

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** Is it not a fact that the Assistant Commissioner, Mardana, has been invested with all the powers of a District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner and does not this fact justify the conversion of that appointment into a Deputy Commissionership?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** As regards the point of fact, Sir, it is so. The second matter has several times been under the consideration of Government and the decision so far is as I have stated.

JUDICIAL WORK IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

**758. \*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Is it a fact that for the purposes of judicial work, the N. W. F. Province has been divided into two divisions, (1) the Peshawar Division, comprising the districts of Hazara and Peshawar; (2) the Derajat Division, comprising the districts of Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu and Kohat; each division being under one permanent Sessions and Divisional Judge?

(b) Is it a fact that in view of the very large increase in the judicial work in these divisions a temporary Additional Sessions and Divisional Judge has been working in the Peshawar Division for the past few years, and a temporary Additional Sessions Judge has recently been appointed to assist the Sessions and Divisional Judge of the Derajat Division?

(c) Are the Government prepared, in the interest of the improvement of the judicial work, which has immensely increased owing to the irrigation and other developments in the N. W. F. Province, to consider the advisability of bringing these temporary appointments upon the permanent cadre, and readjust the territorial limits of the jurisdiction of these officers, with due regard to the conveniences of all concerned?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** (a) The Judicial Divisions are as stated in the question, but there is also an Additional Divisional Judge in the Peshawar Division.

(b) and (c). The appointment of Additional Divisional Judge, Peshawar, is permanent and is already on the Political Department cadre. The appointment of Additional Divisional Judge, Derajat, was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner under his own powers for a period of 2 months from 1st January 1924. This was necessary owing to severe congestion of Sessions cases in the Derajat court due to the heavy rate of committal during the preceding five months. The whole question of revising the existing judicial arrangements in the North-West Frontier Province is under consideration.

**Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member in charge please state what the heavy rate of committal was due to?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** I understand, Sir, it was due to the large number of outlaws who had been captured during the preceding period and were to be tried for their offences.

PAY OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND MUNSIFFS IN THE N. W. F. PROVINCE.

**759. \*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the Extra Assistant Commissioners and Munsiffs in the N. W. F. Province are in receipt of the same grades of pay and increments as are enjoyed by officers of the same status and position in the neighbouring province of the Punjab?

(b) If not, will they be pleased to remove the grievances of these services in the N. W. F. Province arising out of this differential treatment?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** (a) Extra Assistant Commissioners in the North-West Frontier Province are in receipt of the same scale of pay as members of the Provincial Civil Service in the Punjab. Munsiffs are not.

(b) The question of applying the same scale of pay to Munsiffs and of insisting on the same qualifications is under consideration.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer:** Is the standard of qualifications the same in the two provinces in theory and in practice?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** The Honourable Member's question, Sir, involves a certain amount of explanation before it can be answered.

It has always been a principle in the North-West Frontier Province that members of the Provincial Service and of the ministerial service should receive the same rates of pay as officers of the same classes in the Punjab. About two years ago the Punjab revised their qualifications for Munsiffs and also raised their pay. The Chief Commissioner applied for the Munsiffs in the North-West Frontier Province to receive the same rates of pay and stated that he would be willing then to introduce the same rules with regard to qualifications. I may explain that the Munsiffs in the two provinces enter for the same Departmental examination, but their papers are not examined by the same examiners. It is therefore not possible to say that exactly the same standard obtains for the two provinces although the papers are the same. The new qualifications introduced in the Punjab were in some respects different from those previously in force in the two provinces. When the Chief Commissioner's application for the enhanced rate of pay came before the Government of India it was referred to the Standing Finance Committee here who recorded their opinion that the Punjab rates of pay were excessive and they did not favour the introduction of these rates in the North-West Frontier Province. The matter therefore remains at that and the whole question, as I say, is still under consideration.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** May I inquire, Sir, if apart from departmental examinations, the academic qualifications of the judicial officers in the North-West Frontier Province are the same as in the Punjab?

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** By academic qualifications the Honourable Member means exactly what?

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** University qualifications.

**Mr. E. B. Howell:** Until 1921 they were the same, Sir, but the rules in force in the Punjab have not, I understand, so far been applied to the North-West Frontier Province.

#### RAILWAY RATES AND FARES ON THE KALABAGH AND BANNU BRANCH OF THE N.-W. RAILWAY.

760. **\*Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum:** (a) Is it a fact that the railway rates and fares over the Kalabagh and Bannu branch of the N. W. R. have been lately enhanced by 50 per cent.?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for this abnormal increase on this particular branch line?

(c) Is this a commercial or a strategical railway and do the Government expect it to be a self-supporting or a paying concern?