

ANTI-DRINK MOVEMENT IN INDIA.

786. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) With reference to the Resolution on the "Anti-Drink Movement in India", passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 27th September 1921 (Assembly Debates, Volume II, page 1102), will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken in this connection?

(b) Have Local Governments been addressed on the subject; and if so, will the Government be pleased to place a copy of their replies on the table?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I refer the Honourable Member to the reply† given to Mr. B. R. Sinha's question No. 261 of the 11th March 1922. The original Resolution recommending that the Assembly's expression of opinion be conveyed to Local Governments was not accepted by this House; an amendment to the effect that note should be taken of the fact that the Assembly was in sympathy with the temperance movement in India was adopted in its place. The Local Governments were, therefore, not addressed in the matter.

SETTLEMENT OF FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE HOME AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS.

787. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** With reference to question No. 1 put by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas on 1st February 1924, and the reply of Sir Basil Blackett, will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) By what time the items of financial expenditure in dispute between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government will be settled?

(b) The total amount that is in dispute?

(c) Whether the decision when arrived at will be communicated to this House by way of information, or whether the House will ever be given an opportunity of discussing the question?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Government of India are not in a position to say when the various items will be settled.

(b) The amounts so far as known are given against the various items. In regard to item (c) a further payment of £250,000 will probably have to be made by India, and provision for this payment has been made in the Budget for 1924-25.

(c) The Government will give as full information as possible to the House.

Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan: Am I to understand that this House will not be given an opportunity to discuss the matter?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I made no such statement.

ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY OFFICERS OF THE IMPERIAL SERVICES.

788. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to give a full list of the various kinds of allowances granted to members of the Imperial Services showing the basis on which the amount of each of such allowances is calculated?

† Vide p. 2968 of L. A. Debates, Vol II.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing what percentage of officers in the imperial services draw allowances amounting to 50 per cent. of their substantive salary, and what percentage draw allowances amounting to 75 per cent. or more of their substantive salaries?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: To furnish the information required by the Honourable Member it would be necessary to refer to Local Governments as they control these local allowances. The Government of India do not propose to take this action in view of the time and labour involved, which would not be justified.

As regards part (b) of the question, I may say that, so far as officers serving under the Central Government are concerned, none draw allowances on the scale suggested by the Honourable Member.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF CHAPLAINS RECRUITED IN INDIA.

789. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state why overseas pay, exchange compensation and other local allowances are given to officers in the ecclesiastical department who were recruited in India and were domiciled in India as agents or servants of missionary societies before they joined the ecclesiastical department?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: No overseas pay or exchange compensation allowance is granted to chaplains on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment. A small number of chaplains stationed in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and at certain other stations get house-rent allowances or rent-free quarters on account of the high cost of living.

INQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION.

790. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** (a) In view of the pronouncement of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State in the Parliament and of the Honourable the Home Member in this House, will Government be pleased to state when the inquiry into the working of the Reforms Act will be undertaken?

(b) Whether the inquiry will be an open inquiry?

(c) Whether non-official Members will be nominated on the Inquiry Committee, including the representatives of all interests?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: As regards the nature of the inquiry into the working of the present constitution, I can say no more at present than in the statements which I made on the 8th and 18th February 1924, in this House. We shall consult Local Governments but, except that we intend that our investigation shall be a serious attempt to assess the causes and to examine the remedies necessary, I cannot at the moment say what further steps we shall take. It is proposed that the inquiry shall be begun with as little delay as possible.

Sir Campbell Rhodes: A supplementary question, Sir. Will the Government consider the advisability of associating with themselves in the inquiry one or two of those Members of the House who have had some experience of the working of the reforms during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: As I said I cannot give a definite answer on this subject at present, but we have that suggestion under consideration.