

# THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES.

*The 21st December, 1937.*

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

The Council met in the Secretariat Conference room at Patna, on Tuesday, the 21st December, 1937, at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

## CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF RAI BAHADUR CHANDRAKETU NARAYAN SINHA.

**The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT :** Before the Council proceeds to the business of the day, I have to refer to the very sad death of Rai Bahadur Chandraketu Narayan Sinha, an ex-member of the old Legislative Council. The late Rai Bahadur and myself were colleagues in the old Council many many years ago and I retain to the present day the most lively recollections of his simple, genial ways and his delightful personality. He was a gentleman to his finger-tips and few who knew him could fail to be impressed by his innate courtesy and kindness. As hon'ble members are aware, the late Rai Bahadur was a big ferry-owner, in fact, one of the biggest ferry-owners in the province. But though he was very wealthy, he was also of a charitable and benevolent disposition and was ever ready to loosen his purse-strings for every good cause. I am sure, hon'ble members would like to associate themselves with the observations from the Chair and I would request such hon'ble members to do so now.

**The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA :** Sir, on behalf of Government I would like to associate myself with the observations which you have made regarding Rai Bahadur Chandraketu Narayan Sinha. Even before he came here, I had occasion to know him intimately for very long years. He spent most part of his life at Monghyr. He was a man of genial disposition; he was a man of charitable disposition; and I think by his death the province has suffered a great loss. I hope, Sir, you will convey the feelings of the members of this House to the members of the bereaved family.

**Khan Bahadur SAIYID MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :** Sir, I should like to associate myself with the very sad reference that has been made by you and, in doing so, endorse every word that has fallen from you. It is very melancholy and sad indeed to realise that ever since we have come into being, there had been a number of death references. I hope, we shall not be further deprived of our fellow-citizens and that there may be occasion from the beginning of the New Year to have happy news instead of such sad news. I have not had the pleasure of knowing Rai Bahadur Chandraketu Narayan Sinha of Sonapur, but from little that I have heard of him I have come to realise that he was a man belonging to a respectable

the Ministers have attended the meetings of the *Kisans* on the 23rd August and the 26th November, 1937, and with what responsibility they have addressed the meetings?

**The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA :** The Ministers attended and addressed those meetings in discharge of their duty to explain Government's view-point on agrarian questions.

**MUSLIMS' MOLESTATION AND INTERFERENCE IN THEIR CALLING AZAN BY THE HINDUS.**

**12. Khan Bahadur SAIYID MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, as reported and published in a daily paper of Calcutta by one Mr. Ashiq Hussain, Joint Secretary, Gaya Muslim League, that during the month of *Ramzan* in a village Rajpur Khaira, police-station Kutumba, subdivision Aurangabad, district Gaya, the Muslims were molested and interfered with for saying prayer and calling *Azan* in a particular *Imambara* of that village?

**The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA :** A case is at present under trial in which certain Hindus are accused of attacking the Muslims because of the calling of the *Azan*. As the case is now *sub-judice* Government are unable to comment on the accuracy of the article.

**CHANGE IN THE DESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR TO "PREMIER" AND "PRIME MINISTER".**

**13. Khan Bahadur SAIYID MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :** Will Government be pleased to state under what section of the Government of India Act, 1935, or under what article of the Instrument of Instructions to the Governors the designation of the "Chief Minister" the "Premier" or the "Prime Minister" is assigned to a Minister chosen under section 51 of the Government of India Act, 1935?

**The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA :** The designation of the Head of the Ministry is not laid down either in the Government of India Act, 1935, or in the Instrument of Instructions.

**14. Khan Bahadur SAIYID MUHAMMAD ISMAIL :** Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) who was responsible for assigning the designation of the "Chief Minister" and then changing it to the "Premier" during the period of the *interim Ministry* lasting from 1st April, 1937, to the 20th July, 1937, and who was subsequently responsible for suggesting the change from the "Premier", to the "Prime Minister" after the inauguration of the Congress Ministry.

(b) if there was any constitutional error in assigning the previous designation; if so, who was responsible for that error; and if it was not an error, where was the necessity of changing the designation from time to time?