so, why was the advertisement given in the papers?

(f) How many appointments were reserved for various communities, separately? Were these numbers indicated in the advertisements and adhered to in making selections?

(g) What is the total number of Labour Inspectors? How many of these are Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Anglo-Indians and Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Four Inspectors were recruited in February and March last.

(b) The posts were advertised in two issues each of the *Statesman*, the *Civil and Military Gazette* and the *Hindustan Times*.

(c) Seventy-nine rupees.

(d) No.

(e) One probationary inspector whose original post had been abolished was asked to appear before the Selection Committee. The answer to the second part is that advertisement was clearly desirable, particularly as there was no register.

(f) One appointment was reserved for a member of the minority communities other than the Muslims. This was not stated in the advertisement.

(g) There are at present 17 Inspectors. Eight are Muslims, six are Hindus, one is an Indian Christian, one an Anglo-Indian and one a Sikh.

DISMISSAL OF LABOUR INSPECTORS.

1203. ***Bhai Parma Nand**: (a) Will the Labour Secretary please state if any of the Labour Inspectors were dismissed shortly after their appointment during the last one year?

(b) If so, how many were dismissed and on what grounds?

(c) How long after their appointment were they dismissed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). No Inspector has been dismissed. One Inspector on probation was discharged six months after his appointment as he was not considered suitable.

PROVISION OF CERTAIN AMENITIES TO LESSEES AND AUCTION OF PLOTS IN NEW DELHI.

1204. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena**: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that a number of plots were auctioned in Block 205, behind the Modern School in New Delhi, about two years ago? If so, how much money was realised by Government by the sale of these plots?

(b) Is it a fact that at the time of the auction a definite assurance was given by the Land and Development Officer that such amenities as a vegetable market, post office, a tonga stand, etc., will immediately be provided in the said area, and that no such amenities have so far been provided?

(c) Are Government aware that a number of quarters have been constructed and the lessees are being put to a great inconvenience in the absence of the above amenities in the said area? If so, are Government prepared to provide these facilities at an early date, or waive the recovery of the ground rent till these facilities are provided in the said area?

(d) Is it also a fact that at the time of auction an assurance was given that the remaining plots will also be auctioned? If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of putting the plots to auction before the move of the Government of India to Simla? If not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a), (b) and (c). Enquiries have been made and a reply will be furnished to the House on receipt of information.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

COMPENSATION TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS NOT ENTITLED TO GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

†1205. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Labour please state if it is a fact that the staff of certain offices in New Delhi and Delhi under the Central Government are not entitled to Government quarters on the usual rent?

(b) If so, will he lay on the table the names of such offices?

(c) Will Government please state the reasons which led to the barring of such offices from allotment of Government quarters?

(d) Do Government propose to grant some compensation to such staff, as high rents are prevalent in the city?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (c). Accommodation in the general pool of Government of India quarters is primarily intended for Government servants on duty with the Government of India and the local administration of Delhi. Other Government servants are not entitled to this accommodation but are eligible for any quarters which may be surplus to the requirements of the entitled staff. I may mention that some of the non-entitled offices have built their own departmental quarters exclusively for their own staff.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table; but it is not exhaustive as complete information is not readily available.

(d) I am not responsible for any of the offices given in the list but I know of no such proposal.

Statement showing offices the staff of which are ineligible for Government quarters in the general pool.

New Delhi.

1. Office of the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway.
2. Office of the Divisional Accounts Officer, North Western Railway.
3. Office of the Assistant Chief Auditor, North Western Railway.
4. Posts and Telegraphs staff other than those employed in the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs office.
5. Railway station staff, New Delhi.
6. Office of the Garrison Engineer, New Delhi.
7. Headquarters, Delhi Independent Brigade Area.
8. Office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.

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

Old Delhi.

- *1. Office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.
- *2. The Telephone Revenue Accounting Office.
- *3. Office of the Commissioner, Central Excises and Salt, Northern India, Delhi.
- *4. The Railway Clearing Accounts Office.
- 5. The Railway Station Staff, Delhi.
- 6. Office of the Deputy Assistant Engineer-in-Charge, Radio Station, Fort, Delhi.
- 7. All India Radio Staff, Delhi.

* A number of the staff of these offices are actually occupying Government of India quarters on payment of the usual rent.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS OR COMPENSATION IN LIEU THEREOF TO LOW-PAID STAFF OF THE CENTRAL SECRETARIAT.

1206. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Labour be pleased to state the number of quarters of each class constructed for Government servants during the last three years?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state the total amount of money spent on the new quarters constructed during the last three years and the sums separately allotted and actually spent for each class?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that high rates of rent are prevalent in the city, and the low paid staff of the Central Secretariat suffer a great hardship for their accommodation in the city?

(d) What steps do Government propose to ensure the immediate allotment of Government quarters to low paid staff?

(e) Do Government propose to grant some suitable compensation to the low paid staff till they get quarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I take it that the Honourable Member requires information in respect of Delhi quarters.

(a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(c) Government have no precise information on the point but I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member that such Government employees are put to some inconvenience.

(d) Government are already providing as large a number of their staff with quarters as possible.

(e) This is already given.

Statement showing the number of Quarters constructed during the last three years (1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38) and the amount of money allotted and actually spent on each class of these quarters.

Class of quarters constructed.	No. of quarters constructed	Amount	
		allotted.	actually spent.
Gazetted Officers' Bungalows .	28	Rs. 8,50,400	Rs. 8,09,403
Clerks' Quarters .	108	8,16,000	7,83,469
Inferior Servants Quarters .	300	2,35,000	1,84,964

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

EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, INDORE.

†1207. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Labour please state if it is a fact that a case of embezzlement of the Government of India's money in the Central Public Works Department, Indore, has been discovered?

(b) If so, what was the amount embezzled?

(c) What action has been taken so far?

(d) Do Government propose to hand over the case to the Police? If not, why not?

*The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 248.

(c) The sub-divisional clerk who was directly responsible for tampering with the vouchers and muster rolls has been dismissed from Government service while the auditor who failed to detect the irregularities has been punished by the stoppage of his increments for three years. The question of disciplinary action against the Assistant Executive Engineer for alleged laxity of supervision is still under consideration.

(d) No. They consider that departmental action is appropriate in the circumstances.

REDUCTION OF RENT OF WATER AND ELECTRIC METERS IN NEW DELHI.

†1208. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state the reasons why the rents on account of electric and water meters charged by the New Delhi Municipal Committee are much higher, or almost double, than those charged by the Delhi Municipal Committee and why the former do not bring them down to the level of the rates charged by the latter?

(b) Is he now prepared to see the desirability of getting the rents reduced by the New Delhi Municipal Committee? If not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The correct position is as follows:

	Delhi			New Delhi.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Electric meter	0	6	0 p. m.	0	8	0 p. m.
Water meter (½" furrule.)	1	0	0 p. m.	0	12	0 p. m.

(b) In view of the reply given to part (a), no action is required.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE EFFICIENCY OF INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINES AND THEIR TREATMENT IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

†1209. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Education Secretary please state the steps taken, or proposed to be taken, by Government to improve

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

the efficiency of the indigenous system of medicines and their treatment in the centrally administered areas? If not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: As I informed the Honourable Member in answer to his question No. 595 on 19th February, 1936, Government make grants for investigations in relation to indigenous drugs. Since that answer was given, over Rs. 80,000 has been given as grants for this purpose. Apart from this, local bodies in certain centrally administered areas, e.g., Delhi and Coorg, maintain or aid dispensaries which provide treatment according to the indigenous systems of medicine.

PAY AND DUTIES OF MR. P. J. GRIFFITHS.

1210. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Secretary for Commerce please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Mr. P. J. Griffiths, I.C.S. (retired) is an employee of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board;
- (b) if the share of his salary and expenses which are paid by the Board is Rs. 12,000 a year, and
- (c) what are the duties of Mr. Griffiths under the Board?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Mr. P. J. Griffiths, I.C.S. (Retired) is a part-time employee of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

(b) No.

(c) He acts in an advisory capacity to the Chairman and the Secretary of the Board and to the Tea Commissioner for India on all matters affecting the Board's work with which he is in close and direct touch. He is also a Member of the Board representing the Indian Tea Association, a Member of the Executive Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is he also employed under the Indian Tea Association in Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I have no further information beyond that which I have given.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IN THE HORTICULTURAL DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1211. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazi-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Labour Secretary please state if it is a fact that in the Horticultural Division of the Central Public Works Department tenders are accepted without any consideration of the lowest quotations?

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

(b) Is it a fact that the works of this Division are generally given to Mr. Labhuram and Mr. Diwanchand, contractors, if so, will the Honourable Member state the reasons for doing so?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No. Tenders were accepted with due regard to economy and the suitability of the contractor for the kind of work to be done.

(b) A good many tenders have gone to these contractors as they are experienced in this class of work.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IN THE HORTICULTURAL DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

†1212. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Labour Secretary please lay a statement on the table of the House for information, showing the following facts:

(i) the total number of works for which tenders were invited in the last three years with the estimated cost for each work and the full final payments made in the Horticultural Division of the Central Public Works Department;

(ii) the number of works in which the lowest tenders were accepted in the said Division during the last three years;

(iii) the number of works, with the estimated cost of each work in which lowest tenders were not accepted in the said Division during the last three years with reasons for not accepting the lowest tenders; and

(iv) the total loss suffered by Government by not accepting the lowest tenders during the last three years in the said Division?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of instituting a special enquiry into the matter with a view to stopping further wastage of public funds?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) (i) to (iii). Tenders were invited during the last three years for 44 works. The lowest tenders were accepted in 24 cases and not accepted in 19 cases. In the remaining case all the tenders were rejected. The reason for the non-acceptance of the lowest tenders was that the contractors concerned were not considered suitable for carrying out the particular type of works for which they had tendered, or that the samples tendered were unsatisfactory. A statement giving the other information required in parts (i) and (iii) of the question is laid on the table.

(iv) The non-acceptance of the lowest tender in a case where the tenderer is not suitable does not mean that Government have been put to loss as the unsatisfactory execution of the work by an unsuitable person might prove even more unfavourable financially.

(b) Does not arise.

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

Statement showing the works for which tenders were invited by the Horticultural Division of the Central Public Works Department during the last three years.

Serial No.	Name of each work.	Estimated cost.	Final payment.
	<i>1935-36.</i>	Rs.	Rs.
1	*Grassing and garden layout of Irwin Hospital	14,580	13,519
2	*Laying out and grassing the area of compound of 1-B, 2-C and 5-D Class Bungalows in Blocks 17, 112, 113 and 114	6,755	4,046
3	*Laying out and grassing the compound of 3-B Class and 4-C Class Bungalows in Block 18	5,501	3,298
4	*Laying out and grassing the compound of 6-B Class Bungalows in Blocks 11 and 17	7,400	3,598
5	*Maintenance of Tan Tracks in New Capital Area (Race Course)	3,480	2,646
6	Grassing the west side berm of the Willingdon Crescent	2,900	2,377
7	*Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area	4,174	4,564
8	Laying out and grassing around 'D' Class Unorthodox Clerks' Quarters in City Extension Area	9,530	10,050
9	Excavating manure from manure pits at Jurbagh Nursery	2,000	780
10	*Laying out and grassing the Lodi Tomb Park	4,000	6,556
11	*Laying out and grassing the proposed park round Lodi Tomb Park	6,000	5,935
12	*Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area (excluding Southern Ridge)	4,455	4,176
13	Supply and carriage of manure from Motia Khan Dump to site of work in New Capital Area	6,000	5,136
14	*Supply of pots, etc.	1,500	1,389
15	*Supply of Bhusa	1,000	1,189
16	Supply, spreading and consolidation of Red Bajri at Historical Gardens	1,900	1,812
	<i>1936-37.</i>		
17	*Grassing and Garden layout of frontage of the library of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	5,000	4,428
18	*Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area (Central Vista, Robert Road, Clive Road)	6,250	4,924
19	*Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area (The Willingdon Crescent and Southern Ridge)	6,200	4,708
20	*Maintenance of Tan Track at Race Course	3,400	3,089
21	*Laying out and grassing the compound of 4 'A' Class Bungalows at Albuquerque Road, Roberts Road and Clive Road	7,000	5,934
22	Cartage of steam coal from Barakhamba to Qutab Pump	500	371
23	Supply and carriage of manure from Motia Khan Dump	13,000	13,189
24	Supply of flower pots at Jurbagh at Rajpur Nursery	1,500	1,501
25	Supply of Bhusa	1,000	541

Serial No.	Name of each work.	Estimated cost.	Final payment.
	<i>1936-37—contd.</i>	Rs.	Rs.
26	Excavation of manure from manure pits at Jurbagh Nursery	2,000	1,928
	<i>1937-38.</i>		
27	Arrangements for raised seats to be made at the Hardinge Park ground, New Delhi	2,330	2,622
28	Converting the inner road around Band Stand into grassy plot at Connaught Place, New Delhi	4,567	4,799
29	Improvement of the triangular Park on the east of plot No. 45, Block 134, New Delhi	1,000	585
30	Conversion of Tennis Grounds into grassy lawns in the compound of 5-Sonehri Bagh, 9-Khushak Road and 4-Queensway	800	538
31	Grassing the area where filling has recently been done, i.e., Jamna Village portion of ground by the side of Metcalfe Nala and Qudsia Gardens	3,140	2,772
32	*Levelling and grassing the portion of manure dump at Delhi Gate	1,350	731
33	*Grassing the Area of the dump at Motia Khan	24,000	23,321
34	Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area (Central Vista, Roberts Road, Clive Road)	6,300	5,990
35	Maintenance of Tan Track in New Capital Area (Willingdon Crescent and Southern Ridge)	6,100	5,722
36	Maintenance of Tan Track at Race Course	3,750	3,727
37	*Grassing and Planting of trees in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	37,288	32,288
38	Supply and carriage of manure from Motia Khan Dump	10,000	9,872
39	Excavation of manure from manure pits at Jurbagh Nursery	2,000	2,072
40	Supply of flower pots at Jurbagh Nursery	1,500	1,265
41	Providing and fixing creepers in certain Gazetted Officers' Bungalows in New Capital Area	700	521
42	Supply, stacking and spreading and consolidation of red bajri at Historical Gardens	1,930	Tenders rejected.
43	Laying out and grassing the Park in Darya Ganj south including fencing and planting shrubberies, etc	3,240	2,570
44	Maintenance of Historical Gardens (Delhi Fort)	600	375

NOTE.—Works for which the lowest tenders were not accepted are marked with an asterisk.

WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HORTICULTURAL DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WITHOUT INVITING TENDERS.

†1213. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Labour Secretary please state the amount of works undertaken by the Horticultural Division of the Central Public Works Department under Rs. 2,500 each work, without inviting tenders, within the last three years, and the amounts paid for each work?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The information asked for is not readily available. Government do not propose to collect

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

it as the advantage to be gained thereby will not be commensurate with the labour involved.

PROMOTIONS TO THE POSTS OF SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

†1214. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Labour Secretary please state:

- (a) the total number of subordinates, communitywise, promoted to Sub-Divisional Officership during the last three years in the Central Public Works Department; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that all those promoted were non-Muslims; if so, whether there is any particular reason why Muslims were not so treated?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Fifteen subordinates were temporarily appointed to act as Sub-Divisional Officers during the last three years. Of these ten were Hindus, four belonged to other minority communities and one was a Muslim. I may add that the orders regarding communal representation do not apply to departmental promotions which are made on considerations of seniority and merit.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS IN THE ANDAMANS.

1215. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Commerce Secretary please state the method of exploitation of the forests in the Andamans? Is it done by contract system, or by departmental work?

(b) Has there been any change in the system during the last ten years?

(c) Was any proposal received by the Chief Commissioner, Andamans, or by Government, to hand over the Government forests to a company for a large number of years?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, which was this company, what were the terms offered, and what was the result of the negotiation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Exploitation of the Andaman forests is done at present by departmental agency.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In response to an advertisement in May, 1928, calling for tenders for the development of the agricultural and other resources of the Andamans, including extraction of timber in areas not reserved by the Forest Department, two tenders were received.

(d) The firms concerned were (i) Messrs. Adamjee Hajee Dawood and Company, Ltd., Rangoon and (ii) The Anglo-Indian Timber Syndicate, Brisbane. Messrs. Adamjee were informed that their tender was acceptable on certain conditions, but the firm did not pursue the matter. The terms offered by the two firms must be regarded as confidential and Government regret their inability to disclose them.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was any contract made with the other firm?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the present position this that forests are exploited in a departmental way?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, that is right.

STEPS TO IMPROVE THE BREED OF AGRICULTURAL CATTLE IN CERTAIN PROVINCES.

1216. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) if he is aware of the fact that agricultural cattle in the Provinces of Bihar, Bengal, Assam and the Central Provinces have greatly deteriorated and if so, what are the steps taken by or in the contemplation of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to help the Provincial agricultural departments in their attempts to improve the breed of the cattle; and
- (b) if he is aware of the necessity of the export of breeding bulls and milch cows from the Punjab, Delhi and the United Provinces to the Provinces mentioned in part (a) above and if so, whether it is in the contemplation of the authorities?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Although it is a fact that the agricultural cattle in the provinces mentioned are generally of a lower standard than some others, Government are not aware that they have appreciably deteriorated in recent years. As regards the steps taken by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to encourage improvement in cattle breeding, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to pages 4 to 17 of the Annual Report of the Council for 1936-37, the proceedings of the Cattle Conference which met in Simla in 1937 and to Miscellaneous Bulletin No. 17, issued by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, entitled "A brief survey of the important breeds of cattle in India". Copies of all these publications are available in the Library.

(b) The importation of cattle for breeding purposes is a matter for Provincial Governments and the organisers of the provincial cattle improvement funds. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has placed the organisers of those funds in touch with sources of supply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of asking the railway authorities to lower the freight on the export of cattle from one province to another? And has this point been considered by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is not the business of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; that is really the business of the Railway Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been considered by the Department of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research? And is the Honourable Member prepared to make a representation to the Railway Board and ask them to lower the freight?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have not been approached by anybody to make representations to the Railway Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be considered when the Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research meets?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a hypothetical question; I cannot say.

INDIAN SITUATION IN ZANZIBAR.

1217. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, be pleased to give the latest development of the Indian situation in Zanzibar with special reference to the Indian resistance of the clove decree of the Zanzibar Government?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave on the 3rd March to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 605 and to the supplementaries arising out of it but Government hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that peaceful picketing is being carried on now in Bombay in order to prevent the distribution of cloves?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have seen some press reports to that effect.

Seth Govind Das: Did Government receive any proposals from the Resident of Zanzibar regarding any compromise after the last proposals?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No proposals for a compromise have been received from the Resident in Zanzibar; but the Resident is considering the suggestion which the Government of India made to him on the basis of the discussion with the Standing Emigration Committee.

FLOTATION OF A JOINT STOCK COMPANY TO EXPLOIT THE MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE PUNJAB.

1218. ***Mr. Thirumala Rao:** (a) Will the Commerce Secretary, please state if he is aware that a joint stock company has recently been floated in India by the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, to exploit the mineral resources in the Punjab?

(b) Is there any condition imposed on the company that a substantial portion of the capital should be thrown open for subscription by the nationals of this country?

(c) Is there any condition imposed on the company that technical knowledge should be imparted to the youth of this country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 1218 and 1219 together.

The questions should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

1219. ***Mr. Thirumala Rao:** (a) Will the Commerce Secretary please state if the attention of Government has been drawn to an article published in the *Free Press Journal* of Bombay, dated the 20th March, 1988, regarding the financial position of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the facts mentioned therein that the overdraft of about £500,000 enjoyed by Lew McGowan, President of the Imperial Chemical Industries, in the Midland Bank was closed and the securities sold in the open market to realise the overdraft and that the realisation fell short of the amount due by about £80,000?

(c) Are Government aware that the affairs of the Imperial Chemical Industries are in a state of controversial discussion and reorganisation?

(d) Do Government propose to review the situation and revise the very favourable and monopolistic terms given to the above company to exploit the mineral resources of India?

EXECUTIVE SUPERVISION OVER STATUTORY AUTONOMOUS BODIES IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

1220. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Commerce Secretary please state:

(a) if he is aware that executive supervision is kept over statutory autonomous bodies, such as Cantonment Boards, District Boards, Municipalities in areas directly administered by the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the general nature of the supervision?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). Yes. The statutory control which Government exercises over the local bodies referred to by the Honourable Member is provided for in the Acts under which those bodies function. The general nature of the control is specified in the relevant Acts

SUPERVISION OVER THE TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD.

1221. ***Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury:** Will the Commerce Secretary please state:

(a) if the Tea Market Expansion Board is a statutory body;

(b) if any systematic supervision is exercised by the Government of India over the doings of the Tea Market Expansion Board; and

(c) if so, through what machinery; and the general nature of the supervision?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the provisions of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903 (in particular sections 6(2) and 7) and the Rules framed thereunder. Copies of these Rules are in the Library.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1218.

Mr. Brojendra Narayan Chaudhury: Is the Honourable Member prepared to exercise any supervision over this Board?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe that question has been answered on a previous occasion during this Session.

DETERMINATION OF A TYPE FOR THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1222. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, be pleased to state whether it is a fact that when the University of Delhi was first established, it was the intention of the Government of India and the Central Legislature to make it ultimately a unitary and teaching university?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is still their intention to make the Delhi University, a unitary university?

(c) Is it a fact that Government contribute at the present moment a large proportion of the total income of the Delhi University and of the Colleges under its control?

(d) Is the Education Secretary aware that demands for larger recurring grants as well as for substantial non-recurring grants for capital expenditure are being made in view of the probable reconstitution of the Delhi University?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether a unitary or a federal university would be preferable from the point of view of economy and of efficiency?

(f) Are Government aware that the educated public of the Province of Delhi generally are in favour of a university of a unitary type?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of appointing a Committee of experts to consider the question whether the University of Delhi ought to be of the federal or the unitary type?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In recent years the Government of India have been giving a grant of Rs. one lakh per annum to the Delhi University, which amounts to about one-half of the total income of the University. The annual grants paid by Government to the Colleges also amount to about Rs. one lakh per annum, which comes to about one-sixth of the total income of the Colleges.

(d) It is probable that such demands will be made when the future development of the University is more clearly defined. Such demands will be considered on their merits.

(e) In view of the strong desire of the constituent colleges to retain their individuality and the higher cost of a University of the unitary type, Government are of opinion that a university of the federal type is preferable.

(f) No.

(g) The question has already been the subject of two enquiries and Government do not consider that the appointment of a committee is necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that they are not spending too much by devoting one lakh of rupees to this University to the detriment of elementary education in this province?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Having created the University, the least that Government can do is to keep it going.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Is it too late now to reconsider their decision with regard to the unitary University as originally proposed?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It is not a question of being too late in point of time. The difficulty is that the unitary type will be more expensive and what is more, the constituent colleges are not prepared to work out the idea.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: What is the opinion of the Senate on this type of University?

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

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE LEAKAGE COMMITTEE OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1223. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to lay on the table the report submitted by the Leakage Committee appointed to investigate the alleged leakage of questions of various examinations of the University of Delhi in June last?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Report has not been received by Government.

QUALIFICATION AND SALARY OF THE PROFESSORS OF BENGALI AND ENGLISH IN THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1224. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the qualification and salary of the professor who is at the head of department of Bengali in the Delhi University? Has he any knowledge of Bengali literature and language?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the qualification and the salary of the professor who is at the head of the department of the English language?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if teachers in the Delhi University have to work for 24 periods per week? Do Government propose to reduce this for better results in teaching?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a), (b) and (c). Enquiries have been made and a reply will be furnished to the House in due course.

DETERMINATION OF A TYPE FOR THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1225. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that the Delhi University was started with the object of making it a unitary teaching University as recommended by the Sadler Committee?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if it is in the contemplation of Government to make the Delhi University a federal university? If so, will the Honourable Member lay on the table the reasons therefor?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of any opposition to the federal scheme of the Delhi University? If so, does he propose to hold over this transformation of the original scheme into federal scheme till the advent of the Federal Legislature?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (e) of Dr. P. N. Banerjea's question No. 1222 today.

(c) Government are not aware of any serious opposition to the federal scheme. On the contrary there is a large measure of accord between the University, the colleges and Government on the general principles of future development. The second part does not arise.

BOSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CALCUTTA.

1226. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- (a) if the Bose Research Institute of Calcutta receives any annual grant from the Government of India;
- (b) if so, whether any Member of the Assembly is nominated on its managing body; if not, why not; and
- (c) if any research work is carried on at present; if so, in connection with what subjects?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes. The Bose Research Institute is in receipt of a grant of Rs. 53,000 per annum from Central Revenues.

(b) No. The grant is subject to the condition that the Institute carries out the objects of its foundation and maintains a high standard of scientific research. During the life-time of the late Sir J. C. Bose, Government accepted his presence as Director of the Institute as a guarantee that this condition would be fulfilled. Now that Sir J. C. Bose has died, the question of devising suitable means to ensure that the condition attached to the grant will continue to be fulfilled is under consideration.

(c) The report of the Institute for 1936-37 shows that during that year the Institute carried out research work in several branches of science.

REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN THE STAFF OF THE DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

†1227. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is the Education Secretary aware:

- (i) that there is a strength of about 500 junior clerical staff in the Delhi Municipality;
- (ii) that there is a total strength of about 70 in respect of senior grade clerks, superintendents and officers; and
- (iii) that there are about 400 school teachers in the same Municipality?

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

(b) Is he aware that there are only two Sikhs in the above establishments and those only in the junior clerical staff and one Sikh drillmaster among the teachers?

