

[27th August 1924]

WATER-SUPPLY IN THE *RANEA TALAB* DISTRIBUTARY.

248. Babu RAJANDHARI SINHA : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state for how many days the water has been supplied in the *ranee talab* distributary from the *Adra Nichatra* to the 5th of August 1924 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the water-supply during the above period was very irregular, if so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for it ?

(c) Do Government propose to increase the size of the outlets ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if the supply of canal water for the last one and a half months was irregular in all the canal distributaries in the Bikram subdivision ?

Lai Bahadur BISHUN SVARUP : (a), (b) and (c) There is no *ranee talab* distributary in the Bikram subdivision of the Son circle ; it is not, therefore, understood what information is wanted.

(d) The answer is in the negative. In fact canal water had to be run off at Mahabalipur escape and at Khagaul, as there was no demand for water laid down from the head. The supply was irregular when the canal was closed during the floods in the river in July and August 1924.

RESOLUTIONS.

EXPANSION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Babu JALESHVAR PRASHAD : Sir, the resolution as it stands before the Council without the amendment may be said to be financially unsound. Yesterday it was actually remarked by a friend of mine in the Council that it was financially unsound. To that, Sir, I have only to say that so far as we are concerned—the non-official members in this Council are concerned—it does not much matter even if the resolution is a little financially unsound. We do not go so much on the theory of it so long as it serves our purpose. Sir, this laughter on the opposite benches reminds me of a very obvious truth that the party which is in power always says of the party which is not in power that their proposition is financially, politically and economically unsound. I know that the present Prime Minister of England when the Labour Party was not in power was said to be always a visionary man. But, Sir, I stand up here to-day not to discuss its financial aspect

[B. Jaleshvar Prashad]

so much as to bring before the Government the pressure of public opinion and the anxiety which is felt by the public over the question of primary education. I know, Sir, that my friend Babu Rajandhari Sinha who has moved this resolution is the chairman of a very important district board in this province, and so far as I have been able to know it has been his misfortune not to have received anything out of the ten lakhs additional grant that was budgetted by the Council during the last two years. The reason is that according to the scale that has been prepared by the Government his district board is one which has been placed in the third class. So I can quite understand the anxiety of my friend who, while seeing that the other district boards take advantage of the money which the Council is budgetting every year for primary education, has come to the Council with a demand of 60 lakhs in the hope that out of this money he will get something at least: and I believe that, if the Government and the Hon'ble Finance Member are good enough to give this money, his district board will get something. But let us see what is the real proposition before the Council. So far as I am aware Government are committed to the scheme prepared by Sir Edward Gait in the year 1919-20 which means that  $23\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs additional will be spent on primary education in addition to the money that was being already spent. Out of these  $23\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs 10 lakhs have been given to us during the last two years. We take it that the remaining  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs will be given to the district boards or will be spent on primary education as soon as possible. That is a matter which need not be pressed upon the Hon'ble Minister: but there is another point,—it may have escaped his attention,—and that is that while they are prepared to spend  $23\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs recurring additional over primary education, they had not prepared any scheme for the buildings and that is the reason why this resolution is pressed here in this Council upon the Government. We want some money for primary school buildings. If we are going to spend an additional sum of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs recurring for primary education, I have absolutely no doubt in my mind,—and if Mr. Collins has worked out the figures I think he will bear me out,—that we require at least three times the recurring expenditure for buildings and that comes to about 60 lakhs. That is why we press this resolution for a grant of 60 lakhs for building and equipment of primary schools. But let not the Hon'ble Minister understand that we do not want any further recurring expenditure on primary education. Our position is this,—and I want to make it clear so that there may not be

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any doubt about it, and I think Babu Rajandhari Sinha will agree with me,—that we want 60 lakhs for capital expenditure over primary education and that this sum be given to the district boards on one condition alone that this money should be spent on primary education only. We do not want that this grant should be hedged round by a number of conditions so that the district boards will not be able to spend it. We have got figures in answer to a question that the district boards have not been able to spend all the money that was granted to them. It may, to a certain extent, be due to laxity of work on the part of the district boards so far as education is concerned, but I have absolutely no doubt that it was also due to the various conditions that were hedged round these grants by the Department of Education and if only we could give them a little more latitude in spending the amount,—these local bodies are representative bodies and they have got public opinion behind them,—I think from next year we shall not have this complaint that the money is not being spent. Therefore our position is that Rs. 60 lakhs should be given for buildings on primary education with the condition that this money be spent over primary education only. If any district board is not in a position to spend this amount in a year or two, they might be given the choice of spending the money in the next year or the year after that. But we do wish that, at a time when through certain windfalls in the provincial budget we have got a surplus, we should not miss the opportunity to set apart a certain amount for buildings on primary education. That is our position so far as capital expenditure over primary education is concerned. But I also want to make our position clear about the recurring expenditure. We wish that the remaining 13½ lakhs should be allotted for primary education in the coming budget, and we have been told that a sum of 9 lakhs is sufficient to make the present primary education free and we want that that money also should be given to us, if not next year, at the utmost in the year after that, so that we might see how far free primary education is liked by the people of this province. We can then ascertain what more we can do or what further steps are necessary to make it compulsory: because, I agree with the Hon'ble Minister that before making primary education compulsory we have to make it free and I think the Hon'ble Minister will do well if during the life time of this Council he makes primary education altogether free and not only makes it free, but completes the programme which was sketched out by Sir Edward Gait.

