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;

14th February 1921]

(*e*) whether there is any particular season marked out for leaving the lands vacant or is it enough if the land is left vacant for a sufficient length of time in the year without reference to season;

(*f*) whether there is any harm in allowing the plants on the land for a month or two longer in case the ryots agree to leave the land vacant for a sufficient period after the plants are removed;

(*g*) whether some alteration cannot be made in the date fixed for the removal of the plants, so as to allow the ryots to get the benefit of the second crop and also avoid the evil which it is intended to counteract by the order now in force;

(*h*) what parts of the Coimbatore district are affected by the pest; and

(*i*) whether the operation of the Act and the order issued thereunder cannot be confined to the parts of the district or taluks actually affected.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The date was fixed with due regard to the season, so as to allow of the fields remaining bare of cotton for a period of two months before the next cotton crop was sown.

(*c*) The Government are aware that some individual losses are unavoidable to save the larger losses by disease.

(*d*) Two months, preferably.

(*e*) Yes; the close season should precede the sowing season which is ordinarily at the beginning of the north-east monsoon.

(*f*) & (*g*) The dates cannot be altered. In the Coimbatore district except on the extreme eastern border the season for growing Cambodia cotton is practically uniform and the postponement in some individual cases will frustrate the utility of the measure.

(*h*) The entire district excluding the taluk of Kollegal.

(*i*) This is the case at present.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"May I know what is the period for which the ryot will have to leave the land vacant?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"As far as my present experience goes, two months are supposed to be necessary. The ground suggested will be taken up by the Government for enquiry."

Donation to the Tubercular Institute.

26 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) what has been done with the donation of Rs. 50,000 by M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib M. C. T. Muttayya Chettiyar Avargal to build a Tubercular block attached to the Tubercular Institute at the Spur Tank, Madras; and

(*b*) what the cause of delay is in constructing the block.

A.—(*a*) A sum of Rs. 25,000 representing one-half of the amount of the donation has been received and this has been placed in fixed deposit with the Bank of Madras.

(*b*) The block in question forms part of the proposed new General Hospital buildings at the Spur Tank. Under existing rules, construction cannot be undertaken until the whole scheme has received the sanction of the Secretary of State. Detailed estimates for portions of the scheme are not yet complete.