

[Mr. Jimut Bahan Sen]

them. But if one or two lady students are willing to join the medical college let them apply to me and I will make special arrangements for them.

There are no other points and I hope the hon'ble members will be satisfied with what I have said.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the demand under the head " Medical " be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was negatived.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the Council do assent to a demand of Rs. 21,25,412 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1928, in respect of Medical.

The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH : Sir, I beg to move

That the Council do assent to a demand of Rs. 13,82,478 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1928, in respect of Public Health.

This appropriation has the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA : Sir, before I move the motion for general reduction of demand under " Public Health," may I have your permission to seek for some information from the Hon'ble Minister, and if I am satisfied with that, I may not move the motion at all ?

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : Yes, if it is a short thing, the hon'ble member can ask for the information.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA : In his reply, during the course of the last debate, the Hon'ble Minister said that certain things are very small and it is no use debating them here. In moving this motion I would like to draw his attention to the Patna University drainage scheme. The people do not want the outflow of the drain into the river. If the Hon'ble Minister thinks that that is a matter which can be settled by private discussion, then I shall not take it up here.

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The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH : Sir, the Patna University building is an educational one and if the hon'ble member likes I shall be glad to discuss the matter with him and the Hon'ble Sir Fakhr-ud-din and the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Public Health. I am not free in this matter. My department has to carry out the instructions of that department, but if the department which is in charge of buildings suggests any alterations, my department will be glad to give effect to them.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA : Sir, the Hon'ble Minister's reply is not quite satisfactory and therefore I beg to move :

That the demand under the head " Public Health " be reduced by Rs. 100.

In placing this motion before the House I shall not make out a long list of grievances. When I say this I do not mean to say that there are no grievances with regard to this matter. But the time at our disposal is very short now, and therefore I shall only refer to a new grievance which is going to be created, without going into the old grievances, although there are many. I shall speak about the proposed drainage scheme of the Patna University.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : Is the money provided for this in this demand ?

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA : Yes, Sir.

The main objectionable feature of that scheme is that the drains are proposed to be flown into the river Ganges. The Ganges is the main source of supply of drinking water to the people of Patna—when I say Patna, I do not mean Bankipore side only, which has got something like waterworks, but I also include the old city of Patna where there is no waterworks, and the people of that side take water for drinking and domestic purposes only from the river. If the river is polluted by this outflow of the drains, surely the water will not be left fit for drinking purposes. It may be said that if drains are to be diverted towards the Jalla, it would entail heavy expenditure. It may be very costly, but, Sir, we should not mind the cost when the question of the safety of public health comes in. Moreover, the idea of drains flowing into the sacred Ganges is repugnant to the religious sentiments of the Hindus. There have been meetings in the city where resolutions have been passed protesting against the proposed scheme. People are against it,

[Rai Brij Raj Krishna]

and if this scheme is carried out, there will be great discontent. I think that before taking any further steps to go on with this project, the matter should be seriously considered and the project ought to be abandoned, whatever may be the cost of any other alternative scheme that may ultimately be decided upon. Sir, I shall not refer to other grievances concerning the Public Health Department, although there are many. For instance, we know the people of Bankipore want house connection for the supply of water, about which I spoke in the course of the general discussion on the budget. Then my friend from Hazaribagh sitting to my left says that the grant for their district board has been reduced, although Hazaribagh is a very dry place, and a large number of wells are needed there. If the amount of grant is reduced, then surely the district of Hazaribagh will suffer. Likewise there are many other grievances, but the main point which I wanted to mention was about the diversion of the university drains. Sir, there is no time to make a lengthy speech; I shall conclude in the hope that the health of the citizens of Patna may not be endangered, and the religious susceptibilities of the Hindu section thereof wounded.

Mr. JIMUT BAHAN SEN: Sir, I want to mention one small point about the Public Health Department Engineering Branch. The Retrenchment Committee had done away with one post and hence the services of Mr. Alexander were dispensed with, but I find that a second division of the department has been created here defeating the object of the Retrenchment Committee and I know from my personal experience that the work of the Public Health Engineering Branch has been very very slow inasmuch as they have not been able to carry out the works which have been entrusted to them. Puri waterworks is still hanging fire, so also is the case of Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur and one little scheme of my district has been held on. I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that there is not only no justification for the creation of a second division of the Public Health Department Engineering Branch, but the work of this department is exceedingly bad. They have not done anything whatsoever. They might have done something for Patna town but they have not done anything for mufassal.

Babu RAMESHVAR PRASHAD DUTT: Sir, before I give my views on the subject I want to inform the hon'ble members on the Government benches that I do not intend to

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attribute any motive to a particular personage. The waterworks at Patna has been a matter of much sorrow and regret to the people of this great city and capital of the province. The connections which already exist are entirely insufficient to cope with the demand. At first it was expected that two tube-wells, constructed after sinking 36" diameter casing pipe, should suffice for the supply of water for the New Capital and Patna town except Patna City and Gulzarbagh, but they afterwards proved failure, and other subsidiary wells have been dug one after another and the Public Health Department is wasting money in this way without increasing the supply substantially. At present further connections have been refused. The public is suffering much. The well constructed near Dinapur Sub-divisional Officer's court is a failure as well as the well sunk at the Government House is also a failure. The accident relating to the death of two men at the time of dewatering the well at the Patna Hospital is a matter of great carelessness on the part of the officers. The death was due to a bad gas. But no precaution was taken by the officer who was standing on the spot supervising the work. The gas would never have accumulated and the accident would never have occurred if dewatering were made earlier. Are not the officers incharge of the work responsible for the loss of a human life? What compensation was paid to the family of the deceased? Recently it has been found out by actual experiment made by the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Department that the consumption of coal used for engines at the waterworks was always shown 25 to 50 per cent. more than the quantity actually consumed. This means a heavy loss of say about 10 thousand rupees per year. Though this corruption has now been detected, but the loss already sustained is considerable. Will the Government state whether on account of this embezzlement of money in shape of coal persons responsible have been punished and the loss of Government has been compensated? In estimates for works the provision of pipes is used to be made at 10 per cent. more than the actual requirement. The indents were made according to these estimates with a view that there might be some damaged pipes. These were charged direct to work. But most of the pipes were not used and it was not possible for the audit officers to check this inasmuch as the provision was shown in the budget and the poor auditors confined themselves only to papers.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: How long does the hon'ble member expect to take?