(c) Is he also aware that according to the Rules of the Delhi Municipality, *vis.*, Byelaw No. 11, on page 338 of the Byelaws Book, 10 per cent. of the above posts should go to the minority communities?

(d) Will he kindly state how much of this percentage is reserved for the Sikhs in each of the categories referred to, and whether the necessary action is proposed to be taken to complete this quota by appointing Sikhs in future vacancies? If not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (d). Information has been called for and an answer will be furnished in due course.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR BACHELORS WITH DEPENDANTS IN UNORTHODOX CHUMMERIES IN NEW DELHI.

†1228. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Will the Labour Secretary please state if it is a fact that a portion of unorthodox chummary No. 1 has been converted into small self-contained units by opening a door of inter-communication between the two adjacent suites, and also by constructing separate kitchens for each of these units? If so, is it a fact that all these units have been allotted to ladies (spinsters), with dependents, who are employed in the Secretariat or its attached offices?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state whether similar provision has been made for bachelors with dependents? If not, is it a fact that they have been debarred from the privileges of married quarters since the promulgation of the revised rules governing the allotment of residential accommodation in Old Delhi and New Delhi, and do Government propose to give the bachelors with dependents some accommodation in the chummeries?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes. Half a block of eight chummeries has been converted into four double quarters and allotted to four lady clerks (one spinster and three widows) with dependants.

(b) The answers to the first and second parts of the question are in the negative and affirmative, respectively. The answer to the last part is in the negative.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE LEAKAGE COMMITTEE OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1229. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Government are aware that a Leakage Committee was appointed last June to investigate the rumoured leakage of questions at the various examinations of the University of Delhi?

(b) Has this Committee submitted its report?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place a copy of this report on the table of the House?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer I have given today to Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's question No. 1223.

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

REDUCTION IN THE HOURS OF WORK OF THE TEACHING STAFF OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1230. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea**: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that the teachers in the colleges of the University of Delhi are required to do teaching work to the extent of 24 periods a week?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire whether the number of hours of work demanded of the teachers is detrimental to the quality of teaching and stands in the way of the teachers undertaking research work?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (c) of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's question No. 1224 today.

SELECTION OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

1231. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea**: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

- (a) the method of selection of Heads of the different departments of the University of Delhi; and
- (b) the number of persons at present working as Heads of Departments who belong to each of the colleges of the University?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The Head of a Department is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from among the Professors or Readers in that Department and usually the senior person is appointed for this purpose.

(b) Eleven persons are at present working as Heads of Departments. Of these, five belong to St. Stephen's College and one to Ramjas College.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Are Government prepared to take any steps to remove this disparity so far as the different colleges are concerned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I gather that the disparity arises from the fact that St. Stephens College has a bigger staff than the other constituent colleges of the University and it so happens that the heads of departments now functioning have not only the qualifications of seniority but superiority in academic qualifications.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF STAFF OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

1232. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang**: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state how many (i) gazetted officers, and (ii) assistants are at present employed in the Political Department of the Government of India?

- (b) How many of them are Hindus?
- (c) How many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) (i) 18.

- (a) (ii) 40.
- (b) 36.
- (c) 8.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE REFORMS OFFICE.

1233. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang**: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state what is the number of the gazetted officers at present employed in the Reforms Office of the Government of India?

- (b) How many of them are Hindus?
 (c) How many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Seven.

- (b) Five.
 (c) Nil.

CONTEMPLATED CHANGES IN THE MEASURES OF PROTECTION TO PAPER INDUSTRY.

1234. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya**: (a) Has the attention of the Commerce Secretary been drawn to the Associated Press of India news about "Paper Industry", as published in the Delhi Edition of the *Statesman*, dated the 17th March, 1938, page 6, column 5, in connection with the communication between the Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce and the Tariff Board?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if there is any scheme in contemplation of the Government of India about the withdrawal of or reduction in the present measure of protection to the paper industry?

(c) If not, does the Honourable Member propose to assure the public by a communiqué that the suggestion regarding possible removal of the customs surcharge on the protective duty will not be given effect to?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to recommend to the Tariff Board an extension of protection to 'Kraft and imitation kraft wrapping paper', which is at present left unprotected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Resolution No. 202-T. (1)/36, dated the 11th December, 1937, issued by the Department of Commerce and published in the Gazette of India of the same date.

(d) No. It is for the Tariff Board to make its recommendations to Government, and not *vice versa*.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: As the question hour is not yet over, I may be permitted to put the questions from the previous day's list?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right.

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE EXPRESS TRAIN FROM HOWRAH TO DELHI VIA LUCKNOW.

1186. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena**: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the East Indian Railway Administration propose to discontinue the running of express train from Howrah to Delhi *via* Lucknow? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that the discontinuance of this train is bound to cause inconvenience to the public?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of continuing the said train?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government observe from the East Indian Railway's Time Table in force from 1st April, 1938, that the running of the Howrah-Lucknow-Delhi Express has been discontinued between Howrah and Lucknow. They have no information as to the circumstances under which the change has been made.

(b) No, but it is recognised that the withdrawal of any service would cause a certain amount of inconvenience.

(c) Government cannot take any part in the drawing up of time tables which is a matter of detail which must be left to the Administration to deal with, but they have no doubt that the question was discussed with the Advisory Committee. I shall forward a copy of the Honourable Member's question and this reply to the Agent of the East Indian Railway for such action as he may consider necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF A CONCILIATION BOARD TO DEAL WITH THE GRIEVANCES OF WORKERS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1187. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the discontent prevailing amongst the workers of the Bengal Nagpur Railway because of short time work?

(b) Is it a fact that a resolution voicing this particular grievance was passed at a meeting of the Bengal Nagpur Railway workers held on the 18th March, 1938, and urging for the appointment of a Conciliation Board, failing a settlement with the Railway Administration?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the feasibility of appointing a Conciliation Board to avert future trouble?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government understand that there are signs of a revival of agitation for the restoration of full time working in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

NEW PASS RULES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1188. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the total amount of savings, if any, during the last year because of the introduction of new pass rules for Railway employees?

(b) What action, if any, has been taken on the representations made by the employees against the new pass rules?

(c) How long will Government take to come to a final decision regarding the withdrawal of the new rules?

(d) Are Government aware of the great hardship which the Indian employees have been experiencing?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of his question No. 475 on the 3rd March, 1937.

(b) and (c). The matter is still under consideration and it is not practicable to say when a decision is likely to be arrived at.

(d) Representations to this effect have been made.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the question has been under the consideration of Government for more than a year?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: That, Sir, would follow from the answer I have given.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the saving in expenditure that Government expect by introducing these new pass rules?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: As I said before, I referred the Honourable Member to the reply to part (a) of question No. 475.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what the delay is due to in coming to a decision?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: It is a very large question that requires very deep consideration.

Seth Govind Das: To consider this large question, a large period of time has elapsed, *i.e.*, one year. Is not that enough?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: Obviously not, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member's predecessor in charge of Railways had stated in the Simla Session that the question would be considered and finally settled at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I take the Honourable Member's word for it that such a statement may have been made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

POSTAL INSURANCE SYSTEM AND ITS EXTENSION TO PUBLIC.

132. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state the reasons which led the Central Government to start the postal insurance system in 1883 and extend its scope to all employees, civil and military, under the Government, Central and Provincial, in 1898?

(b) Is it a fact that the aforesaid insurance has been left open to all employees of semi-Government institutions like Corporations, Municipalities, District and Local Boards, Trusts, Imperial Bank and Reserve Bank, etc.? If so, what prevents the Central Government and Provincial Governments from extending its scope to the public as well in general?

(c) If the Honourable Member cannot extend its scope to the public, will he be pleased to state if Government are prepared to reduce the scope of postal insurance to the Posts and Telegraphs Department only up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) The Post Office Life Insurance Fund was started with the object of fostering thrift among State

employees and in order to make provision for them in their old age and for their families in the event of their death. The Fund was first confined to postal servants but its scope was later extended to include other Government servants.

(b) As regards the first part, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Rule 2 of the Post Office Insurance Fund Rules, which gives a complete list of all persons eligible to join the Fund. A copy of these rules is in the Library of the House. As regards the second part, a proposal to open the Fund to the general public was considered in the past and rejected. The Banking Enquiry Committee, which went into the question, held that in view of the existence of a large number of Insurance Companies which were doing useful work in this direction, such a proposal could not be supported.

(c) No.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN MERCHANTS IN CHINESE TURKISTAN.

188. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) whether Government have received any reports of ill-treatment of Indian merchants in Chinese Turkistan;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the goods which they received from India have been successively taxed three times as follows: 27½ per cent., 105 per cent. and 77 per cent.;
- (c) whether it is a fact that their goods have now been confiscated by the Government and the merchants are confined in a building and are not allowed to move about to sell their goods;
- (d) whether it is a fact that some of the Indian merchants were looted when they were returning back to India with their merchandise;
- (e) whether it is a fact that their mail is censored;
- (f) whether they have made many representations to the Government of India and to the representative of His Majesty's Government stationed in Chinese Turkistan; and
- (g) whether any action was taken by Government to protect their interests in Chinese Turkistan; if so what, and if not, why not?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government have no information that their goods have been confiscated except for some *charas* which was being exported against the orders of the Provincial authorities. Government have not heard that the merchants are confined in a building, but it is reported that they are not allowed to move about from place to place, and they are being generally boycotted.

(d) Yes. It is believed that some were looted by the Tungan rebels during their flight to India last year.

(e) Government have no information.

(f) Yes.

(g) Representations have been made to the local authorities in Kashgar, and every effort is being made to induce them to adopt a more reasonable attitude towards Indian merchants.

LICENCE FEES CHARGED FROM REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT DELHI.

184. **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the answer given to starred question No. 585, asked in this House on the 2nd March, 1938, and state:

- (a) the proportionate sum out of Rs. 7,025 per annum for the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, North Western Railway, Delhi Division, in his letter No. 23A.C./222, dated the 23rd September, 1937, decided to levy a licence fee of Rs. 3,000 per annum on the Muslim Refreshment Room at Delhi;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the junior Assistant Commercial, detailed in the Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway, letter No. 23A.C./0/1, dated the 4th December, 1937, assessed the licence fee of Rs. 140 per month on the Muslim Refreshment Room at Delhi;
- (d) what are the facts upon which the Agent assessed the licence fee of Rs. 70 per month on the Muslim Refreshment Room at Delhi; and
- (e) the nature of complaints during 1937, against the Muslim Refreshment Room at Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) No proportion was worked out.

(b) to (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 126 on the 28th March, 1938.

(e) I understand from the Agent of the North Western Railway that no complaint has been received in his office.

ENQUIRY INTO BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ON STATE RAILWAYS.

135. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to his speech on page 831 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 17th February, 1938, regarding the question of bribery and corruption and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that corruption on State-managed Railways has been on the increase since 1925; and
- (b) whether Government will consider the desirability of appointing a Committee of this House, or of senior selected police officers, to investigate the causes of corruption and to place their report before this House; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government have no reason to believe that the fact is as stated by the Honourable Member. As I mentioned in my speech referred to by him, Government are prepared to investigate any specific cases of corruption brought to their notice and to take such action as they may consider necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

REFUSAL OF CASUAL LEAVE TO STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

136. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to his speech on page 830 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 17th February, 1938, regarding the refusal of casual leave to one Station Master, and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the East Indian and North Western Railways, casual leave is not granted to meet the purpose for which it is provided by the Government;
- (b) whether Government propose to inquire into the cases during 1936 and 1937 of staff serving in the Muradabad and Delhi Divisions to whom casual leave was refused to prosecute or defend their civil cases in courts of law, which were dismissed or decided against them for non-appearance in the court on dates fixed for hearing; and
- (c) what action has been taken against the gazetted staff for refusal to grant casual leave?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) Government have no reason to believe that the facts are as stated. I may add that casual leave cannot be claimed as of right and its grant is entirely at the discretion of the administration.

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

OPINIONS ON PASS PRIVILEGES OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

137. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to his speech on page 830 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 17th February, 1938, regarding the pass privileges enjoyed by railway servants, and state:

- (a) the opinions of all the Agents, who were concerned on the modifications of the pass rules; and
- (b) whether trade unions (recognised or unrecognised) of railway servants were also asked to express the opinions of railway servants; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) I am unable to give the information asked for by the Honourable Member, as the opinions expressed were confidential.

(b). No. The views of trade unions were represented to the Railway Board by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation at their half-yearly meetings with the Board.

FUNCTIONS OF THE RAILWAY CONCILIATION OFFICER AT CALCUTTA.

138. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the speech on page 819 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 17th February, 1938, regarding the Conciliation Office stationed in Calcutta, and state whether the Conciliation Officer will deal with individual cases of disputes caused by the abuse of powers, cases of the disregard of rules, etc?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: This question should have been addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Member for Commerce and Labour Departments.

