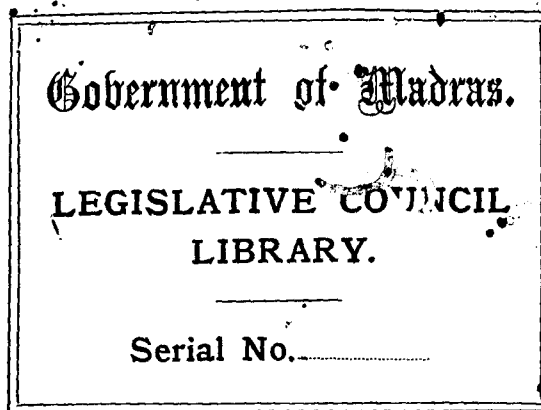




XV

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The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXI. Considering that public funds last official year bore 64 per cent. of the entire cost of Muhammadan education the Government cannot admit that only "small measures of encouragement" have been adopted. The number of scholarships actually awarded to Muhammadans last year was greatly in excess of the number allotted to them at the beginning of the year as their fair proportion in justice to the claims of other sections of the community. To ensure that their interests shall not be lost sight of a certain number of scholarships in high schools and colleges is set apart for Muhammadans as the Honourable Member will see if he peruses the Government scholarship notification published in the *Port St. George Gazette* of 19th January 1897. Government has also sanctioned the payment to the children of Carnatic Stipendiaries who are very poor of scholarships equal to twice the amount of the school or college fees. Muhammadans are admitted to all grades and classes of institutions under public management at half the standard rates of fees. The Government is at a loss to know what further measures can be adopted to promote the higher education of Muhammadans.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXII. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the protest made at a public meeting by Mr. G. Ganapathy Iyer, Deputy Collector of Salem, and reported in the *Madras Standard* of the 13th December last, to the effect that the Government ought not to afford any facilities to Muhammadans?

(b) Do the rules regulating the conduct of public servants tolerate such political utterances at public gatherings by subordinate officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XXII. (a) The Government has now perused the passage referred to, and finds that, according to the report, the so-called protest alluded to was not made by M.R.Ry. Ganapathi Aiyar at all, but by another gentleman who is not a Government servant.

(b) No such utterances having, so far as appears, been made, this question requires no answer.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXIII. What is the number of Brahmin officials in the Salem district drawing a salary of Rs. 50 and upwards?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

XXIII. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the various establishment lists, which, if he cannot procure them elsewhere, he can inspect in the Government Office.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXIV. Did the Government ever draw the attention of the Heads of Departments to watch against the predominance of the above class in public offices, if so, when and under what circumstances?

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The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

- XI. The practice is that the member should repeat the question if he still desires the information, and the Government does not see any sufficient reason to depart from the practice.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

- XII. Will the Government be pleased to supply to the members of the Legislative Council Government reviews and administration reports of the different departments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

- XII. The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 44, Legislative, dated 31st May 1895, on the subject of the supply of official papers to un-official members of the Legislative Council, a copy of which will be furnished to him.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

- XIII. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the general appreciation expressed by the local press of the work of the Legislative Councils, and does the Government contemplate holding the meetings oftener in deference to the public wish ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

- XIII. The Government has seen articles in the local press to the effect stated. Meetings of the Council cannot be held more frequently than is required by the exigencies of legislative business.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

- XIV. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state (1) the number of assesseees of income-tax in Madras, Bellary and Salem districts, and (2) the number of objection petitions put in, rejected for lapse of time or want of systematic accounts, and disposed of in camps last year ?

- (b) Is there any objection to the Sub-Magistrates and Treasury Deputy Collectors taking up income-tax work in full or in part ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

- XIV. (a) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the published report on the administration of the Income-tax Act during the year 1895-96, which contains full particulars as to the total number of assesseees in each district, and the number of objection petitions put in by assesseees under Part IV of Schedule II to the Act. The Government has no information with which to answer the rest of the Hon'ble Member's question.

- (b) If by Sub-Magistrates, the Hon'ble Member means *Stationary* Sub-Magistrates, the Government considers that there are objections to the arrangement suggested in the case of both classes of officers.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

- XV. (a) Does Government consult the Board of Revenue and Collectors on particular subjects ?

