

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 Pakistan Constituent Assembly by the 'B Group of Members'.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 2nd August, 1947.

PRESENT :

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

Election of Representatives to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The first item in to-day's agenda of business is a message from His Excellency the Governor under section 63(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935. But I am sorry to have to say that the message has not reached us as yet. The Secretary of the Legislative Assembly has reminded the Chief Secretary about it. So, what is to be done in the circumstances? I seek the sense of the House.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, there is no other alternative than to wait for some time but at the same time I may say that we have all booked our seats to start for Calcutta to-day. We shall like that the message should come as early as possible so that the business is finished as early as possible.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN : We have booked our seats to go to Calcutta in connection with the meeting for selection of a Leader of East Bengal Moslem League Parliamentary Party, Sir. So, it will be extremely difficult or next to impossible to wait any more. Therefore it is better if you proceed with the business.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : If we sit at 12 o'clock shall we be able to finish the business in one hour?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : I do not think it will take one hour even.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN : Now it is 7 minutes past 11. It will do, I think, if we sit after half an hour.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I think, Sir, it is a mere formality to wait for the message.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is more than a formality. The House is adjourned till 11-37 A.M. that is to say, we sit again after half an hour.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11-37 A.M.

(After adjournment)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, we take up the first item. I read out the message from His Excellency the Governor.

Message from His Excellency the Governor

"I, Muhammed 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 B of the Assam Legislative Assembly to elect their representatives to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the said announcement.

SHILLONG:

The 2nd August, 1947.

A. HYDARI,
Governor of Assam."

Election of Representatives to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We now pass on to the next item, No. 2—election of Representatives to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly. Before we actually begin voting, the Secretary will please read out the procedure to be adopted in the matter.

The SECRETARY to the Assembly (Returning Officer): Before the hon. Members proceed to vote I beg to announce the procedure that is proposed to be adopted in the matter.

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 right is meant for the ballot papers of the "General Part" and the other on the Returning Officer's left is meant for ballot papers of the "Muslim Part". The Member whose name is called out will come to the Returning Officer, take a ballot paper, go to the desk provided for voting in the Noes Lobby, put his 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 on the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom he votes;
 - (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.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, some of the hon. Members want to know whether the figure 1 should be placed on the right side of the ballot paper or on the left?

The SECRETARY to the Assembly (Returning Officer): On the left of the name of the candidate on the ballot paper, there is a square there and inside that square the figure should be put. There is no such square on the right.

I now start with the General Part:—

(The voting commenced)

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee	...	...	(Absent).
(2) The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das	...	...	"
(3) Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta	...	...	"
(4) ,, Rabindra Nath Aditya	...	...	"
(5) ,, Ramesh Chandra Das Chaudhury	...	...	"
(6) ,, Jagat Bandhu Sircar	...	...	(Present).
(7) Srijut Jiban Santal	...	...	(Absent).
(8) Babu Akshay Kumar Das	...	...	"
(9) ,, Nirendra Nath Dev	...	...	(Present).
(10) ,, Kamini Kumar Sen	...	...	(Absent).
(11) ,, Jatindra Nath Bhadra	...	...	"
(12) ,, Suresh Chandra Biswas	...	...	(Present).
(13) Sree Abala Kanta Gupta	...	...	(Absent).
(14) Babu Gopesh Chandra Pal	...	...	"
	"

The SECRETARY to the Assembly (Returning Officer). Now, I take up the Muslim Part:—

(The Voting commenced)

(1) The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdur Rasheed	...	...	(Present).
(2) Maulana Ibrahim Ali	...	...	(Absent).
(3) Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza Chaudhury	...	...	(Present).
(4) ,, Ali Haidar Khan	...	...	"
(5) ,, Muhammad Mafiz Chaudhury	...	...	"
(6) ,, Dewan Abdur Rob Chaudhury	...	...	"
(7) ,, Munawwar Ali	...	...	"
	"

(8)	Maulavi	Mudabbir Hussain	...	...	...	(Present)
(9)	"	Mayeenud-Din Ahmed Chowdry	...	...	...	"
(10)	"	Abdul Hamid,	...	...	...	"
(11)	"	Abdul Bari Chaudhury	...	...	...	"
(12)	"	Nasiruddin Ahmed	...	...	...	"
(13)	"	Nurul Hossain Khan	...	...	...	"
(14)	Maulana	Md. Mufazzal Hussain	...	...	...	"
(15)	Maulavi	Md. Abdullah	...	...	...	"
(16)	"	Md Abdul Latif	...	...	...	"
(17)	"	Dewan Abdul Basith	...	...	...	"
(18)	"	Abdul Khaleque Ahmed	...	...	...	"
(19)	"	M. Idris Ali	...	...	...	"

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The voting is finished. Now, the counting of votes will be done, and the results will be announced now and here. I suppose it will not take more than 10 minutes altogether. The hon. Leader of the Opposition or anybody might have a look into the counting, if he wants to.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Not necessary, Sir.

(Counting of votes commenced)

(After the counting had been finished)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Secretary will now please read out the results.

The SECRETARY to the Assembly (Returning Officer). For the General Part, Babu Akshay Kumar Das (*Loud applause*) has been elected.

For the Muslim Part, the following Members have been elected:—

(1) Maulavi Abdul Hamid, and

(2) Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury (*again applause*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, gentlemen, we have come to the end of the business. We had been working together for long in the past. Probably, we will no more sit here together in this Assembly. Providence has so willed that we have to part. The parting is always sad. To err is human and if ever I gave you any cause for annoyance I may be excused and I beg of you all to go with the notion that I tried to serve you best. I wish you all best of luck.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, we shall be less than human if we do not feel the wrench at the time of parting. We have been associated with Assam Government for the last 72 years. We shall always remember the happy days of our association. So far as you are concerned, we have not got the least grievance. Though in the future, Sir, we may not be living in the same administrative household, let us hope, future will show that we mutually tried to the best of our ability to maintain friendliest neighbourly feelings.

With these words, Sir, I again express my gratitude for the help and assistance we received from you and from Assam Government during the days of our association. We shall always cherish the memory of this association in our new sphere of political activities. (*Applause*).

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, with a heavy heart I thank you for the kind words you have uttered at the time of our departure from Assam. Sir, during the last ten years we have been working together like brothers and we are leaving you here to develop your own part of the Province according to your will and desire.

Sir, we, with the rest of Assam, will now secede from you. Sylhet shall find a bigger place to work for her future development.

Sir, with these few words, I can assure you that our love, our affection, our regard for our leaders of Assam will never cease. We shall remember with gratitude and affection the treatment we got from our brothers.

I thank you again, Sir, and in return, I hope, you will bless us for our future development.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Again I wish you all luck. I declare that the House breaks.

The meeting then came to a close.

SHILLONG:
The 13th August, 1947.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.