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

During the year 1934.

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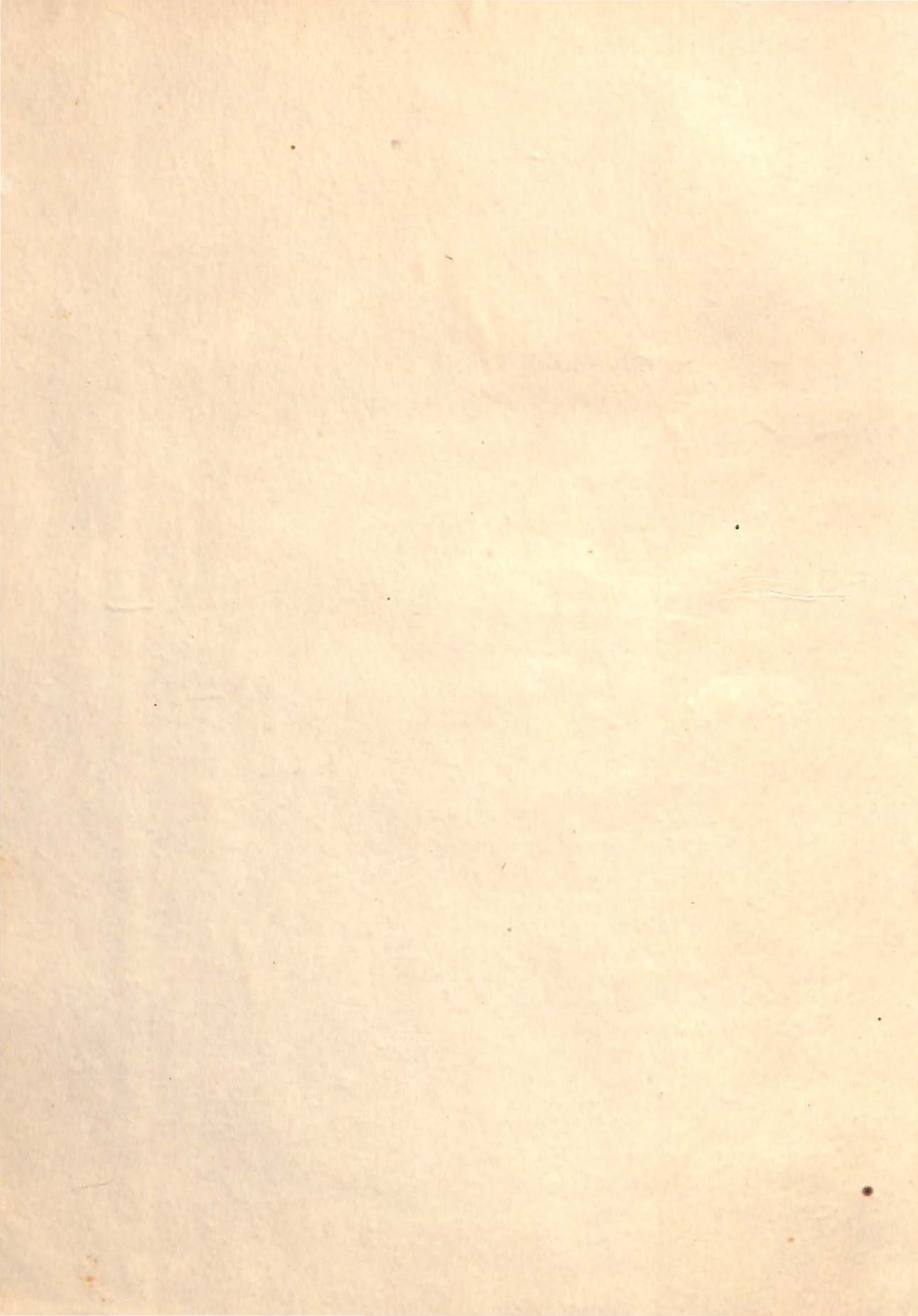


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February, 1936.

