

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

The 14th December, 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 Tuesday the 14th December, 1937, at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker in the Chair.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RELEASE OF THE ANDAMAN PRISONERS.

18. Mr. DIP NARAYAN SINHA: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement of Mahatma Gandhi published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in its issue of the 19th October 1937, regarding the release of the Andaman prisoners;

(b) whether Government have enquired since the publication of the statement if the Bihar prisoners repatriated from the Andamans are satisfied with the treatment meted out to them in the jail where they have been lodged;

(c) whether Government have decided to release such prisoners; if not, why?

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

(b) All the political prisoners, including those who were repatriated from the Andamans, have been placed in B Division. They are supplied with the *Searchlight* and the *Vishwamitra* and other periodicals. They have been kept in Association Wards. Their medical requirements are carefully attend to. Two of them have been ordered to be brought to Patna for special medical treatment. Government have received no complaints from them regarding creature comforts.

(c) Some have been released; the cases of others are under consideration.

But so far as the convenience of members is concerned, he is quite justified in pressing his arguments. Supposing I give notice of moving a supplementary demand on the 1st December and I move it on the 11th or 12th. The time that is allowed to the members is only one day and on the second day they must give notice of amendments. We get time from 2nd to 11th as it is necessary for the Government to prepare their case to meet the arguments that may be advanced. So far as the members' convenience is concerned, we are prepared to meet the difficulties by agreeing to notices of amendments being received at this stage. But so far as the power of the Chair is concerned, I have already submitted that by allowing this motion to be put down for discussion to-day, the Chair has calculated that in the event of any difficulty arising, the rule may be interpreted in such a way as the Chair has interpreted it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I may just point out that it does not necessarily follow that if an item has been put down in the list of business its admissibility has also been already decided.

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : I am entirely in the hands of the Chair so far as that point is concerned. But I am only making my submissions with respect to the convenience of members. That is the short scope of my arguments.

Mr. CHANDRESHVAR PRASHAD NARAYAN SINHA : Personally, I feel, Sir, that there are two sides or parts of the question. One is so far as the members are concerned and I take it that besides these 11 days, the members must get a few days more in order that they may send their amendments clear 11 days before the demand is taken up. But so far as the second part of the question is concerned, namely, the convenience of office and the Government, I am in agreement with the observations of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and I feel that this provision of clear eleven days is for the convenience of office and the Government. Therefore, if the office and the Government are prepared to accommodate people even when the notice is for less than eleven days, I think it is open to you to admit the motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Very well. I hope henceforth due notices of supplementary demands will be given and the list of business stands.

Observations of the hon'ble the Speaker regarding the form of presenting supplementary demands.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I wish to draw the attention of the Treasury Benchés to the fact that the form of presenting supplementary demands or any other demand should be the same as in the Central Assembly.

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Yes, Sir, we have got that form and we shall move the demands in that form.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The form should clearly mention that the amount proposed in each case is to be *granted* by the Assembly to the Provincial Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA : Yes, Sir. I shall correct the form. It was considered during the last session to adopt this form.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Hon'ble Mr. SHRI KRISHNA SINHA : Sir, I rise to move:

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 be granted to the Provincial Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1938, in respect of "General Administration".

This demand has the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

Dr. Sir GANESH DUTTA SINGH : May I point out one thing in this connection, Sir? Ordinarily, whenever, these supplementary demands are circulated, there is always an explanation attached to them. We have not received anything of that kind on the present occasion.

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : That has been circulated along with the printed copy that was made available on the 10th to every hon'ble member of this House.

Dr. Sir GANESH DUTTA SINGH : May I know, Sir, in this connection whether this is due to the prolonged sitting or to the increase in the number of the members? From the note, it appears that it is due to prolonged sitting and still more sittings are expected. But I think the number has also increased and on account of that it is quite possible that the expenditure may be still more. The original estimate was Rs. 90,000; the revised is Rs. 1,50,000. On what basis has this revised estimate been made? Has it been on the basis of prolonged sitting or on the basis of the increase in the number of members? The strength of the House has increased considerably and that may cause the mounting up of travelling or halting allowances.

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : When the first budget was prepared we did not anticipate an interim session in the month of December. That has dislocated our previous anticipation and the supplementary demand has been called for for that reason.

Dr. Sir GANESH DUTTA SINGH : I believe the total strength of the House was taken into consideration while preparing the first estimate?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Yes.

*For details, vide Appendix B.