

Proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled under the announcement of the 22nd July, 1947 made by His Excellency the Governor General in connection with the election of representatives to the Indian Constituent Assembly by the 'A Group of Members'.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 P.M., on Tuesday the 12th August, 1947.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker in the Chair and sixty-one Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now we take up the first item in the agenda—The Message from His Excellency the Governor under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Message from His Excellency the Governor

"I, Muharamad Saleh Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam, in pursuance of the announcement of His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 22nd July 1947, hereby call upon the members of Group A of the Assam Legislative Assembly to elect their representatives to the Indian Constituent Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the said announcement.

SHILLONG :
The 12th August 1947.

A. HYDARI,
Governor of Assam."

Election of Representatives to the Indian Constituent Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The second item in the agenda—Election of Representatives to the Indian Constituent Assembly. The Secretary will please announce the procedure to be followed.

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officer) : Before the hon. Members proceed to vote, I beg, Sir, to announce the procedure that is proposed to be adopted in the matter on the floor of the House.

The Returning Officer will take his seat in front of the Hon'ble Speaker's table and call out the name of each Member for voting, one by one. He will first start with the Members of the General Part. A desk has been placed in the Noes Lobby for voting by the Members of both the Parts. During the voting the said Lobby will be kept closed so that no access to it is allowed from outside. The two doors leading to it from the Chamber will be kept open to enable Members to enter the Lobby for voting. No one except the Member voting will be allowed inside the Lobby. There are two ballot boxes, one labelled as "General Part" and the other as "Muslim Part". The one on the Returning Officer's left is meant for the ballot papers of the "General Part" and the other on the Returning Officer's right is meant for ballot papers of the "Muslim Part". The Member whose name is called out will come to the desk provided for voting in the Noes Lobby, put his ballot paper, go to the desk provided for voting in the Returning Officer's vote on the ballot paper on that desk in accordance with the Regulations, fold

the ballot paper in such a way as to keep the Returning Officer's initials on its back visible to him, drop it in the proper ballot box provided for the Part to which he belongs and then resume his seat.

I will also read out a few instructions.

1. A Member in giving his vote.—

(a) must place on his ballot paper the figure 1 in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom he votes ; (it will be seen that the square is on the left hand side of the name of each candidate) ;

(b) may in addition place on his ballot paper the figures 2 and 3, or 2, 3 and 4, and so on, in the squares opposite the names of other candidates in the order of his preference.

2. A ballot paper shall be invalid—

(a) upon which a Member signs his name or writes any word or makes any mark by which it becomes recognizable ; or

(b) which does not bear the Returning Officer's initials ; or

(c) on which the figure 1 is not marked ; or

(d) on which the figure 1 is set opposite the name of more than one candidate ; or

(e) on which the figure 1 and some other figures are set opposite the name of the same candidate, or

(f) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Everything was in a rush really. There are two hon. Members of the Muslim Part who have withdrawn their candidature but they could not file their withdrawal petition in time. They are hon. Maulavi Keramat Ali and Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem.

(The voting commenced)

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officer) :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debcswar Sarmah (Present).
 Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi (Present).
 Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy (Present).
 Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das (Present).
 Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi (Present).
 Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma (Present).
 Mrs. Bonnily Khongmen (Present).

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** For the sake of economy of time, can it not be arranged so that voting may take place in both the lobbies ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Economy undoubtedly is desirable, but it may not be applicable in all cases.

***Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA :** But some of us want to go this afternoon.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA :** And some of us are already booked.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am extremely sorry that some of the hon. Members are inconvenienced, but they must not forget that they have a duty to discharge.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : May I suggest that those hon. Members who want to go to-day may be given the ballot papers earlier ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Their names may be called earlier in preference to others. Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, you may come up.

(The names of the following Members were called out by the Returning Officer :—)

Srijut Sarat Chandra Sinha (Present).

Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua (Present).

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : As there is no contest on the Muslim Part, may I suggest that the ballot papers may be supplied to the Members in their seats to fill up ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I quite appreciate that, but there are legal technicalities.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : There is an announcement that two Members have withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But that is not legal withdrawal.

Srijut Hareswar Das (Present).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Since there are many hon. Members who want to go to-day, we shall first call up the names of those who are far away from the place and those nearer the Assembly Chamber will be called later.

(The Returning Officer then called out the names of the following Members :—)

Mr. Satindra Mohan Deb (Present).

Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah (Present).

Srijut Bijoy Chandra Bhagabati (Present).

