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Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act in the Punjab

During the year 1930.

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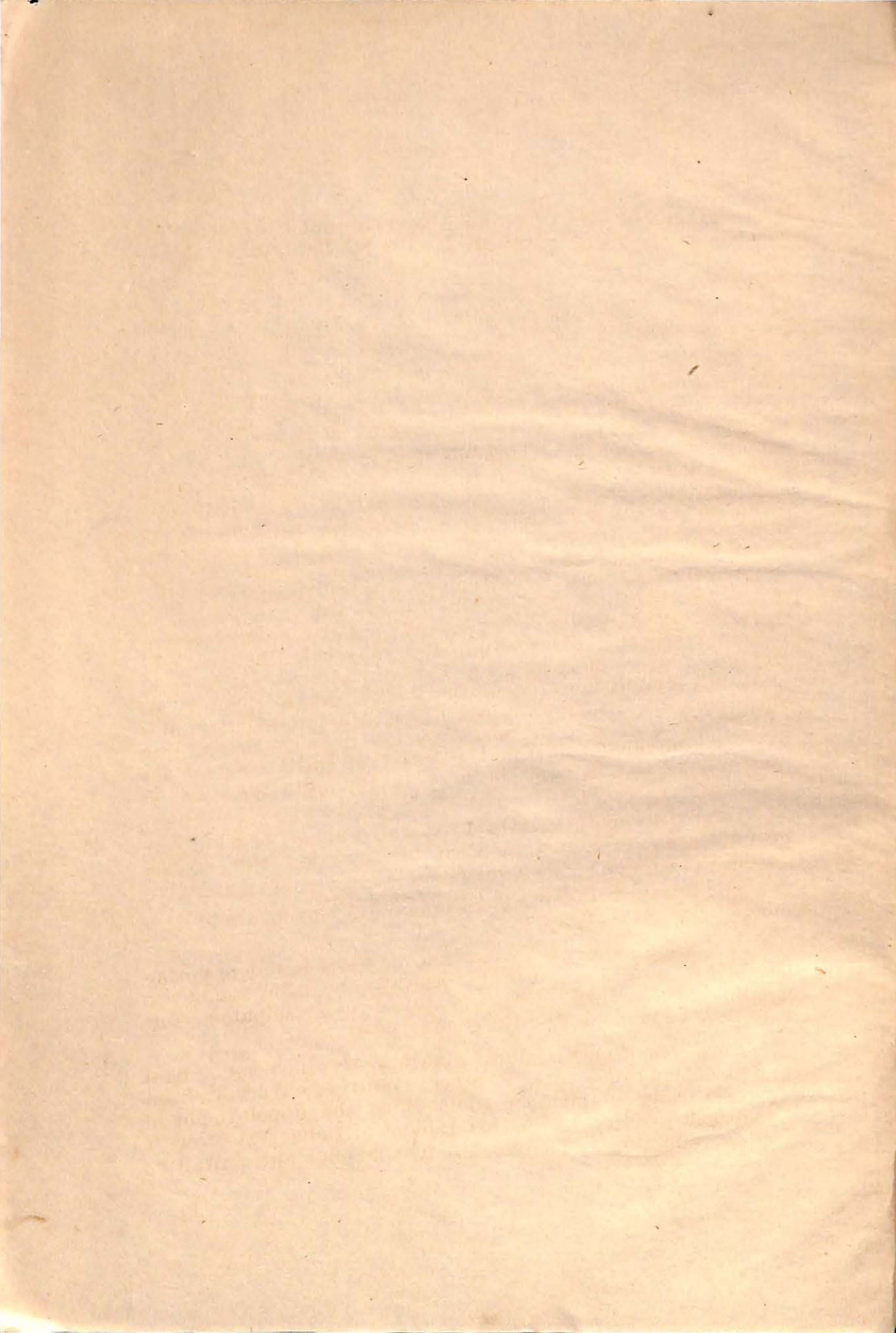
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**Proceedings of the Punjab Government (Electricity),
No. 351-W.S., dated Simla-E., the 9th September 1931.**

READ—

Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act in the Punjab for the year ending 31st December, 1930.

