Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 3664 W

Dated 9. December

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council: Pro: Legislative Dept re Court's Copy of questions asked at the meeting of 9 December with the answers given thereto, with Special reference to certain answers recorded with reference to Mine Note No 4875.
9/16.12.96.

T.C 19/12

[P.W. 25.
5,000—20-11-96.]

Indexed. 26/12

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Works (1896) Department

CURRENT No. 11452

B

Order No. 3664 of 19-12-96

Recorded with reference From
to Office letter 4875 Cd/16 Dec 96 The Legislative Dept

RS

19/12/96

No. 80

Dated 12. 12. 96.

Received 17. 12. 96

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Copy to the Depts concerned copy of questions asked at the Council meeting of 9th Dec 1896 together with the answers given to them with special reference to certain answers.

G.O.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	4875 C. Pr	26-12-96.	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Legislative Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following:-

Questions asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 1896, together with the answers given to them.

ORDER:- No. 80 , dated 12 December 1896.

Communicated to the Revenue, Public Works, Judicial and Local and Municipal Departments with special reference to the answers given to Questions Nos. XLI, XLIV, LVII and LXI, respectively.

4621 C) 5.12.96

(True Extract)

Secretary to Government.

To

The Public Works Department.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1896.

(1) *New Members.*

The undermentioned gentlemen take their seats as additional Members of Council:—

The Hon'ble MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.SC., LL.D, Director of Public Instruction.

The Hon'ble P. RAJARATNA MUDALIYAR, DIWAN BAHADUR, Inspector-General of Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. STOKES, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

(2) *Questions.*

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR:—

I. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table Mr. Winterbotham's report on the late Mappilla disaster, and the order of Government thereon?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

I. Mr. Winterbotham's reports and the orders thereon have already been placed at the disposal of the Press. A copy of them will be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR:—

II. Will the Government be pleased to institute a better scheme of education for Muhammadans in Malabar than has hitherto been observed, and to appoint a few Muhammadan officers of the grade of Deputy Collector and District Munsif in that district for their guidance?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

II. The Hon'ble member apparently refers more especially to the education of Mappillas. Since the outbreak of 1894, Mappillas have been admitted to the privileges which are conferred upon the "backward classes" by the Grant-in-aid code; an additional Sub-Assistant inspector and two inspecting schoolmasters of Mappilla schools have been appointed; a number of primary schools intended for Mappillas exclusively have been opened and a Mappilla scholarship scheme has been sanctioned. The Director of Public Instruction has recently been requested to report the degree of success which has attended these measures, and when his report is received the extent to which the system can be improved or extended will be duly considered.

The Government considers it undesirable to make special arrangements for the appointment of Muhammadan Deputy Collectors in Malabar. The posting and appointment of District Munsifs vest in the High Court.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

III. Will the Government be pleased to state when and under what circumstances they issued orders to heads of departments to see that the Muhammadans get a proper share in the public service ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

III. In 1872 the Government had under consideration the unsatisfactory condition of Muhammadan education, and, referring to the decreasing number of Muhammadans employed in the public service and to the alleged impression that the Government and its officers were disinclined to employ them, whether qualified or not, His Excellency the Governor in Council expressed an earnest desire that this impression should be dispelled in the most speedy and convincing manner by the employment, as opportunity offered, of a fair proportion of those Muhammadans who had passed the prescribed qualifying tests and by the promotion, according to their merits, of those who were already employed. Since then the attention of the heads of departments has repeatedly been called to these instructions, and from 1886 the extent to which Muhammadans are employed in offices under Government has been noticed annually in the administration reports.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

IV. Has any improvement been made since ? If so, what in the matter of appointments which carry with them salaries of Rs. 50 and upwards ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

IV. Yes. Particulars of appointments which carry a pay of Rs. 50 and upwards per mensem are not available, but it may be stated that, on the 1st April 1886, 130 out of 3,672, or 3·5 per cent. of the total number of appointments carrying a pay of over Rs. 500 per annum or nearly Rs. 42 per mensem, were held by Muhammadans, and that on the 1st April 1896 the percentage was 4·2, or, in other words, 170 out of 4,053 such appointments were then held by Muhammadans.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

V. Considering that some appointments are reserved for Europeans only, will the Government be pleased to make a similar arrangement until a fair proportion of appointments in the higher branches of the public service is occupied by Muhammadans ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

V. The Government is not prepared, having regard to the interests of the public service, to make any such arrangement. It must be remembered that Muhammadans are only 6·3 per cent. of the total population.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

VI. Will the Government be pleased to pass early orders on the recommendations made by the Board of Muhammadan Education ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

VI. Orders on the recommendations made by the Board of Muhammadan Education, except on those relating to the improvement of the Madrasa-i-Azam, have been passed by Government and an extract from them will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member. Orders on the questions relating to the improvement of the Madrasa-i-Azam will be passed as soon as a site for the new buildings in which it is proposed to establish it has been secured. Strenuous efforts are being made to secure such a site.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

VII. Is the Government aware—

(*a*) That the income-tax is levied on the information furnished by village officers and low-paid amins without proper check from responsible higher officials.

(*b*) That such information is based generally on rumours, local news, &c., without any authenticity.

(*c*) That persons are thereby unnecessarily harassed in being required to put in objection-petitions, which in most cases are dismissed for trivial reasons, such as out of time, default of appearance, want of systematic accounts, &c.

(*d*) That men of very low means can hardly maintain proper accounts, the cost of which itself would exceed what they may be liable for.

(*e*) That great inconvenience and loss are caused to merchants and men of other professions, in being obliged to move in camp with Revenue officers for days together and march long distances.

