

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)

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY POST MASTER'S CIRCULAR.

557. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (a) Are Government aware of a circular letter issued by the Presidency Postmaster, Bombay, proposing to lease out to such of the clerks desiring it a building constructed by the Bombay City Improvement Trust at a nominal rent of Rs. 33 per set of rooms?

(b) Will Government be pleased to say whether the rent demanded is the nominal rent in Bombay for a couple of rooms, and, if so, whether they will please consider the question of granting a suitable house-rent for the clerical cadre in Bombay City?

Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) Yes.

(b) The rent named by the Honourable Member is the rent fixed by the Bombay Improvement Trust. The Postmaster-General is now submitting proposals for the purchase of one or more of these tenements by Government for the housing of their employees.

RECOVERY OF EXCESS AMOUNT FROM A POSTAL CLERK.

558. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (a) Are Government aware of a Circular issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs directing recovery of any excess amount due to Government after deduction of the arrears of pay due to a clerk from the one month's advance of pay granted before the introduction of the revised scales of pay and are they aware that this order, if carried out, would cause great hardship?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of waiving all dues?

Mr. C. A. Innes : The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has already represented the matter to the Government, and it has been decided that the recovery of any excess amount due to Government should be waived.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS.

559. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Are Government aware of the serious hardship caused to the Railway Mail Service sorters of the 'B' Division who have to stay in Bombay in the interest of service and do Government propose to consider the grant of the same scale of pay for them as is allowed in the Foreign Mail Service?

Mr. C. A. Innes : The question of raising the pay of the men of 'B' Division, Railway Mail Service, whose headquarters are fixed at Bombay, is under consideration. It should be noted, however, that the conditions of service are not the same as in the Foreign Mail Division.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POSTAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

560. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (a) Is it a fact that the recommendations of the Postal Committee of Inquiry were returned to that Committee for reconsideration as being too extravagant? If so, will Government lay on the table their original report?

(b) Has any correspondence passed between the Government and the Committee ever since the hearings began? If so, will Government be pleased to lay it on the table?