

# THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

*Wednesday, the 5th 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 Wednesday, the 5th June, 1946, at 11-30 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasad, Varma, in the Chair.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

**SHIFTING OF THE SUBDIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF RAJMAHAL TO SAHIBGANJ.**

**24. Dr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA :** Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(a) that one of the subdivisional headquarters in the Santal Pargannas district was lately removed from Rajmahal to Sahibganj; and if so, when;

(b) whether he is aware that the removal of the headquarters to Sahibganj has been the subject-matter of protest, in the press, by some leading citizens of Rajmahal;

(c) is the Hon'ble the Prime Minister in a position to declare that the question of the transfer of the headquarters was duly considered by Government, by the public of Rajmahal being taken into confidence; and if so, by whom, and when;

(d) if no such action was taken by Government at that time, does the Hon'ble the Prime Minister propose to get the question examined by a committee composed of persons duly qualified to advise Government; if not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA :** (a) The answer is in the affirmative. It was moved on 1st January 1945.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The decision to transfer the headquarters to Sahibganj was taken after a personal visit of H. E. Sir Thomas Rutherford to the subdivision to examine the question.

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** Arising out of the answer (b), are Government satisfied with the dual management of the Ramgarh Reserved forest by the proprietor of Ramgarh Estate and also the Government of Bihar ?

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** Sir, Government are aware of the drawbacks of the present system under which the forests are under the dual control of the Ramgarh Raj Estate and the Government and they are contemplating steps under the Provincial Act to have the forests brought under its jurisdiction.

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** Has an enquiry recently been made by the Conservator of Forests into the management of the Ramgarh Reserve forest ?

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** This question does not arise. If it does arise I require notice. But so far as the question of reservation of forests under the Provincial Act, 1946, is concerned, I have stated that the matter is receiving the attention of the Government and steps necessary for that purpose are being taken..

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** I understand that Government are considering to take the management of the Ramgarh Reserve Forest under the new Private Forest Act.

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** Yes.

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MANAGEMENT OF THE FORESTS OWNED BY (i) GAVAN WARDS ESTATE, (ii) KUNDA ESTATE, (iii) SATGAWAN OR MADHUBANI ESTATE, ALL IN THE DISTRICT OF HAZARIBAGH.

**26. Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the date or time by which Government propose to take over the management of the forests owned by (i) Gavan Wards Estate, (ii) Kunda Estate, (iii) Satgawan, or Madhubani Estate, all in the district of Hazaribagh under the Bihar Private Forest Act under their direct control ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. KRISHNA BALLABH SAHAY :** The matter is still under correspondence with the Conservator of Forests. The Bihar Government's intention is to push through proposals for taking over private forests for management under the Bihar Private Forests Act where such action is in the public interest.

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** Why the Forest Department is moving so slowly ?

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** It is a matter of opinion.

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** I want to know the reason why the Forest Department is moving so slowly when the Act has long ago been passed.

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** Sir, several preliminaries have got to be complied with. First of all, the orders under the old Forest Act, i. e., the Indian Forest Act, have got to be withdrawn and the forests are to be reserved under section 27 of the Act and then fresh actions are to be taken under the new Act. These are not simple matters to dispose of without proper notice when private interests are involved.

**Mr. SUKHLAL SINGH :** May I know if the new Act is to apply for the reservation of the Ramgarh Estate Khalso forests ?

**The Hon'ble Pandit BINODANAND JHA :** Both the Acts cannot be operated for the same forest at the same time and as these forests are governed by the old Act proper steps have to be taken to reserve them and the bring them under operation of the new Act.

**ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE 'BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

**The Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Qaiyum Ansari :** Sir, I beg to move :

That the Assembly do proceed to elect a member to represent the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the Bengal Nagpur Railway Advisory Committee.

**Mr. Muhammad Abdul Ghani :** Sir, I think the House will remember that effort was made by this House to have adequate representation of this province on the Advisory Committee of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. I find that that effort did not succeed to the extent expected. Simply the Government of India gave only one representative. It is difficult for one representative to represent both the trading interests as well as the travelling public. Two important interests are ever required to be represented—the interest of the travelling public and the interest of the trading people. You will find that on the Bengal and North-Western Railway now called the O. T. Railway there are two representatives of this House—one to represent the travelling public and the other to represent the trading interest. I hope the Government will try to move the Government of India