[Mr. F. E. L. Morrison]

Mr. F. E. L. MORRISON : Sir, I had not intended to take part in this debate but the frequent references made to local bodies in the course of the debate and the reflections cast on them by some of my hon'ble colleagues have made me join in, as a few words of explanation on behalf of these bodies I think to be necessary.

Sir, my hon'ble friend Mr. Bhattacharji has rightly said that there is darkness amongst some to whom the light should be made available ; but at the same time it should not be forgotten, that, while we do the clamouring it is these very local bodies who are being called upon to do the work and to grapple with the darkness. They are willing enough, but work in the dark is necessarily somewhat slow of progress. To continue the analogy, groping about in search of the box of lucifer, that is to light up the place, takes a little time ; and it will not facilitate the movements of the doers to handicap them with a load they can ill carry. It is easy enough for this Council now that it has the wherewithal to pay, to shout 'light, light and yet more light' : but it was not so long ago that, in response to the modest demands of local bodies, headquarters had perforce to assume what I might be permitted to describe as a "Would be very glad to oblige you but it is really not possible to do so—one box of matches will have to go the round of all, and please do not lose it as another is not available" attitude.

Well, Sir, I can assure the House that local bodies will be overjoyed at the news that Government is at last in a position to do them well when they send in calls. The field they have to deal with is—I do not think I will be guilty of exaggeration if I say—formidable and I am afraid somewhat difficult also, and this Council may rest assured that these bodies, as soon as they get to understand the position and can organise for it, will be ready enough to spend the money given them in developing their respective areas. But, Sir, I deprecate as strongly as I can voice it, the injudicious hurling of large sums at local bodies. I am as anxious for the advancement of primary education as any other in Bihar, and I am convinced from my experience that if financing is going to be worked on these lines, there is greater risk of demoralising local bodies and specially their subordinate staff through whom they will have to work, than of advancing primary education. The Hon'ble Minister for Education has already pointed out

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that local bodies have been asked for schemes and estimates for developing their charges and has assured the House that he is prepared to meet their requirements in full. In fact he is prepared to give them 15 lakhs and even more should they require it. I am perfectly certain that this sum is more than the local bodies will be able to lay out profitably—unprepared as they are,—and it will do no good to glut them with funds for which they have no schemes or organization ready. They know that they and their subordinates will be open to severe criticism if the money is left unutilized. It serves no purpose to expose them to spend money on badly considered projects and schemes through hastily built up agencies.

Let us, Sir, to quote my friend Mr. Madan, look at things in a business-like way and only put out so much at a time as we can see will yield us a return in the steadily advancing literacy of the people. With this I oppose both the resolutions and all amendments moved.

**Maulavi SHAIKH MUHAMMAD HUSAIN :** Sir, I rise to support the resolution though unhappily its wording is not very clear to me. But it cannot be denied that it is a manifestation of the popular demand for the expansion of primary education in the province. The fact that all the opposition levelled against the university resolution was mostly on the ground that primary education must be provided for first shows that the demand for the expansion of primary education is very keen. The percentage of literacy in our province is very low, being 4.7 against 7.4 for the whole of India. It is not creditable to our province. The sooner we raise the percentage of literacy the better. Fortunately we have got a huge surplus. It is just right that primary education should get a fair share of it. It will solve the question of proper housing of primary schools and other non-recurring expenses and thus 23½ lakhs as said by the Minister, and whatever more our popular Hon'ble Minister may be able to provide in future years, will be left entirely to be spent on recurring charges. This will surely be an improvement on the present situation as it exists. Sir, the Government admits, and I am quoting from "Bihar and Orissa in 1923" that "education in the province needs much more money and that it is wanted more for primary schools than for colleges". Now that the Government has got money, will it be consistent and right for Government to grudge the money, when asked for? The Hon'ble Minister has adopted a very sympathetic attitude

[M. Shaikh Muhammad Husain]

towards the proposition for which I am grateful. He assures the House that he is trying to get more and more money for the expansion of primary education and will be able to allot a substantial amount in the next year. By adopting this resolution, Sir, I think we are strengthening his hands and giving him a good case and support to plead in the inner cabinet.

Sir, I am opposed to the suggestion made by the hon'ble mover for investing the money. Beside other grounds, I do not think Government will allow it, and I do not know if it would be a good policy for the Government to do it. As for the hon'ble Mr. Madan's objection, may I ask, Sir, if he is in a position to assure the House that the money will not be spent on any other work but it will be earmarked for education? Otherwise I admit, Sir, I fail to understand the drift of his far-fetched arguments.

