





THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on Thursday, the 15th September 1938

**Enquiry whether business of the Assembly will be adjourned due to the resignation of the Ministry and till a new Ministry is formed**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** After the development that took place on Tuesday last in consequence of a no-confidence motion that came up before the House, the present Ministry resigned, and the hon. members are perhaps aware that no new Ministry has yet been formed and that fact is proved by the presence of the Hon'ble Ministers, who resigned, in their seats to-day. But I may tell the House that the Leader of the Opposition has been called upon by His Excellency the Governor to form the Ministry and he has been given reasonable time for it. So far as the business of to-day is concerned, I must draw the attention of the hon. members to the fact that although the Hon'ble Ministers are in their seats to-day, they cannot function here in regard to questions and resolutions that are fixed for to-day and, therefore, I have not asked the Office to lay on the table of the members the answers to unstarred questions. If the hon. members wish to go on with the questions they may do so, but I must point out to the hon. members that no useful purpose would be served because with regard to answers to unstarred questions the Hon'ble Ministers cannot answer the supplementary questions that may arise from the answers that are laid on the table and also with regard to the starred questions they are in a similar position. So I wish to know whether the House want to put questions. With regard to resolutions also the Hon'ble Ministers will not be able to take any part and lay before the House Government views. So, if the House do not like to go on with the questions or resolutions to-day I must adjourn the House. The hon. members know that to-morrow and day-after to-morrow are fixed for Government business and I wish to know from Sir Muhammad whether under these circumstances Government business can be transacted on these two days.

② **The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Sir, although we tendered our resignation on Tuesday last, His Excellency the Governor, for reasons known to him, has not yet informed us that he has accepted our resignation and, therefore, we shall continue as Ministers so long a new Cabinet is not formed, but the constitutional position is known to all the members of the Hon'ble House that we should not do anything or take a stand as regards any resolution with which our successors may disagree. Therefore, we would not take part in any debate. I think, it will be only fair and reasonable on our part not to intervene if the House discusses any resolution. If the private members who have tabled resolutions want to discuss, we will only listen and we will not reply to anything. So far as the unstarred questions are concerned, replies were drafted long ago and they have been printed and are ready to be placed before the House. The main object of putting questions is to elicit information and whether this Government or any other Government function, they are bound to supply information. We find in ordinary practice that each question carries behind it a hint of a principle or policy. So according to that principle, it will not be proper for the present Ministry at the time when it is in dissolution to give vent in reply to the policy that they so long followed or they would have followed had they been in office longer. Under the circumstances, I submit that it will be best if the House do adjourn. So far as Government business for to-morrow and day-after to-morrow is concerned, we do not propose to go on with it till the new Ministry is formed. Under the circumstances, I



will make a suggestion to you, Sir, to adjourn the session of the House till Monday next so that in the meantime a Ministry may come into existence and function properly from that date. ✓

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think, the hon. members of the House will agree that under the circumstances which have been placed before the House by Sir Muhammad, the House should stand adjourned till Monday next. Of course, let us all hope that by that time a new Ministry would come into existence, whoever may form it, but the Leader of the Opposition has undertaken to form it. If he succeeds, it is well and good. On Monday next we shall know who are the Ministers and we may go on with our business. If the hon. members would like, the House may be adjourned.

**Announcement of the results of elections to the Industrial section of the Board for Development and the Central Text-book Committee and request for the early return of corrected speeches**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But before the members disperse, I wish to announce the results of the two elections that were held.

Firstly, with regard to the election to the Industrial Section of the Board for Development, Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury has secured the largest number of votes. So he has been elected a member of that Board.

Then, with regard to the election to the Central Text Book Committee, the following members are declared to be duly elected:—

1. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
2. Srijut Mahadev Sarma,
3. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua,
4. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia and
5. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.

Then there is another matter to which I would draw the attention of the hon. members. It has been brought to my notice that corrected speeches are not returned to the Reporters timely, and about 60 pages of the transcripts of the 5th September still remain unreturned. A circular letter has been issued to the hon. members to the effect that corrected speeches are to be returned to the Reporters within 24 hours. Hon. members will realise that unless the corrected speeches are returned in time, there will be delay in publishing the Assembly proceedings. In this connection I would say that it is necessary that the Assembly proceedings be published as quickly as possible. Hon. members know how I have tried to expedite the publication of the proceedings in every session and if the hon. members do not co-operate with me in this respect, timely publication of the proceedings will naturally be delayed. That would certainly cause inconvenience to the hon. members and to the general public who are eager to know what takes place on the floor of the House.

I now adjourn the House till 11 a.m. on Monday next.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Monday, the 19th September 1938.

SHILLONG:

19th November, 1938.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary Legislative Assembly, Assam.

