

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)

(d) The Up Bombay Mail stops at the larger stations only on the Grand Chord and stoppage at Palmerganj cannot be arranged.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to replies to (a), (b), (c) and (d).

COMMISSIONS IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

563. **Munshi Iswar Saran:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of officers holding His Majesty's Commission in the Royal Air Force and the Auxiliary Force?

(b) Will Government be further pleased to state the approximate number of officers holding His Majesty's Commission belonging to the British and Indian services that is expected to be reached by the end of the present year?

(c) How many Indians are expected to hold His Majesty's Commission by the end of the year 1921?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) There are 3,019 officers holding His Majesty's Commission in the Royal Air Force. The Honourable Member's question presumably refers to the whole Royal Air Force, and not to those units only which are serving in India. As regards the Indian Auxiliary Force, the number at present is 265.

(b) The estimated number is approximately as follows:

British Services	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,300
Indian Services	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6,400

(c) Sixty-three.

SYSTEM OF FORCED LABOUR.

564. **Munshi Iswar Saran:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles of Mr. C. F. Andrews on the evils of the system of forced labour as it prevails in various parts of British India that have appeared in the public press?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue orders for its immediate and complete abolition?

Mr. J. Hullah: (a) The Government of India have seen certain articles by Mr. Andrews on the subject.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer which I have to-day given to Mr. Bhimrao Hanumant Rao Jatkar in reply to Question No. 537.

OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL SERVICES.

565. **Munshi Iswar Saran:** Will Government be pleased separately to state the number of officers, British and Indian, in the Foreign and Political Services and whether it is prepared to introduce, in large numbers, at an early date, Indians into such services?

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Saprū (on behalf of the Honourable Sir John Wood): The answer to the first part of the question is to be found by reference to 'The Quarterly List of the Foreign and Political Department,' a copy of which is placed on the table. As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to my speech of the

15th instant in reply to his motion for reduction of the demand under Head 48—North-West Frontier Province.

566. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Sir, I do not wish to put Question No. 566.

PUBLICATION OF RULES RE HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONS.

567. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Do Government propose to consider the question of publishing in the important newspapers, English as well as vernacular, of British India by the end of June 1921 all the rules regarding the grant to Indians of His Majesty's Commissions ?

Sir Godfrey Fell : Government will publish the conditions for admission of Indians to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, by the date mentioned.

RAILWAY FREIGHT.

568. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government be pleased to state the railway freight per maund (1) from Allahabad to Karachi, (2) from Calcutta via Allahabad to Karachi, (3) from Allahabad to Bombay, and (4) from Cawnpore to Bombay ? If in any of these cases the freight for a shorter distance be greater than that for a longer distance, will Government be pleased to state the reason thereof ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : I presume the Honourable Member's question relates to goods traffic, and if he will say for what particular article or commodity he wishes to know the rates, the information will be supplied.

I might, however, explain that this information could have been obtained by reference to the Railway authorities concerned.

PROBLEM OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

569. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government be pleased to state if it will appoint a commission to investigate the whole problem of landlord and tenant in India, to suggest practical steps by legislation or otherwise (1) to secure fixity of tenure to the tenants, (2) to place the law relating to enhancements of rent on a satisfactory basis and (3) to bring about generally an improvement in the economic condition of the ryot ?

Mr. J. Hullah : The Government of India do not propose to take any action of the kind suggested. Land Revenue Administration is a provincial subject and the initiative can best be left to the provincial Governments with reference to local conditions.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN CANDIDATES FOR THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

570. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that it is proposed to hold an examination in India for the recruitment of Indian candidates for the Indian Civil Service ? If so, will Government be pleased to state when the first examination will be held ?

(b) Have any rules on the subject been framed ?

(c) Will the curricula for the said examination be the same as for the examination held in London ?