

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR
OF
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Wednesday, the 12th March 1930.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna at 11 A. M.
the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**MEMORIALS OF COMPOUNDERS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THEIR
GRIEVANCES.**

67. Maulavi ABDUL HAMID KHAN* : (a) Will Government be pleased to say if the compounders submitted any memorial or representation for consideration of their grievances ? If so, what orders were passed by Government ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table any such memorial or the representation received from the compounders ?

Mr. G. E. OWEN : (a) A proposal was received from the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in 1929 to increase the pay of compounders and operation room assistants attached to the Patna General Hospital (now the Medical College Hospital). Government raised the scale of their pay from Rs. 20— $\frac{1}{2}$ —40 to Rs. 20— $\frac{1}{2}$ —30— $\frac{3}{4}$ —45.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

PREPARATION OF SUGAR FROM TODDY.

68. Maulavi MUHAMMAD ISHAQUE† : (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether last year his attention was drawn to the fact that sugar is prepared (from toddy) in Bengal ?

*In the absence of the questioner the answer was given at the request of Maulavi Salyid Mubarak Ali Sahib.

†In the absence of the questioner the answer was given at the request of Mr. G. E. Owen.

[Babu S. K. Prashad]

GENERAL REDUCTION.

Babu SRI KRISHNA PRASHAD : Sir, I move that the demand under the head "Irrigation " be reduced by Rs. 100.

In doing so, my principal object is to invite the attention of the Council to the absolutely meagre attention paid by Government in the matter of irrigation of this province. This is a subject which is of considerable importance but which has not as yet received that attention on the part of Government which it ought to have received by reason of the importance which it has on account of the province being essentially an agricultural province. I shall show to members of this Council how nothing has been done towards even undertaking a general survey of the whole province or even of parts of the province in particular districts with a view to have a connected scheme of irrigation to facilitate the growth of crops in this province and thus increase the yield as well as the area under cultivation. I might at this stage point out that the total population of this province excluding that of the Feudatory states is 34,002,189. Out of this total population, the number approximating to 27,680,096 depend for their livelihood and maintenance entirely upon the produce of land. Of the remainder of the population, some are engaged in pursuits or occupations of various kinds and have again to fall back upon agriculture for their support and maintenance in life. The result of this is that 83 per cent. of the population of this province depend entirely for their livelihood on agriculture whereas about 10 per cent. of the population again have to fall back upon agriculture after having some advantages from their pursuits in other direction. The result of this is that 90 per cent. of the population has to depend for its existence on agriculture. Many things have come before the Council, many questions have cropped up from time to time of political and semi-political importance and Government have or have not seen their way to accede to those requests of the members who have urged these problems political or semi-political. What I want specially to impress upon Government is the utter neglect they have evinced in the matter of the development of irrigation in the province which is intimately connected with the development of agriculture. I shall now turn to the area under cultivation. The area of this province according to the survey is 53,173,099 acres. Out of

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this total area the area under cultivation according to the figures of the year 1927-28 which I have before me is 30,461,267 acres and the area which is uncultivated but which can be made cultivable is 7,254,743 acres and the area which is uncultivable and not available for cultivation is also 8,116,448 acres, and the remainder of the area namely, 7,340,641 acres consists of forests. The result which we arrive at after having made these calculations is that 56·6 per cent. of the total land is cultivated some of which is not cultivated every year but is generally cultivated, 13·6 per cent. of the land is culturable waste which can be brought under cultivation, 16 per cent. of the land is such that it is not available for cultivation and 13·8 per cent. of the land is such in which we have got forests and jungles. My point in putting these figures before the Council and before Government is to ask an answer from Government as to what attempts have been made in recent years specially during the last 20 or 30 years to increase the cultivable area under cultivation. I beg to submit that so far as this question of bringing these areas under cultivation is concerned that is largely dependent upon a good and well-defined scheme or project of irrigation and all of us who have got any thing to do with land and who come from the villages know that for want of irrigation facilities large tracts of land in every part of the province cannot be brought under cultivation although they are quite suitable for cultivation. I invite the attention of the Council further to the position with regard to irrigation in the year 1927-28. I shall first of all give the Council a figure with regard to the total area which were sown in that year, that is 29,610,700 acres. If we deduct from this the area corresponding to 5,29,300 acres on account of the same land having been sown with another crop, we shall find the net area brought under cultivation was 24,317,700 acres of this area which was under cultivation in the year 1927-28, only 5,249,974 acres were being irrigated in the whole province. Thus we get the figure that only 17·73 per cent. of the whole area was under irrigation, and the area under irrigation by Government or State Irrigation canals comes to about 906,519 acres. This gives us the figure that 3 per cent. of the total area in this province was being irrigated by the arrangement which was under the direct control of the State. This is the position. We have got only 17 per cent. of the total area which is being cultivated under irrigation and only 3 per cent. of the total area under cultivation was under irrigation which was directly under the control of the State. I beg to submit

