

Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the First Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government
of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a. m., on
Thursday, the 6th March 1941.

Present

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the nine
Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-one members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Addresses of convicted M. L. As.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*6. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government have informed the Assembly Department of the present addresses of the M.L.As. convicted and undergoing imprisonment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :
6.—No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, can we not expect that Government will arrange to inform the Hon'ble Speaker, rather his office, about the present addresses of the members ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : All the M. L. A. prisoners have been placed in 'A' Division and they are permitted to write letters and if they choose to inform the office of their address, they can do so themselves.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : How many letters a day they can write and after how many days there is some restriction ; I think ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How all these questions arise I do not understand ? The question was whether the addresses were communicated.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, on the basis of Hon'ble Minister's reply, I think I am quite entitled to ask all these supplementaries.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I may inform the House (I am glad that the hon. member has put this question) that we have recently passed an order allowing Members of Legislative Assembly to write letters in their capacity as Members to the Assembly office and such letters will not be counted with the number of letters which they are ordinarily allowed to write.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Political Prisoners

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked

11. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that the political prisoners convicted under the Defence of India Rules are required to put their thumb impressions in police papers?
 - If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof?
 - If not, will Government be pleased to state why police officials are pressing the "B" Division political prisoners undergoing imprisonment in the Sylhet Jail under the said Rules to put their thumb impressions immediately?
12. Will Government be pleased to state—
- On what basis, *Satyagrahi* prisoners are classified in Assam?
 - On what basis Sri Omoo Kumar Das, Sri Nabhin Nath Sarma, Sri Beliram Das, etc., have been classed in the "B" Division and Sri Debeswar Sarmah, Sri Lakshmar Bhowmik, Sri Gaurakanta Talukdar, Sri Bahin Ram Medhi have been classed in the "A" Division?
13. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Why the newspapers "Hindusthan Standard" and "Ananda Bazar Patrika" are not supplied to "B" division political prisoners?
 - Whether Government propose to supply "Local weeklies" to respective local prisoners, i.e., "Janasakti", "Saptak" and "Sylhet Chronicle" to Surma Valley prisoners and "Assama" "Times of Assam" to Assam Valley prisoners?
 - If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

11. (a)—As the rules stand, the police may require finger prints from the prisoners convicted for "*Satyagraha*".
- (b)—The fact is due to the wording of the rules, which will be re-examined.
- (c)—Does not arise.
12. (a)—Prisoners are classified on the principles laid down in rule 209 of the Jail Manual, Volume I.
- (b)—The classifications were proposed by the District Magistrates under the rules. The matter was however subsequently reviewed by Government and all those prisoners have been placed in "A" Division.
13. (a)—Government are reviewing the list of approved periodicals which may be supplied at the expense either of Government or of the prisoners, but are not prepared to discuss the grounds of inclusion in, or exclusion from, the list.
- (b)—The rules are being revised and these papers will be considered in this connection.
- (c)—Does not arise.

Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

14. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) For how long the post of Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education has been lying vacant ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that due to the absence of any such officer, Madrassa education is suffering in this province ?
- (c) The reason or reasons, if any, for not filling up this post ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

14 (a) From the 6th May 1940.

(b)—No. In the Surma Valley the Deputy Inspector for Muslim Education is capable of inspecting all types of madrassas and in the Assam Valley the few madrassas that cannot be inspected by the ordinary inspecting staff are being inspected by the Assistant Director of Public Instruction.

(c) Owing to the discussion of other matters connected with the vacancy.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say what arrangement has been made in the Assam Valley for the inspection of Madrassas and Muktabs in the absence of the Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The Assistant Director for Public Instruction has been inspecting the Madrassas and Muktabs when necessary.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI : With regard to (c) Sir, may we know what are the other reasons ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The answer is "Owing to the discussion of other matters connected with the vacancy".

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will give the answer to that Sir, if you will permit.

The Head of the Education Department recommended that the post be abolished and in its place two posts of Deputy Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education be created in the two Valleys.

Between the Education Department and the Government some correspondence and discussions were going on on this subject and this is the reason why there has been the delay. Ultimately the Government have decided to keep the post of Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education in tact.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI : Do Government propose to fill up the vacancy, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, we have already referred the matter to the Public Service Commission for advertisement.

Harijan Hostel at Sylhet

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

15. (a) Are Government aware that in reply to starred question No. 42 asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the last November Session of the Assembly Government gave assurance to consider about the grant of a sum of Rs.100 a month to the Sylhet Harijan Hostel ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make a provision of Rs 100 a month in the next Budget for the help of the poor students of that hostel?

16. (a) Are Government aware that Professor Jyotindra Kumar Chowdhury, the Secretary of the Sylhet Harijan Hostel, sent petitions last year to the Hon'ble Minister in charge praying for a sum of Rs 1,000 to meet the outstanding expenditure of the Hostel buildings?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make a provision for the same prayed for, in the next Budget?

17. Do Government propose to issue orders to the local medical authorities at Sylhet to render free medical attendance to the residents of the Harijan Hostel at Sylhet as in the case of other Government hostels?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

15. (a)—Government proposed to increase their assistance if funds permitted.

(b)—The matter was considered but it was not found possible to make the provision.

16. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It has not been possible to make any provision except a non-recurring grant of Rs. 300 vide page 99 of the Budget Memorandum for 1941-42.

17.—The suggestion will be considered.

Message from the Assam Legislative Council conveying concurrence in the resolution of the Assembly to form a joint conference of both Chambers to consider the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am to inform the hon. members that I have received a message from the Hon'ble the President of the Assam Legislative Council conveying to me the concurrence of the Assam Legislative Council in the resolution adopted by the Assam Legislative Assembly regarding the constitution of a conference of members of both the Houses to consider the Rules framed under the Motor Vehicles Act. The Assam Legislative Council have elected—

1. Rai Sahib Apurba Kumar Ghosh, M. L. C.,

2. Mr. W. R. Gawthrop, M. L. C.,

3. Maulavi Abdul Hai, M. L. C. and

4. Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Chaudhury, M. L. C.,

to be their representatives in the conference. So the conference that was resolved upon by this House stands constituted and I think the matter of considering the Rules will not come up before the House on the 27th as was arranged in the programme.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I request you Sir, that this constitution of the conference may be intimated to Government immediately so that I can take action early. One part of the resolution refers that this conference should ask Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Legislative Council to make suggestions. If we have to wait till the proceedings are printed, it will take some time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, I shall take steps to communicate this resolution to Government as expeditiously as possible.

General discussion of the Budget and discussion on charged expenditure

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I may tell the hon. members of the House that while speaking on the Budget they may offer criticisms on estimates and expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province as indicated in item No 2 of the Agenda.

Mr. N. DAWSON : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no desire to take up much of the time of the House but there are certain points in the Budget on which I should like to make some observations. I shall however be as brief as possible.

The first point deals with communications. No one can deny that during the past few years great strides have been made in improving the communications of this Province. This is particularly noticed and freely commented upon by those who have reason to leave the province and return to it again after a period of a few years.

On our main communications the slow moving bullock cart and the boggy, the only methods of road transport not so many years ago, have to a great extent been replaced by the speedier and more comfortable motor bus and private car whilst the motor lorry is rapidly ousting the two-wheeled cart as a means of conveying heavy goods.

Much of the credit for this achievement must be given to the present Government which with great foresight has moved with the times and has realised that better communications mean cheaper, more comfortable, and quicker methods of transport.

Roads have been widened, shingled, and made safer for traffic while the old-fashioned wooden bridges are being rapidly replaced by structures of a more permanent nature.

In this connection I should like to pay a tribute to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communications and to the service under his administration. Excellent work has been done and this is greatly appreciated throughout the province.

It is only but right however that I should sound a note of warning.

It is one thing to renovate an old road or to construct a new one but it is equally and even more important that these roads should be properly maintained. There are already signs that roads built only a few years ago are falling into disrepair and that the work of maintenance is not being carried out as it should be.

I realise that Government can only undertake road work according to the means at its disposal, and I realise further that during the present War communications will be on a decreasing scale. I appreciate those difficulties but I would stress on the Government that during the present lean period it is much more important to maintain existing roads now carrying heavier and faster traffic rather than to embark upon new schemes.

The proper maintenance of roads already built and renovated must be the slogan of the Public Works Department.

Speaking on a matter which concerns my own particular district—I mean the district of Darrang—it was recently decided to transport mails from the railhead at Rangapara to North Lakhimpur by road—a distance of one hundred miles. Previously mails have been carried by Steamer Company, but this contract will expire at an early date. This transport by road is good news and will mean that the inhabitants of North Lakhimpur will receive their mails twenty-four hours earlier than they had been accustomed to. There again, however, I would draw the attention of the

Government to the fact that unless that long stretch of road is properly maintained, mails by the new route instead of being improved by the Steamer Service, which though slow is a regular service, will in all probability take considerably longer time, if in fact at some period during the rains they ever reach their destinations at all.

I should like also to bring to the notice of the Government another point in connection with North Bank communications. Quite a number of rumours have been circulating in the Tezpur, Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur areas, and these rumours appear to be well founded, that in the near future the daily passenger steamer service between Tezpur and Lakhimpur will be drastically curtailed if not actually stopped. The North Bank—I speak on behalf of the Indian community as well as of the Europeans—view these rumours with great concern and I should like to have the assurance of the Government that they are without foundation. What we want to see and what we have a right to expect is that present communications between the North and South Banks of the Brahmaputra should not only be maintained but even improved upon.

There is no railway on the North Bank between Mangapara and North Lakhimpur, road communications are still poor and it is unthinkable that any Government could stand idly by and see the many thousands who live in this area practically isolated from the outer world, a position which would undoubtedly arise, were steamer services to be curtailed.

I should now like to touch briefly on the Forest Department, a department which has under its special care one of the main assets of the Province. Good work has been done and increased commercialisation is successfully producing increased revenue. But here again a note of warning should be sounded. The needs of War are the main cause for this increase in revenue. When peace returns and times become normal again the demand for forest produce will tend to decline. Is it not therefore a sound business proposition that during the present period of prosperity the Forest Department should be supplied with ample funds to enable it to prepare for the less prosperous times which lie ahead? But what does we find in the Budget? In spite of the huge increase in revenue from the Forest Department we find that the miserable sum of Rs 2,000 has been allocated for improvements and new projects. In other words we are using up this precious asset and putting little back, a policy which will sooner or later lead to bankruptcy.

Then, again, I must bring to the notice of Government another matter which we view with great concern. Just at the time when the Forest Department is doing well and is deserving of all the support and backing which we can give it, we have before us a Bill called the Forest (Amendment) Bill, which if passed into legislation, will have the effect of depriving the Department of its present limited control or at least of seriously affecting proper administration. The Bill will undoubtedly be popular with a certain section of the public but the result will be a definite inducement to pilfer and plunder those very products which are now yielding such a handsome return in revenue. I appeal to the hon. members to consider well this Bill and if not actually turn it down to at least ensure that proper safeguards are introduced to prevent the theft and pilferage of our forest produce.

The third subject on which I would like to say a few words is the formation of the First Battalion of the Assam Regiment. No one knows how long this War will last nor how far it will spread. It is therefore most gratifying to learn of the formation of the Assam Regiment. Not only will it add to the defence of this country but it will also provide a career for many of our youngmen, a career from which they will derive great benefits. It will be the means not only of improving them physically but also of

instilling into them that spirit of discipline and *esprit de corps* which will prove so valuable to them in later years. We shall follow with close interest the progress of this Regiment and we feel confident that if ever it is called upon to defend this land it will acquit itself with honour and emulate the example of those older Indian regiments which have already on many occasions during the present War conducted themselves with so great distinction (*heart, heart*).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hitlerism has been displayed in the Budget that has been presented before us for the year 1941-42. I shall justify the use of the word "Hitlerism" in course of my speech. We heard of communalism, valleyism, etc. so long.

