

6th April 1936

THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

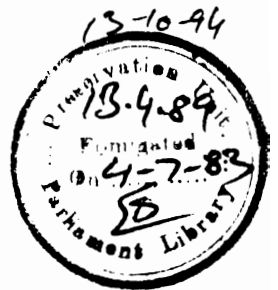
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**THIRD SESSION**

OF THE

**FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1936**



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# Legislative Assembly.

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

## *Deputy President :*

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

## *Panel of Chairmen :*

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

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

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## *Assistant of the Secretary :*

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.



## *Marshal :*

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

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

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

MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

# CONTENTS.

VOLUME IV.—18th March to 3th April, 1936.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<b>MONDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1936—</b>	
Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	2751	Member Sworn	3007
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	2752—2812	Questions and Answers	3007—44
Appendix	2813—34	Unstarred Questions and Answers	3044—55
		Short Notice Question and Answer	3055—57
<b>THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Motions for Adjournment	
Motion for Adjournment re. Contract for the construction of the Howrah Bridge—Not moved	2835	Legislation for republication in the Press of speeches delivered in the Legislative Assembly—Disallowed by the President.	3057—59
The Indian Finance Bill—Motion to consider adopted	2835—79	Ban on Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose—Adopted.	3059—60, 3082—3114
Election of a Member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz	2879	The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060
		The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060
<b>FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.	3060—61
Questions and Answers	2881—2921	The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	3061—89
Unstarred Questions and Answers	2921—56		
Statements laid on the Table	2956—63	<b>TUESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1936—</b>	
Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee	2963	Member Sworn	3115
The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 60)—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	2964	Questions and Answers	3115—30
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	2964—3003	Statement of Business	3130
Statement of Business	3003—05	Motion for Adjournment re Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report on Federal and Provincial Finance—Not moved	3130—35
		The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses concluded	3135—55
		Demands for Supplementary Grants	3156—58

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<b>MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1936—<i>contd.</i></b>	
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3191—3201	Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Adopted as amended . . . . .	3438—3503
The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 51, etc.)—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee . . . . .	3201	Statement of Business . . . . .	2503—04
The Indian Finance Bill—Recommended amendment to clause 2—negatived . . . . .	3201—03, 3265—87	<b>MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
Demands for Supplementary Grants— <i>contd.</i> . . . .	3203—65	Members Sworn . . . . .	3505
		Death of Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah . . . . .	3505—08
<b>THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		<b>TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
Members Sworn . . . . .	3289	Questions and Answers . . . . .	3509—42
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	3289—90	Unstarred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3542—3617
Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3290—3347	Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3617—24
Statement of Business . . . . .	3347	The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee . . . . .	3625
<b>FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Resolution <i>re</i> Release of political prisoners detained without trial—Negatived . . . . .	3625—61
Members Sworn . . . . .	3349	Resolution <i>re</i> Import duty on unbroken rice and paddy—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3661—73
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	3349	<b>WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—</b>	
Motion <i>re</i> Appointment of a Committee to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Discussion not concluded . . . . .	3350—3406	Speech delivered to the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly by His Excellency the Viceroy . . . . .	3675—83
<b>SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Questions and Answers . . . . .	3683—3714
Motion <i>re</i> Report of the Committee to consider the Indian Delimitation (Hammond) Committee's Report—Adopted . . . . .	3407—36	Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Finance Committee—Adopted . . . . .	3715
<b>MONDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1936—</b>		Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways—Adopted . . . . .	3715
Members Sworn . . . . .	3437	Motion <i>re</i> Election of the Standing Advisory Committee for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department—Adopted . . . . .	3715
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3437—38		

	PAGE.		PAGE.
WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—concl'd.		WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1936—concl'd.	
Motion re Election of the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce—Negatived	3716—18	The Salt Additional Im- port Duty (Extending) Bill—Introduced	3719—20
Motion re Election of the Central Advisory Coun- cil for Railways— Adopted	3718—19	The Indian Tea Cess Amendment) Bill— Introduced	3720
The Indian Tariff (Second (Amendment) Bill— Introduced.	3719	The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Bill— Introduced	3720
		The Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill— Introduced and referred to Select Committee	3720—35

