

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1921



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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION)

VOLUME I.
FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION, 1921.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 3rd February, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at a Quarter before Three of the Clock, being the first day of the meeting of this Assembly, pursuant to S. 63D (2) of the Government of India Act, and the President (the Honourable Mr. ALEXANDER FREDERICK WHYTE) took the Chair.

The Honourable the President: Under the new constitution of this Legislative Assembly, Members are required to take the Oath or to affirm in the manner prescribed. The President will now take the Oath.

The Honourable the President then, standing, took the Oath.

The Honourable the President: Members will now take the Oath or affirm in the order called upon by the Secretary.

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey, C.S.I., C.I.E.; the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.; the Honourable Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru; Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh, M.L.A.; Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi, M.L.A.; Sir Logie Pirie Watson, Kt., M.L.A.; Raja Surj Bakhsh Singh, O.B.E., M.L.A.; Sir Frank Carter, Kt., C.I.E., C.B.E., M.L.A.; Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari, Kt., C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mr. E. L. Price, O.B.E., M.L.A.; Mr. R. A. Spence, M.L.A.; Mr. S. C. Shahani, M.L.A.; Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., M.L.A.; Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, M.L.A.; Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas, M.L.A.; M. R. Ry. Rama Varma Valia Raja, M.L.A.; Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mir Asad Ali, Khan Bahadur, M.L.A.; Sir Godfrey Fell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., M.L.A.; Mr. C. A. Innes, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mr. S. P. O'Donnell, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mr. H. Sharp, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mr. E. Burdon, M.L.A.; Mr. J. Hullah, M.L.A.; Sir Sydney Crookshank, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., M.L.A.; Colonel W. D. Waghorn, C.B., C.M.G., R.E., M.L.A.; Lieutenant Nawab Mohammad Ibrahim Ali Khan, M.L.A.; Mr. W. C. Renouf, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Khan Bahadur Chaudhuri Wajid Hussain, M.L.A.; Mr. C. E. Wild, M.L.A.; Mr. A. D. Pickford, M.L.A.;

Mr. Darcy Lindsey, C.B.E., M.L.A.; Prince Afsar-ul-Mulk Mirza Muhammad Akram Hussain Bahadur, M.L.A.; Nawab Khwaja Habibullah of Dacca, M.L.A.; Mr. Rehimtoola Currimbhoy, M.L.A.; Mr. Manmohandas Ramji, M.L.A.; Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas, M.L.A.; Mr. Jahangir Kaikhosru Navroji Kabraji, M.L.A.; Mr. P. E. Percival, M.L.A.; Mr. J. F. Bryant, M.L.A.; Mr. Bhupatiraju Venkatapatiraju Garu, M.L.A.; Rao Bahadur Tiruvankata Rangachariar, M.L.A.; Mr. H. N. Hutchinson, O.B.E., M.L.A.; Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, M.L.A.; Raja Sivanandan Prasad Singh, O.B.E., M.L.A.; Babu Braja Sundar Das, M.L.A.; Babu Adit Prashad Sinha, M.L.A.; Babu Baidyanath Prashad Singh, M.L.A.; Rai Nimai Charan Mitter Bahadur, M.L.A.; Sardar Bomanji Ardeshir Dalal, M.L.A.; Mr. Narayan Madhav Samarth, M.L.A.; Mr. Kavalappara Mupil Nayar, M.L.A.; Mr. M. G. Mukundaraja Aiyangar, M.L.A.; Mr. Mannur Krishnaswami Reddiar, M.L.A.; Mr. M. Sambanda Mudaliar, M.L.A.; Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanyam, M.L.A.; Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habibullah, M.L.A.; Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Husain Khan, M.L.A.; Maulvi Miyan Asjad-ullah of Mehangaon, M.L.A.; Rai Sarat Chandra Sen Bahadur, M.L.A.; Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha, M.L.A.; Mr. Ahmad Baksh Khan, M.L.A.; Chaudhri Shahab-ud-din, M.L.A.; Dr. Nand Lal, M.L.A.; Rai Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal, M.L.A.; Rai Bahadur Pandit Jawahar Lal Bhargava, M.L.A.; Munshi Mahadeo Prasad, M.L.A.; Rai Bahadur Bishambhar Nath, M.L.A.; Pandit Radha Kishen Das, M.L.A.; Lala Girdharilal Agarwala, M.L.A.; Mr. Pyari Lal, M.L.A.; Munshi Iswar Saran, M.L.A.; Mr. Nibaran Chandra Sircar, M.L.A.; Mr. Debendra Kumar Mitter, M.L.A.; Babu Jogendra Nath Mukherjee, M.L.A.; Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally, M.L.A.; Mr. Alli Buksh Mohamed Hussain, M.L.A.; Mr. Salebhoy Karimji Barodawalla, M.L.A.; Mr. A. B. Latthe, M.L.A.; Mr. Keshao Ganesh Bagde, M.L.A.; Mr. B. S. Kamat, M.L.A.; Sardar Gulamjilani Bijlikhan, M.L.A.; Mr. J. P. Cotelingham, M.L.A.; Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar, M.L.A.; Mr. Mahmood S'Chamnad Saheb Bahadur, M.L.A.; Mr. T. Muhammad Husain Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A.; Khan Sahib Chaudhari Ghulam Sarwar Khan, M.L.A.; Khan Sahib Mirza Mohamad Ikramulla Khan, M.L.A.; Mr. S. M. Zahid Ali Subzposh, M.L.A.; Mr. Syed Nabi Hadi, M.L.A.; Mr. Mohammad Faiyaz Khan, M.L.A.; Mr. Mohammad Yamin Khan, M.L.A.; Haji Wajih-ud-din, M.L.A.; Rai Shewpershad Tulshan Bahadur, M.L.A.; Khan Bahadur Zahiruddin Ahmed, M.L.A.; Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Abdulla, M.L.A.; Mr. J. Chaudhuri, M.L.A.; Mr. Khitish Chandra Neogy, M.L.A.; Rai Jadunath Mozoomdar Bahadur, Vedanta Vachaspati, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Sardar Gulab Singh, M.L.A.; Bhai Man Singh, M.L.A.; Makhdom Sayad Rajan Baksh Shah, M.L.A.; Rai Nagendra Nath Chaudhri Bahadur, M.L.A.; Mr. A. W. Dentith, M.L.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel D. Herbert, M.L.A.; Mr. Amjad Ali, M.L.A.; Rai Girischandra Nag Bahadur, M.L.A.; Srijiut Debi Charan Barua, M.L.A.; Khan Sahib Maulvi Abdul Qadir, M.L.A.; Mr. Bhimrao Hanumant Rao Jatkar, M.L.A.; Mr. W. N. Maw, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Dr. H. S. Gour, M.L.A.; Mr. W. J. Keith, C.I.E., M.L.A.; Mr. F. McCarthy, M.L.A.; Mr. Padamji Pestonji Ginwala, M.L.A.; Mr. Pyari Lal Misra, M.L.A.; Beohar Raghubeer Sinha, M.L.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney, M.L.A.; Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A.; Shaikh Abdul Majid, M.L.A.

