

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

Wednesday, the 15th September, 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 Wednesday, the 15th September, 1937, at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker in the Chair.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PETITION FROM TENANTS OF VILLAGES SITUATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF RIVER SIKRAHNA FOR REMISSION OF RENT.

108. Mr. BAIDYANATH MISRA: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the tenants of the villages situated on the north side of the river Sikrahnna in the police-stations Sugauli and Motihari, filed petitions before the Collector of Champaran and the Manager of the Bettiah Raj under Court of Wards for the remission of rent for last year and the previous years;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in affirmative, whether the remission of rent has been granted to the tenants; if not, why not;

(c) whether they propose to make a thorough enquiry into the situation and grant an adequate remission in rent to the tenants of the area in question?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY: (a), (b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be made available to the hon'ble member when obtained.

Mr. HARIVANS SAHAY: Will Government make the answer available in this session or after this session?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY: In this session, Sir, and it will be laid on the table.

200 LCD.

HOURS OF SALE OF LIQUOR AND INTOXICATING DRUGS.

109. Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have decided to fix less hours for the sale and consumption of liquor, alcohol and all intoxicating drugs, except for medicinal purposes than the hours at present allowed; if so, what those hours are?

Mr. MUHAMMAD SAYEEDUL HAQQ : The answer is in the negative.

Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Do Government consider it desirable to fix less hours for the sale and consumption of alcohol?

Mr. MUHAMMAD SAYEEDUL HAQQ : The proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

PLAGUE IN BETTIAH.

110. Mr. VISHWANATH SINGH : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the town of Bettiah has suffered from the epidemic of plague year after year since the last earthquake;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the year round the town suffers from plague epidemic;

(c) whether Government have received any petition or representation from the Bettiah municipality and the Bettiah Plague Committee on the subject of town improvement;

(d) if the answer to clause (c) be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) There have been cases of plague in Bettiah town during 9 months in 1934, 10 months in 1935 and 8 months in 1936. Plague has been reported this year except in the month of June.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) Government have already taken steps and will continue to do so. The Director of Public Health visited Bettiah in this connection. He inspected the town and discussed the sanitation and plague problem with the vice-chairman of the municipality, the president of the plague committee and the secretary of the rate-payers association. He also discussed with the Manager of the Bettiah Raj, the Assistant Manager and the Civil Surgeon of Champaran. It is understood that the Bettiah Raj will be prepared to consider the question of extending the municipal

area with a view to relieve the congestion in certain areas provided a definite proposal for extension with a suitable housing scheme is put up. The question of providing a comprehensive drainage scheme as well as of water-supply is, it appears, under the consideration of the Raj. The Director of Public Health is also making arrangements in consultation with the Director of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, for a free treatment of plague cases at the Raj hospital by a special staff of the Haffkine Institute. It is understood that the Raj has agreed to offer adequate assistance in this matter. An officer of the Public Health Department has also been deputed to Bettiah for carrying on anti-plague propaganda in the town with magic lantern slides and leaflets.

Mr. HARIVANS SAHAY : May I know if the Bettiah Estate is going to contribute any sum for the improvement of the sanitation of the town ?

Mr. BINODANAND JHA : So far as information is available the Bettiah Estate has agreed to provide for the free treatment of cases of plague in the town. Government is considering the proposal but have not yet come to any decision.

PRACTICE OF TAKING ILLEGAL GRATIFICATIONS AMONGST *AMLAS* OF ALL CIVIL, REVENUE AND CRIMINAL COURTS.

111. Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware of the existence of the practice of taking illegal gratifications amongst *amlas* of all Civil, Revenue and Criminal Courts ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what steps they have taken to stop such corruption ;

(c) if the answer to clause (a) be in the negative, whether they have decided to enquire into the matter ?

Mr. SHIVANANDAN PRASHAD MANDAL : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have not been in power long enough to take effective steps in the matter which is, however, receiving consideration.

(c) Yes.

Mr. HARIKISHORE PRASHAD : Has Government impressed upon the Hon'ble High Court the desirability of eradicating the evil so far as the Civil and Criminal courts are concerned ?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : Government have already given the answer that they have not been in power long enough to take effective steps in the matter.