Number of Indian Collectors and District Police Superintendents in the Presidency.

10 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance—

(*a*) to place on the table the total number of Indian Collectors and District Police Superintendents in the Presidency ;

(*b*) to state how many of them are Muhammadans, non-Muhammadans and Christians.

A.—The Member is referred to the Quarterly Civil List which gives the information he requires.

Indian passengers proceeding to Straits Settlements.

11 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Government of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States do not insist upon passports for passengers leaving their Colonies ;

(*b*) if the Government will be pleased to recommend to the Government of India to withdraw the passport restrictions laid down under the Defence of India Rules of 1917 for Indian passengers proceeding hence to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

A.—(*a*) The Government of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States do not now insist on the possession of passports in the case of British-Indian subjects entering or leaving their Colony.

(*b*) The necessary orders have already been issued. The attention of the Member is invited to the Press Communiqué, dated the 25th January 1921.

Report of the Jails Committee.

12 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Law to state—

(*a*) with reference to the interpellation No. 3 put by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur A. K. G. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar at the meeting of the Council held on 28th September 1920 and the answer given by the Government thereto, whether they have received the report of the Jails Committee ;

(*b*) if they considered the question of affording facilities for the Muhammadan convicts of the Madras Penitentiary to say their prayers on Fridays.

A.—The report of the Indian Jails Committee has not yet been published.

Confirmation of temporary sub-courts and district munsifs' courts.

13 Q.— Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Law to state whether the Government propose to confirm any or all of the temporary sub-courts and district munsifs' courts in the Presidency in the coming official year.

A.—The matter is being considered by the Government.

Improvement of minor seaports.

14 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance to state if the Government have arrived at any decision with regard to the improvement of minor seaports.

14th February 1921]

A.—There are 71 places in the Presidency notified as ports in addition to the port of Madras.

The development of the port of Vizagapatam has been entrusted to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company.

A report on the ports of Tuticorin, Cochin, Mangalore, Malpe, Cocanada and Negapatam has been received from the Consulting Engineers Sir John Wolfe Barry Lyster and Partners.

A Harbour Engineer has been appointed and has so far been engaged principally on works relating to the ports of Cochin and Tuticorin.

The improvement of the other small ports is in charge of the Presidency Port Officer aided in some places by Port Conservancy Board and Landing and Shipping Fees Committee.

Construction of a bridge over the Kaduvayar at Negapatam.

15 *Q.*—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether the Government propose to set apart any amount in the coming year for the construction of a bridge over the Kaduvayar at Negapatam.

A.—The Government cannot make any definite promise at present. A decision can only be come to after the amount available to such grants in 1921-22 is known and after applications for such grants from other local bodies have been scrutinized.

Increment in the pay of the constabulary.

16 *Q.*—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Madras constabulary presented a petition recently praying for an immediate increment in their pay;

(*b*) to state what action was taken on the matter;

(*c*) to extend similar concessions to the mufassal constabulary also.

A.—No such petition has been presented to Government.

Nomination of the depressed classes to local boards in Tanjore district.

17 *Q.*—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that, in accordance with the recent Government Order, the President, District Board, Tanjore, insists upon the nomination of the depressed classes for seats in the local boards in the district;

(*b*) that for want of such men some seats remain vacant for a long time.

A.—(*a*) The Government presume the Member refers to * G.O. No. 580 L., dated 15th June 1920, which is placed on the table. The President, District Board, Tanjore, is at liberty to exercise his own discretion in regard to nomination.

(*b*) One seat on the Negapatam Taluk Board has remained vacant since 25th November 1920 and another on the Pattukkottai Taluk Board from the 8th May 1920. The Government are informed that the President hopes to fill these vacancies by nominating Panchamas.

* Vide Appendix II on page 41 infra.