

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR
OF
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Tuesday, the 17th March 1931.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROGRESS IN THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

*110. Babu SRIKRISHNA PRASHAD : Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken towards the release of prisoners and what progress has been made in effecting their release ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : As soon as Government were informed that the Provincial Congress Committee had issued orders to District Congress Committees, etc., calling off civil disobedience, Government directed District Magistrates to release at once all juvenile prisoners of 15 years of age or under and female prisoners irrespective of their offences and also all prisoners whose offences fall under the Salt Act and Ordinances 5 and 6 of 1930 and certain other minor offences. District Magistrates were further authorised to release without reference to Government after examination of the records of the cases all prisoners convicted of any offence in which they were satisfied that the offence did not involve violence or incitement thereof. They were further instructed to refer to Government only those cases about which they were doubtful. District Magistrates have carried out their duties very promptly and Government are

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(b) Is it a fact that a return from the *maliks* and the cultivators was required by the cess revaluation officer for three years before 1930 and an average valuation for the last three years was struck off by the *maliks* and the raiyats for calculation of the value of "Bataj", "Bhauri" and "Bakast" land?

(c) Is it a fact that the cess revaluation was made according to the return submitted or was it made on the basis of the average produce for the last three years before 1930?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if the officer deputed on cess revaluation duty has or has not been instructed to lower the value?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of revaluing the produce as now prevailing according to present market value of the crops?

Rai Bahadur BHUBAN MOHAN CHATTARJI: (a), (b), (c) and (d) Reference is invited to the answer given on the 16th March 1931 to the question no. 103 on the same subject asked by Babu Radha Mohan Sinha.

(e) The answer is in the negative.

EMPLOYMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS FOR MUNSIFS.

120. Mr. NANDA KUMAR GHOSH: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Civil Justice Committee at pages 53-54 of their report, stenographers have been supplied to the munsifs of this province;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative,

(i) the number of munsifs to whom stenographers have been supplied,

(ii) whether Government propose to supply stenographers to the munsifs who have not been so supplied;

(c) if the answer to clause (a) be in the negative, do Government propose to supply the munsifs, at least to those of ten years standing, with stenographers;

(d) if the answer to clause (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reason?

Mr. J. A. SWEENEY: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b), (i) and (ii) The questions do not arise.

[Mr. Nanda Kumar Ghosh]

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present. It will be necessary before extending the system to examine in consultation with the High Court the question whether the experiment in the case of Sub-Judges has increased outturn and efficiency and whether finances permit of a further extension of the system.

CASE OF EMPEROR *VERSUS* ZAHIRUDDIN AHMAD UNDER SECTION 121 OF THE RAILWAY ACT.

121. Khan Bahadur HABIBUR RAHMAN : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the case of Emperor *versus* Zahiruddin Ahmad under section 121, Railway Act and the judgment therein of Mr. P. C. Roy Chowdhury, deputy magistrate, Ranchi, delivered on 21st September 1930 ?

(b) In view of the facts disclosed in the above case, what steps do Government propose to take to insure the personal safety and honour of passengers in future ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : (a) and (b) Government have no information whatever about this case but are making an enquiry regarding it from the Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi.

ADDITIONAL POLICE IN SABOUR.

122. Babu JOGENDRA MOHAN SINHA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether civil disobedience has been withdrawn for all practical purposes from Sabour, a village in the district of Bhagalpur ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when the punitive police will be withdrawn from the village Sabour in the district of Bhagalpur ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : (a) Government have at present no information regarding Sabour nor as to whether the local residents have effectively called off civil disobedience. The local officers have, however, been asked to report on the conditions in that area and to say whether in their opinion the additional police can be removed.

(b) Government are not in a position to state when the additional police will be removed.