



Government of India Bil

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Government of India Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM.

It is proposed in this Bill to make provision for the transfer to Votes of Parliament of the expenses of the Establishment of the Secretary of State (Clauses 264 (5), 266 (1), 267 (2), (3), (5) and (6), 431 (5) and 432 (3)). Provision is made for the payment of contributions from the revenues of India and Burma in respect of so much of the expenses of the India Office as is attributable to the performance on behalf of India and of Burma of such agency functions as it may be agreed between the Secretary of State and the Governor-General of India and the Governor of Burma that the India Office should perform. The amount of the contribution payable in this regard will be agreed between the Governor-General and the Treasury (Clause 266 (3)) and the Governor of Burma and the Treasury (Clause 432 (1)). A contribution will also be made from the revenues of India in respect of the superannuation allowances, etc., of the India Office staff transferred (Clause 268 (1)).

This proposal gives effect to the suggestion made in paragraph 389 of the Report of the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform and reverses the present arrangement under which the expenses of the India Office are a charge on the revenues of India, an annual grant in aid being made towards those expenses from British revenues. This grant is at present £110,000 a year, a figure which represents broadly the cost of the administrative functions of the India Office, as distinct from the agency functions which it performs on behalf of the Governments in India.

The total present annual cost of the India Office Establishment on account of salaries, pensions and contingencies is estimated as follows:—

	£
Salaries and wages	198,000
Pensions	62,000
Contingencies, stationery, printing, book-binding, postage and telegrams to India, National Health Insurance, law charges	32,000
Total	292,000
Present annual grant in aid from British revenues	110,000
Net charge on Indian revenues	182,000

Until the Secretary of State, the Governor-General of India and the Governor of Burma have agreed upon the functions which the India Office shall in future perform on behalf of the Governments in India and the Government of Burma, it is not possible to give an exact estimate of the net charge which will fall on British revenues from the proposal, but it is not anticipated that this charge will differ materially from the present figure of £110,000.

As from the date when Aden ceases to be a part of British India (for which provision is made in Clause 270 (1) of this Bill) the present Indian contribution towards military and political expenditure in Aden will cease. This contribution is fixed at one-third of such expenditure and is therefore a varying figure, but is subject to the provision that it shall not exceed £150,000 a year.

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