

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.

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

the late Maharaja Bahadur Kesava Prasad Singh of Dumraon was the Finance Member of Government ;

(b) whether the scheme has since been abandoned; and if so, for what reasons ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) Yes, a scheme for the construction of a reservoir and a system of irrigation canals in the Bhabua subdivision was under the consideration of Government during the years 1924—28.

(b) The project was abandoned due to the enormous expense involved without a sufficient return to Government, and because the people were not unanimous in devising the scheme.

Mr. HARINANDAN SINGH : Sir, the answer given is rather vague.

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : The answer is bound to be vague in a matter like this. If the hon'ble member wants to have a definite information on this point, I shall refer him to the papers which deal with this problem, but this cannot be done at this stage. If he wants to know more about it, it will certainly be easy to supply him with full information at a later date.

Mr. HARINANDAN SINGH : Are Government prepared to say that the people of the locality were not unanimous ? Am I to infer that that is the meaning ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : That will apparently be the meaning. Certain sections of the people in that area must not be liking the scheme. If the hon'ble member wants to have definite information on this point he will surely get it, and I promise to place the necessary information in his hands in a short time at a later date.

Mr. RAMCHARITRA SINGH : Will Government be pleased to state whether this project was abandoned by this Ministry or by this Ministry which was its immediate predecessor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : This Ministry has not taken any action in so far as this project is concerned. I am only speaking in the terms of the decision taken by my predecessor.

Mr. Saiyid NAJMUL HASAN : When will they take action in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : I suppose the question does not arise.

Mr. HARENDRA BAHADUR CHANDRA :

क्या मैं दरियाफ़ कर सकता हूँ कि मुज़फ़्फ़रपुर में जो कॉन्फ़ेन्स होने जा रही है उसमें इस प्रोपोज़ल (proposal) के बारे में बिचार किया जायगा या नहीं ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA :

मेरा ख़्याल यह है कि यह प्रोजेक्ट (project) इस कॉन्फ़ेन्स (conference) के अन्दर शामिल नहीं है। यह प्रोजेक्ट (project) ख़ास ऐरिया (area) के बारे में है। मुज़फ़्फ़रपुर में जो कॉन्फ़ेन्स होने जा रही है उसमें नार्थ बिहार यानी गंगाजी के उत्तर (north) में जो बाढ़ (floods) आते हैं वहाँ के बारे में है।

Mr. HARINANDAN SINGH : Arising from answer (b), Sir, will Government be pleased to state.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon'ble member exhausted his right when he was first on his legs.

Mr. MANINDRA NATH MUKHARJI : May I just say a word on this point of putting supplementary questions, Sir? As soon as a member puts a supplementary question arising out of a particular question, and then discontinues, does he forfeit the right of putting any supplementary question even when the question is being discussed?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He should put all his questions that he wants to put in that connection before discontinuing and as soon as he discontinues, he exhausts his right of putting further supplementary questions in that connection.

Mr. MANINDRA NATH MUKHARJI : My submission is that, that is not the practice in other provincial Legislative Assemblies or the Central Assembly. That is why I seek some sort of ruling in this connection. The practice in the last Council was perhaps based upon a ruling of a President of the Council but I submit it is not necessary to adhere to that ruling and the point may be reconsidered by you, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I shall consider that.

Mr. VINDHYESHVARI PRASHAD VARMA : What will be the position if further supplementary questions arise from answers to supplementary questions?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is another matter.

Mr. BUDHAN RAI VERMA :

क्या सरकार यह बतायेगी कि जब उसकी आमदनी काफ़ी होगी तभी इस project को take up किया जायगा ?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : I have already said that the question has been sufficiently answered. The scheme is bound to be sanctioned if the money is available. As already stated in the reply the scheme was opposed by a certain section of the people.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Mr. JIMUT BAHAN SEN : Sir, I rise to move :

The Assembly do proceed with the election of a member to represent the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the East Indian Railway Advisory Committee.

Sir, I may explain the purpose behind this motion in a few words.

The Railways are public utility concerns. Their affairs should, therefore, be guided by Advisory Committees which should contain members of the public. This principle was accepted under the Railway Board's memorandum of 1922, and Railways have since been required to keep representatives from public on their Advisory Committees. Such representatives are chosen from different interests of public concern among which the Legislature is regarded to be one such, and rightly so.

The gentleman who is now there was elected by the Bihar Legislative Council. His term of office expires the next month—September. Hence my motion.

I think I should inform members of the House that there is no restriction for them to choose any one to represent them on the Committee and the representative so chosen need not necessarily be a member of this House. In my view, however, it would be desirable to select the representative from amongst those members of this House who live within the bounds of the East Indian Railway, because, such a member would be in natural touch with the Railway, and would know exactly what part of its administration needs improvement or change.

With these words, I commend the motion for consideration of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

That the Assembly do proceed with the election of a member to represent the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the East Indian Railway Advisory Committee.

The motion was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I fix 3 P. M. on the 26th August, 1937, as the time for the receipt of nominations and, if necessary, the ballot will be held on the 30th August, 1937, after lunch or earlier, if the work is finished.