

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.

MANUFACTURE OF GUR, SUGAR AND SUGAR-CANDY FROM PALM JUICE.

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

(a) whether they are considering the question of prohibition of intoxicants ;

(b) whether it is a fact that *gur*, sugar and sugar-candy can be manufactured from palm-juice ;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to start an industry, as an experimental measure for manufacturing *gur*, etc. ; if not, why ?

Mr. SAYEEDUL HAQQ: (a) Government intend to make an experiment in prohibition in some selected areas.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The matter is under examination.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF PREPARING *PACHWAI* FROM THE ABORIGINES OF SINGHBHUM.

334. Mr. DEVENDRA NATH SAMANTA: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that aborigines in the province are privileged to prepare *pachwai* for their use and consumption ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a notification has been issued by Government withdrawing the privilege of aborigines to prepare *pachwai* in areas namely, Haldibani, Karandih, Parsudi and Ghaghidih, pargana Dhalbhum, district Singhbhum ;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the affirmative, when the notification was issued ;

(d) whether Government are aware that since the issue of the said notification, a large number of aborigines of the said areas have been prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to pay fine of Rs. 25 or so, each, for preparing *pachwai* for their own use and consumption ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the aborigines of those areas sent a memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Bihar, with the prayer that the said notification may be withdrawn ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the said memorial has not been disposed of ;

(g) whether Government are aware that the aborigines of the areas have been much harassed by excise authorities after the issue of the said notification ;

(h) if the answer to clause (g) be in the affirmative, whether Government are taking any steps to redress the grievances of aborigines ; if so, what ; and if not, why ?

Mr. SAYEEDUL HAQQ: (a) The concession of free home-brewing of *pachwai* for domestic consumption is allowed in the district of the Santal Parganas and is also allowed to the aboriginal tribes in certain areas of the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and also in the Banka subdivision of the Bhagalpur district.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The notifications were issued in April, 1923, and in March, 1936.

(d) Government have no information about this. When the privilege has been withdrawn from that area persons infringing the law are liable to prosecution under the Bihar and Orissa Excise Act.

(e) The reply is in the affirmative.

(f) The memorial has already been disposed of.

(g) There is no information.

(h) The question does not arise.

EXTENT OF CIRCULATION OF THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE PROVINCE.

335. Mr. MAHESH PRASHAD SINHA: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether circulation of a paper is taken into consideration in giving it Government advertisements for publication; if so, what is the actual circulation of each paper in the province;

(b) what was the source of this information?

Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. As there are over 100 periodicals published in the province, it is not possible to give the details of their circulation in answer to the question. A copy of a printed statement showing the circulation, is laid on the library table.

(b) The information is collected by the Superintendents of Police and in many cases it probably comes from the newspaper itself.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN THE EUROPEAN AND INDIAN MENTAL HOSPITALS AT RANCHI.

336. Mr. RAJENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) the present number of Indian and European patients in the Ranchi Mental Hospitals;

(b) the number of male and female patients;

(c) the number of patients of this province;

(d) the number of patients from other provinces;

(e) the number of patients admitted during the last three years;

(f) the number of patients cured during the last three years?