

He was painfully shy about personal matters. He always came out of his room in the morning correctly dressed, shaved, and with socks and slippers on.

## **2. SERVICE IN BENGAL AND ASSAM (1910-34)**

On passing the Indian Civil Service examination in 1909-10, B.N. Rau was allotted to the Bengal Cadre. Within a few years he became a District and Sessions Judge. The quality of his work attracted the attention of the Assam Government, which offered him in 1925 the post of the Secretary in the Legislative Council and Legal Remembrancer to the Government. He served the Assam Government for eight years. When the Simon Commission came to India, B.N. Rau drafted the memorandum pleading for a generous financial deal for Assam from the proceeds of the duty on tea. Impressed by that work, the Government of Assam deputed him to London after the third Round Table Conference in 1933 to present its case before the Joint Select Committee of the British Parliament. It appears that Sir John Kerr, the then Governor of Assam, requested him to prepare a note on the principle of election to the Council of States by the single transferable vote. By 1934, B.N. Rau had established himself as an expert in constitutional law.<sup>3</sup>

## **3. ADAPTATION OF LAWS (1935-37)**

The passing of the Government of India Act, 1935 offered the major opportunity to B.N. Rau for creative legal work. The Act repealed the Government of India Act, 1919. This repeal rendered it necessary to make provisions as to certain legal matters, including provisions for adapting the law in force in India to the new constitutional structure and pattern. Section 292 of the Government of India Act, 1935 provided that notwithstanding the repeal of the Government of India Act, 1919 all the laws in force in British India immediately before the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935 would continue in force in British India,

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3. B.N. Rau, *India's Constitution in the Making* (Edited by B. Shiva Rao, Orient Longman 1960) pp. xv-xvi.