INCIVILITY AND MISBEHAVIOUR OF RAILWAY SERVANTS AND PUNISHMENTS AWARDED TO THEM.

139. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please inquire and state:

- (a) the number of offences during the preceding three years, or as far as available, against Rule 183, issued with Government of India, Railway Department, Resolution No. 1078-T., dated the 9th March, 1929, in respect of:
 - (i) incivility of railway servants,
 - (ii) refusal to afford proper facilities by railway servants, and
 - (iii) giving incorrect information to the public by railway servants, on State-managed Railways; and
- (b) the nature of punishment awarded to railway servants against such offences; if no punishment is awarded, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a) and (b). Government have no information. The compilation by Railways of the particulars required by the Honourable Member would involve a considerable amount of labour not commensurate with any use to which the information could be put.

PUBLICATION OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN THE CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RELATING TO THE ALL-INDIA RADIO IN THE *INDIAN LISTENER*.

140. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications please state whether the *Indian Listener* has printed in any of its issues a single question asked during this Session by Members of this House, and/or a single answer given by the Honourable Member since the beginning of this Session?

(b) Have Government considered whether the questions and answers in this House are of any interest to the subscribers of the *Indian Listener*?

(c) In view of the fact that Government have claimed that the All-India Radio Department is a business Department of Government, are Government prepared to consider the proposal to instruct the Editor of the *Indian Listener* (who, as stated by Government, possesses business experience) to publish this information, including Government's replies, for the benefit of the clients of this Department?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: (a), (b) and (c). No.

DISCRIMINATION IN LEVYING LICENCE FEES ON INDIAN AND EUROPEAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

141. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to:

- (i) the reply to starred question No. 877, asked in this House on the 29th September, 1937, *vis.*, the charging of a special tax is not contemplated;

- (ii) the Agent, North Western Railway's letters No. 28 A.C./28, dated the 18th July, 1937, *vis.*, it has been *decided to levy* licence fee, No. 23-A.C./0/1, dated the 4th December, 1937, *vis.*, for the *assessment* of licence fee and No. 23-A.C./0/10, dated the 14th February, 1938, *vis.*, *assessment and levy* of licence fee which *must be recovered*; and
- (iii) paragraph 11 of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1936-37, volume I, *vis.*, Central Advisory Committee for Railways and to state:
- (a) how far the reply to starred question No. 877 is correct against the Agent's letters;
 - (b) the justification of the licence fee;
 - (c) the minimum and maximum amount of licence fee on one individual contractor for more than one contract;
 - (d) the reasons for racial discrimination between European and Indian contractors;
 - (e) whether any Indian contractor held the contract for more than one station;
 - (f) the reasons for not assessing the European Refreshment Rooms, stationwise, in similar manner as Indian Refreshment Rooms are taxed;
 - (g) how the Agent has been able to find out the profits of Indian contractors and not been able to find out the same of European contractors, and what amount shall be received from licence fees;
 - (h) when this racial discrimination will be eliminated from the North Western Railway;
 - (i) what is the policy of the Governor General in Council in respect of this licence fee; and
 - (j) whether the Governor General in Council proposes to abolish the system of licence fee; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Stewart: I have not seen the letters of the Agent to which the Honourable Member refers, and, in view of the reply I am giving to his question, do not consider it necessary to call for a copy.

I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his unstarred question No. 126 on the 28th March, 1938.

ELECTRICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

142. **Rajzada Hans Raj:** With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 60, dated the 7th March, 1938, in the Legislative Assembly, will the Labour Secretary be pleased to state when the particulars relating to the wiremen and assistants will be laid on the table?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The necessary particulars were laid on the table on the 1st April, 1938.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that the following non-official Members have been elected to serve on the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, namely:

1. Raizada Hans Raj;
2. Mr. C. C. Miller; and
3. Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.

THE TRADE DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill further to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration."

As Honourable Members will have observed, there are two amendments that have been made to this Bill by the Council of State. The first is a purely formal amendment and no question is likely to arise on that. The second amendment adds certain clauses after sub-section (3) in clause 10 of the Bill. An amendment was moved in this House concerning this matter by Mr. Aikman and was withdrawn when it was pointed out that it was open to objection in certain particulars. These objections were stated by Mr. Santhanam. It will be observed that the amendment which has now been accepted in the Council of State is not open to objection on those grounds, and I, therefore, hope that it will not take this House long to consider these two amendments. Sir, I move.

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

"That the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill further to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I want to oppose the consideration of this motion. The amendments made by the Council of State in the Trade Disputes Bill are, in my judgment, except the first one, unnecessary and in some cases mischievous. The main amendment made by the Council of State deals with the disclosure of secret information obtained by the Conciliation Officer from any party to the dispute. The Conciliation Officer is permitted to disclose the confidential information either to the authority appointing him or to the party to the dispute; and if he discloses to any other person he is liable to be punished. I feel, Sir, that this amendment, in the first place, shows an unwarranted want of confidence in the Conciliation Officers themselves. We have not yet got any experience of the Conciliation Officers; they are going to be appointed,—and I think we are proceeding in a wrong way by showing want of confidence in them. We have some experience, although not very much, of the working of the Trade Disputes Act and Courts of inquiry. I do not think that the Courts of inquiry which had also similar power of

asking for any information from the parties to the dispute have ever misused the power given to them. And I feel that similar power given to the Conciliation Officers also will not be misused. In any case there is no justification for us to start with want of confidence in their judgment.

I am aware, Sir, that the information which the Conciliation Officers may obtain may be obtained both from trade unions or from the workers as well as from the employers. So far as the workers are concerned, our methods of work are open. We follow open diplomacy; we have got no secrets in the working of the trade unions and I hope, Sir, that the employers' organisations, either private companies or public companies or individuals, have nothing to conceal in their administration of the industry. From both these points of view, in my judgment, the amendment made by the Council of State is unnecessary. Moreover, if information is needed from the trade unions the Government of India and the Local Governments can declare trade unions illegal and they can take possession of their papers, property and everything. So far as the employers' organisations are concerned, Government themselves have so far shown that there cannot be anything conspiratorial in the working of these industrial companies. I, therefore, feel, in the first place, that this amendment is unnecessary, but I feel that this amendment may prove to be mischievous also.

The object of appointing Conciliation Officers is, in the first place, that the Conciliation Officer should go into the merits of the dispute and try to bring about a settlement between the parties; and if he fails to do so, he may make a report to the appointing authority who may publish that report, so that the public may know the merits of the dispute and the pressure of public opinion may be exerted on either of the parties, so that if not on the ground of merit, from the pressure of public opinion the parties should come to an amicable settlement. I feel, Sir, that if we prohibit the Conciliation Officers from publishing information, their utility will be greatly reduced.

Then, Sir, I find that the amendment is not even well thought out: it is crude. Let us see what the amendment seeks to do. The amendment permits a Conciliation Officer to disclose secret information to the authority which appointed him to be a Conciliation Officer. That authority is not prohibited from publishing the information: I cannot understand why the Conciliation Officer alone should be prohibited from disclosing the information. The Conciliation Officer is permitted to disclose the information to the parties to the dispute, and the parties to the dispute may disclose the information to anybody. Then why prevent the Conciliation Officer from disclosing the information to anybody if the parties to the dispute can do so. I feel the amendment is not well thought out. It is done in a hurry and in a crude way.

Thirdly, Sir, I feel that the Conciliation Officer will not be able to do his work well if he has the fear that if by any chance the information which is given to him as confidential goes out—it is bound to go out as the information can be given by the authority appointing him and as it can be given even by the parties to the dispute; if he has always the fear in his mind that if by any chance he makes a report and the information is published somehow, he alone will be held responsible for it, he will be weakened in doing his duty.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Then, Sir, I feel that there is very little in the administration of industrial undertakings which is similar to the information which the Foreign Office possesses or which conspirators possess. The information which will be given will be—the wages of the employees, the amount of work done by them and information on similar points. Now, what is there confidential in all this? But, Sir, the object of the framers of this amendment is that if the Conciliation Officer feels inclined to take the view of the workers he may be browbeaten: otherwise, Sir, why allow information to be given to the parties who can give it to the public, and punish only the Conciliation Officer? I, therefore, feel that the amendment is unnecessary, is undesirable, is crude and ill thought out, and I submit, it should not be taken into consideration.

Mr. K. Santhanam (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I am rather surprised that Mr. Joshi should be so very anxious about the proper wording of this amendment which has obviously come from quarters which he does not like. But I want to point out to him and all those who are interested in labour that this amendment gives a statutory right to the Conciliation Officer to disclose the information to the parties concerned. But for this amendment, I doubt whether such a right will accrue, because these Conciliation Officers are treated as public servants, and I am very doubtful whether as public servants they can disclose information entrusted to them as confidential by the parties concerned. This gives that right to them, and I think it is a valuable right which will accrue to the benefit of labour and from that point of view I cordially welcome this amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I am equally surprised at the attitude of my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, who seems to think that this is a right conferred upon the Conciliation Officer, but whoever asked for this? We do not want this amendment at all. If the amendment had not been there then there would not have been any trouble whatsoever as far as the Conciliation Officer is concerned—whether he should reveal this information to somebody or other. Because the question of prohibition came in, this exemption has been brought in. I know why the framers of this amendment have thought of agreeing to this concession. It is to give the Conciliation Officer the permission to reveal information to the parties concerned, it is because they wanted to prohibit this man from revealing it to anybody whatsoever provided the employers or anybody else wanted him not to reveal that information. They could not very well get this House to agree with them in asking that an injunction should be placed on the Conciliation Officer that he should not reveal any information to any body else if he is asked not to reveal it. That is why they came to agree to this concession. Merely because this concession has been agreed to, we cannot very well welcome this. I can assure my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam, that those of us who have the fortune or the ill-fortune to defend the interests of labour also care for the welfare of labour just as much as any other Member of the House, but at the same time we do not want this amendment as a whole. We want the Conciliation Officer to be absolutely free to obtain whatever relevant information is found to be necessary and then, Sir, to pass it not only to the parties concerned but also to the public

if ever such a publication is found to be necessary. That is why my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, suggested that restrictions should not be placed on him.

Then, Sir, what may be the effect of this? It is said here that he can reveal this information to the parties concerned in the dispute for the purpose of mediating therein or promoting the settlement thereof, and also that he may reveal this information to the authority which appointed him to be the Conciliation Officer. Up to that, Sir, it is good. But he is all the time haunted with the fear that it may be later on brought as an accusation against him that this information has somehow or other leaked out, has reached some other people whose knowledge of the matter may be considered to be harmful to the employers and that it may prejudice him. It may be that in bringing this action the sanction of the Local Government may be necessary, but the mere fact that some employers have thought it fit to approach the Local Government for sanction—even if that Government after having considered all the relevant factors were to come to the conclusion that no prosecution need be sanctioned against this officer—is sure to affect his freedom, his mentality, and it is sure to lessen his utility in bringing about conciliation in industrial disputes or industrial relations. That is why we are so much opposed to this amendment as a whole.

A friend of labour who is in actual touch with Bombay labour has stated: "After having gone through all these proceedings in this House as well as the Council of State, in view of the war situation, in view of the growing political consciousness of the working classes, the Government are singling out the working classes for their attack." I cannot do anything better than simply endorse this. When this particular proposal was placed before us, I took care to warn the House that these Conciliation Officers might possibly be used against the workers themselves, and in actual practice these officers might be turned into strike breakers and even trade union breakers. I was then assured by Sir Thomas Stewart who was then piloting this Bill that it was very far from the intentions of Government to allow these Conciliation Officers to function in that fashion. We were hoping that at least mischief may not be the result of the appointment of these officers; but now we find that these employers themselves have come to be terribly afraid of these Conciliation Officers and that is why they want to restrict the powers of these Conciliation Officers. Why? It is because they are afraid that these Conciliation Officers may come—as they are supposed in England—to hold virtually a watching brief in the matter of labour relations, and are experienced in mediation and, therefore, may come to take the side of labour and try to use their knowledge in order to improve labour conditions. If that is to happen at all, it is all for the good. Why has he to reveal this information not only to the labourers but also to some of the employers in that particular place or industry, if it is not for the purpose of bringing about more harmonious relations between employers and employed, which my Honourable friends the Europeans themselves are so very anxious to generate in this country? In fact when they brought in this proposal of Conciliation Officers they should have accepted the usual practice that is associated with any idea of conciliation in the west—conciliation is described as being representation of workers and employers in equal numbers endeavouring to adjust differences which have already

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

led or are likely to lead to a strike or lock-out action. This is the definition given, not by a socialist, but by a very moderate Professor of Commerce and another Lecturer in Commerce of the Hull University; and even this definition is not satisfied by this proposal placed before us by the Government. But even this little moderate proposal of appointment of Conciliation Officers is sought to be whittled down by this European amendment which is accepted by the Council of State.