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(b) Will the Government be pleased to ask them what inducements could be offered to Europeans for taking to agriculture and place their opinion on the table before I could offer any suggestions as desired by Government at the last meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

XV. (a) Yes.

(b) The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by the reference suggested.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

XVI. (a) Are third-class compartments reserved for Eurasians fully occupied always?

(b) Is the number of Muhammadan female passengers less than that of the Eurasians?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

XVI. (a) Third-class compartments are not reserved for Eurasians on the South Indian Railway, while those on the Madras Railway, so reserved, are not always fully occupied.

(b) The Madras and South Indian Railways have no information as their records do not show the sex, nationality, caste, or religion of passengers.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

XVII. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the leader in the *Madras Mail* of the 12th December on Agricultural farms?

(b) When was the Saidapet farm started, and why did the experts advise its continuance in face of its unsatisfactory progress?

(c) If Government farming does not show any improvement over the ryot's system, would it not be advisable to stop further experiments until a more suitable system could be found?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XVII. (a) Prior to the receipt of the Hon'ble Member's question, the attention of Government had not been specifically drawn to the article mentioned.

(b) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the published report of the Agricultural Committee appointed by G.O., No. 686, Revenue, dated 25th September 1888, from a perusal of Appendices B and C to which he will see that the Saidapet Farm was started in 1865, and was abolished in 1885, because it was considered not to be successful. The question why the experts advised its continuance in face of its unsatisfactory progress is not understood.

(c) Granting the Hon'ble Member's hypothesis, the answer to his question is that "Experiments should not be stopped but should be persisted in in order that a more suitable system may be found."



QUESTIONS.

few days, all departments of Government have been working hard to collect accurate and complete information to answer your questions and we are very hard put to it indeed. I therefore appeal to the good sense of the Members of Council to induce them to send in their questions as early as possible. The desire of Government is that the answers should be as accurate and as complete as possible, and we find great difficulty in attaining that end if Hon'ble Members continue to send in their questions at the last moment, that is, within six days of the meeting of the Council.

(2) QUESTIONS.

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

I. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the buildings in the occupation of the Resident and Assistant Resident in Travancore and Cochin belong to the States or Rulers of Travancore and Cochin respectively?

(b) Whether the British Government or the Resident and Assistant Resident pay rent for the use of such buildings?

(c) Whether during the past ten years any money was spent by the British Government towards the repair and upkeep of these buildings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

- I. (a) "Yes."
(b) "No."
(c) "No."

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

II. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Thornton, I.C.S., while Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate of Salem in August 1896, directed the Tahsildar of Dharmapuri by wire to send up to him one Sampangi, a peon attached to the office of the Deputy Tahsildar and Second-class Magistrate of Pennagaram, without stating the purpose in the telegram, and, on the peon's appearance before him, asked him if he took to his master, the said Deputy Tahsildar, a bribe of Rs. 100 entrusted to him by one Baoodeen Sahib, and on the man's persistent denial he was informed on the spot that he was a prisoner charged with the abetment of the said bribery under section 164, Indian Penal Code, and remanded to jail?

(b) Whether it is a fact that it was some time before the magistrate discovered that an offence under section 164, Indian Penal Code, is a bailable one, and that, on this discovery, Mr. Thornton ordered the peon to find two sureties of Rs. 500 each, besides his own recognizance of Rs. 500?

(c) Whether it is a fact that this peon was then over 40 miles by ordinary road from his native place of Pennagaram; that, being suddenly ordered to appear before Mr. Thornton without being previously informed why, he was unable to find the required security on the spot?

(d) What is the length of time during which he was kept in custody for want of security?

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QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

IX. (a) to (e) The Accountant-General reports that in 1895-96 a sum of Rs. 845 was realized from the levy of fees for the registration of property marks in South Malabar. For the answers to the other questions put, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the notification published at pages 469-471 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 5th August 1884.

(f) No.

(g) The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 1 (e) of G.O., No. 707, Revenue, dated 29th October 1895, which has been laid on the Editor's Table. The revision of the timber transit rules in force in Malabar is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

X. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. E. H. O. Sewell, Inspector of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Ránipéttai Circle, North Arcot district, while on a shooting excursion on the 19th December last, ordered one Abdul Khader, a Salt and Abkari peon under his orders, to swim to a tree in the middle of a tank and pick up for him from its branches a bird he had shot?

(b) Whether it is a fact that this peon met his death while carrying out this order?

(c) What were the full circumstances which brought about his death?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Abdul Khader was an indifferent swimmer and that he stuck to the tree long and cried for help before he died?