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that if any arrangement had been made for the irrigation of the remaining land in this province it would have been very much possible not only to increase the produce of the land but also to increase the area of land which would have been under cultivation in that year. Let us for a moment take ourselves back to the year 1901 at which time we had Irrigation Commission in this country and taking the Council to that year we shall find what progress we have made from 1901 to the year 1930, a period of 30 years. This is not a very small matter in the life of a province. The area under cultivation in the year 1901 was 31,175,311 acres. The area which was cultivable but not cultivated was 6,717,928 acres. The result of this comparison of the year gives us the calculation that there has been a decrease in the area under cultivation inspite of there being an increase in the area which is cultivable but not under cultivation. Therefore in the year 1927-28 there has been a decrease as compared with the area under cultivation in the year 1901 and the decrease is not insignificant as represented by the figure 714,044 acres of land. There has been an increase in the areas which are cultivable but were not cultivated to the extent of 536,815 acres. That is to say, in the course of the last 30 years instead of improving the irrigation in the province it has actually gone down. This is a matter to which the attention of Government is seriously invited. It has gone down in the sense that the area under cultivation has decreased and that is a matter for serious consideration. Further if we take into account the conditions of irrigation in the year 1901, we find the average gross area under crop was 33,566,340 acres, and the area which was irrigated out of this was 5,682,618 acres. The area which was irrigated by the State amounted to 635,953 acres, the result being that then also 17 per cent. of the area actually under cultivation was being irrigated and the irrigation under State control came to 1.80 per cent. This may no doubt give a plea to Government that they have actually increased the area under irrigation directly under the State control but they forget that in the year 1901 the two schemes namely Dacca canal and Tirbeni canal had been already begun but not completed and therefore we find the higher percentage, namely 3.6 per cent. of the land irrigated by the agency under the control of the State, whereas it was less in the year 1901 as these two works were not completed. You will also find from a comparison of the figures of the year 1901 which I have just now given with the figures of 1927-28 that there was a decrease in the area actually irrigated in the year 1928

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that is to say, the decrease comes up to 432,644 acres. There is an increase in area in 1928 over 1901 on irrigation areas which I have already submitted is due to the completion of the two schemes which were then under construction.

If we now compare these with the average figures of the five years 1921-22 to 1925-26 we shall find that there is not much increase. What you find is the average for these years in respect of net area sown is 25,222,000 acres, the gross area sown is represented by 27,777,000 acres. The gross area of irrigation is 53,86,000 acres. The percentage of the area irrigated, therefore, to the areas sown comes to 17.4 per cent. The percentage of area irrigated by state works to the total areas irrigated is also 3.6. The result is that the net area sown in the year 1927-28 is less than the average net area of those five years. That is, the decrease is 9,04,300 in the year 1927-28 instead of having an increase over the average of 1921-1925. We have a decrease of 904,300 in the areas which is actually sown. We have got a slight increase in the percentage of area actually irrigated and this is represented by .33 per cent., whereas, there is a decrease in the percentage of area actually irrigated by Government works by a slight percentage of .56 per cent. Now these are the figures which you have got. From these figures it is absolutely clear that we are not making any advance in the field of irrigation with the result, I should say disastrous result, that instead of there being any increase in the total yield of the land of the province we are having less yield and not only that there is not at all any increase in the total area of the land which is under cultivation. The reason to my mind is this that this matter has not been seriously thought out and although there was the Agricultural Commission very recently, what we find there is that there is not a single mention in that report of any scheme on the part of the Government of Bihar to tackle this problem although the Commissioners have referred to schemes of other provinces in that report. I had thought that I would only have to complain about the meagre advance in this direction but when I came to collect the few facts and figures connected with this question, I found that there was absolutely no advance. As a matter of fact we have been going back or standing still. If we compare the figures for other provinces, and I shall give only five, what we find is that our province, as I have already told you has done nothing. In our province 17.4 per cent. of the total area under