Credit should be given to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for taking the trouble of learning the history of the word "Budget" and placing the same before us for our benefit as well. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said at the very outset "I do not wish to convey the impression that I am attempting to play the role of a conjuror or to entertain you with a bag of tricks... but I shall attempt to present the Budget in a simple, humble and unpretentious way". Now let us see how he has deviated from the historical genesis of the word "Budget" which is derived from the French *bougette*, meaning a small leather bag—bag of tricks—and then to the documents which the bag contains.

The balancing of the Budget is the first requisite of financial stability, one or two deficit budgets in succession may not perhaps matter and may be condoned if due to exceptional circumstances but a Government which habitually budgeted for more expenditure than the revenue at its disposal would suffer in financial credit. Unbalanced budgets are bound sooner or later to weaken the faith of investors and to lead to monetary inflation, which if uncontrolled, will terminate in national disaster.

Within the last 13 years only during 1939-40 the actual revenue receipts exceeded actual revenue expenditure. Knowing all these facts when the Hon'ble Finance Minister ventures to present a deficit budget to the extent of about Rs. 12,00,000—I cannot but comment that to bring national disaster voluntarily and wilfully is nothing short of Hitlerism.

Sir, the last Budget presented before us as a surplus one is going to be a deficit one, the difference being to the extent of 8 lakhs of rupees. Then it was shown that there would be a surplus of about 5 lakhs and now we find that there will be a deficit of 3 lakhs. As regards the Budget under discussion, it is already a deficit one and the amount is also a very big one.

While the Hon'ble Finance Minister pleads for his condonation, this being his first Budget, he condemns his Leader and boss, the benighted Sir Muhammad, for his habitual deficit Budgets and subject to correction, I think, out of the 12 deficit budgets within the last 13 years, 7 go to the credit of Sir Muhammad. I am really sorry for the Hon'ble Premier. The present Finance Minister in his zeal to defend himself has butchered his Leader.

While discussing the Budget for 1939-40 as Opposition Leader, Sir Muhammad said that that Budget reminded him of the picture of a person sucking acid drops to neutralise the effect of rinsing his mouth with a strong solution of alum. Sir myself not being a Master of Science, cannot say what picture he is dreaming this year. I hope the Hon'ble Premier will have the courage to describe the picture before us. He said "I think, Sir, if any measure ought to receive the most preferential treatment, it was the Department of Agriculture". Sir, may I most humbly ask the Hon'ble Premier whether he is satisfied with the allotment of money this year under that head so as to give the hungry millions a better return for agriculture? The different taxation measures were then vehemently criticised,

though his Government do not feel ashamed to utilize the money derived from those means; rather now his Finance Minister regrets that, due to the deplorable economic condition of the people, any other measure of taxation cannot be taken up. Sir, by bringing all these points before you, I do not in the least mean to condemn the Hon'ble Finance Minister, which his Colleague has done, but I wish to know from him whether all these have received his careful attention. But if he says that due to his ill-health it was not possible for him to go through all these things, I am ready to withdraw any charges against him.

Now let me enter into the figures proper. Sir, it will be found that in the present Budget the revenue has been decreased from Rs. 3,13,77,000 revised estimate for the year 1940-41 to Rs. 3,11,91,000, whereas the expenditure has been increased from Rs. 3,18,73,000 revised estimate for the year 1940-41 to Rs. 3,24,90,000 that is, the revenue has been decreased to the extent of 2½ lakhs and expenditure has been increased to the extent of 6½ lakhs. If we compare the expenditure of 1939-40 actual, we will find that Rs. 2,92,33,000 was spent for the year, so more than 32½ lakhs of rupees will be spent during the year 1941-42 over the expenditure of 1939-40. With the capital revenue and capital expenditure, the closing balance of 1939-40 was Rs. 46,39,000 actual, and according to the revised estimate the closing balance for the year 1940-41 will be Rs. 51,47,000, whereas for the year under discussion it will be Rs. 46,97,000. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said in his Budget speech that it was noteworthy that the Budget shows a closing balance of Rs. 46,97,000 as against Rs. 20,21,000 of the current year and Rs. 51,47,000 of the revised estimate of 1940-41 and the province may be said to be in a fairly sound position. Sir, this substantial balance is mainly the result of the loan of Rs. 50,00,000 floated during the current year.

In this connection, I think it is my duty—my moral duty—to point out before this Honourable House that over and above this loan of Rs. 50,00,000 the total liability for State Provident Funds on the 1st of April 1940 amount to Rs. 1,04,03,000 and this will, it is estimated, rise to about Rs. 1,10,19,000 on the 1st of April 1941. If in spite of all these, it is said that the province may be said to be in a fairly sound position, I leave it to the House to draw their own conclusion whether the Budget has been presented in unpretentious way as said by the Hon'ble Finance Minister or he has appeared before us with his bag of tricks.

To prevent Hitler bringing disaster in his own country as well as in other democratic countries, our British friends are fighting heart and soul. Now, may I take the liberty of requesting them to take up the same characteristic courage and to fight to save poor Assam from the national disaster that has befallen on her due to the Hitlerian policy of budgeting?

Sir, now I shall deal with the notable items of expenditure during the next year. The present Government deserves thanks for the continuation of the prohibition policy launched by the Congress-Coalition Government, and my special thanks are due to the Hon'ble Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri for the proportionately liberal provision in his Education Budget. Though there are a good many things which should receive his immediate attention, still I should say that he has tried to make headway. He has not, however, kept his promise in some particular cases, namely the opening of Biology class in the Murarichand College at Sylhet, which is really deplorable. As I intend to deal with this particular matter by moving a cut motion, I refrain from commenting on this now. His University Bill will also receive my particular attention when we shall deal with it in detail. I do not like to take much time of the House on those matters which may be dealt with elaborately some

other time. But, alas! for my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Chakravarty—it is a great pity that even during the second Budget of his Ministership he has not been able to take a single step for starting a Medical Institution at Sylhet. Though Rs. 84,000 has been allotted for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic at Shillong, I have great doubt—and sound doubts too, I believe—that it was not due to his endeavour, but due to some influential agency playing behind the screen. This amount, though it is most inadequate, still the project deserves hearty support of the general public. I request my friend the Hon'ble Medical Minister to gather courage in both hands and to take up immediate steps for starting a Medical Institution at Sylhet which project was once so very near and dear to his heart. If he cannot do that, it will be better for him to get rid of the Medical Portfolio.

Sir, if Government was to be judged on the principles on which it framed its Budget, I am really sorry to remark that our expectations aroused by the inauguration of provincial autonomy have fallen far far short. It has been said that nation-building departments have had a large share in the allotment.

Sir, a sum of Rupees 7 lakhs has been provided on new schemes. Out of these Rs. 4,33,666 has been allotted for nation-building departments as follows:

	Rs.
Education	1,86,050
Public Health	60,080
Agriculture	32,680
Veterinary	17,360
Industries	51,367

I have already touched both Education and Medical Departments. Next comes Public Health. Out of Rs. 60,080, Rs. 20,000 are meant for Civil Works, and Rs. 40,000 for other works; Rs. 4,572 for Cachar district; Rs. 13,218 for Golaghat Health Unit; and Rs. 4,290 for making permanent the Bacteriophage Section of the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, and Rs. 18,000, contingent expenditure for preparation of bacteriophage.

	Rs.
Agriculture	
Under the head Superintendence	6,600
Under the head Demonstration and Propaganda	9,600
Under other Charges	880
Under Subordinate head and expert staff	2,475
and under Special Rural Uplift Scheme	13,125
Veterinary—	
Award of 10 additional stipends	8,650
Civil Works	250
Subordinate establishment	8,460
and lastly Industries—	
Original works	8,500
Industrial education	30,967
Industrial development	6,000
Sericulture	5,900

Now, Sir, it is for the House to judge how the insufficient money that has been allotted for the new schemes has been distributed—whether it is according to the needs of the Department, or with some ulterior motive behind it other than the benefit of the general public. Sir, it has been said by the Hon'ble Minister for Finance that the Ministry inspired by an ardent desire to effect an all-round improvement in the moral, intellectual, economic and material condition of the people of the country and in the highest

interest of the province, have patronised the idea of Budgetary retrenchment in new schemes. Sir, if by allotting that amount for these schemes, the Ministry think that they have done all that is possible, they are doing the lot of the people of the province, I am sure that there will be no person in the creation who would not just call the Finance Ministry the guardian of the moral, intellectual, economical and social advancement of the province of the country is anything but normal. It is a matter of fact that the entire money passed by the Legislature for the current year, for the various building departments namely Agriculture, Public Health, Education, etc., will not be spent this year. Under the head Agriculture Rs. 1,00,000,000, under the head Public Health Rs. 9,19,000, and under the head Education Rs. 2,02,000 were passed during the current year. Under the head Public Health Rs. 1,87,000 will be respectively spent as compared to the Budget. So there is nothing to be paid out for, but when the Government are in the Budget; where is the guarantee that these schemes will be carried out. Is another interesting figure I wish to draw your attention to, Sir. During the current year Rs. 2,83,000 will be paid out for the Education, but in the Budget of 1941-42 only Rs. 2,16,000 was provided for the Education. In 1940-41, Rs. 9,19,000 was provided under the head Public Health, but this year it is only Rs. 8,92,000. Now, it is for you to decide whether we are going ahead or falling back.

It will be found that in the revised estimate of 1940-41, Rs. 21,600 has been shown against Parliamentary Secretaries, and the total expenditure has been calculated accordingly. But it is quite possible that the Parliamentary Secretary has been appointed during the current year. But please in a provision in next year's Budget. Now, may I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to omit the amount from the next year's Budget and save Rs. 21,600 under this head, so that it may be spent for some real beneficial purpose.

Sir, I had the proud privilege of opening the Budget discussion during 1937—the first Budget of the Provincial Autonomy. I suggested about retrenchment, and credit must be given to Sir Muhammad that he called a committee that year soon after the session was over. Four years have passed, and the last Budget according to the provision of the present Act of 1935 is before us now. May I ask the Hon'ble Premier whether he thinks himself guilty or not for not giving effect to the recommendations of the said committee? When year after year we are being a deficit Budget, I am sure that a man of Sir Muhammad's education, culture and position cannot but plead guilty to the charge.

Sir, the prosperity of the province depends upon the prosperity of agriculture and its trade and commerce. If the present Ministry consider that what has been done with regard to Agriculture is enough, I should say that they are roaming in a fools' paradise. In the sphere of trade and commerce the Government take pride in mentioning Debt Conciliation Boards, the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Act to afford relief to the peasantry groaning under the load of heavy debts. They also venture to take credit by saying that they are about to bring the Assam Money Lenders' Bill, sponsored by Maulavi Abdul Aziz, on the Statute Book for the same object. Sir, in my opinion the Ministry ought to have felt ashamed to mention all these. Not only this, they also claim credit for the Terancy Bills now before the Legislature. Sir, to rob Peter to pay Paul may be the object of pride of some uncivilised Government but not of civilised Government of the present days. By doing injustice to a section of the people—a microscopic minority—who have no real representative here in this House, the Government is going to give relief to the poor peasantry without giving

them any substantial and material help and they have the audacity too to proclaim that in the Budget speech. Nothing can be more derogatory of a popular Ministry of the present days. I expect that Government would try their level best to make every possible retrenchment in the expenditure and the money saved thereby should be spent for the real betterment of the poor agriculturists.

