

# THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

*Thursday, the 13th February, 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 February, 1947 at 11:30 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vin. Bhyashwari Prasad Varma, in the Chair.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ARRESTS OF CONGRESS SOCIALIST PARTY WORKERS AT JHARIA.

1. **Mr. PHULAN PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) why Mukutdhari Singh and some others, Congress Socialist Party workers, have been arrested in Jharia;

(b) what orders are they supposed to have violated and what exactly is the offence they are supposed to have committed;

(c) were notices served on them asking them to desist from certain course of action before they were arrested;

(d) are Government aware that several Congress Socialist Workers who were organising the Socialist Conference have been arrested although they had nothing to do with the Kasur Colliery strike;

(e) is the Prime Minister aware that several Congress Socialist Workers were arrested in Monghyr although nothing incriminating was found in their possession when searches were made;

(f) is there any drive against the Congress Socialists in this Province if so, why?

**The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA:** Sir, with your permission I propose to make a statement which will cover the replies to all the questions which the honorable member has just put.

The leaders of Congress Socialist Party in the coalfields were invited to see the Additional Deputy Commissioner on the 7th morning. Messrs. Matukdhari Singh, Mundrika Singh and Basawan Singh saw the Additional Deputy Commissioner in the afternoon. They were aware of the formation of the Board of Conciliation, but said they would not accept the Board as their representative was not on the Board and they would continue the strikes.

As the strikes had become illegal and these leaders had avowed their intention to continue the strikes, arrests were made the next morning under section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code read with Rule 81A, Defence of India Rules. Thus 7 were arrested on the 8th morning, 8 on the 9th morning, on the 10th mid-day and on the 11th afternoon.

**The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA :** (a) 273 cases against 2,205 Hindus have been instituted in North Bihar. 2,366 cases have been instituted against 13,827 Hindus in South Bihar.

(b) All possible precautions have been taken to see that innocent persons are not implicated. The evidence against each person is carefully examined.

**Mr. MAHESH PRASAD SINHA :** Are all the 13,827 Hindus accused were collected from the reports in the F. I. R., or as a result of Police investigation ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** Some were mentioned in the F. I. R., and the rest were collected as a result of Police investigation.

**Mr. MAHESH PRASAD SINHA :** Arising out of (b), is it known to Government that several men above 100 years of age who were incapable on account of infirmity, have been implicated in these cases ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** Government are not aware.

**Mr. MAHESH PRASAD SINHA :** My submission is that several persons who are incapable of standing even were made accused.

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** Sir, I have already answered the question. It may be true, but we have seen in jails infirm people having committed rapes and so it is not improbable that people over the age of one hundred years may have committed any crime.

**Mr. MAHESH PRASAD SINHA :** Was any enquiry made considering the infirmity and old age of these persons ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** I want notice of this question.

**Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN :** Will Government be pleased to state out of these cases how many Hindus accused have been enlarged on bail ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** This question does not arise, but if it does arise, I want notice.

**Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN :** Will Government be pleased to state if any Muslim had been made accused in this case ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** This question also does not arise, but if it arises, I want notice.

#### CREATION OF A SEPARATE CLASS FOR AND UNIFORM TREATMENT OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

**157. Mr. RAJENDRA MISRA :** Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have come to any decision for creating a separate class for all the political prisoners ;

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(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by them in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA :** (a) The matter is being examined by the Jail Reforms Committee.

(b) For the present, it has been ordered that all prisoners classed as 'political' by courts should be provisionally placed in Division II subject to confirmation by Government.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Will Government be pleased to state if the order referred to in (b) applies also to political under-trials?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** It does not, Sir.

**Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD :** Are Government aware that Mr. Matukdhar Singh and other Socialist Leaders who had been arrested in Jharia, are not being treated as political prisoners?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** I take this information from the hon'ble member and if these men are not being treated as political prisoners they will be treated as political prisoners.

**Mr. HARINATH MISRA :** By whom has the order been passed and are Central Government to confirm the order?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** The Central Government have got nothing to do with these orders.

#### UNPOPULARITY OF RAJENDRA COLLEGE, CHAPRA.

**159. Mr. RAM BASAWAN RAM :** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware of the growing unpopularity of the Rajendra College, Chapra, as expressed in the public meeting held in the Chapra Town Hall on the 21st September, 1946;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to take any steps in the matter; if not, why?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BADRI NATH VERMA :** (a) Some complaints have been received regarding the affairs of the Rajendra College, Chapra, but Government have no information that the College is growing increasingly unpopular.