Will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of three or four non-official members of the Legislative Council to scrutinise the accounts of Madras district, and of any other district, which the committee may choose, and report to the Government, after collecting evidence from merchants and others ; and also to adopt such other procedures as may remove all disadvantages ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

VII. (*a*) & (*b*) The income-tax assessments are fixed by the superior Revenue officials who, in making their assessments, are frequently guided by the information furnished by village officers or other individuals who are in a position to know the circumstances of the assessees. It is the duty of every assessing officer to scrutinize such information with care, and the Government has no reason to suppose that this duty is not properly performed. As to whether the information is generally authentic or the reverse, the Government can obviously express no opinion.

(*c*) Assessees are under no obligation to put in objection petitions, and the right to do so cannot seriously be regarded as a source of harassment. So far as the Government is aware, such petitions are not "in most cases dismissed for trivial reasons." Should any individual assessee feel himself aggrieved by the order passed on his petition, he has a right of appeal to the Income Tax Commissioner under section 27 of Act II of 1886.

(*d*) The Government has no reason to suppose that income-tax assessees are prevented by poverty from maintaining proper accounts.

(*e*) Assessees to income-tax are in exactly the same position as other persons who have business to transact with Revenue officers, whose duty requires them to itinerate and who have many other functions to perform. A certain amount of inconvenience to such persons cannot always be avoided. Revenue officers are well aware that it is their duty to obviate such inconvenience as far as may be possible, and the Government has no reason to suppose that this duty is neglected.

The Government does not consider that any useful purpose would be served by appointing a committee as suggested by the Hon'ble Member. There are inherent difficulties in the assessment and collection of income-tax, but the orders which have from time to time been issued by the Board of Revenue and by Government are calculated to minimize the friction incidental to the working of the Act, and the Government is not aware of any change in procedure which would tend to further improvement in this direction.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

VIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to inform what measures are adopted for the improvement of the Pariah community ?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that there is great discontentment among certain backward classes of the Hindu and other communities equally deserving, if not more, of Government's help ?

(*c*) Considering that agricultural methods are of a very backward nature in Southern India, will the Government be pleased to offer liberal inducement to European and other enterprising men so as to enable them to invest capital towards introducing new and improved means of agriculture, so that the native farmer may be benefited by it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

VIII. (*a*) The measures adopted by Government are stated in certain papers already placed on the Editors' table. A list of these papers will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member, and the Superintendent, Government Press, will supply him with copies thereof on application.

(*b*) The Government is not aware of such discontent.

(*c*) The Government is not aware of any adequate inducement which could be offered for the purpose mentioned consistently with the interests of the general tax-payer, and would be grateful to the Hon'ble Member if he could suggest the form which such an inducement should take.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

IX. (*a*) Does the Madras Railway Company maintain schools for the benefit of the children of its employés ? If so, are they open to all classes ?

(*b*) Where are they located and what is the cost of their maintenance ?

(*c*) Does not the Government think that the children of the other classes of the Railway employés should also be benefited in receiving education in these schools ?

(*d*) Considering the great inconvenience to third-class passengers for want of closets, will the Government be pleased to call upon the Railway authorities to adopt measures for providing them ?

(*e*) In view of the fact that no provision is made for gosha compartments, will the Government be pleased to take steps to save Muhammadans from the necessity of having to engage a whole compartment for the sake of even a single gosha lady ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

IX (*a*) The Madras Railway maintains schools for the benefit of the children of its employés; these schools are open to Europeans and Eurasians only.

(*b*) They are located at Perambúr, Jalarpet, Salem, Pódanúr, Rénigunta, Gooty, Raichur and Arkonam. The cost to the Railway Company is Rs. 11,520 per annum.

(*c*) Government can control the amount of money spent on the schools but it has no power to dictate to the Railway Company in the matter of admitting certain classes of its employés. There are usually native schools where the children of native employés can receive instruction, but in up-country stations such as those shown above there are no facilities for the education of English-speaking children except such as are provided by the Railway Company.

(*d*) Water-closets are provided in carriages reserved for women. The experiment has been tried before on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway of providing water-closets in all carriages, and after a short trial it was found that it was undesirable on account of the free use made of them at stations. Latrines are provided at all stations, and in England and in most other countries no other provision is made. It is doubtful whether the average journey of the Indian third-class passenger is of longer duration than in England: a copy of the question asked on this subject at the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council held on the 7th February 1895, together with the answer given to it, is published at pages 1 and 2 of the supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 5th March 1895, from which the Hon'ble Member will see that the Government of India is not prepared to consider the proposal made by him.

(*e*) Separate carriages are reserved for women, in which gosha women can travel. If separate compartments were reserved for gosha women, the expense would be utterly out of proportion to the fares received.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

X. Will the Government be pleased to rule that all young Civilians should undergo Tahsildar's training for a period of at least six months ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

X. The Government sees no reason to modify the course of training which newly-arrived members of the Indian Civil Service now undergo.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XI. Considering the unsteadiness of seasons for the past few years, does not the Government think it desirable to adopt measures for saving ryots from constant losses ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XI. The methods by which the unsteadiness of the seasons can, in the opinion of Government, be best mitigated, is by the extension of railways and of irrigation—matters which have received, and continue to receive, the anxious attention of Government.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XII. What is the approximate amount spent till now towards the maintenance of the Agricultural College and the Farm, &c., at Saidapet ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XII. The approximate cost comes to about 8 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XIII. In what way has the country benefited by it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XIII. Among the benefits which the country has derived from the College of Agriculture may be enumerated—

(i) The spread of agricultural education.

(ii) The supply of trained subordinates for the Agricultural and Civil Veterinary Departments.

(iii) The supply to the Revenue and Forest Departments of a number of subordinates who are acquainted with the theory and practice of agriculture.

