

3rd February 1936

THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES  
(Official Report)

Volume I, 1936

(3rd February to 14th February, 1936)

THIRD SESSION  
OF THE  
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1936



NEW DELHI  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1936.

# Legislative Assembly.

## *President :*

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

## *Deputy President :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT, M.L.A.

SIR COWASJI JEHangIR, BART., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., M.L.A.

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, KT., C.I.E., M.L.A.

## *Secretary :*

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

## *Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

## *Marshal :*

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

## *Committee on Petitions :*

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

MR. B. DAS, M.L.A.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

MR. M. S. ANFY, M.L.A.

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THE

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.)

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VOLUME I—1936.

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 3rd February, 1936.*

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Third Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D (2) of the Government of India Act, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I., Kt.), was in the Chair.

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### MEMBERS SWORN:

- The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, K.C.S.I., C.B.E. (Member for Industries and Labour);
- Sir Leslie Hudson, Kt., M.L.A. (Bombay: European);
- Haji Chaudhuri Muhammad Ismail Khan, M.L.A. (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural);
- Raizada Hans Raj, M.L.A. (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan);
- Babu Kailash Behari Lal, M.L.A. (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan);
- Mr. Charles Harrington Witherington, M.L.A. (Assam: European);
- Mr. L. C. Buss, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);
- Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, K.B.E., C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands);
- Sir Herbert Aubrey Francis Metcalfe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., M.V.O., M.L.A. (Foreign Secretary);
- Mr. George Hemming Spence, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Secretary, Legislative Department);
- Mr. Hugh Dow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

- Mr. Sydney Vernon Acott, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Saiyid Aminuddin, M.L.A. (Bombay: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Arthur Jules Dash, M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Srimanta Kumar Das-Gupta, M.B.E., M.L.A. (Bengal: Nominated Official);
- Mr. John Ford Sale, M.L.A. (United Provinces: Nominated Official);
- Khan Bahadur Shaikh Khurshaid Muhammad, M.L.A. (Punjab: Nominated Official);
- Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan Singh, C.B.E., M.L.A. (Bihar and Orissa: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Wilfrid Vernon Grigson, M.L.A. (Central Provinces: Nominated Official);
- Dr. John Henry Hutton, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Assam: Nominated Official); and
- Mr. Raibeart MacIntyre MacDougall, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Burma: Nominated Official).

—————

**MOTION RE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET ON THE DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII UPON HIS ACCESSION.**

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It will perhaps meet the wishes of the House that there shall be no business today except the motion which stands in the name of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar.

**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar** (Leader of the House): Sir, I beg to move the motion which stands in my name:

“That this Assembly do place upon record an expression of its deep sorrow on the death of His Late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and of its heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in their grievous loss, and do convey to His Majesty loyal congratulations upon his accession and an assurance of devotion to His Royal Person.”

The sudden removal from our midst of His Late Majesty has evoked such deep, genuine and spontaneous marks of respect and grief, so profound and universal has been the sense of loss which has fallen on his people, and which has found its echo in all parts of the World that I must ask for the generous indulgence of Honourable Members if I fail to give adequate expression to the great qualities that His Late Majesty always showed during the 25 years of his reign.

The late King carried with singular dignity and sympathy his manifold activities in matters social, political and economic.

His active and genuine sympathy, with the wants, aspirations, ambitions and sufferings of his people, the discarding with a firm hand all partisanship in controversies, his detachment from all

DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V AND CONGRATULATIONS 3  
TO HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.

parties coupled with his anxious concern for the common interest of all, his meticulous care for strict adherence to constitutional and traditional proprieties, explain in a large degree the confidence, loyalty and affection which he so eminently succeeded in winning from the people. With his dying breath the King had enquired how the Empire was going—and concerning the Indian Empire we know with what painstaking and sympathetic concern he kept himself cognisant of the proceedings of Commissions on the Indian affairs, the Round Table Conferences, the deliberations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and the subsequent debates in the Houses of Parliament.

His abiding and deep interest in all affairs of the Empire, and his power and influence for good, which he exercised in innumerable ways, with judicial temper and broad sympathy, the magical charm of his personality and his broad-minded humanity, his sincerity of purpose and sense of duty, made him a pillar of strength during all these years.