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cultivation is irrigated. For the Punjab we shall find that 44·1 per cent. of the total area under cultivation is irrigated. For the United Provinces we shall find that 22 per cent. of the total area under cultivation is being irrigated. In Madras we find 29·7 per cent. of the total area is being irrigated and in Sind which is the best of all provinces 73·7 per cent. of the total area under cultivation is being irrigated. I want to point out that we have been sadly failing in the discharge of our duty to the agricultural population in this province and we have not taken stock of the reasons why there is much discontent among the agricultural population in this province. Because where there is the root of discontentment there, all kinds of agitation can crop up and do crop up. Unless Government are prepared to meet the wants and desires of the agricultural population to make the agriculturist prosperous, it is impossible to expect that there will be contentment in the land but discontent will go on spreading deeper and deeper, wider and wider, day after day, year after year and we do not know where it will lead us to.

Having pointed out this position with regard to irrigation in this province I want to suggest a few measures which Government should be prepared to take up in right earnest. It will not do to put forward the plea of want of funds in this matter. We cannot wait for that happy day when we shall have plenty of money in our hands to solve that elementary proposition namely the problem of agriculture in this province and irrigation which is most intimately connected with the development of agriculture. But if we are now in earnest and if we want to tackle this question we can do it. The first and the most important point is that Government are to have a department—not of very expensive experts but a department of willing workers who will go from village to village and find out exactly how schemes for the development of irrigation in those areas can be developed. If Government think that it is not so much responsible as the zamindars, who have the benefit of the permanent settlement, I should say they are sadly mistaken. Whatever advantages might accrue to the zamindars from the permanent settlement, it is now almost a settled fact that the zamindars are now not in a position to take up this enormous duty of providing irrigation system in their villages and the reason also is not far to seek. Section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act has brought about almost a complete destruction

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of the *bhaoli* land and the zamindars do not at all feel interested in the complicated system of irrigation in the villages. They may be right, they may be wrong. If you want these lands to be irrigated, if you decide that the land in the villages must be properly irrigated, it will not do to look upon the zamindars for doing what you have considered at one time to be their duty and responsibility in the matter, and there are ways and means of attaining that object, if we are seriously bent upon doing our little bit towards the improvement and development of irrigation for the further growth and progress of agriculture in this province. Further, what we find is this. While going through the agricultural annual reports of this province I came across an attempt being made to make an inquiry at least about the soil of the land of the Monghyr district and the Gaya district running up to the east of the Gaya district so far as the Phalgu river. I have not seen the advantages it has given us or what attempts are made to put that into advantageous use. Anyhow, a similar survey of all the districts for the purpose of providing a good irrigation system in all the villages is necessary if the question of irrigation has to be seriously solved.

Then what we further find is that we have in our armoury the Minor Irrigation Act which was enacted in 1922 or thereabout. Nothing has been done. Something might have been attempted there. I am not prepared to deny that I have not the fullest information about it. So far as my information goes nothing serious has been done with a view to introduce the provisions of that Act in the various parts of the province. If Government were only to take up that matter and introduce the Minor Irrigation Act in the various parts of the province and really launch upon a scheme of irrigation in each district or part of a district suitable for the purpose of irrigating the land and not involving prohibitive expenses then I am sure those persons who were likely to be benefited by such a scheme would be most agreeable to contribute their share of the cost which Government would be entitled to realize from them under the provisions of the Minor Irrigation Act. What is required is an earnest endeavour on the part of Government and not red-tapism to which they are so much accustomed but earnest endeavour to solve this problem by introducing the Minor Irrigation Act in various parts of the province. Government must be prepared to introduce schemes of agricultural and irrigation improvement in this province.

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What we find, so far as that part of the country which I have the honour to represent is concerned, is that the whole of Jamui subdivision is full of large and important streams which carry a large volume of water not only in the rains but also after the subsiding of the rains that is in the months of Kartik and Aghan. If Government could devise some scheme by which the water of these streams could be utilized for the purposes of irrigation in those parts, it would not only benefit the area under cultivation but also would raise the yield of the land by reason of the irrigation facility which the land would enjoy.

