

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state when legislation on the basis of the proposals submitted by the All-India Cantonment Association is likely to be introduced into this House?

(c) Until such legislation takes the form of an Act, do Government propose to instruct the respective Cantonment Magistrates by means of circular notices to give effect to such proposals as far as practicable?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** (a) The Government of India are aware that there is a general demand on the part of the cantonment residents in India for the introduction of reforms in cantonment law. A Government of India committee is at present sitting to consider what reforms are necessary. This committee includes 4 Indian gentlemen to represent the interests of cantonment house owners and residents. The committee are, of course, taking into consideration the views expressed by the All-India Cantonments Association.

(b) Government are not able to state how soon legislation will be undertaken. The report of this committee will require consideration by the Government of India, and some little time must necessarily elapse before a bill can be introduced in this Assembly.

(c) The Government of India regret that they cannot issue instructions at present as suggested in this question. The proposals submitted by the All-India Cantonments Association would, if accepted, involve alterations in the constitution of Cantonment authorities and their duties and functions, which would require legislation to make them valid, and would also involve interference with existing leases and rights of tenancy.

**Srijut Debi Charan Barua:** Sir, there is a rumour that the penal settlement is going to be shifted to the Lakhimpur District of Assam. I want to ask whether there is any truth in that rumour?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell:** None.

#### CANTONMENT CASES.

321. **Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is the Government aware of the practice common in all the cantonments that the cases under the cantonment codes, etc., instituted by Cantonment Magistrates or Assistant Cantonment Magistrates or at their initiative by their subordinates, are tried by such Cantonment Magistrate or Assistant Cantonment Magistrate themselves?

(b) Do the Government propose to consider the question of issuing standing instructions that such cases may be transferred to the files of Cantonment Bench Magistrates, where such benches exist, or to any Magistrate in the headquarters of the district, where such benches do not exist?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is at present under the consideration of a committee convened by the Government of India to deal *inter alia* with the revision of Cantonment Law and Administration.

#### EXTRA ASSISTANT CANTONMENT MAGISTRATES.

322. **Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in the Army Department please say what is the present cadre of the Extra Assistant Cantonment Magistrates?

(b) Has there been any addition or alteration in the cadre, since it was first introduced?

(c) Is the Government aware that these officers are stationed at their respective cantonments since their first appointments, about 10 or 12 years ago?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to extend the usual practice of transference of public servants, after a certain period in the case of these officers also?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** (a) The present cadre is 3.

(b) No.

(c) One of these officers has been 10 years and 6 months in his present station, the other two have been less than 9 years in their respective stations.

(d) There is nothing to prevent the transfer of these officers; the sole test to be applied is whether the public interest would best be served by transferring them or leaving them where they are.

#### INCOMES IN CANTONMENTS.

**323. Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the incomes derived in the principal cantonments in India, from house, water and conservancy taxes, with details showing how much of the same comes from the parts inhabited by the European and the Indian population respectively?

(b) What amount is spent for the upkeep of sanitation, light, road-watering, etc., every year, in the Bazzars and on the area outside the Bazar limits?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** The information asked for by the Honourable Member, so far as it is available, is being collected, and when ready a statement will be laid on the table.

#### HYDRO-ELECTRIC SYSTEM IN MEERUT CANTONMENT.

**324. Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is the Government aware that there was a joint scheme under discussion to introduce the Hydro-Electric system into the Meerut Cantonment and Municipality, and that the cantonment has not now joined in the scheme, since tenders are now being invited on behalf of the Municipality only?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to give reasons for this? Is there any separate scheme under consideration to introduce this system into the Meerut Cantonment? If not, then, do the Government propose to take steps at an early date for the introduction of this scheme?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** Government are aware that a scheme for a joint hydro-electric system for the Meerut Cantonment and the Meerut Municipality has been put forward. The matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India, and it has not yet been finally decided whether the Cantonment authorities should join in the scheme or not.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan:** Sir, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is Government aware that a hydro-electric scheme has already been