

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

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : No official report has been received from the board for any assistance for repairs of these roads.

Mr. PRABHUNATH SINHA : Are Government aware that the then Deputy Chief Engineer, Mr. Dunbar, recommended to Government for a grant of Rs. 45,000 for the repairs of flood damages and gave orders to the then District Engineer of Saran to start the work—but later on the money was denied, and this year only half of it has been sanctioned by Government?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : Government after considering the recommendations of Public Works Department has sanctioned the amount this year on the application of Public Works Department and not of the district board.

Mr. BIRESH DUTTA SINHA : Are Government aware that the financial position of the Saran district board is so bad that several of its cheques have been dishonoured?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : Government is not aware about cheques being dishonoured, but they are aware that the financial conditions of the board are not satisfactory.

Mr. BIRESH DUTTA SINHA : Do Government propose to enquire into the matter?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : The information in the possession of Government is quite convincing that the board's financial condition is not sound. They do not think there is any necessity to enquire into the matter, but they are acting to remedy the conditions existing there.

Mr. BIRESH DUTTA SINHA : Is it not a fact that the credit of the board has been hampered?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : Government has got no information on that point.

Mr. PRABHUNATH SINHA : Will Government be pleased to state the amount given to the Saran district board for reconstruction and repair of the earthquake damages in that district and in the other districts in the Tirhut Division?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The expression "other districts" cannot be allowed. The original question relates to Saran district board only.

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : And I would require notice for that if it is asked.

DIFFICULTY OF ROAD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GUMLA AND BARWAY PARGANAS.

113. Mr. BONIFACE LAKRA : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware that the people going to Gumla from the Barway Pargana are put to great inconvenience by having to go *via* Raidih thana ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what measures are being adopted to check its further progress ?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The dispensary doctors have been asked to pay special attention to the Kala-azar cases.

Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH : *Do Government propose to take more effective steps than merely drawing the special attention of the dispensary doctors for completely eradicating the germs of Kala-azar ?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : Government have decided to address the Director of Public Health to take preventive measures.

NECESSITY OF PUCCA ROAD BETWEEN GUMLA AND CHAINPUR.

116. Mr. BONIFACE LAKRA : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware that the *raiya*ts living in the western parts of the Gumla subdivision are unable to obtain a just and reasonable price for their agricultural produce ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this disadvantage is mainly due to there being no *pucca* road to link Gumla with Chainpur ;

(c) if the answer to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to direct the Ranchi district board to convert the *kachcha* road which goes from Gumla to Chainpur into a *pucca* road without further delay ?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : (a), (b) and (c) Government have no information. They are prepared to forward a copy of the question to the district board through the local officers for such action as is found necessary and possible.

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCRETIONARY GRANT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BHAGALPUR DIVISION.

117. Mr. HARIKISHORE PRASHAD : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of the discretionary grant placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division for the year 1936-37 and 1937-38 ;

(b) the name of the institutions or individuals to which or to whom any grant was made by the Commissioner during the said years ;

(c) who was or is the Commissioner distributing the said grants during the said periods ;