

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)

pay for the Post Office and will they please state their reasons as to the necessity of any such bars.

(b) Do the Government propose to abolish with immediate effect all these bars?

Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) Yes. The reasons for these efficiency bars are given in Chapter II of the Postal Committee's report, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(b) No.

HARDSHIPS ON SENIOR MEN OF THE POST OFFICE.

554. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (a) Is Government aware that the limitation of 50 per cent. increase only in certain cases of the Post Office establishment according to the revised scales of pay causes great hardship on senior men of the Department?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the question of doing away with this limitation?

Mr. C. A. Innes : The Postal Committee in paragraph 16 of Chapter II of their report, dealing with clerical grades up to Rs. 100, recommended that the immediate increase in pay given to any individual should be limited to a maximum of 50 per cent. on his existing pay *plus* war allowance. The Government accepted their recommendation and they are unable to agree that a rule limiting *per saltum* increases of pay to 50 per cent. is a great hardship on senior men of the Department.

REVISED SCALE OF PAY IN THE POST OFFICE.

555. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Are Government aware that the revised scale of pay as recommended by the Postal Committee is insufficient to meet the increased cost of foodstuffs ; if so, will they please say how they propose to compensate the clerical cadre, and whether any proposals for the grant of local allowances for places like Bombay, etc., are under consideration?

Mr. C. A. Innes : The revised scales of pay recommended by the Postal Committee took into consideration the increased cost of living. Government are not aware that there has been any further increase in the cost of living since the Committee reported. No proposals for the grant of local allowances for places like Bombay are under consideration.

SCALES OF PAY IN THE DIFFERENT POSTAL LOCALITIES.

556. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the anomalies existing in the scales of pay of the Postal Service sanctioned for the different localities for instance, Poona has been placed in scale 'C' while Kirkee, a suburb of Poona and a military centre, is placed in scale 'D.' Do Government propose to examine all these anomalous scales and eliminate all such discrepancies?

Mr. C. A. Innes : The matter is already under the consideration of the Government.