(iv) The diffusion of a knowledge of improved implements, of stock and dairy management, of deep cultivation, of manure and of other matters intimately connected with improvement in agriculture through the agency of the students.

(v) The general awakening of interest in agricultural matters.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XIV. Has the agriculture of the country been in any way improved? If so, in what way?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XIV. The question covers so vast a field that it is impossible for the Government to furnish the Hon'ble Member with a simple answer. So far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, information in regard to such improvements as have been effected will be found in the published administration reports of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, to which the Hon'ble Member will be referred.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XV. Does not the Government think that steps hitherto taken towards the improvement of agriculture are not enough, and the ryots are too poor and helpless to improve it themselves?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XV. The Government considers that further measures should be adopted from time to time for improving agriculture, and this difficult subject consequently continues to engage its attention. The Government does not believe the ryots to be generally "poor and helpless;" but, on the contrary, is convinced that, as a class, they are well able to take care of their own interests in this respect and will readily adopt improvements in agricultural methods which are brought to their notice when the advantage to be derived therefrom is demonstrated to their satisfaction.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XVI. Will the Government be pleased to adopt better measures than have hitherto been adopted for the purpose, as, for instance, of obtaining lease of ten to fifteen acres in each taluk from ryots and prove by actual improved means of cultivation the advantages of the new system as a practical lesson to the owner of the land and his neighbours?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XVI. The Government does not consider the scheme suggested by the Hon'ble Member to be practicable; but he will, no doubt, be glad to hear that orders have recently been issued directing the establishment for a similar purpose of an experimental farm at Bellary or Coimbatore. Should the working of this farm prove a success, the Government will, in all probability, establish others in different parts of the Presidency.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XVII. Does the Government think that the state of the Muhammadan community is satisfactory, especially in the matter of education?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XVII. Of Muhammadan boys and girls of school age, 47·8 per cent. and 9·6 per cent., respectively, were, on the 31st March 1896, under instruction, the percentages of male and female scholars to the total male and female population of school age in all classes being 25·8 and 4·1 respectively. Again, 1 in every 23 of the Muhammadan part of the population is under instruction against 1 in 45 of the whole population. With regard to the stage or class of instruction—collegiate, secondary or primary—the percentages of Muhammadan boys to the total number of Muhammadan boys of school-going age, as compared with the Presidency averages for all sections of the community, are—

	Muhammadan.	Presidency.
Collegiate	·03	·1
Secondary	1·0	1·6
Primary	33·1	20·3

These figures serve to show that the education of Muhammadans, as compared with the general population cannot, at any rate in respect of elementary education, be fairly regarded now as unsatisfactory. The Director of Public Instruction has recorded the opinion—in which the Government concurs—that "the statistics appended to the annual reports will convince any reader that, so far as elementary education is concerned, Muhammadans are far ahead of Hindus, Brahmans excepted. In colleges and upper secondary schools, they are, no doubt, not properly represented. This is chiefly due to their beginning study late in life and to an over-anxiety on their part to settle in life soon.

The Hon'ble Member will find full details as to the present state of education among Muhammadans in Chapter IX of the Public Instruction Report for 1895-96.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XVIII. Has the Government adopted special measures to improve them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XVIII. Yes. The Government has taken special measures to improve the state of Muhammadan education. Among these measures are the following:—All schools for Muhammadans are treated as "poor schools" for the purposes of the Grant-in-aid code, irrespective of the proportion of poor pupils therein, and Muhammadan pupils are accordingly allowed result grants at 25 per cent. more than the standard rates. Half the regular fees are remitted in the case of Muhammadan pupils in all schools and colleges. Fifty-four scholarships at varying rates are provided for Muhammadan pupils (including Mappillas) on the results of the Primary, Lower Secondary and Matriculation examinations; scholarships granted on the results of the F.A. examination are open only to girls, backward classes, Muhammadans and Uriyas; special scholarships for Muhammadans to enable them to read in Professional colleges have been established; separate schools for the exclusive benefit of Muhammadans are also maintained; there are special schools for training Muhammadan masters and mistresses, and a special inspecting agency consisting of five Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools and 21 inspecting schoolmasters.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XIX. Does the Government think that those measures have had the desired effect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XIX. Government first extended exceptional educational facilities to Muhammadans in 1872. On the 31st March of that year, the number of Muhammadan boys at school was 4·1 per cent. of the total number under instruction in the schools of the Presidency. Ten years later, in 1882, the proportion was 6·4 per cent., and now in 1896 it is 12·1 per cent. The percentages of Muhammadan boys and girls at school on 31st March 1882 to those of a school-going age of the same community were 15·1 and ·7, respectively, while on 31st March 1896 the percentages were 47·8 and 9·6. It can therefore be said that these efforts have had the desired effect, though Government would be glad to see that they had more effect.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XX. Does the Government consider that the Muhammadans have helped themselves in the past, and that their condition is likely to improve if they are left without extraneous aid?

XXI. Does the Government consider it desirable that more than two millions of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, fifty-three thousands of whom are in the City of Madras, should remain in ignorance, poverty and discontent?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XX & XXI. The Government cannot undertake to answer such speculative questions.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXII. Will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Educational portfolio, the Hon'ble Mr. Crole, President of the Board of Muhammadan Education, the Hon'ble Dr. Duncan, Director of Public Instruction, with power to add to their number, to ascertain the present condition of the Muhammadans and to make suitable suggestions for the assistance of Government in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXII. The answer to this question is "No".