Sir, as I have said before, that there is a hint of taxation measure in the speech, but for deplorable economic condition of the people the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not come up before the House with any measure of taxation, and the only means of meeting the deficit is by retrenchment. When pressed hard to a tight corner the Government appointed a committee. The committee involve a great deal of expenditure, but the Government duty seemed to have ended with its appointment only. After the presentation of the reports they had no time to look into the recommendations.

Sir, I am sorry for the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he has not got the courage to act according to his convictions. It may be that the Leader is unfortunately unwell, but what about the others—the *Nabagrahas*?

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that with the employment of their own staff, they will be able to make up the loss in the receipts from Agricultural Income tax within the next two years, if not in the next year. Sir, I had to understand what the Hon'ble Finance Minister means by the word "loss". Does he mean that non-realisation of income-tax within the year is a loss, and this loss is also due to the action of the present staff dealing with the Department, viz., the Income-tax Department of the Central Government? This is really a serious charge against the officers of the India Government, and I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will enlighten the House on this subject.

Sir, while dealing with Agricultural Income-tax, I think, as a representative of the tea planters, I should thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the propaganda he has done and will do in the future for our tea. He has said that it is essential to check the addicts from diverting to the habit of taking excisable articles like liquor and *ganja*, but he has not said a single word what step the present Government has taken to check it. May I not expect that the Ministry will do their best to check it? Sir, while speaking about tea drinking I do not know whether the Hon'ble Finance Minister has anything in mind to burden the Tea Industry with a further load in the future. In other words, whether the remarks at page 2 of the Budget speech have got anything to do with propaganda on page 12. I warn my planter friends to take timely note of this. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that the expectation of the optimistic Finance Minister who introduced the taxation measures in 1939 and anticipated a revenue surplus of Rs 12 lakhs is still in the air. If it is still in the air, then, Sir, I should say that it is not due to optimism of the then Finance Minister, but due to lack of vigilance in timely framing the refund rules of the present Ministry. To blame an hon. member of this House who is now behind the prison bars, and that also for no fault of his, is anything but honest and proper. Sir, about the reforms in Jails, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that out-door games like *Hadu dudu* has been introduced for males, and for females, the size of *saris* is being increased from 5 yards \times 40" to 5½ yards \times 45", and that also as the old stock of *Saris* is used up. I think it is better for me to refrain from making any remark, because it is a matter of shame for all of us that we are to hear all these in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister.

For the welfare of labour, the Government have decided to spend Rs.15,000; that is also for the pay and establishment of an Assistant Labour Commissioner. The labourers of the province should not only gratefully thank the Government.

After all, my appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister has reached his ears, and, as an experimental measure, a register has been opened to register the names of the unemployed educated youths of the province. The less is said about labour welfare and unemployed youths, the better, but still I appeal to Government that proper attention should be given to solve the unemployment problem.

The term 'nation-building' has been much stressed by the present Government. Sir, to charge the present Government with inactivity, I should say that the Government is working not only for the benefit of programme and ideas as well. The Government have done nothing to solve the economic problem of the masses.

Sir, I cannot help crediting the Finance Minister with the requisite brains to understand what are really the dire necessities of the masses of the province. I dare say that he is perfectly aware of all these necessities. They are very simple and modest. Let him solve the problem of the very existence of the masses, namely, a two ordinary full meals a day and 4 clothes just to protect the bodies, prevention of premature deaths from preventable diseases and the removal of illiteracy from among the masses. If any Government fail to perform this much of their duties, they should not exist.

Sir, we always hear about the paucity of funds whenever we raise the question of the Medical Institution at Sylhet, but there is a Bill before us for the establishment of a University. Sir, may I inquire from the Government that the Government which has presented a deficit Budget of about Rs.12,00,000 over and above the loan of Rs.50,00,000 made last year, and having a liability of Rs.1,10,19,000 under the head 'State Provident Fund' and who also say that in spite of their best efforts they cannot meet the demands of masses, how can they come up before this House with such a Bill which will cost more than a crore of rupees? I have doubts in my mind whether they are serious in this matter, or the next election has got something to do with it. When the masses are fighting for their very existence, our Ministry is dreaming of a University. It is popular Government indeed!

Sir, it is really a pity that our Co-operative Minister has got very little co-operation or non-co-operation from her colleagues. Sir, as far back as 1937, I asked several questions regarding cinchona cultivation in the province. In reply, the Government said that they were paying their attention to this matter. Last year also when our friend Mr. Narendia Nath Deb mentioned about it in his Budget speech, the Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the suggestion, though it was not the first time that he heard of it. But what the Government has done in this respect? The Government has taken credit to say that over and above their normal provision of quinine they have arranged to purchase through the Government of India from Java 1,500 lbs. of quinine annually for four years. We would have been glad to hear that Government are making arrangements that in the near future they will not purchase quinine from outside, rather they will supply others.

Sir, in reply to my questions on the very first day of the current sessions the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that about the collection of War Fund Government do not keep any information but the very same day after a few minutes the Hon'ble Finance Minister said "my speech

will be extremely parochial if I fail to refer to the world war. The War Purposes Fund Committee established on the appeal of His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Premier has now collected nearly eight lakhs of rupees". Sir, the Hon'ble Minister may sing songs of Siva (শীবেৰ গীত) at the time of husking the paddy (ধান ভন্টে); there is no harm in it, because they are Ministers, but if a member who is interested in war committees ask a question, an evasive reply is given on some pretext or other. No matter—a Minister he is! Sir, it has been said that a Sinking Fund for the payment of the loan of Rs.50 lakhs has already been started and in the current year a sum of Rs.2,60,000 was invested in the Punjab and the United Provinces Governments' 3 per cent. loans. Well and good, but in this connection it naturally arises in my mind whether any other Provincial Government invested money when we floated a loan of Rs.50 lakhs last year. I am eager to know this simply to understand our credit to other Provincial Governments.

Sir, I should like to touch one or two points more. There are some figures in the Budget and Memorandum which seem to me to be wrong ones. I shall mention only two or three cases if I am right then I should say that it is really deplorable that the figures of a Government Budget even after the issue of correction slips remain inaccurate. On page 40 of the Budget, Land records—pay of establishment Rs.144. On page 63 Establishment charges 2 Pay of Establishment—Computer—Rs. 2,400. On page 149 of the Memorandum—Total Revenue Rs.19,984.

Sir, the Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri while discussing the Budget of 1939-40 criticised Mr. Ahmed because he thanked Mr. Chari. But Sir, what do we find this year? Mr. Chari who was painted so black by Mr. Chaudhuri at that time has received thanks from the Hon'ble Finance Minister—a colleague of Mr. Chaudhuri in the present Cabinet, and I am sure that Mr. Chari has proved his worth to Mr. Chaudhuri's Ministry as well. I hope Mr. Chari will have peace now. It will not be out of place to mention here that Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri read the Budget speech in the Upper House and the thanks were conveyed through him. I also thank Mr. Chari.

Sir, before I conclude, I feel I must raise a note of warning both for the good of the Ministry as well as for the people for whose good the Ministry is supposed to be working. Signs are ominous—indeed they are too ominous to be disregarded any further. The manner in which public appointments are being made, sometimes without advertisement, sometimes without consulting the Public Service Commission and sometimes disregarding the Public Service Commission has evoked strong criticism in the public Press of the country. Justice, equity and fairness of the Government are being challenged on all sides. The public has been goaded to such desperation that one provincial newspaper has already published a leading article under the caption "suspend the constitution" urging his Excellency the Governor to dismiss the Council of Ministers. Another leading provincial newspaper has gone to the length of characterising democracy as a failure in the province of Assam. It is possible to imagine that on account of a large number of Assembly members being imprisoned now, Opposition in this House may not be sufficiently strong to displace the Government but there is no mistaking the fact that there are signs of discontent all throughout the province against the present Ministry. Appointments are frequently being made without due advertisement and without proper consultation with the Public Service Commission, more with

করি না। একটি কার্গজের কন ও অন্যান্য শিল্প পুঁজিত্বের ব্যয় করা হবে। সরকারী
 বায়ে শিক্ষিত বেকার যুবকাদিগকে অর্থকরী বিদ্যা শিক্ষার জন্য ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। যুবকদের
 প্রতি স্বীয় কর্তব্য পালন করা আদায় সরকারের আর্থিক নিষ্ঠার যুবকদের শিক্ষার ব্যয়
 হয় না।

নাড়ের চাষ, এটি, মুগা ও বেগুন শিল্প বহু দক্ষী বহু শিল্প হু মার মতীর কাজ
 বেতের কাজ, মোচার কাজ ইত্যাদি কৃষির শিল্পের জন্য উৎসাহ যুবকদের জন্য সরকার
 যুবক যুবতীগণকে কাজ করিবার প্ররোচনা দানে তাহাঁদের যুবকদের শিক্ষার ব্যয়
 বঙলীর উচিত ছিল।

পরী উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্রে কেন্দ্রে দুই ডারিটী কন ও কার্গজের জন্য কন কন কন কন
 দরিদ্র প্রজাপুস্তের মত কঠোরিত অর্থ নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য শিক্ষার কন কন কন কন
 বলিয়া মনে হয়। আশা করিমাড়িনাম বাজেটে বঙলার ব্যবস্থার উপর শিক্ষার কন কন কন
 সেখানে পাতন হয়ত অজানাভাবে নিয়ন্ত্রিত পন পন পন পন পন পন পন পন পন
 সত্যিকার উপকার সাধন করে কোন মনুষ্য পরিবর্তন সাধিতে পারেন। আশা করি
 ছিল। অন্ততঃ স্থান কাল পারোপযোগী কঠোরিত প্ররোচনার শিল্প শিক্ষা পন
 ব্যবস্থা এই বাজেটে করা হইবে। কিন্তু আরও বেশীকরী পন পন পন পন পন
 তেরহাজার একশত পচিশ টাকা বায়ে কার্গজ ডারিটী কন কন কন কন কন
 আয়োজন দৃষ্টে কে না নিরাশ হইয়াছে ?