THE progress observed in the last report has been fully maintained. Licences were granted for the supply of energy in Hoshiarpur and Shahdara, bringing the total number of licences to thirteen. A license was also granted for the supply of energy in Montgomery, but was subsequently revoked at the request of the licensee. The areas of supply at Gujranwála and Siáلكot were extended and authority was given to the Ráwalpindi, Amritsar and Lahore licensees to supply energy to consumers outside the licensed areas. Authority was given to the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Branch, Public Works Department, to supply energy in bulk to the Amritsar licensee. At the close of the year the Local Government had under consideration applications for licences to supply energy in Sargodha, Hissar, Hánsi, Bhiwáni and Rohtak, four applications for the amendment of licences, and one application for authority to supply energy in Sheikhúpara. All undertakings which are public companies and which have been in operation for not less than three years paid dividends of from six to sixteen and a quarter per cent. of subscribed capital, so that the industry can be regarded as healthy.

Twelve accidents occurred to human beings of which six proved fatal, as compared with ten and six respectively during the previous nine months.

The Advisory Board was not called upon to hold any meeting during the year.

Rules were under consideration for the licensing of wiring contractors and the grant of certificates of competency to wiremen at the close of the year. It is anticipated that rules will be made during the coming year.

Statistics of electrical undertakings, to which much care and attention are devoted in other countries, have not been systematically compiled in India since the appointment of Electrical Adviser to the Government of India was brought under reduction. Thanks to the labours and initiative

shown by Mr. F. L. Milne, Electrical Engineer to Government, a "list of electrical undertakings in India" up to the year 1927-28 has been published enabling the results achieved by the undertakings throughout India to be compared. Mr. Milne is to be congratulated on this painstaking and useful production.

The Governor in Council endorses the Director of Industries' appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Milne, the Electrical Inspector, and his assistants.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing review be forwarded to the Director of Industries, Punjab, for information. Ordered also that the review be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, and be circulated with the Report, and that copies be sent to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour.

By order of the Governor in Council,
A. R. ASTBURY,
Secretary to Government, Punjab,
(Electricity).

Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act in the Punjab, for the year 1930.

1. The total number of licences held under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, in the Punjab was 13 during the year under report, and the demand for electrification was generally on the increase.

2. *Applications for the grant of licences.*—Six new applications were received during the year from the undermentioned applicants for the supply of electric energy in the towns mentioned against their names :—

<i>Name of applicant.</i>	<i>Name of Town.</i>
(1) The proposed Sargodha Electric Supply Company, Limited.	Sargodha.
(2) The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.	Rohtak.
(3) The Municipal Committee, Campbellpur	Campbellpur.
(4) The Punjab Traders, Bankers, Insurance Advisors, etc., Lahore.	Ambala City.
(5) The Punjab Electric Power Company, Limited, Lahore.	Gujrat.
(6) The Punjab Electric Power Company, Limited, Lahore.	Montgomery.

Five applications were pending from the previous year. The papers regarding the electrification of —

Sargodha ... for which there were 3 applications ;
 Rohtak ... for which there was 1 application ;
 Montgomery ... for which there were 2 applications ;
 and,
 Hissar, Hansi for which there was 1 application ;
 and Bhiwani.

were, after scrutiny, submitted for the orders of Government. Four applications were left pending at the close of the year, either because the statutory period for the receipt of objections had not yet expired or because the papers were otherwise not quite complete.

The following licences to supply energy in the areas specified therein were granted during the year :—

- (1) The Hoshiarpur Electric Licence 1930, granted to the Hoshiarpur Electricity Supply Company.
- (2) The Shahdara Electric Licence 1930, granted to the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited.
- (3) The Montgomery Electric Licence 1930, granted to the Municipal Committee of Montgomery.

