

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 25th September, 1929.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COVENANTED SUBORDINATES RECRUITED FOR RAILWAYS.

849. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : How many covenanted subordinates have been recruited into (i) State Railways and (ii) Company-managed railways during the last three years in the grades of (a) Foremen in Railway Workshops, and (b) other classes ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The information has been called for from the railways and will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

LEAVE RULES FOR STATE RAILWAYS.

850. *Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will Government please state if they have arrived at any decision regarding the new leave rules pertaining to the State Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The drafting is practically complete now and Government hope to be able to issue the rules shortly.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS.

851. *Dr. B. S. Moonje : (a) Will Government please state if any decision has been arrived at in the matter of creating a new appointment of Commissioner of Indian Medical qualifications and standards ?

(b) Is it a fact that under section 4, clause 1, of the British Medical Act, 1886, the General Medical Council has no authority on its own accord to refuse to continue recognition of Indian medical degrees ?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Medical Council has made a suggestion for the appointment of a Commissioner of Indian Medical qualifications and has threatened to refuse to accord recognition to Indian Medical degrees unless their suggestion is complied with ?

(d) Are Government aware that the General Medical Council cannot of itself refuse to recognise Indian Medical degrees but can only move the Privy Council to adopt such a course ?

(e) Are Government aware that the Privy Council cannot authorise the General Medical Council to refuse to recognise the Indian Medical degrees unless occasion is given to the Indian Universities concerned to show cause why the General Medical Council should not refuse to recognise their medical degrees ?

(f) Has any of the Universities of India thus been called upon to show cause as mentioned above ? If so, which are the Universities ?

(b) Are Government aware that serious discontent prevails amongst the piece-workers on account of unfair distribution of work by section-holders ?

(c) Is it a fact that a large number of compositors have made repeated representations to the Manager of the Press against the unfair distribution of work by section-holders, but no action has been taken by him against the section-holders concerned ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Piece-workers' Enquiry Committee, 1922, brought this matter of unfair distribution prominently to the notice of Government ? If so, is it a fact that strict orders were passed by Government to prevent favouritism and petty oppression by Foremen and section-holders ?

(e) Is it a fact that the piece-work system, except in the case of the favoured few, causes extreme trouble and allows starvation wages only owing to unfair distribution of work ? If so, do Government propose to abolish the system and introduce fixed pay for compositors, distributors, impositors and pressmen in the Government of India Press, Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) No.

(b) Government are not aware of any such discontent.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The answer to both parts of this question is in the affirmative.

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

SUPERSESSION OF CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

915. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi :** (a) Is it a fact that some clerks were newly appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office on a pay higher than that of the men who were already in service in the office ? If so, why ?

(b) Is seniority in this branch of service determined by the pay of the official or the period of service ? If the former, why are the claims of the old servants overlooked ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The pay of the new recruits in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is fixed under the rules of recruitment of subordinate establishment in the Railway Accounts Department approved by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. A copy of these rules is available in the Library of the House. Under these rules, candidates who obtain more than a fixed percentage of marks in the competitive examination get a higher starting salary.

(b) The question of determining the seniority of the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is still under the consideration of the Committee which has been appointed for the purpose.

GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

916. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiqi :** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Smith has been placed on special duty to inquire into the grievances of the men serving in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office and to prepare a seniority list ?