

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

Monday, the 3rd June, 1946.

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 June, 1946, at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasada Varma, in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

DISCOURTESY ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE BRITISH LEGATION BUNGALOW AT RAXAUL TOWARDS THE HON'BLE THE DEVELOPMENT MINISTER.

10. Dr. SACHCHIDANADA SINHA : (a) Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state if his attention had been drawn to an announcement made from Raxaul, on the 5th May, alleging great discourtesy on the part of the authorities of the British Legation Bungalow at that place—towards the Hon'ble the Development Minister ;

(b) will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to make a detailed statement on what had transpired on that occasion, and also whether the Bihar Government had taken any action in the matter ; and, if so, with what result ?

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

(b) Before the Hon'ble the Development Minister's arrival in Raxaul the overseer in charge had been asked to allow him to occupy the Legation Bungalow. Permission was refused by the overseer, but was later obtained by telephone from the authorities in Nepal. The Hon'ble Minister stayed in the bungalow for a few hours and no discourtesy was shown to him while he was there. When he had left the bungalow he was told that the overseer in charge had at first refused the use of the bungalow for which the Nepal Government had to be phoned, and that the use of tumblers and chairs had also been denied which had to be supplied from outside. Government are in correspondence with the Nepal Government on this question. Our Government have also enquired from the Nepal Government if they have placed any general ban on the use of the bungalow by Indians.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

THE KOSI TRAINING PROJECT.

16. Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state—

(a) what progress, if any, has been made with the Kosi training project ;

(b) what exactly the project aims at ;

(c) the staff employed up-to-date ;

(d) if the two American specialists invited by the Government of India were consulted by Government in regard to the Kosi Project ;

(e) if the answer to clause (d) be in the affirmative, what suggestions they have made in regard to the scheme ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : (a) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply of Government to the resolution of Messrs. Murlī Manohar Prasad and other. M. L. As.

(b) Control of the river Kosi in regard to floods and its tendency to wander from place to place. This is proposed to be done by the construction of one or more dams in Nepal, which will keep back much of the silt and moderate heavy floods. Irrigation will also be made possible and the generation of hydro-electricity.

(c) The extent of staff that is being employed by the Government of India is not precisely known but it may be said that the investigations are well in hand.

(d) and (e) Certain American experts have been consulted by the Government of India but it is not known yet to the provincial Government what suggestions were made by them.

With reference to the reply to Assembly Question no. 16(a) the following is a proposed reply of the Government to the resolution referred to therein :—

In January 1946, the Central Government offered to take up the investigations with a view to the preparation of a complete project for the control of river Kosi and these investigations were commenced forthwith.

The Government of India have undertaken to meet the cost of these investigations which are in charge of the newly formed Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The final proposal of the Government of India are not expected to be received before 12 months.

The preliminary report of the Government of India showing the manner in which the investigations will be proceeded with has been received and is now under the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, and will be placed on the table as soon as possible.

The proposals to make the investigations now being conducted have since received the approval of the present Government.

Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Irrigation kindly elucidate the point—"The preliminary report of the Government of India showing the manner in which the investigations will be proceeded with has been received and is now under the consideration of His Excellency the Governor". Has the Hon'ble Minister examined the file ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : I have examined the file and it is now before His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. HARI KISHORE PRASAD : Will Government be pleased to let us know the estimate of expenditure over the work ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : To make a reply to this question at the present moment is impossible. A rough estimate will be calculated in due course and placed before the House. It is a preliminary report and nothing has been done finally.

Mr. DIP NARAYAN SINHA : Will Government be pleased to state whether the staff employed by the Government of India maintains any contact with the Provincial Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : The Government of India officers have consultations with the Provincial Government.

Mr. MURLI MANOHAR PRASAD : Are Government aware that this Kosi problem has been taken up many a time during the last 20 years, but nothing has come out of it ? If so, are they prepared to state that the present Ministry is seriously taking up the question this time ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : Government are aware of the fact that the Kosi problem has been taken up a number of times in the past. The Government of India has taken up the question very seriously and this Government is prepared to do the same. But the Kosi problem is such that a thorough examination is necessary on many difficult questions in that connection and this Government is trying its best to push the matter as soon as possible.

Pandit DHANRAJ SHARMA : Will Government be pleased to state if the examination is complete by now ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : Preliminary investigations have been made and these investigations are under further consideration.

Pandit DHANRAJ SHARMA : Will Government be pleased to state what length of time will it take to complete ?

The Hon'ble Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINHA : The answer is already given, Sir. The final proposal of the Government of India is not expected to be received before 12 months.