

MENDICANCY.

262. **Sardar Gulab Singh:** Do the Government propose to consider the question of taking some measures to discourage and to gradually prohibit mendicancy in the country by way of putting certain restrictions, such as registration, legislation, and licenses, etc.?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The necessity for such measures as the Honourable Member suggests has not been brought to the notice of the Government of India, and in any case the matter is one with which Local Governments are more directly concerned than the Central Government.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

263. **Mr. J. Chaudhuri:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints made with regard to the administration of the Calcutta University in the provincial vernacular press generally, and, notably in the *Prabashi*, *Hindusthan*, and *Nayak* of Calcutta, and do not the Government of India propose to take up at an early date the question of University reform in consultation with the Government of Bengal?

(b) Are the Government of India aware that great dissatisfaction prevails all over Bengal both amongst students and the educated public at large with regard to the system of education and administration prevailing in the Calcutta University and public opinion demands a thorough overhauling of the present system of university education and the administration?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to give effect to the recommendations of the University Commission in this respect in consultation with the Governments of Bengal and Assam?

(d) Do Government contemplate the assignment of sufficient revenue to the Government of Bengal to enable it to meet the initial and recurring charges in respect of such University reform?

(e) Is the Government of India aware that the University of Calcutta is at present on the verge of bankruptcy, and do Government propose to appoint a Committee to look into its financial position and come to its rescue pending its reconstitution on a sound educational and financial basis?

Mr. H. Sharp: (a) Government have seen certain complaints in the Calcutta press regarding this subject. The Government of India have for some time been giving their earnest consideration to the question of University reform in consultation with the Government of Bengal.

(b) A perusal of the evidence laid before the Calcutta University Commission and certain articles in the local press indicate that there is a certain measure of dissatisfaction among the educated public with regard to affairs in the University of Calcutta and that there exists a desire for measures of reform. The Government of India, however, are not aware whether this feeling can be regarded as general among students and the educated public at large.

(c) Government have been anxious to give effect to the Commission's recommendations, which they regard as a matter of urgency. Some of the more important of these recommendations, however, have apparently met with opposition in some quarters and no definite date can now be stated as that on which effect will be given to the recommendations.