READ—

Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act in the Punjab for the year 1934.

THE number of licences held in the Punjab under the Indian Electricity Act increased from 23 to 33 during the year. At the close of the year, a number of further applications were pending. Generally, competition for these licences is keen. Electrical undertakings are looked on as safe and remunerative investments. Excluding the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Project, the total installed generating capacity of licensed undertakings rose from 19,765 K. W. last year to 21,996 K. W., while the number of units sold by such undertakings during the year was 2,58,74,122. The accounts of the electricity supply undertakings are normally made upto the 31st March each year, while this report relates to the calendar year ending 31st December. A certain amount of confusion results from this arrangement, and as a consequence, the number of units reported last year as having been sold by electricity supply undertakings, was over-estimated. It is calculated that the number of units sold this year actually exceeded the number sold last year by about 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. The total generating capacity of the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Project remained at 48,000 K. W. as before. The number of units sold from this project during the year was 84,94,926.

2. An important enquiry was held by the Electricity Advisory Board, Punjab, during the year under clause XI of the Schedule to the Indian Electricity Act into the maxima rates shown in the Lahore Electric Licence. They recommended certain reductions which were accepted by Government. It is understood that these reductions have led to a considerable increase in the load connected in Lahore and have not adversely affected the profits of the Company.

3. The number of accidents from electric shocks increased from 29 last year to 43 this year. There was only an increase of one under fatal accidents ; the principal increase occurred under accidents resulting in injuries to authorised persons. Considering the rapid development in the use of electricity, which is taking place in the Province,

this increase is not particularly alarming. The Electric Inspector and his staff had a very busy year. Inspections and earth tests were carried out in considerably greater numbers than was the case last year. By reason of inadequate equipment in the Electric Inspector's laboratory, meter tests and pressure tests were not carried out to the extent desirable. Steps are being taken to supply the Electric Inspector with more adequate equipment.

4. The Governor in Council joins with the Director of Industries in deploring the untimely death of Mr. Milne, who for many years, combined the duties of Electric Inspector and Electrical Engineer. The duties of the Electric Inspector in the Punjab are increasing year by year, but the Governor in Council is confident that Mr. Stowers, who has succeeded Mr. Milne, will successfully shoulder the responsibilities of this important office.

ORDERED that a copy of the above review be published in the *Punjab Gazette* and be circulated with the report.

ORDERED also that a copy be forwarded to the Director of Industries, Punjab, for information and that copies be forwarded to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour.

By order of the Governor in Council,
 C. V. SALUSBURY,
 Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab,
 Electricity and Industries Departments.

Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, in the Punjab for the year 1934.

WITH the grant of 10 new licences during the year under report, the total number of licences held in the Punjab under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, increased from 23 to 33. This increase, coupled with the large number of applications received during the year for the grant of new licences, indicate rapid electrical development. A graph is appended at the end of the report to show the remarkable progress made by electricity in the Punjab during the period 1924 to 1934. The total installed generating capacity of the licensed undertakings, other than the P. W. D. Electricity Branch, was 21,996 K. W. as compared with 19,765 K. W. in the previous year, and the total number of units sold by such undertakings was 25,874,122 as compared with 27,832,839 last year. The number of medium pressure installations connected to the licensees' mains during the year was 337. In the case of the Electricity Branch, the total generating capacity was 48,000 K. W., the number of units sold 8,494,926 and the number of medium pressure installations connected during the year, 187.

2. *Applications for the grant of licences.*—Nineteen applications were received during the year for the grant of licences for the supply of electrical energy at the under-mentioned ten places :—

<i>Name of place.</i>	<i>Name of applicant.</i>
1. Jhang-Maghiana	(1) Messrs. Manohar Lal-Shanti Sarup Jalota, Jhang.
	(2) The Sargodha Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
	(3) The Northern India Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
2. Rewari	The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
3. Muktsar	(1) Messrs. Dhani Ram Shamihoke and Sons, Lahore.
	(2) The Muktsar Electric Supply Company, Lahore.