প্রদেশের সর্বত্র আশীর ওজন পুনর্ন কন কন কন কন কন কন কন কন কন
 অতি অল্প মুদ্রাট বায় করিবার প্রয়োজন হইত। তাহাঁপি মনে হয় কঠোরিত মনীষীদের
 বিরোধজন হইবার আশঙ্কায় গভর্ণমেন্ট এনিময়ে উত্থিতঃ করিতেছেন। কিন্তু তাহাঁ
 গভর্ণমেন্টের যে আচরণ প্রকাশ পাইতেছে তাহা কোন নিতীক মারামিষ্ট সরকারের পক্ষে
 মোটেই শোভন নহে।

Cart ট্যাক্স উঠাইয়া দিয়া গরীব কৃষক ও কুলী মজুরদের কষ্টের তাব হাল্কা
 করিতে একটুও চেষ্টা করা হইতেছেনা। গরীবদের প্রতি সহানুভূতির এই অভাব
 বড়ই পীড়াদায়ক।

সারা আসানের ঘরে ঘরে শিক্ষার আলো ও রোগের প্রথম নিতরণ করিবার কোন
 প্রয়াসের সন্ধান আলোচ্য বাজেটে পাওয়া গেল না। আনাদের পার্শ্ববর্তী প্রদেশনি
 প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা অবৈতনিক ও বাধ্যতামূলক করিয়া শিক্ষা ও সভ্যতায় আনাদের চেয়ে
 একশত বৎসরের মত অধিক অগ্রসর হইতেছে। পক্ষান্তরে আনাদের এই দুর্ভাগ্য প্রদেশ
 শুধু মন্ত্রী রক্ষার নিমিত্ত শিলং গৈলে ও শিলংএর বাহিরে যত কিছু করা প্রয়োজন
 বোধ হয় সব করিতেছেন, কেবল করিতেছেন না প্রদেশের মঙ্গলসাধনের জন্য কোন
 প্রকার আন্তরিক চেষ্টা।

সেই জাতির উৎকর্ষসাধন ও মনোরম হইতে বক্ষা, উৎকৃত প্রমাদীর কৃষি শিক্ষা প্রদান, স্বানোপযোগী শস্যের আবাদ করিতে সাহায্যকরা, প্রয়োজনানুসারী জল সেচন, কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদির জন্য যে ভাবে সাহায্য করা ব্যবহার তাহার কিছুই করা হইতেছেনা। সরকার সেই মাত্রায় আমদের পক্ষী এখনও অনুসরণ করিতেছেন—ইহা অতি দুঃখের বিষয়। বাংলার গভর্নমেন্ট উন্নত শ্রেণীর পাট জন্মান শিক্ষা দিয়া ও পাট চাষ নিয়ন্ত্রন করিয়া পাটের মূল্য বৃদ্ধির ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। বাংলার পাট বর্ধন ১৯১০ হইকা মত পথে বিক্রয় হইতেছে, আসামের পাটের দাম তখন প্রতি মণ ৩১৪ টাকার অধিক মত। কৃষকদের দুর্ক শার অর্থ নাই। অর্থাৎ আসামের মজীবনী আবাদ কেদারায় বসিয়া "অসমীয়া জাগরণ" প্রচারের অশু দেখিতেছেন। যদিও কৃষক প্রজাগণের কৃষার অনু নাই, পরিধানের বস্ত্র নাই, রোগের ঔষধ নাই, অর্থাৎ তাহাদের নিকট হইতে অন্যান্য বংশেরের মাছই খাজনা আদায় করিয়া তাহাদিগকে সর্বান্ত করা হইতেছে।

কংগ্রেস ও হিন্দু প্রধান বহুদলের মজীবনের অবস্থানের ফলে গঠিত বর্তমান মুসলমান প্রধান মজীবনশ্রমীর নিকট হইতে বহু অনায়েদের প্রতিকার ও সকল বিষয়ে ন্যায় বিচার পাইবে বনিয়া মুসলমান প্রজার আশা করিয়াছিল। কিন্তু অতীব দুঃখের বিষয় অমুসলমানগণকে তুই রাখিয়া মজীবর বজায় রাখিবার নিমিত্ত বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট এতই চিন্তিত যে মুসলিম স্মার্য সবদে অতি নিখর্য ভাবে পদ দলিত হইতেছে সেদিকে কাহারও স্রক্ষেপ নাই।

প্রদেশে মুসলিম শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত একজন এ. ডি. পি. আই ছিলেন। দুর্ভাগ্য বশতঃ তাহার পদ এখন উঠিয়া গেল বলিয়াই মনে হয়।

আগামভালী ইসলামী শিক্ষায় অতিশয় পশ্চাৎপদ। সুতরাং উক্ত ভালীর ইসলামী শিক্ষার জন্য একজন স্পেশাল ইন্স্পেক্টর নিযুক্ত করা খুব বেশী আবশ্যিক। কিন্তু সরকার সে বিষয় উদাসীন।

মুসলমান ছেলেমেয়ে দিগকে মুসলিম কৃষ্টি ও সভ্যতার অনুকূল শিক্ষা প্রদানের জন্য বিশেষ স্কুল মাদ্রাসা পরিচালন ত দুবের কথা, আগাম ভালীর স্কুল মাদ্রাসা গুলিতে যথোপযুক্ত অর্থ সাহায্যও প্রদান করা হয়না। আশ্চর্যের বিষয় এই প্রগতির যুগে মুসলমান মেয়েদের শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত গারা প্রদেশে একটিও হাই মাদ্রাসা কিম্বা মিড্‌ল্ মাদ্রাসা নাই। আলোচ্য বাজেটে মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত মেয়েদিগকে বৃত্তি প্রদানের কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। মেয়েদের মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষার প্রতি গবর্নমেন্টের উদাসীনতার বিষময় ফল আমরা প্রতিদিন সহরের রাস্তায় রাস্তায় দেখিতে পাই।

এবারকার সেশনে একটি ইউনিভার্সিটি বিল আনয়ন করা হইতেছে। কিন্তু আগাম ইউনিভার্সিটি বিলটি প্রস্তুত করিতে গবর্নমেন্ট কোন মুসলমানের সাহায্য গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন বলিয়া অবগত নহি। পাছে মজীবর বা কেবিনেটের অমুসলমান মেম্বারগণের কেহ গোসা হন এই ভয়ে এমন কোন কথাই উত্থাপন করা হয় নাই বলিয়া মনে হয়।

প্রদেশের ছাত্র স্কুলগুলির দ্বিতীয় ইউনিভার্সিটির আয়োজন বন্ধ করা হইবে। অর্থাৎ ছাত্রী মাষ্টার কোন নামোক্তের পধ্যস্ত নাই। ইউনিভার্সিটির বিভিন্ন কলেজের ছাত্রদের সংখ্যা এমন তাহে রাখা হইয়াছে যে তাহা কোন কাজের হইবে না। কিন্তু সরকারী তদুনোক টাকা ইউনিভার্সিটি এই ছাত্রদের বহু শিক্ষণ পুস্তক ক্রয় করিতে পারিত। কিন্তু সরকারী করিয়াছেন শুধু হিন্দু-মুসলমানের জন্য ক্রয় করিতে পারিত। অর্থাৎ অর্থাৎ বহু বই নাই। যাহা হউক, বিলের আলোচনা আরম্ভ করিতে ছাত্রদের জন্য হইবে অর্থাৎ বহু এই যে সর্ব শ্রেণীর পুস্তক অর্থ ব্যয়ে স্পেশাল অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করিয়া বহু বই পুস্তক ক্রয় হইয়াছে তাহাতে সর্ব শ্রেণীর পুস্তক বহু বই ক্রয় করা হইবে। অর্থাৎ বহু পুস্তক ক্রয় করা হইয়াছে নাই।

এবারকার আদমশুমারিতে সর্ব শ্রেণীর জনসংখ্যার মধ্যে যে অংশের মধ্যে বহু বই নথ্যায় লিপিবদ্ধ হইতে পারে তাহা কোন পুস্তক অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে। অন্যায় আন্দার আমরা করি না। কিন্তু অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় কোন মুসলিম পুস্তক কেন্দ্রের নাই। অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় টাকা না পাঠিলে আদমের মুসলিম লোক বহু হইবে। অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় নাহানো এক শ্রেণীর ৫। ১০ লক্ষ লোককে অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা সফল হয় না। সুতরাং অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে।

যে উপনিবেশিকগণকে মেট্রিকুলেশনের সঙ্গে একত্র বসানোর আশঙ্কা হইতে বিরক্ত করিয়া রাখা হইয়াছে, কোন বহু উৎসাহ প্রদান হইবে অর্থাৎ অর্থ ক্রয় করা হইবে উপনিবেশিক-গণকে "উপনিবেশিক" বলিয়া পৃথক ভাবে গণনা করিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হইবে। প্রদেশের সর্বত্র বঙ্গভাষাভাষীদের মাতৃভাষা অসমীয়া বলিয়া লিপ্যন্তর হইবে। এবং এবারকার লোক গণনার অর্থ: পক্ষে ৫ লক্ষ বাঙ্গালী মুসলমানের মাতৃ-ভাষা বদলাইয়া, তাহাদিগকে নানা স্বকম প্রলোভন দিয়া অসমীয়া ভাষা তাহাদের মাতৃভাষা বলিয়া লিপ্যন্তর হইয়াছে। অর্থাৎ উপনিবেশিকদের শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্যের পুষ্টি কোন দুর্গিন্দিত করা হয় না এবং সংখ্যা অনুপাতে তাহারা সরকারী চাকরীও পায় না। তাহাদিগকে শিক্ষাদীক্ষার পশ্চাত্তপদ রাখিয়া তাহাদের সহস্রা অসমীয়া তাহাদের মাতৃভাষা রাখার মধ্যে কোন রহস্য আছে বলিয়া বোধ হয়। তবে যুবের বিষয় এই যে তাহাদিগকে সুবিধা থাকিবে এবং সহস্রট চিরকালের জন্য Line System প্রদিয়া যাইবে। আমার বোধ হয় এবার 'অসমীয়া' লিপ্যন্তর ফলে লাইন পুথ্য সহস্রট উদ্বিগ্ন যাইবে। তাহাদিগকে সমান অবকাশ থাকিত না।

দুনিয়ার কোন ভাষাকেই আমি অবজ্ঞার চক্ষে দেখি না। কিন্তু এই প্রদেশের কতিপয় জেলায় বঙ্গভাষাভাষী কোনল নতি বালকবালিকাগণের ক্ষেত্রে অসমীয়া ভাষা চাপাইবার কি না। খাগিয়া, গারো, নাগা, লুসাই প্রভৃতি পাড়াছিয়া জাতিগুলির পক্ষান্তে নিজ নিজ মাতৃ-সহিত মুখের ভাষাও কাজিয়া লওয়া হইয়াছে।

সেখানে শিক্ষক বাঙালী ও অসমীয়া ভাষায় দখল অতি অল্পই রাখেন এবং ছাত্রগণও সকলেই বাঙালী, এমন ছুব মজবুত পুখম ভাগ হইতে আৰম্ভ করিয়া সমস্ত পড়াই অসমীয়া ভাষায় না চাৰিলে সরকারী শিক্ষা লোকেনবোর্ডের সাহায্য অথবা মজুরী পাওয়া যায় না—একথা কোন সরকারের মানুষই বিশ্বাস করিতে চাহিবে না। অথচ এই হস্তত্যাগী ঔপনিবেশিকগণ আমাদের রাজকোষে হাজার হাজার টাকা কর প্রদান করিতেছে।

বাহিন প্রথা সম্বন্ধে কিছু না বলাই বোঝ হয় সম্ভব। কারণ এই বেআইনী ও অন্যায় অত্যাচারের সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিতে গেলেই এক শ্রেণীর তদুনোকের গাজদাহ উপস্থিত হয়। কিন্তু আসাম দুর্ভাগ্যে এই মত পোষণ করি যে নিখিয়া bluff দেওয়া কোন দেশের সরকারের পক্ষেই সম্ভব জনক নহে এবং আমাদের সকলের উপরে এমন একজন আছেন যিনি প্রবনের হস্ত হইতে দুববলকে বন্ধা করিবার ক্ষমতা রাখেন ও যিনি অন্যায়, অবিচার, অত্যাচার চিরদিন একটানা ভাবে চাৰিতে দেন না। ভূমিহীন প্রজাদিগকে ভূমি দিবার ইচ্ছা যদি আসলী নাই থাকে তবে অথবা দরখাস্ত করিতে বলিয়া দীনহীন প্রজাদের অনোর দাড়ীতে মজুরী করিয়া শরীরের রক্ত জল করিয়া রোজগার করা পোণর মোল বণ্ডা করিয়া পরসা ছিনাইয়া লওয়া কি আসাম সরকারের উচিত হইয়াছে? বর্তমান বাজেটে তাহাদের পরসা খুদে আসলে ফেরৎ দিবার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত ছিল বলিয়া মনে হয়।