Further what we find is that in the Begusarai subdivision there has already been an application with regard to the draining out of the Manjboul Kabar or Jaimanglagarh Jhil. Of course, I also know that one District Magistrate was pleased to say in his report with regard to that scheme that reclamation of the land of the Jaimanglagarh Kabar will result in spoiling the beauty of the place and deprive the people of the opportunities of *shikar*. However good this might be in the eyes of those who enjoy *shikar* or for those who study the natural beauty, a sound scheme for draining out the water of the *jheel* or *kabar* for irrigation of the neighbouring land and at the same time making the land of the Kabar itself suitable for cultivation would be a boon and benefit to the people of that part and would really be desired by the people themselves.

These are some of the points which I have tried to raise in this House and I am sure the Council will be pleased to consider these and will seriously take up the question of the development of irrigation in this province and there is not the least doubt that what they do will be for the good of poor agriculturists.

With these words I move my cut and I hope the Council will support me.

Mr. E. L. GLASS : Sir, the hon'ble member.....

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : If Mr. Glass replies, I will not allow any hon'ble member to raise new points again. If any hon'ble member wishes to criticise other aspects of the general administration of this Department on this particular matter, he should speak now.

Babu SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY : I hope, Sir, that a general discussion on the Irrigation policy will be allowed after Mr. Glass has replied.

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The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : Yes, a general discussion will be allowed, but discussion on any specific point will not be allowed. If any hon'ble member has any specific complaint to make by way of illustration, I think it is much better that he should do so now.

Babu SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY : Sir, I will deal with some specific points.

Much has been said by the mover of this cut, and it appears he has taken great pains to find out figures and place them before you, Sir, and before the Council about the general condition of agriculture in this province.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : I should not be misunderstood. The hon'ble member is perfectly entitled to support Babu Sri Krishna Prashad, but if he wishes to do that, it would be much better if he does so now.

Babu SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY : Sir, as has been very well pointed out by the hon'ble mover, irrigation is a very important part of agriculture. It has the same importance in agriculture as has blood in the life of human beings. We find, Sir, that in this province there are irrigation facilities in only very few districts and these have been in existence, now, for a pretty long time. As I have been asked to cite specific cases now, I would do well to take up immediately the case of my own district. Chauris in my own district are in very large acres. There are thousands of acres of lands lying fallow and nobody daring to cultivate them for fear, either of excess of water, or of shortage of water. These, Sir, are very valuable lands, and when they do yield crops they yield crops as much as any first class land in the district ordinarily does. In some of the answers to questions that have been put from time to time, it has been pointed out that there have been great difficulties in the way of taking up the question of these chauris seriously. In one answer recently it has been pointed out that there was a scheme prepared for some chauris in the Hajipur subdivision of my district, and when the Collector referred the matter to the the tenants and landlords concerned, he got the reply, perhaps, that they were not prepared to bear the expenses. Sir, if the idea of Government be that the entire cost of these irrigation schemes should be met by the landlords and the tenants concerned, then perhaps no irrigation scheme in this country can flourish. The poverty of the people of this country has been

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proverbial. It would be taking up the time of the Council uselessly to dilate on that question. Even the Government members, I suppose, are fully aware of that. But what I propose is this that even if Government be not prepared to finance the entire scheme and get a certain fixed income from irrigation just as they get in Champaran, in Motihari and other places, they can do one thing. They can extend the total amount of cost incurred over a period of twenty, twenty-five or thirty years, and then get that back from the tenants and landlords concerned in that period, as part payments.

