

understand that the compilation of such a Library will take time. Government would, meanwhile, welcome any suggestions; either from the Members themselves or from the House Committee shortly to be constituted in regard to the classes of books which are likely to prove useful to Members.

I may explain that the Legislative Department will make every endeavour to provide to any Member from their own Departmental Library, any book which he requires in connection with the business of the Assembly; if the book is not available there, a requisition for it may be addressed to the Department which is believed to have it. In this connection reference is invited to page 9 of the Hand-book which has been issued to Members.

**Mr. P. P. Ginwala:** Is the Honourable Member aware that the General Acts and Codes in the Library are not up to date and that it may be possible to bring them up to date by inserting the necessary corrections.

**The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru:** I will make inquiry into the matter.

#### READING ROOM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

**390. Mr. P. P. Ginwala:** Is the Government aware that Members are much inconvenienced by the absence of a reading room containing newspapers and periodicals, and if so, does the Government contemplate the provision of such reading room?

**The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru:** Government are not aware that great inconvenience has been caused by the absence of a reading room containing newspapers and periodicals. The matter seems to be one that should be taken up by the House Committee now in process of formation. Government will be prepared to give any reasonable assistance.

#### STAMPS AND STATIONERY.

**391. Sir Frank Carter:** (a) What was the amount expended by the Government of India in stamps and stationery during the year 1913-14?  
(b) What was the amount so expended during the year 1919-20?  
(c) Are any steps being taken to control such expenditure?  
(d) What system of supervision is there?

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland:** (a) and (b). The amount spent by the Government of India in stationery, was:

|         | Rs.       |
|---------|-----------|
| 1913-14 | 16,45,052 |
| 1919-20 | 76,98,694 |

The figures shown in the statistics of the Government of India as the charges on account of the manufacture of stamps and collection of stamp revenue after deducting the cost of anna postage stamps used for revenue purposes are:—

|         | Rs.       |
|---------|-----------|
| 1913-14 | 25,97,145 |
| 1919-20 | 39,13,710 |

(c) and (d). It is presumed that the Honourable Member asks for information about stationery only, as 'stamps' is a revenue head. During the period covered by the question there was a very large increase in the cost of all stationery materials. In the case of paper manufactured in India, which is the largest item of stationery expenditure, this increase was about 155 per cent., but the rise was greater in the case of many miscellaneous articles. Paper and other goods purchased in England in some instances cost five and

six times the pre-war rates. The demand for stationery was also abnormally increased owing to the conditions created by the war.

The work of many Departments, particularly the Army and the Post and Telegraphs, increased enormously during the period necessitating a corresponding increase in their printing work and in the consumption of stationery. Every effort has been made to secure economy. Among them I may mention the use of thinner and unbleached paper, the reductions in the size and number of publications and the use of cheap locally made substitutes.

The question of measures for securing further economy has been for some months under special examination, in consultation with the various Departments concerned, with the assistance of the new Inspector of Office Procedure.

### PROVINCES UNDER REFORMS.

392. Babu K. C. Neogy: With reference to the statement made in paragraph 9 of the Government of India letter to the Secretary of State, No. 296, dated Simla, the 24th June 1920, to the effect that the advantage to the provinces will, at the commencement of the Reforms era, be far greater than what is shown in the (Financial Relations) Committee's report, will Government illustrate the accuracy of this observation in the light of the latest estimates of revenue and expenditure of the different Local Governments?

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: A statement is laid upon the table showing the figures on which the statement made in paragraph 9 of the Despatch is based. These figures are, as stated in the Despatch, the budget figures of 1920-21. The budget figures of the provinces for 1921-22 are not received by the Government of India, and there has not been time to work out the figures on the revised estimates of the current year.

| Province.                   | NORMAL INCOME.             |                             | Gross increase under income. | Imperial expenditure transferred to provincial (Net). | Net increase in income. |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|                             | On present classification. | On proposed classification. |                              |   |                         |
| 1                           | 2                          | 3                           | 4                            | 5   | 6                       |
|                             | Rs.                        | Rs.                         | Rs.                          | Rs.   | Rs.                     |
| Madras . . . . .            | 9,80,96                    | 16,47,64                    | 6,66,68                      | 45,92   | 6,20,76                 |
| Bombay . . . . .            | 11,73,95                   | 13,99,04                    | 2,25,09                      | 99,87   | 1,25,22                 |
| Bengal . . . . .            | 8,46,75                    | 9,38,86                     | 92,11                        | 46,27   | 46,84                   |
| United Provinces . . . . .  | 8,35,69                    | 13,21,24                    | 4,85,55                      | 55,53   | 4,30,02                 |
| Punjab . . . . .            | 6,59,61                    | 11,07,22                    | 4,47,61                      | 1,09,67   | 3,37,94                 |
| Burma . . . . .             | 7,26,76                    | 9,91,88                     | 2,65,12                      | —29,53  | 2,94,65                 |
| Bihar and Orissa . . . . .  | 3,58,78                    | 4,59,81                     | 1,01,03                      | 43,68   | 57,35                   |
| Central Provinces . . . . . | 3,86,66                    | 5,19,23                     | 1,32,57                      | 60,32   | 72,25                   |
| Assam . . . . .             | 1,70,59                    | 2,03,70                     | 33,11                        | —14,22  | 47,33                   |
| TOTAL . . . . .             | 61,39,75                   | 86,88,62                    | 24,48,87                     | 4,17,51   | 20,31,36                |