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**THE**  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**  
**(Official Report)**

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**Volume II, 1939**

*(16th February to 13th March, 1939)*

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**NINTH SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,**  
**1939**



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# Legislative Assembly.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 23rd February, 1939.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

## DEATH OF HIS EXCELLENCY LORD BRABOURNE, GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, before you take up the day's work, may I convey to you and the House the sad news of the sudden and tragic death of Lord Brabourne, the Governor of Bengal. I would not, Sir, have mentioned the matter at all in this House but for the fact that he was the Viceroy of India when this House was in Session at Simla. I need hardly say that everybody will deplore and feel extremely sorry for this incident. This is not the occasion for going into politics, but I do not think I shall be contradicted if I say that he was extremely popular with all sections, Indian and European. He had the rare knack of being able to mix freely and to talk frankly to every section of the Indian and European community irrespective of their political attitude. I hope the House will agree to mark its sign of regret and adjourn the business of the House today.

We all see that today is the last day for the Railway Budget and the guillotine is expected to come off at five o'clock. But for our part, if the House will agree, we are quite willing that the whole business which has been set down for today may be taken up on Saturday which so far has been a blank day. I hope the House will agree to the course I suggest and send a message of condolence to the bereaved family, and express sympathy with Lady Brabourne in her deep distress.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Deputy Leader, Congress Party): Sir, I should like to associate my Party and myself with the feelings of sorrow which the Honourable the Leader of the House has expressed on the sad and sudden death of Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bengal. I did not have the privilege of knowing him, but our Leader, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, knew him and has told me that he was personally a popular gentleman with all sections of the people with whom he came into contact. The Honourable the Leader of the House has mentioned the fact that Lord Brabourne was acting as Viceroy and Governor General of India, while the House was in Session in Simla. We should like you, Sir, to convey to Lady Brabourne the sentiments of sorrow and sympathy of every section of this House. and I should like to associate my Party with the suggestion of the Honourable the Leader of the House that the House may be adjourned today, as a mark of respect to his memory.

**Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad** (on behalf of the Muslim League Party): Sir, I should like to associate myself and my Party with the expression of grief expressed by the Honourable the Leader of the House. We were much shocked to hear the sudden, tragic and quite unexpected news of Lord Brabourne's death. I had the privilege of knowing Lord Brabourne, personally, not only when he was Viceroy, but I had an opportunity to

discuss various affairs with him when he was the Governor of Bombay and I was much impressed with the sympathy he evinced for India and Indians. He was the Rector of Aligarh University and in that capacity I came into personal contact with him. I associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House and by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

**Mr. A. Aikman** (Leader of the European Group): Sir, the sad news of Lord Brabourne's death has come as a great shock to the Members of my Party. Some of them, like myself, have lost a personal friend. I would associate my Group with the tributes that have been paid to the memory of the deceased and support the suggestion that the House adjourn.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Deputy Leader, Congress Nationalist Party): Sir, on behalf of the Congress Nationalist Party, I associate myself with all that has been said about the sad death of Lord Brabourne. We scarcely thought that the end was so near and would be so tragic. We were discussing about his illness only this morning, and we are all very sorry that the end has come so soon. Although I did not have the privilege of knowing him personally, yet I always entertained a very high opinion about him. He was the most popular Governor in Bombay, and so was he in my province. Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House and by Leaders of other Parties.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We are all shocked by the sad news received this morning of the unexpected death of His Excellency Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bengal. Many of us had been privileged to know him here as the Viceroy of India in the last Simla Session and none could have conceived that the end was so near at hand. I associate myself with all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House, by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and by other speakers. It will be my duty to convey a message of our profound sympathy and condolence to Lady Brabourne.

As agreed upon by all sections of the House, the House will adjourn for today as a mark of respect to the memory of Lord Brabourne. The House will meet on Saturday to transact today's business.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti**: As regards a meeting on Saturday, I wish to submit that most Members of my Party have fixed previous engagement elsewhere and I would suggest to the Honourable the Leader of the House—I understand that other Parties also are agreed—that we should transact today's business tomorrow, and Friday's business may be put down for Monday. It is inconvenient for Members of my Party and for other Parties also, to attend on Saturday.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar**: We have no objection if that commends itself to the House. But I take it that the whole agenda for today, including questions, will be put up for tomorrow.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now adjourn till eleven o'clock tomorrow. ✓

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 24th February, 1939.