During his reign, the world has passed through long and acute convulsions, dynasties have tumbled down, forms of Government untried and unknown before have come into existence, ideas, traditions and beliefs regarded as cardinal, fixed and immutable, in matters political, social and economic have all been in the melting pot—but the Crown has emerged with greater strength, in spite of the critical and destructive times through which we have passed and which are not yet over.

The reign of the late King covers a period of the greatest activity and of momentous changes.

The development of long-distance telephone and the wireless, the conquest of air, improvement in machinery, advance of science which has annihilated time and distance, the greatest war known in history, its terrible aftermath, the broadening of the democratic base, in some parts of the World, and its extinction in others, the emancipation of women, the most terrible and prolonged economic slump that the world has known—have shaken the world in every sphere of its life. It is only the personality and the character of the late King which have not only saved the Crown in England from being weakened, but in fact has added strength and lustre to it.

We get constant reminders that in the midst of life we are in death, and I may remind this House of the broadcast message given by the King during the celebration of his Jubilee, which event, like his visit to this country, evoked magnificent response from the people.

He said:

"I dedicate myself anew to your service for the years that still be given me."

But, to our great sorrow, Providence has ordained that he should be called to his rest within a lamentably short period after the repetition of his assurance to his people.

I ask this House to join in the condolences which we offer to His Majesty the expression of our deepest sympathies to Queen Mary, who throughout the reign of the late King increased his power and influence for good in a thousand ways.



[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

I ask this House to add to these condolences, its congratulations to His Majesty King Edward the VIII.

As Prince of Wales he showed early in his life his sincere desire and effort for being qualified to take the burdens which have now fallen on his shoulders, by the great interest he has taken in all activities in connection with the Empire, by his travel to its various parts and by his anxious desire to get first-hand knowledge of the problems on which it will now be his lot to bring his judgment, influence and power for helping in their solution.

The promise given by his life up to his accession to the throne last month, enables this House to assure him, that it firmly believes and confidently hopes, that in discharging the heavy burden of responsibilities of a Constitutional Monarch, he will acquire no less renown than that of his illustrious father.

Sir, I move.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do place upon record an expression of its deep sorrow on the death of His Late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and of its heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in their grievous loss and do convey to His Majesty loyal congratulations upon his accession and an assurance of devotion to His Royal Person."

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, I rise to join the Leader of the House in the motion that he has moved concerning the death of his late Majesty the King-Emperor. This is hardly an occasion on which it would be appropriate to scan too closely the terms of a Resolution of this nature. The late Majesty, who, in the biblical phrase, died full of years and honours, was perhaps one of the most fortunate of men. He saw the rise before him of two generations of children and grandchildren brought up in happiness and harmony, which is unequalled in the annals of royal houses. Of him as a king (reference to which the Leader of the House has made), I should like to add what my friend, Sir John Simon, only about a week ago said:

"In private life, he was a model of personal conduct, just as in public he was a model of constitutional monarch. In years gone by, the kings of England exercised great personal power. Today when the British Crown has adapted itself completely to the growth of democratic government, this power has disappeared, for the King always acts on the advice of his ministers who are themselves responsible to Parliament."

The reign of his late Majesty, I may be allowed to say, has marked, so far as this country is concerned, a distinct and a higher sense of national consciousness and a sense and desire to attain the same freedom in this land for the children of the soil that every Englishman would desire in his own. And I have not the smallest doubt that the royal successor of his late Majesty, the first English gentleman of the Realm, freedom-loving as the race claims to be, could desire and wish no less than ourselves that we should achieve what we have come to be conscious of and desire and strive to achieve. In the death of his late Majesty, we are reminded, if a reminder were necessary, of the one great certitude of human life, that death is not a mere contingency, but is a certainty of human existence, and when