Mr. SRI NARAYAN SAHAY : Sir, I am in full sympathy with the spirit underlying both the amendment as well as the original resolution, but I confess that I do not like the exact wording of either. I am of opinion that within a year or two primary education must be made absolutely free throughout the province. I am also of opinion that in the next provincial budget provision must be made for such buildings as are absolutely essential for that purpose, but I do not agree with my hon'ble friend, Babu Jaleshvar Prashad, that a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs would be necessary for the buildings at once. I think, Sir, that so far as lower primary education is concerned no provision should be made in our budget for any building at all. It is not necessary either for the district board or for the Government to build lower primary schools nor is it necessary for them to insist on type plans for the buildings of these schools. It is our experience that whenever the authorities want to start schools in villages there is hardly any village where the local people would be unwilling to provide for either the necessary buildings or to place at the disposal of authorities the money required for the purpose. If that is so, Sir, I feel that local patriotism should be encouraged and taken full advantage of and not discouraged. For the purposes of the work for which the lower primary schools are necessary, I feel certain that the ordinary structures that the people in the villages are prepared to provide are quite sufficient. It has been quite a surprise to me to see that the very people, who are ordinarily very eloquent against the expenditure of money on a policy of brick and mortar, have been advocating in this instance the expenditure of a large sum of money on

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brick and mortar. I submit, Sir, that Government would do well to consider my suggestion of leaving the question of buildings for lower primary schools to the local villagers themselves. I am quite certain that there will be hardly any village where one or two men would not be prepared to provide the structures for these schools.

So far as the upper primary and middle schools are concerned buildings are necessary and for that purpose, I submit Government will kindly consider what amount of money is necessary to make primary education free, and that in the next provincial budget they must provide for the expenditure.

With these words I commend the suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

Babu JAGABANDHU SINHA : Sir, as to the importance of primary education, I think there can be no two opinions amongst any of the members of this House. That we have to spend more for the expansion of primary education is a question that is agitating the minds of the public from a very long time. The mover of the resolution is perhaps anxious to see that more money should be provided for this purpose. Of course, it would have been better for him to give us a scheme as to how the money would be spent. He himself admits that he has not been able to frame a scheme on the subject, but he is very anxious to see that more money should be provided for the object of expanding primary education in the province. To that extent, Sir, there is no difference of opinion at all. Now the only question is whether we shall be justified in providing more money for the object or not. For that purpose, we must see whether the money which we are now spending for the purpose of primary education is sufficient or whether a greater amount is needed for the purpose. The Hon'ble Minister for Education has sufficiently explained the steps he is about to take or has already taken, and he has given us hopes that he is trying his utmost to further education in this province. Well, Sir, I am very thankful to him for giving us this hope. But I submit that that is not enough. If we compare the statistics of other provinces with our own, we find that they are far ahead in this respect than our province which is spending the least sum for the purpose. The statistics are as follows.

Madras spends Rs. 181 for primary education per thousand of men, Bombay spends Rs. 298, the United Provinces Rs. 128

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and the Punjab Rs. 110, but our province spends only Rs. 61 for the purpose of primary education. If another statement, which I am submitting is taken into consideration, the position will be clearer. We spend only 3·4 per cent of our revenue for primary education whereas Bombay spends 7·12 per cent, Madras 4·7 per cent and the United Provinces.....

Mr. B. A. COLLINS: May I inquire how the hon'ble member arrived at the figure of 3·4 per cent? It appears to be incorrect. As a matter of fact one gentleman stated the other day that our expenditure on primary education is 15 lakhs whereas it actually is Rs. 35 lakhs.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: What is the amount of money which the hon'ble member has taken as spent on primary education?

Babu JAGABANDHU SINHA: Rs. 10 lakhs.

Mr. B. A. COLLINS: Well, Sir, it is Rs. 35 lakhs and the percentage of expenditure on income is over 7 per cent.

Babu JAGABANDHU SINHA: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Education has stated that he is now trying to increase the amount that was being spent previously. I submit, Sir, there is much scope for expansion in this respect. The Government must spend more and the amount which they are now spending is not sufficient for the purpose of expansion of education throughout the province. So I submit that the demand of the hon'ble mover of the resolution that more money should be provided for the purpose of primary education is not unjust, but the only difficulty is that he has not been able to place before us a scheme for the purpose from which we could have understood that the money would be spent for such and such purpose. Therefore I submit that though the amount seems very large at first sight, the sole object of the hon'ble mover is that more money should be provided for this object which is not an unjustifiable demand.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education said the other day that local bodies are unable to spend the amount given to them, but the reason is not far to seek, because the money is sometimes provided at a very late period of the year when it is very difficult for local bodies to frame estimates and make plans and spend the money for the purpose of construction of buildings. Of course these things take a little time. Therefore so far as



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my experience goes, they are unable to spend it in the very year in which the money is received. As one of my hon'ble friends said that there are certain restrictions to make buildings, that also is a drawback and the local bodies cannot freely exercise their powers to carry into execution the object in proper time. Therefore I submit that more prompt action should be taken so that the funds should reach the hands of local bodies in proper time and I suppose they will not grudge to spend the money for the purpose for which it is given.

With these remarks I support the resolution moved by my hon'ble friend, Babu Rajandhari Sinha.