<i>Name of place.</i>	<i>Name of applicant.</i>
4. Ambala Cantonment ...	(1) Messrs. B. R. Herman and Mohatta, Limited, Lahore. (2) The Ambala Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore. (3) The Karnal Electric Supply Company, Limited, Ambala Cantonment.
5. Murree ...	(1) The Rawalpindi Electric Power Company, Limited, Rawalpindi. (2) The Northern India Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
6. Wazirabad ...	(1) The Punjab Electric Power Company, Limited, Lahore. (2) The Gujranwala Electric Supply Company, Limited, Gujranwala.
7. Mianwali ...	(1) The Mianwali Electric Supply Company, Lahore. (2) Messrs. Y. R. Puri and Company, Lahore. (3) Makhdum Tassadduq Ahmed, Maymyo.
8. Chiniot ...	Messrs. Y. R. Puri and Company, Lahore.
9. Dera Ghazi Khan ...	The Dera Electric Supply Company, Lahore.
10. Gojra ...	The Moga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.

The undermentioned applications for the grant of licences were pending from the previous year :—

For Moga ...	by (1) The Ludhiana Electric Company, Limited, Ludhiana. (2) The Moga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
For Okara ...	by (1) Messrs. B. R. Herman and Mohatta, Limited, Lahore. (2) The Okara Electric Supply Company, Lahore.
For Rohtak ...	by The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
For Abohar ...	by Messrs. B. R. Herman and Mohatta, Limited, Lahore.
For Abohar, Fazilka, Muktsar and Sirsa.	by The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.

<i>Name of place.</i>	<i>Name of applicant.</i>
For Fazilka	... by Diwan Harbhagwan Nanda and Company, Lahore.
For Murree	... by The Murree Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
For Panipat	... by (1) The Panipat Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore. (2) Messrs. C. A. Sumair and Company, Delhi.
For Wazirabad-Nizamabad	... by Messrs. B. R. Herman and Mohatta, Limited, Lahore.
For Wazirabad	... by Diwan Harbhagwan Nanda and Company, Lahore.
For Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat and Kaithal.	by The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
For Hafizabad	... by The Hafizabad Electric Supply Company, Lahore.
For Karnal	... by The Goela Electric Company, Ambala Cantonment.

The following licences were granted during the year :—

1. The Okara Electric Licence, 1934. to The Okara Electric Supply Company, Lahore.
2. The Moga Electric Licence, 1934. to The Ludhiana Electric Company, Limited, Ludhiana.
3. The Abohar Electric Licence, 1934. to Messrs. B. R. Herman and Mohatta Limited, Lahore.
4. The Karnal Electric Licence, 1934. to The Goela Electric Company, Ambala Cantonment.
5. The Rohtak Electric Licence, 1934. to The Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
6. The Panipat Electric Licence, 1934. to The Panipat Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.
7. The Fazilka Electric Licence, 1934. to Diwan Harbhagwan Nanda and Company, Lahore.
8. The Hafizabad Electric Licence, 1934. to The Hafizabad Electric Supply Company, Lahore.
9. The Muktsar Electric Licence, 1934. to Messrs. Dhani Ram Shamhoke and Sons, Lahore.
10. The Murree Electric Licence, 1934. to The Murree Electric Supply Company, Limited, Lahore.

The Lahore Electric Supply Company's request for the grant of licences for the supply of energy in several towns through one application, —viz., their two applications for —

1. Abohar, Fazilka, Muktsar and Sirsa, and
2. Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat and Kaithal,

respectively, not having been entertained, their applications were ultimately considered and sanctioned for Sirsa and Sonapat at their request.

It is worthy of note that licences are generally keenly contested ; in one case there were as many as four applicants. This appears to be due to the belief that an electrical undertaking is a comparatively safer and more remunerative investment in these days.

