

[Babu Baikuntha Nath Sen; Mr. Stephenson; Babu Braja Kishor Prasad;
Mr. Gourlay.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EXTENSION OF THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE TO CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

The Hon'ble BABU BAIKUNTHA NATH SEN asked:—

I.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, and, if so, when, it intends to extend the elective franchise to the Pittaghar, Garulia, Garden Reach and Budge-Budge Municipalities, in the Presidency Division, as it has been pleased to do, very recently, in respect of 18 Municipalities in the Province?

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to state its reasons for withholding the privilege from the aforesaid four Municipalities?

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHENSON replied:—

(a) "The question of extending the elective system to Municipalities in which it was not in force was recently before Government, and the case of the four Municipalities referred to by the Hon'ble Member was fully considered. It was decided not to extend the elective system to these four Municipalities, and it is not at present the intention of Government to reconsider that decision.

(b) "In all these four Municipalities there is a very uneven distribution of interests, a state of things in which the nomination system is more conducive than the elective system to efficient administration."

CADASTRAL SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN SOUTH BIHAR.

The Hon'ble BABU BRAJA KISHOR PRASAD asked:—

II.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the numerous complaints made by the landlords of South Bihar regarding the cadastral survey and settlement operations now going on there, as reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 6th and 18th May, 15th and 28th June, and 2nd, 9th and 15th July, 1910?

The Hon'ble MR. GOURLAY replied:—

"The attention of the Government of Bengal has been drawn to the articles in question."

MR. PHILIP'S CIRCULAR REGARDING GUZASHTA HOLDINGS.

The Hon'ble BABU BRAJA KISHOR PRASAD asked:—

III.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a circular issued over the signature of Mr. C. L. Philip, Assistant Settlement Officer, headed "Instructions regarding the status of *guzashtadars*," the first paragraph of which is:—

"All raiyats who claim to have *guzashta* holdings should be recorded as *shara muaiyan*, unless the landlord can prove that the rent of these holdings has ever been enhanced or has been converted from *bhaoli* into *nagdi*, or that the holdings have been created since the date of the Permanent Settlement?"

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, in numerous instances, simply because the zamindars of the district of Shahabad have admitted their tenants to be *guzashtadars*, such tenants have, on the basis of the said circular, been recorded as *shara muaiyan* tenants as a matter of course?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to withdraw the said circular?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to direct the survey authorities to reconsider, in the light of section 50, sub-section (2), of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the cases of those tenancies which have been recorded as *shara muaiyan* simply on the basis of the said circular?