Mr. B. A. COLLINS : Sir, before I commence the few remarks that I have to make I should like in answer to the allegations made by the speaker who last spoke to say that the letter distributing the new grants to the district boards this year issued in April. As the money was only voted in March, there cannot be said to have been any delay. If the local bodies cannot spend the money during this year they certainly cannot blame Government.

In case anything that I may say may be taken as in any way criticising the proposition that the largest possible amount should be spent on primary education, I should like first of all to say that I do not think anybody can be keener than I am on the extension and improvement of primary education. I spent five years of my service as Registrar of Co-operative Societies and there is no work that an official can do which would impress him more strongly of the need of the expansion of primary education. When you go into any village and try to organize a society you will find as a rule that of the type of men who are ready or willing to become members very few—never more than three to four, usually one or two or even more—can really read and write. The result is that it is very difficult to arrange for the accounts and books to be kept properly. The few men who can read and write are able to dominate the society and very often they manage the business in a selfish manner and eventually bring about the ruin of the society.

The only remedy for that of course is the expansion of primary education and, so far as I have any influence as an official, I have done all I possibly can to get money to spend on primary education, but in spite of my desire to get all the money that is possible, one is bound to bear in mind the various

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practical difficulties. The case of the present programme has been discussed by several hon'ble members. This programme approved in 1919-20 was for spending 23½ lakhs, but this expenditure was spread over 10 years. The programme was very carefully considered and fixed in relation to the rate at which trained *gurus* could be turned out from the *guru* training schools, and it was impossible to advance in most of the districts at any greater rate than was laid down simply for the reason that more trained *gurus* would not be available. That programme was intended to run from 1920 to 1930. Government were unable to find any money at all for two years. In the next two years they found 10 lakhs, that is within four years we have carried out just about the proportion of the programme which we ought to have carried out by that time. Now, supposing for the sake of argument that 13½ lakhs is available next year, it would mean, if that grant is distributed, that we shall have to try to carry out the remainder of the programme in one year. Hon'ble members will see that this will present considerable difficulty. It is a fact, however, that since the programme was approved, the minimum rates for *gurus* have been raised on the recommendation of the Education Committee, so that it is quite possible that some boards at any rate will be in a position to spend all the money that is given to them.

One hon'ble member suggested that the best way to get over the difficulty was simply to give the money to the district boards and to allow them a free hand as to how they should spend it. As a matter of fact they are given a very free hand. First they were asked to prepare programmes. They prepared them and most of these programmes were approved more or less as they were prepared and they were told that they could spend any money allotted on their programmes. Since these programmes will now soon be completed and somewhat out of date the boards have now been asked to prepare new programmes. These programmes aim at providing for 80 per cent. of the boys of school-going age in the province. Experience seems to show that if provision is made for that proportion of the boys of school-going age it will practically provide for all the boys likely to attend primary schools, that is about 20 per cent. will be exempted for various reasons, either on account of illness, or on account of getting education at home or for some other cause.

We have made certain suggestions regarding these programmes and I would give one example to show what the practical difficulties will be if the district boards are given a free hand,

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As you know the power of the district boards to raise money at present is absolutely limited, that is, they are able to impose a cess of one anna in the rupee and all boards have in fact imposed the maximum cess, so that, except for an occasional cess revaluation which they have undertaken fairly regularly, they have no chance of getting extra income. They are, therefore, dependent on extra grants from Government for the expansion of primary education. In these circumstances it is right that Government, as representatives of the tax-payers, should see that the money is not wasted and that some of the boards are not extravagant. There is only a limited amount of money to go round and this ought to be distributed amongst the boards as fairly as possible and Government are in fact trying to distribute that money according to the number of inhabitants in each district. Supposing that some board says 'we will pay all trained *gurus* at the rate of Rs. 12 a month'; and another says, 'we will pay them Rs. 20'. Obviously the task of introducing primary education in the second district would be very much more expensive than that of introducing it in the first. If Government were going to hand over the money to the district boards without imposing any condition, it would mean that those districts would get more money that are more extravagant in their expenditure and the expansion of primary education in those districts would be slower than in the districts that are more economical.

That is one of the reasons that makes it necessary for Government to exercise some sort of control over the district boards. Another example that may be taken is the case of primary school buildings. The fact that a large number of members have recognized the need there is for pursuing a policy of bricks and mortar in connection with primary school buildings is certainly of the greatest assistance to Government. As the Hon'ble Minister has already stated, we are proposing to put forward a scheme for the construction of primary school buildings. Here, again, it is obviously necessary to exercise some control over the amount of money which shall be spent. One gentleman said a primary school building would cost Rs. 250, another said it would cost Rs. 400; others may quite as well think it would cost Rs. 800 or even Rs. 1,000. Now if we give the money for primary school buildings to district boards without laying down any conditions some might spend it on a cheap *kutchha* type of building which will soon fall down or at best would take a large amount of money for maintenance. If these boards have not

