

Wednesday, 20th September, 1933

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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Volume VII, 1933

(15th September to 21st September, 1933)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 20th September, 1933.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUSLIM GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES POSTAL CIRCLE.

1020. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of permanent Muslim Superintendents of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service in the United Provinces Postal Circle ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muslim Deputy Postmasters General and Assistant Postmasters General in the United Provinces Postal Circle ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muslim gazetted officers in the United Provinces Postal Circle ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the communal composition of the permanent holders of the following appointments in the United Provinces Circle :

- (i) Deputy Post Master General ;
- (ii) Assistant Post Master General ;
- (iii) Superintendent, Post Offices ; and
- (iv) Superintendent, Railway Mail Service ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) One, who is, however, employed at present in the Director General's Office as Assistant Deputy Director General.

(b) None.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Postal Branch of the United Provinces Posts and Telegraphs Circle ; if so, the number of Muslim officers is two.

(d) The permanent holders of the posts of Deputy Postmaster-General, and of Superintendents, Railway Mail Service, are all Hindus. Of the three permanent Assistant Postmasters-General, two are Hindus and one is an Anglo-Indian. Of the thirteen permanent Superintendents of Post Offices, eight are Hindus, four are Anglo-Indians, and one is a Muslim.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE HOLDERS OF SELECTION GRADE POSTS UNDER THE POSTMASTER, ALLAHABAD.

1021. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of selection grade posts under the Postmaster of Allahabad, and the communal composition of the holders thereof ?

(b) Is it a fact that for the last two decades not a single Muslim was appointed as Head Clerk or Assistant Head Clerk or Accountant or Assistant Accountant in the Allahabad General Post Office ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The information is not readily available. I may, however, state that appointments to selection grade posts are by promotion and promotions are not made on a communal basis.

(b) Government have no information but postings of officials are not made on communal considerations.

PROMOTION OF TWO NON-HINDUS AS TOWN INSPECTORS IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, ALLAHABAD.

1022. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) Is it a fact that in the General Post Office, Allahabad, two junior non-Muslims have been promoted to Town Inspectorship ?

(b) Have these newly appointed men had any previous experience of Town Inspector's work, and have they worked on that post before ?

(c) Were senior fit Muslim clerks available for Town Inspectorship ? If so, why were they not appointed ?

(d) Is it a fact that there are Muslim clerks and Sub-Postmasters under the General Post Office, Allahabad, who have experience of Town Inspector's work and are senior to the non-Muslims who have been recently appointed ?

(e) If the reply to the above questions be in the affirmative, what action is proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of Muslims ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the length of service and tenure of the office of the two recently appointed Town Inspectors in the Town Inspector's line and of those referred to in part (d) above ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (f). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Head of the Circle concerned to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

NON-APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL POSTMASTERS AT ALLAHABAD.

1023. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of extra departmental Postmasters appointed recently under the Postmaster, Allahabad ?

(b) Is it a fact that none of these posts has been given to a Muslim ?

(c) Is it a fact that representations of Muslims for the posts were not entertained, and their names were not even registered ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (c). Government have no information. The matter is one within the competence of the Head of the Circle to whom a copy of the question is being sent. I may explain, however, that Government orders as to recruitment do not apply to the posts of extra-departmental agents since these are not included in the cadres of whole time Government posts.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : May I ask, Sir, whether they will get any information from the Department concerned ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : If the Honourable Member is anxious to have it, I will do so.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION OF THE INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE ALLAHABAD
GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1024. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the communal representation of the inferior and lower-grade staff in each scale in the Allahabad General Post Office and its Sub-Offices ?

(b) How many vacancies in each cadre occurred during the years 1928 to 1932 in the Allahabad General Post Office and its Sub-Offices and how many of these were given to Muslims in a permanent, officiating and temporary capacity ?

(c) Were Government orders about the third vacancy rule followed in the General Post Office, Allahabad, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Government regret that information as to communal representation in each scale of the inferior service in the Allahabad General Post Office and its Sub-Offices is not available. There were, however, altogether 74 inferior servants in these offices on the 31st December, 1932, of whom 65 were Hindus and 9 Muslims.

(b) and (c). Government regret that the information is not readily available. If, however, the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any specific and authenticated instances of the non-observance of the recruitment orders in recent years I will gladly enquire into the matter.

ADH-KUMBH MELA, HARDWAR.

1025. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing :

- (i) the total expenditure incurred by the East Indian Railway Administration on the Kumbh Mela, 1927, and Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933 at Hardwar ;
- (ii) the total inward traffic (excluding Rishikesh Branch) at both these Melas and the Solar Eclipse Fair, 1933, together with the corresponding figures of the said period in 1932 ;
- (iii) the strength of the staff at these three Melas and the period of duration of the posting of extra staff for the purpose, with the total expenditure incurred on each Mela ?

(b) Are Government satisfied that the expenditure incurred during Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933, was justified ? If not, what action do Government propose to take against such squandering of the public money ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions No. 1025 to 1027 together. I shall collect whatever information is readily available with regard to questions Nos. 1025 and 1027 and lay a reply on the table in due course. As regards question No. 1026, the number of Melas, regarding which information is required cannot be small, and Government do not consider that the expense involved in collecting these reports and printing them in the debates of the House is justified.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know, Sir, what is the reply of the Government with regard to part (b) of question No. 1027 ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am collecting the information.

MELAS HELD AT PLACES IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†1026. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the working reports of the Melas held at places situated within the jurisdiction of the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, during the period from the 1st January, 1933, to the period ending the 31st August, 1933 ?

ADH-KUMBH MELA, HARDWAR.

†1027. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** (a) Are Government aware whether it is a fact that the Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933, was held at Hardwar, East Indian Railway on the 13th April, 1933 ? If so, (i) who was directly in charge of the Railway administration at Hardwar ; (ii) what classes and number of staff were employed there ; (iii) what was the net loss to Administration, and (iv) what was the number and nature of complaints, if any, received from the public with the result of their disposal ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement of the earnings and expenditure under each head of the Melas of Adh-Kumbh, 1927, 1933 and Kumbh 1927 showing separately, (i) pay and allowances of the staff under each group, i.e., Traffic, Commercial, Power, Engineering, etc., (ii) hire of tents, chouldaries, etc., (iii) construction of temporary quarters for staff, (iv) haulage of officers' carriages, (v) haulage and hire of four wheel first class carriage for Mr. Amar Nath Logwany and family for the days it remained at Hardwar, (vi) consumable stores, (vii) kerosene oils, (viii) purchase of high power kitson are lamps, (ix) electric installation and current consumption, (x) temporary construction of cabins, platforms, etc. ?

(c) Is it a fact that the passenger traffic was only 65,000 (sixty-five thousands) in excess of ordinary traffic for the corresponding period during the year 1932 ? If it is not so, (i) what was the inward and outward traffic respectively at Hardwar excluding side traffic to and from Rikhikesh, (ii) what was the inward and outward traffic at Rikhikesh, (iii) what was the number of Special trains which arrived at Hardwar, and (iv) what was

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1025.

the number of Special trains which left Hardwar, with the number of passengers in each train, together with the number of engines attached to each ?

(d) Is it a fact that 17 engines remained on steam for more than 48 hours and that due to lack of traffic no Special could be arranged ? If it is not so, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the time table of the Specials which were to be run during Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933, issued and circulated under the signature of Mr. A. H. Hollis, in which no less than 26 Specials were to run during 24 hours each day ?

(e) Is it a fact that the time table of Special trains was never adhered to and that the public was put to much inconvenience and harassment ? If so, who is responsible for an unworkable time table and what action has been taken against the officer for such gross inefficiency ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Sawan and Solar Eclipse Mela 1933 was much more successful than the Adh-Kumbh Mela, 1933 ? If not, what was the expenditure incurred and the earnings, derived from these two Melas respectively, and what was the strength of the staff employed during these two Melas respectively ?

RECRUITMENT OF BENGAL MUSLIMS IN SERVICES UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1028. *Mr. S. C. Mitra (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim) : (a) With reference to the replies to starred questions Nos. 636 and 637 by Mr. S. C. Mitra, will Government please state whether they did not accept the resolution of Sir Devaprasad Sarbadhikari on the 10th March, 1923, with regard to the recruitment of the subordinate staff in the Government of India offices and that no province or a class of people should have preponderance in any branch or office thereunder ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a preponderance of any province or class in the Government of India offices ? If so, what measures have they adopted to remove the same ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Bengal Musalmans form 35 per cent. of the Muslim population in India ? If so, what steps have Government taken so far for the representation of the Bengal Mussalmans in the services subordinate, judicial and administrative under the control of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (c). In the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 10th March, 1923, it was recommended that Government should take steps to prevent the preponderance of any one community or province in the services under their control. After careful examination, the Government of India decided that it was not practicable to take special measures to redress inequalities of provincial representation in Central Services which are recruited on an All-India basis. As regards the first clause of part (c), I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 636 on the 5th instant.

(b) As regards the preponderance of any class in the Government of India Offices, I would refer the Honourable Member to the annual

statements showing the communal composition of the staff which are placed in the Library of the House.

ABOLITION OF THE EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD.

1029. ***Sir Leslie Hudson** : (a) Are Government aware of the decision of His Majesty's Government to abolish the Empire Marketing Board ? Is it not a fact that the Board's activities have been of increasing benefit to India in recent years ?

(b) Have Government made any representations to His Majesty's Government in connection with this decision, and if so, what are those representations ?

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

(b) No, Sir ; I may, however, state for the information of the Honourable Member that although the Empire Marketing Board will cease to exist after the 30th September, 1933, some of the important functions performed by it, *viz.*, (1) the preparation of periodical market intelligence notes, and (2) the carrying out of world surveys of production and trade, will after that date be carried on by the existing Imperial Economic Committee. The question of agricultural research activities which might in future be conducted on a co-operative basis will be considered by the Executive Council of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux. In this connection, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 358 of the Report of the Imperial Committee on Economic Consultation and Co-operation, 1933, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. F. E. James : Am I to understand that all the propaganda activities associated with the Empire Marketing Board are to be discontinued ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : So far as I am aware, that is the position except to the extent that the Imperial Economic Committee may take over the work.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask, Sir, whether there was any Indian in this Marketing Board and whether there would be any Indians on the Committee which this Marketing Board would replace ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Empire Marketing Board works through various Committees and the High Commissioner for India in London or his Trade Commissioner were associated with its important Committees or in the Board itself.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will the Government of India inform the House of the reasons for abolishing this Marketing Board when it is admitted that it has been doing important work ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The position is explained in the report of the Committee to which I have referred. The main reason is that the Empire Marketing Board had been financed exclusively by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and they feel that they are not in a position to continue the burden of financing it alone.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did they approach the Government of India to share the cost ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The matter was considered, as a result of recommendations made at Ottawa, by a Committee which was representative of the various Empire Governments and the conclusion reached was the one which is set out in the report.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did they approach the Government of India to pay the proportionate cost of the Marketing Board ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The position is that the report of this Committee is under consideration by the various Governments at the present moment, but the representatives of the various Empire Governments in London appear to have made it clear that they were not prepared to finance the Empire Marketing Board on the basis on which His Majesty's Government have been doing it.

Mr. F. E. James : Did I understand the Honourable Member to say in answer to part (b) of the question that the Government of India have made no representations in the matter to His Majesty's Government ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : That is perfectly true. The Government of India did not represent that the Empire Marketing Board should continue.

Mr. F. E. James : Were the Government of India consulted either through the High Commissioner or through their representatives on the Economic Committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Government of India were represented by Sir Atul Chatterjee and Sir Padanji Ginwala on the committee of the representatives of the various Empire Governments which considered the whole question of the activities of these various imperial bodies such as the Empire Marketing Board, the Economic Committee, the Imperial Agricultural Bureau, etc.

Mr. F. E. James : Did they report to the Government of India and is there any available information as to the views which the representatives of the Government of India put forward in connection with the abolition of the Empire Marketing Board which is of very great importance to India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The report of the Imperial Committee on economic consultation and co-operation is unanimous and represents the views of all the Empire Governments including the views of the representatives of the Government of India.

Mr. F. E. James : May I take it that the Government of India have acquiesced in the proposal to abolish the propaganda activities of the Empire Marketing Board ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have said that it does not imply the complete cessation of the publicity activities of the Empire Marketing Board. Some work which was being done by the Empire Marketing Board will continue to be done by the Imperial Economic Committee.

DELAY IN THE ISSUE OF THE REPORTS OF LOCAL RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

1030. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott** : (a) Are Government aware that the reports of Local Railway Advisory Committees for the quarters ending the 30th September, 1932 (No. 13), and the 31st December, 1932 (No. 14), have only been issued this Session ?

(b) Will Government please state the reason for the delay in issuing these publications ?

(c) Will Government please state when the quarterly reports for March 31, 1933 (No. 14) and for June 30, 1933 (No. 15) will be issued ?

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

(b) Government regret the delay in the issue of these publications and have taken steps to expedite them in future.

(c) The report for the period ending March, 1933, is in print and that for the next quarter is under compilation.

RUNNING OF A THROUGH BOGIE BETWEEN LUCKNOW AND BOMBAY.

1031. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Have Government received a copy of a letter dated the 24th August, 1933, from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore, addressed to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Bombay (Receipt acknowledged in the Deputy Director, Railway Board's No. 4013-T. of September, 1933) ?

(b) Have Government seen the reply from the Secretary to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Bombay, No. 14041, dated the 29th August, 1933, to the Secretary, Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore ?

(c) Are Government aware that no reply is given to the specific enquiry for information regarding a first, second and third class composite bogie which was promised to be put on Bombay-Lucknow mail ?

(d) Is the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, due to arrive in Simla in the first week of October ?

(e) Do the Railway Board propose to see the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, when he is in Simla, regarding the reply ?

(f) Are the Railway Board aware of the great inconvenience caused to the public of Lucknow and Cawnpore by having to change at Jhansi when travelling by the Mail between Lucknow and Bombay and *vice versa* ? If so, do they propose to inform the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, about the same ?

(g) Are Government aware that in view of the number of passengers travelling and the large amount of merchandise given to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the public of the United Provinces consider that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway should improve the service between Lucknow and Bombay ? Are the Railway Board prepared to take this matter up with the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). I am obliged to my Honourable friend for copies of these communications.

(c) The Agent's reply shows that he is prepared to meet a deputation in Bombay and his intention is no doubt to discuss the matter fully on that occasion.

(d) Yes.

(e), (f) and (g). The Railway Board have already been in communication with the Agent on this subject, and I shall be glad to bring these questions again to his notice.

REVISION OF THE TIMINGS OF THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BETWEEN MADRAS AND DELHI.

1032. *Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that it is proposed to revise the timings of the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi and *vice versa* ?

(b) Is it proposed to take a longer time during the journey between Bezwada and Madras ?

(c) Is it proposed to start the Express from Delhi much earlier than at present ?

(d) Will Government please state if the saving in time proposed to be obtained is mostly spent in stopping at a larger number of stations *en route* ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the question of speeding up the trains so that they may leave Madras or Delhi at least two hours later than they do at present and arrive at Delhi or Madras an hour or two earlier, not stopping at unimportant places *en route* ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes ; from October 1st, the journey each way will take about 2½ hours less than at present.

(b) The time will be the same as at present.

(c) 1½ hours earlier.

(d) From the reply to part (a) of this question, my Honourable friend will notice that this is not so.

(e) The proposed timings are as follows :—

North bound.		South bound.	
Madras departure	9.20	Delhi departure	16.30
Delhi arrival	10.00	Madras arrival	15.20

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION OF AJMER CITY.

1033. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of a public meeting held in the Ajmer Town Hall on the 2nd September ; and published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 5th September, 1933, severely condemning the municipal administration of Ajmer City ?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint an enquiry committee, as suggested, or take any other step in the matter ?

Major W. K. Fraser-Tytler : (a) Yes.

(b) An enquiry on the subject has been made from the Local Administration, and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

DISCHARGE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS IN THE DINAPORE DIVISION.

1034. *Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : (a) Is it a fact that quite a large number of non-gazetted Railway servants have been discharged during recent years in Traffic, Engineering, and Locomotive Departments in Dinapore Division ?

(b) If so, what is the approximate number in each Department during 1932 and 1933 ?

(c) How many of the discharged servants have been re-instated ?

(d) How many of them have been discharged on suspicion and how many under specific charges against them ?

(e) In how many of such cases as mentioned in part (d) were joint enquiries made and appeals allowed under the rules framed by the Railway Board ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) to (e). I shall obtain whatever information is readily available and shall place a reply on the table.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON THE CANTONMENT BOARD,
POONA.

1035. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the population figures of the following communities in the local area of the Poona Cantonment Authority :

- (i) Hindus,
- (ii) Muslims,
- (iii) Christians, and
- (iv) Parsis ;

(b) the number of seats allotted to the four communities on the Cantonment Board, Poona ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Hindus whose voting strength is 500 are given three seats, while the Muslims with a voting strength of 400 are given only one seat on the above Board ;

(d) if so, the reasons for the poor representation of Muslims on the Board ;

(e) whether it is a fact that some representations have been made to the Officer Commanding, Poona Brigade Area, for at least nominating a Muslim on the Board with a view to give adequate representation to this important community ; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter of rectifying the anomaly of the inadequate Muslim representation on the Board ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) to (d) and (f). Government have no information and do not propose to call for a report. Under section 31 (a) and (b) of the Cantonment Act, the question of the division of the inhabitants of the Cantonment into classes and the determination of the number of members to be elected by each class of persons, is the concern of the Local Government to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

(e) The proviso to section 14 (1) (e) Cantonment Act does not allow the nomination of a person to represent any community which is already represented.

ARTICLE IN THE *Indian Railway Gazette* AGAINST THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

1036. ***Mr. K. P. Thampan** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article in the July issue of the *Indian Railway Gazette* on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways ?

(b) Are Government aware that the members of the Standing Finance Committee are stated by the writer to be "ignorant of Railway needs", "that they are very stupid people" and require "more intelligence" and that they should append to reports their "assinine observations" ?

(c) What action do they propose to take against the editor of the *Gazette* ?

(d) Are Government paying any subsidy to the *Indian Railway Gazette* either by cash payment or by way of subscription and advertisement charges ? If so, what is the amount paid during the last three years ?

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

(b) Government are aware of these criticisms which they consider to be unjustified. As Chairman of the Standing Finance Committee I can testify to the valuable help I am constantly receiving from the members of the Committee and to the great care and attention which they bestow on the examination of all questions placed before them.

(c) Government consider that the article is deplorable in tone and would like to add that in their view it should always be possible to indulge in criticism without at the same time offending against the canons of ordinary courtesy and good taste. They consider, however, that in all the circumstances it is best to take no notice of the article in question. I may add that the members of the Standing Finance Committee at their last meeting were unanimously of the same opinion.

(d) Government do not pay any subsidy of any sort to the *Indian Railway Gazette*, but subscribe for one copy of it, the subscription being Rs. 10 per annum. I have noticed certain railway tender notices in the advertisement columns of the paper.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF ONE SUDHANSU RANJAN SEN, A POLITICAL PRISONER, TO THE ANDAMANS.

1037. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that one Sudhansu Ranjan Sen, a political prisoner, is being sent to the Andamans ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said prisoner is at present suffering from pharyngitis and tuberculosis ?

(c) Is it a fact that he is suffering from serious eye troubles also ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the said political prisoner was sent up for medical examination before it was decided to send him to the Andamans ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that the jail authorities asked the father of the prisoner to supply spectacles for the said prisoner ?

(f) Is it a fact that the said prisoner has lost 25 pounds weight due to suffering from tuberculosis while in the Rajshahi jail ?

(g) Do Government propose to cancel the order of his transfer to Andamans ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a), (d) and (g). Sudhansu Kumar Sen Gupta was selected for despatch to the Andamans but was held back on the recommendation of the Medical Board because he was temporarily unfit.

(b), (c), (e) and (f). No.

CONVERSION OF THE NOAKHALI POST OFFICE INTO A SUB-POST OFFICE.

1038. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Head Post Office at Noakhali has been converted into a Sub-Post Office ?

(b) Is it a fact that the District Bar Association, Noakhali, made several representations to the postal authorities including the Postmaster General, Bengal, against such conversion ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why this Head Post Office has been converted to a Sub-office ?

(d) Are Government aware of the difficulties and hardships to which the public of Noakhali has been subjected by such conversion ?

(e) Do Government propose to remove the grievances of the Noakhali public by restoring the Head Post Office to that town ? If not, why not ?

(f) Are Government aware that a large number of District Board and landlord fee money orders, landlord fee notices and civil court notices are received at the post office for postal money orders and registration ? If not, do they propose to enquire as to the number of such transactions in a year ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) to (f). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Head of the Circle concerned to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

1039. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling amongst the public that Port Trust, Calcutta, ignores the Government of India control ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : Government are not aware of any such feeling. The Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta exercise the powers conferred upon them by the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, in accordance with the provisions of that enactment.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Are not the Government of India aware that even as regards policy of Indianisation the Port Trust is not following the general policy of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : That is rather a difficult matter to pronounce an opinion upon. I would not like to pronounce an opinion.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Are not the Government of India aware of the strong feeling among Indians on this point in regard to Indianisation ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I think that matter has been more than once brought to notice.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I take it that the Honourable Member is considering this matter.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : My Honourable friend has to realise that the Port Trust is given certain powers within which they are at liberty to act, and the power of the Government of India to interfere is limited.

ECONOMY AND RETRENCHMENT IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

1040. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Economy and Retrenchment in the Calcutta Port Trust" published in the *Advance*, of July 5th, 1933? If so, what action do Government propose to take against the Calcutta Port Trust to remove the grievances noted therein?

(b) Do Government propose to redress the grievances of the staff mentioned in the said article?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to the letter published under that caption on the date mentioned. That letter deals with two matters, namely, the stores purchase policy of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, and the labour contract given by them to Messrs. Bird and Company, Calcutta. As regards the former, Government do not propose to take any action as the Port Commissioners have full power to make their own purchases without interference by Government. As to the latter, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 375 in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st September, 1933.

(b) I have not been able to discover any reference to the grievances of the staff in the letter in question.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

1041. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Port Commissioners and Stores purchase. Government explanation of non-protective policy" published in the *Advance*, dated the 26th May, 1933?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire into the allegations and remove the grievances mentioned therein?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed "Retrenchment in the Calcutta Port Trust" published in the *Advance*, dated the 14th July, 1933? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to investigate the allegations made therein and remove the grievances mentioned? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given by me just now to part (a) of his starred question No. 1040.

(c) Yes, Sir, the attention of Government has been drawn to the article or rather the letter referred to, but the power to appoint, dismiss

or dispense with the services of the clerical and menial staff in question vests entirely in the Port Commissioners and the Government do not propose to interfere.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF CLERKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1042. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission propose to hold a competitive examination for the recruitment of Government of India clerks ? If so, is it a fact that nine posts are reserved for ladies ? If so, what is the number of total vacancies expected to be filled on the results of this examination, out of which nine vacancies have been reserved for ladies ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have laid down that candidates who have failed at two previous examinations will not be allowed to sit at the forthcoming examination, even if such candidates are otherwise eligible ? If so, do Government propose to remove this bar ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) The answer to the first two parts is in the affirmative. As stated in the notice issued in the Supplement to the Gazette of India, dated the 12th August, 1933, the number of vacancies to be filled on the results of the examination is not yet known definitely, but it is expected that it will not be less than fifteen.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The restriction referred to by the Honourable Member was imposed after due consideration and Government do not propose to remove it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are the lady candidates to be included among the minorities who share one-third seats reserved for the minority communities ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I think, if my Honourable friend wishes to pursue this question, he had better address it to my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, who is the expert on this matter.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : May I take it that lady candidates include not only Anglo-Indians, but also Indians ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Indian ladies are also equally eligible.

ECONOMY AND RETRENCHMENT IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

1043. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article "Economy and retrenchment in Calcutta Port Trust—Fairness sacrificed at the altar of favouritism" published in the *Advance*, dated the 28th June, 1933 ?