When it was moved here, I warned the Government that it is not likely to meet with the approval of this side of the House, and that it is not intended in the interests of labour and, therefore, Government should not take advantage of their position in the Council of State and bring about this amendment; but all our warnings have been of no use at all, because Government was bent upon helping the employers to as great an extent as they could possibly do and, therefore, this is the result. This information is required by the Conciliation Officers so that by putting before either party, as the Royal Commission on Labour says, aspects of the other's case which may have been overlooked or even by suggesting possible means of compromise, they may be able to bring about a compromise as well as industrial peace, and this information must be at his disposal to be used by him not only in order to bring about settlement in that particular dispute but also a permanent settlement and harmonious relations as between employers and employed whenever such a need arises. That is why I am opposed to this amendment.

Lastly the whole of the Bill is, as we have said once before, opposed to the interests of labour, and with this amendment it becomes much worse; and the organised labour in this country—and even unorganised labour—will have justifiable cause to condemn the Government, when the opportunity comes, for having placed this Bill before the House and for having used their opportunity to get this Bill through here as well as in the other House; and when the proper occasion comes I will try to move my amendment, although it does not go far enough, but in order to lessen the mischief of this amendment that is sought to be passed now.

Mr. J. D. Boyle (Bombay: European): Mr. President, when most Honourable Members stand up to address the House, they usually say, I notice, that they had no intention of intervening in the debate at all when the debate started . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I did not say that anyhow!

Mr. J. D. Boyle: No. Every Member, so far, has expressed astonishment at the attitude taken by the previous speaker. I did not intend to take any part in this debate and I should like to add my sense of astonishment at the attitude taken up by some Honourable Members who have spoken so far. It was certainly not the intention behind this amendment that the powers of Conciliation Officers should be whittled down in any way; the intention is that they should be given a free hand to make the best use of the information they can in the industry that is concerned. But it is quite unfair to say that the only points on which they will have to make an investigation immediately concern the payment of wages. A new process which is quite a common thing in a mill often involves alterations in the hours of employment or the time of

employment; and it may be absolutely necessary for the Conciliation Officer to realise in detail the workings of the several processes if he is to make an award. We appreciate that if he is to make an award that is going to be acceptable to all parties, he has also got to explain as much as he thinks necessary about that process to both parties. We appreciate that he has even got to express and tell as much as is necessary either to the Minister or to the appointing authority if the latter is to go into that particular question, but we conceive there is no ground for his making public, except to those interested in the dispute, the points which arise in the course of his investigation as to the technical methods that are being adopted in that mill . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What does he gain by it?

Mr. J. D. Boyle: There is no question of what he is going to gain by it . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why are you afraid?

Mr. J. D. Boyle: There is no question of any one being afraid; the officer may be a Government official or sometimes he may be a non-official; but in any case we are not prepared to say that he should disclose everything to everybody. There should be no question of his having to reveal anything to the press or to the public on the various methods adopted in the way of mill practice—we can see no reason why he should feel himself in a position to do so, and that is the point behind this amendment.

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

“That the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill further to amend the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I move:

“That in clause 10 of the Bill, in sub-section (4) of the proposed section 18A, after the word ‘requests’ occurring in the third line the words ‘in writing’ be inserted.”

In support of this I need only say that my amendment is completely in harmony with what appears in sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Bombay Trade Disputes Act of 1934. There also it is stated that if a party to a trade dispute giving any information or producing any document in a conciliation proceeding makes a request in writing to the conciliator and so on. This is necessary in order to prevent any sort of dispute as to whether or not any particular employer has asked a Conciliation officer that a communication given to him should be treated as confidential. I hope it will be accepted by Government.

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

“That in clause 10 of the Bill, in sub-section (4) of the proposed section 18A, after the word ‘requests’ occurring in the third line the words ‘in writing’ be inserted.”

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I rise to support this amendment. While supporting this amendment I would like to say that my Honourable friend, Mr. Boyle, and that some new process may be invented by the employer and that the Conciliation Officer may disclose it to some other people

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That has nothing to do with this amendment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I point out to the Honourable Member that it is the privilege of a Member, when another Member criticises his speech, to say in a very few words in reply to what that other Member has said.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Provided it is relevant at that stage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it is a question of personal explanation it is another matter, but

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member is unnecessarily impatient. Mr. Boyle said that some new process may be invented and it may be disclosed by the Conciliation Officer to some others. In that case the Bill should have provided that the Conciliation Officer should not disclose any information except for the settlement of the dispute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must tell the Honourable Member that he is really not relevant.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have finished. I have done my work.

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

"That in clause 10 of the Bill, in sub-section (4) of the proposed section 18A, after the word 'requests' occurring in the third line the words 'in writing' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That the amendments† to clause 10 as made by the Council of State, as further amended by the Legislative Assembly, be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

THE DELHI JOINT WATER BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

In spite of the formidable list of amendments of which notice has been received, I hope to be able to convince this House that this Bill is a simple and necessary measure. As Honourable Members are aware, there are four local bodies within the urban area of Delhi,—the Old Delhi Municipal Committee, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Notified

† For these amendments see pages 2584-85 of these Debates.

Area and the Cantonment Board. The water supply for these four local bodies is at the present moment under one centralised organisation. Owing to the phenomenal increase in the population of the urban area of Delhi—I may mention in parenthesis that the population figure which was to have been attained according to earlier estimates in 1955, has actually been passed in 1934—owing to this phenomenal increase it became necessary for the Government to review the question of the adequacy of the arrangements for the disposal of sewage. For that purpose a Committee was appointed early in 1936, and as a result of the recommendations made by that Committee, the Government of India have undertaken a comprehensive reconstruction of the sewage system at a cost which is estimated at Rs. 45 lakhs. The Committee recommended that when this system was ready, its control and management should vest in the same body as the one which controls the supply and distribution of water, the main reason being that water is the motive force of sewage operations, and the other reason being that a unified control is likely to be more economical than separate arrangements for the two. We are implementing that recommendation of the Sewage Committee. I may inform the House that no portion of the capital expenditure on these works is being passed on to any of the constituent local bodies. I may also inform the House that no change whatever in the respective representation of the different local bodies on the Joint Water Board, hereafter to be the Joint Water and Sewage Board, is contemplated. The urgency of the matter lies in this, that we expect the works to be ready some time in June and they must be functioning by the beginning of September, and we have to make arrangements between now and then for the entertainment of the necessary staff. That is all I need say at this stage. I hope that the House will now give us its support in order to ensure the ready passage of this Bill.

Sir, I move.

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

“That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, it is only once in a blue moon that an occasion ever arises for the interests of Delhi to be considered in this House. We have a saying which you, Sir, will appreciate more than perhaps other Members of this House, and perhaps the Honourable Member who has made this motion may also appreciate it,—the saying is this:

“*Naqqārkhāne men tuti ki dhwāz kon suntā hai.*”

“Who will hear the songbird in the din of the drumbeater's house.”

This is a House in which naturally matters of all-India importance are considered from day to day and the minds of the Members are concentrated on questions which are certainly of vital importance to large sections of the population. So, every time a question relating to Delhi comes up in this House, you see the condition of the House as you see it to day. I wonder if it has not already fallen below quorum. (*An Honourable Member*: “Not yet.”) There is just a likelihood of its falling below quorum before long. That is the index of the interest that this House takes in matters relating to Delhi, and particularly matters relating to Old Delhi which, unfortunately today, is in the position of a widowed mother whose young daughter living next door has all the advantages that her lover can

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bestow upon her and the poor widow has to sit in a wretched corner in a miserable plight. Nobody ever pays any attention to her, and if she lives in a hovel, that hovel gets worse and worse every day in every possible respect. That is the state in which Old Delhi now finds itself.

So far as this particular piece of legislation is concerned, I must remind the House, thin as it is, that it is the latest of a series of piecemeal legislation in which the Government have been indulging for some time. Of course, it is never expected of the Government to take a long-sighted view of anything. They would like to have, perhaps, a Joint Water Board in 1926, a Joint Electricity Authority sometime in 1938 or a little later. A Sewage Committee would be appointed some time to look into the administration of the sewage work which was undertaken years and years ago at a tremendous cost and which has proved to be absolutely insufficient today, and then the Government would come up before us without even publishing its report and tell us that the recommendation of this committee is that the Government should undertake another expenditure of about 45 lakhs. (*An Honourable Member*: "When did that committee report?") It met some time and made a report which was never made public. We cannot possibly obtain it and in spite of definite searches and researches in the Library, I could not find it there, because I was told that it was a confidential report and it was not going to be released to the public. In trying to implement the recommendations of this committee, whose report has never reached the public, the Government have come into this House without even taking into their confidence the main constituent body, namely, the Delhi Municipal Committee as regards the provisions of this Bill.

This Bill is going to affect the finances of the old Delhi Municipal Committee. I cannot say how far the other constituent bodies are affected but probably Government are going to shoulder their burdens. Representing as I do not only the old Municipal Committee but also other local bodies, I very strongly object to the procedure adopted by the Government in bringing this Bill before this House without ever giving an opportunity to any of the constituent bodies to consider the provisions of the Bill. I ask you, Sir—is this fair? After all the various constituent bodies will be affected vitally not in one but in many respects and yet not one of them has ever been consulted as to what the Government are going to do. This province has unfortunately no Legislature of its own, as you know, and this is the only Legislature which deals with this province, and the interest which this Legislature takes in Delhi is obvious. Now, in the face of these facts, I ask, is it fair that the Government should not give an opportunity to the various local bodies concerned to consider the provisions of any piece of legislation which must affect them sooner or later? (*An Honourable Member*: "Has not the Delhi Municipality been consulted?") It has not been consulted as regards this Bill. The Delhi Municipal Committee did not even know that this Bill was coming before the Legislature.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member got any motion for circulation?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have not given any such motion for the simple reason that I do not want to hold up the work, though such a motion would have been perfectly justified. I simply want to get an assurance

from the Government that in future they will not treat the various constituent bodies and the various local bodies of the Delhi Province in the shabby way in which they have done this time. I do not wish to stand in their way because I know this work has got to be carried out. But, surely I am entitled to ask on behalf of my constituents that Government will not repeat this procedure and they will be a little less discourteous than they have been so far.

Coming to the Bill itself, while I welcome the step that they propose to take, I have to invite their attention to a serious lack of foresight which they have shown even in drafting this Bill. They say that this Bill is really intended to secure economy and they do not want any overlapping authorities. They want the Joint Water Board and the Joint Sewage Board to be combined, so that the overhead charges may be reduced. Now, the question of electricity cannot possibly be divorced from this organisation, if they want to reduce the overhead charges; and they ought to have included it. Perhaps it is too late now to do so and I hope that they will take an early opportunity of doing so, as quickly as they can. I am absolutely certain that my friend on the opposite Bench who has moved this motion will agree with me that the cost of generating electricity has got to be reduced if the cost of raising of water by the Joint Water Board is to be reduced at all, because a very large volume of electricity is consumed by the Joint Water Board. Similarly, even in the disposal of sewage, electricity will play a tremendous part. In fact, if you refer to the Bill, you will find that they are making certain provisions as regards the handing over of certain works which relate entirely to electricity. I do not see why they have not included the supply of electricity in this Bill. All these supplies, of electricity and of water, and the disposal of sewage must come under one organisation and if that is done, the overhead charges would certainly be reduced considerably and that would mean a very much needed relief to the poor consumer of water and electricity in both the cities, old and new. It is really a tale of two cities. A prosperous city like New Delhi can afford to pay as much as they are paying, but representing them also, as I do, I think they also demand a reduction of these charges. Some of these points have been referred to in the questions asked today. The New Delhi people also want a reduction of both water supply and electricity charges. If Government had put all the three factors under one organisation, they would have reduced the charges tremendously all round but they have not done so. I should like to comment a little on that fact and tell the House why they have not done so.

The Government sometime ago appointed a committee called the Pitkeathly Committee which went into the question of the supply of electricity. They examined a large number of witnesses, representing the various bodies affected by their inquiry and although the old Delhi Municipal Committee urged its point of view with all the emphasis that it could possibly command, the Pitkeathly Committee totally ignored the representations of the Delhi Municipal Committee. although the Delhi Municipal Committee happens to be the representative of the largest bulk of the consumers of electricity. The Committee came to their own conclusions and their recommendations were conceived not so much in the interests of the poor consumer but very largely in the interests of the present Delhi Electric Supply Co., who were strengthened by the support of the industrialists of Delhi and the Chamber of Commerce, while the interests of the last named in the production of electricity or the supply of

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electricity is *nil*. According to the recommendation of the Pitkeathly Committee, a company has to be registered, a corporation has to be created, not by legislation but in the ordinary way, and the directors of this corporation will be in the proportion of one member from the Old Delhi Municipal Committee, which is the representative of the largest bulk of the consumers, and six others, two of whom have no interest whatsoever except those of exploiters, *vis.*, the Delhi Electric Supply Company and the Chamber of Commerce. So, it is for the purposes of bolstering up the dying and expiring claims of the Delhi Electric Supply Company—an entirely European concern—that the Pitkeathly Committee proposed to set up a body which the Government are bent upon accepting and which recommendation they are bent upon carrying out. I will take this opportunity of entering my protest against the procedure adopted by the Government in this respect and I once again on the floor of the House repeat the demand of the Delhi Municipal Committee that their representation on whatever body that may have to deal with the supply of electricity should be under no circumstances less than forty per cent. I do not mind the Government controlling this body with sixty per cent. votes if they wish to so long as they are responsible for any excessive expenditure, but the Delhi Municipal Committee must be fully represented, and when I say “fully represented” I mean its representation should under no circumstances fall below forty per cent. This is the reason why the Government have not thought it proper to combine the management of the electric supply with the management of the water supply and the disposal of the sewage. They have separated electricity from sewage and water supply. I should like the Honourable Member to explain how he justifies this action. Probably he is going to say that the Government were thinking in connection with the electric supply more of the business point of view than anything else.