কয়েকদিন ধুব সোবগোলের সম্বন্ধে Mass Literacy Campaign এর প্রচার পরিচালিত হইতেছিল। বাহির হইতে খবরের কাগজ পড়িয়া লোকে হয়ত মনে করিত নিশ্চয় কিছু না কিছু কাজ হইতেছে। কিন্তু যাহারা আসামের পরীতে বাস করে তাহারা প্রচারিত সংবাদে বিস্মিত হইত—বুঝিতে পারিত না, তাহারা আকাশে আছে কি পাতালে আছে। সারা প্রদেশে দশটি ও নৈশ বিদ্যালয়ে আশানুরূপ কাজ হইতেছে কি না সম্বেহ এবং ইহার জন্য নানাভাবে দায়ী প্রদেশের গভর্ণমেন্ট।

প্রায় সকল বিষয়েই অন্যায় পক্ষপাতিত্ব প্রদর্শন বর্তমান আসাম সরকারের অন্যতম বৈশিষ্ট। শুধু ঔপনিবেশিকগণ নয়, বঙ্গভাষাভাষী মাত্রেই নির্যাতিত হইতেছে।

গাপট গ্রামের পুরাতন হাইস্কুলে বাংলা শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয় বলিয়া সেখানে সাহায্য দেওয়া হয় না। অথচ সেই গাপটগ্রামেই একটি ঘরের বারান্দায় দুই-দশটি ছেলেকে অসমীয়া ভাষা পড়াইলে সেখানে মাসিক ৮০ টাকা হারে সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়।

ধুবড়ীর দক্ষিণপার অঞ্চল বাংলা দেশের সহিত সংলগ্ন বলিয়া কি অন্য কোন কারণে জানি না, সরকার সেই অঞ্চলের প্রতি বড়ই অমনোযোগী। সেই স্তব্ধ অঞ্চলের তিন লক্ষাধিক প্রজার শিল্পশিক্ষার নিমিত্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট মাত্র ৭৫০ টাকা দিয়াছেন তাহা দুইটা তাঁত ক্রয় করিবার আংশিক মূল্য হইয়াছে মাত্র। এই অঞ্চলে রেশম শিল্পের জন্য উৎসাহ প্রদর্শন একান্ত আবশ্যিক। কিন্তু সরকার কিছুই করিতেছেন না এবং সরকারের

নিকট বারবার দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি পরিষ্কার করিয়াও কোনওরকম সন্তোষ প্রকাশ করা হয়নি। জনসাধারণের শ্রমস্বত্বকে এই অর্থবৎসর জুড়েই পরিষ্কার করা হইবে। কিন্তু সমস্তই অরণ্যে বোনে চটকাতে।

তৎপরে মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রীর মহোদয়ের হাতের মজুরি বর্জন করা হইবে। জনসাধারণের হস্তে আয়ত্ত করিয়া পোলাও কোথা সমস্তই অরণ্য বোনে চটকাতে পরিষ্কার করা হইবে। কখন কখন আসামে টাউনিয়ারি শিক্ষা, ডাঙারী শিক্ষার জন্য কোন কোন বৎসর কোন কোন শিক্ষার জন্য কোন কোন কলেজ এবং টাউনসীপ। কীভাবেই হোক জনসাধারণের হস্তে আয়ত্ত করা হইবে। আসাম চটতে সেন্ট্রাল গভর্ণমেন্ট অন্যান্য বৎসর যেমন হইবে তাই তাই করিয়া হইবে। আনি মনে করিয়াছিলেন যে দারিদ্র্য ন্যায়সঙ্গত হইবে। এই অন্যান্য অর্থসংগ্রহের শ্রমস্বত্বকে পদত্যাগ করিবেন এবং জাতিসংঘ নিবন্ধিতদের পক্ষের দৃষ্টিতে কখনও কখনও হইবে। আমাদের দাবী আদায় করিতে আমরা সর্বদাই বড় অর্থসংগ্রহ করিয়া দিই। কিন্তু তথাপি এই আসামের ন্যায্যসঙ্গত দাবী বুঝিয়া না দিলে আমাদের পক্ষে

আসামের সমস্ত হিন্দু-মুসলমান সমন্বয়েই শ্রমস্বত্বের দাবী উত্থাপন করিয়া পোলাও গভর্ণমেন্ট পেট্রোল ভিটলি এবং পাট ওর আদায় করিয়া হইবে। সমস্তই পুষ্টি করিয়া হইবে এবং তাহা আমাদেরকে ফিরাইয়া দিতে হইবে না। মাননীয় দারিদ্র্য ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবী অনুমান করে অনেক ব্যক্তি অজর্জন করিয়াছেন—এবার তাঁহাদের শেষ অর্থসংগ্রহ করিবার সময়। তিনি আমাদের আদায় দান করণ, তিনি সবকুণ্ডাম এই অর্থসংগ্রহের বিক্রয়ে পদত্যাগ করিয়া আমাদের আদেশ দিন যে দারিদ্র্য ন্যায়সঙ্গত এই অন্যান্য অন্যান্যদের প্রতিকার না চটবে ততদিন পর্যন্ত এই আসাম হরণ করিয়া কৃষ্ণের বসিয়া বসিয়া আমাদের অদৃষ্ট পরীক্ষা করিব (hear, hear)। মুক্তগাভরা, গরম বেগুনের কাঠে প্রতিবাদ করা দুবের কথা, গরীবের অনুবরণ, কৃষকের দুখের স্থান কাঠিমা নিজে আনার গভর্ণমেন্টকে মুক্তের জন্য সাহায্য করা হইতেছে। মুক্তের জন্য সাহায্য করিতে আমরা আপত্তি নাই—যে টাকা আসাম চটতে পইয়া যাপিয়া হইতেছে তাহা ফিরাইয়া দিবে একলাপ কেন দশলাখ টাকা গভর্ণমেন্টকে দিতেও আনার আপত্তি ছিল না। কিন্তু জোর করিয়া কোন গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষে ভক্তি আদায় করা উচিত নহে। অতএব আমি বলি যে আমাদের ন্যায্যসঙ্গত দাবী বুঝিয়া না দিলে আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট হিটলাইনের চেয়ে কোন অংশে কম নহেন। চটাই আনার বক্তব্য।

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Sir, the Budget presented before us shows the anticipated receipts and income and also the expenditure for the year 1941-42.

At the very outset, I think Sir, this budget should be accepted and passed taking into consideration all the matters covered in the Budget.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Except the Medical Budget.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : No Sir, Medical Budget too should be accepted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member should be allowed to go on.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : It shows, Sir, that the Government is trying to do real good to the country in right earnest in various lines as we see in the Budget.

The Excise Department shows the great sacrifice indeed. In 1927-28 the income from this source was Rs. 38,26,000 but in 1941-42 the anticipated income is only Rs. 1,13,000. This is a very great sacrifice indeed. But it is for the salvation of a large number of people and their lives. The total prohibition of course affects only the included areas and the partially excluded areas are still remaining as inlets and this will make inroads to the totally prohibited areas. We are however glad to note that the question of introducing total prohibition in these areas is under consideration of Government.

Regarding forests, particularly in the Garo Hills, there are some difficulties which I am going to mention, Sir. In this connection I beg to refer to page 150, Rule 3, sub-rule (ii), sub-clauses (a) and (b) of the Forest Manual.

"a. All house-tax-paying natives of the Garo Hills district resident or *ghuming* in that district may, without any permit, remove and utilise free of royalty such timber and other forest produce as they may require for their own use within the district, but not for sale, trade, mortgage or gift."

This is the privilege and this is the right we have been enjoying from time immemorial and this right is extended to regular *ghum* cultivators in the Garo Hills proper, but sub-clause (b) is extended to the Government servants serving in the Garo Hills and also to the cultivators in the plains mauzas who have some rights in unreserved trees and enjoy the same privilege. But one difficulty that stands on our way is the footnote of this sub-clause which runs thus:

"The concessions in sub-clauses (a) and (b) are limited except with the permission of the Divisional Forest Officer, to the quantity extracted at a time which a concessionaire can himself carry."

Now this has never been complied with up till now. Another irregularity in the Garo Hills I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests is this. The rights provided in sub-clause (b) are not being observed very strictly. Those officers who are serving in the Garo Hills are enjoying unreserved trees as well as reserved trees and up till now authorities have not been able to check this.

Sir, regarding the increase of the forest both in areas and number in the Garo Hills, I will read from Mr. Carlyle's letter No. 358/507-2, dated 26th March 1908.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I should remind the hon. member that it is the general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Yes, Sir, then with regard to forest.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will get sufficient time to give vent to any particular matter later.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Sir, the hon. member is trying to amend the Forest Regulation.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I am simply pointing out some irregularities in the Garo Hills.

Mr. Carlyle in his letter wrote:—

"As regards the complaint of the Garos that the formation of the forest reserves deprived them of valuable privileges, it seems clear that the reserves in the Garo Hills were constituted in the same way as in many other parts of the country. The waste land was treated as being at the disposal of Government and no compensation was given for such lands when taken up. It is now proposed that a careful examination of the existing reserves should be made, and that any area which is not found worth while to retain, be surrendered to the villagers. It is recommended that the compensation

representing roughly the approximate value of the land which is paid as an act of grace for the reserves which are retained, the amount being treated as a forest charge."

Sir, my point before the House is that. In other paragraphs, but not that there should be no increase both in area and the number of forest reserves in the Garo Hills, but now I find that the officers in the district are trying to encroach upon the land of Nohmas and trying to increase the forest reserves both in number and in areas.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. member is to speak to the Budget.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Yes, Sir. Now I come to the General Administration. I will touch only one point, Sir. In this connection I will refer to the message of His Excellency the Governor regarding the administration in the Provinces.

"On this day, the 1st of April 1937, the decentralised system of Government which has subsisted since 1921 comes to an end, and Assam, like the other provinces of British India, enters upon a new phase of her political and constitutional history. From henceforward the whole field of administration, except so far as concerns the totally excluded areas, will be in the hands of a Council of Ministers."

But it is not so in the Garo Hills, this is my point. I have been corresponding with the Government on this matter for a long time. In 1937 I sent a letter to the Secretary to the Governor of Assam regarding some points in the matter in this connection. Here is his reply. "With reference to your letter dated 14th May, 1937, I am directed to explain as follows the provision with regard to the totally excluded and partially excluded areas. The Council of Ministers has no control over totally excluded areas which are administered by the Governor in his discretion. They however have full control over partially excluded areas though the Governor has been given special responsibility relating to those areas under section 52, and so on. There he also added "It is hoped that the position is now clear to you". There were some discussions between myself and the Deputy Commissioner there and as a result it necessitated me to write this letter to the Governor's Secretary.

Now, we find that the Government is contemplating to separate the judicial service from the executive service. The people of the Garo Hills will welcome this. I have always been fighting for this and have also been in correspondence with the Hon'ble Ministers since 1937 regarding this question.

Sir, regarding the rules and regulations for the administration of justice and police in the Garo Hills, and also in the other partially excluded areas

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: What have the rules and regulations got to do with the Budget?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: There is something, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. During the general discussion of the Budget an hon. member is of course entitled to ventilate his grievances, but that should be in a general way. If he enters into details, I think, I shall not be able to permit him to do so. He may speak generally of all his grievances but that should be within the scope of the discussion which is meant by the general discussion of the Budget.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, as I was speaking on the General Administration Budget, I touched on the general administration in the Garo Hills, and so I raised these points, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member may move cut motions when the demand will come up for discussion. At that time he will be able to discuss all these matters in greater detail than now.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Then I will pass on to the next point, Sir, and that is about jails. Government have proposed some improvements, *i.e.*, some conservancy work will be done not by the convicts but by outside sweepers. There has also been a lot of other improvements for the benefit of the people who are in jail.

Regarding Police, Sir, I have repeatedly said that we need at least one Inspector for our district. I will not say anything more than this.