The application of the Municipal Committee of Montgomery for the consent of the Local Government to assign the licence to the Punjab Electric Power Company, Limited, could not be granted on account of certain legal difficulties and on the application of the Municipal Committee the licence was revoked. The Punjab Electric Power Company, Limited, was granted sanction under section 28 to engage in the business of supplying energy within the Municipal area of Montgomery subject, among others, to the condition that the Company should advertise their application for a licence in supersession of the sanction within three months of the date of the sanction. With regard to Rohtak, Hissar, Hansi and Bhiwani, Government informed the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, that it would be prepared to consider their application for the supply of energy in the Municipal areas of those towns if the Company so desired. The matter was yet under reference when the year closed.

Several enquiries were received as to whether Government was prepared to grant a licence to supply energy in Ludhiana but as the question of the distribution of Hydro-Electric energy in all towns embraced by the 1st stage of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme of which Ludhiana is one, was yet under consideration, no decision on the point could be made.

The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, applied for the consent of the Local Government to assign the Sialkot Electric Licence 1928 and transfer the electric supply undertaking connected therewith to the newly constituted Sialkot Electric Supply Company, Limited. The application was yet under consideration when the year closed.

3. *Applications for amendments.*—Three applications were received from licensees during the year for the amendment of existing licences, *viz.*, in respect of the following :—

- (1) Rawalpindi Electric Licence, 1923.

(This application was in supersession of the one received during 1929.)

(2) Kasauli Electric License, 1929.

(3) Lahore Electric Licence, 1912 (as amended in 1927).

Five applications (including the one in respect of Rawalpindi superseded during the year under report) were pending from the previous year. All the applications were duly scrutinized and submitted for the orders of Government. The Hoshiarpur Electricity Supply Company also submitted a copy of their proposed application for amendment of the Hoshiarpur Electric Licence. Amendments in respect of the following licences were sanctioned during the year:—

(1) Gujranwala Electric Licence, 1925.

(2) Sialkot Electric Licence, 1928.

(3) Kasauli Electric Licence, 1929.

Except in the case of Kasauli and Hoshiarpur the amendments related to the extension of the areas of supply, which indicates a growing demand for electrical energy.

A request was received from the Municipal Committee of Baghbanpura-cum-Bhogiwal for the inclusion of the towns of Baghbanpura and Bhogiwal within the area of supply of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited.

4. *Applications under section 27 of the Indian Electricity Act.*—Authority was given under section 27 of the Indian Electricity Act to the Rawalpindi Electric Power Company, Limited and the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, to supply electric energy to certain consumers outside their respective areas of supply. Authority was also given to the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, to supply energy to the North-Western Railway for the lighting of the Shahdara Railway Station. The application of the Gujranwala Electric Supply Company, Limited, which was pending from the previous year, lapsed because of the inclusion in the area of supply of certain additional areas which included the area in respect of which the application had been submitted.

5. *Applications under section 28 of the Indian Electricity Act.*—Sanction was given under section 28 of the Indian Electricity Act, to the Chief Engineer, Punjab, Public Works Department, Hydro-Electric Branch, to engage in the business of supplying energy to the Municipal Committee, Amritsar. Accordingly bulk supply was taken by the Hydro-

Electric Branch from the Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited, but this supply was discontinued by the latter for, about 6 months pending the removal of certain defects which caused a derangement in the supply. Consequently the matter was referred for the decision of the Electric Inspector to Government, Punjab, who gave his award thereon. An application by Miss D. O. Reilly of Murree, who wanted to erect an electricity plant to carry on a Ladies Hair Dressing business, could not be considered for want of the site plan, which could not be obtained as her shop was closed for the season. An application received from Messrs. Pokhar Das & Sons, Lahore, for the grant of sanction under section 28 for the supply of electric energy to the Notified Area, Sheikhpura, was under consideration at the close of the year.

6. *Specification of compulsory works under Clause IV of the Schedule attached to the Indian Electricity Act.*

(a) Lists of compulsory works are as a rule compiled at meetings at which the various interests concerned are fully represented. Lists in respect of the following licences were compiled during the year :—

- (1) Kasauli Electric Licence, 1929.
- (2) Hoshiarpur Electric Licence, 1930.
- (3) Gujranwala Electric Licence, 1925 (in respect of the extended area).
- (4) Sialkot Electric Licence, 1928 (in respect of the extended area).
- (5) Montgomery Electric Licence, 1930.