3. *Applications for the amendment of licences.*—Applications for the amendment of—

1. The Lahore Electric Licence 1912 as amended 1927 (in respect of the area of supply),
2. The Hissar, Hansi, Bhiwani and Rohtak Electric Licence 1932 (in respect of clause 13 and area of supply at Rohtak),
3. The Rawalpindi Electric Licence 1923 (in respect of clause 4), were sanctioned during the year.

An application for the amendment of the Fazilka Electric Licence, 1934, received in the last quarter of the year, was pending, when the year closed.

4. *Applications under section 27 of the Indian Electricity Act.*—The Rawalpindi Electric Power Company, Limited, was authorised under section 27 of the Act to supply energy outside their area of supply to (1) the North-Western Railway at their Leh Pumping Station and (2) Hailey Water Works, Rawalpindi. The Gujranwala Electric Supply Company, Limited, was authorised to supply energy to Sardar Narain Singh, Advocate, at Kot Bulla outside their area of supply and the Hoshiarpur Electricity Supply Company, Hoshiarpur, was allowed to supply electrical energy to four residents of village Fatehgarh outside their area of supply.

An application by the Kasauli Electric Supply Company, Limited, Kasauli, for the supply of energy at " Wood Villa " in Bahgat State was under consideration, when the year closed.

5. *Applications for sanction under section 28 of the Indian Electricity Act.*—The application of Messrs. S. K. Jolly and Company, Lahore, for the grant of sanction under section

28 for the supply of electrical energy at Gujar Khan, which was pending from last year, is still under the consideration of Government. The question of bringing the supply of energy by Messrs. Atma Singh, Dalip Singh in Badomali (district Sialkot), who are at present supplying without sanction, subject to the provisions of section 28, was under consideration, when the year closed.

6. *Conditions of supply.*—Conditions of supply in respect of Jhelum were sanctioned during the year. The draft conditions of supply in respect of Gujranwala and Simla were still under reference with the local bodies concerned at the end of the year.

7. *Statements of accounts.*—With one or two exceptions the statements were generally rendered in time and found to be in order.

8. *Revision of maxima rates.*—On the report of the Electricity Advisory Board, Punjab, the maxima rates under the Lahore Electric Licence, 1912, as amended 1927, were reduced during the year. The reductions have been generally appreciated by the consuming public, and are expected to result in increased load for the licensee, by tapping that large body of the public who are likely to change to electrical energy both for industrial and domestic purposes consequent upon reduced rates.

The Electricity Advisory Board also acted as arbitrators in the dispute between the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited and the Municipal Committee, Lahore, in respect of actual rates to be charged by the former for supply of energy to the latter.

9. *Accidents.*—There were 82 electrical accidents during the year as against 51 last year. A statement showing details of the accidents is appended at the end of the report. Thirty-six accidents relate to licensee's works caused through falling of trees and other objects. Two accidents resulted in the loss of animals and 44 affected human life, of which 15 resulted in death. This increase is due to electrical expansion and is not wholly unexpected. As before the erection of cross-country lines through rural areas is responsible for a large number of accidents. Each accident is fully enquired into and suitable action taken where necessary.

10. *Prosecutions.*—A prosecution was lodged during the year under section 44 (a) of the Indian Electricity Act for disconnecting a meter from an electrical supply line. The two cases pending from last year resulted in conviction,

11. (a) *Electric Inspector's Inspections.*—The Electric Inspector and his assistants carried out 651 inspections as against 570 during last year. Of these 210 inspections were carried out in connection with the works of the P. W. D. Electricity Branch. Ninety per cent. of the inspections were in connection with medium pressure installations, 6 per cent. on high pressure installations and the remainder on other works of licensees and consumers.

There is a growing tendency on the part of licensees to allow works to fall into a bad state of repair. The Electrical Inspection Department is, however, alive to the necessity of inspections.

(b) *Earth tests.*—Three hundred and seventy-six earth tests were carried out during the year as against 270 last year, and faulty earths which were likely to prove dangerous to the public were brought to the notice of licensees or consumers for rectification.

