

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

Wednesday, the 22nd September, 1948.

Proceedings of the Bihar Legislative Assembly assembled under the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Ranchi, on Wednesday, the 22nd September 1948, at 3-30 P. M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasada Varma, in the Chair.

SHORT-NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GIRL STUDENTS MOLESTED IN PATNA.

9. Mr. MAHESH PRASHAD SINHA : Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news published in one of the English dailies in its issue of the 12th September, 1948, under the heading, "Girl students molested" if so, what action, if any, has been taken by Government ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pheton which was occupied by the girl students was drowned in the Ganges by those students of Patna ;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the affirmative, will Government consider the desirability of taking immediate action in the matter to prevent the repetition of such incident in future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c) The Police have taken up investigation of the case.

Mr. MAHESH PRASHAD SINHA : May I know, Sir, at what stage the Police investigation is at present !

The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY : We have no further information. We drew the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to depute responsible officer to make enquiries into this matter and we are told that the matter is being enquired into.

Mr. MAHESH PRASHAD SINHA : May I know, Sir, the name of the college to which the students belong !

SHORTAGE OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS WELL AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

47. Mr. PURUSHOTTAM GHOSHAN : Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious shortage of residential houses for the general public as well as for the Government offices and for their employees throughout the province ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative whether Government propose to create a new portfolio named and styled as "Housing Portfolio" which will look after the requirements of the general public and as well as the Government ?

The Hon'ble Dr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) There is no such proposal at present. The shortage of residential accommodation is mainly due to shortage of building materials and transport difficulties which stand in the way of speedy movement of even such materials as are available ; and the creation of new portfolio would be no solution of these problems. As regards construction of buildings for Government Officers and offices there is no need to create a separate portfolio when Government have already got a Public Works Department.

BIHARI CLOTH IMPORTERS IN PALAMAU DISTRICT.

48. Mr. JITU RAM : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Supply and Price Control Department be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Bihari cloth importers in the district of Palamau ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the negative, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage Biharis in the appointment of importers ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) Nil

(b) There were no Bihari importers at the time of decontrol in January, 1948. For the present only such people as were importers in January, 1948 have been re-appointed.

(c) Government are prepared to consider cases of suitable people including Biharis.