that event occurs, in the words of the English poet, "the sword, the scythe and the spade shall in the dust be equally laid", and in that spirit of universal equality and in the face of the Great Leveller, we naturally pray that his soul may have abiding peace and that his Royal Successor may have strength to carry on the work and shoulder the responsibility of the great heritage which has come to him in due course of devolution.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, I have the privilege to associate the Independent Party with the Resolution that has been moved by the Leader of the House. So much has been said of the late King-Emperor that it is rather difficult to find something new, but it can truly be said that the late King left the system of monarchy more deeply rooted in the soil of England than ever before. During the twenty-five years of his reign, he ever remained a constitutional monarch, ready to give advice, sympathy and effective direction whenever called upon to do so. He may truly be described as the most influential, the most powerful, the most effective, not only King, but servant of the Empire. Mr. President, when one looks back upon English history of the last few years, one cannot but recall one incident which brought to the notice of the world,—not only of England,—the great power and influence that a constitutional monarch can exercise. At a time of great crisis, and that was quite lately, when he found his Government in difficulties he did not hesitate, although a constitutional monarch, to use the great influence and the great power he had as a King to insist upon a National Government. It was due to the King, and due to him alone, that the present National Government came into existence. It was due to his powers of persuasion, to the great love and respect in which he was held by his ministers and his people, that men came together which a month before one would have thought impossible. Mr. President, throughout Europe, not only in England, there has been genuine sorrow, and when one comes to enquire why there should be an expression of this grief throughout the world one cannot but come to the conclusion that it was due to the fact that Europe realised that in the King of England they had a factor for peace, and his sudden removal gave rise to apprehensions and fears. But let us pray and hope that those apprehensions will be groundless and that His Majesty King Edward VIII will continue in the footsteps of his father and remain a factor for peace, giving out in ample measure his sympathy, his assistance and his co-operation to every part of the Empire. I desire once again to associate myself and my Party with the Resolution that has been moved by the Leader of the House.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, I desire to associate myself and my Party with the sentiments expressed on the floor of this House by those who spoke before me in support of the motion moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House. It is not given to everyone to know the King personally, but it is enough for me to be convinced of the greatness of the King and the goodness of the King from the fact that those who had opportunities to know him intimately are unanimous in declaring that he had magnetic qualities to keep the conflicting elements in the Empire in a spirit of harmony at a critical time. The qualities of a king who has actual power of

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

ruling can be seen and understood, but kings who are really guided by ministers can maintain their respect only by personal qualities of a high order, the qualities which constitute what we call the qualities of a gentleman. When a king wields despotic powers, he can enforce obedience, but when a king does not hold those powers and yet he is respected, it evidently means he has those great moral qualities which alone entitle a man to the respect and admiration of the world. It is quite clear from the universal tribute that has been paid to the King that King George V had these qualities in abundance. That is bound to elicit our admiration, and I, therefore, join in adding my humble tribute to the revered memory of the late King. I am sure, his Royal Successor has very high and noble traditions to follow, traditions which have been handed down to him from three generations—his great grandmother of revered memory, his grandfather and his illustrious father. With these high traditions before him, we can confidently hope for a successful career for him in the future.

**Sir Leslie Hudson** (Bombay: European): Mr. President, the whole Empire mourns the death of a beloved Sovereign, and into this universal grief politics and political differences cannot intrude. The affection and respect which we felt for King George were shared equally by us all in whatever part of the House we sat and whatever label we attached to our particular views, for seldom, if ever, has it been given to an Empire to be ruled over by a Sovereign who was loved by all and feared by none. Those feelings which spring from our hearts today are not the empty feelings inspired by convention, they spring from a sincere emotion evoked by the character and life of "the best, the gentlest and the most beloved of Kings". Throughout his life King George was animated by the thought that he was called upon by Providence to be the head of a great family of nations, and as such he entered fully into the life of his people, sharing their griefs and sorrows, their joys and their pleasures. We may truly say of him as it was said of his Royal father: "He loved his people at home and over the seas. He had no self apart from them."

The burden of the Crown was not eased for him by the circumstances of the world during the twenty-six years of his reign. They were twenty-six years during which war, economic depression, and constitutional upheaval followed one another in succession. They were twenty-six years during which other "thrones, principalities and powers" fell and were laid to waste. They were twenty-six years which strained the beliefs and tested the convictions of mankind almost to the point of disillusion. But, Sir, in meeting that supreme challenge, a challenge to the Throne as much as to any other worldly institution, King George never faltered, he remained steadfast, and through all those years of sorrow and anxiety he led his people with serene faith, unshaken courage, a quiet and simple dignity, and above all by love for his people. The Throne of King George did not rest on what has been described as "the brittle framework of convention". It rested on stronger and surer foundations. It rested on the spontaneous affection of his people in all quarters of the globe and it was sustained throughout by their love and admiration for his kingly and human qualities. Thus it is that through an era of violent

change and revolution the Throne, by the grace of God, has emerged unscathed, and is today strengthened and enriched by the memory of a Sovereign whose life was one of constant self-discipline and devotion to the service of God and mankind.