(b) Are Government prepared to enquire into all the allegations made therein and state how far the statements made therein are correct and how far incorrect ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already enquired into the question of the appointment of an outsider as Assistant Yard Superintendent. It appears that the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta found it necessary to revive this post and though they are usually opposed to filling

appointments by outsiders they considered such action necessary in this particular case. As regards the other matters referred to in the article mentioned by the Honourable Member, I would invite his attention to the reply I have just given to part (c) of his starred question No. 1041 and the reply given by me on the 1st September, 1933, to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 375.

ILLNESS OF PROFESSOR J. C. GHOSH, A POLITICAL PRISONER.

1044. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article headed " Condition of professor J. C. Ghosh—Bengal Government's statement ", published in the *National Call*, dated the 7th September, 1933 ? If so, will they be pleased to state whether Professor J. C. Ghosh, a political prisoner under Regulation III, is suffering from paralysis, and if so, when did he get it, and do Government propose to release the said political prisoner for better medical aid and treatment ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have seen the newspaper report to which the Honourable Member draws attention. My inquiries from the Local Government show that the State Prisoner is not suffering from paralysis. The other parts of the question do not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF DEPUTY FINANCIAL ADVISERS.

1045. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Is it a fact that five Deputy Financial Advisers have been recruited from the Military Accounts Department ? If so, are Government aware that all these officers overlook the claims of the men of the Military Finance Secretariat in favour of the men from the Military Accounts Department ?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint one of the Assistant Financial Advisers, who does not belong to the Military Accounts Department, as the Establishment Officer by transferring the present Establishment Officer to some other branch of the Military Finance Department ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) No.

AUDIT CONTROL OF FURNITURE, ETC., OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

1046. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule by which junior officers of the Government of India are entitled to take office furniture and carpets to their private residences either in Simla or Delhi ?

(b) Is there any system of audit control of the furniture, carpets and durries of the different Departments of the Government of India ? If so, what are the methods of control used by the Government of India ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many carpets and durries were purchased by the Military Finance Department since 1921 and how many have been sold and how many are being used in the office of the Military Finance and how many are unaccounted for ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) No.

(b) No, as regards the first part. As regards the second part, the Heads of Departments are expected to maintain inventories of furniture, etc., in possession of the Department.

(c) Sixteen carpets (the last purchased in 1926) and 29 durries. None have been sold. All except three carpets and five durries are actually in office use. All are accounted for.

TENDERS FOR FURNITURE SUPPLIED TO THE MILITARY FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

1047. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether tenders are invited by the Military Finance Department when furniture is purchased for the office and whether Messrs. Gopinath and Company, the contractor for the Military Finance Department, became a contractor by the tender system or whether the firm was appointed by the Establishment Officer ?

(b) Is it a fact that the record boxes were supplied by Messrs. Gopinath and Company, to the Military Finance Department in the year 1932 ? If so, what was the number of such record boxes and the total cost of such boxes ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the first journey from Delhi to Simla most of the boxes were broken and had to be rejected ? If so, what steps did the Establishment Officer take against the firm for such loss to Government ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Furniture is rarely purchased by the Military Finance Department. Such articles as may be required from time to time are usually made by the office carpenter. Within recent years certain small stationery cabinets and chairs were purchased from Messrs. Gopi Nath and Company, Delhi, as their rates were the cheapest obtainable in the market. This firm is not the contractor for the Military Finance Department, but it is believed to enjoy a considerable patronage among the offices of the Government of India. It is not the practice to call for tenders for petty and occasional supplies of furniture.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, 50 record boxes at a total cost of Rs. 550 were ordered. The rate, *viz.*, Rs. 11 per box, which included painting and numbering was considerably lower than the quotations of various office carpenters which were in the region of Rs. 16 per box.

(c) Certain boxes were damaged owing to rough handling in transit ; and the Establishment Officer succeeded in having them repaired by the firm without any extra expense to the Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Will the Honourable Member kindly tell me what proportion of the cost of the articles referred to in the answer is the cost of the reply to this question ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am afraid the Honourable Member must wait until the next Session for a full reply.

EXTENSION GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OFFICER OF THE MILITARY FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

1048. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** Is it a fact that the present Establishment Officer of the Military Finance Department is under extension ? If so, will Government be pleased to state why in these days of retrenchment he has been given an extension when Government is seriously thinking of retiring the men serving under the old rates of pay at the earliest possible date provided in the rules ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : The reply to the first part is in the negative. The question in the second part does not arise.

DEPUTATION OF MEN FROM THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

1049. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that a large number of men of the Military Accounts Department are being employed in the Military Finance and that they are shown on deputation ? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether such men are paid deputation allowance over and above the pay and other allowances such men are entitled to in the Headquarters of the Military Accounts ?

(b) Is it a fact that the men on deputation from the Military Accounts Department to the Military Finance draw more salary than they would have been entitled to if such men would have been recruited permanently in the Military Finance ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the different kinds of allowances and the different sums of each of such allowances that are paid to those men shown on deputation at present from the Military Accounts Department to the Military Finance Department over and above their actual pay ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Five men of the Military Accounts Department are on deputation in the Military Finance Department, which has a total staff of over 100. They receive no deputation allowances.

(b) Yes.

(c) I lay a statement on the table showing the pay and allowances admissible to men on deputation in the Military Finance Department.

The section to which these men are on deputation was transferred *en bloc* from the Military Accounts Department in 1925. They draw the rates of pay to which they would be entitled under the rules if serving in the office of the Military Accountant General. The only exception is the Assistant-in-Charge who gets the usual special pay of Rs. 100 per mensem for the control of a section, in addition to his emoluments in the Military Accountant General's office.

Statement showing the pay and allowances admissible to men on deputation in the Military Finance Department.

				Rs.
1	Accountant	Pay	..	550
		Duty allowance	..	100
		Special pay	..	100
		Local allowance	..	80
				<hr/>
				780
1	Accountant	Pay	..	230
		Local allowance	..	70
		Duty allowance	..	48
				<hr/>
				348
1	Clerk	Pay	..	150
		Local allowance	..	65
				<hr/>
				215
1	Clerk	Pay	..	205
		Local allowance	..	70
				<hr/>
				275
1	Clerk	Pay	..	195
		Local allowance	..	65
				<hr/>
				260

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE BY THE GUARDS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1050. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : (a) Is it a fact that the application for leave by the Guards over the East Indian Railway are always to be made through the Station Master of their Headquarters ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of applications for leave by Guards which were received by the Station Master, Gaya, during the year 1932, and the number of cases in which leave was refused by the said Station Master ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether in such cases of refusal of leave to the Guards by the Station Master, the applicants cannot under the rules apply direct to the Divisional Superintendent for grant of leave and whether under the rules the Divisional Superintendent can grant leave to subordinate staff when they apply direct to him for such leave ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the application for leave direct to higher railway authorities contravenes any of the Railway Servants' Conduct Rules ? If so, will Government be pleased to quote the rule ?

(e) Is it a fact that for such a technical offence as applying for leave direct to the Divisional Superintendent, a Guard at Gaya station has been

dismissed. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the applicant for such leave violated the Railway Servants' Conduct Rules; or whether the officer granting leave on such direct applications violated the Railway Servants' Conduct Rules?

Mr. P. K. Rañ : (a), (b), (c) and (e). Government have no information but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action that may be necessary.

(d) The Government Servants' Conduct Rules do not deal with questions of procedure about applications for leave; but ordinarily a Government servant's application for leave is made to his immediate superior.

RETIREMENT OF SUPERANNUATED MEN FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1051. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of men with 30 years' service or more and of 55 years age or more (i) in the different Departments of the Government of India and Attached Offices, (ii) in each of the different Railway Offices, and (iii) in the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) Do Government propose to retire such men from all Government posts for relieving to a certain extent the hardships of the unemployed young men of India? If not, will Government be pleased to state the reason why they do not propose to retire all such superannuated men from Government service?

(c) Are Government aware that by adopting the suggested course in all Government services a great opening will be made for educated young men throughout the country, and that it may lead to removing to a great extent the general cry of unemployment?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have under consideration a proposal to retire compulsorily all persons who have put in 25 years' service or more? If so, have they come to any decision in the matter? If so, what is the decision?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether there will be any actual saving to the country by adopting the procedure of retiring men with 25 years' service or more on half pension and by recruiting men in their places on new and lower rates of pay?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Government have not got the information readily available and do not consider its collection would be worth the time and labour involved.

(b) No. Officers of the first category cannot be compulsorily retired before they reach the age of superannuation unless reductions are being made in the number of posts in the cadre of their service or they are personally inefficient. As regards officers of the second category, I would refer the Honourable Member to clauses (a) and (b) of rule 56 of the Fundamental Rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) Government are unable to express an opinion.

(d) Government have no such proposal under consideration.

(e) In most cases the immediate saving in salaries would be counterbalanced by the addition to pensionary charges. Government have no

power to retire officers on half-pension as a means of economy and furthermore it is not part of Government policy of retrenchment to discharge officers and replace them by officers of the same grade on lower rates of pay.

ASSAULT BY A GURKHA SEPOY ON SOME PROFESSORS OF A BARISAL COLLEGE.

1052. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : (a) Is it a fact that on or about the 2nd September, 1933, some Professors of the B. M. College, Barisal (Bengal), were assaulted by a Gurkha sepoy on a public road in the town ?

(b) Has any enquiry been made into the case ?

(c) If so, by whom and with what result ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) to (c). The Government of India have no information. No troops are stationed at Barisal.

CERTAIN ALTERATIONS IN THE " D " TYPE ORTHODOX QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1053. ***Mr. S. G. Jog** : (a) Are Government aware that the floor area of ' D ' type orthodox quarters in New Delhi is hardly as much as that of the floor area of garage and servant quarters of big bungalows for officers ? If not, will they please state its proportions ?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to the allotment of very small area for this type of quarters, the court-yard of the quarters is left comparatively very little after providing the necessary living accommodation ?

(c) Are Government aware that in a corner of this small court-yard there is a latrine provided for the inmates of the quarters ?

(d) Are Government aware that owing to the very close proximity of the latrines in the ' D ' type quarters, it becomes very difficult to sleep in the court-yard during summer season ?

(e) Are Government aware that owing to the above mentioned difficulty some of the tenants are compelled to sleep in the front common space and thus leave the quarters open to theft, etc., from the back side during the nights ?

(f) Did Government consider the above defect of the quarters when preparing the new plans of this type of quarters, and tried to widen the inner court-yard ? If so, with what result ?

(g) Are Government prepared to remove this great difficulty of the tenants of this type of quarters ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The information is not immediately available and I do not think that any public purpose would be served by collecting it. Its collection would further entail considerable labour which I consider would not be justified.

(b) The smallest courtyard in the ' D ' type orthodox quarters has an area of 400 square feet, which is considered sufficient for all reasonable requirements.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No ; further all doors can be locked and iron bars are provided to all windows.

(f) Government do not consider the size of courtyards in the ' D ' type orthodox quarters as a defect. The suggestions received from tenants regarding these quarters have been incorporated in the new plans so far as they are consistent with reasonable economy.

(g) Does not arise.

Sardar Sant Singh : What trouble can there be in finding out the area of a garage in officers' bungalows in order to compare it with the area of the ' D ' type orthodox quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The reason is that there are various types of officers' bungalows and it will involve trouble to collect the information for all of them.

Sardar Sant Singh : Where is the difficulty of comparing it, specially when the question mentions the ' D ' type orthodox quarters and the floor space therein ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : If the Honourable Member is anxious to have a comparison made, I am prepared to ask my staff to collect the information.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Have Government consulted the persons for whom these quarters are meant as to what their requirements are ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I doubt whether their requirements, as stated by them, would be quite the same as those Government would be prepared to give them. But I would point out that, in the reply to part (f) of the question, I have said that the suggestions received from tenants regarding these quarters have been incorporated in the new plans so far as they are consistent with reasonable economy. The Honourable Member will see from that that the tenants of these quarters have been consulted.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know if Government took steps to consult their wishes in this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I have said that their suggestions have been incorporated. It is, therefore, obvious that they must have been consulted ; or, at any rate, if they were not consulted, they made representations which were duly considered.

DISMISSAL OF PUBLIC SERVANTS IN MILITARY EMPLOY.

1054. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that under Rule (V), Appendix XI, Regulations for the Army in India, no permanent public servant in military employ is permitted to be dismissed from service unless he has been allowed an opportunity to know the *charge* against him and to submit his *defence* to the same ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes.

INDIANISATION OF THE CENTRAL CYPHER BUREAU OF THE FOREIGN AND
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

1055. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following statement published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated Friday, the 8th September, 1933 ?

Might and Right :

An Indian can become the Governor of a Province, a Member of the Governor General's Executive Council and even be the Chief Justice of a High Court, but he cannot be appointed even as a clerk in the cypher branches of the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India. The difficulty, Sir George Schuster told the Assembly, was that the cypher codes were issued by His Majesty's Government on the understanding that they would be used by British subjects only, the implication being that Indians were not British subjects. But the more important point is that by a ruling of His Majesty's Government, Indians are excluded from appointments, in a Department of the Government of India. And still this very same Government insist on all sorts of commercial and financial safeguards because there is just the possibility of the new Federal Government discriminating against British subjects in India. But consistency is not the virtue of politicians whose only conception of right is their own might."

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether, in view of the said inconsistency as complained of therein, Government propose to remove the anomaly ? If not, why not ?

Major W. K. Fraser-Tytler : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is also in the affirmative. I may refer the Honourable Member to my reply to the Honourable Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur on the 15th. Every effort is being made to open the Central Cypher Bureau as soon as possible to Indians.

Mr. Uppi Sahib Bahadur : May I know if the typists of this Department are drawn only from one particular community ?

Major W. K. Fraser-Tytler : I am afraid I have no information on that point and shall require notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROPOSED SHIFTING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA, TO
DELHI.

122. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Is it a fact that Government intend to shift the Government of India Press, Calcutta, from its present location to Delhi ?

(b) Is it a fact that the shifting of the printing machines and establishment from Calcutta, the present location, to Delhi will entail heavy expenditure ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, have Government considered whether it is advisable to remove the said Press from Calcutta to Delhi at an abnormal cost ? Is there any difficulty in managing the work at Calcutta ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a), (b) and (c). It is the policy of Government to concentrate their ordinary printing work at New Delhi, as they are satisfied that this is desirable both on administrative and on

financial grounds. But any wholesale transfer would involve substantial capital expenditure and the transfer is likely to be effected by gradual stages. The Honourable Member will find further particulars in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, Volume XIII—No. 2, pages 45-46.

INTRODUCTION OF LINO MACHINES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

123. **Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it not a fact that with the introduction of mono lino machines in 1914 in the Government of India Presses, Calcutta, Delhi, Simla and Aligarh, a large number of compositors and distributors have been reduced ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the exact number of the compositors and distributors reduced from 1922 to 1932, respectively, year by year ?

(c) Is it a fact that the mono machines caused to the Government a loss of 40 per cent. ?

(d) Is it a fact that matters composed in mono have to be melted away after printing, and that such melting can go on for five times only ?

(e) Is it a fact that hand-composed matter lasts 90 lakhs of impressions ?

(f) Is it a fact that hand compositors are entitled to remuneration after the first reading, second reading, third reading, revised corrections and rule dress-up are finished ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the cost of composing by hand 44 X 72 Em hon-pareil type 15 column statement, and that of having it in a mono machine, noting specially the charge of :

- (i) Operator,
- (ii) Caster,
- (iii) Arranging,
- (iv) First reading corrections,
- (v) Second Reading Corrections,
- (vi) Third Reading Corrections,
- (vii) Revise corrections,
- (viii) Rule Dress up,
- (ix) Gas,
- (x) Electricity,
- (xi) Water, and
- (xii) Metal ?

(h) If the replies to parts (a) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why Government have replaced hand composition by mono machines and why these have not been abolished ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A large number were reduced in the Presses at Calcutta, Delhi and Simla during the years 1914—1924.

(b) No record giving this information has been maintained in my Department or in the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(c) No.

(d) Matter cast in monotype is ordinarily melted after printing and this saves distribution charges. It can be melted many times and can then be rejuvenated at a very low cost for many more remeltings.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes, if the various operations are necessary.

(g) Owing to the varying factors it is not possible to prepare such a statement in respect of monotype or hand composition.

(h) Does not arise.

PRINTING CLEARING OFFICE.

124. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) When the Printing Clearing Office was started ;

(ii) What is its function ;

(iii) What is the number of men working in it ; and

(iv) The number of officials which compose the management, their respective designations and salaries ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how and by whom the work now done by the Printing Clearing Office was managed before its creation ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total annual cost for the maintenance of the Printing Clearing Office ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Mr. S. C. Mitra's identical question No. 249 asked on the 2nd February, 1931. Since that date the office has been merged in the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer to Honourable Sriyut Lokenath Mukherjee's identical question No. 74 asked in the Council of State on the 23rd August, 1926.

(c) This office does not now exist as a separate office : it is merged in the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery ; but the approximate annual cost of the staff engaged on the work formerly done by the Printing Clearing Office is Rs. 73,000.

MEMORIAL OF INKMEN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

125. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Is it a fact that the inkmen of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Honourable Member in charge, Department of Industries and Labour, through the proper channel in May, 1933 ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in charge, be pleased to—

(i) furnish this House with the contents of the said memorial ;

(ii) state what action has been taken or is intended to be taken in the matter ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). I understand that a memorial addressed to the Government of India by certain inkers of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, praying that their service may be classified as superior has been received by the Controller. The question is at present engaging his attention and will be considered by Government when his proposals are received.

MEMORIAL OF TEMPORARY PIECE-WORKERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

126. **Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that the temporary piece-employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Honourable Member in charge, through the proper channel in May, 1933 ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member in charge be pleased to—

(i) furnish this House with the contents of the said memorial ;
and

(ii) state what action has been taken or is intended to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Memorials from temporary binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, praying that they may be granted permanent status were received. The question is at present engaging the attention of the Controller, and will be considered by Government when his proposals are received.

PRINTING OF THE ARMY DEPARTMENT TRAINING MANUAL IN PRIVATE PRESSES.

127. **Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that the rate of the private firms for printing the Army Department Training Manual and the binding charge of Army form No. A-64 were considerably higher than that of the Government Presses ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. H. I. Macdonald, Special Officer, Central Revision Section, Army Department, Government of India, in his note, dated the 1st July, 1931, expressed the desirability of the said work being done at the Government Presses on economic grounds ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India have five well-equipped efficient presses—two presses in Calcutta, one in Simla, one in Delhi and one in Aligarh ?

(d) Is it a fact that Government received a resolution passed in the All-India Press Employees' Conference held in June, 1926 under the presidency of Mr. T. C. Goswami, a Member of the Assembly, as well as in the second session of the said conference held in Calcutta in August, 1927, under the presidency of the Honourable Sayyed Muhammad Padshah Saheb and moved by the Government Press employees that the present practice of giving work to outside presses was detrimental to the interest of the Government Press employees and urging the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to abandon the practice as early as possible ?

(e) Is it a fact that many employees of the Government of India Presses, Delhi, Calcutta, Simla and Aligarh, lost their jobs due to paucity

of work in 1922 to 1924 and the years following and are Government aware that even at the present moment a large number of thrown out employeés of the Government Presses are sitting idle ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government of India Press, Calcutta, can easily manage printing Posts and Telegraphs Forms whose value is about Rs. 2,20,000 ?

(g) Are Government aware that private contractors make a profit out of the order placed with them by Government ?

(h) If the answers to parts (a) to (g) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to consider the advisability of discontinuing printing orders with private contractors and having them done in the Government Presses instead ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) During a short period when Training Manuals were printed at private presses without the intervention of the Stationery and Printing Department the cost of their printing was considerably higher. The printing of these Manuals is now arranged for through the Controller of Printing and Stationery either at Government or private presses at rates which compare favourably with those of Government Presses.

There is no Army form No. A-64. There are, however, Army Books, 64-M and 64 for which a slightly higher rate than that of the Government Press was allowed. This was discontinued as soon as the matter came to notice.

(b) I have not seen the note to which reference is made, but all opinions recorded in notes are confidential.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I have no figures of the number still unemployed.

(f) No.

(g) I assume that unless the contractors secured some profit they would not undertake the work.

(h) Does not arise.

LINO AND MONO OPERATORS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

128. **Mr. Bhupat Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the lino and mono operators of the Government of India Press are salaried hands ?

(b) Is it a fact that the compositors of the Government of India Presses are piece-rated employeés ?

(c) Is it a fact that the outturn of the lino and mono operators as well as of the compositors is systematically checked and calculated ?

(d) Is it a fact that when the outturn of the lino and mono operators is found to be greater in volume than the standard outturn fixed, the operators are awarded a special bonus over and above their pay ?

(e) Is it a fact that when the outturn of the compositors is found to have increased in volume over the fixed outturns, it results in the hands being penalised for the same ?

(f) If the answers to (a) to (e) be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the reasons for what is stated in part (e) ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) In the Calcutta and New Delhi Presses, compositors are employed on piece-rates.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) There are no 'fixed outturns' for compositors on piece-rates. They are paid full rates for all work done on piece.

(f) Does not arise.

DECREASE IN THE EARNING OF THE PIECE-WORKERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AT CALCUTTA AND SIMLA.

129. **Mr. Bhuput Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the earnings of the piece-workers of the Government of India Presses at Calcutta and Simla are daily decreasing ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India Resolution No. A-31, dated the 15th July, 1920, stated that the compositors of the Government of India Press used to earn from Rs. 35 to Rs. 90 according to the old class-rates ?

(c) Is it a fact that by the said resolution an increment of 40 per cent. was given to all workers in the Government of India Press ?

(d) Is it a fact that according to the rates of increment given by Government in pursuance of the resolution, above referred to, the earnings of the compositors worked out at from Rs. 49 to Rs. 126 ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the minimum and maximum earnings of the compositors in the Government of India Presses in Calcutta, Simla, Delhi and Aligarh per month during the years 1930, 1931 and 1932 year by year ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) I have no reason to suppose that this is the case.

(b) This statement was made in respect of the piece-work compositors in the Government Presses at Calcutta, Delhi and Simla only.

(c) Piece-rates were raised by the percentage stated in the presses at Calcutta and Delhi.

(d) Provided that their output had remained unaltered piece-workers who were receiving between Rs. 35 and Rs. 90 would have drawn, on getting a 40 per cent. increase in rates, wages varying within the limits mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(e) I have not the particulars of the maximum and minimum earning during the three years mentioned in the question in the Calcutta and Delhi Presses, but the figures for 1931-32 are as follows :

Calcutta : minimum Rs. 41 ; maximum Rs. 82.

Delhi : minimum Rs. 48 ; maximum Rs. 131.

There are now no piece-work compositors in the Simla and Aligarh presses. The compositors in these presses are salaried hands and the maximum and minimum pays during the years in question were in Simla Rs. 90 and Rs. 55 and in Aligarh Rs. 45 and Rs. 25.

**FAULTY CHECK OVER COMPOSITORS' WORK IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRESSES AT CALCUTTA AND SIMLA.**

130. Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Is it a fact that the compositors of the Government Presses are employed on the piece as well as on the hour system ?

(b) Is it a fact that work—both piece and hours—are distributed among the compositors by the respective Section-holders under their immediate supervision who issue certificates accordingly ?

(c) Is it a fact that the checkers check the outturn of the compositors on the basis of the papers forwarded to them being certified by the Section-holders ?

(d) Is it a fact that the checkers of the Government of India Presses, Calcutta, Delhi and Simla, deduct almost daily something from the actual hours of work of the compositors in spite of the certificates from the Section-holders ?

(e) Is it a fact that the majority of the Piece-workers' Committee of 1922 stated in paragraph 22 of their report that the differences among the checkers were serious ?

(f) Is it a fact that these deductions by the checkers seriously affect the earnings of the compositors and thereby the class-rates and the pensions ?

