

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The 24th August 1937.

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 at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the Speaker in the Chair.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WITHHOLDING OF THE EDUCATIONAL GRANT OF THE HAJIPUR MUNICIPALITY.

2. Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware that the Hajipur municipality received a letter from the Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, asking it to show cause why the educational grant given to the said municipality should not be withheld for closing all the primary schools under its control on the 1st April, 1937, in pursuance of the *hartal* against the inauguration of the new constitution;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to take any action in the matter; if so, what action; if not, why not?

Mr. SARANGDHAR SINHA: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) No action was taken, but Government are considering the question of the revision of the Education Code.

Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Sir, Will Government be pleased to state the reason for not taking action ?

Mr. SARANGDHAR SINHA : Because, Sir, they did not think it necessary to interfere with the autonomy of the local body in question.

Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Do Government propose to take the power of the Director of Public Instruction under the proposed revision of the Education Code ?

Mr. SARANGDHAR SINHA : The question involves a question of policy, Sir, and it is not understood what power the hon'ble member is referring to.

if his intention is to know whether the Excise Department as a Department for collecting taxes be continued, then the answer will be a modified one—"It will be continued as long as it will be necessary. As soon as complete prohibition will be introduced, the Excise Department will continue not as a collecting agency, but as an agency to prevent breach of prohibition rules."

Mr. MUHAMMAD YUNUS : I am much obliged to the Hon'ble Minister for the reply. Will Government be pleased to state the time by which this procedure is likely to be followed?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Government have not yet taken any definite decision on this point.

Mr. MUHAMMAD YUNUS : Will Government be pleased to state if they have in view a period of three years?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : They have not yet decided this question one way or the other. They will certainly have this question of period in view when they take final decision.

LOWERING OF THE BALIA-MINAPUR AND BALIA-HETAMPUR ROADS IN
BEGUSARAI SUBDIVISION.

4. Mr. BRAHMADEO NARAYAN SINGH: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resentment of the public of Balia-Minapur and Hetampur roadside against the Government orders to demolish the said road in accordance with the recommendations of the flood committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that, last year, floods in that *elaka* destroyed crops, cattle and houses, and were also responsible for a heavy toll of human lives;

(c) whether they propose to appoint a non-official enquiry committee to investigate the matter and to suggest ways and means to protect the said area from the havoc of floods;

(d) whether they have considered the necessity of constructing an embankment from Gupta-Bundh to Lakminia in the interest of poor peasants who have been put to alarming conditions on account of the annual visitations of devastating floods?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) The Hon'ble Premier received a telegram from Mr. Brahmadeo Narayan Singh, M.L.A., that a public meeting was held protesting against the demolition of the embanked portions of the Balia-Sadanandpur and the Balia-Hetampur roads from their junction with the Tirhut road.

(b) Damage was done by floods last year. Government have no knowledge about any loss of human life.

(c) In view of the fact that the problems connected with flood control are very complex and technical, Government do not consider that a committee of purely non-official gentlemen can usefully undertake such an investigation. These problems are going to be discussed in a mixed conference of officials and non-officials to be held at Muzaffarpur next month.

(d) Government consider that the construction of such an embankment is not desirable, as apart from the question of funds, it will adversely affect the people living on the opposite bank of the river lower down.

Mr. BRAHMADEO NARAYAN SINGH : May I know, Sir, whether Government have decided finally not to construct an embankment along Gupta-Bandh to Lakminia ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : The question is under consideration of Government, and they have not been able yet to decide what action should be taken with regard to the suggestions made in the questions put by the hon'ble member.

Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINGH : Are Government aware of the fact that a committee consisting of expert non-officials was appointed to go through the whole question of the *bundh* ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Yes, Government are aware of it.

Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINGH : Will Government be pleased to state what was the opinion of that committee as regards this *bundh* ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : That will involve a very large answer and will involve certain references to files. If the hon'ble member is anxious to know what the recommendation of that committee is, I shall refer him to the files and shall place these files at his disposal if he wants the information.

Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINGH : Am I to conclude from that that Government consider that the *bundh*, if constructed, is likely to damage the people on the other side of the Ganges ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Yes, the entire question is under consideration, and the hon'ble member may be aware that I have invited a conference of officials and non-officials to meet sometime next month at Muzaffarpur, where I propose to submit all the recommendations of the Flood Committee for the consideration of that committee; and after the committee has come to certain conclusions, Government will then decide what further action should be taken.

Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINGH : May I conclude that in spite of the answer to clause (d), Government have not come finally to any decision and that they will reconsider this matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Yes, Government have not come to any final decision. As it is a very serious question, it will take some time before they will be in a position to take any definite course.

FLOODING IN MAJORGANJ AND PUPRI THANAS, MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT.

5. Mr. TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a portion of the areas of the police-stations of Majorganj and Pupri, in the subdivision of Sitamarhi in the district of Muzaffarpur, is submerged under water during floods ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to take any remedial steps in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Government considered it inadvisable to take early action as flood problems must be considered on broad lines, and action taken as regards a local area may have disastrous effects elsewhere. For sometime past Government have been collecting data and information, especially as regards the Pupri area, and a scheme is under preparation for river control in the neighbourhood of the Sikao *bandh*, but the Agrapatti and a host of other *bandhs* are also largely responsible for this flooding. These have been carefully mapped, and their ill effect on this area has been appreciated by Government who are having the maps and the report printed for the information of local officers and district board officials whose opinion will be invited as to putting remedial measures into effect. For this Government are convening a conference of officials and non-officials in Muzaffarpur towards the end of September when the flood problems of North Bihar as a whole will be discussed.

CONSTRUCTION OF A CANAL IN THE BHABUA SUBDIVISION IN THE DISTRICT OF SHAHABAD.

6. Pandit GUPTESHWAR PANDEY : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a scheme for the construction of a canal in the Bhabua subdivision of the district of Shahabad was under their consideration when