The Honourable the President: His Excellency the Governor General of India has been pleased to transmit a message to the Legislative Assembly

which Members will hear rising to their feet in accordance with the usual Parliamentary custom, but I may say that, having risen to their feet as a mark of respect, in the common usage of Parliament, it is not necessary for the Assembly to remain standing during the reading of the message.

The message reads :

"In pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 63 (B) of the Government of India Act, I, Frederick John Napier, Baron Chelmsford, hereby require the attendance of Members of the Legislative Assembly in this Chamber at 10-30 O'Clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 9th February, 1921.

(Sd.) CHELMSFORD.

Governor General of India."

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT :

The next item of business to be transacted under the Standing Orders is the election of a Deputy President. I am now open to receive nominations in the form and according to the regulations provided under the Standing Orders of the Assembly.

I have received one nomination in the following terms :

'I beg to give notice that I wish to propose Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha to be elected Deputy President of the Legislative Assembly.

(Sd.) ISWAR SARAN.'

'I beg to second that.

(Sd.) GIRDHARI LAL AGARWALA.'

Are there any further nominations ?

I have to ask these two gentlemen, the proposer and seconder, whether they have the permission of the candidate himself to present his name to the Assembly.

Munshi Iswar Saran : I have, Sir.

Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala : I also have, Sir.

The Honourable the President : Failing further nominations.....

Mr. E. L. Price : The nominations are being written out.

Srijut Debi Charan Barua : I want to nominate another gentleman.

The Honourable the President : The Member is at liberty to nominate him.

The second nomination handed in, is that of Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari, proposed by Babu Jogendra Nath Mukherjee and seconded by Rai Jadunath Mozoomdar Bahadur. These gentlemen, I presume, have the authority of their candidate.

Babu Jogendra Nath Mukherjee : Yes.

Rai Jadunath Mozoomdar Bahadur : Yes.

The Honourable the President: The third nomination is that of Dr. H. S. Gour, proposed by Mr. S. C. Shahani, and seconded by Mr. Pyari Lal.

Are there any further nominations?—

There being no further nominations, three candidates have been duly proposed and seconded. Their names and those of their proposers and seconders have already been read to the Assembly. But I will read their names once more :

Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha,

Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari, and

Dr. H. S. Gour.

I think it would be consulting the convenience of the Assembly if the ballot to be taken as between these three names were taken at a meeting to be held on Saturday at noon. The further meeting of this Assembly will be held on Saturday at noon to enable those, who could not present themselves at the table to-day, to take the Oath or to affirm in due form, to do so in order that they may be Members of the Assembly in time for the inauguration of the Assembly by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

This Assembly, therefore, stands adjourned till Noon on Saturday, February 5th.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 5th February, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Twelve of the Clock. The Honourable the President in the Chair.