Srijut Motiram Bora (Present).

Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma (Present).

Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri (Present).

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are Nowgong Members on this side of the House also. Is the favour shown to the Nowgong Members of that side is applicable to those of this side also ?

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Are you going to-day ?

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE :** Yes, if I am relieved.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : If there is no contest, some of the hon. Members might easily go.

*Speech not corrected.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE :** There is no contest, Sir. So the ballot papers may be supplied to us and we fill in and go.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I suppose, that will not be in order.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Yes, I have already said so. I do not think it will be in order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What I was suggesting is when there is no contest some might go even without voting.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE :** Yes, if that is relaxed, that can be relaxed for all the Members and in that case we may go.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is for the Hon'ble Leader of the Party to say.

(The Returning Officer then called out the names of the following Members :—)

- Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan (Present).
- Srijut Khagendra Nath Samaddar (Present).
- Srijut Kameswar Das (Present).
- Srijut Mahendramohan Choudhury (Present).
- Srijut Omeo Kumar Das (Present).
- Srijut Beliram Das (Present).
- Srijut Manisankar Basumatari (Present).
- Srijut Purandar Sarma (Present).
- Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar (Present).
- Srijut Purnananda Chetia (Present).
- Mr. Prabhudayal Himatsingka (Present).
- Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika (Present).
- Srijut Bimala Prasad Chaliha (Present).
- Srijut Bejoy Chandra Saikia (Present).
- Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi (Present).
- Professor Nibaran Chandra Laskar (Present).
- Mr. Janggin Sangma Laskar (Present).

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officer) :
This hon. Member wants the help of the Returning Officer in voting as he cannot read or write English.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right.

(The hon. Member Mr. Janggin Sangma Laskar then voted with the help of the Returning Officer)

- Srijut Harinarayan Barua (Present).
- Mr. Maniram Marak (Present).
- Mr. Larsing Khyriem (Present).
- Srijut Dalbir Singh Lohar (Present).

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officer) :
This hon. Member also wants the help of the Returning Officer as he has got some injury in his finger.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right.

(The hon. Member, Srijut Dalbir Singh Lohar then voted with the help of the Returning Officer.)

(The names of the following Members were then called out by the Returning Officer :—)

Babu Bidyapati Singha (Present).

Srijut Chanoo Kheria (Present).

Srijut Lakshesvar Barooah (Present).

Srijut Siddhinath Sarma (Present).

Raja Ajit Narayan Dev of Sidli (Present).

Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika (Present).

Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari (Present).

Mr. P. M. Sarwan (Present).

Srijut Khorsing Terang (Present).

Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma (Absent).

Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi (Present).

Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua (Present).

Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan (Present).

Srijut Karka Dalay Miri (Present).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is there any hon. Member of the General Part who has not voted ?

(No reply.)

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officer): I have finished with the General Part: I now start with the Muslim Part.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar (Absent).

Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla (Present).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Counting of votes of the General Part will immediately begin. It will take some time. So herein we can economise time. If any hon. Member likes he may come and watch the counting.

(Srijut Siddhinath Sarma went up to supervise the counting.)

(The Returning Officer then called out the names of the following hon. Members :—)

Maulavi Sayidur Rahman (Present).

Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Absent).

Maulavi Abdul Hai (Present).

Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf (Present).

Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury (Present).

Maulavi Abual Majid Ziasosh Shams (Present).

Maulavi Md. Roufique (Present).

Maulavi Makabbir Ali Mozumdar (Present).

Maulavi Abdul Kuddus Khan (Absent).

Maulavi Md. Maked Ali (Present).

Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed (Present).

Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque (Present).

Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem (Present).

(Counting of votes of Muslim Part then went on.)

The SECRETARY to the Legislative Assembly (Returning Officers) :—
The result of the election is as follows.—

MUSLIM PART

1. Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla,
 2. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf,
- are declared duly elected.

GENERAL PART

1. Srijut Dharani Dhar Basumatari,
 2. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi,
 3. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri,
 4. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das,
 5. Professor Nibaran Chandra Laskar,
 6. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy,
- are declared duly elected.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this brings us to the end of the day's business. This also brings us to the close of a chapter in the history of the Legislature in Assam. As you all know, we meet again on the 1st of September next but under very much different conditions than what are prevailing to-day. I wish you all good luck.

Now the House breaks up.

The meeting then came to a close.

SHILLONG :

The 26th August, 1947.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.