

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st March, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.  
The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### EXPULSION OF PERSONS FROM CANTONMENTS.

497. **Haji Wajihuddin**: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of persons who have been ordered during the last 2 years to leave Cantonments (within 24 hours from receipt of notice) under sections 215 and 216, Cantonment Code, with reasons of their expulsion?

**Sir Godfrey Fell**: It is regretted that Government are not in possession of the information asked for by the Honourable Member, as expulsion orders under sections 215 and 216 of the Cantonment Code are not communicated to the Government of India.

If the Honourable Member desires to press the matter, the information will be collected from the local military authorities and, when ready, will be laid on the table.

### PRESIDENT OF THE ASSAM COUNCIL.

498. **Srijut Debi Charan Barua**: (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to adverse comments in the Press upon the appointment by the Governor of Assam of his father-in-law as the President of the Assam Provincial Legislative Council?

(b) Were the Government of India consulted in the matter of the appointment, and if so, did they approve of it?

**Mr. S. P. O'Donnell**: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to a similar question asked by Rai Bahadur Girish Chandra Nag on March 5th, 1921.

### INTERESTS OF THE JAIN COMMUNITY.

499. **Mr. Pyari Lal**: (a) Is the Government of India aware that though the Jains numerically form a small community in the country, yet proportionately they contribute to the Indian Exchequer more revenue in the shapes of income-tax, land taxes, etc., than other communities and that their share in the recent war loans was not inconsiderable?

(b) Has the Government made any provision to protect their minority interests in the matter of Reforms, Education or appointments in the Public Services?

(c) Have the Local Governments ever exercised their power of direct appointment to Provincial Executive Services in favour of eligible young men of the Jain Community as they do in case of others?

(1401)

**Mr. C. A. Innes :** The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 9 of Chapter II of the Report of the Postal Committee. It will be seen that the Postal Committee would have proposed Rs. 60 as the minimum pay for a clerk in Bombay had the probationer grades been retained. The proposed Rs. 50 and Rs. 55 as pay for the two years during which a new entrant may be regarded as in training. The Government have accepted this recommendation, the reasons for which are fully explained in the above report.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar :** When a question of this nature is raised, regarding revision of pay, do Government take it as the opinion of the Member or of the Assembly?

**The Honourable the President :** A question is not supposed to be an expression of opinion.

#### POSTAL CLERKS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

**548. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any memorials from the Postal clerks in the Bombay Presidency about the sanction and subsequent withdrawals of the war allowance at scales granted by the Local Government and subsequent recoveries from the staff of seven of the head offices where the amounts were actually disbursed?

**Mr. C. A. Innes :** Government have received some memorials on the subject. The allowances in question were paid to some of the staff without authority under a misconception. The amounts wrongly drawn had, therefore, to be recovered, but to prevent hardship the recoveries were made in several instalments.

#### WAR ALLOWANCES AND THE BOMBAY POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

**549. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** Will Government be pleased to state as to why war and other allowances sanctioned from time to time by the Bombay Government Departments under its control have not been granted on the same scale to the Postal Department in that Presidency, and whether they would consider the desirability of according immediate sanction to all such allowances similar to that granted to the servants of the Local Government?

**Mr. C. A. Innes :** The Postal Department, being an Imperial Department, was given a general scale of war and other allowances, which was applicable to other parts of India besides the Bombay Presidency. But in places like Bombay City, where conditions were peculiar, the scale sanctioned by the Local Government for its servants was extended also to postal officials.

The rates of pay recommended by the Postal Committee were intended to absorb war and other allowances, and the Government have no intention of revising them.

#### DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

**550. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state as to why the Departmental Committee recommended to be appointed by the Postal Inquiry Committee to go into the technical questions connected with and the working of the Post Office has not yet been appointed and whether they intend appointing it at once?