

# THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR

OF

## BIHAR AND ORISSA.

*Monday, the 16th January 1928.*

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

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### MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Hugh Kynaston Briscoe, C.I.E., M.L.C. (Nominated official).

Mr. Leslie Morris Friday, M.L.C. (Nominated official).

Col. William Southwick Willmore, M.L.C. (Nominated official).

Mr. Godfrey Elwin Owen, M.L.C. (Nominated official).

Mr. Henry Lambert, M.L.C. (Nominated official).

Mr. Dhan Masih Panna, M.L.C. (Nominated—Aborigines).

Rai Bahadur Bansidhar Dhandhanian, M.L.C. (Nominated—Industrial interests other than planting and mining).

Rev. Prittam Luther Singh, M.L.C. (Nominated—Aborigines).

Chaudhuri Bhagabat Prashad Samantarai Mahapatara, M.L.C.  
(South Balasore Non-Muhammadan Rural).

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### ADDRESS BY HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: I wish all hon'ble members a happy and prosperous new year.

I congratulate Rai Sahib Harendra Nath Banerji on the honour which he has received, and I hope he will live long to enjoy and merit many more.

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(b) whether it is a fact that a number of persons, such as, pleaders, parties and others, other than the Returning Officer, persons appointed by him to assist him in counting the votes, candidates and their representatives, were allowed to be present at the time of counting the votes ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Returning Officer was trying cases at the time of counting the votes and the votes were counted by his assistants who are clerks ?

Mr. G. E. OWEN : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The votes were counted in the court room of the Returning Officer at the Deputy Commissioner's office during office hours, and it is understood that some persons who had no concern with the election entered the room during the proceedings.

(c) It is a fact that the Returning Officer transferred some cases from the general file to magistrates' files while the clerks whom he had appointed to assist him were counting votes. It is not a fact that he was trying cases.

REPRESENTATION OF UNTOUCHABLE COMMUNITY ON THE  
DISTRICT BOARDS OF PURI AND CUTTACK.

4. Babu LINGARAJ MISRA : (a) Is it a fact that the percentage of untouchable population in the districts of Puri, Cuttack and Balasore is higher than that of the Muhammadans or the Christians ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if any name from the untouchable community was suggested to the local officers of the districts for nomination as members to the district boards of Puri and Cuttack ?

(c) Is it a fact that Srijut Hari Mallik of Khurda was recommended both by the Subdivisional Officer of Khurda and by the officiating District Magistrate of Puri, Rai Bahadur B. M. Chatterji, for nomination and the recommendation was submitted to the Divisional Commissioner ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the rejection of his name ?

(e) Is it a fact that the suggestions of Rai Bahadur B. M. Chatterji were subsequently interfered with by Rai Bahadur D. N. Das after he joined his duties on the expiry of his leave ?

[B. Lingaraj Misra]

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether any member now represents the untouchable community on the Cuttack and the Puri district boards as at present constituted?

(g) If so, will Government be pleased to name them and state the qualification which justifies their selection for the purpose?

Mr. G. E. OWEN : (a) to (e) Government have no information.

(f) The answer is in the affirmative.

(g) *Puri district board*—

(1) Babu Balvadra Mangraj Mahapatra. He is a Sarbarakar of Khurda Government estate and is in close touch with the untouchable and depressed classes.

*Cuttack district board*—

(2) Babu Biswanath Kar. He represented the depressed classes on the last board and in the last Legislative Council and has already been interested in the depressed and untouchable classes.

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#### MEASURES FOR REDUCTION OF CONSUMPTION OF EXCISABLE ARTICLES.

5. Babu BALDEVA SAHAY : (a) With reference to the observation of the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government reported at page 752 of Volume XV of the Council proceedings, will he be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the reduction of consumption by the Minister of the Central Provinces and are being taken and contemplated by the Ministers of Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has obtained official and authoritative informations from those provinces?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is contemplating any measure for the reduction of consumption other than the one he is following at present?

Mr. G. E. OWEN : (a) and (b) At the time the statement was made, viz., at the beginning of March the steps taken towards the limitation of consumption of country spirit in various