

(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?

GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTERIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

722. *Mr. Chaman Lal: Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the secretariat establishment of the Railway Board labour under the following disadvantages as compared with the ministerial establishments of the other departments of the Imperial Secretariat as well as of some of the offices attached thereto:

- (a) that beyond Superintendentships and the one post of Registrar no individual can look forward to any higher appointment, e.g., that of Assistant Secretaryship, etcetera,
- (b) that claims to any such higher promotion are refused on the ground of an alleged want of suitable technical knowledge,
- (c) that there is no provision for the men to be otherwise compensated for this permanent loss by their being selected to any of the various appointments on the State Railways,
- (d) that during the last 5 years, at least, only some 2 or 3 men have managed to go out on to some of the Railways, in certain special appointments, but that there is no regular provision by the Railway Board for sending out a certain number of men, annually, in both the official and subordinate grades of such appointments as Assistant Traffic Superintendents, Controller of Stores, Traffic Inspector, Claims Inspector, Storekeeper, Inspector of Coaching and Goods, etc.,
- (e) that for all these permanent and material disadvantages, in comparison with not only the other departments of the Imperial Secretariat but also some of the offices attached thereto, the only compensation, and that of a purely temporary nature, is the concession of free railway passes?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I do not propose to answer this question in detail. Some days ago I said in reply to Dr. Gour that examination had shown that the rules relating to the grant of free passes to Railway Board establishment were such that undue advantage could be taken of them and that the rules were being tightened up. This question is obviously intended to elicit information to show that the rules should not be tightened up. But I am not prepared to accept the underlying suggestion that Government are bound to open up identical prospects of advancement to every Department and that if they do not they should compensate in other ways the ministerial establishments of those Departments which consider they are at a disadvantage in this respect. Assistant Secretaries in the Railway Board do not correspond to officers of the same designation in other Departments. They are nearly all railway officers of considerable seniority and technical attainments. It is not the practice to fill these appointments from members of the Railway Board office nor is it considered that service in that office qualifies men for the appointments on Railways referred to in part (d) of the question.

TEMPORARY HANDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

723. *Mr. Chaman Lal: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state as to how many temporary hands there are in the Railway Board Secretariat establishment and with what service as such? Will Government be pleased to tabulate the number of assistants and clerks separately?