(e) Who were the other persons that were with Mr. Sewell? How far is the tank from the nearest village and what was the help which Mr. Sewell rendered or endeavoured to render to Abdul Khader when it was found he was unable to swim back and struggling for life?

(f) When and what was the information which Mr. Sewell sent of this occurrence to the Magistrate?

(g) Whether any Magistrate held any inquiry touching the death of this man?

(h) Whether it is a fact that no post-mortem examination was held?

(i) Whether this man was also in the enjoyment of a military pension? Whether Mr. Sewell has made any provision for the widow and son of this peon? If not, whether the Government would direct him to make a suitable provision for them?

(j) What notice has the Government taken of the conduct of Mr. Sewell in connection herewith?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

X. The Government has no information on the subject.

The Hon'ble MUHAM

QUESTIONS.

of forest reservation, since the passing of Madras Act V of 1882. The Government sees no reason to cause such an examination to be made.

- (d) The Government considers that the issue of the preliminary notification under section 4 of Madras Act V of 1882, taken together with the publicity of the Forest Settlement-officer's proceedings, gives the ryots concerned ample opportunity to prefer objections.
- (e) The question of regulating goat-browsing has been remitted for the consideration of Collectors.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

IV. (a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. K. Krishnan Nair, B.A., B.C.E., whose term of office as Member of the Calicut Taluk Board expired last year, was asked if he was willing to be re-appointed and had given his consent?

(b) Whether it is a fact that four or five others who also vacated office in the taluk board along with him have been re-appointed?

(c) What are the circumstances under which this gentleman was excluded?

(d) What are the districts to the Collectors of which the Governor in Council has delegated his power of appointing Members to the Taluk Boards under section 160 of the Madras Local Boards Act V of 1884? Whether such delegation of the powers is being made from time to time to particular Collectors by name, or once for all upon the Collectors of particular districts by their official designation only, and if the latter, whether the opinion of the Advocate-General had been taken as to the legality of such delegation under the provisions of the section?

(e) In view to a greater feeling of independence among the Members of a Taluk Board, whether the Government will consider the desirability of itself appointing the Members instead of authorizing Collectors to do so?

(f) Whether the Government would consider the desirability of giving effect to the provisions of section 16, clause (b), of the Act and frame and issue rules for the election, by the tax-payers and inhabitants of the taluks, of two-thirds of the whole number of the Members of the Taluk Board as fixed by section 18 of the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

IV. The Government has no information on the points (a) and (c).

As to (b), the answer is "Yes."

As to (d), under section 160 of the Local Boards Act the power of re-appointing Members of taluk Boards originally appointed by the Governor in Council has once for all been delegated to the Presidents of District Boards and not to Collectors as such. There was no necessity to consult the Advocate-General in the matter.

As to (e), the power of appointing Members of taluk Boards is retained by Government, while that of re-appointing the Members of these Boards, originally appointed by Government, has been delegated to Presidents of District Boards with the view of saving correspondence. The Government sees no necessity for disturbing this arrangement.

As to (f), the Government is not at present prepared to take any steps in this matter.

QUESTIONS.

(b) Whether the statement made in the *Madras Standard* of the 8th May 1896 that the following circular of the District Magistrate of Malabar appeared in the *Malabar District Gazette* of 18th March 1892 is true?

"The Sub-Magistrates are informed that it is part of their duty to wait on the Superintendent of Police when he arrives at their head-quarters and to give all information and assistance in their power."

(c) Whether similar orders of District Magistrates are in force in other districts and whether there are directions issued by the District Magistrates as to the way in which the Subordinate Magistracy ought to address Superintendent of Police as if these latter officers were their (Subordinate Magistrates) official superiors?

(d) Whether in view of the feeling that widely prevails that such orders and circulars were intended to bring the Magistracy into subordination to the Police, the Government would direct the withdrawal thereof?

(e) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a series of articles on the vagaries of the Mufussal Police that appeared in the *Madras Standard* in its issues of the 30th and 31st December 1896 and 3rd January 1897?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has stated, "at present the Police Inspectors are not only allowed with impunity but are encouraged to bring up the gravest possible charges against the Subordinate Magistrates though there is not an atom of truth or probability in them." Whether the Government is aware that there is a growing feeling of alarm and anxiety that what the Head Assistant Magistrate of Penukonda has said is true of the Police throughout the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

VI. (a), (b) & (c). The Government has no information on the matters mentioned in this part of the question.

(d) The Government does not see sufficient reason to adopt the course suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

(e) The Government has now perused the criticisms referred to, which are anonymous letters, not newspaper articles.

