

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

The 23rd December 1937.

Proceedings of the Bihar Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Patna, on Thursday, the 23rd December 1937, at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker in the Chair.

Discussion on the functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries in the presence of the Hon'ble Ministers.

Mr. CHANDRESHVAR PRASHAD NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, before the business of the day may be taken up, I have got to bring to your kind notice a fact on which a large number of members of this House have already expressed to me a desire that this should be brought to your notice. You remember, Sir, that Mr. Sinha had raised a point sometime back when the Assembly first met that the answers to questions should ordinarily be made by the Members of the Cabinet unless for some extraordinary reason it became imperative for the Parliamentary Secretaries to do so. You had very kindly promised that you would make enquiries and then give a ruling on this point. I am only reminding you of that, but not raising it to-day. What I want to mention before you is that yesterday for most of the time in the House we have had no Member of the Government. This is considered by the members of the House as a distinct insult and they have expressed resentment on this. We consider that it is discourteous to the House, to the Chair and, in fact, to themselves. It is absolutely necessary that Government should be represented by one or the other Member of its Cabinet. I do not want to minimise the value of the position that the Parliamentary Secretaries hold but under the Government of India Act they are no part of the Government. The Government is formed of the Members of the Cabinet and one or the other Member of the Cabinet must be present in the House. This is, Sir, what I wanted to mention to you for your kind consideration.

Dr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA : Sir, I would like to associate myself with the observations made by the hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition. I am so anxious not to embarrass the Congress Ministry, that I have taken upon myself an oath of silence. I have never opened my lips in this House with a view to say anything which might even remotely embarrass the Congress Ministry. They are new to the work of administration, and my anxiety is to give them all the assistance that we

(b) if the answer to the first part of clause (a) be in the negative, whether the said Upadhyaya is given access to the *Khasmahal* office and handles the *Khasmahal* papers and instructs Government pleader in the *Khasmahal* cases ?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : (a) The answer is in the affirmative. The *amin* gets Re. 1 per day for days of actual work. He was first employed in 1916.

(b) He is given access to the *Khasmahal* office with the *Khasmahal* Officer's permission and works under the supervision of the *Khasmahal* surveyor. At the request of the Government Pleader he has been deputed to explain to him old papers and maps relating to a suit which is pending in the Civil Court.

Mr. BRAHMADEO NARAYAN SINGH : Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact that the said *amin* was dismissed on several occasions, and that the officer in charge of the *Khasmahal* remarked also that the man is dishonest ?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : Government have no information, Sir.

AMENDMENT TO CHOTA NAGPUR TENURE-HOLDERS' SEPARATE RENT ACCOUNT ACT TO REMOVE THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE TENURE-HOLDERS.

101. Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH : Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenure-holders' Separate Rent Account Act of 1929, so as to give an immediate relief to the tenure-holders of the Chota Nagpur division by removing their grievances known to Government ?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : The provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenure-holders' Rent Account Act have not fully succeeded in removing the difficulties of the tenure-holders. Government contemplate to propose suitable amendment in this Act, or in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH : Do Government propose to bring this amendment in the next session ?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : Government cannot give any promise, but they will try to expedite the matter.

DOMS OF THE CHAUTERWA SETTLEMENT IN CHAMPARAN.

102. Mr. HAFIZ SHAIKH MUHAMMAD SANI : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that the officer in charge of the Salvation Army in Chauterwa Settlement, in the district of Champaran, allows the criminal tribes therein to beg from door to door ;