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

*Monday, 6th April, 1936.*

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

## MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Panambur Raghavendra Rau, M.L.A. (Financial Commissioner, Railways);

Mr. Evan Meredith Jenkins, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Mr. Hugh Dow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

## DEATH OF KHAN BAHADUR MAKHDUM SYED RAJAN BAKHSH SHAH.

**The Honourable Sir Henry Craik** (Home Member). Sir, the Leader of the House is unfortunately absent today, and my colleague, Sir Frank Noyce, has asked if I, as one of his oldest living friends, would make a reference to the lamented death of Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah. The late Khan Bahadur, of whose death, I am sure, the whole House will have heard with the greatest grief, was the oldest elected Member of this House, having been a Member ever since the Assembly was inaugurated in 1921 without a break, and though there can be few Members here who have actually heard him address the House, he did address the House in his earlier days, not frequently, but always eloquently, in his mother tongue and in a manner that commanded the respect and attention of the whole House. To me, Sir, his death is a great personal loss, as I have known him for, I think, at least twenty-five years. The late Makhdum Sahib was a descendant of an ancient Persian family famous in the South-West Punjab. His ancestor, Pir Musa Pak Shahid, was killed in a battle near Multan nearly 350 years ago, and his tomb has become a famous shrine for that part of the country. Two of his descendants were Governors of Multan in the reigns of the Emperors Shah Jehan and Jehangir, and the family has always taken a leading part in local affairs. Our late colleague was himself for many years President of the Municipal Committee of Multan, and, in that capacity, rendered much devoted and useful public service. I can remember one occasion when Multan, a place with a rather unhappy communal history, was threatened with a serious riot, because an excited crowd desired to take a certain route through the heart of the City. The Makhdum Sahib himself, I remember, mounted a horse, went out and addressed this crowd, and ultimately succeeded in persuading them to abandon their rash resolve and to take a route which was not fraught with these dangers. On that occasion, he displayed very great personal courage and he also showed how strong was

[Sir Henry Craik.]

his influence with his fellow-citizens and how greatly his advice and his word were respected. Lately, he had been handicapped by a very severe and painful illness, and it was only the greatest sense of devotion to duty that brought him down to the House on two or three occasions this Session, when I know what he said himself—that it was a painful and trying experience for a man with the shadow of death hanging over him to come here and record his vote, as he did at least on these two occasions. I am sure, Sir, that the sympathy of the whole House will go out to his family and that every one of us will mourn a man whom I may describe as the Father of the House and who was deeply respected by all parties.

**Mr. S. Satyamurti** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, in the unavoidable absence of our Leader and Deputy Leader, I rise to associate the Congress Party and myself with the tribute of respect which the Honourable the Home Member has paid to the memory of our late lamented colleague. We on these Benches—at least the new-comers—had not much opportunity of coming into intimate contact with the deceased gentleman; but such contact as we had with him has given us all the impression, which has been confirmed by the Honourable the Home Member's speech and by the recollection of older Members, that the deceased Member was a gentleman every inch of him, and a charming man, with whom it was a privilege to claim friendship. I should like to associate myself particularly with the Honourable the Home Member's tribute to the sense of duty of the Honourable Member, which brought him to his post in spite of his trying illness, and which probably hastened his end. Such an example of devotion to duty is worth emulating. I am particularly sorry, after the Honourable the Home Member's graphic description of his speeches in this House, that we were not given the opportunity of listening to those speeches. But, I am sure, Sir, that every Honourable Member of this House would like to associate himself with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable the Home Member, and to share in the regret of the whole House at the death of an esteemed and valued colleague.