(f) The Government has no information on the point. The answer to the last part of the question is "No."

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

VII. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether its attention has been drawn to the complaints against the Coonoor Police published by "an old detective" in the *Nilgiri News* in its issue dated the 26th November 1896?

(b) Whether the Government has any information of the action taken by the Police in respect of the two cases of murder and mischief referred to in the newspaper?

(c) Is it a fact that the Coonoor range has but three small stations; and that heinous offences are rare there? Is there any special reason why the pay of the Police Inspector of Coonoor should be so high as Rs. 350 a month?

QUESTIONS.

(d) How long was Mr. Bower the Headmaster of the Madrasa, and is the Government aware that his address at the last anniversary of the school he attributed its inefficiency to the neglect of the Education Department?

(e) Cannot the reform of the Madrasa be proceeded with till a new building is secured for its location?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

XXIX. (a) The Madrasa has undergone several changes, it was originally of the high school standard. In January 1873 it was constituted a lower secondary school. It continued to be a lower secondary school until 1885, when, on Mr. Grigg's recommendation, it was raised to the status of a high school as an experimental measure for one year, on the abolition of the high school department of the Presidency College. At the end of this year Dr. Duncan recommended the continuation of the high school classes for a term of years, and this was sanctioned by Government for a term of three years. With reference to the report of the Committee on Muhammadan Educational Endowments the school underwent further modifications in 1890 on Mr. Grigg's recommendation (G.O., Nos. 15, 16, Educational, dated 13th January 1890).

(b) No allotment was made in the Educational Budget for a new building; but funds were allotted in the Public Works Budget for six years from 1884-85. The allotment could not be utilized for want of a suitable site.

(c) The Director of Public Instruction has long been aware of the unsuitable character of the present premises; but better accommodation could not be rented and a suitable site could not be found on which a new building could be erected. The Director was not and is not aware of any serious drawback in the administration of the school. The staff has been strengthened from time to time and is quite as well qualified as that of other high schools in this Presidency. The main cause of the comparative failure of the school has been the apathetic character of the students and the absence of efficient control over them out of school hours by their parents or guardians.

(d) Mr. Bower was the Headmaster of the Madrasa from May 1890 to June 1896, when he was transferred to the Rajahmundry College. Government is not aware that in his address at the last anniversary of the school Mr. Bower attributed its inefficiency to the neglect of the Educational Department. Had such an address been brought to the notice of the head of his department Mr. Bower would have been called upon to explain and justify his statements.

(e) After full consideration Government has come to the conclusion that it is inexpedient to discuss changes in the staff and management of the institution until the site to which the school can best be removed has been decided upon.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR:—

XXX. (a) Is the Government satisfied that the order issued in 1872 regarding the employment of qualified Muhammadans in the public service duly carried out? When was the order repeated, and why?

QUESTIONS.

Forest Settlement-officer appointed under section 4 of Madras Act V of 1882, against whose decision the law provides a regular appeal.

(d) The Government is not prepared to lay on the table the papers relating to the subject.

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QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell:—

LXV. On the Madras Railway some refreshment-rooms are worked at a loss and others at a profit. The following statement shows the result of working the refreshment rooms at the stations named except Guntakal which is under the Southern Mahratta Railway and not under the control of this Government:—

		31st December 1895.			30th June 1896.		
		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Arkonam	Profit.	1,538	0	6	2,125	12	10
Salem	"	527	1	9	646	6	3
Jalarpet	"	135	13	9	78	2	8
Mettupalaiyam ..	"	604	13	4	509	1	4

The Madras Railway is its own refreshment room contractor and no rent is therefore charged for the rooms.

The refreshment rooms at South Indian Railway stations are worked by private contractors and not by the Company who is in no way concerned beyond looking to the contractors to give general satisfaction and fixing the tariff charges. The Company allows the contractors the use of the rooms free of charge.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

LXVI. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to train a staff of efficient, commercial and industrial instructors in this Presidency; whether any scholarship has been offered to under-graduates and graduates to induce them to qualify themselves for teaching such subjects? Is there any special allotment in the Educational Budget of this year for this purpose?

