

Q.133.

(b)

Reply might be something as follows :-

"My statement was correct. The penal settlement was never closed.

A certain number of prisoners continued to be sent ~~there~~ from India and all these prisoners were sent to the Cellular Jail for a period after arrival in the Andamans."

Reference might also be made to the exact para. of the Jail Committee's Report. Office might note this.

x

x

x

Y. Sloan

24.7.33,

H.M.'s approval might now be obtained to the proposed reply. A draft reply is subd on the lines indicated in Jt. Secy's note above. If any supplementary questions are asked with reference to the policy enunciated in our resolution of the 27th July 1926, H.M. will no doubt explain the difference between Andaman as a penal settlement and its retention only for such prisoners whose removal from India is considered in the public interest, apart from voluntary convicts who are required to serve a certain probationary period in the Cellular Jail before they are sent into the settlement either as Talabass or Self-supporters.

Sloan
2/9/33

JH
9/8/33

H.M.
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Surely some of the remarks quoted from the Census Report are slipshod, ~~and~~ if not positively inaccurate. How can it be right to say that "no more convicts were received"? If in fact the Census Report conveys ^a ~~the~~ wrong impression I should like to say so plainly.

J.M.
10.8.33

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With reference to H.M.'s note above, please see our letter no 101 dated the 30th March 1921 to all local Govts in which they were asked to take steps to stop deportation to the Andamans as far as possible, although the prisoners that were already in the Settlement were kept there because they could not be removed for lack of jail accommodation in the provinces. The majority of the prisoners were able to stop deportation to the Andamans, but considerable difficulty was experienced owing to overcrowding in the Punjab. N.W.F. & Madras jails. Secy of State's permission was accordingly obtained for temporary reopening of transportation in provinces where the position was serious. The Madras Govt who had a large number of Mappilla Rebels prisoners in their jails and the Punjab Govt who had taken over some N.W.F.P. prisoners were therefore permitted to send their prisoners to the Andamans. Subsequently in 1925, the C.C. complained of the growing shortage of the convict labour force in the Islands and the local Govts were asked to send volunteer convicts to the Andamans. The Punjab Govt continued to send prisoners under the old system till

1922 P.E

E
43-45

E
49-50+52

270/25 jails
M

7150/32 1/2

P

last year when we asked them to ⁵⁷ ~~follow~~ ^{fall} into line with the other local Govts in regard to sending volunteer convicts to the Andamans.

2. It will be seen therefore that after the orders of March 1921, Punjab & Madras were practically the only two local Govts who continued to report their prisoners to the Andamans till in 1925 the system of volunteer convicts was introduced. In the census report it is stated that "with the exception of some 1,400 Maffella rebellion prisoners and some Punjabis no more convicts were received". The statement is correct in substance though the position has not been very clearly stated.

JTB

11/8/33

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HOME DEPT
File No. 7. 7/31/33 - Jails
Date 18 JUL 1933
Serial 16
Diary No. D. 926/33 - Jails

Jails
1917

No. I.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

List No. 3 - A

Notice received on/up to 19/7/33 193 .

The Question/~~Resolution~~, if allowed, is down for meeting on 22/8/ 1933.

54	Question	133	<p>*Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the following remarks on page seven of the Census Report on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 1931 :—</p> <p>“ During Colonel Beadon’s (Chief Commissioner) tenure from 1920 to 1923 orders were received to close the Penal Settlement with the exception of 1,400 Moplah rebellion prisoners and some Punjabis and no more convicts were received ”.....</p> <p>W.....</p> <p>During Chief Commissioner, Colonel Ferrar’s tenure from 1923 to 1931 “ All troublesome habituals or violent convicts were repatriated. The recruitment of convicts was placed on a voluntary instead of a compulsory basis and volunteers, to be accepted, had to be youngish men free from pronounced criminal taint.”</p> <p>(b) Will Government please explain how this statement is consistent with the remarks of the Home Member, Sir Harry Haig, made in the concluding portion of the communiqué of the 13th June last which runs as follows :—</p> <p>C “ In concluding Sir Harry Haig pointed out that Mr. Jadhav was wrong in thinking that the Cellular Jail had ever been closed. It was, in fact, kept open in accordance with the recommendation of the Jail Committee ” ?</p>
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Jais
1918

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

List No.

Notice received on/up to

Final

193 .

The Question/Resolution, if allowed, is down for meeting on

22/8 1933

122. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the following remarks on page seven of the Census Report on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 1931 ?

" During Colonel Beadon's (Chief Commissioner) tenure from 1920 to 1923 orders were received to close the Penal Settlement with the exception of 1,400 Moplah rebellion prisoners and some Punjabis and no more convicts were received "..... During Chief Commissioner, Colonel Ferrar's tenure from 1923 to 1931 " All troublesome habituals or violent convicts were repatriated. The recruitment of convicts was placed on a voluntary instead of a compulsory basis and volunteers, to be accepted, had to be youngish men free from pronounced criminal taint ".

(b) Will Government please explain how this statement is consistent with the remarks of the Honourable the Home Member, Sir Harry Haig, made in the concluding portion of the communiqué of the 13th June last which runs as follows :

" In concluding Sir Harry Haig pointed out that Mr. Jadhav was wrong in thinking that the Cellular Jail had ever been closed. It was, in fact, kept open in accordance with the recommendation of the Jail Committee " ?