

EAST AFR. PROT

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344

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION FOR ASIATICS

1920  
MAY

Trans report of committee on, petition from Non-European Civil Service Assn and memo from Treasurer re. Does not consider compensation necessary and requests may be informed of decision by TELEGRAPH

previous Paper.  
P  
28865

~~Mr. Parkinson~~

Mr. MacArthur  
Mr. K. G. B. G. G.

The whole question is now  
altered by the fact that the Indian  
ruffe is below 4/ and that therefore  
there is no loss, and <sup>not</sup> ~~has~~ been for  
some time on these ~~men's~~ <sup>restitutions</sup>  
to India.

The only question is whether, in  
the event of the Indian exchange  
being again we should direct  
that the arrangements previously  
approved should be brought into  
force

subsequent Paper.  
P  
32943



Kenya

CONFIDENTIAL

Downing Street;

30

July 1945

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Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the  
of Sir E. Markey's Confidential Despatches No  
No. 123 of the 11th of April and 20th of May  
ly, regarding the conditions of service of the  
European Clerical staff, and to convey to you  
decision on the points raised therein and in a  
on the same subject received from the Governor  
Uganda:-

(1) Payment of leave salaries in India

consider that, notwithstanding the fall in the  
value of the Indian rupee, the practice of  
salaries at the rate of one Indian rupee  
florin of substantive salary should be maintained  
that officials should not be permitted to  
waiting until their return to East Africa  
leave salary. If they elect so to wait, pay  
be adjusted according to the current rate  
of the Indian rupee.

(2) Assistance for families' passages.

of the explanation submitted that steamer fare  
East Africa and India are now no greater than  
the war, I approve the withdrawal of this privilege

But

OFFICER ADMINISTERING  
THE GOVERNMENT OF  
KENYA.

but no funds need be demanded in cases where assistance has been given between the 1st of April 1920 and the publication of the revised conditions of service.

(3) Maximum salary for pension purposes. It is not intended that the maximum of £200 a month beyond which salary payable, under the old regulations, be counted for pension purposes, should remain in force. Clerks in Grade 1 where there is no incremental scale, may count the whole of their salary for pension purposes.

(4) Extension of leave. The memorandum enclosed with my predecessor's Confidential despatch of the 17th of June, 1920, stated that extensions of sick leave would be with half salary. This was intended to refer to all extensions of leave granted on account of ill-health.

(5) Acting Allowances. I have addressed a separate despatch to you on this subject.

(6) Retiring age. I shall await further communications, after consultation between the Kenya and India Governments, on this question.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,



May, 1920.

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My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's telegram of the 4th May, intimating the concessions which Your Lordship has granted with the object of alleviating the position of the Government Asiatic Staff under the new currency arrangements; and to inform Your Lordship that this message was read, on receipt, to the members of my Executive Council by whom it was noted with regret. For Your Lordship's information I propose to trace briefly the course of events from the application of the "Bank of England and Treasury Currency Notes Ordinance, 1920" on 11th February last to the present day.

2. On the 11th February I was interviewed by a Deputation from the Indian National Congress, who pointed out that amongst other results of that day's legislation was an immediate rise in the cost of remitting money to India from 2% to 18%, which could not fail to inflict severe hardships on the lower paid members of the Asiatic community. I assured the deputation that I would consider the question of recommending to the Secretary of State the payment of an exchange compensation allowance.

3.

RIGHT HONOURABLE  
VISCOUNT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S. W.

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3. About the same time an application was received from the Non-European Civil Service Association who asked that they should be allowed to enjoy the same benefits as officers of the Government Service. It was decided to grant them in order to overcome the disadvantage of an unduly high rate of exchange. The Association further suggested that the transfer of deposits from the local Post Office Savings Bank to Indian Government Savings Banks should be arranged for the benefit of officials proceeding to India on leave or retirement.

It was, however, considered impossible at that stage to differentiate between the Government servants and the general public. Government was quite unable to bear the loss on exchange then falling on all remitters to India, and I was compelled, to my regret, to refuse the request. The question was considered in my Executive Council on the 12th February, and the principle that Asiatic employees of Government were entitled to an exchange compensation was admitted.

4. By the 1st of March Money Order business with India had been suspended, and the only means of remitting money to that country was through the Banks at a loss which appeared to approximate to 50%. The gravity of the position was again brought before members of the Executive Council and, after discussing the matter fully, they recommended that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the increased cost of living to Asiatics owing to the recent currency legislation and to report what, if any, measures were necessary to relieve them. This Committee was composed of the Treasurer (as Chairman), the General Manager of the Uganda Railway, Mr. Playfair the local Manager of the National





relief need be taken. My invitation in referring this further to that Council for consideration at the next meeting of Council had on the 15th been expressed the opinion, with which I concurred, that the cost of making remittances to India might properly be considered to be covered by the War Bonus.