About Military, I have nothing to say more than what we are going to have for Assam as provided in the Budget.

About Public Health, I am very glad to know that 1,500 pounds of quinine will be provided annually for four years for free distribution. This will be a great boon to the people of the interior. I take it that this amount will go to supplement the stocks in the hospitals, as only this amount is sufficient for the whole of the province. I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will remember Garo Hills about this and arrange for a fair share for the Garo Hills too.

The proposal for a medical college is also a very important step towards improvement in the Medical Department.

I then pass on to the University. The University will do infinite good to the province in various ways; it will help to solve the unemployment problem. Sir Md Saadulla said some years ago that there would be a surplus of Rs.50,000 if we establish our own University. We want the University first, then we shall decide where it will be located. If it is located in any part of the province it will do us some good. So, the seat of the University is immaterial at present. We want the University first.

Now, regarding the Education Budget, we are thankful to the Ministry for reviving some of the scholarships, *viz.*, the post-graduate scholarships, the Engineering scholarships, etc.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : I rise to a point of order, Sir. I find that many of the Hon'ble Ministers are not in their seats. During the general discussion of the Budget many points are raised relating to each portfolio, and if they do not hear them carefully, how can they prepare themselves for reply?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Ministers, who are not in their seats, might have directed their colleagues to take down notes of what the hon. members say. Moreover the Hon'ble Finance Minister is in his seat.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : The Government recognised that we are short of Engineers in the province and I am glad that Government have revived the scholarships for B. E. Degree, which were temporarily suspended for some years. I am also glad to note that provision has been made for appointing five Sub-Inspectors and fifteen Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools. I hope from this at least one Sub-Inspector or two Assistant Sub-Inspectors will be allotted for the Garo Hills.

I need not repeat again the number of scholarships of various grades and values which were increased considerably. In connection with Agriculture, Sir, there is the question of denudation in the Garo Hills. I have already submitted a note on this point. I beg to submit before this Honourable House that this denudation is due to over-population. If there be no increase in population, there will be no denudation at all. For instance, the interval period of *jhum* cultivation in the Garo Hills used to be every 12, 15 or 20 years in my boyhood. But to-day this interval period is

only two or three years because, the population is increasing, whereas the area of land for occupation and cultivation remains all the same. So there is no power to check that denudation unless proper care is taken to increase in population. This denudation is going on not only in the Garo Hills but also in other places too as well. Almost everywhere we hear about this denudation and also silting up of the river beds which causes floods, etc. If a river bed is silted up, even ordinary rainfall gives rise to a big flood.

Then about Veterinary. I may say there is only one Garo Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the Garo Hills. And more men should be trained in this line.

As regards Industries, I am very much interested in that matter, because I am a member of the Governing Body of the Indian Lac Cult Committee. In that Committee I proposed two Demonstrations for Assam. The matter has been referred by the Committee to the Assam Government and the Assam Government's reply is this:

"With reference to the last item on page 3 of this other Memo, dated the 21st January 1941, the following information has now been received from the Government of Assam. The local Government has already a Demonstrator trained in lac at Yamkum Kambe and therefore do not propose to send another officer for that training."

I am somewhat disappointed in this, because I wanted a bigger demonstration in Assam. With two Demonstrators each in Bengal, Nagpur and Orissa there will be one Supervisor for each province and over these Supervisors there will be an Inspector. There is another point, Sir:

"The fall in the production of lac in Assam is stated to be due to the fact that the lac growers do not produce lac at present for unremunerative prices and that graded and clean lac is not sold in Assam for which better marketing facilities are required."

Now my point is this. Suppose the price of our produce goes down, shall we stop our cultivation for that reason? We should encourage and find some means to improve the price of lac and also the quality of the lac by instructing the cultivators. We should not discourage them in this way. That is my point, Sir. The Government should see to this that we should encourage lac cultivation in Assam also.

Welfare of labour.—Provision has been made for a Labour Commissioner and his staff and there is also a Maternity Benefit Bill pending before the House.

Civil Works.—On this point, Sir, I have something to say. This should be re-transferred from the hands of the Deputy Commissioner to the hands of the Public Works Department authorities. I had repeatedly spoken about this, Sir, and I need not make a long speech over this. My reason for saying is that the Deputy Commissioner is not an expert in civil works. Moreover they (Deputy Commissioners) are doing this work over and above their ordinary duties. So the work should be re-transferred to the Public Works Department. Another thing is that the amount which the Central Government gives for the improvement of roads in this province does not touch the Garo Hills question. The Hon'ble Finance Minister said that the province has been well treated by the Central Government in the matter of grant from the reserve fund at their disposal. But I must say, Sir, that Garo Hills has not been treated well by the Assam Government in turn in this respect. We the inhabitants of the Garo Hills, during the rains, are like the inhabitants of the Andamans. We cannot go out or enter into the headquarters of our district during the rains and are put to great difficulty and to great loss of time and money. The question of extension of the main Trunk Road from Lakhipur to Mankachar, which portion has

already been surveyed by Mr. Nath, Subdivisional Officer, Central Assam Division, has been dropped. Estimates for the construction of two bridges on Tura-Mankachar Road have already been prepared and submitted. This question has also been dropped. The Tura-Bajengdoba Road has also been left out incomplete.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will finish now.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Yes, I am finishing, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What I am noticing is this, that the hon. member is not sticking strictly to the Budget.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I am dealing with communications, and I am pointing out what are the needs in the Garo Hills and what is not being done.

Then, Sir, about the war. I am glad to know that we are having a regiment of our own. Of course I know that different people have different minds about this war, but if the Axis Powers become victorious no part of the world will remain unaffected, and the war has nearly come to our very threshold. Now what are we doing? Some ladies in my district are doing some work with the help of the Deputy Commissioner's wife. It is also true that this war has affected already our homes and the country, and I think that all of us should be united together to fight against this common enemy no matter what party he may belong to. (*Hear, hear.*) I will have something to say about this when the question of the grant of rupees one lakh comes up.

In conclusion, I really think that the Budget has touched every point which is really required for the improvement of the province and we do not care in what form the Budget may have been presented. The material point is that it has touched all necessary points, including the education amongst the hill tribes and the scheduled caste people. Although we are not fully satisfied, I think the Government is really trying to do some good in right earnest for the people.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Maulavi Sheikh OSMAN ALI SADAGA: স্যার, মাটি নাই মাটি নাই যে বরা হয় আমি জানি যে মাটি অনেক আছে। লাওখোয়া রিজার্ভ খুলিয়া দিলেই সমস্ত লোকের মাটি হইয়া যায়। সেজন্য লাওখোয়া রিজার্ভ খুলিয়া দিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

বর্তমান নীপায়ে একটি মাত্র গাব্ বেজিষ্টারের অফিস খাকার জন্য বহু লোকের কষ্ট হইতেছে। দৈনিক দুই-চারিশ লোক ফিরিয়া যায়। সামাণ্ডরি এবং মৈরাবারীতে যাহাতে আরও দুইটি অফিস দেওয়া হয় তাহার জন্য আমি গভর্নমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must thank the Finance Minister for his giving us the etymological meaning of the word budget. He said in his speech, "the budget is the starting point of financial control by the Executive as well as by the Legislature. It is the basis of orderly finance, without which there can be no lasting social progress. Apart from financial control, the main object in preparing a budget is the enforcement of economy. The balancing of the budget is the first requisite of financial stability and occupies the same

place in financial administration as the maintenance of a budget under the executive administration." The budget, I also add, is a responsibility to the nation, who by opening the budget at a glance can judge what schemes the Government have undertaken for the nation's development.

Sir, the main sources of revenue to our Government are Land Revenue, Forest, Excise, Taxes on income, other taxes and duties, Customs, and Stamps. From these sources only the Government are able to get a sum of 240 lakhs of rupees. This entire sum is realised directly or indirectly from the masses. A Government can justify themselves if they spend proportionately out of this sum to the cause of the people. (As stated in the budget as presented), it is apparent that major portion of the revenue has been spent towards the payment of salary to the officials and charges for establishment. The budget is a deficit one to Rs 11,89,00,000. If the Finance Minister may argue that he cannot get more money, still for the national development than what he has already allotted, the cause the country will lose the financial stability and it may lead to national disaster. But, Sir, if the deficit of Rs 11,89 can be condoned, it would not have been very difficult to condone a few lakhs deficit more in consequence of spending for the nation-building departments.

Sir, I cannot overlook some of the new projects which the Ministry has undertaken. For these they deserve our thanks. I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister particularly for the allotment of Rs 84 for the establishment of a tuberculosis hospital and clinic at Shillong. This contagious disease has already made inroad to the villages. If the Government want to check it, a survey of the villages is highly necessary.

In rural areas, the people, year after year, have been suffering for want of drinking water. For want of supply of good drinking water they are compelled to take any water available near about their villages. In the Budget, there is a head under Public Health Grants to local bodies for water supply. This head has been left blank consistently for the last two years since 1939-40. This year also the local bodies have the same fate. Drinking water has become an acute problem to the masses. Once the Government spend a few lakhs of rupees for the solution of this problem, the Government will be free from the grievances of the people for at least ten years. Tanks and wells do not require recurring expenditure as does the appointment of so many Agricultural Demonstrators, Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers, Assistant Labour Commissioner and creation of some scholarships and stipends. When without these appointments, scholarships and stipends, the administration of the Departments has been running so long, they could have been postponed for this year and the money allotted for them could have been spent for the relief of the masses.

During the last year a sum of Rs. 74,500 was spent for the Mass Literacy Campaign and for 1941-42, Rs. 1,24,000 have been allotted for the same purpose. I cannot but thank the Ministry for their earnestness for wiping out illiteracy from among the masses. But in the Mangaldai subdivision, to which I belong, how far this movement has been working, I cannot say. The teachers appointed for the night schools have not got their remuneration, nor have the adult boys been tested how far they have been successful in reading and writing. As a result of this, many of the night schools have ceased to work.

Out of the grant for the year 1940-41 it is understood some clerks, some Pundits as Assistant Inspectors and a few Mass Literacy Officers have been taken in. These appointments were made without advertisement. If the allotment of Rs. 1,24,000 be spent in that way, then the people can hardly expect anything from this Government.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that Rs. 17,500 have been allotted for the maintenance grants to new Madrassas and increased grants to some deserving Madrassas. But here I leave a note of warning that Government should not adopt a policy of carrying coal to New Castle at the time of distributing the grant. In Mangaldai, after many years, only in the recent year three Junior Madrassas came into existence, two of which get Rs. 35 a month each as a recurring grant and one gets Rs. 25 a month. The Nagarbahi Madrasa is situated in the poor Assamese villages. Last year they filed petitions after petitions for a building grant; but all their entreaties and applications turned into crying in the wilderness. This year two Middle Madrassas have also been started there. I hope they will not get a step-motherly treatment from the Government.

I am happy to note that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has realised the moribund condition of Co-operative Societies. The Co-operative Societies have become a terror to the villagers though this department is placed under a soft hand. They rather prefer to take loan from private money-lender at a higher rate of interest than from a co-operative society. The last few years have passed in holding enquiry and conference to find out ways and means. Still the Government have not been able to come to a definite decision but hope to take early steps to rehabilitate the much condemned Co-operative Department. It will be a great relief if the hope held out comes to fulfilment.

In the Veterinary Department, already 60 Field Assistants have been appointed, and now it is proposed to appoint 25 more. But to the utter dis-appoint-ment of the Muslims of Darrang, no one from them has found place among the 60. Again a number of Demonstrators in the Agriculture Department have already been taken in and some 15 more will be taken in this year. Not a single Muslim from the district of Darrang is fortunate enough to get a chance in the appointments. I understand most of these appointments have been made before or without advertisement. I request the Government to consider the case of the Darrang Muslims when all these appointments will be made.