(g) If the answers to parts (a) to (f) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been or is being taken or is contemplated to be taken at an early date to remedy the present faulty checking system in the said Government of India Presses at Calcutta, Delhi and Simla ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Only in the Calcutta and New Delhi Presses.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Deductions are made when necessary.

(e) No. The Piece-Workers' Committee stated that the difference of the compositors *with* the checkers were more serious than with the computers.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

**FAULTY CHECK OVER COMPOSITORS' WORK IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PRESSES AT CALCUTTA AND SIMLA.**

131. Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Is it a fact that the piece-works of the compositors of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are distributed by the Section-holders and are done under their immediate supervision and that a register is maintained for that purpose ?

(b) Is it a fact that computers are engaged for the purpose of calculating the outturn on the basis of the certificate issued by the Section-holders ?

(c) Is it a fact that differences in calculation occur often even on a specific piece of work ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Jagadesan, the Examiner of Press Accounts, admitted before the Piece-workers' Committee of 1932 that no two computers would arrive at identical calculations in respect of a specific piece of work ?

(e) Is it a fact that compositors are not evenly paid even for a specific piece of work due to this difference in calculations ?

(f) If the answers to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been or are being contemplated to be taken to remedy the evils of the present system of computing in the said Government of India Press ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a), (b), (c) and (d). Yes.

(e) and (f). As recognized in paragraph 21 of the Majority Report of the Piece-Workers' Committee, 1922, the differences in computing are ordinarily infinitesimal, and no action to remedy this has been considered necessary.

NON-PAYMENT TO PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES ON CERTAIN BANK HOLIDAYS.

132. **Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that in 1931 the Government of India Presses, Calcutta, Delhi and Simla, were entirely closed for 22nd, 23rd and 24th August by reason of all the banks being closed ?

(b) Is it a fact that the piece-workers of the Government of India Presses, Calcutta, Delhi and Simla, were not paid for those three days ?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason therefor ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a), (b) and (c). There is no record in my Department of the days on which the presses were closed in August, 1931, or of the payments for such days ; but one of the days mentioned was a Sunday and the presses are ordinarily closed on that day. Piece-workers are not ordinarily paid for holidays on which a press is closed, but they can at their option get payment for the holidays actually enjoyed by them by having them counted against the leave with pay admissible to them ; and I have no reason to suppose that the ordinary rules were not applied.

SENIORITY LIST OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

133. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** (a) Is it a fact that the seniority is counted according to the grades and not according to class ? If so, how are combined seniority lists made up on the East Indian Railway, especially in the Moradabad Division ?

(b) Is it a fact that the instructions contained in the note under section II—Recruitment and Training of the Rules for Recruitment and Training of Subordinate Staff—circulated by the Agent under his No. 548| A.E.-2460, dated the 1st October, 1932, are not adhered to by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway ; for instance,

Assistant Station Masters (Higher Grade) or Guards are selected as Transportation Inspectors, viz., Mr. A. N. Logawney, T. K. Reilly, etc.; and similarly Station Masters (Lower Grade) are not promoted to Assistant Station Masters (Higher Grade)? If not, what are the percentage of promotions of persons from Station Masters (Lower Grade) and Guards (Goods or Passenger) to Assistant Station Master (Higher Grade) during the preceding three years?

(c) Is it a fact that senior most Assistant Station Masters, Class "C" in Moradabad Division are deprived of the privilege of officiating appointment in Assistant Station Masters (Higher Grade)? If not, what are the rules prevalent in Moradabad Division regarding the normal channel of promotion to Assistant Station Master (Higher Grade)?

(d) Is it a fact that the Moradabad Division in violation of Agent's Circular No. 548/A.E.-2460, dated the 1st October, 1932, maintained a panel for "F" Class Assistant Station Masters (Higher Grade) and they place in and place out any subordinate according to their will and pleasure or discretion? If not, what are the correct interpretations of the following letters issued by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division:

- (i) (a) 12|88|E.T.-2, dated the 14th July, 1928; (b) Order, dated the 9th December, 1930, signed by Superintendent, Transportation; (c) 12|88|27-E., dated the 9th March, 1928; 16th March, 1928; 24th April, 1929; (d) Circular letters No. 11|31-E.T., dated the 16th November, 1931; 19th November, 1931;
- (ii) 11|31|E.T.-2, dated the 22nd April, 1932; 20th September, 1932; 2nd November, 1932; 19th November, 1932; 17th January, 1933; 15th February, 1933; 27th February, 1933; 16th March, 1933; 20th April, 1933?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information but have sent a copy of this question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action that may be necessary.

RECRUITMENT OF GUARDS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

134. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** : (a) Is it a fact that the following persons were recruited as Guards in the Moradabad Division direct on Rs. 140—10—230 as "C" Class :

Messrs. T. K. Reilly, C. N. Logawney, D. MacLeod, J. H. Bond, W. D. Hayde, P. L. Pearce, A. H. Luders, J. N. Vanspall, E. R. Blackford, and L. O. Mantheroo?

If so, under what circumstances were the rules for the recruitment and training of Transportation (Traffic) Group infringed?

(b) Is it a fact that the following employees are qualified Guards and worked as such for different periods, and were denied recruitment to permanent vacancies to which direct appointments were made :

Messrs. M. V. Bhawnani, T. T. E.; Kanhaya Lal Pandey, Parcel Clerk; Syed Karar Hussain, Parcel Clerk; R. D. Pandey, Free Service Clerk, Moradabad Division?

If so, what are the reasons for the appointment of persons direct or of those who are junior in service?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, to see whether any action is necessary.

FILLING UP OF VACANCIES OF SUB-HEADS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

135. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Is it a fact that the Controller of Railway Accounts in his letter No. 77-E-31-C.R.A.-III, dated the 20th July, 1932, prescribed that the vacancies in the grade of sub-heads are to be filled up by the promotion of clerks who have passed either Appendix "D", "E" or S. R. A. S. Part II, examinations and are awaiting their chance for promotion to the rank of Accountants? If so, under what circumstances was this authority superseded by the Chief Accounts Officer, East Indian Railway, *vide* his No. 11-T.A. 33/R.K.Kaul, dated the 24th August, 1933? Do Government propose to inquire into the matter?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Controller of Railway Accounts to see whether any action is necessary.

WITHDRAWAL OF DAILY ALLOWANCE OF INSPECTORS OF STATION ACCOUNTS, ETC., ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

136. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali :** Is it a fact that the daily allowance of the class of Inspectors was based on the pay drawn subject to a minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per day, *vide* Railway Board letter No. 6087-F., dated the 9th March, 1931? If so, under what circumstances was this privilege only withdrawn from the Inspector of Station Accounts, Stores and Stock Verifiers, and not from the other class of Inspectors, *vide* Railway Board letter No. 5239-E., of 11th July, 1932? Do Government propose to extend the old privilege to Inspectors of Station Accounts, etc.?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Controller of Railway Accounts to see whether any action is necessary.

GRANT OF INCREMENTS TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE SORTING OFFICE, MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICE.

137. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) With reference to the reply given by Sir Thomas Ryan to question 1169 put by me on the floor of the Assembly on the 10th April, 1933, will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken for the grant of increments without any stoppage to the men affected?

(b) If the answer be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The matter is under consideration, and a decision has not yet been reached.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLOWANCE TO THE STENOGRAPHERS OF THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND GENERAL POST OFFICE, MADRAS.

138. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the allowances to the stenographers working in the Central Tele-

graph Office, Madras, and in the General Post Office, Madras, were suspended and restored in the year 1931 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have restored the grant of allowance to the stenographer of the Central Telegraph Office, Madras, for the suspended period ?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the said allowance was not simultaneously restored for the suspended period to the stenographer working in the General Post Office, Madras ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The special pay in both cases was held in abeyance on the 16th August, 1931, and was restored on the 1st October and the 15th November, 1931, respectively.

(b) Yes.

(c) Because the official concerned did not actually work as a stenographer during the period from the 16th August, 1931, to the 14th November, 1931.

POSTAL RECRUITED TELEGRAPHISTS.

139. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action on the speech of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen made on 10th March, 1933, at the time of Budget discussions regarding postal recruited telegraphists, and if so, will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of their decision ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : No. The case of the telegraphists referred to was re-examined by the Director General as promised by him in this House on the 10th March, 1933, but he found no reason to make any recommendation to Government to re-open it.

GRANT OF PENSION TO BAUDOT MISTRIES.

140. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) With reference to the reply given to my question No. 181 on the 4th September, 1928, regarding the grant of pension to Baudot mistries, will Government be pleased to state whether they have come to a final decision on the matter and if so, what are the decisions ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they now propose to consider and grant compensation in lieu of pension as is given to the Railway servants by the Railway Department and in view of the suggestion given by the Government of India in Circular No. 5042, dated the 8th July, 1919, to consult the Railway authorities ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Sir Thomas Ryan on the 5th April, 1933, to his starred question No. 1124. There has been no change in the position since that date.

RETIREMENTS IN CERTAIN GRADES IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHISTS DEPARTMENT.

141. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the number of retirements (i) compulsory, and (ii)

voluntary in each of the following grades after the introduction of Sir Cowasji Jehangir's report ?

- (i) Telegraphists ;
- (ii) Telegraph Masters ;
- (iii) Deputy Superintendents ;
- (iv) Officers of the First and Second Divisions ;
- (v) Officers of the Engineering Branch ; and
- (vi) Clerks.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in this House by Sir Thomas Ryan on the 5th April, 1933, to his starred question No. 1125. The information available regarding the numbers of compulsory and voluntary retirements effected since then are as follows :

	(i) Compulsory.	(ii) Voluntary.
Telegraphists	none	61
Telegraph Masters	none	5
Deputy Superintendents	none	none
Officers of the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the Superior Traffic Branch.	none	none
Gazetted officers of the Engineering Branch	none	none

The total number of clerks (including Head Postmasters, Sub and Branch Postmasters, Inspectors and Town Inspectors of Post Offices, Sorters, Supervisors, etc.) retrenched between the 1st December, 1932 and the 31st May, 1933 (up to which date information is available) is 1,214 but no information is available as to the number who retired voluntarily or were compulsorily retrenched.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN GRADES OF SERVICES IN THE ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

142. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the present communal composition of the following grades of services in the Accounts Department of the East Indian Railway :

- (i) Accountants ;
- (ii) Inspector of Station Accounts ;
- (iii) Inspector of Stores Accounts ;
- (iv) Sub-Heads ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies filled in, in each of the grades specified above, since 1926 and the number of Moslems and non-Moslems recruited either directly or by promotions ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). Government regret they are unable to supplement the information given about the communal composition of Railway Staff in the Administration Reports by particulars about individual offices or classes of staff.

PROPOSAL FOR THE AMALGAMATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF OLD AND NEW DELHI.

143. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : Have Government any proposal to amalgamate the municipalities of the Old and New Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE FOR OLD AND NEW DELHI.

144. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : Do Government propose the establishment of a development directorate for Old and New Delhi ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No. Government do not consider it necessary to establish a Development Directorate for Old and New Delhi.

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF TIMARPUR QUARTERS, DELHI.

145. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Has a telegraphic representation been received by Government from Government employees living in Timarpur quarters inviting Government's attention to the dangerous state of their quarters due to the recent rains in Delhi ? If so, what action do Government propose to take ?

(b) Would the Timarpur quarters be demolished and new ones built ?

(c) Do Government propose to abandon the Timarpur site due to its low level proximity to the Jumna and the terrible malaria that ravages there ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes. The repairs which were considered necessary have since been carried out.

(b) and (c). No.

MOTOR AND ELECTRIC OMNIBUS SERVICE IN DELHI.

146. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) When is the motor and electric omnibus service sanctioned for the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Ltd., to start ?

(b) Are Government aware that this company does not propose to run the sanctioned electric trolley omnibus service due to the overhead line having to run through Azadpur, which is almost double the route requiring considerable additional capital on a very large section, where there is no traffic, which will be unremunerative for some years to come ?

(c) Do Government propose to alter the route as desired by the Electric Company ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Enquiries have been made and the result will be communicated to the House in due course.

INTRODUCTION OF A FASTER TRAIN *via* LOOP LINE FROM HOWRAH TO DELHI.

147. **Mr. Bhuput Sing** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to introduce the running of a faster train *via* Loop Line from Howrah to Delhi, for the convenience of passengers travelling from stations on this line ?

(b) What are the difficulties in the way of running a fast through train over this line ?

(c) Are Government aware of a very strong public feeling over the matter for the last several years ?

(d) Does not the traffic on the line justify such introduction of a fast through train ?

(e) Have Government considered that the train can be made to run *via* Dhulian (B. A. K. Section), if any of the bridges over the corresponding section of the Loop Line is not able to withstand the running of a faster train over it ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Enquiries have been made from the Agent, East Indian Railway, and I will place a reply on the table in due course.

TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF FURNITURE TO THE ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

148. **Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether tenders were called for by the present Director of the Zoological Survey of India for the supply of office furniture ? If not, why not ?

(b) Is it a fact that he has given the contract to a Chinese furniture dealer ? If so, do Government propose to enquire why instead of Indian furniture dealers, a Chinese has been appointed ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Enquiries have been made and the information will be furnished to the House in due course.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

149. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that Government orders contemplated the appointment of a Board to select personnel for discharge ?

(b) Did the Director General of Archæology appoint such a Board ? If so, will Government kindly state the names of the members of the Board ?

(c) Was any Muslim member appointed on the Board to safeguard the interests of Muslims ? If not, why not ?

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

(b) Yes. The names of the members of this Board are :

1. Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, Director General of Archæology in India.
2. Mr. J. A. Page, Deputy Director General of Archæology in India.
3. Mr. K. N. Dikshit, Deputy Director General of Archæology for Exploration.

(c) No, because there was no Muslim officer attached to the Head Office at the time. Every possible precaution was, however, taken to safeguard the interests of all communities in the Department.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

150. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindu and Muslim employees

and their percentage before and after retrenchment in the subordinate service of the Archæological Department ?

(b) Was any assurance given to this House that the percentage of the various communities would remain the same before and after retrenchment ?

(c) Is it a fact that the percentage of Muslims has diminished in that service ever since ? If so, why ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

FREE OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS BY CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

151. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the names of the subordinates in the Archæological Department who occupy Government quarters and pay no rent ?

(b) On what basis have these concessions been allowed to them ?

(c) Have Government considered the desirability of charging rent now ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

152. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Eastern Circle of the Archæological Department the post of a Hindu was abolished, but actually a Muslim was retrenched ?

(b) Is it a fact that disciplinary proceedings were in progress against the Hindu subordinate in question ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for keeping this man in service and for retrenching the Muslim ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (c). One post on the ministerial establishment in the Circle named was abolished and the Muslim employee who was the most junior member of the ministerial establishment was discharged in accordance with the general instructions laid down for the selection of personnel for discharge in connection with retrenchment.

(b) Disciplinary proceedings were in progress against two Hindu subordinates. Both have been degraded to lower posts on the minima of the scales of pay attached to them.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MR. CHANDRA, ARCHÆOLOGICAL SUPERINTENDENT, POONA.

153. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that a certain firm known as Messrs. Gorachand and Sons secured huge contracts from Mr. Chandra, Archæological Superintendent, while at Poona and had its office in the very house of Mr. Chandra ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if this action on the part of Mr. Chandra was not considered seriously objectionable ?

(c) Did Government order an enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Chandra ? If so, when, and who were the members of the Enquiry Board ?

(d) Was Mr. Chandra's case referred to the Public Service Commission before passing final orders, as was done in similar other cases in the Department ? If not, why was this preferential treatment shown ?

(e) Do Government propose to consult the Public Service Commission now ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The firm referred to by the Honourable Member did obtain certain contracts.

(b) and (c). An enquiry was conducted by the Director-General of Archaeology in India and Mr. J. F. Blakiston, Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India. Government came to the conclusion, after considering their reports, that although Mr. Chandra's conduct in the matter was objectionable, the requirements of the case would be met if an expression of their dissatisfaction were conveyed to him.

(d) No reference to the Public Service Commission was necessary.

(e) Government do not consider such reference to be necessary.

TRANSFER OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY, CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPUTANA, TO SOME OTHER CIRCLE.

154. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that the post of the Assistant Superintendent for Central India and Rajputana remained vacant for considerable periods during the past, and his work was done in the Director General of Archæology's office during his absence ?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of transferring the present Assistant Superintendent to some other Circle ?

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

(b) The services of this officer are required at the Headquarters to assist the Director-General of Archæology in India in Archæological matters relating to the Indian States in Central India and Rajputana. It is not possible, therefore, to transfer him to a Circle.

IGNORING THE CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

155. **Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government kindly state what is the length of the service of the present Director General of Archæology ?

(b) Will Government please state how many Hindus and Muslims the Director General has appointed permanently during his service ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many Muslims during his long tenure were permanently appointed ?

(d) Is it a fact that he held charge of the Lahore Circle of the Archæological Department for a considerable period ?

(e) Is it a fact that in the Punjab where there is such a large population of Muslims he did not appoint any suitable Muslim under his control ?

(f) Is it a fact that when the present Director General of Archæology was Superintendent of Lahore or other Circles, the Director General at the time issued instructions to Archæological Officers for keeping regard of the representation of the minority communities ?

(g) Did the gentleman even then appoint any Muslim in his office ?

(h) What action did Government take against the officer for ignoring the orders referred to ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY TRACTION DEPARTMENT.

156. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi :** With reference to the Financial Commissioner's reply to Mr. B. Das's questions Nos. 729 to 732 on the 13th March, 1933, regarding the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Traction Department, are Government now in a position to place before this House the particulars promised ? If so, will they please lay on the table all the available information ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The information was laid on the table of the House on the 1st September, 1933.

ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL TRANSPORTATION SUPERINTENDENT (TRACTION) ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

157. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi :** (a) With reference to Mr. B. Das's question No. 729 (c) on the 13th March, 1933, and in view of the Financial Commissioner's assurance that if there is over-staffing in the superior officer's cadre of the Electric Traction Branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, it will certainly be reduced, and recent confirmation of the Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent (Traction), are Government satisfied that the retention of the post is absolutely necessary in the interests of the Railway ?

(b) Are the qualifications of the present incumbent of the post of Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent (Traction) considered adequate for expert technical supervision of the three branches of the Electric Traction Department, *viz.*, Generation, Distribution and Rolling Stock ?

(c) Apart from his having held the position of Traction Engineer (Rolling Stock) on the Railway, what special claims does he possess to assume technical and administrative control of the generation and distribution section as well of the Traction Department ?

(d) Has he qualified himself in the usual manner in train operation, block signalling, etc., to discharge effectively the duties of a Transport Officer ?

(e) Is it the professed policy of Government to secure economy by eliminating wasteful duplication of labour ? If so, why is the Bombay Division of the Transportation Department of the Great Indian Peninsula

Railway saddled with two officers at its head in grade Rs. 1,950 *plus* allowances and overseas pay ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). His qualifications are considered sufficient for the post.

(e) In the Traction Branch there is only one Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent on Rs. 1,950 per mensem.

ELECTRIFICATION OF THE MAIN LINE OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

158. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi :** (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate the extension of the electrification of the main line on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(b) In view of the doubts expressed relative to the satisfactory working of the section of the line electrified at present, will Government please state what reasons have induced them to consider a scheme for extension ? Is the scheme financially and technically justifiable ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to have the project carried out by contractors or by the Railway themselves ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) The question of extension of the electrification is not under serious consideration at present.

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

STAFF OF THE CHOLA POWER HOUSE, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

159. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi :** (a) Will Government please furnish a comparative statement showing the scales of pay and number of all grades of staff in the Chola Power House, Great Indian Peninsula Railway and of establishments belonging to other power stations of equal capacity in other parts of India ?

(b) Have Government considered that it is impossible to reduce the overhead costs of this power station ?

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

SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC POWER ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

160. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi :** (a) When does the Great Indian Peninsula Railway's agreement with Tatas for the supply of power to the suburban section terminate ?

(b) Is it proposed to take power from Chola Power House after that date ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what is likely to be the cost of change-over ? Will this be given adequate consideration in computing the economies derivable from Chola supplying the entire power requirements of the Railway ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The agreement does not expire till the 31st December, 1939, and it is far too early yet for Government to consider seriously

what should be done when it expires, but I can assure my Honourable friend that the comparative cost of alternative sources of supply and all other relevant considerations will be carefully considered in arriving at a decision.

CABLE REPAIR WORK ON THE TRACTION DEPARTMENT, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

161. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi** : Does the Distribution Section of the Traction Department of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway still get its cable repair work done by contractors ? If so, why ? Is it a fact that the Senior Foreman, Overhead Equipment and Transmission Line, Lonavla, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is supposed to be an expert in the line ?

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

BREAKDOWNS TO THE ELECTRICAL MULTIPLE UNIT EQUIPMENT ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

162. **Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi** : (a) Is it a fact that most of the serious breakdowns to the Electrical Multiple Unit equipment on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, are due to the incompetent technical direction of the present Superintending Foreman ?

(b) In view of these, and referring to Mr. B. Das's question No. 730 of 13th March, 1933, will Government please state what action they propose to take ?

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

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, three Messages have been received from the Council of State. The first Message runs thus :

" I am directed to inform you that the Council of State has, at its meeting held on the 18th September, 1933, agreed, without any amendments, to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 14th and 15th September, 1933, namely :—

- (1) A Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes (Second Amendment) ;
- (2) A Bill to provide for the appointment of a Manager on behalf of the Secretary of State of the properties of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshiadabad and to define the powers and duties of the Manager ; and
- (3) A Bill to provide for the control of the export of tea from India and for the control of the extension of the cultivation of tea in British India."

The second Message is as follows :

" I am directed to inform you that the following Members of the Council of State have, at the meeting held on the 18th September, 1933, been nominated to

serve on the Joint Committee to consider and report on the Bill to constitute a Reserve Bank of India, namely :

1. The Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu,
2. The Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh,
3. The Honourable Nawab Malik Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,
4. The Honourable Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiyar,
5. The Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti,
6. The Honourable Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur,
7. The Honourable Sir Hormusji Maneckji Mehta,
8. The Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha of Nashipur,
9. The Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy,
10. The Honourable Mr. J. S. Henderson,
11. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra,
12. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das,
13. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam, and
14. The Honourable Mr. J. B. Taylor."

The third Message is as follows :

"I am directed to inform you that the following Members of the Council of State have, at the meeting held on the 18th September, 1933, been nominated to serve on the Joint Committee to consider and report on the Bill further to amend the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for certain purposes, namely :

1. The Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu,
2. The Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh,
3. The Honourable Nawab Malik Muhammad Hayat Khan Noon,
4. The Honourable Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiyar,
5. The Honourable Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti,
6. The Honourable Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur,
7. The Honourable Sir Hormusji Maneckji Mehta,
8. The Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha of Nashipur,
9. The Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy,
10. The Honourable Mr. J. S. Henderson,
11. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Mathura Prasad Mehrotra,
12. The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ramsaran Das,
13. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam, and
14. The Honourable Mr. J. B. Taylor."