[B. Rameshvar Prashad Dutt]

Babu R^A MESHVAR PRASHAD DUTT: Five minutes more, Sir.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT: The hon'ble member has already taken more than five minutes. The debate has got to be finished within 7 minutes. I therefore stop the hon'ble member from further proceeding with his speech.

Babu NIRSU NARAYAN SINGH: I simply want to draw the attention of the Minister of the Local Self-Government about the health of the people during the Sonapur fair. I may remind the Hon'ble Minister that a committee was appointed by the Saran district board and a comprehensive report has been drawn up and I hope it has reached Government. Government gets an income of Rs 15,000 annually from that fair alone and I hope Government will grant money for the purpose of its improvement.

The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH: Sir, I shall be glad to consider the suggestion of the hon'ble member about the University area drainage scheme with Sir Fakhr-ud-din, Mr. Fawcus, Mr. Platt and the hon'ble mover. I shall be glad to discuss in his presence and then do what can be done. I cannot promise what will be the ultimate result of that discussion. If the pollution of the Ganges water is avoided it will be a matter of pleasure to all Hindus. It is difficult to find out from my personal experience a place where you can discharge this voluminous water outside Patna unless and until you are ready to take up the drainage and waterworks schemes of the Patna town. Government has no objection in discussing and considering all possible methods, if it can be done at a small cost.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA: No, it cannot be at a small cost.

The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH: Let us see what the expense will be of the alteration.

As to Sonapur, that scheme has not reached my office and therefore I am unable to do anything. My friend is aware how anxious I am to improve the Sonapur fair. The Sonapur mela is a source of epidemic to different places. If it is improved it will be a source of pleasure to all. Then the Retrenchment Committee has been referred. The hands of the engineering branch of the Public Health Department have been increased after consulting

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several members and if I remember aright Mr. Jimut Bahan Sen was also a member of that committee.

Then Hazaribagh is a very rich board and it is spending a good deal of money and the work of Hazaribagh cannot suffer for want of any grants. Gaya, Hazaribagh and Purulia are the richest boards. If grant will be made to other boards the case of Hazaribagh will also be considered.

There is nothing more to explain besides a small matter. My friend has also referred about the waterworks for Patna town. The whole waterworks scheme of Patna town is under consideration and where house connection is possible it is given but if it is proposed to give house connection to all the houses then there will be no water at all. The scheme is under the supervision of an expert. I am not an expert and I have generally to follow the advice given by him.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA: The reply of the Hon'ble Minister in so far as he promised to consider the matter at a private conference was satisfactory; but then there was one difficulty. He said that if the drain could be diverted at a small expense the matter could be considered. I have already said that the cost will not be small. The drain, however, should be diverted into the Jalla. The drainage and the waterworks scheme of the whole town of Patna may not be taken in hand at once, but only a portion of it in that part of the town where the University is situated may be considered and given effect to. The expenditure may be high, but, at the same time, it should be remembered that the people are not prepared to countenance the pollution of the Ganges, a contingency which will give rise to wide and deep discontent.

The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH: If either the municipality or the Government put money at the disposal of the department the department will be only too glad to do the work.

Rai BRIJ RAJ KRISHNA: I want the Hon'ble Minister to press for it, because it is not only a question of the religious sentiment of the Hindus, but it is also a question of public health. The existence of the Public Health Department cannot be justified by carrying out projects, which, instead of preventing diseases, are calculated to adversely affect the health of the people.

[Rai Brij Raj Krishua]

It is a very serious matter, and the Hon'ble Minister ought to fight the Finance Department and get the requisite amount of money at the point of bayonet if need be. I appeal to the Council to give its vote in support of this motion, not by way of censure of the department but with a view to strengthen the hands of the Minister in fighting the Finance Department, and in making them give sufficient money to carry out the scheme for the diversion of the drain as suggested.

As regards the Hazaribagh district board, the Minister said that it is a rich district board. Only the other day the Minister gave or rather sanctioned a loan of Rs. 40,000 or thereabout to the board. They would not have been in need of this loan, if they were rich. Therefore I am not in a position to withdraw the motion, and I would like the motion to be put to vote.

The Hon'ble Babu GANESH DATTA SINGH : Sir, I have nothing more to add. It is not always true that those who borrow money are not rich. There may be good projects before the board and for that the money might be required.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the demand under the head "Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was negatived.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the Council do assent to a demand of Rs. 13,82,478 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1928, in respect of Public Health.

The motion was adopted.

AGRICULTURE.

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : The question is :

That the Council do assent to a demand of Rs. 13,50,245 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1928, in respect of Agriculture.

The motion was adopted.