

[1st September 1923]

(c) the number of them who have been granted extensions, and the number of times each has been granted an extension; and

(d) the number of them belonging to each of the different nationalities?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT :

(a) 41.

(b) None.

(c) None.

(d) The number according to nationalities is as follows :—

Bengali Hindus	...	...	...	15
„ Muhammadan	...	...	...	1
„ Christian	...	...	...	1
Bihari Hindus	...	...	...	9
„ Muhammadans	...	...	...	6
Oriya Hindus	...	...	...	2
„ Christian	...	...	...	1
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	4
Vacant	...	...	...	2
				41
		Total	...	41

ADVISORY COMMITTEES ATTACHED TO THE EXCISE DEPARTMENT IN PURNEA.

190. Rai Bahadur PRITHI CHAND LAL CHAUDHURI :

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any advisory committee attached to the excise department in Purnea?

If the answer is in the affirmative, what are the functions and powers of such board?

(b) Has the advisory committee given any opinion and was any action taken upon it?

(c) Is it a fact that a liquor shop has been opened in the heart of the Purnea city against the opinion of the advisory board?

[R. B. Pirithi Ch. Lal Chaudhuri]

(d) Is it a rule that the Magistrate when he overrides the opinion of the advisory board should give his reasons in writing?

(e) If so, did the Magistrate give any reason in writing as to why the shop was allowed to be opened in the heart of the city?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the removal of the liquor shop from the old site to the present one?

(g) Is the Government aware that in spite of the assurance of the inspector of excise that a new site shall be selected for the shop, nothing has been done as yet?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. For the functions and powers of the advisory committee, a reference is invited to rule 61 on page 127 of Excise Manual, Volume II, and rule 70 on page 24 of Excise Manual, Volume III.

(b) The member presumably refers to the last advisory committee which met in July 1923; if so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) Rule 61 cited above requires that the Collector shall record his reasons for disagreement if he does not accept the opinion of the committee on the number of licenses proposed to be settled for the following year and the location of shops.

(e) and (f) The Collector accepted the recommendation of the advisory committee which met on the 27th July 1923, for the removal of the Purnea city shop (commonly known as the Alamganj shop) from its present site objected to by the committee and therefore there was no occasion to record any reason for disagreement. The shop was opened on a new site as the hut on the old site had collapsed. This transfer of site was permitted as a temporary measure pending the repairs to the old building or the construction of a hut on the outskirts of the town.

(g) Action is being taken for the removal of the shop from its present site. At the meeting of the advisory committee on the 27th July 1923 it was resolved that a sub-committee consisting of Rai Bahadur Prithi Chand Lal Chaudhuri and Maulavi Mir Faiyaz Ali should advise on a permanent site. The Collector proposed the 2nd September 1923 for the inspection of the new site by these two members but both asked for another date.