

# THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Thursday, the 13th March, 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 Thursday the 13th March, 1947, at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasad Varma, in the Chair.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

LABOUR DISPUTE AT THE PATNA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY.

**8. Mr. AMIYO KUMAR GHOSH:** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the Patna Electric Supply Company have given notice of strike;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have banned such strike and in spite of the ban imposed on the strike the workers are ready to defy it;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the affirmative, what step Government is going to take to maintain the electric supply in the town;

(d) do Government propose to negotiate with the Union for settlement of differences?

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA:** (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, Government have no information.

(c) Attempt will be made if necessary to maintain the electric supply.

(d) The Labour Commissioner is negotiating for an amicable settlement.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SUSPENSION OF THE PAYMENT OF COLLECTIVE FINES.

**\*230. Mr. JAGDISH NARAYAN SINHA :** Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for suspending the payment of collective fines;

\* In the absence of the questioner the answer was given at the request of Mr. Harinath Mishra.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The report of the office is that the copy of the Bill was circulated on the 4th March. May I know whether it is a fact that any hon'ble member received a copy of the Bill on the 4th March or a copy of the Bill has been in his hands for seven days? Is there any hon'ble member who got the printed copy of the Bill as early as seven days ago?

**Dr. PURNA CHANDRA MITRA :** I did not get it.

**Mr. JAMUNA PRASHAD SINGH :** We do not remember.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Is there any hon'ble member who got the copy of the Bill as early as seven days?

**Mr. RAMESHWAR PRASAD SINHA :** We on this side of the House got the Bill only a few days ago. We do not quite remember if we actually got it a week ago.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Is the hon'ble member speaking for himself or for all the hon'ble members?

**Mr. RAMESHWAR PRASAD SINHA :** I am speaking for myself and also for a few more hon'ble members.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** There is a difference of opinion as to the exact period for which the copy of the Bill was in the hands of the hon'ble members.

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** Sir this is a single clause Bill and it is not very urgent from the point of view of administration and if hon'ble members want time to study it Government will not stand in their way.

#### DISCUSSION ON THE AGENDA BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

**Mr. RAMESHWAR PRASAD SINHA :** Before we disperse to day, we would like to know what the agenda for tomorrow is. I suppose we have got discussions on the voting of demands. But it is curious that we have not yet received a copy of the cut motions that are to be discussed tomorrow.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The copy will be circulated today. It has not been received by my office from the press.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** May I invite your attention to the fact that in the past copies of cut motions have always been circulated several days in advance? It is for the first time that up till now we have not been supplied copies, although the discussions start tomorrow.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The difficulty would be only with regard to cut motions fixed for tomorrow. If copies are received from the press today, they will be circulated today.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** I would like you, Sir, to consider if it is proper that the circulation of papers should be so inordinately delayed. Even with regard to cut motions fixed for tomorrow, members would certainly require time to consider the items, study the budget and then come prepared to say what they have to say.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** It is not the fault of the office. Office does not receive the full co-operation from the press.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** The press is exactly what it was last year or since the Bihar Assembly was created.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** That is a point on which I cannot say anything. We have been reminding the press to hurry up.

I am also told just now that there is some change in the administration of the press. They do not work beyond the fixed hours these days.

**An Hon'ble Member :** It can be remedied.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The notices of cut motions, as they have been received from the hon'ble members, have been remedied. The groups of these cut motions and their placing in the order of business allotting them days have not been done. This thing has been sent to the press. As soon as copies are received from the press, they will be circulated.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Supposing, Sir, you are not getting the copies from the press to-day, are we going to start discussions on the cut motions tomorrow?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** If things come to such a pass, I would try to remedy the copies of cut motions in my office and circulate them to hon'ble members. If the press do not co-operate with us and copies are not received in time, I would get them remedied and circulated by this evening. The timetable for the voting of demands cannot be altered.

#### LEAVE OF MESSRS. G. W. HOGG AND MUNINDRA NATH MOOKHERJEE. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** There is another business. Mr. G. W. Hogg, an hon'ble member representing the Chota Nagpur European Constituency has applied for permission of the Assembly to be absent from the meeting thereof from the 6th of March, 1947, to the month of September, 1947 as he is proceeding to the United Kingdom.

The question is :

That leave to absent himself from meetings of the Legislative Assembly from 6th March, 1947 to end of September, 1947, be granted to Mr. G. W. Hogg.

The motion was adopted.