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXIII. The present state of the season being bad, will the Government be pleased to grant loans to ryots on an extensive scale for the purpose of sinking wells?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXIII. In view of the present state of the season, the Government has recently raised by one lakh the Board of Revenue's estimates of the amounts likely to be required during the current and the ensuing years for advances under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts. For the same reason the Government of India was recently addressed to sanction the reduction from Rs. 100 to Rs. 50 of the minimum amount which can be advanced under the rules framed under the Land Improvement Loans Act and sanction to the change has just been received. District officers are aware of the importance which the Government attaches to this matter, and the Government has no doubt that advances for the construction of wells will be freely granted where necessary.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXIV. Does the Government think that the ryots have freely taken advantage of the State loans as they ought, if not, what are the reasons for it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXIV. Yes, in view of the fact that advances have during the last nine years been made to the extent of some 57 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble V. MUHAMMAD SHERIFF KHAN BAHADUR :—

XXV. (*a*) Does the Government consider that the officers entrusted with the grant of loans can devote enough time for this work?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to appoint special officers?

(*c*) Will the Government reduce the rate of interest so as to afford better facilities to poor ryots?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXV. (*a*) Yes, in ordinary circumstances.

(*b*) If not, special establishments will be appointed as they have been in the past.

(*c*) No. The Government cannot undertake to lend money at so low a rate of interest that it loses by the transaction.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

XXVI. Whether the Government is aware of the fact that the minors under the Court of Wards, now being educated at Madras, are annually taken away to Ootacamund for a period of three months?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXVI. The Government is aware that the Court has in recent years permitted the minors to spend some portion of the hot weather at Ootacamund.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

XXVII. Whether the Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of putting a stop to the practice under observation, and allow the minors to spend their vacations in their native places under the care of their natural guardians?

XXVIII. Whether in the opinion of the Government it is not more beneficial, to the minors under the Court of Wards to have for their Head Tutor a retired Civilian or Military Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXVII. & XXVIII. The supervision of the minors during their term of wardship is by law vested in the Court and the Government has no authority in the matter.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

XXIX. Whether the Government could see their way to direct the Collectors of districts to see that all the zamindar pupils in their respective districts, both those under the Court of Wards as well as those not under the Court of Wards, are being properly educated, and with the same view direct the Educational Department to authorize the Inspectors of Schools to examine all the zamindar pupils they come across in their inspection tours?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXIX. Under Regulation V of 1804, it is the duty of the Court of Wards to attend to the education of the pupils under its charge and sub-section 9 of section 21 of the Regulation distinctly provides that "the progress of the education of male minors shall be at all times liable to the inquiries and inspection of Collectors." As regards such pupils not under the charge of the Court of Wards, the Government is not prepared to direct Collectors to take action in the manner suggested by the Hon'ble Member. Nor is the Government prepared to direct the Inspectors of the Educational Department to examine and report upon all zamindar pupils. It is open to any Collector in charge of zamindar wards to get a report upon them from an Inspector should he see special occasion to require one.

The Hon'ble the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—

XXX. Whether in consideration of the backward state of education among the zamindars, and with a view to creating a spirit of mutual emulation among them, the Government will be pleased to request the University to admit the zamindar pupils, at least as a matter of concession, at the B.A. degree examination without the production of the F.A. certificate, in such subjects as they are prepared in, provided the District Collector or the Inspector of Schools certifies that a particular pupil has made progress enough to justify his application so to appear, and to publish the results of such examinees as an addenda to the results of the regular University candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXX. The Government is not prepared to deny that the state of education among zamindars is more backward than it ought to be among this wealthy class of the community. But this backwardness is due mostly to their home surroundings, which Government cannot make what they ought to be. It is for the zamindars themselves to do what is wanted in this respect. The Government disapproves the Hon'ble Member's suggestion and will not move the University to take action in the matter.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXXI. Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Hindu* of the 19th June 1896 to the effect that the Jail authorities at Vellore acted illegally and cruelly towards a prisoner, a respectable mirasidar, pending his appeal and after a warrant for his release issued by the Appellate Court had been handed over to the Jail officials?

Has the Government directed any inquiry to be made respecting the said allegations, and will it be pleased to place on the table the papers relating to the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

XXXI. The Government has perused the article referred to. A petition having been received from the prisoner, an inquiry was held and the order affecting him passed thereon was communicated to him. The Government does not consider it necessary to place the papers on the table.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

XXXII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been called to the conduct of Mr. Vaughan, Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, during the trial of the calendar case, No. 65 of 1896, on his file?

Whether it is a fact that Mr. Vaughan limited by time the right of the accused to cross-examine the witnesses called on behalf of the prosecution?

Whether it is a fact that he refused to record material parts of the proceeding before him, and that in the case of one important witness, the Revd. Mr. Chamberlain, he made no record at all of his cross-examination beyond a few symbols such as—∴ ∴—which he, Mr. Vaughan, interpreted to the District Magistrate to mean that nothing material was elicited in cross-examination?

Whether Mr. Vaughan's account of what had taken place before him in the course of the trial was found by the District Magistrate on investigation to be inaccurate?

Whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate has recorded his opinion that the action of Mr. Vaughan in court and his action in giving him (District Magistrate) an inaccurate version are "serious matters"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXXII. The Government is not in possession of complete information on the matters referred to, but has called for a report.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

XXXIII. Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the new office of Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, has been created?

Whether the office is a temporary or permanent one?

Whether it is open to the Provincial Civil Service as well?

Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table its correspondence on this subject with the Government of India and the Secretary of State?

His Excellency the President:—

XXXIII. The work devolving on the Chief Secretary had grown in the course of years to such dimensions that relief became essential in the interests of the public service. The number of receipts and disposals rose from 24,001 in 1874 to 44,259 in 1890 and to 51,040 in 1895, while other demands on the time of the Chief Secretary had concurrently increased.

The office is permanent and is not open to the Provincial Service.

This Government's representation on the subject will be placed on the table. No further papers can be made available.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

XXXIV. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Reserve and Store Inspectors in the Police Department are all Europeans with the exception of the two Inspectors at Parlákimedi and Balliguda, in the Ganjám district, and that with one exception none of them has passed any of the qualifying tests?