If Government are prepared to take up a scheme like that I am prepared to go round and get a satisfactory settlement of this problem both from the landlords and tenants on the points concerned. If they have refused to be a party to it now, as it has been pointed out in an answer to a question, perhaps the reason was that they were not fully made aware of the situation and they thought that if they agreed to a thing like that once, they should have to pay all the expenses then and there. Certainly nobody is in a position to do that. I find, Sir, from the figures just now given by the hon'ble mover that the percentage of cultivated land in this province is going down, it was much higher in 1901, if I have heard him correctly, and it is something lower than that now. I do not dispute his figures. But I have always found at least in my part of the country that people are now cultivating high lands which had been *purti* from centuries and the reason is that everybody is trying his level best to go back to cultivation. The prices of lands are also going up. That is also an indication of how agriculture is doing. The reason why these *purti* lands are being taken up is this. Now low lands are being absolutely given up. The landlords who have got *chaurs*, will bear me out that before ten, twelve or fifteen years it was not difficult for them to get something out of these *chaurs* in either cash or kind by temporary settlements. Now they are not getting tenants to take up settlement of these *chaurs* and the reason is that cultivation is becoming everywhere in these *chaurs* more and more uncertain either on account of excess of water or shortage thereof. I am perfectly sure that with irrigation facilities the condition of the landlords as also of the tenantry in my district at least will improve very much. In the subdivision of Sitamarhi in my district there is some old system of canal for irrigation. If you look up the records of criminal cases at the time of irrigation season it will be found 80 per cent. of the criminal cases instituted in this period refer

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to these irrigation troubles. That will show the great extent to which a tenant goes to save his crop and if some irrigation scheme is introduced by Government on some scientific basis, it will remove the difficulty of all concerned. Some of the older rivulets in the district are practically drying up now. They can very safely and successfully be utilised and Government will be saving a lot of cost thus in the matter of opening out new canals and things like that. But that is a scheme which has to be gone into very carefully and very thoroughly and not in a way in which other Government schemes are taken up. They have to take into confidence all the people in the neighbourhood, the landlords and tenants, as well as other people and then find out with their consent, a way out. If they want to force a thing people generally take it in the sense that a new thing is being perpetrated to get more money. That idea has to be removed and in order to do that, if a scheme is devised, it may be just well to consult leading local men as also the general populace and find out what the opinion is, get suggestions from the local people who will be there and that will be the right way to proceed with the scheme and tackle the question successfully.

Rai Bahadur LEKH NARAYAN SINGH : Sir, I entirely associate myself with the expression of opinion of my hon'ble friend Babu Sri Krishna Prashad. I submit, Sir, Government neglected their duty towards the people so far as this important subject of irrigation is concerned.

If Government take a little caution and care in this respect, I feel sure, Sir, the people will be much benefitted. I give two specific instances that much good can be done to the people. Nay, people of this locality will be relieved of the trouble they have at present owing to drought of rains from year to year. In my own constituency, Sir, if two chillakas one at Sirnama in Bihar Subdivision and the other at Samnabua in Barh Subdivision be constructed, people's grief will certainly come to an end for ever. I am sure, Sir, the cost will not be heavy for Government to meet with and in case Government gives me an assurance I undertake to manage a response from the people who will be benefitted. To me, Sir, it appears that it will not require more than about Rs. 50 thousand, a major portion of which is likely to be contributed by the people. With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. E. L. GLASS : Sir, the hon'ble mover has drawn attention to the fact that for some time Government of this

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province have done practically nothing towards increasing the number of Government Irrigation works and he deplores this stagnation of progress in benefitting the rural community.

It is true, Sir, that since undertaking the Tribeni Canal in the Champaran district 28 years ago no other irrigation work of any size has been constructed in Bihar or Orissa and that the activities of the Irrigation Department have been confined to management and development of the existing irrigation works. The reason for the halting policy of this Government as compared with the steady progress in extension of irrigation works in other provinces such as the Punjab, United Provinces, Bombay, Madras and the Central Provinces is not far to seek.

In the first place, this province is blest with a more favourable rainfall than any of those I have mentioned and there undoubtedly is less need for irrigation here. Our existing works though useful are all, excepting the Sone Canals, non-productive and the returns from them are barely sufficient to pay their working expenses. The Orissa Canals and Tribeni Canals together involve annual interest payments of 11½ lakhs of rupees and the financial position of this province being what it is I think there is no difficulty in understanding why the Government are not displaying any eagerness to construct more irrigation works. It must also be borne in mind that in this province unlike the others mentioned by me a great deal of the area is under the permanent settlement from which comparatively little land revenue is derived by Government and which cannot be enhanced on account of improvements effected by Government in the way of irrigational facilities. When speaking in this Council last year, I drew attention to the fact that it is the landlords who ought to expend capital on improving their permanently-settled estates and asserted that Government have no intention of taking over their responsibilities in the matter.