Those of us who know the setting of the late King's country home at Sandringham can picture the taking of the bier from the village Church of Dersingham to the railway station at Wolferton. One can see the slow and sorrowful procession winding through the village roads with no sign of pomp, no lines of troops with arms reversed, but between thin lines of sorrowing people standing in the snow, the late King's tenants, his servants and dependants and humble folk from the nearby villages. Some of them would have known His Majesty since his boyhood's days and all of them would have regarded him not merely as their King but as the Lord of the Manor, their Squire, their employer, and their personal friend. That is not so very remarkable. What to my mind, and I feel sure to the mind of many of us here, is most remarkable is the spontaneous outburst of personal grief exhibited throughout the whole of India. The high, the middle, and the low have shown in that unanimous gesture of sorrow that he was truly the personal King and friend of each of them. That I think is wonderful for they had not that opportunity of personal contact that those to whom I have referred have had for many years and it seems to me to add poignancy to the opening words of His Majesty's broadcast only a few short weeks ago when he began by addressing all of us, his subjects, as "My friends".

At this time the deep sympathy of our hearts goes out to the loneliness which Her Majesty the Queen Mother must now be suffering. As his gracious Consort, she shared and reinforced the high ideals of King George, and, by her example, has shown that Monarchy exists to minister to others and not to be ministered unto.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out also to His Majesty the King-Emperor who ascends the Throne at so critical a time in the history of India and the world. We can only pray in all sincerity that he may be sustained and inspired in the high station to which he has been called by the example and memory of his Royal father and the assurances of the constant allegiance and affection, the unswerving and unceasing loyalty of his subjects which he already commands in such full and generous measure. He inherits a throne about which neither enmity nor resentment linger, a throne set fair in the hearts of men by the gracious memory of the kingly personality of the late King-Emperor.

We mourn the passing of a great king, a wise ruler, and a firm friend; and as we reflect upon the years during which, by the grace of God, he was set over us, we call to mind those noble lines:

"Now is the stately column broke,  
The beacon light is quenched in smoke,  
The trumpet's silver voice is still,  
The Warder silent on the hill!"

Our feelings today cannot, however, be feelings of sorrow only. The good which the Great King George V has by the blessing of God wrought in the Empire over which he reigned will continue to

[Sir Leslie Hudson.]

live after he has died, to live in the hearts of those we love is not to die. The tradition of goodness to mankind which he inherited from his great predecessors Queen Victoria and King Edward VII will not now cease but will continue—in the hands of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VIII to benefit in their public and private lives all loyal subjects of our Empire.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before putting the question I wish to say that I fully share the feelings of profound sorrow which have been so movingly expressed from different sections of this Assembly on the death of His Late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and I join with the Honourable Members in offering our heartfelt sympathy to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary, to His Majesty the King, Emperor of India, and to the Royal Family in their grievous loss.

His Late Majesty was a wise and kindly ruler, much beloved of his subjects no less in India than in the other parts of his Empire. He had constantly in mind the welfare and happiness of his peoples and his heart always went out in sympathy to those who were the victims of adverse circumstances and misfortunes. On this occasion, one cannot fail to recall His Late Majesty's visit to India in 1911 and the memorable hope-inspiring message of sympathy with our aspirations, which he sent to us through His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in February 1921.

I associate myself with the Honourable Members in offering our respectful congratulations to His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, on his accession to the Throne, with an assurance of our loyalty and devotion, and we feel confident that His Majesty will carry to a still higher level of statesmanship the high traditions of His illustrious House; and we hope and pray that he may live long, and that during his beneficent rule India may grow in prosperity and power from day to day.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do place upon record an expression of its deep sorrow on the death of His Late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and of its heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in their grievous loss and do convey to His Majesty loyal congratulations upon his accession and an assurance of devotion to His Royal Person."

The motion was adopted by the Assembly standing.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that it will be the desire of the House that the questions on today's List of Business should stand over till tomorrow and that the motions for the adjournment of the business of the House of which I have received notices should also stand over till tomorrow; and I shall waive any objection that may arise on account of any of these motions not being moved today as a mark of respect. It will be my duty to see that the message of condolence is conveyed to His Majesty in due course. As a mark of respect to the memory of His Late Majesty, I adjourn the Assembly till eleven of the clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 4th February, 1936.