

Brundage

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File No. $\frac{S.}{187}$ of 1913.

GOVT. OF
BIHAR & ORISSA. }

1913.

{ MUNICIPAL
DEPT.

SANITATION.

SEPTEMBER.

A Proceedings—Nos. 1 and 2.

Council question regarding sanitation in rural areas.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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SANITATION—A, SEPTEMBER 1913.

Nos. 1—2.

COUNCIL QUESTION REGARDING SANITATION IN RURAL AREAS.

File No. S.
187
of 1913.
[No. 1.]

QUESTION ASKED BY THE HON'BLE RAI SUDAM CHARAN NAIK BAHABUR AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 29TH AUGUST 1913.

Probably the Hon'ble Member has referred to the article regarding "Sanitation in rural areas.—*Drainage*" in the "Star of Utkal" of the 6th instant. As the journal is a bi-weekly one, the date, 8th instant, is a mistake for "6th." Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the article deal generally with the question about insanitary condition of small towns and villages on account of inefficient drainage. The general question about rural and urban sanitation will be discussed at the Sanitary Conference which will be held at Ranchi on the 26th instant. Paragraph 3 of the article refers to the draining of the Taldanda Canal. We may consult the Public Works Department in regard to this matter.

A. C. PAL,—15-8-1913.

J. GUPTA,—15-8-1913.

Secretary—

For orders whether a simple reply in the affirmative should be given to this question. The Hon'ble Member makes no suggestions, nor does he ask for an enquiry, etc.

G. F. SMITH,—16-8-1913.

Hon'ble Mr. Gait—

This may be asked with a view to supplementary questions.

I should reply either—

"It has"

or

"The reply is in the affirmative."

E. L. L. HAMMOND,—16-8-1913.

I agree. Irrigation Department may be asked if there is any truth in the statement at A in the article, and, if so, whether any action is being taken or contemplated to obviate the water-logging. I believe this matter is now receiving a great deal of attention in the Punjab and United Provinces.

The office should make at once a collection of all articles like this with a very brief summary of what is suggested in them.

E. A. G[AIT],—16-8-1913.

Public Works Department Secretary, Irrigation and Marine—

Kindly see Hon'ble Mr. Gait's remarks above.

E. L. L. HAMMOND,—17-8-1913.

The statement that the distributaries of the Taldanda Canal obstruct the natural flow of water is very vague and may, in general terms, be denied. The distributaries are designed to pass along the ridges and do not generally cross drainage lines; where any local depression is crossed, arrangements are made to prevent any obstruction to drainage, either by a short drainage cut, syphon, inlet, or whatever expedient is most suitable for the particular case.

The Hon'ble Member's remarks about attention being given to prevent water-logging in the irrigated tracts of the Punjab and United Provinces perhaps refer more to the disposal of rainfall and surplus irrigation water flowing off irrigated tracts which find their way into the drainage lines between the distributaries.

In 1884 the complaint was raised that the Irrigation Department was overdraining the irrigated tracts of Orissa: reference may be made to the report of the Commission appointed by Government of Bengal Resolutions Nos. 1643-I, dated 4th November 1884, and No. 866, dated 14th November 1884, to enquire into certain matters in connection with the Orissa Canals.

The attention of the Superintending Engineer will be drawn to these matters.

C. A. WHITE,—23-8-1913.

Kindly see the Public Works Secretary's notes on pre-page. A summary* of the articles in the "Star of Utkal" is submitted in accordance with the Hon'ble Mr. Gait's orders on page 1 *ante*.

* Not printed.

A. C. PAL,—26-8-1913.

J. GUPTA,—26-8-1913.

Secretary—

G. F. SMITH,—26-8-1913.

Hon'ble Mr. Gait—

The answer I would suggest is "Yes. A Conference has just examined the question of rural sanitation."

E. L. L. HAMMOND,—26-8-1913.

We did not consider this question of drainage. I would say :—

"Yes. So far as the information at the disposal of Government goes, there is no obstruction of the drainage. If the Hon'ble Member can adduce specific instances of supposed obstruction, they will be investigated."

E. A. G[AIT],—26-8-1913.

His Honour—

Submitted.

E. L. L. HAMMOND,—27-8-1913.

C. S. B[AYLEY],—27-8-1913.

[No. 2.]

ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. E. L. L. HAMMOND TO THE ABOVE.

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COUNCIL QUESTION REGARDING SANITATION IN RURAL AREAS.

File No. ^{S.}
187
of 1913.


Question asked by the Hon'ble Rai Sudam Charan Naik Bahadur at the Meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council to be held on the 29th August 1913. [No. 1.]

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the "STAR OF UTKAL" of the 6th instant "regarding Sanitation in Rural Bengal Drainage"?

Answer.

[No. 2.]

Yes. So far as the information at the disposal of Government goes, there is no obstruction of the drainage. If the Hon'ble Member will adduce specific instances of supposed obstruction, they will be investigated.


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APPENDIX. 5

Article from the "Star of Utkal" of the 6th August 1913.

SANITATION IN RURAL AREAS.

Drainage.

X.

Efforts in the direction of drainage appear to have been hitherto confined to small towns, though in a very incomplete state. Almost all the smaller towns and villages ought to be provided with an efficient system of drainage without further delay as one of the principal insanitary features of small towns and villages is their inefficient drainage. In many towns and most villages the drains are simply excavations in the loose soil running generally along the road sides and on the outside of the village they follow boundaries of private lands without a natural fall towards outlets or larger nullahs. In Municipal towns the drain-diggers, generally under a worksirkar, adjust the slope of the drains and their width by the eye. This method is not sufficient for the proper discharge of storm water in due course. In the villages their general plans are in most cases faulty in the extreme; they are more or less deep according to the demand for earth to repair the *pagars* or margins of the adjoining lands. Their sides have no proper slope to prevent the falling in of loose earth, their bottoms have no sufficient slope for the proper discharge of solid filth which is generally eased at the edges of *pagars* and to prevent deposit and downward percolation. Weeds and tall grasses grow in the bed and sides of the drains during the rains and it is a common practice then for the villagers to place fishing weirs of stakes, weeds, mud and fish-traps across the drains to catch fish which every stream of water admits in the rains. All this obstruct the flow of water in rural parts. Culverts and bridges are often constructed over nullahs with insufficient water ways. This obstructs drainage and it takes time for the water to flow off, or as too often happens, the water is spread over the adjoining lands which are low and fill up hollows made for taking earth for house-building. There the water stagnates and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. They are never cleared, but are desiccated by the rays of the sun.

2. Another common fault of drains in small towns and villages is the want of any proper outfall. In many places they lead into tanks and ponds near by. In other cases the drains simply lead out into the open country and end in the paddy fields, and as these remain throughout the rainy season, and for some time after, say up to end of November, full of water, the town or village drainage is headed back and stands in the drains for several months in the year and thus keeps up that saturation and humidity of the sub soil and the foundations of huts and buildings, so inimical to the health of the people. The evils arising from this state of things can hardly be exaggerated; they are admitted by all sanitary authorities as the cause of fevers that prevail during the rains. There is constant and close connection between humidity of soil and high rates of sickness.

In this district the distributaries or village water channels obstruct to a great extent the natural flow of water. Syphons are not always made under the distributaries where water collects either naturally by rain water or by excess irrigation water for effective discharge of such water which forms hot beds for the growth of mosquitoes. There are many such water-logged places by the Taldanda canals which require proper draining. For this the almost bankrupt Public Works Department of this Province is responsible. The Magistrate-Collector of the District was used to be called in times gone by the *ma-bap* of the people, but now he seldom rides past their villages. The recent inventions of quick-running machinery, whether a motor-car or motor-launch, make him think little of the weal or woe of the people entrusted to his care, but make him think much as to how he can travel forward and back

with quick run and ease. He only thinks how he can make the prescribed number of inspections of police stations, unfortunately placed in the interior, with ease. The combination of judicial and executive functions may be another cause for so doing. He has no time to find out the water-logged places, nor has he time to think of them. The time has come when the offices of the Collector and Magistrate should be cut in twain for the proper administration of the district in all matter concerning the well-being of the people inhabiting them. If the District Officer has time to see to all these, the Public Works Department cannot remain deaf to the call of the people who are often seen to clamour for efficient drainage.


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REFERENCES TO FORMER CASES.

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REFERENCES TO LATER CASES.

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KEEP-WITH :

I.--Notes and orders (printed).