The petitioners were informed accordingly. The Secretaries of the bodies referred to then asked the Government to cable their petition to Your Lordship. This request was not acceded to for reasons on which I propose to address Your Lordship in a separate despatch. An offer to forward their cable-message to Your Lordship by despatch was made, but the Associations preferred to cable independently. I now have the honour to transmit a Memorial addressed by these Associations to Your Lordship.

6. It having been brought to my notice that the specially favourable opportunities for remitting money to India referred to in paragraph 2 of the Committee's report of March 17th had ceased, the whole position as regards the grant of compensation to the Asiatic Staff was about to be again reviewed in Executive Council, when Your Lordship's telegram of the 4th May was received, indicating the measure of compensation which Your Lordship had decided should be afforded to the Asiatic Staff.

My Executive Council and myself still consider that the increased cost of remittances to India should be met by the remitters from their War Bonus. It will in addition be impossible to exercise any control or supervision over alleged family remittances and it is not improbable that unscrupulous individuals will abuse

22/400/32905

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the privilege by remitting money on behalf of members of the staff. Further, any special concession for Government employees will be a precedent for claims by other Asiatic employees at a time when the cost of Asiatic Labour is very seriously affecting all employers. The Public look to Government for a lead in resisting claims which, if admitted, will still further increase the cost of production.

9. I append for Your Lordship's consideration a Memorandum by the Treasurer, with which I fully concur. I would add that as the salaries of the Asiatic Government Staff amount to over 38 lakhs of rupees, the cost to the Protectorate of the concession of 1/3rd salary would amount to about 25,300 for every l.d. difference on exchange, if claims up to the full allowance are made. I am unable to suggest whence this money is to be found in the present financial stringency. So seriously do I regard the situation that I feel bound to ask for Your Lordship's reconsideration of the decision transmitted in Your Lordship's telegram under reference. Should I have failed to convince Your Lordship that this compensation is unnecessary I most earnestly trust that Your Lordship will approve the alternative suggested by the Treasurer in paragraph 15 of his memorandum: an addition to the War Bonus will at any rate obviate the expense of an increased number of accountant-clerks who will be necessitated for the computation and checking of the multitudinous small claims which will be submitted.

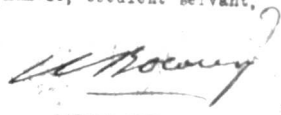
10. In my telegram No.262 of the 19th instant I have asked Your Lordship for permission to suspend

the

400/25009

the application of the concession granted until there  
has been time for a full statement of past events to  
be laid before your Lordship, and I shall be grateful  
if you will be good enough to refer me to  
Your Lordship's final decision by cable.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Lordship's  
humble, obedient servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

Public Office  
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PHILIP LINDSAY

Report of Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the increased cost of living in East Africa since the recent Currency Legislation and report what, if any, measures are necessary to relieve them.

The Committee has held four meetings and heard evidence from 3 Indian merchants, 3 Non-European employees of the Railway, 2 representatives of the Non-European Civil Service Association, and 4 employers of Indian labour one of whom was an Indian furniture maker.

2. The Committee is of the opinion that there has been no appreciable increase in the cost of living of Asiatics up to date due to the recent Currency Legislation. The prices fixed by the Food Controller and published in the Official Gazette of February 11th have not been raised, because, in spite of the apparent difference in exchange with India, merchants owing to want of funds have sold their drafts on India in Lombasa for as low a rate as 2%.

3. When this enquiry was instituted the difference between the rate of exchange in East Africa and India was about 33%. To-day's sterling exchange in India has fallen to  $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>s d</sup>, which means a difference of 12½% only between India and East Africa. The evidence which has been heard shows

that

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PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE LONDON

that the prospective  
of living will not exceed 50% of  
an employer's salary.

4. The Committee is therefore unanimously  
of the opinion that in the present circumstances  
no measure of relief are necessary.

(Sd) W. E. Kempe (Chairman).

(Sd) R. W. Playfair.

(Sd) S. Couper.

(Sd) V. V. Phadke.

(Sd) J. D. Lawson.

(Sd) Arthur C. Ternahill.

17th March, 1920.

May it please Your Lordship,  
I have the honor and respectfully beg to lay

before Your Lordship the question of Family Remittances of the Asiatic Civil Servants of the Protectorate and the Railway with the fervent hope that Your Lordship will give the subject sympathetic consideration.

2. Due to the currency legislation introduced locally vide Special Official Gazette No. XIII No. 694 of 9th Feb., 1920, the Postal Commission on Rupee Money Orders was raised to 18% and Bank Drafts in rupees were sold at still higher rate ranging from 20% and over.