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income enough to bear the cost of maintenance, they would naturally come and ask Government for money. Others might spend double or treble the amount on *pakka* buildings. Government recognize that the same kind of buildings will not be suitable for every district, so we have asked the district boards to submit definite proposals as to how many buildings they want, what type of buildings they recommend, and what specifications they recommend and what the cost will be. When Government have got all these facts at their disposal, then it will be possible for them, after consulting experienced district engineers and others, to lay down any conditions that may be necessary on which money can be given out to district boards for buildings. But all this takes time, however anxious Government may be to expand primary education. Again the consideration of plans and estimates and the getting hold of contractors for distant places—all this will take time too. I think any hon'ble member here who is also a member of a district board, must recognize the utter impossibility of spending 60 lakhs, or 30 lakhs or even 15 lakhs in the next two years on primary school buildings. This is one of the reasons that makes it impossible for Government to bind themselves down to any specific sum, even if it were possible for them to do so for financial reasons. I, for one, am unable to see the advantage of giving money to district boards if they cannot spend it. If Government retain the balances in their own hands, they may be able to utilize them to the best advantage. One or two hon'ble members have said that unless it be set aside it may be dissipated in other ways. But this is not so. The control remains entirely in the hands of the hon'ble members themselves because, unless the Council wish to vote for any expenditure, it cannot be incurred. Therefore, I, for one, cannot see what is the use of giving large sums of money to the district boards when they are unable to spend it.

One other point I should like to mention is about making education free. As hon'ble members will have seen in the Government circular on primary education we have definitely asked the district boards to give us an estimate of the cost for making education free and we have asked them to express an opinion as to whether the money available should be spent on making education free in existing schools, or whether it should be spent in opening more schools or increasing the pay of *gurus* and so on. The previous estimate that was made and to which several hon'ble members have referred was arrived at I think in a very simple way. There are 25,000 schools, or roughly

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speaking 25,000 *gurus* and it was estimated that they should receive Rs. 3 a month extra to make up for the loss of fees. Thus 25,000 multiplied by 3 multiplied by 12 makes up 9 lakhs. That is how the estimate was made, but it was only an approximate estimate of cost. The Saran district board, for instance, when they made primary education free gave all their *gurus* Rs. 4 a month extra. Some district boards may give them more and some less, but one thing is certain that the cost of abolishing fees now will be less than it was before because in consideration of the fact that 20 per cent. of the students are now allowed to read free, some district boards have already given their *gurus* some allowance for the compensation of loss of fees.

That is all I have got to say. In conclusion I should again like to say that in so far as the resolution aims at largely increasing the amount to be spent on primary education, that is the attitude which Government have themselves adopted and which they entirely welcome. The only criticism which is offered is against this particular proposal that 60 lakhs should be set aside and that seems to be inadvisable and impracticable from a financial point of view.

Khan Bahadur SAIYID MUHAMMAD NAIM: Sir, I want to say just a few words on the resolution. It is now too late in the day to dilate upon the importance of primary education. The importance of it has been accepted on all hands. I am myself a very enthusiastic supporter of primary education and having been connected with municipalities and district boards, I claim to have some knowledge as to the actual working of primary education as far as the district boards go. Coming to the resolution itself, my humble opinion is that I do not think we stand to gain anything by this resolution. On the other hand I am afraid we stand to lose much if we support and accept this resolution. Now, the Hon'ble Minister for Education himself has been very sympathetic towards the expansion of primary education as he has fully indicated in his able speech which he delivered yesterday and as he told you he himself is trying to get as much as he can from Government. Now you know that he has already given us 5 lakhs recurring grant in the year 1923-24 and in the year 1924-25 he has given us 4½ lakhs, you will see therefore that nearly 10 lakhs recurring grant he has already secured for the expansion of primary education. Now perhaps the hon'ble members of Council remember that in the year 1920 a programme was developed for the expansion

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of primary education which estimated a recurring expenditure of Rs. 22 or 23 lakhs to complete that programme. We have already got Rs. 10 lakhs and I believe the Hon'ble Minister for Education as he said, is going to give us much more than what has been indicated in the resolution itself. Well, the resolution demands a sum of Rs. 60,00,000 to be spent for primary education. If that money be invested, it will give us Rs. 3,60,000. If the Hon'ble Minister for Education says that he is going to give us much more than that, surely it does not mean that he is going to give us Rs. 5,00,000. It means that he is going to give us at least 10 or 12 lakhs. He will complete the programme that was evolved in the year 1919-20. Surely you are not going to press this resolution and secure only Rs. 3,60,000 when the Hon'ble Minister for Education has given us sufficient indication that he is going to give us much more than that which, I believe, will not be less than Rs. 10 or 12 lakhs. As I said if we support this resolution we stand to lose much and not to gain anything at all. We should consider this matter very seriously, because a very heavy responsibility rests on our shoulders. We should not be led away by any other consideration than the expansion of primary education in this province. If some of the hon'ble members have come determined to support this resolution, apart from the fact whether they realize that they stand to gain or lose by the support of this resolution, I have got nothing to say, but it would appear to anybody who can think for himself that really we will be a loser by accepting this resolution which has been put before the House. Now, if the Hon'ble Minister for Education would give us, as I take it, Rs. 10 or 12 lakhs, we would be getting Rs. 20 or 22 lakhs recurring grant from the Government; whereas if we get only Rs. 60,00,000 it will give us Rs. 3,60,000. Certainly it is not wise at all to press this resolution before the House and get it carried through. The Hon'ble Minister for Education has also said that he has called for reports from the different district boards as to the cost of constructing school buildings in sufficient number in their districts. The amount that he has anticipated will not be in any way less than Rs. 22 or 25 lakhs. Well, as I said, he is prepared to meet the cost of these buildings also, and I believe it is with this idea that he has called for a report from the district boards in the province. If you press this resolution the result will be that you will lose this Rs. 22 or 25 lakhs apart from the recurring grant of 10 or 12 lakhs that the Hon'ble Minister for Education is going to give us. Now, these are the questions which you have to