In the year 1895, the Government was pleased to state that, in view of the success of the School of Commerce at Calicut, it was under consideration to open branches at Tellicherry and other centres. What steps have been taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan:—

LXVI. There are no special schools in this Presidency to train teachers of commercial subjects. With regard to the industries connected with wood-work and metal-work proposals are under consideration, according to which four young men will annually be admitted into the workshop of the College of Engineering to go through a three years' course with a view to their being trained to be teachers of these industries in schools throughout the Presidency. The Government scholarship notification and the Grant-in-Aid Code provide for scholarships to candidates passing the Elementary Technical examination in commercial and industrial subjects to enable them to continue their studies for the Intermediate and Advanced examinations in those subjects. Such of them as intend to become teachers are required to satisfy the Board of Examiners for Teachers' certificates of their ability to teach the subjects they profess. On passing this test they receive Technical Teachers' certificates and become eligible for employment

QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXI. What is the pay of the Sanskrit Munshi in the Presidency College and that of the Arabic and Persian Munshi of the same institution?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

XXXI. The present pay of the Arabic and Persian Munshi of the Presidency College is Rs. 80 and that of the Sanskrit Munshi is Rs. 44.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXII. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Muhammadan Advocate of India* of November 1896 regarding the appointment of Persian and Hindustani Translator?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XXXII. The Government has now perused the article referred to in the question.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXIII. How many Government Translators are there, and for what languages and to what community do they belong?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XXXIII. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List which can be bought at the Lawrence Asylum Press.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXIV. Are European officers examined by the Translators?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XXXIV. "Yes."

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXV. What is the qualification required for the appointments of Translators?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XXXV. No special qualifications are laid down, but no one not thoroughly well acquainted with the language with which he has to deal and with English is appointed a Translator to Government.

The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXXVI. Are appointments such as Sub-Judge on the Nilgiris reserved for persons of any particular community, if so, what are the appointments so reserved and why?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LX. Is it a fact that orders have been issued during the current fasli that the enhanced water-rate of 5 rupees should be collected on all lands indiscriminately, though in the previous fasli exemption from the enhanced rate was granted with respect to certain lands "suffering from poverty of soil, insufficient irrigation, defective drainage or a combination of these defects" and consequently unable to bear the enhanced water-rate?

Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which such orders have been issued and place on the table the papers relating thereto?

Will Government be pleased to state whether it sees any objection to issuing instructions that the 5-rupee water-rate should not be collected on lands exempted during the previous fasli, as also on lands affected by floods during the current fasli.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

LX. The exemption sanctioned by Government was intended to remain in force pending the resettlement of the delta tracts subject to any modifications which experience might show to be necessary. No proposals for the general discontinuance of the concession have been received and so far as the Government is aware neither the Board of Revenue nor the district officers have issued orders directing the indiscriminate collection of the enhanced water-rate.

The Government sees no reason to reduce the water-rate on lands affected by the floods in the way proposed. The Collector has been authorized to postpone the collection of the revenue for such time as may be necessary in each case, and this the Government considers to be sufficient.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LXI. (a) Is it a fact that in the Nellore district under a system known as Sekhada 150 per cent. of the occupied area in a village was set apart for free grazing to the villagers?

(b) Is it a fact that this system was abolished and the land left for free grazing is now reserved by the Forest department?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the rights enjoyed by ryots have been allowed to be interfered with by the Forest department?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the Proceedings of Government and the Secretary of State, if any, relating to the Sekhada system prevailing in the Nellore district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

LXI. (a) The answer is "Yes".

(b) The system referred to has been abolished and some of the Sekhada lands have been constituted forest reserves.

(c) The privileges granted to the ryots in 1875—not rights—were allowed to be interfered with by the Forest department, because they are inconsistent with the forest policy of Government and the real interests of the people. The rights claimed by the ryots affected by the reservation of any particular block must have formed the subject of judicial investigation at the hands of the

QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XL. The Government has no information on the subject; the attention of the Inspector-General of Police will be drawn to the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble K. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

XLI. Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of penal assessment levied and collected in the several taluks of the Tanjore district on the ground of encroachment on poramboke lands and on house-sites?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XLI. The Government has not the information to answer this question.

The Hon'ble K. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR :—

XLII. Is it a fact that karnams have every year to remain at the taluk head-quarters for the preparation of jamabandi, irrigation and other accounts, that the total period they are thus required to stay there comes generally to several months in the year, and that they are also summoned very often to appear before Tahsildars for inquiries into Revenue petitions?