DEATH OF MR. B. N. MISRA.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Leader of the House) : Sir, death has again removed with tragic suddenness yet another sitting Member of this Assembly. Mr. B. N. Misra was, I believe, a Member of the first Assembly and also of the third Assembly. I personally will remember him best for his ardent advocacy of the claims of Orissa, his own home. Unhappily he has not been spared to see what we hope will be the fruition of his desires. It will be unnecessary for me to say much about one who was in such recent touch with us all. I need only say that his quiet un-

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

assuming presence made him liked by every one with whom he came in contact. May I ask you, Sir, to convey to his relatives our deep sympathy with them in their bereavement ?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my Party, I rise to associate ourselves with the words that have fallen from the Leader of the House. Mr. Misra was one of those quiet unassuming Members in this Honourable House who had not a single enemy amongst us. His great mission was fulfilled, namely, the separation of Orissa ; but most unfortunately he did not live to see a Governor and Council in his own province. Mr. Misra, I believe, was writing the history of his province which perhaps we may be privileged to read in the future—whatever he left on paper. Mr. Misra was attached to his province and came here to represent faithfully the views of his constituency, and he never missed an occasion to do so. We regret—most of us—that we were not able to be present yesterday at his funeral which we should certainly have done had we been informed in time. May I also suggest that you, Sir, should convey to the family of the deceased our sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement ?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to associate myself and my Party with all the sentiments that have fallen from the lips of the Honourable the Leaders of the House and of the Independent Party. When Mr. Misra came to my room in the Cecil Hotel a week ago, with the manuscript of his new book, " The History of Ancient Utkal ", which he wanted me to revise, I little knew that I would be standing on the floor of the House to speak out my feelings about the passing away of a good man and true, or that I would have been going yesterday to Sanjauli to stand by the funeral pyre amidst pouring rain. He was one of those good men who pleased those with whom he came in contact. His good manners, his sweet temper and his great sense of humour always made him very likeable, always made him the best friend in politics in which friends are few. He was one of the pioneers of the new Orissa movement, and, as the Leader of the House has truly said, the great tragedy in his passing away at this time lies in the fact that he did not have the privilege of enjoying the fruit of his labours. Sir, we express our deep regrets here and our deepest sympathies for the bereaved family.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal (Jullundur Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on behalf of my friends in this part of the House I wish to associate myself with all that has fallen from the previous speakers. It is a matter of great regret that Mr. Misra, whose last appearance we all remember in this House on the non-official day when he moved the Resolution relating to the Military Academy, was suffering from blood pressure. We all remember the painful experience we had that day. It was with great difficulty and simply out of a sense of duty that he did not flinch from moving that Resolution—it was with difficulty indeed that he could manage to carry out his wish and we all felt that there was really something wrong with him ; but he stuck to his duty to the last and it is with deep regret that we learnt rather late in the day yesterday that he had passed away. In fact this last event in his life has proved what we all knew so well during the years we had been in contact with him, that he

cared more for his duty than for his own comfort or convenience. As has been truly said by the Leader of the House, he did not live long enough to see the fruition of his endeavours in the creation of an independent Orissa province. He was, as we all know, a kind and unassuming figure who made more friends than enemies, and there is hardly a man in this House or outside who can say that on any occasion Mr. Misra had spoken ill of anybody or had done harm to any one. We will all miss him, and I would request you, Sir, to convey to his family the sentiments of all of us that we share their loss and to express our deep sense of sorrow and regret at his tragic death on this occasion.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Mr. President, it is a great pity that at the very fag end of the even tenor of this Session should have been marred by the tragedy of Mr. Misra's death. To every one of us death must come sooner or later ; but to Mr. Misra death has come in somewhat painful circumstances, removed as he was far away from his home and family and from his community of which he was a very prominent and very honoured member. To most Members of this House, who did not know Mr. Misra well, he might have appeared a somewhat perplexing personality ; but to those who knew Mr. Misra intimately, as I claim to have done, Mr. Misra was possessed of very good qualities of head and heart. He was not a great speaker or politician ; but what is much better than being a great politician or a great speaker, he was a thoroughly good natured man, simple hearted, almost like a child, pleased with everybody and almost incapable of being displeased with anybody. Sir, on account of his lack of mastery of the English language, many may have formed an incorrect idea of Mr. Misra. He was, however, well versed in Hindu philosophy and Hindu religion, and it may be of interest to know that he was actually engaged in writing a work on the comparative History of Religions at the time of his death. He was a barrister, and that he was held in high esteem by his community and his province is shown by the fact that he was an elected Member in the first Assembly and that he lost the election in the second Assembly against the Swarajist candidate only by one vote. Sir, in spite of his conservatism in religious matters, he had very progressive ideas, and he was the first man in his community to cross the black waters. I have nothing to add except to say that I join in the tribute of respect for our departed colleague and in the request to you to convey our sympathy and condolence to his bereaved family.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay : European) : Sir, on behalf of myself and my Party, I wish to add my tribute to the memory of our late fellow Member, Mr. Misra, and to associate myself with the remarks which have fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House and other Honourable Members in regard to the regret which we all feel that he has not been spared to see the fulfilment of his life's labours and desire in the separation of Orissa. By his kindly disposition, he had endeared himself to every one of us in the House, and we shall all miss him.

Nawab, Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan (North Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I associate myself on my own and my Party's behalf with what has been said by previous speakers. I well remember the day when I first came to this House, Mr. Misra asked me to help him in his scheme for the separation of Orissa and I promised to do so. He had a very quiet and unassuming nature and his qualities of head and heart

[Nawab Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan.]

were very great. Again, Sir, after he made his last speech the other day, on the Indianization of the Army, he came out of the House and told me that he could not very well render his speech on account of illness which was afflicting him that day. It is a pity that he has not been spared to see his pet scheme of the separation of Orissa fructifying and to take part in the new order of things to be brought about by it. Sir, we all mourn the loss of a friend who was a jewel covered with slugged stone. Sir, I also request you to convey our sympathy and condolence to his bereaved family.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaifarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhamadan) : Sir, as one coming from the province of Bihar and Orissa, I should like to associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House, and by other Honourable Members. I remember very well the last illness of Mr. Misra, and when he was suffering from high blood pressure I told him repeatedly to leave Simla and to go down. I even asked my friend, Dr. Dalal, to give him the advice to leave Simla, which Dr. Dalal did ; but his consciousness of duty kept him in Simla and he has died practically in harness. Sir, Mr. Misra was a man of very amiable disposition and of loving nature ; he was very regular in his attendance at the meetings, a lesson which many of us might learn. I would request you, Sir, to convey to the members of the bereaved family an expression of our sincere sorrow and regret at his death under circumstances under which it has taken place in Simla far away from his family members.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : Sir, it is really an irreparable loss that Orissa has suffered. I know how the people of Orissa had confidence in Mr. Misra and in his labours to bring about the separation of Orissa. He did his very best, and it is a pity that he has not been spared to see the fruition of his labours. I feel very much that I was not able to be present at the funeral pyre, for, had I known about his death a little earlier yesterday, I would have tried to be present in spite of my indisposition. Sir, I wish to associate myself with every word that has fallen from the previous speakers.

Mr. Bhuput Sing (Bihar and Orissa : Landholders) : Sir, being a representative of Bihar and Orissa, I beg to associate myself with all the remarks which have fallen from the previous speakers. Sir, Mr. Misra comes from a very respectable Brahmin family of Orissa, and the people of the new proposed Province of Orissa owe a deep debt of gratitude to him for all that he has done for the creation of a separate Province. He was a very noble soul, and a typical Brahmin with the ideals of plain living and high thinking. I sincerely feel sorry that he could not see the fruition of his work which he had almost completed on ancient history and ancient culture of Orissa which dates many centuries back and which was his life's ambition. He was also a master of Oriya language. Sir, I express my heartfelt condolence to Mrs. Misra and the bereaved family.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I wish to associate the Chair with the tribute that has been paid to the memory of our late colleague, Mr. B. N. Misra, who was so well loved by all parts of the House. His devotion to duty, of which his regular attendance in

this House was an ample proof, may serve as an example to all of us. It shall be my duty to convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of loss and sympathy on this occasion.

MOTION *RE* DUES IN RESPECT OF LIGHTHOUSES AND BUOY
IN BRITISH INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Commerce Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That this Assembly do signify its opinion in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 670 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (57 and 58 Vict., Ch. 60), that the dues imposed by the Order in Council of His Majesty, dated the 17th December, 1931, in respect of the Lighthouses and buoy specified in the Schedule thereto ought to be levied in British India.”

This is a motion, Sir, which, I think, will command the acceptance of the House. The position is quite simple, and I think I can explain it very shortly. All civilized maritime nations provide lights where necessary on their coasts for the greater safety of navigation, but it is not fair that the countries themselves should bear the entire cost of this service. It is only fair and equitable that shipping passing by these lights and enjoying the benefits of these aids to navigation should pay a contribution. This is a principle which is accepted by all nations. These dues are collected in the shape of light dues calculated on a tonnage basis. But it is not always easy to collect these dues. Take the particular case with which we are concerned. Ships passing the Leeward Islands and the Bahamas, if they call at a port in the United Kingdom, could and would be made to pay these dues ; but if, for instance, they called at an Indian port and then returned to their home port, it would not be possible to secure the collection of these dues since at the present time we are not authorised to make such collection on behalf of the British authorities. A bar is imposed by clause (2) of section 670 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894. That bar, however, can be removed by the House acquiescing in the motion which I have placed before it. I need only add that so far as the collection is concerned we shall levy a commission or charge for making it and the commission will be, I understand, in the neighbourhood of 7½ per cent. I hope the House will accept my motion.

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

“ That this Assembly do signify its opinion in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 670 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (57 and 58 Vict., Ch. 60), that the dues imposed by the Order in Council of His Majesty, dated the 17th December, 1931, in respect of the Lighthouses and buoy specified in the Schedule thereto ought to be levied in British India.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL BILL.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to establish a Medical Council in India and to provide for the maintenance of a British Indian Medical Register, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

It will be within the recollection of Honourable Members that this Bill as introduced, was, not only exhaustively, but, if one might be flippant, exhaustingly discussed in the last Session of the Assembly. Every aspect of the subject, whether it was medical ethics or medical education, came under searching scrutiny. The three vital points which emerged from the discussion were, first, whether licentiates should be included or excluded from the scope of the Bill ; second, whether the constitution of the Council needed any modification ; and third, whether the provision made in the Bill in respect of reciprocity was adequate. I shall take these points in the order in which I have enumerated them. First, the question of licentiates. It was made abundantly clear on behalf of the Government during the discussion that the limitation of the scope of the Bill to higher medical education, that is to say, the education of medical graduates, was due to constitutional and financial reasons. Constitutionally the position was that Local Governments were unwilling to part with their powers except in respect of higher medical education.

The financial exigencies of extending medical relief to our vast rural areas made it impracticable that the standard of education of the licentiates should be brought up to the level of the education of medical graduates. Nevertheless, we undertook, as a sign of our goodwill towards this important body of medical practitioners in this country, to sound Local Governments and ascertain whether there was any way in which we could assist them in the task of the educational reform for licentiates, assuming that there was a consensus of desire that there should be such a reform. In pursuance of that undertaking we consulted Local Governments. We asked them first whether they wished the Government of India to undertake an enquiry in order to ascertain whether the standards of education of licentiates in the different provinces were uniform, and secondly, if they suggested or favoured such an enquiry, to indicate whether they thought that there was any way in which the Government of India could assist them to establish uniformity where diversity existed. We were anxious further that the replies of the Local Governments should be available to the Government of India before the Select Committee met so that they should be in a position also to consider the replies of the Local Governments and make suggestions to us whether any action on our part was necessary. The replies fortunately were received in time and we put them before the Select Committee to which the Bill as introduced in this House was referred. With the exception of two Local Governments none was in favour of an enquiry because they thought that in the financial circumstances of the country it would be impossible for them to take any action upon any recommendations which the Committee of Enquiry might make. The two Local Governments which were in favour of the enquiry also recognised this difficulty, but on the principle that if somebody else pays they need not deny themselves the advantage or the credit of having had an enquiry into the question. They said that they would be quite willing if the Government of India undertook the enquiry.

An Honourable Member : Who were they ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Government of Bombay was one, and I think the Government of the Punjab was the other. Well, Sir, the Select

Committee were in agreement with the view of the representatives of the Government on that Committee that this kind of commitment, namely, expenditure from central revenues in our financial situation upon an investigation the results of which would lead to no practical advantage for an indefinite period, was hardly justified. The question, Sir, then which the Committee had to apply themselves to was, whether there were any provisions of the Bill which needed modification or omission in order to remove all sense of legitimate grievance from the minds of the licentiates ? The view of the Government had all along been that the fact that we proposed to maintain an all-India Register from which the licentiates would be excluded was neither intended, nor would it have the effect of imposing any hardship or disability upon them. But, Sir, the Committee came to the conclusion that even though the objection of the licentiates might be sentimental, if the register was not vital to the main scheme or structure of the Bill, there was no reason why the register should be kept. Therefore, they came, after a careful scrutiny of the Bill, to the conclusion that all provisions in the Bill as introduced, relating to the maintenance of a register, and provisions incidental thereto should be deleted. The Bill which is now before the House, the amended Bill, gives effect to the recommendations of the Committee in this respect. I may say on behalf of the Government that we accept the proposals made by the Select Committee in this respect, and I hope that this will afford ample proof that we are animated by no desire to hurt or hamper this important body of medical practitioners, namely, the licentiates.

The second part of the Bill which needed close examination related to the constitution of the Council. Objection had been taken to the Bill as introduced on three grounds ; first, that it provided for a perpetually nominated President ; secondly, that so far as medical faculties of Universities were concerned, instead of making each British Indian University with such a faculty the constituency for electing to the Council, we intended to make the province, even though there were more than one such University, the constituency for this purpose, and further that we intended to keep the constituency extremely official by limiting the choice of representatives to the Council to members of the Medical Faculties ; and thirdly, the ground on which objection had been taken to the provisions for the constitution of the Council was that medical graduates were not getting direct representation but that we were, instead, resorting to indirect election and a very narrow channel at that, namely, Provincial Committees which it was proposed to set up from the Provincial Medical Councils. The Bill, Sir, as amended and now before the House has made important changes in regard to each one of these points.

12 Noon.

After the first four years the Council will elect its President. Then, instead of the province being the unit, every British Indian University which has a Medical Faculty, will elect its representatives and the election will be made not by the Medical Faculty but by the Senate or whatever the corresponding body of the University may be. Thirdly, the medical graduates enrolled on the Provincial Registers, in fact all people who hold recognised qualifications under this Act if it becomes law, or qualifications of British Indian Universities, will be able to participate in the elections to the Council. When I made my motion

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, I ventured to remark that the constitution of the Council should not be determined by any pre-conceived notions of political theory but that we should try to give it such a form that it will be able to discharge its functions of educational supervision and educational negotiation with efficiency, and with harmony. We think that ideal is recognised or realised even with the constitution that the Select Committee has proposed. It preserves the correct or the just balance between what might be called the demands of democracy and the demands of education. The third question with which the Select Committee concerned itself was the question of reciprocity. I do not think I can do better than refer Honourable Members to what the Select Committee have to say on the subject in the body of the report. They found that the provision in clause 9 of the Bill as introduced was not sufficiently precise. They have made it more precise. The Indian Medical Council will immediately after its constitution take up with outside bodies the question of the recognition of Indian qualifications and we earnestly hope that the result of its efforts will be a satisfactory solution of the unfortunate differences and difficulties that have arisen in the course of the last few years. Then there is one minor point which might also be mentioned. Honourable Members, especially the representatives of the Andhra Province and the Province of Bihar and Orissa were aggrieved that in the original Bill no attention was paid to the medical qualifications conferred by the University of Patna and the Andhra University.....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : And Rangoon.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I am confining myself to the qualifications conferred by Patna and the Andhra Universities, because I see two Honourable Members, belonging to these provinces, are anxiously waiting to hear what we have done in this Bill for the recognition of these qualifications. I see also my Honourable friend over there from the land of silk and sunshine waiting to make sure that the interests of his province are not overlooked and therefore I am glad to say that Rangoon also has come within the purview of the Select Committee. The position was this. We felt that on a certain date—1930—certain qualifications were internationally recognised. Others were not internationally recognised. Since then no machinery has been in existence in this country which could testify to the present quality of these medical standards. We do not say that they are not up to the standard. We do not say that the quality is open to objection but the fact nevertheless remains that the task can best be entrusted to and be most competently discharged by a scientifically competent body and that, Sir, is the position which we have expressed in the report, namely, that the position of these qualifications is anomalous and that it will be one of the duties, the first duty indeed of the Council, after it has been constituted, to take up the question of the standards of examination and studies and so on in these Universities. Then let us hope they will include them in the first Schedule to the Bill. There is very little for me to say but I think it is right that I should remind Honourable Members that, in the footnote to

paragraph 123, of the proposals for Indian Constitutional Reform there is a reference to the Bill which we are now considering. This is how the reference runs :

“ A question which will require separate consideration is with regard to the registration in India of medical practitioners registered in the United Kingdom. A Bill which has an important bearing on this question is at present under the consideration of the Indian Legislature.”

Now, Sir, I wish to explain the situation *vis-a-vis* the Joint Select Committee of Parliament which is seized of the proposals for Indian Constitutional Reform, from which I have just now quoted. The Committee has still to consider the position of British commercial and professional men and they will be entirely free to consider the subject in all its bearings. This is the constitutional position and I have mentioned it, so that there may be no possible misunderstanding on this subject. Before I resume my seat, Sir, I should like to express appreciation on behalf of those who sat on the Select Committee from this side of the House as also on behalf of Government, appreciation of the very legitimate criticism and the impartial effort made by Honourable Members who sat on the Committee from the opposite side for the solution of a very difficult and a very important problem and I believe that the Council, which we are about to bring into being, if it discharges its duties in the spirit in which the Select Committee did it, then there is no reason to doubt that it will discharge its duties with steadfast efficiency and with staunch loyalty to India's honour.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to establish a Medical Council in India and to provide for the maintenance of a British Indian Medical Register, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I congratulate the members of the Select Committee for producing a unanimous report on a problem in which the opinion not only in the country but also in this House was hopelessly divided. The amendments that have now been put down are really no amendments, but they only elucidate what is implicitly provided in the Bill itself.

I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House to a few points. The first question I take is the question of hospitals which are attached to the Medical Colleges. We now find in practice that the hospitals attached to the Medical Colleges are of the same type as the hospitals maintained for charitable purposes either by the Government or by local authorities or individuals ; but it should be clearly understood that the hospitals attached to Medical Colleges are not hospitals in ordinary sense but they are scientific clinics. They ought to be very different from the hospitals maintained for charitable purposes. Now, we have a very good example of these scientific clinics in two or three places. In the first instance, I mention Vienna whose hospital is really a scientific clinic. Then I mention Edinburgh and a few Universities in America, especially Harvard University. These are really very good examples of scientific clinics and we should make every effort that our hospitals should approach these institutions. They should not compete the ordinary charitable hospitals. The kind

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of cases which ought to come in these Medical College hospitals should be the cases, whose diagnosis and treatment may form the history of the medical science, and they ought to keep up a very high standard in equipments, treatments and comforts. In this connection, I would like to refer to a book written by Mr. Flexner who himself is a medical man and who has compared the Universities of America with those in the United Kingdom and Germany. He has in his book mentioned the differences between the hospitals which are charitable institutions and the hospitals which are maintained by the Medical Colleges. I hope that this Medical Council, when it is established, will take these points into its consideration and try to maintain a very high standard in all the hospitals attached to these Medical Colleges. In order to do so, I would like to emphasise two facts. In the first place, the Medical College staff should not be entitled to receive any fee for any service rendered to the patients. I think this is a very important point. Any money that might be paid by the rich patients must go to the general fund. It should be deposited in a box and should not be the property of individuals. When I will move my amendment, I will cite cases to show how this privilege is misused in one particular University and in one particular Medical College. At the present moment I shall confine myself to the general remark that the staff of the Medical College should be paid sufficiently well. They should be paid with consideration that they are not entitled to any kind of fee or remuneration for services rendered to any patients inside the Medical College. The only fee to which they should be entitled is the fee which they get when they are invited by ordinary medical practitioners for consultation. I press these points for two reasons. In the first place, it is important in the interests of the efficiency of the Medical Colleges, if we really want to make them scientific clinics. In the second place, it is unfair to make the staff of the Medical College compete on unfair terms with private practitioners. The private practitioners are already handicapped and should not be further handicapped by unfair competition with the staff of the Medical Colleges who have got up-to-date expensive equipments at the expense of the Government at their disposal.

The next point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is the question of inspection. In this connection also my remarks will be rather of a general nature and will be applicable not only to the teaching of medicine but to the teaching of all other subjects. In the Universities Act of 1904, there was a provision about the inspection of colleges by Universities. Now, this was a very wholesome provision. These Colleges after five years were inspected by the University Inspectors. They gave friendly advice and thus the standard of teaching was maintained at fairly high level. This provision continued to work satisfactorily, but unfortunately in the modern Universities which we enacted on the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission this wholesome provision was entirely omitted. It was omitted because the Grants Committee came into existence in the United Kingdom in 1919, that is to say, two years after the report of the Commission was published. In the United Kingdom in the year 1919 under the influence of Sir William Carmick, the Grants Com-

mittee was established and this Committee is now doing very useful work in connection with the British Universities. This Committee consists of members who have got great University experience but none of them is directly connected with any University. Now, this Committee periodically inspects every University, gives friendly advice and by the timely advice the defects which the Universities may have are at once removed. The Government gives grants to various Universities on the recommendations of this Committee. I have reason to believe from my personal knowledge that this Committee is doing very useful work in raising the status and general level of the University education. In place of this periodic inspection provided in our Universities Act of 1904, we have got provision of Committees of Inquiry in our Modern Acts. This Committee of Inquiry is quite different from the Inspection Committee which visits Universities periodically as a matter of routine. It examines very carefully and gives friendly advice to the Universities in time, and their defects are removed. On the other hand our Committee of Inquiry is a punitive measure and is administered as a kind of punishment to the Universities and instead of doing any good to the Universities they do them positive harm. I do not want to go into details at this stage but if any one will challenge me on this statement, then beginning from Calcutta University to the Punjab University, I will illustrate by facts the harm they have done. As we are not concerned with the Universities in general in this Bill, but we are concerned with the Medical Faculty only, I would like to emphasise that the Medical Council should institute Inspection Committees very much on the lines of the Grants Committee. It should consist of Inspectors who may periodically inspect these various Medical Colleges and submit their periodical report. It is essential that the Inspectors should be men with plenty of University experience and should not be men engaged in teaching in any University. This has been found to be practical in other countries and there is no reason why it should not be found practical in India. This provision may either be made in the Act itself or perhaps it might be made in the by-laws that may be framed under this Act.

The third point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is the question of administration of these colleges. I am very strongly of opinion that all academic matters such as the prescribing the courses of studies, the teaching, the conduct of examinations and the standard of education, should be left in the hands of the academic men, but the administrative matters, such as, the appointment and the promotion of the staff, should be left in the hands of the non-academic men who should be persons who are not themselves the teachers in the same University. This remark applies not only to the Medical Colleges but also to Universities in general. We have got the example of one Medical College in India where we have tried this experiment of handing over the administration of the college to the academic officers which has singularly failed. I will refer to it in detail when I move my amendment on the subject. The Lucknow University is the only example, not only in India but probably in the whole world which is administered entirely by the staff of the University and the illustrations which I will give to the House when I move my amendment will show that it has singularly failed, and that the administration like

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other Medical Colleges should be taken over by the Government. I have studied University administration of practically every University in the world in connection with my book and I can find no example where the appointment of the staff is left in the hands of the teachers themselves except perhaps the examples of Oxford and Cambridge where the appointments are made by the members of the staff. But the conditions there are entirely different. In the first place, they first elect a fellow and the fellowship is very much like the scholarships which are awarded to men of their own colleges, and very often on the result of a rigorous examination. As the fellowships are practically reserved for men of their own colleges the selection could not be in the hands of any person except the staff of their own college. From these fellows they elect one or two teachers of the colleges and there also the selection is very close but when they come to appointments which are wide open namely professorships, they are made by the King and not by the staff of the University except in certain cases....

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : I must correct the Honourable Member on that point. Very few Professors at Oxford and Cambridge are appointed by the King.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I do not challenge the statement of my Honourable friend about number. I was speaking from memory. Professors are usually appointed by the King. I quite admit that there are certain professorships in which the special conditions are laid down by the Donors. The Donors have mentioned that appointments should be made in a particular manner and these are exceptions. As regards the Chairs created by University or endowed by Government, the case is different. I leave the detailed discussions because the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are in a class by themselves and they have a tradition of 700 years. The Universities, like the British Houses of Parliament, cannot be copied by any other country. There are other Universities in the United Kingdom, such as the Midland Universities. There we find that they don't have in the Executive Council even the Vice-Chancellor if he is a paid officer. The President of the Executive Council which controls the finances is the person who is not engaged in actual teaching work of the University and is often a business man of great reputation.