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consider. The other thing that I would press upon the attention of the House is as to the impracticability of the resolution itself. Is it possible for any district board to spend this amount within two years? Then again what would be the proportionate share of different district boards in respect of this Rs. 3,60,000? It would be a very unappreciable amount which will not be sufficient at all for the advancement of primary education in the province.

Now coming to the amendment of my friend Babu Anant Prashad, I find the same difficulty confronts us. He wants a recurring grant of Rs. 15,00,000. Now as I have already said that, I believe, the Minister is willing to give you much more than that and that being so it would not be advisable at all to press either the resolution or the amendment for the acceptance of the House. Now Sir, I will not take up much time of the House but I will very seriously urge upon the attention of the members of this House not to be led away by any party organisation but to think seriously over the situation as to what it would mean if we accept the original resolution or the amendment. I think, Sir, it would be a distinct disservice to the cause of primary education if we pass this resolution. I think we will not be acting in the interests of primary education at all if we accept this resolution. With these words, Sir, I wish to oppose the amendment as well as the original resolution.

Thakurai BRAHMESHVAR DAYAL SINGH : Sir, I rise to support the resolution that Rs. 60,00,000 be spent for expansion of primary education within the next two years. The support which we have had now from the Hon'ble Minister of Education and further assurance of providing another large sum, if the funds allow in the next budget, needs no comment, and we are quite confident of the keen interest that he is taking towards the cause of education. To put the question of primary education on a satisfactory basis, a scheme should be drawn up not for the province as a whole but for each district. The district of Palamau which I represent is considered to be one of the most backward districts in the province, and the very word "backwardness" shows that there is a dearth of educated people. In fact, it is so. What we need is the creation of primary schools first in as closer areas as possible. One school to a group of 6-8 villages is not enough when the villages are situated so far from each other without any road connecting them. This is worse when we consider the nature of the country, which is more or less covered with jungles, hills and hillocks. It is true that

[Thakuri B. Dayal Singh]

the district board should come forward first and apply for creation of more primary schools which will be considered by Government in the best way possible but in this connection, I beg to submit that, unless the Government take the responsibility of allotting a lump sum for a district for the creation of primary schools, this proposition cannot be solved by the district boards themselves. It has been pointed out by my hon'ble friend the Maharaja Bahadur of Hathwa that the policy to be adopted is that which has also the command of His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor. This is also what our Government wish. Now when there is a demand for this, the Government should unhesitatingly pass the resolution so rightly and timely raised by the mover of this resolution.

Babu LAKSHMIDHAR MAHANTI : Sir, as I am connected with the district board, being its vice-chairman, which maintains the largest number of primary schools in the province, I think it is my duty to speak a word or two with respect of the resolution that has been put forward by my friend Babu Rajan-dhari Sinha. Of course no one is more eager than myself for the expansion of primary education. I have always advocated the cause of primary education, and I think there is no one in this House who is of a different opinion. But there are certain difficulties which I want to point out. The Hon'ble Minister for Education has assured us that he is going to provide a very large sum, in fact, a much larger sum than is demanded by my hon'ble friend. So far as I have understood my hon'ble friend, he is anxious to provide houses for these primary schools. I know it for certain that these primary schools are poorly accommodated. I know that it is very difficult to open primary schools for want of houses. Recently Government wanted the district board to take over the management of certain schools which were hitherto called stipendiary schools, and the district boards were asked to manage them, and they were called ordinary managed schools. Now the principle which we followed was to take over the management of those schools which had decent houses in order that the district board might not be put to a further difficulty of providing houses for those schools and there was great difficulty in selecting schools ; because we saw there were certain schools which were very well managed and the district board would like very much to take over their management. But the difficulty was there, these schools had no decent houses, they were located in private houses. The private owners were requested to make



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over their houses to the district board. Nobody would come forward and in order that the district board would take over the management, the district board must see that the difficulty was there and the number of schools that were taken over was very small. So, I believe, no one will be of a different opinion that these schools require houses and decent houses. But the difficulty about the resolution is that it says Rs. 60 00,000 should be spent for the expansion of primary education. I do not know whether Rs. 60,00,000 or Rs. 80,00,000 would be required or only Rs. 20,00,000 would be required for these buildings. Now the most plausible thing would be to ask each district board, as the Hon'ble Minister has done, to lay their own schemes and to forward their own schemes to the Hon'ble Minister for Education, to make their own demands to say how many schools each district board wants, how much money is required for capital expenditure and how much money is required. Now if each district board would come with a definite plan, with a definite scheme, with a definite demand to the Hon'ble Minister and if the Hon'ble Minister says 'No' I cannot provide such large sums", it would then be possible for us to come with a definite demand and to say "Give us so much money". Let each district board submit definite demands and then the Hon'ble Minister will be in a position to grant the money. So while I am in full sympathy with the object of this resolution, and the Hon'ble Minister is no less in sympathy, as I understand him, I advise my hon'ble friend Babu Rajandhari Sinha to withdraw his resolution for the present and to renew it in the next cold session and in the meantime let us come forward with definite demands to the Hon'ble Minister and see what he does. This is my view and I take my seat.