If so, will the Government be pleased to order that *batta* be paid to them in consideration of their low pay and the expenses involved in such frequent stays at head-quarter stations?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLII. It is the case that karnams are frequently detained at the taluk head-quarters for several weeks. In the district of Cuddapah the karnams complained last year that they were so detained for more than six months in the year. If this is true the detention was excessive. A report has been called for on the subject. In Standing Order No. 22 (new edition) the following passages are found: "It is very important in view of the growing amount of clerical work demanded from village officers, that the karnams should be kept away from their villages for as short a time as possible. . . ."

"The system of summoning karnams to the taluk cutcherry and detaining them there for weeks together to write up accounts, which should have been prepared during the year, should be put a stop to."

It is also true that karnams are frequently summoned by Tahsildars with reference to revenue enquiries, and have sometimes to repair on that account to the taluk head-quarters, though now that Stationary Sub-Magistrates have been appointed and Tahsildars visit outlying villages more frequently than they used to do, this is not necessary so frequently as it was. The question whether *batta* should be given to karnams on these occasions has been considered. It would be objectionable for many reasons, one of which is that it would make it the interest of karnams to stay away from their villages longer than they need. It has been resolved, therefore, not to give *batta* but to increase the pay of karnams, and proposals with this object are now under consideration.

QUESTIONS.

Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LIII. Will Government be pleased to state

QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LV. With reference to the change of policy introduced in July 1895, in consequence of the receipt of the Secretary of State's Despatch of 1885, in connection with the principles governing revisions of assessment—

Whether the Despatch of the Secretary of State was issued with reference to the North-West Provinces and a copy of it was ordered to be sent only to the North-West Provinces and not to Madras?

Whether by the said Despatch the Secretary of State did disapprove of the principles accepted by this Government that revisions of assessment in ryotwari districts should be made entirely with reference to prices and that no re-classification of soils or re-valuation of grain values should be attempted?

Whether the Secretary of State by the said Despatch did direct or suggest to this Government to cancel its previous declarations and pledges?

Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said Despatch of the Secretary of State and, if not, will Government be pleased to state its reasons for declining to place the same on the table?

In case Government is not prepared to lay the Despatch on the table, will Government be pleased to give such portions of the said Despatch as direct this Government to set aside its policy governing revisions of assessment or cancel its previous declarations and pledges?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

LV. As the Hon'ble Member was informed in answer to a question put at the meeting of the 18th December 1895, the Government is not prepared to lay on the table the Despatch to which he refers. The Government regrets that it cannot give the Hon'ble Member any further information on the subject.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LVI. With reference to the answer given at the meeting of the Council held in February 1896 by the Hon'ble Colonel McNeil Campbell that "the rules for the distribution of water in the Gódávári delta were circulated for adoption" in January 1895, will Government be pleased to state whether the rules have been brought into force? If not, what is the cause of the delay?

Will Government be pleased to state whether the rules will be brought into force before the commencement of the next fasli?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

LVI. The water distribution rules published in the "Gódávári District Gazette" of 7th January 1897 are already in force in the Gódávári delta as far as practicable.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LVII. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the rules, if any, framed for the distribution of water to the Sangam and Nellore deltas?

Is it one of the rules in force since the construction of the Sangam anicut in 188

[QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XLVI. (a) Whether the Government is aware that fees for serving processes are collected in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges at double the rates levied in District Munsifs' Courts although the same agency is utilized for serving processes in all classes of courts under the present system of Central and Deputy Nazir?

(b) Whether it is a fact that process-servers have not ordinarily to travel beyond the limits of jurisdiction of District Munsifs to serve processes of District Courts or Subordinate Judges' Courts, as all processes are served by the men attached to the Munsifs' Courts in whose jurisdiction the parties or witnesses may be living?

(c) Whether there is not large surplus every year of receipts over expenditure under this head and, if so, will the Government be pleased to give relief to the public by equalizing the rates or use the surplus in improving the civil judicial establishments, and the buildings, furniture, &c., of civil courts and forming suitable law libraries or improving the same in all the districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Price :—

XLVI. (a) "Yes."

(b) "Yes."

