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;