It was, however, with the object of assisting landowners to undertake land-improvement works of irrigation and drainage that the Minor Irrigation Works Act was framed by Government and was passed by the Council in the year 1922. The Act lays down the procedure by which landowners may approach Government for assistance, both technical and financial for particular schemes and by which Government may arrange for suitable action by their experts in engineering, rural economy, finance, etc., and for apportioning and recovering the cost of works if undertaken by Government on behalf of the land owners.

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I would draw special attention to the point, that it is for the landowners to take the initiative and that the Act is not as I fear the hon'ble mover thinks it to be something under cover of which the Irrigation Department can stalk around the country looking for suitable irrigation and drainage projects on which to make a professional attack.

He has drawn attention to the fact that no action has so far been taken under the Minor Irrigation Works Act in the Jamui and Begusarai subdivisions of the Monghyr district and I in my turn would draw attention to the fact that so far the provisions of the Act have been extended only to the portion of the Monghyr district south of the Ganges river and that therefore it seems evident that the landowners of the Begusarai subdivision are so little interested in the Act that they have not even urged Government to extend it to that subdivision.

Even in the Jamui subdivision, I doubt if landowners have approached the Collector with requests for Government assistance for carrying out any irrigation or drainage scheme contemplated by them. I have now been in this province for two years, but I have not had any application for action from the Monghyr district except of course such as have been made in general terms by members of this Council.

It is undoubtedly the case everywhere, Sir, that the landowners are not particularly interested in expending capital on development works of irrigation or drainage even with the assistance of Government under the Minor Irrigation Works Act and it is mainly the tenantry who are pressing for more works of this class. Government have come to recognise this fact and to realize that the Minor Irrigation Works Act is fundamentally unsuitable as it deals solely with the landowners and has no provision for dealing directly with the tenants.

It has also been found that the Act is otherwise faulty in that some of the procedures laid down in it is not really practicable as was mentioned by me last year in the Council, as well as at a special meeting of members convened by the Hon'ble Finance Member for considering the advisability of scrapping the Act and framing a new one more suited to actual conditions. The consensus of opinion of that meeting was that a new Act is a real need and that practical action must be hampered until the existing Act is replaced by it.

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I have mentioned these matters to show that the Minor Irrigation Works Act itself is perhaps to blame for some of the apparent lethargy of Government in operating it.

I would only add that the matter of drafting a new Agricultural Improvement Works Act has been taken up and is well-advanced and I feel sure that having ventilated the grievance of his constituency and secured this discussion of the policy of Government the hon'ble member from Monghyr will withdraw his motion for a token cut on the budget of the Irrigation Department. He has quoted many figures comparing this province with other provinces and showing how small the percentage of irrigated area is compared to that of other provinces but he does not at the same time compare the rainfall in this province with the rainfall in other provinces. In Sind I should say the rainfall is a quarter of what we get here.

He has suggested that the landlords are not now responsible for developing their estates because their *bhaoli* tenures are now being commuted to cash tenures. This is a point with which I fear I am not capable of dealing.

He has brought to the attention of the House and of the Government the need for irrigation works in his district and I shall bear this in mind when the schemes come up to me.

He recommended a reclamation scheme of the Kabar land in the subdivision of Begusarai and drainage schemes have been recommended by the second speaker. These are not exactly irrigation schemes but they are land drainage schemes which have been spoken of in this Council very frequently and they have special difficulties. Government have, for some time, been aware that there is a keen public demand for schemes for reclaiming by drainage the low-lying areas north of Bihar known locally as *chours*, and during the past two years the Irrigation Department have taken up the matter of investigating the possibilities for practical drainage works. It seems, Sir, that the interested public consider that Government are not doing enough and are complaining that the progress up to date is very poor. It is the case that much progress has not been made by the Irrigation Department so far partly as I have said before on account of the existing Acts controlling the procedure of the District Officers and the Engineer being unsuitable and partly because of the shorthandedness of the

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Irrigation Department. A special temporary division for investigating irrigation and drainage schemes in Bihar was started last year and an officer of the Indian Service of Engineers was put in charge but very soon after he had to be transferred to the charge of one of the permanent divisions and the only officers available for the temporary division were Assistant Engineers of the Bihar and Orissa Engineering Service. These officers usually work under Executive Engineers and have proved unsatisfactory in the more independent charge of the project division. In the circumstances, it has been decided to appoint a special project Engineer with experience of small drainage projects and the services of an Engineer with suitable experience has been obtained from the Bengal Government. He is now in charge of the project division and has been working on several schemes since January of this year. It is intended to gradually increase his establishment until there are a satisfactory number of schemes in hand.

