

[17th March 1921]

[M. Hafiz Nurul Haqq]

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the measures, if any, they propose to take in that connection?

MR. BREMNER : (a) The liability of parts of the Bhabhua subdivision to famine has been recognized for many years.

In 1914 the Government of the United Provinces offered a supply of water from an irrigation project to be constructed by the Maharaja of Benares. The details of the scheme have been worked out for a supply of water for 41,000 acres of rice. The project was, however, postponed indefinitely by the United Provinces Government for financial reasons.

The question of irrigation from the *Durgaoti* and other smaller rivers has been considered, but the supply of water in these rivers is so precarious that it was decided they could not be relied on at times of drought.

(b) Government propose to await further action of the United Provinces Government regarding the *Karamnasa* scheme. With regard to the *Durgaoti* and smaller streams, the water is used when required by the local zamindars who make *bandhs* as required.

A proposal for the extension of the Main Western Canal is under consideration, but its success depends on the possibility of increasing the supply available from the *Son*.

Rai Bahadur Sharat Chandra Ray.

Instructions to
Excise officers in
regard to temperance
movement associated
with non-co-opera-
tion.

234. With reference to the present temperance movement associated with non-co-operation, will the Government be pleased to state whether officers of the Excise Department have been furnished by Government with clear and specific instructions as to the action which they should take in the various circumstances that may arise :

e. g., (i) where the propaganda of a temperance preacher is directed against Government and is not so much prompted by a genuine zeal for social reform, and his methods are illegal ;

(ii) where the propaganda of a temperance preacher is prompted by a genuine zeal for social reform, but his methods are illegal ;

(iii) where the aim of a temperance preacher is manifestly social reform and nothing else, and his methods too are legal ;

(iv) where, although the main object of a temperance preacher is political, he is also actuated to a smaller extent by a zeal for social reform and his methods are perfectly legal ?

239. If no specific instructions have been yet issued, are they about to be issued ?

240. If any specific instructions have been given, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of those instructions on the table ?

MR. SIFTON : 238-240. Instructions have been issued by Government to the following effect :—

"The Local Government have nothing to say against a genuine temperance movement proceeding on legitimate and peaceful lines, but it is reported that the supporters of non-co-operation are using intimidation and wrongful restraint in order to force the consumers of country spirit and *tari* to abandon their habits and to prevent the excise vendors from practising their trade. Both the consumer and the vendor are entitled to protection from outside interference and to have the vicinity of shops cleared of picketing."

The Local Government have ordered that in all cases where there are complaints of intimidation, every effort should be made to give the protection which the law affords. The officers of the Excise Department should therefore be instructed at once to report to the local magistrate all cases where shops are being picketed and ask for their assistance in preventing restraint and intimidation.