Is G.O., No. 1026, dated 17th May 1893, which says that the effect of G.O., No. 2060, dated 3rd December 1889, should be understood to mean that no Reserve Inspector shall be allowed to go beyond the lowest grade unless he has passed the required tests, still in force? Is it a fact that some Reserve Inspectors who have not passed the required tests have been promoted from the lowest grade subsequent to the said Government Order of 1893? If so, will the Government be pleased to state under what circumstances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXXIV. All the Reserve and Store Inspectors but three are Europeans or Eurasians. With one exception, none, whether European, Eurasian or Native, has passed any examinations. The order of 1893 is no longer in force, and Reserve and Store Inspectors are not required to have passed any tests.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

XXXV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many officers there are in the Imperial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency who have been promoted to it from the subordinate staff prior to the introduction of the re-organization scheme of 1891 and when the last promotion of the kind was made?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said re-organization scheme put a stop to any such promotions thenceforward?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, under this re-organization scheme, six Deputy Conservatorships were to be transferred from the Imperial to the Provincial Forest Service in this Presidency?

(*d*) Is it a fact that since 1891 the home recruitment has been adjusted on the basis of the re-organization scheme so as to allow of twelve appointments being transferred from the Indian to the Provincial list between the years 1891 and 1895?

(*e*) It is a fact that no appointment in the Imperial Branch has been as yet thrown open to the Provincial Branch available for this Presidency?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Government of India has communicated to this Government a resolution to the effect that no transfer of Deputy Conservatorships from the Imperial to the Provincial list would be made until all the Assistant Conservators including those expected to arrive in consequence of the home recruitment this year, as well, are made Deputy Conservators?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has taken any, and what, steps to remove the hardship thus occasioned to the officers of the Provincial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

XXXV. (*a*) There is at present only one officer in the Imperial Branch of the Forest Service in this Presidency who was promoted to it from the subordinate staff of the Madras Forest Department prior to the introduction of the re-organization scheme of 1891. The last promotion of the kind was made in August 1889.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It is a fact that, under the re-organization scheme as finally settled, six Deputy Conservatorships are to be so transferred.

(*d*) The Government understands that, on a consideration of the state of the Indian list of 1890, it was decided by the Government of India that it was possible to transfer twelve appointments to the Provincial list between 1891 and 1895 and that the home recruitment was re-adjusted on this basis.

(*e*) It is a fact that in this Presidency no appointment in the Imperial Branch has yet been transferred to the Provincial list.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The Government is not aware that any avoidable hardship has been occasioned by the introduction of the re-organization in question.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXXVI. (*a*) Whether, previous to appointing Mr. Munro and Mr. Kuppuswamy Iyer as Subordinate Judges, the High Court was consulted ?

(*b*) Whether the appointment of Mr. Munro, a member of the Indian Civil Service, as Subordinate Judge, was in pursuance of a new policy, and whether the Government will be pleased to declare the nature and scope of that policy and to place on the table the correspondence on the subject with the Indian Government and the Secretary of State for India ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

XXXVI. (*a*) The answer is "No."

(*b*) Mr. Munro was appointed in order that he might obtain experience in civil judicial work. The Government has under consideration the question of appointing other members of the Indian Civil Service to similar posts with the same object, but, as the matter is still under correspondence with the Government of India, the papers cannot be laid upon the table. The correspondence relating to the appointment of Mr. Munro is so connected with the correspondence on the general question that the same answer must be given respecting it.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXXVII. Will Government be pleased to make a statement with regard to the distress prevailing in some of the districts of the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXXVII. A copy of the letter despatched to the Government of India on this subject will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member. Information as to the state of the affected districts since then, and as to the measures adopted by Government, may be obtained from the reports of the District officers placed on the Editors' Table and from the abstracts of the season reports published by the Board of Revenue in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The Board has been requested to report on the effects of the recent rains.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXXVIII. Whether Government proposes to order the suspension of the collection of kists in districts, or parts of districts, where distress prevails ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXXVIII. The Government contemplates the grant of such relief where it may be necessary.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXXIX. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each district the normal, the warning and the scarcity rates of food-grains fixed by Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXXIX. A copy of the Board's Proceedings containing the statement required will be furnished to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XL. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How long the claims of the members of the Indian Civil Service will defer the full introduction of the Provincial Service scheme ;

(*b*) and when Government proposes to give full effect to the said scheme with regard to the following listed appointments declared open to the Provincial Service, viz., District and Sessions Judges (four), Collectors and Magistrates of districts (two), and Under Secretary to Government (one) ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

XL. (*a*) All Indian Civilians down to and including Mr. M. D. Bell, No. 65 in the Civil List, must have their claims to a permanent Collectorate or Judgeship considered before such an appointment can be handed over either to the Statutory or to the Provincial Civil Service. The Civilians below Mr. M. D. Bell in the list are entitled to have their legitimate claims to promotion safeguarded by providing that the extent to which promotion in the listed posts may be given to Statutory Civilians and to members of the Provincial Service combined shall not, except in special circumstances, exceed the extent to which, at the time of their recruitment, Statutory appointments might have been made under the rules of 1879.

