

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: (a) No action is ordinarily taken on advance copies of memorials received by the Government of India.

(b) Under the rules, Local Governments are required to forward quarterly to the Government of India lists of memorials withheld by them, specifying the reasons for their action. These lists, when received, are scrutinized to see whether the action of the Local Governments in withholding a memorial is in accordance with the discretionary power vested in them under the rules. Similarly, lists of memorials addressed to the Secretary of State and withheld by any Government in India are also forwarded to the India Office by the Government of India.

(c) The Government of India consider that the present rules on the subject are sufficiently clear and definite.

RATES OF PAY FOR THE I. M. D.

511. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** (a) Is it a fact that the increased rates of pay for the I. M. D. date only from April 1st, 1920, whereas almost all other similar departments have had their increases dated from a much earlier date?

(b) Can the Government assign any valid reason for this distinction and treatment of a most deserving body of men?

(c) Has the Government taken any steps to remedy this grievance, and, if so, what steps have they taken?

(d) Can the Government give any definite information as to the new rates of furlough pay and pensions of the I. M. D.?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The rates of pay in certain other military departments were revised in consequence of the revision of the rates of pay of the British Army, from which members of those Departments are drawn, and the date of the latter revision had therefore to be adopted. As the I. M. D. is locally recruited, the same considerations do not apply.

(c) No.

(d) The orders regarding furlough pay were published in Army Instruction (India) 998 of 1920, a copy of which will be sent to the Honourable Member.

The pension rates are still under consideration.

I. M. D. AND FREE QUARTERS.

512. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** Do the Government propose to consider the advisability of reconsidering the orders by which large numbers of the I. M. D. have been deprived of free quarters, or even any allowance or facilities for quarters, whereas all other warrant ranks have quarters given or allotted to them? If not, why not?

Sir Godfrey Fell: Government do not propose to reconsider the orders referred to. Free quarters are still admissible to those Assistant Surgeons whose duties require them to live in particular quarters in order to be near their work. Warrant ranks of all other departments pay rent for any accommodation allotted to them.