

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 21st May, 1947.

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 21st May, 1947 at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasada Varma, in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE ANTI-SMUGGLING FORCE.

32. Dr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA : (a) In view of the statements of the facts and circumstances made by the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister in reply to my short notice question on the subject of the death of Prof. Bari, will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state in detail the circumstances leading to the formation of the Anti-smuggling Force, and the action taken in regard to it since the death of Prof. Bari was caused by a member of this force ;

(b) Has this force been already disbanded, or is it still continuing to function ?

(c) Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister further state the present position of the case pending against the accused ?

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : (a) Prior to the formation of the existing Anti-smuggling Force as a separate unit working directly, under a Controller, there was an Anti-smuggling Force manned in part by the regular police force, but this force was not found to be effective and was disbanded. A centrally organised force under a Controller was organised towards the end of December, 1946. Under the Controller there were to be five Superintendents, nine Inspectors and thirty Havildars, besides 280 guards. The men recruited were from ex-Army personnel most of whom were Indian National Army men. After the death of Prof. Abdul Bari, caused by a member of the Anti-smuggling Force action has been taken to disarm all the guards and havildars who had been provided with rifles and ammunition. Pending further changes affecting the organisation of the force which are under the active consideration of Government, Punjabi, Oriya and Madras guards and havildars are being discharged and replaced by Bihari ex-soldiers (combatants) in the force.

(b) The force is no longer functioning and the question of creating a new force is under the active consideration of Government.

(c) Investigation is continuing, but the Inspector General of Police has been asked to see that it is completed as quickly as possible.

NO WAITING ROOMS IN ARRAB-SASARAM RAILWAY.

616. Mr. JAGANNATH SINGH : Will the Hon'ble Minister incharge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no suitable waiting rooms for male passengers at the important station on the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no latrines in most of the third class compartments ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the fares per mile charged by the above railway are higher than those charged by the B. N. R., N. W. R., and E. I. Railway ;

(d) if the answers to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government consider the advisability of bringing the matter to the notice of the Managing Agents with a view to redressing the grievances of the travelling public ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ABDUL QAIYUM ANSARI : (a) The answer is in the affirmative. The railway authorities have, however, under contemplation a project to construct suitable waiting rooms for male passengers which has been kept in abeyance due to lack of materials and supplies.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative. The railway authorities have however, signified their intention to provide latrines in all passenger vehicles.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) In view of answers to (a) and (b), the question does not arise.

Mr. JAGANNATH SINGH : Arising out of (c), will Government consider the advisability of impressing on the Managing Agent of Martin and Company the desirability of reducing the railway fare on their railways so as to make it equal to the rates of fares prevalent on the E. I. R. and other Railways ?

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : Government will consider the suggestion of the hon'ble member.

TRAIN ACCIDENT ON O. T. RAILWAY ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1946.

617. Mr. HARINATH MISHRA : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the train accident which took place on the O. T. Railway on the 23rd September, 1946, between Dighwara and Baragopal stations ;