

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR

OF

BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Wednesday, the 12th September, 1934.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Ranchi at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NUMBER OF MUSLIMS ELECTED AS MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

121. Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABDUL GHANI* : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Muslims elected as district board members separately in every district board during the last district board elections ;

(b) the total number of Muslims elected as municipal commissioners separately in every municipality during the last municipal elections ?

Mr. W. G. LACEY : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muslim members elected to each district board and municipality in the province at the last elections.

DISTRICT BOARDS.					
Name of district boards.				Number of elected Muslim members.	
Patna	3
Gaya	5
Shahabad	1
Saran	1

*In the absence of the questioner, the answer was given at the request of, Chaudhuri Sharafat Hussain

[12th September 1934]

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. NANDA KUMAR GHOSH : On a point of order Sir, I want a ruling from the Chair to ascertain whether a telegram sent by one member to another is sufficient to cover the points as contemplated in Standing Order no. 63 (2). What happened is this : I have just now received a wire from Babu Manindra Nath Mukharji, the member representing the Indian Mining Federation. The wire was addressed to me and it reads thus :

" Kindly permit Mr. Ghosh to move my resolution no. 6. Manindra Nath Mukharji ".

I am not sure whether you have received a copy of the wire."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : I do not think I have. It would be better for the hon'ble member to raise the point when the resolution comes up.

FIXATION OF THE PRICES OF SUGARCANE.

Rai Bahadur SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY : Sir, I beg to move the resolution which stands in my name :

Whereas the Government of India have authorised local Governments to take necessary measures calculated to protect the interests of cane-growers under the Sugarcane Act, 1934, and have also provided the necessary funds for the same from the proceeds of the sugar excise duty, this Council recommends to Government to enforce the provisions of the aforesaid Act in properly selected mill-areas of the province with a view to fix a price for cane from the next canecrushing season, and to take immediate steps, to ensure the actual payment of a fair price of cane to the growers.

Since sending this resolution, Sir, a Government communiqué on the subject has been published which says that Government are going to hold a conference in order that these and other questions relating to the extension of the provisions of the Act will be considered. I hope, Sir, that the conference would be called soon and the Hon'ble Minister or his Secretary will be able to inform this Council when it is likely to come off. In view of the announcement about the conference and on hearing from the Government about what they really propose to do in the conference, I shall like not to press this resolution.

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale]

Mr. B. K. GOKHALE : Sir, the hon'ble member has made my work very easy. He has already told the House that Government have issued a communique in which they have made it clear that the Sugarcane Act of 1934 has already been extended to the province of Bihar and Orissa. Notifications have been issued under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act, declaring all the districts or parts of districts north of the Ganges to be controlled areas. It is the intention of Government to make an experiment in working the Act during the next crushing season in the whole of North Bihar. Conditions in South Bihar are somewhat different and Government propose to restrict the experiment during the next season to North Bihar.

A conference of selected representatives of factories, cane-growers and officials will be convened at Patna on the 24th of this month. I expect that the proceedings will be concluded by the 25th. But, if not, we may have to go on for a day more. Draft rules under section 7 of the Act and a draft notification fixing minimum price under sub-section (2) of section 3 will be circulated to the members of this conference within the next few days. The drafts are at present in the press and I hope to send them out in a couple of days. Soon after the conference is over, I hope to publish the result in the shape of these drafts with necessary amendments.

The Council is well aware, Sir, that Government have taken very keen interest in this question. A conference was called last January to consider all these problems; but before the results were published, circumstances were considerably altered by the passing of the Sugarcane Act. The problems with which we are now faced are problems of detailed working of the Act. These, Sir, are really problems for experts who know the detailed working of the sugar factories and it is rather difficult even to discuss the details in this House.

I hope the Council will be satisfied that the matter is well under consideration and may be left to Government to decide after considering what the factories and the cane-growers have to say on the subject.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABDUL GHANI :

جذاب صدر -

میں امید کرتا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ اس کانفرنس میں cane-growers

کو کافی نمائندگی دیگی -

[12th September 1934]

دوسری بات جو مجھکو عرض کرنا ہے یہ ہے کہ اگر گورنمنٹ کا کوئی نقصان نہ ہو تو یہ اس draft rule کو جسکا اسنے ابھی ذکر کیا ہے اور کہا ہے کہ یہ اسکو کانفرنس کے سامنے پیش کریگی اگر اسکو اس ہارس کے ممبروں کو دیکھتے تو ممکن ہے کہ وہ کوئی بہتر suggestion گورنمنٹ کو دیسکیں - انہیں در (remark) کے بعد میں موشن کو support کرتا ہوں۔

Rai Bahadur SHYAMNANDAN SAHAY : Sir, I do not want to press it.

Mr. B. K. GOKHALE : Government will consider the two suggestions which have been made by Maulavi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.

The resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

REMOVAL OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

Mr. W. H. MEYRICK : Sir, I beg to move :

This Council recommends to Government to convey to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State for India in Council the opinion of this Council that the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa be not transferred to any other province unless this Council is given a full opportunity to discuss any such proposal and to express its views on the same.

Sir, since forwarding this resolution the Assembly has sanctioned without a division the transfer of the agricultural institute from Pusa to Delhi, and the expenditure thereon of 35 lakhs. In spite of this I consider that we shall be lacking in our duty unless we protest strongly against this transfer. Two reasons have been advanced for this transfer : firstly that to help the agriculturist the Government of India could take advantage of the cheap money market and permit expenditure on capital works and railways with a view to increasing the purchasing power of the people. For this reason the Government of India felt the transfer of the Pusa institute to be the strongest case ; and secondly, the Government of India had for years past felt that the establishment of the institute at Pusa was a bad mistake. As to the first reason it seems a weak argument, surely the better way of helping agriculturists would be to carry on with Pusa by increase in the expenditure of the annual grant instead of cutting it down. As to the second reason, it is said