

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 11th March, 1924.

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

DEATH OF MR. G. M. BHURGRI.

Pandit Motilal Nehru (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhamadan Urban): Sir, before you begin the business of the day, it is my painful duty to convey a very sad news to this House. It is the news of the untimely death of our colleague, Mr. Bhurgri, which sad event occurred last night. We were informed of it only a few minutes ago by a press message. In Mr. Bhurgri, Sir, many of us lose a true and valued personal friend and the House loses a very earnest worker, a valued colleague and true patriot. I have no doubt that the House will agree to communicate a message of sympathy and condolence to his relations and to express the grief which I am sure is felt by every Member of this House.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhamadan Rural): Sir, I wish also to associate myself with what has fallen from the lips of Pandit Motilal Nehru. Sir, I knew Mr. Bhurgri for the last 25 years from the time when he joined the collegiate school at Aligarh. He was in his school life popular and won the esteem and love of all those who came in contact with him, and afterwards in public life he proved to be a true Aligarh boy, a genuine patriot and a worthy son of the Motherland. It is very sad indeed that the cruel hand of premature death has snatched away from us a young man and a valuable servant of the country at a time when his services were so badly needed. When we all came to Delhi at the commencement of the present Session, I looked forward with great eagerness to the time of his arrival here, and was very much pleased at the prospect of meeting him again, but unfortunately it was not destined to be, and we will not see him ever in this world. Really it is very sad, and it is difficult for me to convey by means of any words, the expression of our feelings. With these words I support the proposition that we should convey our condolence to the bereaved family of the late Mr. Bhurgri.

Maulvi Abul Kasem (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the news of the death of Mr. Bhurgri came to me as a very great shock. I came to know him at the meetings of the Congress, about 20 years back. He was one of the very few Muhammadans who had the courage of his convictions, and ventured to go into the Congress camp in spite of the jeers and the jibes of the members of the community, and he has maintained that character to the end of his life. He wanted, Sir, to do his duty by the country without fear and favour. He feared not any man, however high or powerful he might be, and he cared not for the claps or the cheers of the populace. But he did his duty honestly, according to the dictates

- (b) Number of punishments by withholding increments, during the years 1921-22 and 1922-23, in (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) above in (a)?
- (c) Number of punishments by dismissal and dispensing with of services?
- (d) Number of cases in which increments have been stopped to effect future increments, and the resultant loss to the officials during the rest of their services?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: Government do not think any useful purpose will be served by collecting and collating the elaborate statistics asked for by the Honourable Member. If any postal official has been unjustly punished, he has the right of appeal.

Mr. Chaman Lal: May I ask whether Government have received any appeals from any of these officials?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I believe some appeals have come in, but I could not answer offhand.

Mr. Chaman Lal: What has been the fate of these appeals?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I could not say.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable Member give the information after inquiry?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: I shall give the information to the persons concerned. If the Honourable Member can point out that anybody has been unjustly punished, I shall give him the information.

PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED ON THE POSTAL STAFF OF THE RAWALPINDI G. P. O.

787. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state separately, the number of postal officials suspended, dismissed and whose services were dispensed with by Mr. Williams, Postmaster, Rawalpindi, during his time and the figures for the corresponding period of his predecessor?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of postal officials re-instated in the Rawalpindi G. P. O. on appeals against the orders of Mr. Williams, Postmaster, Rawalpindi?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of arrears and pay paid by Government to officials mentioned in (b) above and to their substitutes, respectively, during their period of suspension?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the net loss caused to the Department by these punishments?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (a) Three, ten and nineteen, respectively, by Mr. Williams. There were no suspensions or dismissals for the corresponding period of his predecessor, but the services of three officials were dispensed with.

(b) Eighteen.

(c) Amount paid to officials re-instated was Rs. 2,176-7-0 and that paid to substitutes was Rs. 2,722-10-0.

(d) Rs. 1,445-12-0.

Mr. Chaman Lal: I did not quite catch the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question.

Mr. G. R. Clarke: Amount paid to officials re-instated was Rs. 2,176-7-0 and that paid to substitutes was Rs. 2,722-12-0.

Mr. Chaman Lal: Was any action taken against Mr. Williams?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: I do not think this question arises.

PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED ON THE POSTAL STAFF OF THE RAWALPINDI
G. P. O.

738. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it a fact that the following postal officials were suspended, dismissed or their services dispensed with by Mr. Williams, Postmaster, Rawalpindi, and that at least three of them, namely, Shiv Das, Jan Mohammed and Ishar Das, have subsequently died?

Serial No.	Name.	Length of Service:
1	Ram Narain Chopra	14 years.
2	Jaggat Singh	4 "
3	Amar Dass	6 "
4	Gurwardhan Nath.	3 "
5	Arjan Singh	7 "
6	Banot Singh.	1 year.
7	Wazir Singh	2 years.
8	Lachman Dass	3 "
9	Mathra Dass	2 "
10	Shiv Dass	5 " Died.
11	Daya Ram	6 "
12	Mohammad Alam	6 "
13	Barkat Hussain	2 "
14	Gian Chand	3 "
15	Jagan Nath.	5 "
16	Ram Asra Mall	5 "
17	Balwant Singh	2 "
18	Jan Mohammad	2 " Died.
19	Ishar Dass	3 "
20	Saddar Din	2 "
21	Feroz Din	2 "
22	Asa Nand	2 "
23	Lakhmi Dass, Postman	22 "
24	Wishva Nath	22 "
25	Ghulam Hussain	22 "
26	Jagan Nath	12 "
27	Bishamber Nath	12 "
28	Karm Din	8 "

Mr. G. R. Clarke: Yes.

REJECTION BY MR. WILLIAMS, POSTMASTER, RAWALPINDI, OF MEDICAL
CERTIFICATES GRANTED TO THE STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER HIM.

739. ***Mr. Chaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cases in which proper medical certificates, granted by competent medical authorities, namely, (a) Civil Surgeons; (b) Staff Surgeons and (c) registered private medical practitioners, were rejected by Mr. Williams, Postmaster, Rawalpindi?