

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR

OF

BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Tuesday, the 15th March 1927.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REFUSAL OF PASSPORT TO ALAKANANDA MAHABHARTI.

239. Babu SATYA NARAYAN SINGH (in the absence of Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a pamphlet entitled "Prison House" printed at Sri Gouranga Press, Calcutta and published by Brother Achalananda of 11, Patalganga Street, Calcutta, and issued under the auspices of the Arunchal Mission?

(b) Is it a fact that in about the year 1924-25 Alakananda Mahabharti, President of the said Mission, applied to the Government of Bihar and Orissa for a passport to enable him to visit France, Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, U. S. A., Japan, China and Australia, and that Government refused to grant the passport?

(c) Is it a fact that the said application for a passport was forwarded through the subdivisional officer of Deoghar, who recommended the application and forwarded it to the District Magistrate? Is it a fact that the District Magistrate sent the application to the Superintendent of Police (Mr. Ten-Brocke) who made local enquiry and gave a favourable report?

(d) Is it a fact that the District Magistrate wrote to Government saying that this was a Peace Mission, similar to those they have in Europe and America, that the Mission has an Organ called "World Peace", that they do not concern themselves with Indian politics, etc.?

[B. Satya Narayan Singh]

(e) Is it a fact that in refusing the passport Government did not assign any reasons for the refusal ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether they generally assign reasons when refusing passports ? If so, why no reasons were given in refusing passport to Alakananda Mahabharti ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state what their reasons were for not granting passport to Alakananda Mahabharti ?

Mr. J. D. SIFTON : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) Government have no information on these points.

(d) The report of the District Magistrate was confidential.

(e), (f) and (g) No reasons are given when a passport is refused.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS FOR THE SECRETARIAT STAFF AT RANCHI TO OUTSIDERS.

240. Babu SATYA NARAYAN SINGH (in the absence of Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA) : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that quarters meant for the Secretariat staff at Ranchi are being allotted to outsiders ? If so, why ? Do Government propose to take any steps in the matter ?

Mr. H. A. GUBBAY : Yes, when the quarters are not required by the Secretariat staff. Adequate precautions are taken against the letting of quarters to persons who in the interest of health or for other reasons should not occupy such quarters.

Government do not propose to take any further steps in the matter.

SUBLETTING OF QUARTERS BY THE ASSISTANTS OF THE SECRETARIAT.

241. Babu GIRJINDRA MOHAN MISRA (in the absence of Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA) : Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the assistants in the Secretariat are generally permitted by officers of their respective departments to sublet the quarters allotted to them ? Does the same practice obtain in the Revenue Department ? If not, why not ?