(c) *Meter tests.*—Orders have been placed for new testing instruments for the Electric Inspector's laboratory. The numbers of tests as to the accuracy of meters and of pressure tests on distributing mains and other tests have been very small. The total number of meters tested did not go above 20 (8 at sight, in which the accuracy was found within the limits, 2 disputed meters and 10 meters for certification). Complaints of low pressure were received from two consumers but in both cases the official tests revealed correct voltages.

(d) *Appeals.*—The Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited appealed to the Electric Inspector under section 13 (1) (b) of the Act against the objections raised by the Municipal Committee, Lahore, to the construction of certain works. The appeal was rejected.

(e) *Approval to methods of construction.*—The Electric Inspector scrutinized and approved the general design of construction in the case of Okara, Karnal and Ambala City. The Ludhiana Electric Company Limited also submitted designs of their works but they were not approved by the Electric Inspector as they did not comply with certain provisions of the Indian Electricity Rules, 1922.

12. *Development of electrical undertakings in the Punjab-Hoshiarpur.*—The licensee has increased the carrying capacity of his mains in various areas and has extended them to meet the growing demands. The licensee has also taken steps to develop industrial load by offering attractive rates.

Jullundur.—The numerous defects in the works of the licensee were in the course of rectification but the progress towards completion has been very slow.

Kasauli.—Two additional generating sets were installed by the licensee to reduce the running costs. One of these of 13 K. W. capacity was installed to tide over base loads during winter months and the other of 67 K. W. capacity to meet peak-loads during summer.

Bhiwani.—The licensee commenced the supply of energy during the year. The licensee had to face opposition from the Municipal Committee in laying down its high tension underground cables during the course of construction but things were amicably settled ultimately.

Hissar, Hansi and Rohtak.—The supply of energy was made available to the public by the licensee during the year.

Simla.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, took over the Government Power House at Idgah. Various extensions and additions to the generating plant including a new Diesel Engine set of 500 K. W. capacity at Idgah and an additional sub-station at Kaithu are under the consideration of the licensee.

Sialkot.—The licensee installed a 500 K. W. Turbo-generator set to meet the existing and additional demand.

Amritsar and Gurdaspur.—Owing to the advent of cheap hydro-electric energy several factories have changed to electrical energy and better lighting arrangements have been provided in them.

Electricity Branch.—During the year the supply was made available at Ludhiana, Baghbanpura, Muslim Town (near Lahore) and Goraya (near Phillaur).

13. *General.*—I have to note with regret the death of Mr. Milne, Electric Inspector. He had held the post of Electric Inspector *cum* Electrical Engineer for several years during which period he was closely associated with the development of electricity in the province. The department has lost in him an officer of sound judgment and mature experience. Mr. C. W. Stowers has succeeded Mr. Milne.

LAHORE :

RAM LAL,

Dated 2nd July, 1935.

Director of Industries, Punjab.

Statement showing accidents which occurred during the years 1931, 1932, 1933 and 1934.

Nature of accidents.	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN			
	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
1. Accidents resulting in death to human beings from electric shock (authorised persons).	..	2	2	1
2. Accidents resulting in death to human beings from electric shock (unauthorised persons).	4	4	11	11
3. Accidents resulting in death to human beings from falls from poles or buildings (authorised persons).	2	..	1	1
4. Accidents resulting in death to human beings from falls from poles or buildings (unauthorised persons).	1	1	1	2
5. Accidents resulting in death to animals from electric shock.	5	..	2	2
6. Accidents resulting in injuries to human beings from electric shock (authorised persons).	8	4	7	23
7. Accidents resulting in injuries to human beings from electric shock (unauthorised persons).	4	3	7	6
8. Accidents to licensees' works caused through falling of trees and other objects.	..	1	20	36
Total ..	23	15	51	82

65,000 13

OF

60,000 12

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