

bungalow unconditionally or not. Action in the particular cases referred to in this question was taken strictly in accordance with the rule. In point of fact, the Chief Engineer paid rent for the full year 1923, as he was not prepared to relinquish his bungalow unconditionally.

(d) No.

PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS.

973. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Do the Government propose to consider the question of removing all restrictions upon the issue and renewal of passports to England and the Continent?

Mr. E. B. Howell: There is no Act or Rule published by the Government of India which makes it compulsory for persons proceeding from India to England or to foreign countries on the Continent of Europe, to be in possession of passports before leaving this country. Passports are demanded of travellers by the authorities in the countries of destination. The instructions relating to the issue and removal of passports, which are partly based on the requirement of Foreign States, are drawn up by His Majesty's Government. They are in force throughout the British Empire and it is not within the competence of the Government of India to alter them.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Do the Government know that a great deal of dissatisfaction prevails in the country with regard to the method and manner in which passports are refused to applicants?

Mr. E. B. Howell: Government are not aware of that.

Mr. Chaman Lal: The fact is that numerous cases have recently cropped up. Will Government see that no restrictions are placed on the grant of passports on purely political grounds?

Mr. E. B. Howell: I would like notice of that question.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government be pleased to inquire if certain persons carrying on business in Europe who have also reserved shops in the Empire Exhibition, were disallowed the renewal of their passports on account of holding political opinions not favoured by the local authorities?

Mr. E. B. Howell: Will the Honourable Member give me the name of any such persons?

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Yes, Sir, I shall be glad to give you the name.

LETTER AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN THE "SWARAJYA" ENTITLED 'RAILWAY VAGARIES'.

974. *Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter published under the heading "Railway Vagaries" in the *Swarajya*, dated 7th March 1924, and the editorial note thereon?

(b) Is the fact stated in the letter true?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken thereon?