Mangaldai subdivision cannot but complain about the step-motherly treatment to it from the Government. Thirty-five rural uplift centres have already been opened throughout the whole province. Some of the subdivisions are fortunate enough to get more than two centres. But not a single one has been allotted to the poor neglected subdivision of Mangaldai. Now the Government have again proposed to open 15 more centres. I hope the Minister-in-charge will bear in mind the grievances of the Mangaldai subdivision at the time of allotment of these centres.

I thank the Government for the bold steps they have taken for total prohibition of opium, but if the Government will not be on the alert as regards smugglers, the movement is sure to fail. The result will be that the revenue which the Government used to get from opium will go to foreigners and private persons. The success of the movement entirely depends on the sincerity of the work of the Excise Staff. Although there are many honest and dutiful officers in the Department, there are a few black sheep among them, who, it is rumoured, help the smugglers in carrying out the nefarious business. Government should make an enquiry to find out these officers.

Sir, one word more and I finish. Here I beg to draw the kind attention of Government to the immigration area of the Mangaldai subdivision. The villages in the area are scattered far and wide. Some villages are situated at a distance of 10 or 12 miles from the local board hospital at Dalgaon. Many of the helpless cultivators for want of bearers cannot bring medicine from

the dispensary, nor can they give a call for the doctor for many of women, when they fall ill. Many poor villagers have been dying like cats and dogs without having any medical help whatsoever. There was a Public Health Dispensary at Kharupatia. That dispensary was abolished 1 1/2 years ago. Villagers used to get great and useful help from this dispensary. Since the time of abolishing this dispensary of that locality, the villagers have to entrust their lives to village quacks. Will the Government see their way to come to their aid in the near future?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will continue after lunch.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p.m.

After lunch

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED Jute is the main cultivation in the immigration area and a few lakhs of rupees have come to the coffers of the Government annually as jute duty. Citizens can expect to get good crop if there will be water at the harvest time. If there be drought, they do not get anything. Has the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of drainage and canals paid his attention to make some provision to help the jute growers at the time of drought in the Mangaldai subdivision?

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice of Government a grievance of the people of the colonial area at Mangaldai. The Government have realised premium from these people with an express object of improving the communication, water-supply, sanitation and education of that area. The Government had given to this area for the last year Rs.4,000 for water-supply and communication. But not a farthing has been paid for education from this fund, although a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been realised from these people as premium. I request Government to pay their attention to the only Middle English School of Dalgaon which is situated in the colonial area. With these words, I resume my seat.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the new Finance Minister for his speech which clearly shows the financial condition of the province. The Hon'ble Premier, when he introduced the budget last session, hoped that there would be a surplus of five lakhs of rupees but we are now told that this year will close with a deficit of Rs. 2 lakhs 60 thousand. Now again, Sir, we are going to face the new year with a deficit of about 12 lakhs of rupees and it is proposed by Government that they would meet this deficit by drawing from the opening balance of over Rs. 51 lakhs. But this 51 lakhs of rupees includes the loan of Rs. 50 lakhs floated during this current year. We are told also in the budget that there is the unfunded debt that will amount to Rs. 1 crore 10 lakhs on the first of April 1941. In view of this, Sir, it does not seem that the finances of the province are in a sound condition. Of course, it is hoped that there will be revenue forthcoming from forest, land and income-tax, but how much will be forthcoming, remains to be seen.

Sir, this loan has been floated for the sake of launching some beneficial schemes and I think, it is the first time in the history of Assam that the loan has been floated for this purpose. This loan, we are told, is redeemable in the year 1952. Government have no doubt done a right thing by starting a Sinking Fund to pay off the loan.

It is clear, Sir, from what I have said, that the future administration will be somewhat handicapped on account of these debts.

Prohibition

Now I want to turn to prohibition that has been started in this province. In the Gazette of February, 1941, Government published this notification dated the 17th February, 1941. "It is notified for general information that with effect from the 1st March 1941, Government will cancel all passes of the addicts for the purchase and consumption of raw opium which are held by persons now resident in the included areas of the province. Every one knows well what baneful effects this opium evil has caused on the mind and health of the Assamese people for a very long time. It is a problem which is at least 150 years old if not older, and which primarily and vitally concerns the Assamese people in general. With a view to bring about complete amelioration of various miseries and sufferings of the people which are attributable to this evil habit, Government of Assam have from time to time adopted certain restrictive policies to put an end to this evil which has also seriously told upon the moral, social and economic side of the people."

Sir, I was very much disappointed when I read in the very same Gazette, that this prohibition scheme is not to be applied now to the hill districts. It is written here that almost the same rules which are now existing will operate in the hill districts. The rules are these:—

(1) Any person who holds a pass may possess Excise opium to the extent of 3 tolas in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Naga Hills, the Garo Hills, the Mikir Hills Tracts in the Nowgong and Sibsagar districts, the North Cachar subdivision in the district of Cachar and the Dibrugarh Frontier Tract, provided that all the following conditions have been fulfilled:—

- (i) That the opium has been purchased from a licensed vendor.
- (ii) That the amount of opium possessed by the passholder at any one time does not exceed the monthly ration entered in his pass.
- (iii) That when the full ration of opium allowed to a passholder in any particular month has already been purchased and consumed, no further opium may be possessed by the passholder during that month".

These are rules newly published under Notification No.727-L.S.-G., dated the 17th February, 1941. It is also stated here—"In these areas, opium to the extent of 3 tolas may also be possessed at any one time by any person who has obtained it for *bona fide* medical or veterinary purposes from his medical attendant, who must be qualified medical practitioner or permit-holder, or the Veterinary officer as the case may be." Then it is said "a licensed vendor of opium in these areas may possess any quantity of Excise opium if bought from the Government treasury or taken over from a person who has been a licensed vendor, a licensed druggist or a permit-holder under rule 12, provided that he shall at no time possess more than one month's ration". There is also another rule which, it seems to me, can be easily abused if Government do not take a radical step. It is this—"subject to the conditions of his license, a licensed druggist in these areas may possess Excise opium to the extent of 1 seer if bought from the Government treasury, and a qualified medical practitioner, Veterinary officer or a permit-holder may possess Excise opium to the extent of 10 tolas if bought from a licensed druggist, or where there is no licensed druggist, from licensed vendor specially authorised by the Deputy Commissioner, provided that the Deputy Commissioner may fix a limit to the amount to be possessed in a year by the druggist,....." Now, Sir, if a druggist can possess opium to the extent of 1 seer and again any person can get opium from a licensed medical practitioner or from a druggist who may be

himself a medical practitioner and that drugstore was present. I see a day, then it is very easy for this privilege to be obtained and the people may again get opium especially as they will not get from the included areas.

Then, Sir, in regard to the shops it is stated in the report and special of general orders of Government, such number of shops in the case of Excise opium as the Commissioner may, from time to time determine, shall be allowed in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Jaga Hills, the Jaintia Hills, the Mikir Hills Tracts in the Nowgong and Sibsagar districts, the Jaintia, Cachar Hills subdivision in the district of Cachar and the Lakhimpur, Jaintia Tract and the exclusive right of selling Excise opium at one or more of such shops as the Excise Commissioner may direct shall be sold in these areas by public auction or settled in such other mode as the Government may from time to time, prescribe by or under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner before the commencement of each official year.

Sir, I do not see the reason why the Government should bring the hill areas into the same prohibition scheme. There are reasons set forward for this. I find them in the pamphlet which contains the message from His Excellency the Governor of Assam and also in the speech from the Excise Minister and the Prime Minister. The reasons stated there are, "including these areas in the prohibition scheme are those which are necessary agencies for enforcing control and obtaining medical advice were not available and opium could be easily smuggled in from unadministered areas." Sir, I differ from this, that necessary agencies for enforcing control are not available. This is no argument to me that in the whole of Assam proper agencies are not available. Government have to make agencies, they have to appoint men to control. There are enough officers in control to a certain extent, but if Government want to make prohibition a success, they will have to find out agencies even for the included areas. Why not they do the same in the partially excluded areas? Then it is said that opium could be easily smuggled from unadministered areas. What are these unadministered areas? If they refer to the unadministered area in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills they will mean only the Khasi States. I do not know of any opium shop in the Khasi States with the exception of one near Bhohagan in the Cherra State and I am sure the Siems and Darbars and the Political Officer would whole heartedly co-operate with the Government if they will be serious to introduce this prohibition scheme in these areas also. These arguments do not convince the people of these hills. Khasi and Jaintia Hills stand in the midst of two valleys and if opium shops are started here and the licensed vendors can, according to these rules, possess at one time any amount of opium that will be necessary for the whole month's consumption, (i.e. if to-day he possesses opium for the whole month's consumption, (i.e. if he may possess the same amount) then it means that an opium vendor can possess opium enough to allow smuggling, and thus the whole scheme will fail if this district is not brought into the prohibition scheme. The same holds true in regard to the Mikir Hills Tracts in the Nowgong and Sibsagar districts.

Now Sir, I do not understand why the Government does not consider fit to introduce this scheme into the hills. I was Minister-in-charge of Excise in 1928 when the scheme of 10 per cent. reduction was introduced in Assam. I brought Khasi and Jaintia Hills under the same scheme. Those were the days of diarchical Government and everybody knows to what a difficult position a Minister was sometimes placed. But even during those days this hill district—Khasi and Jaintia Hills—was brought into the same scheme and the 10 per cent. reduction was made; and that has been acknowledged in this pamphlet that has been issued by the Hon'ble Minister. It is written here like this:—

"In accordance with the resolution passed by the Assam Legislative Council in July 1927 to the effect that the rations of the opium-eaters below 50 years of age be so regulated as to reduce the same gradually to nil within 10 years, the first 10 per cent. reduction of the rations of consumers below 50 years of age on the first April 1928—was carried into effect from the 1st April 1928. In fact in 1928-29 the rations were actually reduced by 13 per cent. and complaints were received regarding the hardships caused by excessive reductions and accordingly it was decided that in 1929-30 the rations of consumers in the plains districts and in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills (except in the case of Mikirs and Bhois) should be reduced on a fixed scale amounting to 20 per cent. below what they were in 1st April 1928,..."

So there was a 20 per cent. reduction in two years 1928-29 and 1929-30. But my successor somehow or other did not see fit to continue this reduction. Seeing this condition in 1933 I moved a resolution in the Council that Government should appoint a Committee to go round the province and to examine the scheme of 10 per cent. reduction and what effect it had brought upon the province and whether it should be continued or not. Then the Council elected a Committee. I was elected Chairman of that Committee, and Mr. Dawson as Secretary; and Mr. (now Hon'ble) Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri was also a member of that Committee. We went round the Province and we recommended that this reduction should be carried on and it was my desire, my recommendation also, that this reduction of 10 per cent. should be applied to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills also. Then Sir, in 1937 when I again became Minister, I had charge of the Excise Department. A Committee was formed by Government with 14 members and Khan Bahadur Maulavi Muhammad Chaudhury was the Secretary. There we examined again this reduction of opium and then also we recommended that it should be continued and that Khasi and Jaintia Hills should be included in the reduction scheme. Now I do not understand why the Government, when I left the Ministry, did not bring this district within the reduction scheme and now within the scheme of prohibition.