The Hon'ble Sir HUGH MCPHERSON: Sir, I have listened to this discussion with great interest and I only want to say a few words in order to explain to the Council the attitude of the reserved side of Government towards the resolution. I have personally every sympathy for the expansion of primary education. I realize and recognize that we are committed to the principle of democracy in India, and I feel that there cannot be further safe extension of that principle unless the masses be educated. Nevertheless, if either this resolution, or the amendment, or the resolution as it may be amended, is pressed to a division I shall feel compelled to vote against it, and I want to explain to the Council my reason for so doing.

[Hon. Sir H. McPherson]

My reason is that both the resolution and the amendment seem to me to violate a fundamental principle of our constitution. That principle is contained in rule 31 of the Devolution Rules which I will read to the House :—

The expenditure for the purpose of the administration of both reserved and transferred subjects shall in the first instance be a charge on the general revenues and balances of each province, and the framing of proposals for expenditure in regard to transferred and reserved subjects will be a matter for agreement between that part of the Government which is responsible for the administration of transferred subjects and that part of the Government which is responsible for the administration of the reserved subjects.

Now it is absolutely impossible for Government at this date, three or four months ahead of the time when the allocation of funds will be settled between the reserved and the transferred sides of Government, to commit itself to the earmarking of any particular sum for any particular purpose. It matters not whether the sum proposed be 60 lakhs as in the resolution or 15 lakhs as in the amendment. The principle is the same. I would like to recall to the memory of the House a previous occasion on which Government found themselves obliged to oppose a resolution, the object of which was somewhat similar to that now before the House. It was soon after Government had passed the Court-fees Act. One hon'ble member then brought forward a resolution that 25 per cent. of any additional funds produced by the Court-fees Act should be earmarked for primary education, or possibly it was for the wider object of the administration of transferred subjects. Government opposed that motion and what actually happened? 25 per cent. of the additional taxation produced by the Court-fees Act was possibly something like 2½ lakhs but, as has been explained several times in the course of this debate, since the passing of the Court-fees Act no less than 10 lakhs has been actually allotted to this one subject alone of primary education. It seems to me therefore that it would be foolish on the part of the House to pass this resolution. The discussion has served its purpose. It has shown the Government both on the Reserved and the Transferred sides that there is a very keen desire on the part of members to advance as early as possible primary education among the masses. It has also afforded an opportunity to the Hon'ble Minister for Education to explain to the House his keen desire and intention of pressing to the utmost for the allotment of funds for this subject. Now that the discussion has served its purpose, what is the use of proceeding further with it? Why put the formal resolution

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to the vote, with the result that there will be a certain number of non-official members on one side who will vote for it and the whole of the Government benches *plus* I hope a portion of the non-official members who will vote on the other side. It seems to me that by taking this course we shall introduce into the debate an unnecessary division of opinion which is to be deprecated after the sentiments that have been expressed from both sides. I therefore strongly recommend that, now that we have all expressed our views and the purpose of the debate has been served the resolution should be withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA: Sir, I would like to say a few words—very few words—to explain my position in regard to this motion before the House. Hon'ble members may recall that I was a strong and consistent supporter of the late Mr. Gokhale's Primary Education Bill, when I had the honour of representing this province in the old Imperial Legislative Council. I have had no reason to change my views. I am to-day as strong an advocate of the cause as I was then and have always been. I cannot, therefore, on the merits of the proposal vote against it. But as the motion has been brought forward in a form—which (as remarked by Babu Jaleshvar Prashad this morning) is financially unsound, I cannot support it. I would have taken some time, Sir, in placing before the House the financial situation of the province, but I think that aspect of the case was very lucidly explained in the course of his observation by the Hon'ble the Education Minister—in fact he put the whole case so clearly before the House that in a moment of weakness I thought I might change place with him! He and Mr. Collins and also my hon'ble colleague, Sir Hugh McPherson, have submitted to you that, from the financial point of view, it is impossible for Government to commit themselves to a proposition like this at this stage. I think that will satisfy the House that while there is a keen desire on the part of the Government benches to do all that they can to advance the cause of primary education, they cannot accept the proposition placed before the House. In that view I shall ask the mover of the resolution that he might now consider the withdrawal of this proposition as perfectly reasonable; his object having been gained by the Government having been impressed with the fact that hon'ble members are strong advocates of primary education. For myself I need only give the assurance that so far as it lies in my power I shall gladly assist Sir

[Hon. Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha]

Fakhr-ud-din, when framing the next budget, by allotting as large an amount for the expansion of primary education as it may be possible for me to do.