(*b*) Owing to the uncertainty of the factors determining promotion it is impossible to fix the time.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XLI. Will Government be pleased to obtain, for the years during which the tree-tax rules have been in force, information as to the number of licenses issued to tree-owners in each district under Rule 1, clause (*f*), of the tree-tax rules, for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes, and place the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XLI. The information will be called for and placed on the table when received.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XLII. With reference to question No. XIV asked at the meeting of the Council held in December 1895, and the answer of Government thereto that the "inquiry suggested by the Hon'ble Member will be made and if the result should show that a change in the date of instalments with respect to the Government demand on Gódávari and Kistna lankas is called for, the question of how they may be suitably fixed will be considered," will Government be pleased to state the result of such inquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLII. The Hon'ble Member will be furnished with a copy of G.O., No. 652, Revenue, dated 20th November 1896, from which it will be seen that the Government has decided to collect the rent or revenue due on the lanka lands in the Gódávari and Kistna districts along with the three instalments for wet lands in those districts, which fall due in January, February and March.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XLIII. With reference to the inquiries promised to be made in answer to question No. VIII asked at the meeting of the Council held in February 1896, will Government be pleased to state the result of the said inquiries and the date fixed for the payment of Government demand for the second crop raised by a ryot ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLIII. The subject has been referred to the Board of Revenue and its reply has not yet been received.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XLIV. 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 Gódávari 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 :—

XLIV. I request the Hon'ble Member to be good enough to repeat the question at the next meeting of the Council.

The Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu :—

XLV. With reference to question No. XLIX asked at the last meeting of the Council, and the answer thereto, will Government be pleased to state whether it has been decided what should be the term of currency of a settlement ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLV. The policy approved is to respect reasonable expectations based upon past practice, but special circumstances may necessitate an abbreviation of the usual term. The question whether they do so is one to be decided in each case upon its separate merits.

The Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu :—

XLVI. With reference to the question No. LI asked at the last meeting of the Council whether the price of paddy entered in the price returns represents the price of the new or of the old paddy, and the answer thereto, will Government be pleased to state if any enquiry has been made on the subject, and, if so, with what result ; if not, will Government be pleased to obtain the necessary information and place the same on the table ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLVI. The matter is now under enquiry and the Government is therefore unable for the present to reply fully to the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu :—

XLVII. With reference to the Deputy Commissioner's Scheme Report, No. 571-A, dated 9th November 1895, in connection with which the reports of the Collector, the Sub-Collector and the Treasury Deputy Collector, Gódávari, and of the Tahsildar of Rámachandrapuram, have been placed at the disposal of the press, will Government be pleased to place on the table the reports made by the other Divisional officers and Tahsildars of the Gódávari district in the same matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLVII. The only reports which the Government has seen are those printed with Board's Proceedings (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 43, dated 12th March 1896, a copy of which has already been furnished to the Hon'ble Member. The Collector apparently considered that the reports received from other officers were not sufficiently important for submission either to the Board or to the Government, and the Government does not think it necessary now to obtain and place them on the table.

The Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu :—

XLVIII. With reference to the following observations made by the Deputy Commissioner in paragraph 59 of his Scheme report, dated 9th November 1895, No. 571-A, that "this—the Central delta—has been neglected, and the original scheme for distributing the anicut supply does not seem to have been fully executed. The general complaint in some villages is that a sufficient supply of water to enable the ryots to commence cultivation is not sent down the channels till the latter part of July. This makes the season late, and the consequence is that, when the heavy rains of October and November set in, the paddy plants are not strong enough to withstand the heavy downpour and temporary submersion. The Central delta until quite recently formed a portion of the western division, but it now constitutes a separate division and I understand that a considerable sum of money is to be spent in improving the irrigation", will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent on improving the irrigation of the said delta since it has been constituted into a separate division ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

XLVIII. The Gódávari Central delta division was formed into a separate division on 1st September 1895. The expenditure incurred on irrigation and agricultural works in that division was Rs. 1,02,833 in 1895–96 and Rs. 85,485 during the current year to end of October last. The current year's grant is Rs. 1,47,938.

The Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu :—

XLIX. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government ruled, in ordering inquiry whether any specified areas or classes of lands should be exempted from the enhanced water-rate, that the area to be so exempted should not exceed 15 per cent. of the wet area, and whether in consequence thereof nearly 25,000 of zeroyati land in the Gódávari district recommended for exemption was not exempted ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state, if that be the case, why such a limit was considered to be necessary, and place on the table the G.O., Mis. No. 4856, dated 2nd December 1895 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XLIX. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The limit was imposed because the Government did not consider that sufficient cause had been shown for further exemption. The Government Order referred to by the Hon'ble Member cannot be placed on the table.

The Hon'ble P. Rangayya Nayudu :—

L. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any members of the Civil Service own estates on the Nilgiri Hills ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been any encroachments on public property by any of them ? and, if so, by how many acres ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any one of these estates has been the subject-matter of correspondence with the Board of Revenue ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

L. (*a*) So far as the Government is aware, no members of the Indian Civil Service own "estates" on the Nilgiri Hills, *i.e.*, lands held for agricultural purposes. Three members, or their near relatives, are known to own houses for residence with compound attached.

(*b*) There is no information available to answer this question.

(*c*) There was some correspondence with the Board of Revenue about the property of one officer but that related to a water-dispute and not to an encroachment on public land.

The Hon'ble P. Rangayya Nayudu :—

LI. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not advisable to transfer District Surgeons from the stations after a period of three years, as it is the case with the District Munsifs ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to order the transfers of each of them as are in stations for a period of more than three years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

LI. (*a*) The Government is not prepared to pass a rule to this effect.

(*b*) The answer to this is included in the preceding answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Rangayya Nayudu :—

LII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the statement made in papers that the Secretary of State has not sanctioned the re-organization scheme of the Registration Department submitted by this Government ? If so, on what grounds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

LII. The scheme has not yet been forwarded to the Secretary of State, but is still under correspondence with the Government of India.

