

UTILISATION OF THE SERVICES OF THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

905. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement of the past four years, giving the names of the law officers of the Bengal Government, who were paid for services rendered to the Central Government, together with the amount paid to each, and also the nature of the services rendered?

(b) How long do the Government of India propose to indent upon the law officers of the Bengal Government for services to the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) The information for the three years from the 1st April 1921 is being collected.

(b) The Government of India have no present intention of revising the system.

CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE.

906. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which led to the appointment by the Governor General in Council of a Committee to inquire into the delays in the disposal of civil suits and appeals? What is the estimated cost of the Committee, and who are the members?

(b) With reference to the above, why was not the Legislative Assembly given an opportunity of expressing its opinion?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why the different Local Governments, and the High Courts were not in the first instance asked to devise means for the speedy disposal of civil suits and appeals?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I can add but little information on this subject to that given in the Resolution of the 24th January 1924; in the correspondence annexed to that resolution; in my reply to Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar's question No. 800 on the 12th February 1924; and in my speech on the 20th February 1924, which is reported on pages 853—854 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of this session.

The suggestion that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into certain aspects of the administration of civil justice had been for a considerable time under the consideration of the Government of India. On receipt of most of the replies to the Home Department letter of the 25th June 1923, included in the correspondence to which I have referred, it was decided in October last that the Committee should be appointed and this decision was made public in that month. Though the Resolution only issued on the 24th January 1924, the decision to appoint the Committee had been taken at a time when the Assembly had been dissolved.

Mr. O. Duraiswami Aiyangar: May I know whether the Honourable the Home Member has requested His Excellency the Governor General to enlarge the scope of that inquiry by including criminal administration as well as the strength of the establishment?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I think in the course of our previous debate, that matter was referred to and I said that I would then consider whether any enlargement of the scope of the inquiry was possible without an undue extension of the time which that inquiry would take. I regret I have not been able to take the matter up.