Babu RAJANDHARI SINHA : Sir, I think I have not to add anything more to the observations which I made yesterday on the resolution. I have heard with great attention the speeches delivered by the Hon'ble Sir Fakhr-ud-din and the Hon'ble Mr. Sinha, who are well-known advocates of the expansion of primary education. Sir, my chief object in moving the resolution was only to secure a fund for its expansion. It has been argued by several members that I ought to have come up with a scheme. Sir, I want to submit that there is no dearth of schemes. The only thing wanting is funds. If funds are available the scheme can be framed any moment. Sir, the Hon'ble Sir Fakhr-ud-din has given us an assurance that he will try his level best to secure as much money as possible for primary education. I have entire faith in his promise and I hope that he will try his level best to secure the desired object of the Council. But one thing I want to make clear. There are certain members of the House who consider that my resolution instead of improving the situation will rather make it awkward. I want to make it clear to such members that I never intended to do so. My whole object was, and it was made very clear by Babu Jaleshvar Prashad, that Government is already committed to spend 23 lakhs on primary education within a few years. What I wanted was this, that Government should make some additional provision for the expansion of primary education. Admittedly, Sir, the province has got an accumulated amount and that amount has come from the rural population the welfare of whom I have advocated in this Council. Sir, the Government is going to spend that amount and what I wanted to submit was this that the poor people have got the largest claim over this amount.

The Hon'ble Mr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA : Government are not going to spend the amount.

Babu RAJANDHARI SINHA : I think the Government cannot allow the money to remain accumulated for a longer time. They must frame some schemes for the good of the people, and therefore I said that primary education demands the major part of it.

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The Hon'ble Sir SAIYID MUHAMMAD FAKHR-UD-DIN, Khan Bahadur : No money can be spent without the sanction of the Council. If they vote.....

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : I understand that what Babu Rajandhari Sinha means is that this balance is most likely to be used by the Government on some object beneficial to the people and he thought that this is the best object on which the money should be spent.

Babu RAJANDHARI SINHA : My whole object is to impress upon the Government that if anything demands attention on the part of Government it is primary education. I purposely refrained from impressing upon the House the necessity of primary education in the beginning because I considered there could be no two opinions about it and I refrain from doing so at present.

Sir, before I resume my seat I like to answer the point which was raised by my friend Mr. Madan. It is a great satisfaction to me to see, Sir, that almost the majority of non-official members have supported my resolution which was considered to be an absurd proposal. I am not at all surprised to see that my friend Mr. Madan is opposed to it. Sir, he has hurled upon us his superhuman knowledge of Indian finance, but I can assure the members of the House that if there comes a proposal that this money should be advanced to Tata Iron and Steel Company.....

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : Order, order. While the hon'ble member from Jamshedpur criticised the scheme, the hon'ble member from Patna is criticising the member from Jamshedpur personally. I cannot allow that.

Babu RAJANDHARI SINHA : Sir, my whole object was to point out that the criticism made by Mr. Madan was not sound, and I would have liked that before he criticized my motion he had realized the rotten condition of the poor people.

Now, Sir, coming to the point, I have got an assurance from the Hon'ble Sir Fakhr-ud-din and also from the Hon'ble Mr. Sinha who is in charge of the purse, and I fervently hope that the object of my moving the resolution will be realized and with this assurance, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

[Hon. the President]

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: The amendment to this resolution falls automatically. If the hon'ble member who moved the amendment wanted to press his amendment, his duty was to oppose leave being granted. When leave to withdraw is granted his amendment fails.

REPORT OF THE ORISSA FLOOD DRAINAGE COMMITTEE.

Babu GODAVARIS MISRA: Sir, the object of this resolution was to.....

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: Is the hon'ble member moving his resolution or withdrawing it?

Babu GODAVARIS MISRA: I do not know what will be the right procedure. I have been given to understand by the Government that they will take such steps with regard to the report of the Flood Drainage Committee.....

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: I refer the hon'ble member to paragraph 80 of the Manual. I have called upon him to move his resolution. He has got two courses open to him, namely, (a) to withdraw his resolution in which case he shall confine himself to a mere statement of that fact but may make a brief statement of his reasons for withdrawal as he may consider necessary, and (b) to move his resolution. It is quite open to the hon'ble member to adopt any course he chooses.

Babu GODAVARIS MISRA: Sir, I beg to withdraw the resolution and I would like to make a brief statement of my reasons for so doing. The object of this resolution was to have the report of the Flood Drainage Committee rejected. There was an amendment of this resolution and if I chose to move this resolution, I think it would have been wise for me to accept that amendment also. The resolution was meant to say that the Flood Drainage Committee of Orissa failed to do justice to the district of Puri mainly, and as far as I understand, also to the south of Cuttack and a part of the northern portion of Balasore. Government have given me to understand that they are not going wholly to accept the report of that Committee.....

The Hon'ble Mr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA: Sir, I have given no such assurance to the hon'ble member. We have had no talk at all about this matter.