Coming to France and Germany you will find that all appointments in the University are made by the Minister of Education. In France, all the major appointments are made by the Minister of Education. Though it is very important that all academic matters should be left in the hands of teachers, but it is equally important that all financial matters and all administrative matters must be left in the hands of persons who are not actually engaged in teaching work in that particular University. The points to which I have drawn the attention of the House are, (1) the standard of hospitals attached to Medical Colleges should be raised ; (2) that inspection should be similar to the inspection by the Grants Committee in the United Kingdom and it should not be a punitive measure like the Enquiry Committee in modern Indian Universities of India ; (3) that financial administration should be in the hands of persons who are not actually teachers in that particular college or University. In conclusion, I will congratulate once more all the members of the Select Committee for solving the vexed question of the regis-

tration of medical graduates. In my first speech I said that it was not desirable to register the individuals but we should try to recognise the Universities. The Select Committee acted really in a more generous way and the decision arrived at is really one with which I entirely agree. Coming to the constitution of the Medical Council, since the report is unanimous I accept its deliberation but personally I would not agree to a constitution which they have presented. But I do not raise any objection simply because the opinion of the Select Committee is unanimous. I have full trust in the members who formed the Select Committee and I am perhaps alone with a minority of one in not agreeing with the proposed constitution of the Council. As regards inspection I entirely agree with the recommendation of the Committee. I have got two or three amendments which are really of a verbal nature and they only mention explicitly what is implicitly provided for, but I will not press any of my amendments to vote.

Dr. R. D. Dalal (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, on the motion to refer the Medical Council Bill to a Select Committee, I travelled so thoroughly over most of the ground that it is unnecessary to weary the House with any long speech. In my previous speech on the Medical Council Bill at the Delhi Session I paid a just tribute to the General Medical Council for the important part the Council had played in bringing University medical education in India to its present high standard ; and I was then taken to task and subjected to a chorus of denunciation, and poisoned darts were thrown at me. Sir, I have not one word to say in derogation of those who may hold opposite views ; but I would point out that it often happens that small minds can be most bitter in speech, and they count it no derogation to be so. However that may be, it is a relief to turn from this unpleasant point and to say that I rejoice that there seems a good prospect of the formation of a self-governing and independent organisation for the regulation of University medical education in India, which in the past had been subjected to outside control by the General Medical Council, and that the creation of a competent body such as the Medical Council provided for by this Bill will remove what has admittedly been the chief obstacle to restoring the reciprocity between India and Great Britain, which obtained until February, 1930. Sir, in this connection may I be permitted to remind this Honourable House of the lesson which the Free State of Ireland teaches us. It is interesting to study the history of the negotiations which have taken place between the Free State of Ireland and the General Medical Council. The Free State of Ireland desired to be completely independent of the General Medical Council ; but very soon the medical profession in Ireland discovered that it was very much in their interests to retain that connection. If rash and misguided counsels will prevail, India will undoubtedly have the same experience.

Sir, everyone must recognise the devoted services rendered by the licentiates—the men who come into contact with suffering and who come to the relief of the poor and who carry the torch of western medicine into remote corners of rural areas. But, I must confess that I feel much relieved that the Select Committee have avoided one peril. That is the peril of inclusion of licentiates within the scope of the Bill ; and I need hardly point out that that peril would have proved the grave of this measure. Section 11 of this Bill secures that there shall be no bar to the admission of an improved licentiates' qualification ; so the proper line of action for

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the licentiates is to press for improvements in the standards of their course of training and examinations ; and the Medical Council provides the best prospect for the improvement of their status.

I hope nothing will happen to mar the progress of this Bill. After this Bill is passed and has received the assent of the Governor General, I would suggest that the Government of India should get the Medical Council into operation as soon as possible with the least possible delay ; and they should institute a minute inquiry into the existing standards of education of licentiates in various provinces. After the report of the Committee is considered by the Medical Council, the Council should lay down a minimum standard of education of licentiates—a standard which will be acceptable to other countries with which reciprocity is to be claimed. The provinces will then work up to that standard ; and if any province has reached that standard, it will apply to the Council for recognition. Sir, at first apparently this Bill had hardly any prospect of passing ; now suddenly and unexpectedly harmony prevails. It may be asked, what is this singular phenomenon due to ? Let me explain. The licentiates organised opposition and resisted to the utmost a measure which they felt and believed constituted a deadly blow to their prestige. Against this formidable opposition the Honourable the Education Member employed talents of persuasion, and displayed qualities of courage, resilience, and resource ; and owing to substantial changes in the character of the Bill the probability of this Bill becoming law amounts almost to certainty. I congratulate the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain on the prospect of securing the passage into law of this useful Bill ; and I hope the success the Honourable Member is likely to achieve in this instance will be an encouragement to him to pursue his efforts on behalf of the medical profession and the public, and to initiate legislation as to Drugs Act, Pharmacy Act, Ministry of Health Act, and so on, and to exercise the same energy and pertinacity. Sir, every one will admit that the Honourable the Education Member has taken a deep interest in this Bill, and has all along striven hard to settle this difficult and long-vexed question. I am a graduate in medicine of the University of Bombay ; and on behalf of the medical graduates in India and on behalf of myself, however strenuously I endeavour, to express our thanks to the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain, I feel that my words must be inadequate to represent the depth and sincerity of our feelings towards him. I can only say that we are deeply grateful to him, and that we warmly appreciate his kind efforts on behalf of the medical profession in India. Sir, I support this Bill on account of the strong belief I hold that it will confer great benefits upon the public generally and on the whole medical profession in India ; and I feel confident that this Bill will prove worthy of its place on the Statute-book.

Now, Sir, if you will permit me, I shall just say one word as regards the allegations made by my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, in respect of the Medical College Hospital at Lucknow.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad has given an undertaking to refer to that matter when he moves his amendment.

Dr. R. D. Dalal : Then I will speak on the amendment, Sir.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Sir, I must confess at the outset that I am not a doctor. At the same time, I must say that I have got much to do with the medical profession as a patient, and I hope the House will not be impatient, and will bear with me for some time.

This Medical Council Bill has for the last two years provoked much discussion throughout the length and breadth of the country. It has given a sort of convulsion to this medical profession at large and for the last two years they have been practically flooded with so many suggestions and so many amendments that the medical profession at large wanted to condemn us if the House did not throw out the Bill. They all along said that this was an aggression on the medical profession in India and, instead of giving medical Swaraj to India, Government were practically having their own way and setting up a body mostly at the dictation of the General Medical Council in England with a view to killing the medical profession in India. How far this attitude of the medical profession is justifiable is really open to grave doubt. The real criticism of the Bill came on account of the policy of segregation of the licentiates who form a great number in this country and who have rendered great medical services to the people ; and this was considered by the people at large as a great injustice to such a big class. It is no doubt true that Government had and have still got a step-motherly attitude towards the licentiates. They have got some prejudices against this class in general and I think their prejudice was more or less responsible for the views expressed in England by the General Medical Council. I find that in this matter dictation has come not only from above, but the Government of India, instead of asserting their wishes, are also getting pressure from below, I mean the Provincial Governments. I find that the Government of India have surrendered their wishes to the Medical Council and to the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments have raised many difficulties and they did not take up the case of the licentiates as they ought to have done. It is no doubt true that now, since this Bill has emerged from the Select Committee, this bone of contention about the licentiates has been skilfully removed by the surgeon in charge of this Bill ; but I think it has still left some poison behind it. You will find that the licentiates have not been given any recognition in this Bill. In the provincial registers, both the provincial graduates as well as the licentiates appear. If the medical advancement of India is desired by the Movers of the Bill, is it not necessary that these medical licentiates should have some voice in the election of persons to the Medical Council ? The Member in Charge is shaking his head and showing a sort of denial. But these licentiates have rendered great services to the country and they have been held in very high esteem, not only by those who do not belong to the profession, but even by those who belong to the profession. I would like to read only one certificate and that will convince the House. The opinion of Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and the Chief Medical Officer of the East Indian Railway, will show you that the licentiates of India are in no way inferior to their brethren in the foreign countries who are being enrolled on the Indian Medical Council Bill, and a grave injustice is being perpetrated on the licentiates of India, due to vested interests. This is what Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy said.....

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir Hasan Suhrawardy, not Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Anyway he is his brother and must be airing his views also. He said :

“ There may be diversity of opinion on the point, but still, from my own experience, the opinion that I have formed about licentiatees is this.... Now, what I have formed is that amongst what we call the sub-assistant surgeon class, there are men whose knowledge of medicine, surgery and midwifery is as good as that of any product of any University. I can now clearly see that my colleagues today who are called sub-assistant surgeons have gone up more than 200 per cent. in their efficiency and standard of education. I feel that they are just as good as any L. R. C. P. the product of extra-mural institutions of British Isles.....if they are on Provincial Council's registers, then, for the sake of uniformity, why they should not be on the all-India register.”

I do not see any reason why, if these licentiatees are on the provincial register, they should have no voice in the election of people. This is one grievance which I want to be remedied.

Another point I would like to raise is this. Even as regards the medical graduates, the attitude of the Government and of this Bill is not at all satisfactory. What is the provision concerning them ? I find various barriers put in the way of their election and nomination. What is the result of that ? If this Bill is meant to be on democratic lines, what is the provision for the medical practitioners ? I am reading from clause 5. You have imposed a condition that :

“ No person shall be eligible for nomination or election under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 unless he possesses a recognised medical qualification or a medical qualification granted by a British Indian University and no person shall be eligible for nomination under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 unless he resides in the province concerned, and, where a Provincial Medical Register is maintained in that province, unless he is enrolled on that register.”

To this I have no objection. But, then comes (3) :

“ No person shall be eligible for election under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 unless he has had at least four years' experience as a Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer or Reader in Medical Colleges or Schools.”

I say, these people, the private medical practitioners, have to put in four or five years in a Medical College and then they have to earn something for their existence. It is very difficult for these medical graduates to get any professorship or lecturership in order to make themselves eligible for this election. They have to take to private practice as soon as they finish their course, and I need not tell you what is the number of medical practitioners throughout India. What will happen to them ? After four or five or six years in practice, what is their position ? Will they be ever eligible for nomination or election to this body ? They will never be eligible. In four or five years do you expect them to become professors or lecturers ? In the beginning it is not possible for them to get any job like that ; and, after they are settled in practice, they will not take to any lecturership or professorship. Therefore, so far as these practitioners are concerned, they will have absolutely no voice in this Medical Council.....

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I think my Honourable friend has not looked at sub-clause (c) of clause 3 (1).

Mr. S. G. Jog : I do not know whether (c) is to be read as subject to 5 (3).

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Then I stand corrected. I have given a few amendments, and I will take a little more time to consider whether I should move them when the proper time comes ; but I should like to tell the House that the purport of my amendments is, as I have said just now, that the licentiates, although they may not be eligible for election, even if they are on the register, should at least have the right of vote for selecting a man in whom they have confidence. There is nothing strange in this suggestion. In many bodies there are provisions like this. A man may not be eligible to be elected himself ; but he should have a voice at least in selecting a man in whom they will have confidence and we will be doing a great service to the licentiates if this could be done. If this suggestion is carried out, I think we will be rendering some useful service and showing some recognition of these licentiates as a whole. They should certainly have a voice in the medical advancement of India. My friend has pointed out that section 11—Recognition of medical qualifications granted by medical institutions in British India—does this. But the medical licentiates do not figure at all in this Bill and it is without doubt a grave injustice. But I for one have got faith in the future, and I for one have got faith in the good wishes and intentions of Government. When the matter comes to be reviewed and revised, I hope your angle of vision and attitude towards these licentiates will and should undergo a change and that you will take a more friendly view and, when the time comes, you will recognise these licentiates. So far as their course is concerned, I personally know that many of them hold very good qualifications. It is difficult nowadays to get admission into the Medical Colleges, and students who have passed the Previous and Intermediate attend these schools : unfortunately, they do find it difficult to get admission into the colleges ; but the course is for four years and at Poona and many other places the training is very efficient. There is no ground, therefore, for denying them these facilities. There are many licentiates who have risen to the post of Assistant Civil Surgeons and I can safely give this assurance that many of these Sub-Assistant Surgeons are far superior to these people of five or ten years' standing who come from the Medical Colleges. Therefore, your angle of vision must be changed so far as the licentiates are concerned, and when the time comes, I am sure, their merits and their qualifications will be fully recognised. With these few remarks, I commend the Report of the Select Committee. Sir, I may tell the House that there is great commotion in the country, there is great commotion among medical men in this country, and I must offer my thanks to those members of the Select Committee who laboured hard for bringing about a unanimous Report. Sir, I strongly support the motion that the Select Committee's Report be taken into consideration.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : Mr. President, as a member of the Select Committee, I have to thank my friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, even for the left handed compliment he paid us, but if any compliment has to be paid to anybody, I think it is due to my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who has successfully piloted this Bill, and to his able chief, the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Applause), not so much because of the provisions of the Bill as recommended by the Select Committee, because we claim,

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we have as much a share in their shaping as they have, but because they have been able to carry the opposition with them in this matter, and, I am sure, it must be a source of great gratification both to Mr. Bajpai and to his able chief. Sir, nothing in this world appears to be quite happy always. Even in this debate, my friend, Mr. Bajpai, has introduced a disturbing element, I should say, when he referred to the following passage, a footnote in the White Paper proposals. It is not necessary for me, Sir, to read again the little footnote, but this much I have to say that this footnote says that the question which will require separate consideration arises in regard to the registration in India of medical qualifications. This footnote occurs after a provision made in the White Paper proposals regarding the reciprocal treatment to be accorded to Indians. Paragraph 123 of the White Paper proposals says as follows :

“ The Federal Legislature and the Provincial Legislatures will have no power to make laws subjecting any British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom to any disability or discrimination in the exercise of certain specified rights. If an Indian subject of His Majesty or a company, etc., constituted by or under a federal provincial law as the case may be would not in the exercise of his right in the United Kingdom a corresponding right be subject to any disability or discrimination....etc.”

Further, Sir, with regard to companies, a similar provision in regard to reciprocity is made. Here this footnote says, when these White Paper proposals were drafted, the Government in England took note of the fact that we had before us this legislation, and they say that the question will be separately considered. Beyond that, it does not say anything.

Sir, Honourable Members are aware that reciprocity, absolute reciprocity, is the basis of this measure. We claim that we should be treated in the same manner by other countries as they would like us to treat them. When these White Paper proposals were made, no doubt His Majesty's Government was well aware of the fact that this legislation provided a scheme of reciprocity. At the same time, it must be remembered that when we referred the provisions of this Bill to the Select Committee, we were equally well aware, as the Government were, what the White Paper proposals were, because those proposals were published before the motion to refer the Bill to Select Committee was passed by the House. I do realise, Sir, our constitutional position. I cannot deny the right of His Majesty's Government and the British Parliament to pass any legislation that they may think proper, but I do say this much, that, on the question of reciprocity, we are all at one, the whole country is behind us, in holding that we will not be prepared to accept any scheme which does not confer on us absolute reciprocity. We are not prepared to accept that, and I would like to inform the Government Members, and, through them, His Majesty's Government, that they should take note of the fact that we in this country are absolutely determined to have absolute reciprocity in this matter without which, Sir, this Bill is not worth the paper on which it is written. After all, the Provincial Governments, who were consulted in this matter, laid stress on the fact that there should be absolute reciprocity if the provisions of the Bill were to be of any use at all, and the Madras Government in particular has drawn pointed attention to the fact that if you do not give effect to the recommendations of the Simla

Commission, where they claim absolute reciprocity from the day on which the Act is to come into existence, they would rather have the Bill dropped. What did the Select Committee do? They did not go even the length to which the Madras Government was prepared to go. The Select Committee did realise that if tomorrow we insist upon absolute reciprocity, there may be difficulty to people actually following the profession here now who possess European degrees and other foreign degrees, because those men will have to be disqualified for want of simultaneous treatment forthcoming from those countries, and, therefore, a period of four years was given. That was the most reasonable thing that we on the floor of this House could do, and that was done. I need not dilate on the point raised by my friend, Mr. Jog, about the licentiates. Honourable Members are perfectly well aware that when we accepted the motion to refer this Bill to the Select Committee, this Assembly accepted one principle, and that principle was accepted, whether rightly or wrongly. And what was that principle? To provide an All-India Register and Council for higher medical education. I am not going into the question whether the Assembly was right in making it the principle, but that was the principle of the Bill, which was accepted, and, therefore, owing to the limitation placed upon the members of the Select Committee, they had to follow that principle which was accepted by the House, whether any in the Committee approved of it or not. Therefore, when the question of the Register has been dropped absolutely, I think all that could be done had been done so far as the status and recognition of the licentiates were concerned. More cannot be expected under the circumstances. Sir, I have done.

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I wish to say a few words at this stage, and, in doing so, I shall be as brief as possible. Honourable Members of the House might remember that at the Second Reading of the Bill, I said that the Council, as it was originally proposed to be constituted, would be a packed body of officials. Of course, certain alterations have been made in the Select Committee. But, Sir, I am not yet satisfied. You will find four classes of members according to clause 3 of the Bill. The first is : "one member from each Governor's Province, to be nominated by the Local Government of the province." It is obvious that members who are nominated by Local Governments would be officials. The second class of members is dealt with in clause 3 (1) (b) which says : "one member from each British Indian University, to be elected by the members of the Senate of the University from amongst the members of the Medical Faculty of the University." On the face of it, it looks all right, but, further down, if you look at sub-clause (3) of clause 5, it is stated :

"No person shall be eligible for election under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 unless he has had at least four years' experience as a Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer or Reader in Medical Colleges or Schools."

That means that at least, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, no non-official member will come in. You know that in the Presidency from which we come there are no private medical institutions. All the Medical Schools and Colleges are owned by the Government, and naturally it is only Government servants that are engaged there for the purpose of teaching. No non-official medical practitioner,

[Mr. K. P. Thampan.]

however efficient he may be, is allowed to do any kind of teaching in those schools or colleges. So far as Madras is concerned, with which I am familiar, I am certain, there are no private medical practitioners coming under clause 3 (1) (b). The effect of that would be that men like the late Dr. Nair, who was a distinguished medical practitioner, would have no chance of coming into the Medical Council. There are distinguished men like Dr. Rangachariar, Dr. Guruswami and others who are acknowledged experts in surgery and other branches of medical science, but so long as they have no teaching experience they will have no place here according to these provisions. That is an aspect of the matter against which I must enter my emphatic protest. The third class of members of the Council is dealt with in (c) of clause 3 (1), and it lays down "one member from each province where a Provincial Medical Register is maintained". Probably some people elected under this clause may be non-official medical practitioners, but one cannot be certain about that also. The last class is dealt with in (d): "three members to be nominated by the Governor General in Council". They are sure to be officials.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Why ?

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Because Government have their own purpose to serve and there is a brotherhood among the service. I am, therefore, afraid that the Bill, inspite of the changes made in the Select Committee, aims again to create a packed body of officials. It does not at all liberalise the constitution. Further, sub-clause (2) of clause 4 says :

"Where any dispute arises regarding any election to the Council, it shall be referred to the Local Government whose decision shall be final."

Generally, in all elections, such disputes are referred to a special tribunal consisting of people who have got some kind of judicial experience. Here it is entrusted purely to the Local Government. That, again, aims at entrusting such matters into the hands of officials, and, naturally, as our experience tells us, the chances are, whenever there is a dispute between an official and a non-official, the Local Government will prefer only the official. So, on the whole, I am afraid that it is not a very happy constitution which is provided in this Bill. One does not feel any enthusiasm over it. So much with regard to the constitution.

It ill becomes one to criticise the details of a measure on which there has been a unanimous agreement in the Select Committee. I will not, therefore, raise any new issues at these stage, but I must say one word with reference to the lack of any specific provision for the fund for defraying the expenses of this Medical Council. I am told the cost of this Medical Council would be about Rs. 60,000, and it has to be taken for granted that the general taxpayer.....

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands) : Will the Madras Government be willing to pay ?

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Did the Honourable Member consult the Madras Government or the Madras University ? I want a categorical answer.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No.

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Both education and medicine are Provincial matters and if you ask, they may probably give. Apart from that, I am very much against the taxpayer being mulcted with these expenses. In the first place, as long as the step-motherly treatment that the Government have been giving to the Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine is continued, I am against making any distinction in favour of allopathic system of treatment. The Unani and Ayurvedic systems are indigenous systems and more suitable to the conditions of the country, but, on account of the neglect of the Government, they have very much deteriorated. As a matter of fact, no progress has been made during the last three or four centuries. On the other hand, the allopathic system, belonging as it does to the ruling class here, is given every kind of patronage and encouragement. That is an objectionable thing, and I am against making any contribution from the general taxes for the allopathic system of treatment. Further, this Bill benefits only a few students who go for higher studies to England. The proper body to foot the bill is, therefore, the University, and I trust that Universities and Local Governments will not be indifferent in this matter.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : University's money is taxpayer's money.

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Not entirely ; they have their own resources such as examination fees, endowments, etc. There are a few other minor matters also which have to be remedied. Sir, you will find I have given notice of relevant amendments in connection with these aspects, but, as I said, the matter being one on which an unanimous agreement was arrived at in the Select Committee, I do not want to sound a discordant note. They can be amended afterwards in the light of the experience we gain by working the Act for some time.

(At this stage, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain rose in his seat to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Will the Honourable Member finish in five minutes, or would he prefer to speak after Lunch ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I may take about ten minutes,—not more than that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Sir Fazl-i-Husain.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I very much appreciate the spirit in which today's debate has been conducted. The House has very successfully entered into the spirit in which the Select Committee set to work and achieved the result—an agreed report. Various explanations have been given of the way in which this result was achieved. All the explanations given up till now are very wide of the mark, and I should not like the House to remain under any misapprehension as to the real cause. The real cause is this. This legislation has been in hand for the last four years. It was opposed by provinces, by the profession and by non-official bodies. There was no one really who stood for it except perhaps the Department which was responsible for it four years ago. Then, how is it that we have arrived at an agreed report and a report which the House has honoured by treating as an agreed report acceptable

[Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

to it, and possibly without subjecting it to amendments. I must confess that it has been entirely due to my weakness. Seeing the stalwarts of the Opposition ranged against me in the Select Committee, there was no course open for me but to retire all along the line and the result has been an agreed report. That is an achievement of which one cannot be very proud, but still it is much better to tell the truth rather than take credit for something which one has not done. For instance, the Opposition were very keen that the Council shall not have a nominated President. I had to give way and say : " All right, have your way ". They were very keen that they shall have direct representation of the medical graduates to the Council. I felt that that was not the correct thing to do, but, under pressure, I gave way again. Again I felt that representatives of the Medical Faculty should be elected by the Faculty. They again pressed hard and said, the Senate shall elect. I again gave way.

Mr. B. Sitaramaraju : Did you give anything more than what you gave in your last speech ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I gave nothing away in my speech. I never make speeches to give away anything. In my speech I only tried to explain matters. However, Sir, this is a story of surrender from point to point, but, when I make that confession, I further wish to add that I am not ashamed of it. I felt that the object I had in mind was also the object which Honourable Members opposite had in mind. With that identity of object, we had just to modify the usual principle of give and take by my giving and their taking. Still I think the result is on the whole not unsatisfactory. The measure which will be passed with the unanimous support of the non-official section of this House stands a much better chance of making a success of itself than would have been the case, had I resisted these amendments and carried them by a majority. It was not worth it and that was really the reason how I justified to myself this retreat all along the line. The object of the Bill is efficiency at home and honour abroad. (Applause.) We want our medical institutions to be run efficiently, to be run in a way as to attract scholars of medicine from abroad, if not in all subjects, at all events in some subjects. Given that efficiency at home, is there any reason why we should not command honour abroad ? I am sure, Sir, we will.

