

Mr. E. B. Howell: The information required by the Honourable Member has been asked for and will be communicated to him on receipt. I regret, Sir, that I can give no further reply than this to the two succeeding questions.

POLICE RAID ON THE OFFICE OF RAJASTHAN VOLUNTEER CORPS IN AJMER.

†1037. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Are the Government aware that on the 9th January 1924 the police raided and searched the office, library and press of the Rajasthan Volunteer Corps in Ajmer and arrested Mr. Pathik under Sections 124 and 153, I. P. C., although the warrant was issued for arrest only?

(b) Is it a fact that in the course of the search the Police opened by force the trunks and boxes of even those persons who were not present at the time of search and carried away some papers without making any list or permitting the owners even to seal their packets and boxes in contravention of section 103, I. P. C.?

(c) Is it a fact that the Police Superintendent of Bundi State and an officer of Jaipur State were also taking part in the search?

(d) Is it a fact that the police took possession of papers in the absence of either a witness or a representative of the volunteer corps?

(e) Are the Government aware that in cases where the signature of witnesses were taken they were such who did not know English and the list of articles were entered in the diary in English?

(f) Is it a fact that the windows were kept open and the doors were sealed by only the Police officers after the search?

POLICE RAID ON THE OFFICE OF RAJASTHAN VOLUNTEER CORPS IN AJMER.

†1038. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article "After the search" published in the *Navin Rajasthan* of Ajmer, dated 18th January 1924?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if the allegations made therein are true?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken to put a stop to such action of the Police officers in future?

SEPARATE ENTRANCES TO THE HOWRAH AND SEALDAH STATIONS FOR MALE AND FEMALE PASSENGERS.

1039. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following Resolution passed by the E. B. Railway Passengers Associations:—

OPENING OF PASSAGES.

"In view of the fact that passengers for trains starting from Calcutta are allowed to pass by one passage only and thereby causing too much rush, the female passengers as well as others are put to great inconvenience especially in train No. 13 Down when produce vendors with baskets on their heads block the passage and the Up-train passengers on their arrival are allowed to pass through the passage, the Down train passengers are often refused access to the platform, it is resolved that the Authorities concerned be requested to open all gates with all the passages for the "Ingress" and "Egress" of the Down train and Up train passengers, respectively, when such occasion arises."

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to remove the grievances of the public?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to allow the Indian ladies with third and inter class tickets to pass through special passages at Howrah and Sealdah stations?

(d) Are the Government aware that the majority of such lady passengers observe *purdah* and as such are put to great inconvenience when they are forced to pass through the same passage with other male passengers?

(f) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to remove this grievance of the travelling public?

(f) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) Presumably the Resolution in question was submitted to the Agent and Government will leave him to deal with it.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). Government do not think that Railway Administrations can reasonably be asked to provide separate passages for male and female passengers.

THE NILGANJ BRANCH POST OFFICE.

1040. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the "Forward" of the 11th March, under the head "Closing of a branch post office"?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the statement "the Post office in question costs Rs. 20 per mensem but serves nearly 80 villages" is true? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for putting so many villages to such inconvenience?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Director General of Post Offices has decided that the Nilganj branch office, though working at a loss, should not be closed.

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS.

1041. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the "Forward" of the 11th March, under the head "Overcrowding in trains"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of special trains run during the last Barrackpur Races?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have or are being proposed to be taken for the increase of the third class carriages during the coming financial year?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) It is hoped to place on the line 754 broad gauge and 389 metre gauge 3rd class coaches in terms of four-wheelers, during the coming financial year.