

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)

(b) In appointing the Committee do the Government propose to see that they appoint a majority of clerical representatives in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the report of the Postal Committee by officials?

Mr. C. A. Innes: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the recommendation made in paragraph 5 of Chapter VIII of the Postal Committee's report. The Committee did not suggest the formation of any Departmental Committee but recommended that the departmental time test should be examined by experts. This has been done and it is found that except in respect of one or two items of work no change is required.

(b) The question does not arise.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTED HOLIDAYS AND POST OFFICES.

551. **Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas:** (a) Are Government aware that:

(i) the Post Office is not privileged to enjoy all Government gazetted holidays, and

(ii) that no extra allowance is paid to the officials for their service on those days?

(b) Are the Government prepared to consider the desirability of either closing Post Offices on gazetted holidays or paying reasonable extra allowances for services rendered on those days?

Mr. C. A. Innes: The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 3 of Chapter VIII of the Postal Committee's report. The Government agree with the Committee's conclusions.

OUTSIDERS IN THE HIGHER BRANCH OF THE POST OFFICES.

552. **Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas:** (a) Have Government noticed the serious unrest culminating in several appeals to the authorities concerned prevailing among the officials of the Post Office on the vexed questions of direct appointment of inexperienced outsiders to the higher branch of the service, and has their attention been drawn to complaints as to the way in which favourite officials are selected both for higher appointments and the examinations which such officials are to pass for those appointments, irrespective of seniority or other questions of merit?

(b) Do the Government intend to order the immediate abolition of all such distinctions and institute a system of regular examination for all officials desiring to attend and better their prospects, such examination alone to be the medium leading to higher appointments?

Mr. C. A. Innes: It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the appointment of probationary Postmasters, which is discussed in paragraph 2 of Chapter VIII of the Postal Committee's report. As there stated, there are now eleven probationers on the rolls. Government have issued orders that there is to be no further appointment of probationers until these eleven have been absorbed. The question of the total abolition of this method of recruitment will then be considered.

EFFICIENCY BARS IN POST OFFICES.

553. **Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas:** (a) Are Government aware of the introduction of efficiency bars at two stages in the newly sanctioned scales of