3. On the promulgation of these rules we immediately approached the Government on the 10th Feb., 1920, asking for the facilities of Family Remittances and pointed out the necessity for such concession.

4. Again on Feb. 21st further rules were enacted suspending Rupee Currency Money Order, vide special Official Gazette Vol. XIII No. 697.

5. After having waited till 8th March 1920, we sent a reminder to which we received an acknowledgment.

6. As the situation was daily growing serious and causing grave dissatisfaction amongst the Asiatic Civil Servants, a Mass Meeting of both the Railway and the Protectorate Asiatic Staff was called on the 14th

Appendix "A".

Appendix "B".

Appendix "C".

Appendix "D".

Right Honourable  
Herbert Asquith, C.B., G.C.M.G.,  
Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
Downing Street, LONDON.

His Excellency  
Sir Charles Bowring, K.B.E., G.C.M.G.,  
Acting Governor,  
East Africa Protectorate,

HAIRORI.

C.O. 533  
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14th March 1920, and the question was fully debated and the following resolution adopted:-

"In view of the present exchange difficulties this Government respectfully prays that the Government of India be considered, as Post Office remittances to India have been totally stopped also Bank rupee drafts. As this privilege is universal and at present exists besides Europeans, Non-Europeans from Seychelles, Mauritius Government of India hands, &c., it is hoped that Government will not withhold sanction owing to extreme penury of the families and dependents of Asiatic Staff. The announced contemplated exchange compensation may to a certain extent mitigate the local rise in prices but will not meet this vital necessity".

7. On the 16th March 1920, we communicated the above motion to the Hon'ble the Ag. Chief Secretary and again appealed for Family Remittances. Having received no reply, we submitted on 7th April, 1920, the enclosed copy of letter together with a sum of Rs.200/- asking to cable to Your Lordship the resolution quoted in para.6. A further reminder was sent on the 13th instant.

8. On the 14th instant we received from the Hon'ble Ag. Chief Secretary a communication No.21048/29 dated 13th April 1920 and on the 15th April, 1920, a further letter No.21048/49 of 14th idem which was acknowledged by us.

9. Since the Local Government decided not to accede to our request of cabling to Your Lordship our motion at the cost of our Associations, our only remedy was to appeal to Your Lordship as the question was one of pressing nature and vital importance to the dependents of the Asiatic Staff, majority of whom had to do without Family Remittances for at least two months.

10. After more than two months delay by the Local Government in dealing with their request for a resolution, in triplicate, your Lordship's despatch to Your Lordship not only strained our confidence and darkened our hopes but it also vividly brought home to us that the Local Government by continuing procrastination did not care to realise our embarrassing position.

11. The full correspondence between the Government and the Associations was read to the Mass Meeting of the Protectorate and the Railway Asiatic Staff convened on the 17th instant and the following resolution unanimously carried:-

"In view of the urgency of the question of Family Remittances to the dependents in India of the Asiatic Civil Servants, who have been deprived of such facilities for over two months and considering the refusal of the Local Government to send a cable to the Colonial Office even at our own cost, this Mass Meeting of the Railway and the Protectorate Asiatic Staff hereby resolve that the motion of the Meeting of 14th March 1920 regarding Family Remittances be cabled direct to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The suggestion of the Local Government to send the resolution by despatch would not meet our requirements as the question has already been unnecessarily protracted and further delay would mean entire deprivation of means of subsistence to our families at home"

Annex "K"  
Annex "L".

and the enclosed cable submitted to Your Lordship and copy transmitted to the Local Government.

12. As we failed through the recognised channel to approach Your Lordship, and as the question was a momentous one, we had no other alternative but were compelled by sheer force of circumstances to adopt the unusual procedure of cabling direct to Your Lordship and bringing to your notice the serious situation

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P.B.  
INDIA



situation in which we are placed.

13. ... of educational facilities in this country, are forced to keep our children at home. If we do not keep on paying for their school fees, board & lodging, they would undoubtedly stand in danger of being turned out

... financially all over the world, and if we be unable to make our usual remittances towards the maintenance of our dependents and the payment of premia on Insurance Policies, our families will have no option but to borrow money at an unusually heavy rate of interest or forego the necessities of life and run the risk of the forfeitures of the Insurance policies, the result of which will be disastrous to our homes morally and financially.

15. The privilege of Family remittances is universal in the Colonial Service as provision is made for such a contingency in the Colonial Regulations and we see no valid reason why this concession should be withheld from us. This question was raised before the Local Commission which sat in 1918 to go into the grievances of the Civil Service of this Protectorate.

Appendix "E".