Except in the case of Montgomery, for which the licence granted to the Municipal Committee was revoked, the lists compiled were submitted to Government and duly prescribed.

A list of compulsory works for the proposed extended area under the Jullundur Electric Licence was also prepared and submitted to Government, but as the application for the proposed extension of the area to which the works related, is still under consideration for want of certain information still due from the Company, the works could not be prescribed.

(b) *Security.*—The Hoshiarpur Electricity Supply Company, duly deposited the security. The security deposited by the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, under the Sialkot Electric Licence, 1928 was refunded on the completion of the compulsory works.

7. *Statements of Accounts.*—Statements of accounts required by section 11 of the Indian Electricity Act were received from the various licensees in the Punjab, except from the Ambala Cantonment Board, which was exempted from the submission of statements of accounts for the years 1926-27 to 1929-30 on the ground that the Cantonment accounts and forms did not provide for the keeping of detailed and separate accounts to enable the statements in question being prepared. For the future, however, the Board has been asked to submit the prescribed statements. The accounts were checked and where necessary the licensees were addressed with a view to their completion or elucidation.

8. *Inspections.*—During the year under report 301 statutory inspections were carried out by the Electric Inspector and his Assistants as against 203 for the period 1st April to 31st December 1929. Seventy-one of these inspections were combined inspections under the Electricity and Cinematograph Acts. The Electric Inspector also carried out several earth tests and pointed out the defects to the licensees for rectification.

9. *Relaxation of the rules under the Indian Electricity Act.*—The Punjab Government relaxed rule 51 (d) in the case of the Rajgarh Sub-station of the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, in order to allow the use of the existing single pole isolating links for a period of six months.

10. *Accidents.*—Twelve accidents from electric shock occurred during the year as against fifteen in the previous year. Six of them proved fatal to human beings. Enquiries were made by the Electric Inspector in each case and suitable action taken.

11. *Development of Electrical undertakings in the Punjab, Lahore.*—During the year the following new sub-stations and high tension lines were put into service by the Lahore Electric Supply Company in Lahore :—

1. 6600/400 volts, 50 cycles, A. C. Sub-station near Sheranwala Gate.
2. Sanda Road Sub station and aerial H. T. Line between Poonch House Sub-station and Sanda Road Sub-station.
3. Aerial H. T. Line between Poonch House and Sanda Kalan Sub-station.

Rawalpindi.—An additional set of 1,000 K. W. was installed by the Rawalpindi Electric Power Company.

Jullundur.—The Jullundur Electric Supply Company, Limited, installed an additional set of 200 K. W. during the year.

Amritsar.—Due to the stoppage of the bulk supply by the Lahore Electric Supply Company to Hydro-Electric Branch the Municipal Committee of Amritsar recommenced giving a supply, as best as they could, from their old power station.

Sialkot.—The Lahore Electric Supply Company put into service their second generating set of 250 K. W.

An agreement was drawn up between the Municipal Committee of Sialkot and the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the street lighting of Sialkot.

Hoshiarpur.—The Hoshiarpur Electricity Supply Company issued specifications for the generating plant and overhead line material, and tenders for the same were expected to be received in January 1931.

Multan.—A high tension bulk supply was commenced at the new Central Jail.

Simla.—The question of augmenting the supply for Simla was under the consideration of Government and the Municipal Committee, Simla. The proposed conditions of supply have been received by the Electric Inspector and are under examination.

12. *Electricity Advisory Board.*—Lala Harkishan Lal and Khan Bahadur Sardar Habibullah were re-nominated as members of the Electricity Advisory Board for another period of three years.

13. List of electrical undertakings in India corrected up to 1927-28 was printed and published during the year. Draft rules for the grant of licenses and certificates of competency to electrical contractors and wiremen were published for inviting objections.

14. Mr. Milne continued as Electric Inspector throughout the year. My thanks are due to him and to his Assistants for their valuable work. Mr. Milne has been very useful in connection with the administration of the Indian Electricity Act.

RAM LAL,
Director of Industries, Punjab.