We would request you to convey to the members of the bereaved family the respectful and sincere condolences of this House. I would also request you, Sir, to direct, if you so please and the House agrees, that the House do stand adjourned for the day, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased gentleman. It is not to be made a precedent, I hope; but still the circumstances are such—I am told he may be described as the Father of this House—he was the oldest elected Member of this House and he has been a Member from the very beginning of this House—and, I think, the circumstances of his death and of his long connection with this House are so exceptional that we may well make a reasonable request to you that the House do stand adjourned today, as a mark of respect to the deceased.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President, this is the second occasion during this Session when we have to mourn the loss of a sitting Member. This time it happens to be a Member of the Independent Party. As Mr. Satyamurti has said, most Members of this Honourable House had not the opportunity of knowing Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah. He was naturally a Member of the House during the whole period that I have been a Member, which gave us several occasions for short conversations. The fact that

the Honourable Member was returned to this House on five occasions unopposed is a sufficient testimony to his popularity and to his great influence in the constituency in which he was born and lived. We have on many occasions seen the late Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah brought into this Honourable House on a stretcher to do his duty; and, on more than one occasion, you, Sir, had to make a concession to him by allowing him to vote in divisions seated in his seat on the Back Benches just behind us. As Mr. Satyamurti has said, it required courage which few men exhibit nowadays, or perhaps in the past, to come and do his duty under such physical trial and pain. The late Khan Bahadur was one of those men, if I may so describe him, of the old world so fast passing away. He belonged to that age which produced, amongst the class in which he was born, courtesy, honour and integrity—great courtesy to every one, friend or foe or stranger; and he exhibited that great courtesy to anybody with whom he had any conversation inside or outside the House. I can just remember him addressing this House in Urdu when he put forward his views candidly and boldly; and, as the Honourable the Home Member has said, he was listened to with the greatest respect. The last few months, he was unable to stand up and speak; but he always exchanged a few words with all of us as we passed in and out of the House, and one could not but come to the conclusion, when one last spoke to him, that the shadow of death hung over him while he was sitting here. We deeply regret his death. We lose a member of our Party, a loyal member, and we join in asking you, Sir, to convey our sincere regret and condolences to all the members of his family.

**Mr. M. S. Aney** (Berar Representative): Sir, I associate myself with all that has been said about the late Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah. As a gentleman, he was always courteous and ready to extend such help as he could to anybody who was in need of assistance. We have seen him for so many days, and, I am sure, his loss is mourned by every Member of this House. In him we are losing a type of gentleman which, as my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, just mentioned, is fast disappearing. He belonged to that particular type of gentlemanliness which is becoming more and more rare in these days, and, as such, we feel his loss very much. I associate myself and my Party with the sentiments of grief that have been expressed, and I request you, Sir, to convey a message of condolence to all those members of his family who are left behind.

**Sir Leslie Hudson** (Bombay: European): Mr. President, I feel I can add very little to the words which have fallen from other Honourable Members in lamenting the passing away of one of our number here, of one, who, as has been said, has rightly been named the Father of the House. We have known him slightly, it is true, but we always had from him a smile and a word and the greatest courtesy on every occasion. I can only ask you, Sir, to include the condolences of myself and of the European Group in the letter which you will be addressing to our late colleague's family.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): [When I saw the news of the death of Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah, I felt a personal shock, although I knew that for some time he had been keeping very bad health. He was a personal friend of mine, and, from what I



[Mr. President.]

, knew of him, I held him in great respect for his strong character and personality. I also knew that, belonging as he did to the well-known Pir family of Multan, he exercised an influence always to the good on his followers in the community and on the population generally of Multan. The Honourable Sir Henry Craik has spoken in very feeling terms of the deceased, and I associate myself entirely with him and the other speakers who have spoken today. He was a man of a very straightforward character; and, as has been said, he was extremely courteous and always ready to help those who sought his assistance. It will be my sad duty to convey the condolences and expressions of grief that have found vent in this House on this sad occasion to the bereaved members of his family. As has been stated, he was the oldest elected Member of this House, universally popular; and almost till the last moment he did his duty although suffering from considerable pain and disability. I understand it is the general desire of Members of this House that the House should adjourn for the rest of the day as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah; and, in the exceptional circumstances of the case, I shall adjourn the business of the House for the rest of the day.]

/ The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 7th April, 1936.