Now, I should like to know what exactly is the purpose of the Government in creating this body, *i.e.*, the Joint Water and Sewage Board,—economy, or otherwise? If it is a question of economy, naturally this organization also should be looked into by business people and nobody else. But who would be the best business people? Surely those whose interests are affected by its activity. What are the interests of the Delhi Municipal Committee? They are to reduce the overhead charges and the charges of production and so on. If that is so, why should not the Delhi Municipal Committee have as much representation on the electric supply as it claims?

Personally, I think it is high time that the Government started thinking of making some provision for the combination, if possible, of all the urban local bodies in the province under a corporation. If there was one comprehensive corporation dealing with the affairs of all the committees within the province, it would be much the best, but if by any chance that is not possible immediately, well, surely some sort of advisory council can be set up which may from time to time advise the Local Government as regards its otherwise autocratic activities. It is a perfect anomaly that the rest of the country today has some sort of representative Government or other and that Delhi, the metropolis, the Centre of the Indian Government, has a wholly autocratic body and autocratic in this sense that even the Honourable Members who sit there and who are supposed to be in charge of the various Departments connected with

Delhi have only just power enough to make certain recommendations to the Chief Commissioner and nothing more. I have yet to learn in what way any of those Members who sit on the Treasury Benches are responsible really for the administration of Delhi. They are like a post office, and nothing more. There are sometimes pointless and sometimes pointed recommendations which may or may not be accepted by the autocratic satrap who administers the Province of Delhi as the Chief Commissioner. I am not suggesting that the present Chief Commissioner is less acceptable than the last one. The last one indulged in all sorts of pomposity

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to this Bill.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, these are some of our difficulties. Now, coming to this particular Bill, I have given notice of certain amendments many of which were discussed by me with the Honourable Member outside the House. He has agreed to accept three of them and I am going to move those three when the appropriate time comes, but there are two others regarding which I should like some explanation from the Honourable Member. The very first one relates to clause 11.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not deal with that now.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I mean, Sir, that if I have an explanation from the Honourable Member, I may not perhaps have any need to move it. In paragraph 11 the Bill says:

“Provided further that, if the Central Government, in consequence of the extension of the urban area of the city of Delhi, requires the Board to make additional provision for the supply of water in bulk at any place, the Board shall be bound to make such provision.”

My difficulty is this. As I read this provision, it appears to me that if the New Delhi Municipal Committee undertake an extension of urban area, say, to the Factories Area South of Safdarjung, or if the Improvement Trust extends the urban area in one or other direction and this extension means a tremendous amount of expenditure, it is the Old Delhi Municipal Committee which naturally has to bear the burden of this expense. I urge that the Old Delhi Municipal Committee should not have to shoulder the burden of commitments by other bodies. My point is this. Today we are under the Joint Water Board Act. That Board cannot possibly charge us more than three annas per thousand gallons. If the expenditure of the Joint Water Board exceeds the limits which may be justifiable, by including this proviso you may be pointing the door to other bodies to insist upon the extension of water supply by the Joint Water Board, in which case the expenditure of the Joint Water Board

is bound to rise. Why should the Delhi Municipal Committee—
 1 p. m. tee—we will assume that it is not extending—bear this burden? Ordinarily we expect that the price which the Joint Water Board is charging us today will be reduced by the step which the Government now propose to take. We want to take the fullest advantage. The whole difficulty is this. Today we are paying something like a little under five lakhs to the Joint Water Board for the price of water. We pay at three annas per thousand gallons and although we are selling this water

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at five annas per thousand gallons, even then we are faced with a loss of some lakhs within the next two years, because naturally a tremendous amount of water is consumed for municipal gardens, roads, public water supply, flushing drains and all the rest of it. The result is that we are faced with a loss. We do not want this situation to become worse by this proviso. I should like the Honourable Member to explain the situation. If it is satisfactory, I may not move the relevant amendment.

There is one other point. I should like the Honourable Member to make a statement which may justify me in not moving some of the other amendments which have not been accepted by him so far and that is with regard to section 14-B where it says:

"All establishment charges, including all expenditure upon repairs and maintenance not debitable to the fund established under section 8."

Under the Act these very charges are calculated, under section 12. So, it appears that the establishment charges, etc., mentioned in section 12 and those mentioned in section 14-B will mean calculating these charges twice over again and, therefore, something has got to be done to save the situation. If the natural interpretation, as the Honourable Member assured me outside, is that they will not be calculated twice over again, let him make a statement and I will not move these amendments. That is all I have got to say on the subject at the present moment.

Mr. K. Santhanam (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it may appear rather strange that one who comes from far South, namely, Madras, should intervene in a debate which seems to be more or less a family concern between Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and Mr. Asaf Ali. Still not only have we to come to live here for three months in the year, but the country as a whole has to pay for the big bill which Delhi city costs us. I want to point out to the House that this Bill might surreptitiously be adding to the burden which the people of India have to bear on account of this city. Before I do so, I wish to make a preliminary remark. I strongly object to the method which the Government are adopting in pushing forward an amending Bill with so many clauses without reference to a Select Committee. You are aware, Sir, that it is very difficult to find out whether the sections in the old Act and the new amendments are consistent, whether any further amendments are not required and so on. If this is a Bill with a single clause or a few clauses, then it might go through all the stages directly and become law. But when a Bill of this dimension, with 16 or 17 clauses, is brought before the House, it is the duty of the Government to refer the Bill to the Select Committee. It was our intention to refer the Bill to the Select Committee, but in view of the shortness of the time at our disposal during this Session and in view of the desirability that was pointed out to us of having this Board constituted as soon as possible, we did not press our amendment.

Still I want to show that by this Bill the Government of India are transferring large properties which are to be found under Division II in the Schedule to the new Board which has to control this water supply and sewage in the city. When similar properties were transferred to this Board on account of water supply, provision was made in section 10 to debit the capital cost of these works to this Board and to recover the interest on capital by periodic instalments. There is no such provision

at all now. I want to know what is to happen to the properties which are being transferred to the Sewage Board. Let it be transferred from the capital accounts of the Government of India to the capital accounts of the Sewage Board. There is no provision. Therefore, I assume that these works will remain in the capital account of the Government of India, and the Sewage Boards will have no liability either for the interest or for capital. I do not see how that is a fair proposition. My Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, may say that by such transfer, the cost of sewage disposal might increase. The Delhi municipality might have to pay more. But if it gains at all, it gains only at the expense of the people of India. Why should not the people of Delhi or the people of India know exactly what is the cost of the disposal of the sewage in the city? We would know the proper cost only when all the capital works are transferred to the new Boards and then it is recovered—with both interest and capital—in periodic instalments, as in the case of the water supply works. It may be that this Assembly and the Government might have to give a greater grant for that purpose. We should at any rate know the actual cost. Now, this is a hidden subsidy to which I strongly object. Government should not come before this House and ask us to give not only grants and open subsidies but also to pass amending Bills with hidden subsidies. This is nothing else. I should like to know what is the total capital cost of the works which are being transferred by this Bill. I would not be surprised if it runs up to lakhs of rupees. Therefore, the Government in justice to the people of India should transfer all the cost to the new Sewage Board and arrange as in section 10 of the original Act to recover it from this Joint Water Board in 40 or 50 years. If by that process the cost is increased, by all means let them come before us with a demand for additional grant. Then we shall be able to deal with the question on its merits. As it is now, we are at the end of our Session and an amending Bill is brought forward by which lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being transferred without any proper accounting. This is a matter in which all the Members of the Assembly ought to take some interest and they must demand a proper explanation from the Government for this purpose.

There are also many other amendments to this Bill which a Select Committee could have considered and which would have been necessary. As it is, I am afraid my Honourable friend will have to bring a new amending Bill to rectify the errors of drafting and other mistakes which are there now. I may point out one thing. He is amending section 8 of the old Act by changing one fund into funds. But he forgot all about this amendment in relation to the fund mentioned in clause 12. Similarly even in his new Bill we find "the fund" being retained without any change. If he prefers to have mistakes it is a matter for him to worry about and not for me. But the major point I have referred to is that the cost of the capital works ought to be transferred to the new Sewage Board, the proper cost of sewage disposal should be calculated according to proper and legitimate accounting, and if necessary, they should ask for a bigger grant. Unless he does this, I am afraid he is taking advantage of legislation to throw dust in the eyes of the people of India and making them bear a greater burden for this city which has already cost such a great deal.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, during the last four years we have had no

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opportunity of discussing matters relating to Delhi. From the Statement of objects and Reasons of this Bill we do not find that the Bill can give us entire satisfaction with regard to the object which it wants to achieve. The extensive area from Timarpur to the Kutab wants a good deal of municipal work without which the whole town of Delhi cannot be really healthy and worthy of being the capital of India. Government spent a few crores over the Civil Lines but they had practically to abandon it and those who live in New Delhi can feel the deliberate negligence on the part of Government with regard to the improvement of Delhi proper. Old Delhi has been neglected and today we find a glaring contrast between New and Old Delhi.

Sir, we find a proposal for a Joint Water Board for water supply and sewage in this Bill. I welcome this; but, as pointed out both by Mr. Asaf Ali and Mr. Santhanam, no one knows what would be the expense. The Delhi Municipality will have to spend more than what they have been spending now, and the whole expenses may rise to a certain enormous amount which will have to be borne by the whole country. Therefore, the author of the Bill should have really given more time to this House to examine this Bill in greater detail with regard to the question of expenses.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

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

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

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, the Preamble says:

"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the maintenance of the works established to dispose of sewage in bulk for the urban area of the City of Delhi and to improve the provisions relating to the supply of drinking water in bulk . . ."

Sir, the Preamble is really tempting.

[At this stage, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. S. Satyamurti (one of the Panel of Chairmen.)]

Those who live in Old Delhi know how they meet with dirty streets, and how much necessary it is for an efficient municipality to clear the town of all this dirt. Also the condition of water supply in Old Delhi or rather proper Delhi differs from that of New Delhi. Those who stay there during the summer season feel the scarcity of water, and really, if the Joint Board is formed for the purpose and object set out in the preamble, there is no doubt that Old Delhi will improve much, and the Bill which has been hurriedly drafted and brought before the House, will be really useful to a large extent. It is unfortunate that those who come for a change from Bengal suffering from malaria should go back from Delhi with worse malaria parasites. It is a slur on this Imperial City that it is infested with malaria, and if a Joint Water Board is established, we

hope that this malaria will die out. It is not for me at this moment to go into the different clauses of this Bill as I understand that, although there are difficulties in agreeing to all the clauses, yet the Bill as a whole will have to be supported with certain agreed amendments, as every one present here wants the improvement of Delhi. With these words, I support this Bill.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, began his speech with two metaphors. In the first metaphor he compared himself to the slow warbling parrot whose sweet voice cannot be heard in the din of an up-roarious House. I think my Honourable friend will agree that today there was no up-roarious House, and certainly the vigour with which he spoke, and the attention with which he was listened to, give a negation, if I may say so, to the appropriateness of that metaphor as applied to his particular case. The second metaphor was connected with the reproach to the Government of India for having abandoned the old widow of Delhi for her fair and winsome daughter. I do not propose here to explore the implications, moral and otherwise, of that particular metaphor. But I may say it is a compliment to the Government of India that they have the human quality of appreciating fairness and winsomeness when they find them, and, in any case, that particular reproach no longer holds good because, as my Honourable friend is aware, the Government of India have established an Improvement Trust, the main function of which is going to be, in so far as it is possible, to make this old dame beautiful and at any rate to restore to her the quality of cleanliness.