Something has been said about the vexed question of licentiates. Let me once more give an assurance to the House that there is no one in the House more anxious to make sure that the licentiate education is on a sound basis than myself. And why ? Because, licentiates deal with a much larger section of the Indian population than graduates do ; and no one would be true to his duty who did not make sure that their instruction was as high as the circumstances would permit, and that those who rendered this service to such a large section of Indian people would be placed in as good and honourable a position as circumstances permitted. I will not detain the House by reviewing the speeches made this morning. I am sure, my friend, Dr. Ziauddin's observations will be read with great interest by Provincial Governments so far as their administration of hospitals and colleges is concerned and I have no doubt that scholars interested in education generally will benefit by his observations. As to the desire to improve the lot of the licentiates, I think I have made Government's position clear. As regards my friend, Mr. Thampan's ideas

about finances, I may remind him that when we made an inquiry from the Madras Government as to whether they would be prepared to tell us what form their co-operation will take as to the inquiry to be made into the education of licentiates, they expressed readiness to co-operate with us fully provided it was clearly understood that if finances were involved in the matter the Government of India would pay. That does not strike me as very hopeful. As to Mr. Thampan's suggestion that, in the matter of inspections, they will be willing to contribute....

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Both are different matters.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Quite so, and I can assure the House that under the very very vigilant financial supervision of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, if we can make even a pice out of a province, we seldom fail to make an effort. So his view point is quite safe. To conclude, I very much appreciate the observations made by Mr. Sitaramaraju as to the constitutional position and the jurisdiction of the Joint Select Committee over it. The House has felt that the Bill has been under consideration for a long time, that it meets what the House considers are the just and fair requirements of the case and would proceed with it. Let us hope that it receives the careful consideration of the Joint Select Committee and the essential principles of the Bill meet with their approval. There may be principles which the British Parliament may feel called upon to alter and we all know they have a right to do so and we cannot question that right. Sir, once more, expressing my gratitude to the House for the kindly reception it has given to this measure which, in the past, has been so very contentious, I venture to express the hope that it may secure the object we have all in view—efficiency at home and honourable recognition abroad.

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

“ That the Bill to establish a Medical Council in India and to provide for the maintenance of a British Indian Medical Register, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Five Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That at the end of sub-clause (1) of clause 16 of the Bill, the following be added :

‘ inspectors appointed under this clause shall be persons having experience of University administration but not actively engaged in teaching in any university ’.”

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I hope my Honourable friend will see his way not to press his amendment. If my Honourable friend will see sub-clause (k) of clause 18, he will find that the Council is going to regulate such matters as appointment, powers, duties and procedure of medical inspectors, under the rules. I have no doubt that they will consider the suggestion of my Honourable friend.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the assurance given by my Honourable friend I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I have got an amendment to this clause. It is really not an amendment, but an explanation. Really speaking, the courses of study always include hospital practice, but this question was doubted in one University and, therefore, I thought I had better put it explicitly. But if the Honourable Member will say explicitly that the course of instructions would include hospital practice, then I would not move my amendment.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I must say.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member does not move his amendment, but he wants some explanation from Government before he makes up his mind as to whether he will move it or not.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The course of study in the Universities does include hospital work.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the assurance, I do not propose to move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department) : I beg to move :

“ That in sub-clause (1) of clause 18 of the Bill, item (f) be omitted and the remaining items be re-lettered accordingly.”

Sir, in the Bill, as it is now before the House, item (f) of sub-clause 18 runs : “ The conduct of business of Provincial Committees ”. The Provincial Committees were provided for by clause 11 of the Bill as introduced, but that clause was struck out by the Select Committee and this, Sir, is accordingly a consequential amendment.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : 'The question is that clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19, 20, and the First and Second Schedules were added to the Bill.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I have got an amendment to the First Schedule. Really I did not want to move the amendment, but only I want to draw the attention to irregularities in our University.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member will have a later opportunity to make a speech.

The question is that clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* DRAFT CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE AGE FOR ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO NON-INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That this Assembly having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Sixteenth Session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation.”

Sir, in the course of the discussion on the Pledging of Child Labour Bill, I put forward the proposition that, where children were concerned, all the Members of this House were Members for Labour. That proposition received such general support from all sections of the House that the House will, I am sure, sympathise with me in the position in which I find myself today in asking it to recommend to the Governor General in Council that it should not ratify a Convention, the underlying motive of which is the amelioration of the lot of children. I trust I shall be able to convince the House that there are compelling reasons why I have to bring forward this motion.

I am not sure whether the House remembers that, in September last, my Department circulated to all its Members the report prepared by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee, who represented the Government of India at the 16th Session of the International Labour

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

Conference, on the proceedings of that Conference. Probably very few Honourable Members have brought copies of the reports with them, and I have here a few copies which I am prepared to pass on to any one interested in this subject. I have also had circulated,—I think Honourable Members will find them in their places,—copies of Article 1 and Article 9 of the Convention with which we are primarily concerned.

Sir, I think it will facilitate the discussion of this motion if I indicate very briefly how this Convention came to take its present form. When the proposals first came before the Government of India, they very naturally consulted the Local Governments about them and the replies they got went to confirm their own provisional view that it would probably not be possible for India to go very far in the direction suggested. However, they were very anxious, if possible, to meet the Conference half way and they therefore instructed their delegates to press for certain special conditions for India. There are only two of these with which I need trouble the House now. The first was that the age limit contemplated for the Convention should be reduced to 10. The Conference was contemplating an age limit of 14 years below which the employment of children in non-industrial occupations should be prohibited. We suggested that, in the special circumstances of India, it should be reduced to 10. I wish to remind the House at this stage that this Convention applies solely to the employment of children in non-industrial occupations. Our second suggestion, which was a much more important one, was that, as far as India was concerned the Convention should only apply to certain specified occupations. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra put our case very forcibly before the Committee preliminary to the Conference which was considering these proposals and, as this House will remember, he can argue a case very forcibly. It received support from a very valuable,—I will not say unexpected,—quarter, that of Mons. Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labour Office. I am sure the House will share the regret expressed in the report by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee that, shortly after this Conference was over, Mons. Thomas died. In him, the International Labour Office lost, as Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee said, a valuable public servant, one who combined idealism with a very practical turn of mind. India also lost a good friend for, throughout his connection with the International Labour Office, he had shown sympathetic co-operation and a very keen understanding of our special problems. He brought that practical turn of mind of his to bear on the proposals submitted by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and Sir Atul Chatterjee and warned the Committee that their only hope of securing India's ratification of the Convention was to accept those proposals. The Committee did so, but unfortunately, when their recommendations came before the full Conference, they were met with a certain amount of criticism and different proposals were put forward in regard to India by a lady from Spain. How much she knew about India I am not able to say, but it would seem that the Conference was carried away by her eloquence, and in spite of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra's protests, her proposals were carried by a small majority. In the result, the Indian Government delegates and the Indian Employers' delegate—you, Sir, whose support I should have been glad to have on the floor of the House now,—naturally found themselves unable to support the Convention with their votes. I should add

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that, in this attitude, they were supported by a number of other Government delegates including the Government delegates from Great Britain and from Japan.

Now, Sir, I turn to the text of the Convention itself. As I have already pointed out to the House, the Articles with which we are really concerned are Articles 1 and 9. Article 1 merely defines the scope of the Convention and indicates that it applies to non-industrial employment. Article 9 is the important one. If the House will turn to Article 9, they will find that it is proposed that in India three things should be done. In the first place and the most important, it lays down that all children below 10 should be excluded from all non-industrial employment. It lays down, in the second place, that older children should be excluded from certain street occupations and also from itinerant trading; and it lays down, in the third place, that children should be excluded from occupations involving certain dangers to life, health and morals. It is on the first of these stipulations that I would ask the House to concentrate its attention. If we adopt this Convention, all children under 10 will be excluded from all non-industrial occupations. Now, Sir, I would ask the House to consider in what non-industrial occupations children below 10 can be employed. Possibly some Members of the House may be able to throw light on the subject but, as far as I know, there are very few of them and I can only think of tennis *chokras* and golf caddies. The only really important occupation in which any child below the age of ten is likely to be employed is domestic service. My Honourable friend, Mr. Clow, reminds me that agriculture is excluded,—it is regarded for this purpose as an industrial occupation. As I was saying, the only really important occupation in which children below 10 are likely to be employed is domestic service, and I would ask the House how, if we adopt this Convention, we are going to enforce it. What sort of staff should we want? How are we going to find out whether children below 10 are employed or not, without a host of inspectors and inquisitorial inspection? I submit, Sir, that it is absolutely out of the question to enforce the Convention and that is the position I place before the House. Even if it were possible to do anything in this direction, I would remind the House that there are other and much more important questions which demand our first consideration. The House will remember that the Royal Commission on Labour specially investigated the case of children working in non-regulated factories. They drew an extremely lurid picture of the evils to which children are subjected in factories in which carpet weaving, the manufacture of *bidis* and mica splitting is carried on, and they suggested that the first step to be taken should be to exclude children under 10 from that kind of workshop and to limit the hours of older children. The House knows that I and my department have a big task before us in the coming months in piloting the Factories Bill safely through this House. As soon as we have finished that, I hope successfully, we propose to turn our attention to the non-regulated factories. They are going to be an extremely difficult proposition and it will take us some time to work out a satisfactory measure for dealing with them. I submit to the House therefore that they should occupy the first place in our attention and that they should also occupy the first place in the Local Governments' attention. We are not justified in asking the Local Governments to employ a staff to deal with abuses in regard to children in non-industrial employment before we deal with the far more urgent case of children in industrial employment in non-regulated fac-

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

ories. I trust, Sir, that I have convinced the House that I had no option but to bring forward this motion today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That this Assembly having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Sixteenth Session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation.”

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Sir, I can see the mood of the House at just the fag end of the Session, but this is a sort of trust which I have accepted. As you will probably see from the amendment that stands in the joint name of Mr. Joshi and myself, this is the child or joint creation of the two of us, and, in the absence of Mr. Joshi, I for one am not prepared to withdraw it. However, the House cannot expect me to treat this child with the same affection with which probably my friend, Mr. Joshi, would have done—but I must do some justice to the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Will the Honourable Member move his amendment ?

Mr. S. G. Jog : Sir, I move :

“ That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added :

‘ but, at the same time, recommends that the Governor General-in-Council should take steps to give effect to the proposals contained in the amendment proposed by Sir B. N. Mitra, Government of India’s Chief Delegate at the Sixteenth Session of the International Labour Conference ’.”

Generally, the Government come before this House for ratification of Conventions ; and, at times, they come before the House with a proposal that such and such a thing should not be ratified. Government are both consistent and inconsistent many times. In this particular case Government say that this Convention should not be ratified by India. Before this matter came before the International Labour Conference, questionnaires were issued to the Government of India—I will not tire the House by reading all the questions and answers by the Government of India—but on the whole the attitude of the Government of India, so far as age was concerned, was really very sympathetic ; and, as a matter of fact, when the matter came up before the Conference, the Leader of the Delegation, in consultation and in agreement with you, Sir, moved an amendment which for the information of the House I will read, so that they can understand what the amendment was and to what extent the Government of India were prepared to go ; and now they want to go back behind the position which their own delegates took in the Conference there. As partial ratification of a Convention is not permitted by the Treaty of Versailles, Sir B. N. Mitra, on behalf of the Government, in agreement with Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, the Indian Employers’ delegate, moved the following amendment at Geneva :

“ The provisions of Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Convention shall not apply to India but in India—

(1) Children under ten years of age shall not be employed—

(a) in shops, offices, hotels, restaurants and places for the sale of drink,

(b) in places of public entertainment,

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(c) in street trading,

(d) in any other non-industrial employment to which the provisions of paragraph one of this article may be extended by the competent authority :

Provided that in the interests of art, science or education, national laws or regulations may, by permits in individual cases, allow exceptions to the above provisions in order to enable children to appear on the stage, in cinematographic films and in other public entertainments.

The minimum age prescribed under this article shall not be less than that laid down in National Laws or Regulations as the minimum age for the admission of children into factories not using power, and which are not subject to the provisions of the Indian Factories Act.

- (2) Persons under fourteen years of age shall not be employed in any non-industrial employment which the competent authority after consultation with the principal organisations of employers and workers may declare to involve danger to health or morals.
- (3) National laws or regulations shall provide for the due enforcement of the provisions of this article and in particular shall provide penalties for breaches of the laws or regulations by which effect is given to the provisions of this article.
- (4) The competent authority shall, after a period of 5 years from the date of passing of legislation giving effect to the provisions of this Convention, review the whole position with a view to increase the minimum ages prescribed in this Convention."

This amendment was lost in the plenary session of the Conference, but at any rate it gives an idea of the attitude of the delegates of India so far as the minimum age in non-industrial occupations is concerned. When this matter came up before the Council of State for discussion, the Honourable Mr. Clow said :

"The reason, which prevents the Government of India from ratifying the Convention, is the administrative difficulty in the way of enforcing a Convention which, in its scope as defined in Article 1, includes all employment not dealt with in the three age-of-employment Conventions adopted by the 1919, 1920 and 1921 Sessions of the International Labour Conference."

By way of illustration of Government's practical difficulties, Mr. Clow pointed out that the Convention included children in domestic service, and if India were to ratify the Convention in its present form, the inspection services of the Government would have to be increased to an extent, and expenditure entailed, beyond the resources of the Government. At the same time, he admitted—on the admission of the representatives of the Government of India at the Sixteenth International Labour Conference, that there are however, no such insurmountable administrative difficulties in the way of the enforcement of the Convention, if provision is made in it, so far as India is concerned, to specify the occupations in which the minimum age principle should be applied, instead of laying down that the Convention is to cover all children not covered by the minimum age Conventions of 1919-21, but, as partial ratification was not considered practicable, this amendment was not moved.

Further, Sir, the Government have not brought forth any excuses on financial grounds. Whenever they do not want to do a thing or shirk their responsibility, they always bring up a number of difficulties, but whenever they are inclined to do a thing, financial difficulties never come in the way. This is the attitude the Government generally take. As regards the partial ratification or giving effect to such Conventions, if the Government have any difficulty, I for one think that such difficulties can be solved. I am told that on previous occasions when any labour Conven-

[Mr. S. G. Jog.]

tion used to be discussed in the Assembly, the Government rejected that Convention, but announced that they were prepared to give practical effect to the declarations made at Geneva by their delegates. Therefore, I suggest that although it might not be possible to give full effect to the Convention, still, taking into consideration the special circumstances of India, it might just be possible to give effect to the suggestions to which the delegates of the Government of India were prepared to go, and include some such suggestions in their proposals regarding the restrictions on age. At least it is time that we made a beginning ; if we cannot include all occupations, we ought to include such occupations where this Convention might advantageously be used. Sir, I make these suggestions, and I hope that the Government will give effect to their own suggestions and will not shirk their responsibility which they have themselves accepted in the International Conference. Sir, I commend my amendment for acceptance by this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added :

‘ but, at the same time, recommends that the Governor General-in-Council should take steps to give effect to the proposals contained in the amendment proposed by Sir B. N. Mitra, Government of India’s Chief Delegate at the Sixteenth Session of the International Labour Conference ’.”

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support this amendment. While this Convention lays down 14 years as the age limit for admission in respect of children of other countries, they make an exception in favour of India and fix the age limit at 10 years. When the question was being discussed in the International Labour Conference, the Workers’ delegates were opposed to this exception being made in favour of India. It was only to accommodate the Government of India with a view to facilitating ratification of the Convention by India that the Conference went out of its way and incorporated Article IX and fixed the age limit for India at 10 years. As the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce has pointed out, Mr. Albert Thomas took the unusual course of attending the Committee meeting and persuaded the Committee to accept this amendment, because, he said, that that was the only chance of getting India to make the ratification. You, Sir, were the Employers’ delegate when this question was discussed, and, with your permission, I should like to read out from your own speech which you made on that occasion. This is what you said, Sir :

“ I made it plain in the Committee, and let me reiterate with all the emphasis that I command in this conference, that in the consideration of this question of ameliorating the condition of the children of my country, the Indian employers yield to no working class representative in this conference. Purely from the humanitarian point of view, I should like to see the children of my country enjoying the same measure of protection as the children of every other civilized country in the world. Happily for us, this is one of those subjects in which the conflict between the employer and the worker can be reduced to an absolute minimum. When we consider the social legislation embodied in the various Conventions that come before this Conference, there naturally arises a great conflict between the points of view of the employer and the worker. But I maintain, Mr. President, that (at least in India) in the consideration of this problem, the Indian employer will not yield to the worker of any country in his desire to protect and ameliorate the conditions in his country.”

My only regret is, Sir, that you are not on the floor of the House to espouse the cause of the children of this country. But, as you very

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rightly pointed out, this is one of the rare occasions on which the employers and the workers are in agreement, and yet the Government of India refuse to ratify this Convention. I think this Convention has been welcomed as the Children's Charter, and this humanitarian measure, I am surprised to find, the Government of India are not willing to ratify. They are trying to resile from the position they had actually taken up when the questionnaire was sent out by the International Labour Office. On that occasion, the Government of India showed a very conciliatory and a very reasonable attitude.

Now, I will examine the provisions of this Article in the light of the reply that was sent by the Government of India, and show to this House that this Convention, in all essentials, is based on the reply of the Government of India. The only Article that deals with India is Article IX, and that Article says :

“ Clause 1. The employment of children under 10 shall be prohibited ”. *This is what the Government of India say in their reply to the questionnaire :—*“ If a general age limit is prescribed in a Draft Convention, it should not exceed 10 years for India.”

It is entirely in accordance with the reply sent out by the Government of India that this clause has been drafted.

Then, Sir, there is the proviso with regard to arts, science and education making an exception, and that proviso was moved by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra himself in the Committee and in the Conference.

Then, Sir, there is another proviso which says :

“ Should the age for the admission of children to factories not using power which are not subject to the Indian Factories Act be fixed by national laws or regulations at an age exceeding 10, the age so prescribed for admission to such factories shall be substituted for the age of ten for the purpose of this paragraph.”

This was the amendment that you yourself moved, Sir, in the Committee and that amendment was accepted by the Committee.

Then, there is clause 2, which is also in entire agreement with the views expressed by the Government of India, and it was moved by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra himself. This is how the clause stands :

“ Persons under fourteen years of age shall not be employed in any non-industrial employment which the competent authority, after consultation with the principal organizations of employers and workers concerned, may declare to involve danger to life, health or morals.”

This is exactly what the Government of India recommended, and their reply to the questionnaire is given at page 118, and this is what they say :

“ The employment of children in occupations which are dangerous in character or likely to be injurious to their health or morals should be entirely prohibited. But it should be left to the competent authority in each country to determine what occupations are dangerous in character or likely to be injurious to the health or morals of children. A specific list of such occupations should not be incorporated in a Draft Convention.

A special minimum age would appear to be desirable. If the general minimum for India is fixed at 10, the special minimum age should be 14, which may be raised at the discretion of the competent authority.”

These replies, Sir, and the Government of India's reply are in agreement.

Then, Sir, there is another clause, clause 3, which gives power to the Government of India to raise the age from 10 to 14 if they consider it necessary.

[Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury.]

Clause 4 deals with the question of enforcement, and it has been left to the competent authority in each country to deal with the matter as they think best, and this clause was also moved by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and was accepted by the Conference.

Then, Sir, there is the fifth clause which you yourself moved, and that clause says :

“ The competent authority shall, after a period of five years from the date of passing of legislation giving effect to the provisions of this Convention, review the whole position with a view to increasing the minimum age prescribed in this Convention, such review to cover the whole of the provisions of this Article.”

I do not find any difference in the replies given here and that given by the Government of India, and, therefore, I do not understand why they should resile from the position they had taken up. The only objection raised against it is in regard to the enforcement of this Convention. Sir, I do not minimise the difficulties of enforcing this Convention, but if any one recognises that there is a difficulty, that should not stand in the way of giving legislative effect to these Conventions, because I quite admit that this Convention cannot be enforced in the sense that every violation of this Convention shall be followed by prosecution. But, Sir, that is a characteristic which is common to all social legislation. We have got our Factories Act, and I think my friend, Mr. Clow, will agree with me that every infringement of the Factories Act is not followed by a prosecution. We have got the Workmen's Compensation Act, and I do not think that every victim of an accident gets the compensation to which he is legally entitled. In many cases the claims are not preferred at all. We have got the Sarda Act also, and there many instances, in which the provisions of that Act are violated and such cases are not followed by a prosecution. I maintain, Sir, that the main object of this social legislation lies in its educative value, in the restraining influence that it exercises,—because it operates as a check ; but it is a step forward in social progress notwithstanding all that, the Government of India do not seem to move in this matter.

With regard to the amendment of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, just as my friend, Mr. Jog, read out in the House, he enumerated certain categories of workers who were to be specified in the Convention, and that was agreed to in the Committee. When it came before the Conference, just as the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce has pointed out, Mrs. Palencia, a Spanish Workers' Delegate, moved an amendment that, instead of specifying the category of worker, there should be a general prohibition and that amendment was accepted by the Conference. Because the Conference accepted her amendment, there is no reason why the Government of India should go back upon their own recommendation. If they are not going to ratify this Convention, they should at least give us an assurance that they are prepared to go as far as they went in their reply or as far as the amendment moved by Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : (The Honourable Member spoke in the vernacular.)

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal : European) : Sir, after the very clear statement made by the Member in charge, there is very little for me to say with regard to the Resolution before the House. As regards the

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amendment, I have every sympathy with it, and I would be prepared to support it if the wording were slightly different.

The Mover of the amendment says : " take steps to give effect to the proposals contained in the amendment proposed....". That might not be feasible after the question was thoroughly examined. Had the wording been, " proposals on the lines contained ", I should have supported the amendment. The idea of the Mover is perfectly right, but I should not like to be a party to tying the hands, even though this is only a recommendation, of the Government to the proposals actually contained in the amendment of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra. If I remember rightly, this was discussed in a Committee of which I was a member, and, in discussing the details of Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra's amendment, we came to the conclusion that the administrative and financial difficulties would be enormous and we could not possibly light-heartedly agree to the ratification of the Convention. The department has got its hands full at the moment with the Factories Act, and the Honourable Member in Charge has given an assurance that after that Bill is, I hope, successfully passed by this Assembly, the question of this child labour in non-industrial employment will be taken up and I feel perfectly certain.....

Mr. A. G. Clow (Government of India : Nominated Official) : May I correct the Honourable Member ? That was not the assurance at all. The assurance related to children in industrial employment in non-regulated factories, not to children in non-industrial employment.

Mr. G. Morgan : Still I have every sympathy with the idea underlying this amendment. Nobody wants to see child labour exploited in any country, nor do we want to see young children working long hours and in industries which are unsuitable for persons of tender age. That is the last thing anybody wants. In America, they have taken steps already to do away with child labour on certain lines. The amelioration of the lot of children in regulated factories is receiving our attention, and that of children in non-regulated factories must receive attention as soon as the Department has time to consider the subject. With regard to the amendment which has been moved, I regret that I cannot support it in the actual wording in which it is couched, but if the Honourable the Mover would accept the words " on the lines contained ", I should be very glad to support the amendment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I thought, after the lucid speech and the clear and convincing arguments of my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, Mr. Jog would not come forward with his amendment. I think the greatest argument in support of this Resolution is that even our Labour Department which is so liberal in labour legislation opposes this particular recommendation. As regards the argument brought forward by my friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, I say, that I would have supported his suggestion wholeheartedly if there had been compulsory education in this country. But, unfortunately, our children have no schools to attend. They have no occupation at all, and if you legislate that they should not have any occupation, I think we will be unfair to our children and we shall be really forcing them to spend their time in unhealthy surroundings and idleness and become bad citizens of our country. With these words, I support the original motion moved by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : Mr. President, I would only like to mention two things about this matter. The first is to rebut the statement made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, that the present Government, in their labour legislation, are very slow. As a matter of fact, I may say that the Government of India, on their labour side, are regarded by some people in this country as perhaps the most revolutionary Government in the world.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury : I said in this particular instance. I never said, as a general proposition.