16. With regard to the findings of the Special Committee the report has not dealt with the question of Family remittances which is also affected by the Currency legislation. We fail to see how the statement made by the Committee at the end of para. 2 is going to afford any relief to the

Asiatic staff and what guarantee there is that prices will not soon rise. It would have been very interesting if the Committee had published the names of the merchants who were selling drafts on India at a discount of 2% and how many of the Asiatic Civil Servants benefitted by the munificence of the merchants, otherwise the finding is of little value. Considered from the point of time between 10th Feb. 1920 and 17th March 1920, the report is premature as the shipments ordered from India between the above dates could not have arrived and consequently not placed on the market. There is yet another factor lost sight of, and that is of business firms who could before afford to sell goods below the gazetted prices, promptly adhered to the published rates when the value of rupee was stabilized locally. Moreover it should be remembered that prices of few articles only are fixed by the Food Controller, and in other cases it is not an offence to raise prices. We therefore conclude the Committee has only superficially dealt with the question referred to it.

17. Stress has very often been laid on the point that the War Bonus granted to the Asiatic Staff is overgenerous, and this plea is advanced as to why all and sundry concessions should be refused to the Asiatics. The most important fact lost sight of is that the War Bonus granted to Asiatic employees is only about one third of that granted to the European Staff, and yet to view it in any other light than that of fairness is to create dissatisfaction and discontent which we humbly beg to state do not tend either to harmony or efficiency of the service. Had the War Bonus been

been the exclusive privilege of the Asiatic Staff there might have been some cause for continually harping on this question, but as things stand at present it is simply wise to strengthen our contention that the local Government does not look with favour on the Asiatic employees of the CIVIL Service.

18. It might also be stated here that whereas the cost of goods imported from Europe has gone down in the same proportion as the fluctuation in Exchange between here and Europe, the price of Indian produce has enhanced since the War Bonus was awarded due to various economic conditions latterly aggravated by famine and the more so since the rupee has been stabilized in this Protectorate.

19. The argument advanced that the rise in value of the Rupee will benefit the Asiatic Staff is fallacious. Even if the currency of this country were the same as that of India, the Asiatics would in no way profit thereby, as he would receive the same amount of money as he lodged with the Bank minus the Commission which is at present prohibitive. The enhanced value of a Rupee will only benefit those who convert their salaries into sterling and send their money to Europe, South Africa &c. which is not the case with the Asiatic Staff.

When the currency of this country undergoes a change the Asiatic Staff stands to lose heavily.

20. To deny us even the universal privilege of Family Remittances is not only a negation of the principle enunciated by His Excellency the Acting Governor when introducing the currency legislation that

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OFFICE, LONDON

that pecuniary relief would be afforded to the  
employees of the Government, but it is also a credit  
to the Government that it has not prepared to  
take any of the sacrifices incurred through the  
implementation of measures for stabilizing the rupee.

With all due respect to the local Government  
we beg to state that it has been difficult for us to  
resist the conclusion that the gravity of our position  
and the far reaching consequences to our dependents  
in India, if further delay is caused, have not been  
fully realized by them, and it seems to us that  
considerations other than those of equity and justice  
have invariably outweighed their decisions in  
questions affecting the interests of the Asiatic  
Staff.

We beg to remain,

Your Lordship's Most Obedient Humble Servants,

*Rampal Kishor*

*C. M. Murthy*

JOINT SECRETARIES,  
Non-European Civil Service Association.

*Colinva*

President,  
Railway Asiatic Union.

*H. C. Day*

Secretary,  
Railway Asiatic Union.

The  
SPECIAL  
OFFICIAL GAZETTE  
of the

Appendix

EAST AFRICA PROTECT

Published under the authority of His Excellency the Governor  
of East Africa

S. XIII. - No. 694)

NAIROBI, February 9, 1920.

Price 25 Cent

Government Notice No. 47.

The Indian Post Office Act of 1898.  
Rules.

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Governor-in-Council by the Indian Post Office Act 1898, Section 43 (2) (c), His Excellency the Acting Governor has been pleased to make the following Rules:-

(1) These Rules may be cited as the Foreign Money Order Rules (No. 1) 1920.

(2) The existing rates of commission upon Money Orders issued upon India, Zanzibar, British Somaliland, Tanganyika Territory, and Belgian Congo, or negotiated with other countries through these Administrations, are hereby amended by substituting the following rates:-

	Commission	
	Rs.	Ots.
For sums not exceeding ten rupees	1	80
For sums exceeding ten rupees and not exceeding twenty rupees.	3	60

and at the same rate, i.e., Rs. 1/80 for each ten rupees, or part thereof, to the maximum amount allowed.

(3) These Rules shall come into operation on the 9th day of February, 1920.

By command of His Excellency the Acting Governor.

Nairobi,  
9th February, 1920.

W. J. MONSON  
Acting Chief Secretary.

Nairobi, 10th February, 1920.

