

THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES.

Monday, the 10th February 1947.

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 on Monday, the 10th February, 1947, at 11-30 A. M., the Hon'ble the Speaker, Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prasada Varma, in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARVATION OF MINISTERIAL OFFICERS SERVING UNDER THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED RISE IN PRICES.

101. Mr. CHETU RAM*: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial condition of the ministerial officers have already become so worse that further delay in increasing their pay and the dearness allowance will undoubtedly cause them to starve;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of all the necessary things for life have gone at least 4 times high and the dearness allowance so far allowed is only Rs. 22 a month which cannot improve the deplorable financial hardships of the ministerial officers entailed by the high prices;

(c) if the answers to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, when do Government propose to increase their pay and dearness allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA: (a) and (b) In order to give relief to low paid Government servants Government have from time to time increased dearness and other allowances. The last revision took place as recently as September 1946 and the rates of dearness allowance, additional pay and food concession allowance are given in Resolution no. 69-F.R., dated the 12th September 1946, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House. These rates are similar to the rates adopted by the Central Government for their employees.

(c) The question of the adequacy of allowances is constantly under the examination of Government and as regards pay the general question of pay revision has been taken up.

Copy of Government of Bihar, Finance Department, Resolution no. 69-F. R., dated the 12th September 1946.

1. In view of the continued rise in prices, and in order to bring the allowances granted to Provincial Government servants into conformity with the allowances granted to Central Government servants, the Provincial Government have decided to cancel, with effect from the 1st April 1946, the minimum rates of cost of living allowance specified in Resolution

*In the absence of the questioner, the answer was given at the request of Mr. Mosahob Sinha.

printed. Therefore I got those copies late. I think I got them just when I was in Simla perhaps. On my return from there there was this communal trouble and therefore I could not get these allegations examined and enquired into and a tabular statement prepared. Two specific cases of acts of cruelty have been supplied to Government and Government like to take action on them at the earliest moment. If after examining the speeches of the hon'ble members, made in the Assembly here in the course of the debate on that resolution, it is found that there are cases which need enquiry and which need action being taken, indeed Government will do what would be necessary in these cases.

Mr. PHUALN PRASAD VARMA : Have Government received a report of the Committee appointed by Bihar Lawyers' Association about these cases ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : I do not remember whether Government have received anything from them.

120. Cancelled.

TAKING OF FINGER-PRINTS BY POLICE AUTHORITIES OF SHREE RAM GOVIND SAO EVEN AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT.

121. Mr. SHAYAM NANDAN SINGH : Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one Shree Ram Govind Sao of Bihta, Patna, who was convicted in connection with the 1942 Movement was forced by the police authorities of Bihta Police-station to give his finger-prints after his release from jail ;

(b) if so, whether the said Shree Ram Govind Sao is being persistently harassed for giving his finger-prints to the police under threats of physical force and other troubles ;

(c) if the answer to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : (a) and (b). The finger-prints of Shree Ram Govind Sao should have been taken at the time of his conviction but due to oversight this was not done. When the omission came to notice, the police tried to obtain them.

(c) No more attempts are being made to obtain finger-prints from Shree Ram Govind Sao.

Mr. JAGAT NARAIN LAL : Will Government consider the desirability of stopping the practice of taking finger-prints of political prisoners in jails ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : Yes, certainly. But there are no political prisoners at present.

Mr. JAGAT NARAIN LAL : I may concede that there are no political prisoners ; I do not know the exact number. But what I want to know is whether Government would like to examine the desirability of stopping such practice ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : I have already said : Yes.

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HARASSMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONS FOR OBTAINING THEIR FINGER-PRINTS WHO WERE CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1942 MOVEMENT.

122. Mr. SHYAM NANDAN SINGH : Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state —

(a) whether the police authorities of Bihar have been harassing certain other persons also convicted in connection with the 1942 Movement for obtaining their finger-prints ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative the authority under whose orders the police were obtaining such finger-prints and whether Government propose to take action in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : (a) and (b). It is not possible to give a reply to a question of such a general nature. If specific instances are cited, an enquiry will be made.

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COLLECTIVE FINES REALISED AND REFUNDED IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE SANTAL PARGANAS AND BHAGALPUR.

123. Mr. GAURISHANKAR DALMIA* : Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount of collective fines imposed and realised in the districts of Santal Parganas and Bhagalpur village by village during the August Movement between the years 1942 to 1945 and the amount returned so far ?

The Hon'ble Mr. SRI KRISHNA SINHA : The amount of collective fines imposed and realised in these two districts for the year 1942 and up to 31st March 1946 are as follows :—

District.	Fine imposed.			Fine realised.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Santal Parganas..	81,186	9	0	16,226	13	3
Bhagalpur ..	2,90,467	0	0	2,16,942	2	6

The amounts refunded till the end of November 1946 are as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Santal Parganas ..	6,568	8	3
Bhagalpur ..	45,499	6	0

*In the absence of the questioner, the answer was given at the request of Mr. Lamboda Mukherjee.