It is a fact, however, that project work will be hampered so long as we have only the existing Acts to govern the procedure of the District Officers and the project Engineer. I would draw the attention of the House, however, to the provision in the Irrigation budget on page 6 of Rs. 2,000 for the survey of irrigation projects and on page 8 of Rs. 34,000 for the survey of embankment and drainage projects so that there is a total provision of Rs. 36,000 for expenditure on project work next year.

So that there is a total provision of Rs. 36,000 for expenditure on project work next year. I hope, that under the newly-appointed engineer the activities of the project division will justify even further expenditure and that I shall be asking for more funds by supplementary demands during the year. I feel sure, therefore that the House will not support this motion for reducing the irrigation grant.

I would like to remind those members who have spoken that all schemes for land-improvement works should be initiated by the people who desire to have them investigated and that it is not the policy of Government to send survey parties into the districts looking about for suitable land-improvement schemes. It is the Collector who should first be approached by the people with definite suggestions, and it is for him to recommend whether the irrigation experts should make investigations or not.

I might mention before closing that since my arrival in this province two years ago I have considered and noted on four

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drainage schemes in the Muzaffarpur district and one each in the Saran, Darbhanga and Champaran districts, which fact goes to show that investigations are being spread over a wide area.

I trust therefore that the motion will be withdrawn.

Rai Bahadur LEKH NARAYAN SINGH: I wish to know, Sir, whether Government is going to give us any assurance that necessary enquiries will be made to find out whether this irrigation scheme is essential or not.

Mr. E. L. GLASS: I have already indicated the procedure. If the Collector recommends Government to undertake a project survey it will certainly be done.

Babu SRI KRISHNA PRASHAD: Sir, I have carefully heard Mr. Glass's reply. I do not agree with him in the details of his reply particularly with regard to the poor rainfall. The rainfall is certainly not so poor as Mr. Glass makes out to be. I have not the exact figures with me; but if I remember aright the rainfall in the various division varies from 45 to 56 inches every year.

Then Mr. Glass says that other provinces are able to make progress in this department because they are not like our province handicapped by the permanent settlement. I myself referred to the fact that the permanent settlement might have been an advantage to the zamindar, and when the zamindars do not look to the interests of the raiyats in the matter of irrigation whether it be due to mere negligence or carelessness, it is certainly the duty of Government to come forward and assist the tenants in agricultural facilities, and if they fail to do that, I submit, they are not doing what they ought to do in the interests of the tenants. Special laws are easily enacted by Government in other directions, why should not such laws be enacted for the benefit of the tenants? Mr. Glass has given me an assurance that he is going to introduce a Bill for development of irrigation. But I do not know when that Bill will be ready for introduction in the Council. If I have an assurance from him that the Bill is coming on very soon and that some definite scheme is being tried certainly I should be glad to withdraw this motion.

The other aspect of the reply of Mr. Glass is with regard to the non-productive character of the various schemes of this province which are already in operation. The reasons for that are well known to Mr. Glass as they ought to be well known to him. Schemes connected with the Son Canal or the Orissa Canal are not merely irrigation schemes but also schemes for navigation, and certainly the very large amount of money which

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was spent upon these projects could have been easily curtailed if the schemes had been meant for irrigation purposes only.