362A

Sir,

~~Present circumstances.~~

We are desirous that our Committee to respectfully place before you, for your favourable consideration, the question of family remittances to India, on behalf of the Asiatic Staff of this Protectorate.

2. Similar facilities are allowed to the European Staff and other Government servants recruited from other Colonies, and in view of the exorbitant rates of the Bank and Postal Commissions which have now been enforced for remittances to India, our Committee find no other alternative but to appeal to you to relieve the Asiatic Civil Servants from the predicament in which they now find themselves, by extending to them the same concessions as are allowed to the European Staff and other employees recruited from the Colonies.

3. You will doubtless realize that our families in India are mainly dependent on the regular remittances from here and the increased rate in the Commission on Money Orders and Bank Drafts not only hits us hard on our small remittances to India but it will inevitably tend to enhance the already high cost of living to a further prohibitive figure.

4. Our Committee would also like to approach you on behalf of those Asiatic Officials who proceed on leave to India or retire permanently from the Government service, that they may be allowed to transfer their savings from the Postal Savings Bank in this Country to any Government Savings Bank in India, which facilities we believe are allowed in the case of Europeans. Our Committee feel that they are compelled to make this request in view of the present existing circumstances.

Honourable,  
The Ag. Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

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3. We, therefore, trust that you will be pleased to give this question your early and sympathetic consideration and thus relieve us from the disabilities which we are now bound to suffer.

We beg to remain, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

Sd. Premji R. Sapat

Sd. G. V. Nazareth

JOINT SECRETARIES,  
Non-European Civil Service Association.

THE  
SPECIAL  
OFFICIAL GAZETTE  
Of The  
EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

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Published under the authority of His Excellency the Governor of East Africa

No. XXI. - No. 697)

NAIROBI, February 21, 1920

(Price 25 cents)

Government Notice No. 54.

THE INDIAN POST OFFICE ACT 1898  
AND  
THE POST OFFICE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1919.  
Rules.

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Governor-in-Council by the Indian Post Office Act 1898 as applied to the Protectorate, and the Post Office Amendment Ordinance, 1919, and all other powers him thereunto enabling His Excellency the Acting Governor-in-Council has been pleased to make the following Rules:-

1. These Rules may be cited as "The Foreign Postal and Money Order Rules No. 2 1920".
2. All Rules heretofore made pursuant to the provisions of the said Act and Ordinance, or howsoever otherwise, relating to the issue by the Post Office of Foreign money orders expressed in rupee currency are hereby suspended.
3. All sterling money or postal orders issued in the United Kingdom or elsewhere for payment in the Protectorate, or purchased in the Protectorate for payment in the United Kingdom or elsewhere shall be cashed or purchased, as the case may be, in the Protectorate at the rate of two shillings per rupee.
4. The rules dated the 18th day of December, 1919, under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, are hereby revoked.
5. These Rules shall come into operation on the 21st day of February, 1920.

By command of His Excellency the Acting Governor-in-Council,

J. G. HAMILTON-ROSS  
Ag. Clerk of the Executive Council.

Nairobi,  
21st day of February, 1920.



Non-European Civil Service Association

Nairobi, 10th February, 1926.

368

The Honourable,

The Acting Chief Secretary,

Sir,

Family Remittances.

We respectfully beg to draw your attention to our letter dated 10th February, 1926, and as we find our position is daily getting difficult with regard to remittance for the maintenance of the families of the Asiatic Staff of this Protectorate, we would most humbly urge that steps may be taken to alleviate the precarious position in which we are placed.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

Sd. Premji K. Sapat

Sd. J. F. Nazareth

JOINT SECRETARIES.

REPLY.

Secretariat,

Nairobi, 10th February, 1926.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. --- of the even date on the subject of Family Remittances,

Further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

Sd. G. A. Northcote

for Acting Chief Secretary to the Government.

Joint Secretaries,

Non-European Civil Service Association,  
Nairobi.

Nairobi,

13th March 1920.

366

Sir,

At a combined Mass Meeting of the Railway and the Protectorate Asiatic Staff held on the 14th instant the question of Family Remittances was fully considered and the following resolution adopted, to be placed before His Excellency the Ag. Governor. It was further resolved that in the event of the local Government considering that it is a case for reference to the Secretary of State for the Colonies or declining from any other cause to accede to the request, that the Resolution be cabled to the Colonial Office at the expense of the Associations:-

"In view of the present exchange difficulties this Mass Meeting of the Protectorate and the Railway Asiatic Staff respectfully prays that the extension of the privilege of family allotments through Agents in India be considered, as Post Office remittances to India have been totally stopped also Bank rupee drafts. As this privilege is universal and at present exists besides Europeans, Non-Europeans from Seychelles, Mauritius, Government of India hands, &c. it is hoped that Government will not withhold sanction owing to extreme penny of the families and dependants of Asiatic Staff. The announced contemplated exchange compensation may to a certain extent mitigate the local rise in prices but will not meet this vital necessity".