The Honourable the President: Members desiring to take the Oath will please present themselves at the table in the order in which their names are called by the Secretary. They will take the Oath or affirm in the manner prescribed.

MEMBERS SWORN :

Mr. Eardley Norton, M.L.A. ; Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal, M.L.A. ; Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail, M.L.A. ; Rao Bahadur Conjeeveram Krishnaswami Rao, M.L.A. ; and Rai Bahadur Sankata Pershad Bajpai, M.L.A.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT :

The Honourable the President: The Assembly will now proceed to ballot for the election of a Deputy President. Three candidates having been duly nominated at the previous meeting of the Assembly, the election will be held without further delay. Ballot papers will be circulated by the officials of the Assembly to Members who will vote according to the instructions printed thereon.

You will now proceed to ballot. Each Member having duly filled up his ballot paper will advance to the table and place it in the ballot box with his own hand.

(The Members then proceeded to deposit the ballot papers in the box.)

The Honourable the President: Secretary will now open the box and count the votes.

(After the count.)

The Honourable the President: The result of the election of a Deputy President is as follows :

There have voted for Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha 67, for Dr. H. S. Gour 24, for Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari 22.

I, therefore, declare Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha elected Deputy President.

Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha: I would like to say a word if you will permit me, Sir. I desire to convey to you my sense of profound gratefulness for the signal honour conferred upon me. I have had about 30 years in public life and I have been in this Council for 11 years. But I regard my election to-day as an honour of which I may be justly proud. I have no desire to detain you any longer than to express a hope that I shall be able to justify the confidence reposed in me.

The Honourable the President: Mr. Deputy President, as you have accepted the office to which you have been elected, I may, I hope, be allowed, on behalf of what I think I may call a united Assembly, to welcome you to the duties of your new office.

Gentlemen of the Assembly, certain questions have been brought to my notice relating to the comfort of Members both in regard to the provision made

[The President.]

for them out at Raisina, in hostels and elsewhere. As matters of this kind must of necessity be raised from time to time during the sittings of the Assembly, I think it would be convenient for all of us that there should be an established body through whom suggestions and complaints can be made—a body which will be in the greater part advisory, but may perhaps have other duties entrusted to it. I, therefore, wish to announce this morning that as soon as may be a House Committee—I do not say the name ‘House Committee’ is necessarily finally approved, but a House Committee similar to that which rules over the affairs of a Club—will shortly be established in order to deal with such matters. As soon as it is established, I hope it will become the practice and the custom of Members to deal through the Committee within the Department or official concerned with their welfare and their comfort.

I would now ask the Government whether they are prepared to make a statement regarding the business which they propose to take at the first meeting after the celebrations next week—the first meeting being held on the 15th February.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR 15TH FEBRUARY:

The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey: Before I comply with your request, Sir, perhaps you will allow me to say on behalf of Government that the proposal that you have just placed before the Assembly in regard to the constitution of a Committee is entirely acceptable to Government: I may say with confidence on behalf of my Honourable friend in charge of the Legislative Department and my Honourable friend in charge of the Public Works Department that they will welcome the co-operation of such a Committee.

With regard to the business of the House on the 15th, Sir, we propose to introduce a Bill regulating the salary of the Deputy President of the Assembly; also to introduce a Bill regarding the Indian Tea Cess. And we further propose to deal with the Resolution tabled by Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas relating to the administration of martial law in the Punjab. I have, I may say, ascertained that that course will be welcome to Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas.

The Honourable the President: I have to announce, for the information of Members, that a further opportunity for taking the Oath or affirming in the manner prescribed will be given immediately before the formal inauguration of the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature on Wednesday, the 9th, at or about 9-30 or 9-40 A.M. The opportunity will be given successively, first, I understand, as already announced in the other Chamber, to Members of that Chamber, and then to Members of this Chamber in order that they may be present at the inauguration. I would remind Members—and I hope they will remind their Colleagues who have not yet presented themselves—that they will not be permitted to attend the formal inauguration of the Indian Legislature by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught unless they have previously taken the Oath and thereby become full Members of either Chamber.

The further business before the Members of the Assembly this morning is the ballot for Bills and Resolutions which will be taken in an informal manner in this Chamber. I shall vacate the chair, but I would invite Members to remain in their seats until the ballot for Bills and Resolutions has been taken in order that it may be taken smoothly and in an orderly fashion.

This Assembly stands adjourned till Wednesday morning, February 9th, at 9-30 A.M., and thereafter till February 15th, at 11 A.M.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 9th February, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at a Quarter to Ten of the Clock. The Honourable the President in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

Raja Khushalpal Singh ; Mr. Satish Chander Ghosh ; Rai Bahadur Patri Venkata Srinivasa Rao Garu.