But those were taken up at a time when probably other considerations than irrigation were taken into consideration by Government for the time being. Then he has also referred to the fact that the Irrigation Act cannot be directly made applicable to the tenants and the landlords ought to have taken initiative in such matters. I am no champion of landlords although I may be classified as one of the petty landlords but I do not at all constitute myself as champion of landlords. I should rather urge upon Government to do something in the matter of irrigation specially in my part of the province and I am saying that because other parts of the province seem to have some advantage of some Government measures, as for instance, the Son canal benefits to some extent the Shahabad district, Gaya district and Patna district but the Bhagalpur division is entirely neglected in this matter and there is no State aid in the matter of irrigation. I am not pressing this claim upon the attention of Government in a spirit of rivalry. I am pointing out that except these portions and a portion of the Tirhut Division we find that no provision has ever been made in the matter of irrigation and this should not be confined to the Bhagalpur Division but also extended to a major portion of the Gaya district where there are no irrigation facilities; and therefore it behoves the Government to take up this matter seriously and not to wait for the enactment of a law which may take years to be pushed through, and in the end it may have the fate like that of the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill to be withdrawn and the matter left where it was. These are the points which I have got to place before the Council in reply and of course so far as the question of finance is concerned I can point out that this matter was transferred to the provincial Government from the Central Government with a view that the provincial Government might seriously take up this matter; otherwise we are exactly in the same position when this subject was directly under the Central Government and we have absolutely made no advance in this matter. With these submissions I want to press this matter and urge that something should be done in the very near future with a view to satisfy the demand of the people.

Mr. E. L. GLASS; Sir, the hon'ble mover has mentioned that as Government are finding difficulty in getting the landlords

[Mr. E. L. Glass]

to come forward Government should do something to deal with the tenants. Government do intend to provide for dealing directly with the tenants under a new Act which is in the process of drafting. I am afraid I am unable to give any assurance of bringing the Act before the present Council as the Act is still incomplete and this Council has only a short life and I am not hopeful of getting the Act passed by this Council. He mentioned why it is that the returns from Sone canals are larger than from Orissa canals.

The hon'ble member for Monghyr has stated that one of the reasons for poor revenue from canals of this province is that navigation has been mixed up with irrigation. As a matter of fact, the Son Canals are paying quite well and the Orissa Canals are not losing much on navigation while so far as the Tribeni Canal is concerned there is no navigation at all. He drew attention to the fact that there are no state irrigation works in the Bhagalpur and Gaya districts and I would draw attention to the facts that they are a large number of private irrigation works in these districts and that it is particularly difficult for Government to step in and introduce state irrigation where there are existing private irrigation rights.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the demand under the head "Irrigation" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The Council then divided as follows :

AYES—30.

Rai Bahadur Bansidhar Dhan- dhanian.	Babu Godavaris Misra.
Babu Maheshvari Prashad Narayan Deo	" Shyamnandan Sahay.
Babu Birabar Narayan Chandra Dhir Narendra.	" Rameshwar Pratap Sahi.
Babu Chandreshwar Prashad Narayan Sinha.	" Rajeshwar Prasad Narayan Sinha.
Babu Devendra Nath Samanta.	" Maheshwar Prashad Narayan Singh.
Babu Racha Mohan Sinha.	Rai Bahadur Lekh Narayan Singh.
Maulavi Saiyid Mubarak Ali Sahib	" Dwarka Nath.
" Ala-ud-din Ahmad.	" Maulavi Muhammad Ishaque.
Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Husain.	" Abdul Hamid Khan.
Pandit Dudhnath Pande.	" Abdul Ghani.
Babu Bishundeo Narayan Singh.	Qazi Ahmad Hussain.
Pandit Dhanraj Sharma.	Babu Sri Narayan Mahtha.
Babu Gajendra Prashad Das.	" Amarendra Narayan Sinha.
" Jagabandhu Sinha.	" Vasistha Narayan Singh.
	" Sri Krishna Prashad.
	Chaudhuri Bhagabat Prashad
	Samantarai Mahapatra.

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NOES—25.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Sifton.	Mr. W. B. Heycock.
The Hon'ble Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo.	„ W. Swain.
The Hon'ble Sir Ganesh Datta Singh.	Col. W. M. Houston.
Mr. H. K. Briscoe.	Mr. D. M. Panna.
„ W. B. Brett.	„ E. J. Finch.
„ R. E. Russell.	Lt.-Col. D. Douglas.
„ G. E. Owen.	Mr. S. S. Day.
„ B. K. Gokhale.	„ A. E. D' Silva.
„ J. A. Sweeney.	Rev. Pritam Luther Singh.
„ E. L. Glass.	Rai Sahib Harendra Nath Banerji.
„ H. A. Gubbay.	Rev. Emanuel Sukh.
„ G. E. Fawcus.	Khan Bahadur Saiyid Shah Wajid Hussain.
	Babu Nirmal Chandra Mitter.

The motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday the 17th March 1930.