

(a) In the year 1922-23, applications for admission to Dehra Dun were received from four Bengali candidates. For reasons which I hope the Honourable Member will appreciate I do not propose to give their names. As they are concerned, the matter is a private one. Two of the two were not recommended by the Governor in Council as they were not considered to be up to the standard required, and were accordingly not selected for admission to the College. No applications were submitted by the Provincial Government in 1923-24.

Recommendations are made from the best of the candidates whose names are forwarded by Local Governments and Administrations. In this connexion, I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 14 of the Regulations relating to the admission of candidates to the College, a copy of which was laid on the table in the Council of State on the 24th January, 1923, in reply to Question No. 2.

(c) Yes. Five students from the Dehra Dun College have, so far, been selected for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

SELECTION OF BENGAL STUDENTS FOR THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.

695. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students from Bengal that have been selected for the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in the years 1922-23 and 1923-24?

Mr. E. Burdon: During the years 1922-23 and 1923-24, four candidates presented themselves for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Of these, none reached the standard required in the open examination and none, therefore, was selected.

AUSTRALIAN BEEF FOR BRITISH TROOPS.

696. *Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Will the Government be pleased to state whether beef for the soldiers of the Indian Army is supplied from India? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to substitute the same by importing surplus Australian beef?

Mr. E. Burdon: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply† given on the 23rd July last to starred Question No. 341.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE MANUFACTURE OF EARTH SALT.

697. *Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a speech delivered by Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I., at the Royal Society of Arts and reported in the *Englishman* of the 16th February 1924, wherein he doubts the desirability and effectiveness of the present restrictions on the local manufacture of earth salt which pressed very hard on the poor and cost more than its worth in revenue and carried risk of agricultural deterioration?

(b) Do Government intend to abolish such restrictions?

(c) If not, do Government propose to make an inquiry whether or not such restrictions impose a great hardship on the poor?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (a) Local allowances are granted to postal (including R. M. S.) officials at a large number of places in the Punjab at rates which are considered suitable having regard to the scales of pay provided for them.

(b) The rates at which local allowances are granted to postal officials at Murree, Simla and Kasauli and in the Khyber area and to Railway Mail Service officials at Simla are considered appropriate, having regard to the scales of pay provided for them. No allowance is given at Dharamsala.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES TO POSTMEN AND POSTAL MENIALS EMPLOYED ON THE FRONTIER OUTPOSTS.

716. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the Frontier compensatory allowance paid to Superintendents and Inspectors, Postmasters and the clerical staff in the Derajat Division is denied to postmen and menial staff even on the Frontier outposts?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: Local allowances under the designation of "special pay" are as a matter of fact, granted to postmen and postal menials at several places in the Derajat Division. Such allowances are not necessary at places where postmen and menials are recruited locally.

SELECTION GRADE APPOINTMENTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

717. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state separately the percentage of selection grade appointments in the circle offices and the general line in all postal circles in India separately?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: The whole of the information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available at present but will be supplied to him as soon as possible.

FINES IMPOSED ON POSTAL OFFICIALS OF THE LAHORE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

718. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of fine and the number of officials fined during the time of Mr. Cordeiro, the Postmaster, Lahore G. P. O., and for the corresponding period of his predecessor?

(2) Is it a fact, that the increments of the following officials were stopped for one year to affect future increments with the result that these officials will have to suffer fines noted against them during the remaining period of their service.

Serial No.	Name.	Amount of Fine up to 24 years' service.
1	Ghulam Haider	300
2	Mool Raj Chuni	300
3	Fazal Hussain	708
4	Ghulam Mohammad	756
5	Duga Dutt	852
6	Narinjan Dass	1,140
7	Mohammad Sultan	1,140

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (1) Rs. 457-5-0 on 619 officials during the time of Mr. Cordeiro and Rs. 288-9-1 on 473 officials for the corresponding period of his predecessor.

(2) The reply is in the affirmative except that the increment of No. 2—Mool Raj Chuni was stopped for three months without affecting future increments and that the amount shown against No. 7—Mohammad Sultan should be 1,080.

Mr. Chaman Lal: What steps are Government taking to restore the amounts due to these gentlemen?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: None.

SHORTAGE IN THE POSTAL CLERICAL STRENGTH.

719. **Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that the postal clerical strength in India is short by 1,200 men according to the present time-test?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 25th February 1924 to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's starred question No. 423.

RESPONSIBILITY OF POSTMASTERS FOR THE SAFE CUSTODY OF ARTICLES.

720. **Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters are held responsible for the preservation of public advertisements and bookstalls without being remunerated for this extra service?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: Every postmaster has a general responsibility for the safe custody of all articles in the post office under his charge. He will have no special responsibility for the preservation of either advertisements or bookstalls.

PAYMENT OF MILITARY PENSIONS BY POST OFFICES IN THE PUNJAB AND N. W. F. CIRCLE.

721. **Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indian military pensioners paid by each head post office in the Punjab and N. W. F. Circle, the number of staff actually given and the number of staff justified?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: A statement is placed on the table.

Name of Head Office.	Number of pensioners paid.	Staff given.	Staff justified.
Abbottabad	2,876	2	2
Ambala	3,157	3	3
Amritsar	7,105	6	6
Bahawalpur	185	Nil.	Nil.
Bannu	692	1	1
Campbellpur	3,582	3	3
Delhi	1,207	2	2
Dera-Ghazi-Khan	120	Nil.	Nil.