2. The question of Family Remittances of the Asiatic Staff has been included in the various petitions submitted to the Government from time to time, and due to the present adverse exchange conditions it has created an impossible position. The sterling drafts issued by the banks are cashed in India at about Rs.6/50 to the £ for which we pay at this end the sum of Rs.10/- per £ or a loss of nearly 54%.

3. Owing to the Family Remittances having thus been practically suspended, our families in India are now undoubtedly in very strained circumstances and unless Government comes to our relief immediately on this question the situation is fraught with serious consequences to us and our families.

Hon:The Ag.Chief Secretary,

Nairobi.

4. The maintenance of our families depend entirely on the regular remittance of money from India. The importance of this question is so obvious that it is hardly necessary to say that our families will now find themselves destitute of means wherewith to meet their daily necessities of life.

5. Consideration should be given to the fact that this privilege is at present enjoyed not only by Europeans but has also been extended to the Non-European officials recruited from Seychelles, Mauritius & lent hands from Government of India, we shall therefore be grateful if the same privilege is accorded to us. There is more need for assistance in our case now than ever before.

6. We are extremely grateful to His Excellency the Ag. Governor for the announcement he has made that steps are being taken to grant the Asiatic employees of the Railway & the Protectorate exchange compensation. This step may to a certain extent mitigate our condition due to rise in prices locally, but we most respectfully beg to state that it will not relieve the embarrassing situation in which we are now placed as regards the maintenance of our families and dependants in India.

7. In conclusion we beg to assure His Excellency the Ag. Governor that in placing the foregoing facts before him, we are not actuated by any other motive except of alleviating the dire distress of our families & dependants in India, we therefore make an earnest appeal to the Government to sympathetically consider our position and thus relieve our present situation which is full of great embarrassment to us.

We beg to remain, Sir,  
Your Most Obedient Servants,  
Sd. L. De Mello  
CHAIRMAN  
Of the Mass Meeting.

H.L. Day  
Secretary  
Asiatic Union.  
A. Almeida  
President,  
Asiatic Union.

Sd. Premji B. Sapat  
Sd. C.F. Nazareth  
JOINT SECRETARIES,  
Non-European Civil Service Association.

7th April 1920.

368

Sir,

Reference to India.

I would draw your attention to our letters dated 10th February, 1920, and 15th March, 1920.

2. As no steps appear to have been taken to afford us any relief with regard to family remittances to India, and as we presume the latter necessitates reference to the Colonial Office, we earnestly appeal to His Excellency the Ag. Governor to cable to the Secretary of State the resolution forwarded to you in our letter dated 15th March, 1920.

3. We beg to enclose herewith the sum of Rupees Two Hundred towards the cost of the Cable.

4. The situation is most serious, as the families of most of us had to do without any remittances for the last two months, and unless necessary measures are devised to relieve our position immediately, we fear we will be engulfed in grave troubles which our strenuous efforts and best energies will be powerless to avert.

We beg to remain, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

Sd/- Premji L. Ganai.

Sd/- C.P. Khandoo.

Joint Secretaries,  
Non-European Civil Service Association.

Sd/- H. L. Day

SECRETARY,  
Railway Asiatic Union.

A. Almeida.

PRESIDENT.

Railway Asiatic Union,  
Hon'ble Acting Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

*Appendix 1*

Reminder.

Nairobi, 18th March 1920.

Sir,

359 57

We respectfully beg to draw your attention to our letter dated the 15th March, 1920, and to two subsequent reminders on the subject and shall be glad if you will kindly favour us with a reply at an early date.

We beg to remain, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

Sd/- Premji R. Sapat.

Sd/- G.F. Nazareth.

JOINT SECRETARIES,

Non-European Civil Service Association.

Hon: The Ag. Chief Secretary,

Nairobi.

15th April, 1948.

370

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th April, 1948, regarding the above heading, transmitting copy of a resolution carried at a meeting of the Asiatic Society of the Civil Service.

2. As you are aware, a special committee was appointed to go into the question of the increased cost of living to Asiatics due to the recent Currency Legislation. Their findings were published in the local press on Friday 14th ultimo; and in view thereof this Government does not propose to take any action at present as regards granting exchange concession or other pecuniary relief to Asiatic employees.

3. With regard to your suggestion of rebury the monthly family allowances of non-European employees should be remitted through the Government Agents in India to their dependents in India, it is regretted that this is not practicable nor is Government prepared to bear the cost of exchange.

4. I have to add with regard to your application for transfer between the Savings Banks of the West Africa Protectorate and the Government of India that such facilities could not obviously be restricted to civil servants and that the Government would not be

Yours faithfully,

THE SECRETARY, WEST AFRICA.

