14th February 1921]

A.—Information called for from the Collectors about election expenditure has been received only from some districts till now. As soon as complete information is available a statement of the expenditure will be furnished to the Member.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" With reference to the answers given to questions 20 and 21, may I know if the Hon'ble Member for Finance will forward the statements required therein only to the questioning Member, or will he place them on the Council table, or will he furnish copies to other members of the Council."

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER :—" I have no objection whatever to place the statements on the table."

Local Government loan in 1921-22.

22 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO : " To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether a loan by the Local Government is likely to be floated in 1921-22 and the amount of such a loan.

A.—The Government do not propose to float a loan in the open market in the year 1921-22. It is hoped however that a loan will be obtained from the Government of India, the details of which will appear in the Financial Statement to be published in the first week of March.

Appointment of Chairman, Ootacamund municipality.

23 *Q.*—Mr. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO : "To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state whether the Government had made any proposals to the Ootacamund Municipal Council to forego the privilege of electing its Chairman on condition of the Government paying Rs. 1,000 per mensem as the salary of the Chairman to be appointed by the Government and whether the proposal has been finally sanctioned and to lay the whole correspondence on the table.

A.—The answer is in the affirmative. A copy of the correspondence is laid on the table.*

Mr. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" Sir, I should like to know from the Minister for Local Self-Government whether it is proposed to continue the services of Mr. Handcock who has been the President of the Ootacamund Municipality for the last 12 years on the ground of his engineering experience."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" His service is to continue for the period he has been appointed. As to what will take place later, it is not yet decided. "

Mr. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" May I know whether the proposed arrangement is exactly the same which the Council has been following for the last 12 years without the additional payment of Rs. 1,000 per mensem."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" Only one supplementary question to elicit explanation to the answer to a question can be asked "

Mr. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—" It is for the President to decide it "

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :—" Probably the Hon'ble Minister wants notice of the question."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RAMARAYANINGAR :—" It is assuming the form of a discussion."

* Vide Appendix III on pages 42-45 infra.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT:—"The question is perfectly in order, but it is open to the Hon'ble Minister to say if he wants notice of the question."

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMARAYANINGAR:—"Yes, I want notice."

Transfer of departments from Board of Revenue to Government.

24 Q.—Mr. T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR: "To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that several departments of administrative work which were formerly under the Board of Revenue have, within the last five years, been removed from their control and placed under the Government directly;

(*b*) if so, what the departments are and when they were so removed;

(*c*) whether there has been any reduction of establishment and expenditure in the Board on account of such removal;

(*d*) what the establishment was in the Board and what the cost of the same in 1914–15 and in 1919–20;

(*e*) whether there is any proposal under consideration by the Government to abolish the Board of Revenue or to reconstitute it on a different basis to what obtains now, and if so, in what stage is such a proposal.

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Agricultural, Veterinary and Co-operative departments were taken away from the control of the Board of Revenue, Revenue Settlement, on 1st November 1916 and the Forest department from the control of the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, on 1st June 1919. No portion of the work pertaining to the Board of Revenue, Separate Revenue, was transferred

(*c*) The office establishment in the Board, Settlement department, was reduced by four clerks and in the Board, Land Revenue department, by one clerk, while the entire Forest section of the Board's office was taken away.

(*d*) The attention of the Member is invited to the details of establishment and expenditure given in the Civil Budget Estimates under (1) 3-B. Land Revenue—Survey and Settlement—Revenue Settlement—Controlling Office; (2) 11-B. Forests—Forest establishments; (3) 18-J. General Administration—Board of Revenue.

Information regarding the strength and cost of establishments in the Board (Separate Revenue) including the office of the Chief Commissioner of Income-tax which was started in February 1920 has been called for and will be furnished on receipt.

(*e*) The proposal has been dropped for the present.

Operation of the Insects Pest Act in the Coimbatore district.

25 Q.—Mr. T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR: "To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Insects Pest Act has been applied to the Cambodia cotton cultivation in the Coimbatore district and the plants are ordered to be removed from the 1st of August each year;

(*b*) if so, what the grounds are on which the date 1st of August has been fixed;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the ryots are put to great loss, extending in the aggregate to several lakhs, by this order;

(*d*) how long the land should be vacant for avoiding the growth and extension of the pest;