

Proceedings of the Fourteenth Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly, assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 p.m., on Friday, the 3rd March, 1944.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-nine hon. Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will the Hon'ble Premier like to answer the Question in the absence of the hon. Questioner under rule 38 of the Assembly Rules ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have no objection, Sir.

Re : Ban on export of paddy and rice from the Province

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

†*2. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) Whether they are aware of the reasons as to why the ban restricting the export of paddy and rice from the Province of Assam to some other Provinces was withdrawn by the Central Government by an order dated the 18th May, 1943 from the Surma Valley Districts only ?

(b) Whether the Government of Assam was consulted by the Central Government before the passing of such an order ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

2. (a)—The ban was withdrawn by Government of India in order to relieve the acute scarcity prevailing in Bengal. It was done in respect of the Surma Valley only as the supplies for the Army were being drawn from the Assam Valley.

(b)—No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

*Re : Security Prisoner, Mr. Hareswar Goswami, B. A. (Cantab.),
Barrister-at-Law*

Srijut RAM NATH DAS asked :

1. (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Hareswar Goswami, B.A. (Cantab.), Barrister-at-Law, security prisoner in Sylhet Jail has been suffering from serious liver and eye troubles for the last one year ?

† Starred question No.2 was answered by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge under rule 38 of the Assembly Rules although the Questioner was absent.

(b) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Sylhet Jail reported that he should be X'rayed and treated in Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that he has been suffering from gall stones and inflammation of liver?

(d) Do Government propose to get him treated in Calcutta and to release him on account of his ill health?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1. (a) to (c)—Government received several medical reports on the security prisoner, the last of which advised that he should be examined by a specialist in regard to his eyes and liver.

(d)—In view of the report the security prisoner has already been released under certain conditions for the purpose.

Grant of dearness allowance to Local Board Primary School Teachers

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked:

2. Will Government be pleased to state whether their proposal to pay 60 per cent. of their pay as dearness allowance to Local Board Primary School teachers has been postponed?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

2.—No.

Re: Supply of Assembly proceedings to M. L. As in Jail.

Mr BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, before we take up the business of the day may I request the Hon'ble Minister to let us know.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Hon'ble Mr. Rupnath Brahma, Sir. During the last November session in reply to a Question of mine he gave us an assurance that he would enquire about the supply of Assembly proceedings to the hon. Members in detention. I hope by this time he is in a position to give a reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I shall let the hon. Member know during the session.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: And I requested you, also, Sir, to make an enquiry about this matter. May we know the result of your enquiry?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, in answer to a reference to Government I have since received certain informations. As the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge has just now said that he would let the hon. Member know what he wants to know about the matter I don't like to place now before the House the informations that have been conveyed to me by Government. If the informations that the Hon'ble Minister would supply to the hon. Member do not satisfy him, he may then ask for the informations that are in my possession.

The Indian Registration (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1944.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just now received certain points which have been raised by the present permanent Inspector General of Registration which require consideration and in view of this I don't like to move the Indian Registration (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1944 during this session.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then the Bill is not going to be moved.

The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1944.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1944.

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. Sir, this is a small piece of non-contentious Bill. I have stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the purpose for which this Bill has become necessary and I don't think that I have got anything further to add. Hon. Members will also find that under the present Act the Municipal Boards have got no power to grant license for temporary cinema shows and things of that sort. We would like, by this Bill, to give such powers to the Municipal Boards so that they can grant licenses by realising fees for temporary shows.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved is: "That the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1944 be taken into consideration."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In this connection, will the Hon'ble Minister make one point clear which is not quite clear to me. I consulted some of my hon. friends who are Chairmen of Local Boards, as regards the difference of the words "the Board" and "the Board at a meeting." I consulted the Act also and there I have found only the word "Board" has been defined but "the Board at a meeting" has not been defined. So, what does the Hon'ble Minister mean by these, viz, one "the Board" and the other "the Board at a meeting". The meaning of the later is clear but the former is controversial.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, the words "Board at a meeting", I think, are quite clear but the only difficulty with the hon. Member is perhaps with regard to the word "Board". I mean by this word the 'Chairman'. For the temporary shows it is not possible to call for a meeting of the Board within a short period. Temporary shows are held some time for two or three days only. In that case we want that the powers should be exercised by the Chairman himself without convening a meeting.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Are we to understand that the word 'Board' means Chairman?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Yes, Chairman, also the Vice-Chairman, who might be in charge.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Very well, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the question.

The question is: "That the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1944 be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The time for tabling amendments to this Bill would be up to 3 P.M. of the 6th March, 1944.

This finishes the business of the day, I think.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Saturday, the 4th March, 1944.

SHILLONG,

The 22nd March 1944.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