Mr. F. E. James : I do not think that it will be accepted even in this particular instance. I may inform the House that, in certain circles of this Assembly, there is a well-known rhyme which describes the situation graphically ; I am sorry that Mr. Joshi is not here to hear it. The rhyme is :

“ Joshi had a little lamb
Whose name was Mr. Clow ;
And everywhere that Joshi went
The lamb was sure to go.”

I suggest, Sir, that it does not give the indication that the Government are behind most other civilized Governments in connection with labour legislation. But there is one point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Mr. Jog and that is in connection with the nature of the conventions which are passed at these International Labour Conferences. As my Honourable friend no doubt knows, these Conventions are International agreements under the peace treaties which must be applied to all Governments that have ratified them. Yet a Convention does not necessarily remain inoperative unless it is ratified. Certain countries, for example, have not yet ratified some of the most important Conventions that have been passed. I may mention as an illustration the 8-hour Convention which was passed at Washington and which many countries have not yet ratified ; and yet those very countries have been greatly influenced in their legislation by the existence of that Convention.

Mr. S. G. Jog : That is exactly my point.

Mr. F. E. James : I am again in agreement with my Honourable friend. I suggest to him that the non-ratification by this Legislature of this Convention does necessarily mean that the underlying principles of this Convention will remain for all time inoperative in this country. I would have been glad, like my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, to have supported his amendment, if it had been worded in a somewhat different form. I suggest to him that if Government give him an assurance that they will examine very carefully the proposals contained in the amendment of the High Commissioner at Geneva, he should withdraw this particular amendment. If, however, he presses his amendment, it will have the unfortunate effect of driving some of us to vote against him. We do not feel that we can tie the Government down to a promise of this legislation. Government will be in the position of every other Government if they are not able to ratify this Convention ; they will have a free hand. So long as the present Member of the Industries and Labour Department holds his office, I am quite sure that this point will be given the most careful attention. Therefore, I would suggest that my Honourable friend should with-

draw his amendment and allow the House to vote on the main proposition.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Sir, I have no special fascination for any particular form of my amendment. I am quite prepared to alter it as suggested by my friend, Mr. James, and, if the Government come forward with some hopeful assurance, I will be inclined to withdraw my amendment.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Sir, I must profess to a feeling of considerable surprise that this amendment should have been brought forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Jog. He has charged the Government with inconsistency in this matter and in labour matters generally. His memory seems to be shorter even than that of Government. I should like to refer the House to what he said during the discussion on the Pledging of Child Labour Bill. He said :

“ At the time when this Bill was introduced I had an occasion to talk on this measure and even at that time I gave a warning that they were rather going too fast so far as the welfare of children is concerned.”

Mr. S. G. Jog : The Government are stationary ; they must move.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : We have accepted Mr. Jog's advice ; we are not going too fast in this matter and he is the first to cast a stone at us for doing so. I much regret that it is not possible for me to accept the amendment even in the modified form in which my friend, Mr. Morgan, would like it recast. It seems to me that there may be some misapprehension in the minds of some Members of this House as to what it is exactly that we are dealing with. I thought I may make it quite clear that we are dealing with non-industrial employment not with employment in factories. The position of the Government of India is that this question is neither urgent nor important. They were prepared to co-operate in securing an international agreement, and if their amendments had been accepted, they would have been willing to discuss the question with Local Governments with a view to the adoption of the Convention, if possible. Their efforts at compromise were rejected. I submit that when we go half-way and the other side does not meet us half-way, we are discharged from any obligation. I think the House knows me well enough to know that I am behind no one in my desire to ameliorate the lot of children and it is just for that reason that I object to this amendment. I would submit that our first duty lies to the children in non-regulated factories, children who are engaged in splitting rice, carpet weaving and making *bidis*. Until we have dealt with them, I submit that it is merely window dressing to legislate for the children in non-industrial employment. We have quite enough to do. We have to utilise all the energy and resources that we and the Local Governments have to solve the question of factory labour and of labour in non-regulated factories. The only assurance I can give to the House and I give that assurance gladly is that when we have got these two major problems out of the way, then we will examine this question further and see what can be done. Further than that, I regret, I am unable to go, and, I hope that will be sufficient to satisfy my Honourable friend, Mr. Jog.

Mr. S. G. Jog : I am satisfied with the assurance given by the Honourable Member in charge which, I think, is quite enough for the time being. Therefore, I feel inclined to withdraw my amendment.

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

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is that the following Resolution be adopted :

“ That this Assembly having considered the Draft Convention and Recommendation concerning the age for admission of children to non-industrial employment adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Sixteenth Session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation.”

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE AMENDMENT OF RULE RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department) : Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name, which runs as follows :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General-in-Council that Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules should be amended so as to provide that when the duration of the Legislative Assembly is extended beyond the period of three years fixed by section 65-D (1) of the Government of India Act, a new Committee on Public Accounts shall be constituted at the end of the said period of three years and shall be subject to all the existing provisions of rule 51 relating to the constitution of the Committee on Public Accounts.”

Sir, Honourable Members, who are or who have been members of the Public Accounts Committee, will be aware of the purpose of this Resolution. Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, as it now stands, contemplates an arrangement by which changes are effected in the personnel of the members of the Public Accounts Committee from year to year. But, Sir, that provision automatically comes to an end at the conclusion of the third year of the life of the Assembly. The result is that if the life of the Assembly is extended by the Governor General, there is no provision for bringing new blood into the Public Accounts Committee. Sir, Members of this House are well aware that a message was received from His Excellency the Governor General in Delhi on the 6th March intimating that it was his intention to extend the life of the present Assembly. That being so, the question arose as to what action we should take in respect of rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules. It appeared to us that there were three ways of dealing with this question, but as Honourable Members have not for the most part got copies of the rules in their hands, I do not propose to trouble them with all these three ways. The Public Accounts Committee were consulted and they definitely prefer the proposal which we now put before the House which is that in January next we should proceed as if we were a new Assembly and should elect a new Public Accounts Committee and the result will be that rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules will then apply and, should the life of the Assembly be extended beyond the year, the necessary proportion of elected Members will retire as they do now at the conclusion of the first year of the life of the Legislative Assembly. Sir, I move.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : This is also a recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee unanimously passed during the last meeting. So I support this motion.

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Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : (The Honourable Member, speaking in the vernacular, supported the Resolution.)

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

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General-in-Council that Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules should be amended so as to provide that when the duration of the Legislative Assembly is extended beyond the period of three years fixed by section 63-D (1) of the Government of India Act, a new Committee on Public Accounts shall be constituted at the end of the said period of three years and shall be subject to all the existing provisions of rule 51 relating to the constitution of the Committee on Public Accounts.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

CIVIL AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,200 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1934, in respect of ‘ Civil Aviation ’.”

Sir, on this matter as far as any general explanation is required by the House, my Honourable colleague, Sir Frank Noyce, who is in charge of the subject will speak. I only desire to make two points of purely financial significance in support of the motion. In the first place I would like to explain that the sum referred to does not represent anything in the nature of an increase in the current expenditure of the Government. It is composed of two items, an item of Rs. 95,200 which is classified for technical purposes as a subsidy to the new air service but which in fact only represents the remission of certain customs charges, landing charges, etc. The charges would not be earned unless the service operated, and we are not out of pocket in any way on account of this arrangement. The other part of the sum is a sum of Rs. 1,68,000 which represents the Government investment in the new company of Trans-Continental Airways. That we hope may eventually prove to be a profitable investment. It does not represent recurrent expenditure. That is my first point. My second point is this that we are moving this motion on the express recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee. The Standing Finance Committee considered the whole proposal very fully a few days ago and approved the proposal. But they put in a special recommendation that as a payment on account of the subscription to the Trans-Continental Airways had to be made on the 1st October the matter should be referred to this House before any further financial payment was made. Therefore we have followed out that recommendation in asking the House to consider this supplementary grant specially today. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved ;

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,200 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1934, in respect of ‘ Civil Aviation ’.”

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I am very glad indeed that the request—a proper request if I may venture to say so—of the Standing Finance Committee that this demand should be placed before this House this Session has given me this early opportunity of explaining to the House its full significance. I do not think it necessary for my present purpose to delve into ancient and, perhaps, in view of the long delays involved, I might say rather melancholy history, especially as we are, I am convinced, at the dawn of a far brighter era as far as civil aviation in this country is concerned. (Hear, hear.) But I do wish to remind the House of two salient facts. The first is that, for a short period from December, 1929, to December, 1931, there was a chartered air service between Karachi and Delhi which cost the Government of India over 4½ lakhs a year whilst the revenue from it did not exceed Rs. 50,000 a year. I would ask the House to bear those figures in mind in considering the arrangements we are now discussing. The second is the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that the scheme for the inauguration of an Indian State Air Service should be held in abeyance.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to keep aircraft in cold storage and the aircraft which had been purchased for this service had to be sold at a loss of £13,000 on an outlay of about £45,000. When the inauguration of the Indian Air Service was postponed (it had not been started; the aircraft for it had merely been purchased), the best that could be done for the time being was to contract with the Delhi Flying Club for the carriage of mails from Karachi to Delhi. Whilst India was practically standing still, other countries were not idle. The Dutch and the French Air Services were operating across India and, in the circumstances, it was not unnatural that important interests in places east of Delhi, Cawnpore, Allahabad and especially Calcutta, began to get restless and to ask why they were denied facilities which were being given to Western India, not very complete facilities it is true, but still facilities.

I should perhaps remind the House that under the Air Convention, a country has the right to give or to refuse permission to the operation of an air service across its territorial limits but that most countries, certainly all the prominent civilised countries, have given this permission. It was in accordance with this practice that permission was given to the Dutch and the French services to operate across India. The question was raised why use could not be made of these services. Apart from other considerations, it should be obvious, Sir, that if this had been allowed, all hope of India having an air service of its own would have receded to the dim and distant future. That sums up the position as it stood about eighteen months ago. A proposal was being worked out for the extension of the Karachi-Delhi mail service to Moghalsera, when the question became of urgent importance owing to the fact that Imperial Airways found themselves ready to expand their service to Singapore and on to Australia, the Australian Government having agreed to bear their part in the extension of that service to that country. As permission to operate across India had been granted to the Dutch and the French services, it would have been impossible to discriminate against Imperial Airways; and once the Imperial Airways service was in operation, there would have been nothing for an Indian air service when it started, but the internal mails. This being the case, it became a question of great importance to secure to India, as large as possible, a share of the air service on this important link. It was very fortunate for India that my Honourable Colleague, the

Leader of the House, was in England last year and that he was willing to devote no small part of his very short leave to negotiations with the authorities in England to that end. I am sure the House will agree that the interests of India could not have been in better hands. (Applause.) The result of his efforts—I hope I shall convince the House, it will be my fault if I do not—that they were very successful efforts, are embodied in the somewhat colourless terms of the Press Communiqué which was issued on the 9th May, 1933. The House may wish to refresh its memory and I will, therefore, read to it the greater part of that Communiqué :

“ Arrangements have been made for the inauguration of an air service between Karachi and Singapore as a joint enterprise to be worked by an Indian Company (Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Limited), to be formed as explained below, together with Imperial Airways, Limited, and simultaneously for the formation of a second Indian Company, Indian National Airways, Limited, for the operation of feeder and other services in Northern India. The capital of Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Limited, will be rupee capital and will be subscribed jointly by the Government of India, Indian National Airways, Limited and Imperial Airways, Limited. The directors will be selected by the shareholders and the majority will be Indians. Indian Trans-Continental Airways and Imperial Airways will each provide one-half of the fleet required for the service. Indian Trans-Continental Airways will employ the largest percentage reasonably possible of Indian personnel as soon as individuals of the requisite standard are available, and Imperial Airways will arrange for the training of a limited number of Indians in their commercial and engineering departments, while the fleet and equipment for Indian National Airways and Indian Trans-Continental Airways are being procured. The arrangement for the joint working of the Karachi-Singapore Service will continue till the 31st March, 1939, the date on which the existing agreement between His Majesty's Government and Imperial Airways for the England-India Air Service expires. By means of this agreement, the participation of an Indian company employing Indian personnel, not merely in a service operating within India, but on an important section outside India (*viz.*, from Rangoon to Singapore) of the Imperial route to Australia will be secured.

Indian National Airways, Limited, will be formed with rupee capital, and plans for operating certain branch services are already in preparation.”

That, Sir, represents the outcome of the negotiations. As I explained in reply to a question asked by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, in this House a few weeks ago, the authorised capital of Indian Trans-Continental Airways is Rs. 10 lakhs of which Imperial Airways hold Rs. 5,10,000, Indian National Airways Rs. 2,50,000 and the Government of India Rs. 2,40,000. It is to meet the first call on the Government of India of Rs. 96,000 and the further call of Rs. 72,000 which will be required during the current year and also the cost of certain customs and other concessions which they have agreed to grant to Trans-Continental Airways and to Indian National Airways that this demand has been brought forward.

Now, Sir, I wish to dwell for a few minutes on the reasons which led the Government of India to adopt this scheme and to subscribe capital in association with Imperial Airways and Indian Trans-Continental Airways. It is perfectly clear that the air service as at present organised could not be operated without a subsidy. The House knows the financial position of the Government of India as well as I do and they know that the Government of India are quite unable in present conditions to subsidise such a service. The Government of the United Kingdom on the other hand, are able and willing to provide annually for a period of about six years terminating on the 31st March, 1939, a subsidy divisible between the two companies operating the services. As was stated in the note supplied to the Standing Finance Committee, the maximum subsidy in respect

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

of the Karachi-Singapore service, if a regular weekly service is maintained, is £40,000 for the first year of through service to Australia, £30,000 for the 2nd and 3rd year of through service and £20,000 a year for the remaining period. These maxima are, it should be noted, allocated in definite proportions for the various sections of the route. In these circumstances, I trust the House will agree that the Government of India would not have been justified in withholding consent to the establishment of a service which they themselves were not in a position to provide. The extension was, in fact, long overdue and the effect of the delay in establishing it was being increasingly felt in the form of pressure not only, as I have said, from interests in this country but also from the foreign services operating over India, in which India had no part and no opportunity of taking part. But, even if the Government of India had been in a position to revive the project of a State Air Service over the Indian portion of the route, there can be no doubt that such a service, lacking as it would have done the close co-ordination provided by unified technical management, would have fallen so far short of the efficiency which will be provided by the present arrangement that it would not have offered an acceptable alternative. The fact that the present Trans-India service makes it possible to employ a unified fleet from Karachi to Singapore, instead of there being an Indian section and an extra Indian section within those limits, is a factor of the utmost importance.

I trust that the House will also agree regarding the desirability of the Government of India themselves taking a share in this most important scheme. By so doing, they have secured a more effective control of the development of air services across India. I should perhaps inform the House—I do not know whether the Standing Finance Committee elicited the facts in the course of their close cross-examination of the representatives of my Department—that the shares held by Indian National Airways may not be disposed of without the consent of the Government of India and further that the interests of the Government of India are safeguarded by an undertaking that the shares held by Imperial Airways will not be disposed of in any manner which would materially change the character of the present arrangement.

Those, Sir, are the financial considerations. I now turn for a moment to other considerations and, from that point of view, the arrangements we are now discussing provide benefits to India of very great value. Instead of an Indian service growing up independently, in advance of technical development in this country, and learning by its own mistakes to solve the problems which have already been overcome in other countries, the Indian participation in Indian Trans-Continental Airways provides for development under the guidance of one of the most experienced air transport companies in the world which has an unsurpassed record of efficient and economic operation. Throughout the negotiations the Government of India have attached the utmost importance to the employment and training of Indian personnel and, as the House will have observed from the terms of the communiqué, I read out just now, the arrangements we have made provide for these. Again, the advice and experience of Imperial Airways in the development of internal services will be at the disposal of Indian National Airways, and that is an additional factor of much significance in the development of Indian aviation.

To sum up, Sir, the position is that India is getting a first-class air service already working, and I think working satisfactorily, though the Indian climate has been very far from kind to it in the last few weeks ; it is getting that service for a capital expenditure of Rs. 2,40,000 on which, as my Honourable colleague the Finance Member said just now, we hope to get a dividend in due course. In addition to that Rs. 2,40,000, there are the concessions that he mentioned in the way of remission of customs and excise duties and exemption from certain charges for landing, housing, wireless and meteorological facilities which are estimated to cost about Rs. 1,40,000 per annum. As Sir George Schuster said, we should not be getting the money in any case if the service were not there, but there is a further reason why this concession is far more apparent than real. In fact, it is set off by a very substantial benefit. As a result of granting these concessions in the form of a subsidy to the Indian Trans-Continental Airways, India is regarded by the authorities in England as contributing to the England-India-Australia service and is, therefore, permitted to settle the charges for the conveyance of Indian air mails on the main service in sterling. It has hitherto had to settle these charges in gold. The financial effect of this change in the basis of settlement depends of course on the gold value of the rupee. The payments on the gold basis have in the past involved additional payments amounting to more than 1½ lakhs of rupees per annum over what we should have had to pay if the payments had been made in sterling. The House will observe that the figure of Rs. 1½ lakhs per annum, that we have saved as a result of this change, is considerably more than the estimated value of the concessions with regard to customs and excise duties and the provision of other facilities. As a result of the elimination of this extra payment, we have been able to reduce the rate of surcharge on air mail correspondence from India.

Now, Sir, so far as I am aware, there have been only two criticisms which have been brought against this arrangement. One is the fact that 51 per cent. of

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the capital in the Indian Trans-Continental Airways is held by Imperial Airways and only 49 per cent. by the Government of India and Indian National Airways together. It has been contended that it should have been the other way round. The answer to this contention is that the holding of 51 per cent. by Imperial Airways was a fundamental condition of the whole arrangement, specially of the grant of the subsidy, and, if it had not been accepted, it would not have been possible to start the service. I would remind the House that Indian interests should be sufficiently safeguarded in this matter by the fact that the majority of the Directors of Indian Trans-Continental Airways are Indian gentlemen of high standing who are perfectly competent to look after Indian interests. Let me mention their names once again. I mentioned them in reply to my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, the other day, but it is possible the House may have forgotten them. They are Lala Ramsaran Das, Chaudhri Zafarullah Khan, Lala Badridas Goenka and Sir Hormusji Mehta.

The second criticism is that Indian capital ought to be given an opportunity of investing in this industry. So far as I am aware, Sir, with the exception of the inauguration of the very successful Tata service from Karachi to Madras, there has been no indication of any special readiness on the part of Indian capitalists to come forward and invest in civil aviation enterprises. It was not until the arrangements we

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are discussing today had been concluded that such readiness became apparent. Indian National Airways has attracted capital from widespread Indian sources. It is now actively in consultation with Government in the organisation of feeder air services and other air services to serve internal needs. Plans are being worked out for the establishment of three services ; one from Karachi to Lahore for mails, another from Calcutta to Rangoon to supplement the weekly service, and the third from Calcutta to Dacca. It is hoped that these will be established in the early future and I understand that Indian National Airways propose to invite applications from the public for, at any rate, part of the capital required. It will thus be clear to the House that so far from limiting the opportunities for investment of Indian capital in Indian civil aviation, the present arrangement has already done much to stimulate them.

There is one other point with regard to which I should like to remind the House before I conclude. It is a very important point and that is that these arrangements are subject to the provision that, in 1939, the Government of the day will be at perfect liberty to reconsider the whole position.

I trust, Sir, that I have given the House all the information necessary to enable it to judge of the merits of this proposition. I have dealt with the matter almost entirely from the business aspect, that is, from the point of view of the benefits which India will receive. But there are I think other considerations of a more intangible nature on which other speakers, more eloquent than I am, may care to enlarge. It is no small matter that India should now be in a position to play a worthy part in an Imperial enterprise of the first magnitude.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I believe my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, will contribute very much to this debate as he has been making a special study of this problem. All that I wanted to say was this that we are very grateful to Government for having taken the step that they have taken in the promotion of civil aviation. We want them to go further and if any support for monetary contribution by Government is necessary from this side of the House, I am perfectly certain that such support will not be lacking. We want our country to be as forward in the matter of civil aviation as any other country in the world and as the Honourable the previous speaker has pointed out, the Leader of the House while in England took every opportunity that came in his way to push forward the scheme the beginnings of which we are seeing in this demand for supplementary grant. No country in the world, at any rate few countries in the world, present the same facilities for civil aviation as India does. In a land of long distances the promotion of inter-provincial aviation is very necessary, so that our President may sometimes be able to fly to Coimbatore for a week end dinner and come back to preside here in good time. And the Leader of the European Group Sir Leslie Hudson who has heavy work in Bombay will not constantly complain of delaying tactics on this side of the House as he can descend down to Bombay and come back to take part in the proceedings of this House. Sir, we want that the distance between the north and south of India should shrink as the distance between India and Great Britain has shrunk ; and I hope and

trust that the 10 lakhs of rupees of which the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce spoke will be multiplied many times so that India will be behind no country in the world in the matter of civil aviation. (Applause.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur cum Champaran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I welcome the inauguration of the Indian Trans-Continental Airways operating from Karachi to Calcutta, and, further on, to Singapore, in the near future; and I am obliged to the Honourable Member in charge for the very full information which he has given on this subject to the House. The General Purposes Retrenchment Committee has done very valuable work in the matter of finding out avenues for retrenchment in the public expenditure of India; but there were two recommendations of that Committee with which I never agreed, and I gave expression to my views on the floor of the House on a former occasion—one was their proposal to stop the State Broadcasting Service in India—that proposal was after all not given effect to, and we are having the broadcasting system in this country which, I hope, in course of time will flourish and will produce a very wholesome effect, which the system is intended to produce. The other recommendation with which I disagreed was the proposed curtailment in civil aviation in this country.

As my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, has pointed out, India is a country which is peculiarly appropriate for the purpose of civil aviation. It is a country of long distances where it is very difficult to travel from one place to another for busy men except by means of the aeroplane, which I hope will become a common feature in the daily life of this country in course of time. I find from the paper which has been circulated to us that the authorised capital of the Company agreed to by the Government of India is Rs. 10 lakhs of which Rs. four lakhs has been called up, and Rs. three lakhs will be called up on the extension of the air service beyond Calcutta about the 1st October, 1933. I do not know whether this authorised capital of Rs. 10 lakhs is quite sufficient for the purposes which we have in view, and, as suggested by my Honourable friend on my right, if necessary the share of Government in this Company should be increased in the near future if required; and we in this part of the House will not grudge any legitimate expenditure which may be incurred in connection with the development of civil aviation in this country. There is only one point to which I should like to draw attention and that is with regard to the employment of Indian personnel. That is a point which has been kept in view by the Government and my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, has also just now repeated the promise of the Government that the subject of the employment of Indians as officers will be steadily kept in view. There are many other Departments of Government in which Indians have been kept behind, and the excuse which has been pleaded is that we have not got the necessary training or experience to take charge of those Departments. Here, fortunately for us, civil aviation is a branch of national activity which is still in its infancy, and it is quite up to the Government to train Indians so that they may be able to occupy almost all positions as officers from the very beginning of this service. I must here also put on record my appreciation of the way in which the Delhi Flying Club has been carrying on the work of conveying mails between Karachi and Delhi during the period they have been in charge of that branch of the

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work. During this period they have been doing their work with the utmost efficiency and with remarkable regularity of service.

There is one point on which I should like to have some information from the Honourable Member. I remember, while in the Standing Finance Committee, we were told that there were four aeroplanes which had been purchased by the Government of India before there was any talk of curtailment in the scope of civil aviation. There were four aeroplanes of the "Avro Ten" type—I remember one was presented to His Excellency the Viceroy.....

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : There were five in all.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Two were sold off at a considerable loss : I should like to know what has become of the others.....