The Hon'ble P. Rangayya Nayudu :—

LIII. Will the Government be pleased to state why was the Sub-Court at Mangalore transferred to Nellore ?

Has the Government received any representation from the people of Mangalore on the subject? and how has it been disposed of?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

LIII. The Sub-Court has been transferred to Nellore on the recommendation of the High Court to assist in clearing off arrears of work in that district. As to the latter part of the question the answer is "Yes." The memorialists have been informed that the Government is unable to comply with their requests.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

LIV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to an article in the *Hindu* of the 18th November 1896 regarding the assignment of darkhast lands to a missionary in the village of Mannúr in the taluk of Conjeeveram in spite of the protest from the ryots of the said village?

(*b*) Is it not the rule, laid down by the Revenue Board, that the Mirasidars and other ryots of a village have a preferential right to outsiders for waste land? On what grounds have lands in this instance been given to a stranger?

(*c*) Will the Government cause a return to be furnished of all lands assigned to missionaries in the district of Chingleput on darkhast applications, stating their area and the names of the pattadars holding them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

LIV. (*a*) The answer to this question is "No".

(*b*) The rules on the subject will be found in the Board's Standing Orders. The Government is not aware that the lands referred to were assigned to a stranger.

(*c*) The Government sees no reason to call for such a return.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU:—

LV. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it will revise the Government Order granting franchise to graduates for election of Fellows to the University?

Does it not think it advisable to reduce the qualifications of voters to ten years' standing instead of twenty years?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

LV. The rules for the election of Fellows of the University were framed only in 1893 and the Government is not at present prepared to revise them.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

LVI. With reference to the answer to question XXI put by me at the meeting of the Council on the 18th day of December 1895 in the matter of the felling of babul trees in the Cuddapah district, will the Government be pleased to afford information on the several points therein mentioned, if it is now in a position to do so?

(*a*) Is it a fact that certain officials in the Cuddapah district grossly abused the privilege granted recently by Government to *bona-fide* agriculturists to take, free of cost, babul trees for their domestic and agricultural purposes, and felled and appropriated to themselves large quantities of this wood while they were clearly not intended to be benefited by the order?

(*b*) Did traders and speculators, who had no interest in the village, follow the example of these officials and denude the babul jungles of all trees to the great hardship and disadvantage of the village population?

(*c*) Did the Government, in consequence of the above occurrence, rescind the order, depriving thereby even *bona-fide* agriculturists of the privilege of taking these trees free of charge for fuel, &c.?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, in the tracts of country where these incidents happened, no other wood is available for fuel and other domestic and agricultural purposes?

(*e*) Is it also a fact that, in consequence of the above occurrences, babul trees hitherto classed under class 3 have been raised to class 2, and a higher seigniorage is levied on the same than before?

(*f*) Did the Government direct the subordinate authorities to issue definite instructions for regulating the free use of the wood and preventing abuse, and what effect was given by these authorities to such instructions of Government, if any?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

LVI. (*a*) It is a fact that twelve officials took between them sixteen cart-loads of babul trees under rule 7 of the rules under section 26 of the Forest Act which concedes the right of felling certain trees for agricultural or domestic purposes to all the inhabitants of adjoining villages without distinction. The concession was primarily intended for the agricultural population, but when the rules were passed it was not considered necessary to withhold it from other residents, as it is ordinarily only in sparsely-populated rural tracts that any trees remain over which the privilege can be exercised.

(*b*) The ryots of the villages throughout three or four taluks availed themselves of the concession, as soon as it was made known to them, in a most hasty and improvident fashion, but it is certain that traders and speculators were not concerned in the affair to any great extent, and it is not proved that such persons took part in it at all. It is probable that the villagers may have been encouraged by the example of the officials, but the chief stimulus seems to have arisen from a belief that the concession was one of a temporary nature which would soon be withdrawn.

(*c*) Yes. It was considered that trees, which villagers could not be trusted to protect for themselves, must be paid for.

(*d*) Yes. Practically so—so far as village waste is concerned.

(*e*) When babul was taken on the classified list in consequence of these occurrences, it was placed in class 2, as the lists were under revision, and the trees on the old class 3 were ordinarily left free. In the revised lists recently submitted for the orders of Government, babul has again been placed in class 3.

(*f*) The principle underlying the rules with regard to free felling is that it is only conceded in cases in which detailed regulation by officials is unnecessary. Heads of villages are held responsible for seeing that the privilege is not abused, and in the present case there is no reason to doubt that the heads of the villages concerned did all they could do to keep the felling within bounds. As their influence was found to be insufficient, the privilege was withdrawn.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

LVII. (*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 the 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 a 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. Bliss:—

LVII. The question was not received in time to enable the matter to be considered. I request the Hon'ble Member to be good enough to repeat the question at the next meeting of the Council.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LVIII. (*a*) Is the Government aware that memorials have been addressed by the Gooty Peoples' Association to the Railway authorities to provide a refreshment-room for Natives at the Guntakal junction for the convenience of Native passengers, and that while the authorities of the Southern Mahratta Railway Company are willing and anxious to meet the comfort and convenience of Native passengers by providing accommodation on the upper floor of the Guntakal station, those of the Madras Railway Company, who are joint owners of the said station, are objecting to this necessary and useful addition to the station in spite of the strong support of the Southern Mahratta Company ?

(*b*) In view to the large passenger traffic at this station due to the junction of two railways (the Southern Mahratta and the Madras Railways) and its central position to these railway systems, and to the absence of any town or village or decent Native hotels in the vicinity of the station premises, will the Government be pleased to institute inquiries into the matters set forth in the above paragraph and adopt early measures for the construction and maintenance of a suitable refreshment-room for Natives, as at Nandyal on the Southern Mahratta Railway ?

