

(d) Is it not a fact that the disturbed conditions on the Bannu border during the last few years had frequently interfered with the smooth working of this branch line and that the public could not freely avail themselves of the use of the same with the consequent decrease in its earnings?

(e) Have the Railway Board received any representation on the subject from the Bannu Citizens' Association and will the Government be pleased to see the advisability of relieving the Bannu and the other public of these extraordinary charges over a railway, which cannot be expected to be maintained entirely at their expense?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) The increase was unavoidable as the line was being worked at a heavy loss.

(c) The Kalabagh-Bannu branch is classed as a commercial line and Government expect it to be self-supporting.

(d) During the years 1919—22 the line was used almost entirely for military traffic, but that did not decrease its earnings as charges were levied on all traffic.

(e) The Railway Board have received representations from the Bannu Citizens' Association. No reduction in rates and fares is feasible at present but the effect of the enhancements will be carefully watched and every effort is being made by the railway administration to enforce economy in working.

Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum: Are there any other lines on which the same rates have been brought into force, in that neighbourhood?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I must ask for notice of that question, I am afraid.

PROTECTION OF DERA ISMAIL KHAN FROM THE EROSION OF THE INDUS.

761. ***Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Government be pleased to state what progress, if any, has been made with the embankment project for the protection of Dera Ismail Khan (N. W. F.) from the erosion of the Indus?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The earth work of the bund has been completed in 58 chains out of a total ultimate length of 120 chains, and in 12 chains the stone apron and slope have been finished.

IDENTITY OF THE TWO JUDGES WHO EXAMINED THE CASES OF STATE PRISONERS IN BENGAL.

762. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to my starred Question No. 404 of the 19th February 1924, regarding the arrests in Bengal under Regulation III of 1818, will the Government be pleased to state if they have inquired from the Bengal Government whether the latter have any objection to divulge the names of the two Sessions Judges, before whom papers in connection with the State prisoners were placed? And if so, will the Government be pleased to give the names of the two Judges?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the negative, will the Government kindly state the nationality of the Judges; and also if they are members of the Indian Civil Service?