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I cannot tell the Honourable Member off-hand. I am not quite sure how many there were altogether : my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, knows the facts better than I do. But if there were four, one was transferred to His Excellency the Viceroy, and the other three were sold : the total loss, as I mentioned in my speech, was about £13,000.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : So, as I was saying, with regard to the development of civil aviation, the scheme which has been presented to this House is a satisfactory one, and I think the House should accept the proposal before us. I should also express our sense of appreciation that we have got a majority of Indian Directors on the Company, and also that the Company has been floated with rupee capital. With these few words, I heartily support the motion. (Cheers.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, this question was carefully examined by the Standing Finance Committee. I myself went into all the details and I was very unhappy about the distribution of shares 49 and 51 : I very much wanted that our share should have been 51 or at least half and half, but, considering the enormous advantages that we get otherwise in the number of Indian Directors as also in the promises about the training of Indians and in the saving of expenditure that we were incurring, I thought that it was the best possible arrangement that could be made, and I could not think of anything better. But there were two things which really troubled our minds, and I do not mind mentioning them on the floor of the House. One was that I thought the Finance Committee could not take the responsibility of giving their final consent to it and this for two reasons : in the first place this is a question of new policy and I thought the Assembly should have a chance of expressing its opinion : the second reason was that the opinion of the Retrenchment Committee was very definite about it, and I thought that the only body which could go against that opinion was this House and not the Standing Finance Committee. For these two reasons I myself insisted that the Assembly should have an opportunity to discuss this matter before the amount was actually paid and not merely as a *post mortem* examination. I am very glad that the Finance Member gave an opportunity to this House to express an opinion. The second thing about which I was very unhappy was, what would happen in the year 1939, that is, when

the contract ceases? I insisted in the Committee and I insist now that the Assembly and the Finance Committee, whatever it may be then, should have a full opportunity to express their opinion, and no transaction should be made behind their backs, and there should be no extension of time without the explicit permission of the Assembly that may be in existence at the time. I know very well that most of the money would be spent on the ground, etc., which nobody can take away from India. That will all be permanent in this country, but the only things which can be taken away are the aeroplanes which, being in a dilapidated condition, may not fetch a good price. Therefore, the major portion of the value of those things will remain in our possession. We will be in a very fortunate position to dictate our own terms, but I do insist that in 1939, when we come to consider the whole position, the then Assembly should be given an opportunity to express an opinion before any final action is taken by the Government. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. N. B. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : (The Honourable Member spoke in the vernacular.)

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I have only got one or two observations to make. The Honourable the Finance Member has just now said that this arrangement of the remission of the customs duties would not cause any loss to this country, but I could not exactly follow his line of argument. Would he be prepared, I ask, to extend the same concession to any other enterprise which is positively beneficial to this country if such an enterprise is set up in India? Would he go the length of remitting the customs duties which that enterprise would have to pay but for the express remission in the shape of a subsidy? As a matter of fact, when I endorsed my approval to the demand as a member of the Standing Finance Committee, I really thought that I was right in taking that step well knowing that we were going to be a party to something like ninety thousand to a lakh of rupees being forgone in the next five or six years, and I thought that, after six years, some other arrangement would be come to which would go a great way in reducing this remission of customs duty.

Then, Sir, the next point to which I would invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member is that, although the Government of India are contributing 24 per cent. towards the capital of the Indian Trans-Continental Airways, and although the right has been given to the Indian National Airways to nominate two members on the Board of Directors, how is it that the Government of India have nominated only one member to represent the Government of India on the Board? That is my objection so far as the composition of the Board is concerned. There are four members nominated on the Board of Directors by the Imperial Airways, two by the Indian National Airways, and only one by the Government of India, although the difference in the matter of contribution of shares is only one per cent. between the Government of India and the Indian National Airways. The Indian National Airways contribute 25 per cent. and the Government of India contribute 24 per cent., but is that any reason, Sir, that the difference of one per cent. should bring about such a large difference in the right of the Govern-

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ment of India that it can nominate only one member and not two members on the Board of Directors? These are the only two points that struck me.

Then, as regards the point raised by my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, I should like to draw his attention to paragraph 3 of the communiqué where it expressly states that the Indian Trans-Continental Airways will employ the largest percentage reasonably possible of Indian personnel as soon as individuals of the requisite standard are available.....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I have already said so in my speech.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : But I thought my friend had some doubts as regards the Indianization of the personnel.

There is one other matter, Sir, to which I should like to invite the attention of the House, and that is about the procedure. Sir, I have found in some cases, and, particularly, in the present case, the procedure adopted by some of the Departments of the Government of India in placing their proposals before the Standing Finance Committee embodied in the shape of demands is not what one would in fairness desire. As a matter of fact, in the present case, negotiations have been going on between the Government of India and the Imperial Airways for a very long time, and decisions were reached a few months ago. Sir, we knew nothing about the negotiations, and we knew nothing about the decision, and then the Government of India, to implement the decision which they had arrived at, made an actual payment without our knowledge of about a lakh of rupees, or probably more. Even at that stage we were not informed of what had taken place. Then an agreement was reached between the Government of India and the Indian Trans-Continental Airways that the Government of India should grant a subsidy to the concern in the shape of a remission of customs duties on petrol, on aeroplanes and spares. We knew nothing about this agreement either. As a matter of fact, the remission was given and the subsidy was granted on their own responsibility. Then the first time we were apprised of the steps that had been taken was when there was a call on the Government of India after the allotment of shares was made. I believe even that call has been paid, and, now, when the second call has to be paid, they come to us. I think that in matters which involve payments of this type, the proper procedure would be that the proposals should be placed before the Standing Finance Committee in the initial stages and the Government of India should not delay doing so for such a long time until the whole thing had almost developed fully. I think if the Standing Finance Committee is to carry out its functions as indicated at the time it was first set up, the Finance Member will kindly see to it that the procedure which they have adopted in the present case is once for all given up.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Sir, I only wish to deal with two or three points which the last speaker has raised; otherwise this has been a satisfactory debate, a debate of almost complete agreement. My Honourable friend raised three points. First of all, as regards the exemption from customs duties, I do not want my Honourable

friend to draw any implications from what I said. All that I said was, in order to explain the financial significance of this particular proposal to the House, that as far as the so-called subsidy was concerned it did not represent a real outgoing in cash, it merely represented a foregoing of receipts which we would not otherwise have had. But I would remind my Honourable friend that the point made by Sir Frank Noyce was that by giving this nominal subsidy the Government of India do secure a much better arrangement as regards charges paid for the carrying of mails, an arrangement which on the present gold value of the rupee actually means a saving,—a real saving—to us of about Rs. 1½ lakhs a year, so that we get something very substantial in return.

Then, my Honourable friend raised the point as to why there was only one Government Director. We do not feel that the actual number of Directors matters very much. We have one Government Director who can represent the Government point of view and who can keep us informed of what is going on. The point which impressed us most was that the majority of the Directors from whatever side they came were to be Indians. I would also remind the House that in addition to the Government Director we have made arrangements according to which the Director of Civil Aviation will be entitled to attend the meetings of the Board. Therefore, I think the House may rest assured that the Government will be well represented in all discussions.

Lastly, my Honourable friend voiced a complaint as to the delay in putting this proposal before the Standing Finance Committee. As regards that, strictly interpreting our duties and our position my Honourable friend is perfectly right, and I should be the last person to desire to defend any delay in placing matters before the Standing Finance Committee. My Honourable friend will realise why I should be the last person to do that because we so frequently, acting as a Committee, have to whip up the departments of the Government of India into putting forward their proposals in good time. But one has to take into account the practical situation, the practical difficulties. This arrangement, I think I am correct in saying, was not actually reduced to a form in which we could put it before the Standing Finance Committee until after the Standing Finance Committee concluded its sittings during the Delhi Session. It came up between the two Sessions, and we did really take the first possible opportunity after this proposal had been worked out for putting it before the Standing Finance Committee. But I quite agree that some sort of preliminary notice might have been given to the Standing Finance Committee in the course of the Delhi Session. I am sure that my Honourable colleague, Sir Frank Noyce, will agree and take note of the point as regards future proposals of this kind. We are only too anxious to give the Standing Finance Committee an opportunity to consider all proposals of this kind before actual decisions are taken.

The only other point to which I may refer is that my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, told us that he insisted on certain things being done in 1939. There, again, speaking on behalf of my colleague in the Industries and Labour Department, I feel sure he will agree to have a record which will be brought to the attention of the

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Prime Minister of India in 1939 (Laughter), and I have little doubt that, if he is not my Honourable friend himself, the Prime Minister will give due weight to those considerations on which my Honourable friend has insisted. (Laughter.)

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

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,63,200 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1934, in respect of ‘ Civil Aviation ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1930-31, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 25,388 incurred in 1930-31 representing the share of the Government of India on behalf of the Centrally Administered Areas of the cost of materials purchased for locust operations, in that year.”

In the ordinary course this motion would have simply consisted of the first one and a half lines, but for particular reasons it has been necessary to add the second part of the motion. If any Honourable Member is interested in the technical reasons for doing this he will find them explained in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 of Volume I of the Public Accounts Committee's Report on the Accounts of 1930-31, and in paragraph 29 of Part II of that Report. It is a quite simple point. According to the rules of procedure that exist at present there is some difficulty in dealing with an excess grant where that relates to what is technically a new service. The formula which we have adopted was settled after consultation with you, Sir, and I trust that Honourable Members will be satisfied with the procedure which we are adopting. Otherwise I have nothing to say on this motion except to express an apology that it has come before the House so late. But Honourable Members who have sat through the number of days occupied in legislative business during the last two Sessions will realise how little time there has been and how much urgent business there has been, which has meant a delay in bringing forward this matter. This particular Resolution for the consideration of the Public Accounts Committee was one in which the House took very considerable interest before we adopted this procedure but I regret to say that since we adopted it, the Resolution has become what I might describe as the Cinderella of Government business, which has always been crowded out by her ugly sisters. If any Honourable Member has any point to raise on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, I should be very pleased to deal with those points in reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1930-31, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration and that the Assembly do approve the

expenditure of Rs. 25,388 incurred in 1930-31 representing the share of the Government of India on behalf of the Centrally Administered Areas of the cost of materials purchased for locust operations, in that year."

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : May I suggest that the consideration of this be postponed till the November Session. My reason is, if the Honourable the Leader of the House agrees that the report on the Reserve Bank Bill will be laid before the House on the 13th November, discussion cannot take place before the 20th. We will, therefore, have a week, and some time may be found for discussing this report. I, therefore, suggest that the discussion on this report may be postponed till the November Session.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : We on the Government side would have been very glad to take account of the suggestion of my Honourable friend, but it is more than probable that there will be other business of an urgent nature to occupy the House during those few days which will be available at the beginning of the special Session. We also think, and, I believe, you, Sir, will support me in this, that it is desirable that in the first week the sittings of this House should be limited in order that Honourable Members may have time to study the report of the Select Committee on the Reserve Bank Bill. I would also remind my Honourable friend that this particular motion has been already delayed and, before we know where we are, we shall be faced with the necessity of considering the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts for 1931-32. I would suggest to my Honourable friend that we take advantage of such time as is available now and that we dispose of this very much delayed Resolution once for all.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam : Muhammadan) : We are now discussing the accounts of the year 1930-31 and most of the Honourable Members must have forgotten what was said in the report presented some time ago, but in the proceedings of the year we are now discussing, there was a very important departure from the proceedings of the previous years. In that year, for the first time, three non-official Members were elected to serve on the Military Accounts Committee to examine them in detail, and I understand that in the beginning the military authorities were a little bit suspicious of the arrangement, but I hope they found afterwards that the Members of the Assembly were not such villains as they are painted to be. We, on our part, were impressed with the straightforwardness with which the military witnesses gave evidence before us and the readiness with which they acknowledged their mistakes and agreed to rectify them. Speaking from the point of view of accuracy of accounts and control of expenditure, I think we can say that the military accounts are on a par with the civil accounts.

There is, however, one item of expenditure in the accounts of the year under review in which the House might feel interested. I am referring to the expenditure on the Indian Territorial Force. In that year, the Finance Department sanctioned 15 lakhs of rupees for the expansion of the Indian Territorial Force. The Army Department could not find it possible to spend the full amount and they surrendered

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five lakhs to the Finance Department. This raises a very important issue, namely, the attitude of the Army authorities with regard to the expansion of the Indian Territorial Force. It was started with a very ambitious object—of giving opportunities for military training to what are known as the non-martial races. It was said that they would form the nucleus of the citizen army of India, so that a self-governing India may be in a position to undertake the responsibility for defence, but this original objective seems to have receded into the background and the army authorities are now giving it step-motherly treatment. Instead of spending the money on the expansion of the Territorial Forces, they have surrendered the money to the Finance Department, while there is a growing demand in India for the expansion of the Territorial Force. While attending a meeting of the Aligarh University Convocation, the Vice-Chancellor Mr. Ramsbotham, I heard complain that they could not raise the Aligarh detachment of the University Training Corps to a Company on account of lack of funds, though there was plenty of keenness and plenty of material available. If the Indian Territorial Force has not been as popular as was anticipated, and if there are difficulties in the way, the military authorities should look into the matter and try to remove those defects.

I now come to the question of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In regard to the recommendations made by the Committee over which my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, presided, the Government decision was communicated to us this year and we found that the Government only accepted some minor and subsidiary recommendations and the most important recommendation about the constitution of the Capital Account and the Depreciation Fund was rejected by the Government of India. Honourable Members might remember that, in the year 1924-25, the accounts of the Postal Department were commercialised. It was decided that the capital at charge of the department should represent the depreciated value of the assets and that the depreciation fund should be started with nil balance, and arrears of depreciation should be met from capital advances. Sir Cowasji Jehangir's Committee recommended that they should start a Depreciation Fund with 875 lakhs as balance, that being the amount of accrued depreciation in 1925. They also recommended that capital at charge should represent the original value and not the depreciated value of the assets. If this recommendation had been accepted, the result would have been that the Postal Department would be paying interests at 3.3 per cent. up to the year 1917 and at the current rate for the other years for their capital borrowing, and would have earned interest at the current rate for their Depreciation Fund balances.

Now, Sir, the difference between the interest they would have paid and the interest that they would have earned would have been a gain to this Department. Government rejected it on the ground that its position is anomalous, but I have not been able to understand where the anomaly lies. However, the Government have made their decision and it is no use discussing it any further. I only bring this to the notice of the House as the prospect of the Postal Department balancing its budget seems to be as distant as ever.

I want to say a few words about the Railway Department also. The Honourable the Commerce Member said in his budget speech that he was going to appoint a Committee to inquire about the rate of contribution to the Depreciation Fund and the question of assumed life of the existing assets. We of the Public Accounts Committee have been agitating on this point for a long time. We now find that adversity has forced upon the Railway authorities the wisdom of accepting our recommendation which, in their spendthrift days, they used to ignore. There is one aspect of Railway finance to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member. There is a tendency on the part of the Agents of some of the Railways to throw more of the expenditure on the capital than on revenue. Under the rule of allocation, capital bears the cost of new work, additional rolling stock, etc., while ordinary renewals and replacements are met from revenue. The Railway Agents take advantage of the interpretation of this rule to throw on capital what should be met from revenue. This is what the Auditor General remarked in this connection :

“ There is a justification for believing that the present rules lead to considerable inflation of the Capital Account and if the financial position of the Railways are not to be prejudiced it is necessary to ascertain the truth in connection with this matter and to take necessary measures for the future.”

I should like to give a few instances to show how capital expenditure has been increased out of all proportion to gross earnings. Take the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. In the year 1918-19, the total capital outlay was 67 crores. Ten years later, that is, in the year 1928-29, it was 116 crores. The capital outlay was increased by 71 per cent. whereas the gross earnings were increased only by about 30 per cent. Again, take the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. In the year 1918-19, the total capital outlay was 25 crores and, in the year 1928-29, it was 50 crores. The capital outlay was increased by 100 per cent. while the gross earnings were increased by about 28 per cent. only. Now, let us contrast this with the Nizam's Guaranteed Railway. During these 10 years, the capital outlay increased by 12 per cent. and the gross earnings by 44 per cent. This, I think, corroborates the remark of the Auditor General that there has not been a disproportionate growth of the capital outlay which is not reflected in increased earning capacity and this is a matter which requires careful consideration.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, at this time of the day and at the fag end of the Session, I do not like to take much time, yet, I think, it is my duty to draw the attention of the House to some of the remarks made by the Public Accounts Committee. I shall be glad to hear from Government what they have to say on these matters. It is admitted that the accounts in other departments have much improved during the course of these years. But, in the report on page 3, the Committee had made it clear that they could not speak so highly of the Postal Department. This is what they have said :

“ Our view in regard to the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not, however, so favourable as the detailed appropriation accounts indicate that there is still great room for improvement in the methods and practice of financial control. We are informed by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs that steps have already been taken to remove the defects in the existing procedure of financial control. The Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, has undertaken at our instance to bring to notice in his subsequent reports whether the steps now taken have led to the improvements hoped for.”

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

Since then, Sir, we had the occasion to pass through another appropriation report of this Committee and unfortunately we find therein that the position is not far better. Even as early as 1923, the Incheape Committee said that the system of accounts in the Postal Department was far from satisfactory and they recommended that there should be a special financial adviser attached to this Department. So far as I remember, the present Director General, Sir Thomas Ryan, was the first Financial Adviser. But when he appeared before the Public Accounts Committee this year, he said that during the period he acted as the Financial Adviser he had to do more secretariat work and very little financial work. And the present incumbent of the post, Mr. Varma, who is also a very competent officer, had to complain before the Committee that he had no staff. Perhaps he had only his *chaprasi* and none else to help him. The House will desire to know from the Department what steps they have taken since this report to see that the system of accounts in the Postal Department may improve in the future.

Then I pass on to another question that deals with the large stock of quinine in the Department of Education, Health and Lauds. This matter also had been coming before the Committee for consideration from year to year since 1926 when we dealt with a large stock of quinine valued at more than 50 lakhs of rupees. The Public Accounts Committee repeatedly drew the attention of the Government to the fact that, even in the shape of interest, we were losing between two to three lakhs of rupees every year. The Committee said that as public health was a provincial transferred subject, Government should take steps to see how to dispose of this very big stock of quinine. So far as we know, the Central Government approached the Local Governments as late as 12th March, 1932. Although it is now a year and half, we do not still know whether they have been able to dispose of the large stock of quinine or not. In the current year's report also, the Public Accounts Committee drew particular attention to this fact and the Department as usual said that they were taking the necessary steps and might be able to dispose of this large stock in the near future. I should like to know from the Government as to what is the exact position with regard to this large surplus stock of quinine valued at more than 50 lakhs. Another question that was particularly noted was with regard to the stores balance. I quote from page 9 of the report which says :

“ We observe from the appendix for the year 1930-31 that the balances of stocks of stores held by the various commercial concerns on the 31st March, 1931, were still unduly high. We were assured by the departmental witnesses that the stores balances were being closely watched and reduced wherever possible. For example in the mathematical instrument office, Calcutta, home indents have been entirely suspended and manufacture is being reduced by short time employment of workmen. The maintenance of excessive stocks involves the taxpayer in a two-fold loss : There is the loss of interest on capital unnecessarily locked up and there is the further loss arising from the danger of the stores becoming obsolete and having to be disposed of at a sacrifice later.”

I should like to hear from Government what steps they have taken as regards these large stores balance and how far the condition has improved by this time.

Further on, at page 11, the Committee again deals with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. It was found that the Department was working at a deficit and the Director General suggested that in the near

future there was a chance for this Department balancing its assets and liabilities. I should like to quote from the report. It says :

“ But we obtained from the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, a memorandum giving an up-to-date survey of the general position and prospects of the department. The commercial loss which amounted to Rs. 91 lakhs in 1930-31 is expected to come down to about Rs. 52 lakhs in the current year and the Director General is convinced that with the return to reasonably normal conditions the Department would very soon be working again at a profit. The latest information now available is, as observed by the Auditor General, not such as to justify optimism or to warrant relaxation of effort on the part of Government. We do not agree with the Accountant General that the year 1930-31 might be taken as closing an important chapter in the history of the department and we cannot agree to be satisfied except by the test of actual results.”

The actual results proved that our anticipations were correct and not the anticipations of the Director General. It is really a deficit budget and perhaps it will continue for a long time to be a deficit budget, I mean the postal budget. We should like to hear from the Honourable Member in charge how he thinks he would realise his expectations that the postal budget will be a balanced budget. I do not want to weary the House any further, but my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, will speak on the railway budget.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor :

Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, at this stage, I should
5 P.M. like to raise a point of order whether this Resolution is

in order or not, because, in one and the same Resolution, two things are combined and put up for the consideration of this House. The first part of the Resolution is with regard to the consideration of the report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1930-31, and the second part is a demand for grant for a certain expenditure. Sir, it looks to me that it is something like what we call in law, “ misjoinder of causes of action ”. That is how it appears to me. The object of any motion, as I understand it, is to concentrate the attention of the House or to concentrate the attention of the Member to a certain particular question involved in it. But, in this Resolution, there are two separate and independent things that are being coupled in one and the same Resolution. So, I should like to draw the attention of the Chair so that we may have a ruling on the matter. In this Resolution, with regard to the first part, we may accept the report of the Public Accounts Committee, but with regard to the second part, we may reject the grant. We can't accept one part of the Resolution and reject the other part. My difficulty is that two distinct matters are involved in one and the same Resolution and so I want a ruling from the Chair whether this is correct.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair quite realises the difficulty with which the Honourable Members might be faced at the time when the question is put. But they should realise that when the motion is put to the vote, it is open to the Chair to split up the motion into two or three parts and put each part separately so that Honourable Members will have the opportunity of voting on each part separately. But, in this particular case, the Chair might explain to the Honourable Members that the usual parliamentary practice, when a motion to take into consideration the Public Accounts Committee report is made, is that no question is put after discussion. The motion, that the report of the Public Accounts Committee be taken into consideration, is simply made with a view to giving an opportunity to the

[Mr. President.]

House to have a full and thorough discussion on the points arising within the report of the Public Accounts Committee and no question is put. Following that practice, what the Chair proposes to do is this. The question relating to excess grant has been coupled with the first part, because it arises out of the report with which the first part deals. So no question will be put relating to the first part. The only question that will be put will be that the Assembly do approve the excess expenditure.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I just have in my hand a copy of part II of Volume I of the report and I find that it deals with the entire administration of Indian railways and, therefore, a review of the entire administration from "A" to "Z" will be within the purview of this Resolution.

Sir, the first question which I will take up here is the capitalised value of the Indian railways. I remember a story. Once a person asked the value of the shoe which he was wearing and at what price he could sell it. The latter said that he would calculate. He said: "I paid 10 shillings for it when I purchased it and I had to resole it ten times and paid half a crown each time. Therefore, it cost me 35 shillings. Now, I am quite willing to sell it at half the price, that is, 17 shillings". This is just the point with regard to capitalisation of our Indian Railways. We have been spending money from time to time and this is all added to the Capital at charge. This is rather an important point and I hope, before the new Railway authority comes into existence—I hope it will come into existence in the near future,—the assets of the Indian railways will be revalued. The whole thing should be revalued by some expert committee so that the railways in future will not be saddled with the interest charges with which they are saddled at the present moment. We are in a very unsatisfactory position just now as regards the Indian Railways. Now, I will just give a simple question of arithmetic and I hope my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, will be able to give me an answer. My question is this that there is a business, called the Indian Railway Administration. The income of this business is about 87 crores. Out of these 87 crores.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. If there is a general desire to continue this discussion, the Chair would have no objection to direct that the House should sit tomorrow till Lunch time. But if it is desired that we should sit late today and finish it off, the Chair would be agreeable to that course also. (*Some Honourable Members :* "Tomorrow morning will be better".) If at all it is the desire to continue the discussion, the Chair will direct that tomorrow we shall sit only for half the day and finish it by Lunch time.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I will finish before Lunch time. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Sir, on a point of order. Is my Honourable friend in order in reviewing the Railway administration from "A" to "Z", as he himself described it, in the course of this discussion, or should he properly limit himself to points which are

actually raised in the report of the Public Accounts Committee which is before this Assembly ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I will confine myself strictly to the points raised here and this was one of the points raised in this report. If I review the entire system, I cannot finish even in a week, but I will take about three hours only by confining myself to the points raised in the report.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : On the whole, it will perhaps be better if the Chair directs that tomorrow the House will sit till Lunch time, and the Chair directs accordingly.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 21st September, 1933.