

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) Will the Government be pleased to state if it intends to provide any special facility to students who may desire to sit for the same examination held in India?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : As announced in the Home Department Resolution, dated the 1st December 1920 (copies of which have already been laid on the table), one of the methods to be adopted in future for recruitment for the Indian Civil Service will be by separate competitive examination in India. It has been suggested that to hold the first examination of this kind should be held at centres in India in March 1922, but the details are still under consideration, and some time must elapse before they can be finally settled.

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

571. Munshi Iswar Saran : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it has received any communication from the Government of the United Provinces regarding the raising of the status of the Judicial Commissioner's Court to that of a Chief Court?

(b) What will be the additional financial outlay for the establishment of a Chief Court in Oudh?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if it has arrived at any decision on the point, and, if so, to what effect?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The details of the scheme have not yet been worked out, so that it is not possible to state what would be the financial effect of the proposal.

(c) The matter is under consideration, and the Government of India are not in a position to make a statement at present. In any event, however, the scheme will not be carried into effect unless it secures the support of the Legislative Council of the United Provinces.

RE-UNION OF SYLHET WITH BENGAL.

572. Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur : (a) Are the Government of India aware that the people of Sylhet desire that their district should be united with Bengal and that they have been carrying on a persistent agitation for many years with a view to gaining this object?

(b) Do the Government intend taking steps to authoritatively ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the district in the matter of this union (preferably through their elected representatives on the Imperial and Provincial Councils) and to give effect to the wishes of the people, when ascertained?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 13 of the Government of India's despatch to the Secretary of State of the 5th June. Memorials have been received in the past from a certain section of the inhabitants of Sylhet asking for the re-union of their district with Bengal, but Government are not aware of any general desire for a transfer to Bengal.

(c) and (d). The matter is one which primarily concerns the Local Government and the local Legislative Council, which contains elected representatives of the people of Sylhet. On the materials at present before them, the Government of India do not propose to take any action.