NON-EUROPEAN CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION AND

RAILWAY ASIA-TIC UNION.

N. I. S. S. I.

a proposal for a general session

of the

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

sd/- G.A.S. Northcote.

For ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY

to the GOVERNMENT.

The Secretary.

Nairobi.

April 7, 1913.

In continuation of my letter No. S. 2106 of the 13th April, I am directed to inform you that the Government is not prepared to telegraph to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the motion contained in your letter of 15th March, but if you will submit copies of that resolution in triplicate, it will be communicated to the Secretary of State by despatch.

Yn. Secretaries,  
Non-European Civil Service  
Association, & Railway  
Asiatic Union, Nairobi.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- G.A.S. Northcote

For Ag. CHIEF SECRETARY to the  
GOVERNMENT.

C.O. 533

233



Sir,

Family Remittances.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 21048/49 of the 14th instant conveying to us the decision that the Government is not prepared to telegraph our Resolution regarding Family Remittances to the Secretary of State at the cost of our Associations.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly return us the sum of Rs. 200/- which we sent you along with our letter of 7th instant.

I beg to remain, Sir,  
Your most obedient servants,

Sd/- Ranjiv D. Gopet.  
Sd/- C.V. Mahabadi.  
JOINT SECRETARIES,

Non-European Civil Service Association.

- A. Almeida  
.....  
PRESIDENT,  
Asiatic Union.

Sd/- S.L. Ray.  
SECRETARY,  
Asiatic Union.

Chapelrie  
London.

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(From) Secretaries Railway and Protectorate  
Associations.

Nairobi,  
18th April, 1920.

Family Remittances.

Ref. Your No. S. 3048/49 of the 14th inst.

At the Mass Meeting held on the 17th instant of the Railway & Protectorate Asiatic Staff the correspondence that passed between the Associations and the Government re the above was read and discussed. The following resolution was then unanimously carried:-

"In view of the great urgency of the question of Family Remittances to the dependents in India of the Asiatic Civil Servants, who have been deprived of such facilities for over two months and considering the refusal of the local Government to send a cable to the Colonial Office even at our own cost, this Mass Meeting of the Railway and the Protectorate Asiatic Staff hereby resolve that the motion of the Meeting of 14th March 1949 regarding Family Remittances be called direct to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The suggestion of the local Government to send the resolution by despatch would not meet our requirements as the question has already been unnecessarily protracted and further delay would mean entire deprivation of means of subsistence to our families at home."

3254

2

In accordance with the above resolution we have  
forwarded to the Secretary of the Council Office

To pay the hon ur to be given  
our Post Obedient Servants

34/- L. D. Tello

CHAIRMAN  
Of the Year Meeting.

34/- Ernest W. Spat.

34/- C. A. Nazareth.

JOINT SECRETARIES,  
Non-European Civil Service Association.

34/- W. L. Jay

SECRETARY,

Railway Asiatic Union.

34/- A. Almeida.

PRESIDENT,  
Railway Asiatic Union.

## HOUSE OF COMMISSION ON ASIATIC TRADES

376

## NO ACTION REQUIRED

The following is the report of the committee appointed by His Excellency the Acting Governor to investigate the increased cost of living to Asiatics since the recent currency legislation.

In view of this report, His Excellency the Acting Governor has decided that no immediate action on the part of the Government is necessary.

"The Committee has held four meetings and heard evidence from three Indian merchants, three non-European employees of the Railway, two representatives of the Non-European Civil Service Association, and four employees of Indian labour, one of whom was an Indian furniture maker.

"The Committee is of the opinion that there has been no appreciable increase in the cost of living of Asiatics up to date due to the recent currency legislation. The prices fixed by the Food Controller, and published in the "Official Gazette" of February 11, have not been raised, because, in spite of the apparent difference in exchange with India, merchants owing to want of funds have sold their drafts on India in Mombasa for as low a rate as 2 per cent.

"When this enquiry was instituted the difference between the rate of exchange in East Africa and India was about 33 per cent. To-day's Sterling exchange in India has fallen to 2s. 3 d., which means a difference of 12½ per cent only between India and East Africa. The evidence which has been heard shows that if this rate is maintained, the prospective increase in cost of living will not exceed 3½ per cent of an employee's salary.

"The Committee is therefore unanimously of the opinion that in the present circumstances no measures of relief are necessary".

Sd. H. A. Oubendy  
Chairman  
Sd. H. W. Playfair  
Sd. S. Couper  
Sd. J. V. Phadke  
Sd. J. D. Lawson  
Sd. A. C. Tannaill

March 17, 1920.

Re: Family Remittances for Non-European Clerks

Reference your S.F.1449 dated the 6th instant.

His Excellency the Acting Governor has asked that this matter may be put up to him.