The Hon'ble Colonel Campbell :—

LVIII. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Madras Railway has already provided a Native hostel at Raichur and a choultry at Rénigunta. These have been little used and have been financially a direct loss. At Arkonam a temporary structure has been erected in which facilities are offered to Natives of different castes of obtaining cooked food. Until sufficient time has elapsed to prove the success or otherwise of this last experiment, the Madras Railway do not propose to incur any expenditure at Guntakal on a similar undertaking.

The comfort and convenience of Native passengers has recently been under the consideration of the Government of India, who have invited the attention of Railway administrations to various measures, but the need for refreshment-rooms for Natives is not included among these and this Government does not propose to bring any pressure to bear on the railway in this matter.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LIX. (*a*) Is there a Government order limiting the service of medical subordinates in the hill tracts of Ganjám, Vizagapatam and Gódávari districts to two years, and ordering all medical subordinates in those districts to take their turn of duty for hill tract service ?

(*b*) Is this owing to the extremely unhealthy climate of those regions and the trying and costly nature of living in those parts ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to issue a similar order for officers of the Revenue, Police and other Departments to relieve them regularly and at reasonable intervals from the hardships and privations of life in unhealthy hilly country ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

LIX. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are the unhealthiness of the climate and the greater cost of living in the hill tracts.

(*c*) The Government does not consider it necessary to issue a similar order for officers of other departments.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LX. (*a*) Is there any objection in law to frame a list of jurors separate from that of assessors instead of one list of jurors and assessors for a district, as at present, for the trial of criminal cases in Mofussil Sessions Courts ?

(*b*) If there is no objection, will the Government be pleased to direct in future the preparation of separate lists of jurors as distinguished from those of assessors, and also prescribe adequate property and educational qualifications for service as jurors in view to the proper discharge of the far higher responsibilities devolving on juries in the trial of cases triable by them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

LX. The Government cannot undertake to answer legal questions.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LXI. Adverting to the answer to question No. XLVII put at the meeting of Council held on 22nd January 1895 by the Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu in the matter of the privilege of election to the Masulipatam Municipality, will the Government be pleased to consider the question favourably now and regrant the privilege of electing Councillors and Chairman in that municipality, in view to meet the wishes of the people signified by memorials of the inhabitants and of the Kistna District Conference ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss :—

LXI. The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LXII. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of the District Magistrate of North Arcot, No. 1075-Mag., dated 7th September 1896, published in the "Hindu" newspaper, dated 14th September 1896, transferring calendar case No. 65 of 1896 from the file of the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot to that of another magistrate ? Is this an accurate report of the proceedings ?

(*b*) With reference to the strong criticism contained in the said proceedings against the regularity and propriety of the procedure of the Joint Magistrate in the conduct of the said calendar case, and the finding of the District Magistrate as to the correctness of certain explanations furnished by the Joint Magistrate, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and adopt such measures as it may deem necessary under the circumstances at an early date.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

LXII. (*a*) & (*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to the Hon'ble C. Vijiaraghavachariar's question which relates to the same matter.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

LXIII. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leading article of the "Madras Standard" newspaper, dated 16th November 1896 (page 4), stating that the District Magistrate of Tinnevelly has issued a circular to the effect "that all complaints against Police officers should be referred by Subordinate Magistrates to the Police Superintendent" ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the exact nature and wording of the circular, and consider its legality and advisability, and also direct the withdrawal of the same, if it is not in consonance with law and is impolitic ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss:—

LXIII. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(3) *Acts assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General.*

His Excellency the President announces the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General to the following Acts :—

(1) *An Act to provide a form of marriage for persons following the Marumakkatayam or the Aliyasantana Law—the Malabar Marriage Act IV of* 1896.

(2) *An Act to repeal Madras Act III of* 1882 *and Section* 49 *of Act XXIV of* 1859.

(4) *Petitions, &c.*

The Secretary lays on the table the following papers :—

G.O., No. 50, Legislative, dated 16th May 1896,
" " 56 " " 13th June " } regarding the Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act IV of 1884.

G.O., No. 502, * Judicial, dated 11th March 1896, regarding Mr. Winterbotham's deputation to Malabar.

G.O., No. 201, * Revenue, dated 18th May 1896, passing orders on the report on the financial results of the introduction of the new scheme of settlement into the Tanjore district.

G.O., No. 36 * R., Legislative, dated 4th April 1895, regarding tope lands in Tanjore district.

G.O., No. 592, * Revenue, dated 29th August 1895, regarding the Taluk Cutcherry at Manantoddy.

(5) *A Bill to further amend the Madras Rent Recovery Act VIII of* 1865.

The Hon'ble V. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, C.I.E., DIWAN BAHADUR, moves for leave to introduce the above bill.

(6) *Malabar Testamentary Bill.*

(*a*) The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Spring-Branson moves for permission to withdraw the Bill to declare the testamentary powers of persons following the Marumakkatayam or the Aliyasantana Law of Inheritance, which was introduced and referred to a Select Committee at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April last.

The Hon'ble Member will also move for leave to suspend Council Rule 34 in view to the immediate reading of a revised Bill on the same subject.

(7) *Bill to amend the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act*, 1895.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel introduces the above Bill, and moves that it be read in Council.

(8) *Bill to amend the Madras Revenue Recovery Act II of* 1864.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Spring-Branson presents the report of the Select Committee on the above Bill, and moves that the report be taken into consideration and the Bill be passed into law.

(9) *Rules for the conduct of business at meetings of the Legislative Council.*

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel moves that the following be substituted for the definition of "Secretary" in rule 1 of the above rules :—

"'Secretary' means the Secretary, or the Under or Assistant Secretary to the Government of Madras in the Legislative Department."

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* These papers are laid on the table with reference to the answers given to questions Nos. VI, XIX and XXV at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1896.

LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Secretary to the Council.

Government of Fort St. George.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

On Wednesday, the 9th day of December 1896.

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[P.W. 25.
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