(c) There is at present a surplus and the subject of the equalization of the rates is now under consideration by Government.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XLVII. Will the Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, have been issued in the matter of remission and postponement of kists in the affected districts and place on the table all papers connected with the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XLVII. It rests with the Board of Revenue to deal with the suspension of the collection of kists in the first instance. The matter is receiving the attention of the Board and the postponement of the December kists in the affected districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Cuddapah has already been allowed in all cases in which the grant of remissions may be considered necessary. The whole of the January kist has also been postponed in the Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Pulivendla and Cuddapah taluks of Cuddapah. The Collector of Bellary has also been authorized to postpone the dry kists of January and February wherever this may be necessary. As regards wet assessment, Collectors are competent to suspend till jamabandi the collection of any revenue that is likely to be remitted.

The following papers will be placed on the Council table :—

Board's Proceedings,	No. 322,	dated 6th November 1896.
"	"	No. 448, dated 18th December 1896.
"	"	No. 2, dated 1st January 1897.
"	"	No. 472, dated 31st December 1896.
"	"	No. 61, dated 25th January 1897.

QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

L. (a) From the information at the disposal of Government, it appears that up to the end of December 1896, only Rs. 1,000 in round numbers were advanced in Cuddapah. In 1891-92, about 5·96 lakhs were taken in the whole district in the whole year.

(b) The Board is giving its attention to this matter. No special investigation by Government seems to be necessary.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LI. Will Government be pleased to state the extent of damage caused to the crops by the floods of 1896 in the Gódvári and Kistna districts and the measures adopted for the relief of ryots whose crops have been so lost?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports of the Collectors of Gódvári and Kistna with the orders of the Board of Revenue or Government, if any, in the above matter?

Will Government be pleased to state whether, in tracts where crops have wholly or partially failed owing to floods or short rainfall, kists are collected with the same rigidity as in normal years? If not, will Government be pleased to state in what districts or parts of districts Government has suspended the collection of kists?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

LI. (a) The damage caused by the floods in Gódvári and Kistna was considerable, and the measures adopted for the relief of the ryots were—

(1) The postponement of kists in the affected villages to February or March and in individual cases of real hardship till June 1897.

(2) Free grant of loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts for the removal of silt accumulations, purchase of seed-grains, cattle, &c.

The question what remissions are necessary will be considered in due course at jamabandi.

The answer to the second part of the question is that the Government is not prepared to place the papers asked for on the Editors' Table.

Most of the third part of the question has been answered in the reply to question XLVII. In tracts where crops have failed kists are not collected with the same rigidity as in normal years.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

LII. Will Government be pleased to state the rules laid down for granting remissions in normal years in cases where crops have partially failed?

Will Government be pleased to state what special orders have been issued for granting remissions in years like the present?

Will Government be pleased to place on the table the rules issued on the subject?

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of a Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Acts of Parliament, 24 and 25 Victoria, Cap. 67, and 55 and 56 Victoria, Cap. 14.

The Council met at the Council Chamber in Fort St. George at 11-30 A.M. on Friday the 9th day of April 1897.

PRESENT:

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., *Presiding*.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. GROSE, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble V. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur (Acting Advocate-General).
The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU.
The Hon'ble K. KALYANASUNDARAM AYYAR, B.A., B.L.
The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU, B.A., B.L.
The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR, B.A.
The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR, B.A., M.L., Rao Bahadur.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. S. CROLE.
The Hon'ble MUHAMMAD SHARIF Khan Bahadur.
The Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. STURROCK.
The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. D. DUNCAN, D.Sc., LL.D.
The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES.
The Hon'ble P. RAJARATNA MUDALIYAR, Diwan Bahadur.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. F. PRICE, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. G. G. ARBUTHNOT.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Secretary reported that the Hon'ble Mr. George Gough Arbuthnot took his seat as Additional Member of Council.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. BLISS in explaining the annual financial statement for 1897-98 said: Your Excellency, I propose on this occasion to follow the usual course of dealing with the accounts of the year 1895-96, before proceeding to the revised estimate of the year which has just closed and the budget estimate of the year which has just opened. The results of the year 1895-96, the accounts of which are now for the first time placed before the Council, were on the whole favourable. We began the year with a larger balance than we anticipated, as will be gathered from what passed at the budget meeting of the Council last year. We budgeted for a total receipt of 322 lakhs. The actual receipts were 10½ lakhs higher; to be accurate they were 10.51 lakhs more than we anticipated. Then as to expenditure, we proposed in 1895-96 an expenditure of 334.35 lakhs, but we actually spent 328.18 lakhs or 6.17 lakhs less than we anticipated. The net result of the increase in our opening balance, of the increase in the receipts, and of the decrease in the