2. In March last the Executive Council recommended that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the increased cost of living of Asiatics owing to the new Currency Legislation and to report what if any measures are necessary to relieve them.

3. His Excellency approved and a Committee constituted as follows was appointed:-

- The Treasurer, Chairman.
- The General Manager of the Railway.
- B.W. Flayfair Esq. Manager National Bank of India.
- V.V. Phalke Esq. Advocate (Indian).
- T.D. Lawson Esq. Nominated by the Native Chamber of Commerce.
- A.C. Tannahill Esq.

4. The report of the Committee together with a copy of the evidence taken was forwarded to you under cover of S.F. 29,597/1/28 dated the 16th March last.

5. While the report does not deal specifically with family remittances this point was fully enquired into in the last para of the Report, reading as follows, covers this as well as the general question:-

"The Committee is therefore unanimously of the opinion that in the present circumstances no measures of relief are necessary".

6. It might be noted to the arguments put forward by that Committee that the Secretary of State has already explained that the arrangement arrived at with regard to the local exchange and currency is a compromise, and that a compromise does not call for any further concessions to any of the parties concerned.

7. I am convinced that if the Government now alters the decision and grants the concession with regard to remittances, it will have to face an outcry from the employers of Asiatics in the town, who will be compelled to follow suit, and that action of the Government in going back upon its decision will be regarded as a weakness and a breach of faith.

8. As late as April 1921 last the matter of remittances to India was considered by His Excellency in Council and it was decided that the cost thereof was covered by War Bonus.

The position of the exchange with India rose... The rate of... Committee's Report... probably...

10. Another... Indian... has risen... unable to pay. On this point an enquiry might be addressed to the... Controller.

11. The instructions now given by the Secretary of State in regard to remittances are that these are to be made by the Government but that the difference between 2s/- and the sterling exchange value of the Indian rupee is to be paid by remittances made, up to 1/3rd of salary.

12. If the rate of exchange rises again as it almost certainly must nearly every Asiatic employe will take advantage of the concession and as there are approximately 3187 such the difficulty of complying with the instructions will be apparent. Some of them may however be stated:-

I. The impossibility of attempting to examine the need for remittances in every case and the uselessness of so doing if the attempt were made.

II. The impossibility of Government Departments making 3287 remittances every month without additional staff (which is difficult to obtain) both here and in the offices of the Government and Railway Agents in India. There would be hundreds of alterations in names and addresses of remittances every month and the additional correspondence would be very heavy.

III. The impracticability without additional staff of examining and checking every month 3287 claims for difference in exchange on remittances and to have been made through Banks and Commercial Houses if the Government does not itself make the remittances.

IV. The extreme difficulty of dealing with the matter even by Post Office Money Orders. Some sort of certificate would have to be given to each man that he was entitled to remit so many rupees at 2s/- and these certificates would probably find a ready market in town.

V. The heavy work attached to the addition of a still further allowance to the paycheets of 3287 Asiatics if it were decided to meet the case by means of an all round exchange compensation allowance on 1/3rd of salary; a difficulty largely increased by an exchange rate fluctuating between 2s/00d and 2s/9d.

13. It is not stated whether the allowance is to be on 1/3rd of salary only or on 1/3rd of salary plus War Bonus but I take it that as War Bonus was granted in respect of the increased cost of living in East Africa the intention is that the allowance shall be on 1/3rd of salary only.

14. It will be recalled that the present House allowance for the Secretary of State is Rs. 1,000 per month. It is proposed to increase this to Rs. 1,200 per month. It is suggested that this increase should be made in the form of a grant-in-aid to the Secretary of State's office, pending the issue of the bill.

15. It is essential to be honest with the public and to convince the Secretary of State that the proposed increase is unnecessary but if compensation must be given for the loss of joint so without increased expenditure on a grant of over-ride is by way of an addition to the War Bonus. How such an increase is to be assessed with a fluctuating exchange, I do not know the correct offer no suggestion.

16. The present wages bill, not including war bonus, of all relations amounts to approximately Rs. 25,00,000 per annum. Give the figure roughly, in case it may be desired to ascertain the financial aspect of any proposal.

17. The second concession granted by the Secretary of State means nothing as officials on leave have, and continue to have, their leave pay in Indian Rupees.

H. H. Buxton,  
for Treasurer.



DRAFT. Tel.

Your des 21 may

revised

acknowledged

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Usual Staff

Nairobi

MINUTE.

Epologon

perplexion

a view of present position

Mr. Khas 22/7/20

Mr. Parkin 22/7/20

Mr. Mackie 23/7/20

Mr. Gaudin 23/7/20

Sir H. Lambert

+ Sir H. Bodd

Sir G. Fiddes

Col. Amery

Lord Milner

of Indian exchange

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you should inform me

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