

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 14th March, 1924.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN GAYA AND SHERGHATI.

779. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal**: Do the Government propose to call for opinion on the subject of a paying Railway connection between Gaya (E. I. R.) and Sherghati, with extension to Raniganj (Gaya), from the persons and bodies mentioned in my previous question, and lay a report of the opinions so received on the table when available?

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by the Honourable Sir Charles Innes yesterday in reply to his question No. 756.

INDIAN TROOPS SERVING ABROAD.

780. ***Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kidwai**: Will the Government inform the House as to the number of Indian troops serving abroad, stating the places they are garrisoning?

Mr. E. Burdon: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the numbers of Indian troops employed abroad, and the places at which they are employed.

Persian Gulf	6 British officers. 314 Indian other ranks.
Aden	16 British officers. 42 British other ranks. 1,040 Indian ranks.
Malay States	12 British officers. 762 Indian ranks.
South China	12 British officers. 762 Indian ranks.

In addition to the above, there are 123 Indian ranks serving as Consular Guards in Persia, Afghanistan and Abyssinia.

Indian troops are also employed in Palestine and Iraq but, as stated in reply to a question put by another Honourable Member, details of these cannot be given.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS ON THE C. I. DEPARTMENT, THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.

781. ***Rai Hari Prasad Lal**: (i) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the annual expenditure over the maintenance of the (a) C. I. Department, (b) Excise Department and (c) Publicity Department, during the last 10 years?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government explain why this difference is made?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: According to the merits and capacity of the different persons appointed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How are the merits judged? By some university qualifications, or educational qualifications, or what?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Everything taken together.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Is that the universal rule?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I believe so.

Mr. Chaman Lal: That is to say, in every case Europeans get more than Indians?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I have already stated that there are many cases of Indian clerks starting on a higher pay than European clerks.

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. C. S. ROBERTS AS A CATTLE RANGER IN THE
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.**

812. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. C. S. Roberts has been appointed as a Ranger in the Delhi Public Works Department on Rs. 240—10—270 per mensem? If so, what are his qualifications? Is he a qualified Ranger from any recognised school of Forestry?

(b) What are Mr. Robert's duties?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for appointing him on such a high rate of pay, when trained Rangers could be had from the Forest College on considerably much lower pay?

(d) Was this post of Ranger in existence when Mr. C. S. Roberts was appointed to it, or was it created only for him? In the former case, will the Government please state the names of incumbents and the pay of each?

(e) Was any complaint received against Mr. C. S. Roberts, Ranger, and Mr. Mustoe, Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, and if so, have they been fully inquired into? By whom were the inquiries made? Was it the Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, who inquired into the complaints against himself? What was the result of the inquiry? Will the Government be pleased to lay these papers on the table?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Mr. Roberts has been appointed as a cattle Ranger, not as a Forest Ranger. He is qualified for this appointment.

(b) He primarily looks after grazing and cattle trespassing. He is also in charge of Preserved Monuments in the New Capital.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The appointment did not hitherto exist. Formerly the duties were divided between two or more officials and the arrangement was found unsatisfactory.

(e) No complaint has been received against Mr. Roberts. Some allegations have been made against Mr. Roberts, which on inquiry by his superior officers were proved to be frivolous. Government do not consider it necessary to lay the papers on the table.