

# THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, the 3rd 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 Monday, the 3rd March, 1947, at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasada Varma in the Chair.

**MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now, the Secretary will read out to the House a message which has been received from the Legislative Council.

**SECRETARY to the ASSEMBLY :** Sir, the following message has been received from the Legislative Council in accordance with rule 92 of the Bihar Legislative Council Rules :—

The Bihar Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 24th February, 1947, agreed, without any amendment, to the Bihar Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control Bill, 1947, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 6th February, 1947.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER OF THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED AS REPRESENTATIVE FELLOWS ON THE SENATE OF THE PATNA UNIVERSITY.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As a result of the counting of votes on the 25th February, 1947, Messrs. Sarangdhar Sinha, Mahesh Prasad Sinha and Bhagwat Prasad, Members of the Legislative Assembly, have been declared duly elected as Representative Fellows on the Senate of the Patna University.

## **SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS.**

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA :** Sir, I propose to answer all the questions to be put by Thakur Ramnandan Singh on the 5th instant. I, therefore, would like these questions \* to be put off till the 5th. They may be taken up on the 5th March.

**ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE GAYA COLLEGE.**

**6. Mr. JAMUNA PRASHAD SINGH :** Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that application was made by the college authorities for acquisition of land for the Gaya College on 27th October 1945 ;

[3RD MARCH

(b) whether it is a fact that no acquisition of land has yet been made for the said college ;

(c) whether it is a fact that college authorities are experiencing great difficulties in having hostels, playground and quarters for want of which great inconvenience is being experienced by a large number of students and their guardians, as the town is at some distance from the college ;

(d) the reason for the delay in the acquisition of the land ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** (a) Government have no definite information as to when the application was made to the local officers.

(b) Notification under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act was published at page 326, Part II of the Bihar Gazette on the 29th January. No further action has yet been taken.

(c) From the Principal's letter, dated the 2nd January 1947, it appears that difficulties are being experienced for want of sufficient land.

(d) A draft notification under section 4 reached the Revenue Department on 15th January 1947 through the Director of Public Instruction and the Education Department. Government will make enquiries into the delay in the submission of this case by the local officers.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

179, 180 and 181—Cancelled.

#### INTRODUCTION OF RURAL RATIONING OF FOODGRAINS.

**182. Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Supply and Price Control Department be pleased to state—

(a) the price at which rice is selling in areas where there is no rationing particularly on the countryside in deficit areas such as the district of Saran and the subdivision of Hajipore in the district of Muzaffarpore ;

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce rural rationing in the province generally or in the deficit areas above mentioned particularly ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that in the first place there was acute scarcity of foodgrains in these areas and in the second place these were not obtainable except at very high prices, the price of rice being between Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 a maund ;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate supplies at reasonable prices in the rural areas of the province particularly in the deficit areas ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA :** (a) The market prices vary a great deal. The ruling market prices of rice are reported at present to be ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 28 per maund.

(b) It is proposed to introduce rationed distribution in such deficit areas.

(c) Yes.

(d) *Vide* answer to clause (b) above. The success of the scheme will depend on the success of the procurement scheme in operation now. So far the amount of foodgrains distributed in the Saran district between 1st April 1946 and 31st December 1946 were —

Foodgrains.						Maunds.
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	807,000
Paddy	...	...	...	...	...	125,000
Maize	...	...	...	...	...	390,400
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	53,000
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	125,800

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Government state that the ruling prices of rice are reported at present to be ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 28 per maund. Are Government aware or will they kindly enquire if it is not a fact that rice is actually selling in the rural areas of the Saran district at not less than Rs. 30 per maund?

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA :** Government are not aware; but if the hon'ble member want that an enquiry may be made into this, that will be done.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Government state that it is proposed to introduce rationed distribution in such deficit areas. Do Government propose to ration the entire deficit area or on what basis do they propose to introduce rationing?

**The Hon'ble The SPEAKER :** The hon'ble member has put two distinct questions and they may be answered separately.

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA :** I only want to satisfy his curiosity; I do not take exception to it.

Government do not propose to ration the entire deficit area. Only a few Government-control shops will be opened at places to meet the requirements of the locality.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1947-48.

### OBSERVATION BY THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER AS REGARDS TIME-LIMIT OF SPEECHES.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Before we commence the discussions on the Budget I would like to refer to rule 153 of the Assembly Manual which authorises me to prescribe a time-limit for the speeches on the general discussion of the Budget. In previous sessions also a time-limit used to be prescribed but for the first few days or for the first few hours of the day time-limit was generally not prescribed. This worked a little inequitably with regard to members who stood up late, that is on the third or the fourth day. Therefore, it is proper that a time-limit should be introduced from the very beginning. If I had some idea about the number of speakers I will be able to adjust the time according to the number more equitably and advantageously to the speakers as well as to the exigencies of the debate.

Would I be able to get any list of intending speakers? Is it ready?