

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 19th February, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.
The Honourable the President in the Chair.

The Honourable the President: Members desiring to take their seats, will please advance to the table to take the Oath or to affirm in the manner prescribed.

There being no further Members to take the Oath, we will proceed to questions.

The Honourable the President then called upon Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala to put Question No. 143.

The Honourable Mr. Moncrieff Smith: The Honourable Member is not here.

The Honourable the President: When a Member is absent, unless, under Standing Order No. 19, the Member of the Government, in charge of the Department concerned, wishes to answer the Question, the Question will lapse, and notice will have to be given of it anew.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT.

143. Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala: Do the Government of India propose to consider the question of securing the appointment of an Additional Indian Judge to the Honourable High Court at Allahabad and transfer the judicial work hitherto disposed of by the Board of Revenue to that Honourable Court?

(This Question was not answered as Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala was not present.)

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

144. Babu K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the report of the Calcutta University Commission was submitted to them, and when the report was published?

(b) Is it a fact that on the publication of the report the Secretary of State for India asked the Government of India for a reasoned despatch containing their proposals, and suggested that sufficient time should be given to him to consider the same?

Mr. H. Sharp: (a) The report of the Calcutta University Commission was published on the 9th August 1919. No definite date can be specified on which it was submitted to the Government of India; but before its publication, proofs of it were received by some of the Government officers concerned.

(b) The Government of India are not prepared to give any information on this subject.

REPORT OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

145. Babu K. C. Neogy: (a) Is it a fact that on or about the 27th January 1920, the Government of India published a Resolution on the report

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.

187. **Babu K. C. Neogy**: Will Government be pleased to state, whether, in the case of the provinces of Bengal, Madras, Bombay and Bihar and Orissa, the sufficiency or otherwise of work of the individual Members of the Executive Council has influenced the fixing of their numbers in any manner?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I have already explained in answer to a previous question of the Honourable Member the reasons that determined the strength of the Executive Councils.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.

188. **Babu K. C. Neogy**: Is it a fact that the primary consideration determining the number of Members of the Executive Council in the Provinces of Madras, Bengal, Bombay and Bihar and Orissa, has been the appointment of at least two non-Indian Members of the Indian Civil Service to the Executive Council?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Question No. 183.

Babu K. C. Neogy: May I ask a supplementary question, whether the number of I. C. S. men on the Executive Council has been fixed in the interests of the service itself or in the interests of the efficiency of administration?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: It has been fixed in the public interest.

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.

189. **Babu K. C. Neogy**: In the case of the provinces of Bombay, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa were their present financial circumstances at all taken into consideration in fixing the numerical strength of the Executive Council?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: Not specially. The Government of India have no reason to believe that the finances of these provinces are insufficient to meet the charges in question.

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCILS.

190. **Babu K. C. Neogy**: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table all correspondence that has passed between them and the different Local Governments and the Secretary of State on the question of the numerical strength of the Members of the Executive Council and Ministers in the different provinces?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: It would be contrary to the established practice to lay such correspondence on the table.

IMPORTS OF SUGAR.

191. **Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of foreign sugar imported into India in pre-war days and what was the price per ton?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether beet root sugar is being imported after the war?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any import duty on sugar is levied now, and, if so, at what rate?

(d) Are Government aware of the high price of sugar now? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Government are prepared to take any steps to bring down the value of sugar?

Mr. C. A. Innes: (a) In the three years before the war the average imports of sugar into India amounted to 661,221 tons valued for the purposes of import at Rs. 197 a ton.

(b) As far as Government is aware, beet sugar is not now being imported into India in any appreciable quantity.

(c) Sugar is taxed on import into India at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

(d) The Government are aware that prices of sugar in India are high, but the Honourable Member no doubt noticed the considerable fall in the price of sugar in the last three months of last year. The Government of India do not propose to take any steps artificially to regulate the price of sugar.

JAILS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

192. **Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the report of the Jail Commission has been submitted? If so, when will it be published?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to the Question No. 174 asked by Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar.

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

193. **Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend bringing in any Bill embodying the principles enunciated in the Sadler's University Commission Report?

Mr. H. Sharp: The Government of India have not considered the desirability of introducing any Bill with a view to applying the principles enunciated in the Calcutta University Commission's Report to the Indian Universities in general. As regards particular Universities, legislation has already been undertaken in certain cases which largely applies those principles. The question of their application to some other individual universities is under consideration.

SERVANTS OF INDIAN 1ST AND 2ND CLASS PASSENGERS.

194. **Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the servants of Indian 1st and 2nd class passengers travelling to Colombo are detained at Mandapam for some days and kept under observation, whereas servants of 1st and 2nd class European passengers are allowed to go without such detention? If so, do Government intend to do away with such distinctions?

Mr. H. Sharp: Section V of the Ceylon Quarantine Regulations lays down that servants of upper class passengers accompanying their masters may be passed on the guarantee of their masters except in cases where the servant is to be left alone in Ceylon after the departure of his master.