Having said that much with regard to the two metaphors, I shall pass on to the serious part of his attack on the Government of India. The first attack, Sir, was as regards our failure to take a long-range view of the needs of Delhi. He based it on the failure of the Government of India to bring under one united body the control not only of water and sewage, but also the control of the central electricity agency which we propose to set up for the generation and distribution of electricity. Also with regard to that it is not correct that the Government of India did not examine the possibility of a unified control of all these three activities. If I may read out to the House the observations on this point of the Pitkeathly Committee, which the Government of India specifically set up to go into the question of the creation of a central agency for the generation and distribution of electricity, this is what they have to say on this particular point:

"Suggestions have been made that the management of Delhi Electricity supply might be entrusted to a joint board which would control water and sewage administration also. We do not favour any such composite control. An association of this sort is justifiable only where there is substantial connection or similarity between the subjects of administration thus brought together. The connection between water and sewage is obvious, but the problems of electricity administration on the technical side are totally different and the relation between electric supply and its two proposed associates is really only that of buyer and seller. We can understand how a recommendation of this sort arose. Delhi is a small area and the rate payers are concerned with the supply of amenities under all three heads. But something more than this is required before a common management should be imposed."

Then they go on to refer to the fact that the electricity agency is something entirely separate, needing technical knowledge and so on and so forth, and that is why the two should not be amalgamated. So, in this particular case, our omission to include a provision for the generation and supply of electricity being merged is due not to a lack of foresight, but to the careful consideration of the recommendations of an *ad hoc* committee which went into the point fairly carefully.

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

I pass on to what my Honourable friend had to say on the subject of the defective procedure followed—I think he used the words “the discourteous procedure”—in bringing this Bill without giving the local bodies concerned an opportunity of commenting upon its provisions. As regards that I would like to point out that, in so far as two of the main provisions of this Bill are concerned, namely, the one in clause 11, which throws certain obligations on the Joint Water Board as regards fresh capital expenditure for the provision of pumping stations, and also the one in clause 13 of the Bill which relates to the distribution of the cost of the suggested operations amongst the constituent bodies, on both these at one stage or another the proposals of the Government of India have been before the local bodies. At the same time, I will concede that the Bill as drafted has not been referred to the local bodies which he has in mind. And the reason why such reference has not been made was the urgency of pushing on with this matter. But I would say that speaking generally I concede that when legislation affecting Delhi, especially the local bodies of Delhi, is to be introduced in this House, before it is proceeded with, the local bodies concerned should have an opportunity of considering it. And, for the future, at any rate as far as I am concerned, I shall do my best to see that that particular requirement wherever possible is complied with.

Now, I come on to another point, which my Honourable friend made—a preliminary but substantial point as regards the provision which is being made in this Bill for electric plant. The fact of the matter is that what we are including in these sewage works is just enough machinery for the purpose of working the plant; the electric current is to be obtained from an outside generating station, which at the present moment, is controlled by the New Delhi Municipal Committee, and which, when the Central Electricity Board is set up, will be controlled by that body; so that there is no duplication of the provision for the generation and supply of electricity as between this organisation and the central electricity organisation which will be set up for the generation of electricity.

My Honourable friend had much to say on the subject of the Government of India's failure to consider the claims of the Old Delhi Municipal Committee to representation on the central electricity authority which the Government of India propose to set up. He said that it is only once in a way that legislation affecting old Delhi comes up before this House, that this particular occasion was one of those rare occasions and, therefore, he ought to bring up the question of the representation of Old Delhi Municipal Committee on this central electricity authority. I do not think I would be quite relevant in pursuing that point because the scope of this Bill does not include provision for representation on the central electricity authority. If another opportunity occurs, I think, I shall be able to satisfy the House that we did all that lay in our power to satisfy the old Delhi Municipal Committee on any equitable or rational basis, and that, perhaps, they have, in a spirit of pique, taken the line that they will not accept the representation that we have offered to them. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: One-seventh!

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: We stand for co-operation with every local body, and if the Old Delhi Municipal Committee will only make some gesture for an adjustment of this outstanding difference, which I regret

as much as my Honourable friend does, if they will make any gesture with regard to this, and if it is of a satisfactory character, we shall be the very first to come forward and meet them as far as we can. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: What gesture do you want?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I think it is for my friend and for his constituency the Old Delhi Municipality to make a gesture and come forward with a suggestion of their own. . . .

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May he sweetly warble again?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is in the hands of the Chairman as to whether the rules permit of a second warbling.

Then, I shall pass on to the comments of detail which my Honourable friend made with regard to clauses 11 and 12 and 14 of the Bill. Now, let me take clause 11 first. I should first like to explain the origin of this particular clause. The position is that the Joint Water Board may of its own initiative undertake certain works. I may say for the information of the House that we are not concerned at this stage with the scheme of distribution at all, but merely with the provision of fresh pumping plant. At present the Joint Water Board may undertake new works or it may not undertake new works. There is no power to compel the Board to undertake new works, even if the extension of the growth of the population, whether in the new or the old Delhi Municipal area, may render this necessary. And, it so happens, that the difficulty of this existing legislation came up in connection with something in which the Old Delhi Municipal Committee are interested, namely, the area which is known as the Western Extension. So, when we decided to undertake amendment of the present Act, we said we shall close this loophole and provide that the Joint Water Board, when there is a real cause for it, shall be required and shall be under an obligation to undertake this kind of work. That is the reason why this provision has been put in.

Then my Honourable friend said "Yes; but this is going to add inordinately and in an entirely indeterminate manner to the liabilities of the Old Delhi Municipal Committee". So far as that is concerned, I would invite the attention of the House to section 12 of the existing Act. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I just for the sake of explanation say a word? What I intended really the Honourable Member to explain was quite another thing. I feel that any expenditure incurred by the Joint Water Board in connection with any other body will affect the issue price of the water which we are purchasing from the Joint Water Board. I do not want that price to be affected by any legislation.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I was coming to that point. My Honourable friend is obviously referring to the price that may be charged per unit of thousand gallons. My answer to that is that, in so far as the upper limit is concerned, it is already fixed by section 12 of the Act which says:

"Provided that the Delhi Municipal Committee shall be required to pay in respect of water supplied to it at the rate of 3 annas per thousand gallons or the actual cost, whichever is less."

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

We are suggesting no modification of sub-section (1) of section 12 at all, so that, in so far as the upper limit of the charge is concerned my Honourable friend's constituent bodies will be no worse off than before. . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: But we are talking of the lower level.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The only possibility that my Honourable friend has in mind is a further reduction in the price of water. It is impossible for anybody to say, at this stage, as to what the effect of a scheme of expansion in the future on production costs will be. If the capital cost is not high, and the water pumped or delivered to local bodies is large, then, according to the ordinary arithmetical rule, the denominator being larger than the numerator, the quotient will be small, there will be economy, and the benefit of the economy will be passed on to the Old Delhi Municipal Committee. But, on the other hand the other thing may happen—I am not prepared to say that it will not. But what I want my Honourable friend to appreciate is that in that case the whole charge, as section 12 provides, will be distributed amongst all local bodies, so that, whereas it may so happen that, if an extension takes place in New Delhi which has the effect of slightly reducing the economy which my Honourable friend otherwise expects, equally there is the possibility that something that may be undertaken on account of Old Delhi throws a responsibility for the resulting charge on the other local bodies, namely, New Delhi, and so on. In other words, the principle of calculation is that of co-operative sharing and I do not think that we should go and disturb that at this juncture.

Then my Honourable friend referred to the provision which is being made by us in section 14B (2) (a), as regards the calculation of establishment charges. Now, if my Honourable friend will look at the Act and also at the Bill, he will find that there are two separate headings—one heading which deals with the supply of water and the demand therefor, and the other heading which deals with the disposal of sewage and the demand therefor. Under each section there is a provision for the sharing, the division of establishment charges. We have consulted our legal advisers and their opinion is that the Act as amended certainly will not be construed so as to permit of a double calculation of establishment charges under the two heads. In any case the intention of Government is absolutely clear and unequivocal in that respect. We want only that part of the establishment charges to come under section 12, which relates to water-supply and that portion of the establishment charges which will come under section 14-B (2) which relates to the disposal of sewage. I hope that in view of the explanation which I have given in regard to clauses 11 and 14-B (2) my Honourable friend will be satisfied and there will be no necessity for him to move the relevant amendments that stand in his name.

Having dealt as best as I could with the points raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali, I shall pass on to one or two observations which fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Santhanam. The first was his protest against non-reference to a Select Committee. The explanation of that has already been given by me, though in another connection. It was merely the urgency of the thing which led us to propose this procedure. Otherwise, we might certainly have considered the question of reference to a Select Committee. I entirely agree with him on general grounds that where any complicated amendments are involved the procedure of

Select Committee is preferable. Then he went on to talk about transferring large properties without any provision for the repayment of cost. The explanation of that is quite simple. We were faced with the situation that the population of this city had outgrown completely the capacity of the existing sewage system to bear the extra load, and the local bodies said, "We have no resources, we are not in a position to give money". The choice lay between throwing this responsibility upon the Joint Water Board which would have involved a raising of the cost of water, or assuming the responsibility partly ourselves and placing it partly upon the Improvement Trust which we hope in due course will be remunerative. The latter is the course which we have followed. I do not know that it is necessary for me to go into any other points. I think I have dealt with all the major points.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): Clause 11.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I feel rather hesitant to move this motion, although I must say that the explanation which my Honourable friend Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has offered is not at all satisfactory. I should like to give him another chance to explain his position a little further, and that is why I should like to say a few words on this clause. The motion which I really intended to make was intended to modify the provision by adding these words:

"but no constituent body or authority other than the constituent body or authority which undertakes such extension shall be liable for any additional contribution resulting from compliance by the Board with this provision."

My object was to make it perfectly clear that if any extension is undertaken by any local body or authority—when I say authority I really mean the Improvement Trust, because that happens to be the only other authority besides the constituent bodies—if any other authority or constituent body undertakes any extension the expenditure incurred by the Joint Water Board on account of such extension should not entail any addition to the cost of issue price of water as far as the other constituent bodies are concerned. That was my object. The position is this. Supposing New Delhi today undertakes a big extension south of Safdarjang which entails an expenditure of say about 10 lakhs of rupees which may be borrowed by the Joint Water Board under section 6 of the Act. The interest charges naturally would have to be calculated while the Joint Water Board is trying to determine the issue price of water not only to New Delhi but to all the other constituent bodies, which would mean that Old Delhi and the other constituent bodies would not get the benefit of the steps which the Government are now taking for the purpose of effecting economies. Today we are paying three annas per 1,000 gallons. We expect under the present Act as amended that the cost will go down. Supposing it goes down to two annas, it means a tremendous relief to Old Delhi. But if the issue price is going to be affected by the extension undertaken either by New Delhi or by the Improvement Trust, then we shall have, instead of paying two annas, to pay three annas

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

or perhaps a little less, but certainly more than two annas, and this additional cost will be shouldered by us because the extension has been undertaken not by us but by some other constituent body. I have no doubt that the co-operative basis is very good, I am not disputing that for a single second, but the point is that if large extensions are undertaken by any constituent body the consequences should be confined only to that constituent body and not to the others. Supposing we undertake a big extension in Old Delhi we are prepared to shoulder the burden. Similarly, New Delhi should be prepared to shoulder the burden, and similarly the Improvement Trust should be prepared to shoulder the burden as the burden falls. That was the object of this motion. In order to give my Honourable friend a further opportunity to explain the position I move this motion and if I am satisfied with it, I shall certainly withdraw it.

Sir, I move:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, in the proposed proviso to section 11, after the words 'to make such provision' the following be added :

'but no constituent body or authority other than the constituent body or authority which undertakes such extension shall be liable for any additional contribution resulting from compliance by the Board with this provision'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, in the proposed proviso to section 11, after the words 'to make such provision' the following be added :

'but no constituent body or authority other than the constituent body or authority which undertakes such extension shall be liable for any additional contribution resulting from compliance by the Board with this provision'."

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): I have a great deal of sympathy with the amendment which my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, has moved. At the time when the previous Bill was passed—it was moved by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra who was the Member for Industries and Labour,—and we thought then that the Government of India being in possession of the New Delhi Capital, they were willing to spend more money on the Joint Water Board and would not put any additional burden on the Old Delhi Municipal Committee. But the way in which my Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, spoke or hit out old Delhi, makes me feel that, although he is in charge of the department of local self-government, his idea of the administration of local self-government department is the co-operation of an elected body like the Delhi Municipal Committee and a non-elected body like the New Delhi Municipal Committee. It is in the fitness of things that the Government of India should bear all the losses and incur all the expenses that are required by the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Improvement Trust, whereas the Old Delhi

Municipal Committee will have to pay further sums as its share of burden. Old Delhi is occupied by the poorest class of people

who do not get the same amount of water supply as the Members of the Executive Council of the Government of India or my friend, Sir, Girja Shankar Bajpai, who grows beautiful roses in his house in Dupleix Road. When Mahatma Gandhi visited Delhi eight years ago in connection with the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, he saw the bungalows of the Secretaries and Executive Council Members and observed that he does not want to see these gardens

and big buildings for the officials of the Government of India. He wanted small tenements for millions and millions of poor people who are living in congested localities.

When this matter was brought up by the late Sir B. N. Mitra the then Industries Member, this House did not raise a discussion, because it was understood that all expenses would be borne by the Government of India, but now the Secretary for Education has stated that he wants co-operation of all these bodies. What sort of co-operation does he want? The old proverb says that there is always darkness under the lamp. It is not an electric lamp but a wick lamp. We who come from rural constituencies find that Delhi has a Deputy Commissioner as the Chairman of the Municipality and therefore my friend, Sir G. S. Bajpai, can afford not to consult the municipality in an important measure like this. He will find that Sir B. N. Mitra, although he introduced a measure like this, had to consult the Delhi Municipality at the time to find out their views and today we learn from the speech of my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, that the Delhi Municipality was not consulted on this occasion at all and that is the conception of local self-government that my Honourable friend has. This is the example he sets forth for the rest of India. I do not want this type of co-operation by which Government forces the Deputy Commissioner to be in charge of Delhi Municipality and the Secretary for Education finances all the responsibilities and irresponsibilities of the various constituents. Sir, you were a member of the Public Accounts Committee and we all know that the Government of India at one stroke wrote off 110 lakhs from capital expenditure when a certain property was handed over to the New Delhi Municipality. The Finance Member often says that there is no money but when it suits the comforts and conveniences of the official class such as the Horticultural Department or the beautifully illuminated streets of New Delhi, 110 lakhs has to be written off in a capital expenditure of 171 lakhs and they allow the New Delhi Capital Committee to bear only a capital burden of Rs. 60 lakhs. My friend, Mr. Asaf Ali's contention is that he wants facilities for old Delhi, which contains nearly five lakhs of people. I take it that my Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar, occasionally goes to Old Delhi. In the old days he used to go to see his friend, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, in Delhi, not far from Chauri Bazar. If the Government gives relief it should be *pro rata*. The relief should not be a contribution of one lakh of rupees for residents of New Delhi, while Old Delhi gets very little contribution.

One can hardly object to any co-ordination of policy when problems of water supply and drainage are concerned. I have applied my mind to this Bill. I think this is not for the advantage of the people of Old Delhi. This is all for exploration of new roads and new towns for the overflow population of New Delhi and those who migrate from outside Delhi but we must strongly resent it if the citizens of Old Delhi will be further taxed either in the shape of enhancement of water rates or the enhancement of municipal rates, so that the people living in New Delhi may have better houses and better sewage. I do hope that my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, will not accept light-heartedly the explanation of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and that he will press his amendment and I also hope that my friend will be fair and accept the amendment which has been moved.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: If I may first deal with what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, I think he was not in the House when the earlier part of the discussion took place. (Mr. B. Das: "I was here".)

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

Then, I submit that much of what he has said has no relevance to the point which we are discussing now. He talked about the woes of Old Delhi. I was undoubtedly a little light hearted in dealing with my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali's preliminary remarks, but I also took care to point out that the Delhi Improvement Trust has been set up primarily for the business of clearing up these congested areas regarding which my Honourable friend was indignant and rightly indignant. So, I do not think that we need drag that into the discussion. The whole question before the House at the moment is as to whether this important proviso enhances in any way the financial responsibility of Old Delhi for any expansion that may take place hereafter. That is the whole point—nothing more and nothing less. As regards that, even at the risk of tiring the House, I shall read out the relevant provision in the Act:

"Each constituent body shall pay for the water supplied to it the actual cost of supplying such water at a rate in respect of each thousand gallons of water supplied (hereinafter referred to as the final issue rate) calculated in the manner prescribed in this section.

Provided that the Delhi Municipal Committee shall be required to pay, in respect of each financial year, for the actual water supplied to it or for one thousand, four hundred and sixty million gallons of water, whichever amount is greater, at the final issue rate or at the rate of three annas per thousand gallons, whichever is less."

The point, therefore, is this. In so far as the old Delhi Municipal Committee is concerned, no matter what the effect of these expansions upon the calculation of the cost of water, they are absolutely protected against any increase over the figure of three annas. And you will observe further on that:

"any amount by which the price at the final issue rate of the supply actually taken by the Committee exceeds the sum so payable by the Committee shall be payable to the Board by the Governor General in Council."

That is the position. What my Honourable friend seems to be after is that he should be guaranteed some kind of a reduction in the actual selling price. I do not honestly see how the amendment which he has in view is going necessarily or definitely to achieve that object. And further, 'Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Joint Water Board will have as many as four representatives of the Old Delhi Municipal Committee on it. What we can with reason expect is that that Board, when a particular scheme comes before it, will see to it that the interests of Old Delhi—as regards any increase over three annas, that is really impossible under the Statute—in the direction of the reduction of cost will be properly looked after. I do hope my Honourable friend will be a little reasonable. I do not think myself that Old Delhi has any need or occasion to fear that its liability is going to be in any way increased; equally I think, with good management and a spirit of co-operation between all, there may be a reduction.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): The question is:

"That in clause 11 of the Bill, in the proposed proviso to section 11, after the words 'to make such provision' the following be added:

'but no constituent body or authority other than the constituent body or authority which undertakes such extension shall be liable for any additional contribution resulting from compliance by the Board with this provision.'

The motion was negatived.

Clauses 11 and 12 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): Clause 13.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move:

“That in clause 13 of the Bill, for the proviso to sub-section (1) of the proposed section 14A, the following be substituted :

‘Provided that no constituent body by which sewage is delivered may execute any major work calculated to increase the normal discharge of sewage without the concurrence of the Board.’”

Sir, I do not think I need take any time of the House over this amendment, because I understand the Government are prepared to accept it.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): There is no question of the Honourable Member “accepting” the amendment; it is only the House that can accept it. Government can only say, “we agree to the amendment”, but it is the House which can accept it or not.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I appreciate that, Sir.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): The question is:

“That in clause 13 of the Bill, for the proviso to sub-section (1) of the proposed section 14A, the following be substituted :

‘Provided that no constituent body by which sewage is delivered may execute any major work calculated to increase the normal discharge of sewage without the concurrence of the Board.’”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move:

“That in clause 13 of the Bill, before the commencement of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 14B, the words ‘Subject to the provisions of section 15 of the said Act’, be added.”

I do not propose to make a speech. This again is an agreed amendment.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): Amendment moved:

“That in clause 13 of the Bill, before the commencement of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 14B, the words ‘Subject to the provisions of section 15 of the said Act’, be added.”

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, before you put the question, may I point out one little matter for your consideration? My Honourable friend says “of the said Act”. I submit that those words are unnecessary, because the said Act is the Act we are amending at the present moment.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then my amendment can end up with the words “section 15”.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): The question is:

“That in clause 13 of the Bill, before the commencement of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 14B, the words ‘Subject to the provisions of section 15,’ be added.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyamurti): The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, it is quite obvious that this Sewage Bill has had an easy passage and has reached the final stage. I must thank my Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, for the complimentary words he used with reference to myself.

He referred to the Pitkeathly Committee's recommendation. I am afraid my Honourable friend did not meet the point which I had raised. My Honourable friend said that the Pitkeathly Committee had actually considered the question of constituting one body under which may be unified the control of central electricity as well as water supply and the disposal of sewage and came to the conclusion that it could not be done. This is exactly the point I had attacked in the beginning. Sir, I think the Pitkeathly Committee's recommendations were based on partiality to a European company, *i.e.*, the Delhi Electric Supply Company, and therefore the Government should not have accepted it but should have brought the control of the generation of electricity, the water supply and the disposal of sewage under one organization or one body—, which would naturally have meant a reduction of overhead charges and resulted in desirable economy. This was my charge but it was not met. However, this is not the time to dilate on this point; I only hope that the Government will take the earliest opportunity of making amends for their oversight or deliberate omission as the case may be, and I do hope that during the Simla Session the Government will find it possible to bring these three different branches of activity under one control and reduce the overhead charges of these different departments and thereby save both public money and time.

Sir, I am also thankful to my friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, for the assurance he has given us today as regards the future attitude of the Government in respect of consulting local bodies in so far as they are affected by any legislation undertaken in the Central Legislature. I only hope that this assurance will be carried out in the spirit in which it has been given. My Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, may be here or may not be here. I would therefore urge that he may consider the possibility of devising some procedure by which no omission may be made in this respect in future.

There is only one last word which I may be permitted to add to what I have already said. It is in continuation of what my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has said as regards the constitution of the various constituent bodies which are included in this Bill. It is perfectly true that after 75 years of municipal activity the metropolis has not got an elected Chairman, although much smaller bodies with much less experience have the advantage and privilege of an elected Chairman. Why this anomaly should continue to exist in the metropolis, I really do not know. There is also

the New Delhi Municipal Committee which is a wholly non-elected body. Here is the capital of India with a municipal committee wholly non-elected. If I had anything to do with the Government of India, I should be thoroughly ashamed of myself for the existence of such a sore right in the body politic of the capital.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Bill is about to be passed; it is still on the anvil. I only hope that this Joint Water Board may not be like the Joint Parliamentary Committee that was set up in England and which whittled down all the national demands put forth by the Round Tablers, one after another. I have my suspicions here also. First, Calcutta was deserted, then the buildings were constructed on the other side of Delhi and again it was abandoned and now several crores have been sunk in New Delhi. Now, they are constituting a Joint Water Board, a joint Sewage board, a Joint Electricity Board, and perhaps a joint garden board and other boards will spring up in course of time. In Delhi there are already so many research institutes, which are of no use to the public. I have got seven taps in my house in New Delhi, while close by in Daryaganj where also some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly live, they do not get a drop of water in some part of the day. There is the Karolbagh where also there is great scarcity of water. I submit Karolbagh and Daryaganj are the great plague spots in the city of Delhi. (A voice: "Why do you live in New Delhi?") I live here in New Delhi because I have a fancy for this:

"Hasinon ká Har ek álam men Sháhrá ho hi Játá hai.

Jo tujh ko dekh letá hai wuh Sháidá ho hi Játá hai."

I was charmed by the beauty of New Delhi. No doubt it is very expensive to live here. We have to bring up all the commodities from Old Delhi. In Old Delhi, there are two narrow spots, the Fatehpuri and the Sadar Bazaar where the traffic jams and the congestion is very great. You provide so much money for your new love, that is, New Delhi. Why don't you bestow some attention on your old love? You leave her neglected. I am not able to find from this blue book what is the total expenditure on the New Delhi Municipality. I think there is a deficit of five lakhs. I think Old Delhi deserves a better treatment than it receives at present. With these remarks, I bless this Bill.

Sir Girdja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I do not propose to detain the House very long, but I think that in view of what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, something by way of statement of Government's position is due. Let me in the first place assure my poetic friend, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, that, although this Bill has nothing whatever to do with the improvement of Old Delhi, as I have already informed the House, an Improvement Trust of Delhi has been specially set up for dealing with the problem, and the congestion of Karolbagh to which he referred just now will be one of the very first to receive attention of the Improvement Trust with regard to the provision of the amenities to which my Honourable friend has referred.

Now, Sir, I do not think that I would be in order at this stage to discuss the somewhat complicated question of policy as to whether the many constituent bodies of the urban area of Delhi ought to be unified into a sort of large Delhi Town Council or whether the elective element should be introduced in New Delhi or not—strictly speaking all these are

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

not germane to the subject-matter of the Bill that we are discussing now. But, in so far as the Central Electricity Authority is concerned, I think, even though it may not be strictly relevant, I must say something, because a suggestion has been made that the Government's attitude and that of the Pitkeathly Committee has been inspired by some desire to give preference to a certain company. The fact of the matter is that this company, or any other company for that matter, has not entered into our calculations as a unit deserving either of preference or deserving of any kind of condemnation. The main problem before the Pitkeathly Committee was how to centralise the agency for the generation and distribution of electricity, because experience in other countries of the world, including the United Kingdom, shows that, if there is a centralised agency for generation and distribution, then there is economy of cost. The authority that we are setting up will be required to devote itself, under instructions from the Governor General in Council merely to the question of ensuring that the consumer gets electric current at the lowest possible rate. In other words, the composition of this body has not been determined either because preference is to be shown to anybody or because disfavour is to be expressed against anybody. That has not entered into our consideration at all. The only reason why this Delhi Electric Traction Supply Company has been given a place on that Board is that it has a licence which runs until 1947. There is no authority either in the terms of licence or anywhere else which can enable the Government to compel the Company to come in.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then why have two different agencies?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Surely these are not two different generating agencies. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Why don't you give us the license?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That means that instead of achieving the object of centralisation, we should, as against the two agencies that we have at present, have three agencies, viz., the Old Delhi Municipal Committee, the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Old Delhi Electric Traction Supply Company.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: My Honourable friend has misunderstood me. I say we have applied for a distributing licence, not a generating licence. Why not let us have the distributing licence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My answer to that is that even though my Honourable friend may have applied for distributing licence, that by itself will not do away with the rights of the Old Delhi Electric Traction and Supply Company which holds a licence until 1947. That, namely, a multiplication of generating agencies, is the last thing that we desire to do. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. S. Satyasmurti): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 7th April, 1938.