In speaking about smuggling from unadministered areas, if it was the case of the unadministered areas, in the Naga Hills, I might think that there is some risk, but when we speak about the unadministered areas in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills from which it is said smuggling will come, I see no reason at all.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said that the Government is examining the question of bringing in this prohibition to these hill districts. I hope that they will actually do it. When this prohibition will be carried on in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills I can assure the Government that they will get the co-operation of all the public men and public Durbars, the Siems in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and all the religious societies in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and they will earn the gratitude of the people. I do not mind which Government does it. I want that this should be done—I want that good should be done to the people. I hope that this promise which the Government have given that they are examining this and probably they are considering to bring in this prohibition to this area, will not remain only in the file. When we come to the next session, I hope, the same thing will not be repeated—that won't satisfy us.

I now want to turn the attention of the Hon'ble House to another statement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister which is found at page 10 of his speech. The words are these;—

"I may remind the House that the prohibition of opium, which is now a settled fact, had been achieved, not as a result of agitation by the Congress party alone, but as a result of dogged and sustained effort on the part of public spirited patriots who adhered to the old Assam Council of the pre-Montague-Chelmsford Reforms days." The Hon'ble Minister seems to forget the patriots of the Montford Reforms.

The Hon'ble Minister laboriously tried to prove that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had taken the lead in the old pre-Montague-Chelmsford time. Well Sir, no body in this House or in the press ever questioned the desire of the Hon'ble Premier, Sir Muhammad Saadulla, to abolish opium in Assam. I never question that. In his earnest endeavours to show what Sir Muhammad Saadulla said long ago against the opium traffic in Assam by quoting in so many pages of his remarks, he has altogether forgotten all the other good patriots in Assam who also fought for the abolition of the opium traffic and eradication of the habit. In doing so the Hon'ble Minister is not imbued with a noble feeling for all who had part in the fight to eradicate this evil, but is subject to the defect of party spirit which glories in one's own doing.

The question of abolishing opium from Assam was started in old days by the speeches of Sir Muhammad Saadulla then Maulana Muhammad Saadulla, Sri Jut Ghanaryam Barua and others. In the Montford Council my resolution was the first resolution for the abolition of opium in 10 years. The resolution read like this:

"(1) That the sale of opium to, and the use thereof (save on medical prescription, and for medical purposes) by, any person or persons other than the present *bona fide* opium consumers, be prohibited altogether throughout the whole province of Assam.

(2) That each consumer be 'rationed' or given a limited amount, only for his own consumption and that this amount be decided by medical authorities.

(3) That in order to make the said prohibition and personal rationing possible, a system of personal registration be introduced for the present *bona fide* opium consumers, which may be carried on in such a manner and at such a place, as will be convenient for them; and that only a limited time be fixed, according to circumstances, for such registration after which no new names will be registered.

(4) That 'shop rationing' and thereby 'personal rationing' be so decreased every year that in ten years the whole opium trade in Assam will be abolished altogether."

This was the first resolution in the first session of the Montford Reformed Council in 1921. It was passed by the House. After that the Government began to take the census of the opium eaters in Assam. At every session questions were asked and resolutions were moved in regard to opium. It was in 1928 when I was the Minister-in-charge of Excise that the resolution of the Council for a 10% reduction was put into effect. So much for that.

Any way, Sir, I hope Government will not overlook the hill districts and will take serious steps to bring the hill districts under the operation of prohibition.

Now, Sir, I turn to General Administration. Regarding the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries, the Hon'ble Minister has said "Hon'ble members will notice that there is a decrease of expenditure under the head 'Heads of Province and Ministers'. This is mainly due to the decrease in the number of Parliamentary Secretaries and to their late appointment. The delay in appointing Parliamentary Secretaries was due to the fact that enquiries had to be made from party members as to who were willing to be appointed as such. This caused considerable delay, and as a large number of members wanted to accept the post some of them suggested that, instead of electing by measures of support, the post should be given by amicable settlement". It appears, Sir, that there was a great deal of trouble inside the party with regard to these appointments. The only question here is whether the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries is necessary for the benefit of the province or for the benefit of keeping the party in tact. Everybody knows that it is absolutely unnecessary for the province to appoint Parliamentary Secretaries. But I am afraid this unnecessary expenditure will probably be incurred by any party for keeping the party together. So, I have nothing to say very much on this, except that it is an unnecessary expenditure but a necessary evil as it is unnecessary to have 10 Ministers when the work can very well be done by four. These are necessary evils of a party democratic Government.

Then, Sir, I turn to Public Health. Here is a part of the speech by the Hon'ble Finance Minister: "I am happy to note that a big step is being taken in the matter of establishing a Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic at Shillong through the Assam Tuberculosis Association with major portion of Government grant". I understand, Sir, two places have been selected for the Clinic, one at Jhalupara and the other near the Burrabazar. There is a great deal of feeling among the Khasis against establishment of a Clinic near Burrabazar because people from the interior gather there in thousands every week.....

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: On a point of information, Sir. Does the hon. member mean to say that two places for the Clinic have been selected, one at Jhalupara and the other at Burrabazar?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, I am speaking from hearsay. I do not know the position, but I understand that if the Clinic is not started near Burrabazar it is proposed that it should be started in some place at Jhalupara. I may be wrong, but I shall be thankful to the Hon'ble Minister if he kindly enlightens me on this matter. I want to tell Government that there is no opposition to a Clinic being started, but there are strong feelings against starting it near the Burrabazar where every week thousands of people gather. Sir, it is said that tuberculosis may spread simply by coughing and spitting. Sir, it is the habit of our Indian people to spit. In England spitting is not allowed. Any one found spitting in England is taken hold of by the police. But here even if spitting is prohibited by law, people will continue to indulge in that bad habit. So, if a first class Clinic is started near Burrabazar where people from all parts assemble in thousands and tuberculosis patients will gather there in large number especially during Bazar days; the disease may spread through spitting and coughing throughout the whole of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Therefore there is a great deal of feeling against the proposed location of the Clinic near the Burrabazar. It is held that tuberculosis patients from all over the province will be attracted by a first class Clinic

in the town of Shillong. That roughing work, which is done in the large street place where thousands of people gather will make the work very dirty and thus increase the danger of infection.

Then, Sir, I come to Education. I am glad to hear that in the new schemes some backward areas have been included. I am sure that some more backward areas were included. I wrote to the Hon'ble Member for Shillong about some schools in the Khasi Hills. A conference of the members of the Council was called and I was invited, but somehow or other I did not manage to be present in the conference. The notice was sent to me some time before the day of the conference when I was away from Shillong. When the conference was called the second time, on the day after I had returned to the Director of Public Instruction, to let me know the date of the conference, for the date was fixed but the time was not fixed. He replied that he did not know the time as the Hon'ble Member was not in the town. I asked him to phone me up and let me know the time, but perhaps he forgot. I got no reply and I did not know whether the meeting was held or not. The next day I heard that the conference was held. And so I had no chance to attend the conference. I wanted that some more schools should be opened in the backward areas of the Khasi Hills and that a Middle English School be started at Jowai. It appears that a party Government will always see to the interests of their party members.

Now, Sir, I turn to another part of the budget, viz. Agriculture. I want to speak a few words about the Citrus Exports Promotion Fund, that has been started at the 13th rule of the Shillong Contract Bill. I was told that in that area about 2,000 local orange plants were being planted and the Government have purchased an orange grove of about 2,000 and a big grove of about 2,000 or 3,000 trees, whether they are going to start a business in competition with the private growers or whether they are going to make an experiment in some other way. It is a matter about which the public are very curious. The good work that is being done is only when they bring varieties of citrus buds or scions to be budded or grafted on to the local stocks. That is a very good work that is being done. And if these grafted plants are distributed among the private fruit-growers it will serve a very good purpose to the country. But if the Government themselves should start a farm and carry on business, it will not pay them, because their establishment charges will be very high and it will mean competition with the public also.

Now, Sir, in this connection I want to bring out this fact, that instead of increasing the plantation of orange plants in Assam, the Government should take up the scheme of marketing more properly of the fruits grown in Assam, because in Assam we have abundant crops of oranges and many gardens have grown up during the last six years, with the result that it is hardly possible to get markets for the oranges. Even this year we are having a terrible difficulty on account of the lack of marketing facilities. Calcutta does not want all our Assam oranges. We pur and Darjeeling supply Calcutta by millions. Every day during the season, thousands of baskets come from Nagpur and Darjeeling. From Assam also we send a large number of baskets to Calcutta, but that is only within a certain period, namely from the second part of December to the second week of February. The second crop of Nagpur oranges come to such an extent that it is impossible for Assam fruits to compete with the Nagpur fruits. This is due mostly to the lack of communications. We have to tranship

either at Parbatipur or at Santahar, whereas from Darjeeling and Nagpur they can be sent direct. Moreover there is great difficulty in sending our fruits from Burnihat to Gauhati on account of lack of facilities. The monopoly given to the Commercial Carrying Company causes us great difficulty and the supply also of their lorries is not regular. Sometimes they give us two or three lorries and sometimes more. Therefore our request to the Government is to open the road for two-way traffic from Burnihat to Gauhati. The Commercial Carrying Company also will gain by this. This year we had to suffer a great loss of millions of fruits dropping on the ground for lack of facilities to send them to Gauhati. The Minister of Agriculture is not here. If he were here I would ask him to go and see what loss we have had to suffer on account of lack of transport facilities.

Now in regard to the marketing scheme, the Government could have a better scheme than what they have at present. I understand that they have not enough money, but I think they should provide more money for the marketing scheme. Now they have one Salesman and only one Agent in Calcutta, and there is also a Sub-Agent. The Sub-Agent is the man who does the selling of the fruits from Assam. The selling is also done secretly by signs under a cloth between the Sub-Agent and the buyer. It is difficult for the Salesman to know the prices quoted by this system, as both the Salesman and the Agent have to depend on the Sub-Agent. So the people do not know what the real price in Calcutta is. Generally these Sub-Agents take more money than they ought to. If the Government appoint more Agents in Calcutta and also appoint Agents to do the work at Dacca, Mymensingh, Chittagong and other places, it will be good. Otherwise the people of Assam would not be very much benefited.

Now, Sir, I want to make suggestions in regard to Industries. India and especially Assam must be industrialised. Otherwise there is very little scope for us. In order that industry should thrive, there should be experts brought from foreign countries to teach our people, or students should be sent out from this country to other countries for learning industries. There are many kinds of industries that can be started here. Glass industry is a very big one; there is also the canning industry which is also a very big industry. And unless there are experts to start these industries it is very difficult to achieve success in them. Therefore the Government should aim at giving scholarships to certain students who will actually do the work and send them to foreign countries. When they return they can start work, or they should help those people who have actually started work. Unless this is done, it would be very difficult to get the industries of the world improved. Before Japan came into the lime light of the world the Japanese Government used to send their students to Europe and America to learn different trades, and when they came back they started companies, and these have now made Japan one of the biggest powers in the world. It is the companies in Japan which have made Japan what she is to-day. If the Government of Assam try to work on those lines, I believe that in a few years there will be many industries started in this province.

When I look at the new scheme that has been started regarding the welfare of labour on a big pay for the Assistant Labour Commissioner, I wonder whether a man on a lower pay could not be appointed instead of a man on such a big pay. It is questionable whether it is absolutely necessary to have an officer on such a big pay for this work.

Now I want to speak a few words about the control of the Shillong-Gauhati and Shillong-Sylhet Roads. The tolls which are being levied on these roads are very unreasonable. On the Shillong-Gauhati Road there is

a special night timing. If I go to Gauhati at 5 o'clock and return at 5 o'clock to Gauhati, I have to pay at the Mawlai gate. If I go to Gauhati at 5 o'clock and at the same day I return from Gauhati at 5 o'clock, I have to pay Rs. 2 at the Jorabat gate, so that I have to pay twice for the same distance. This is a very unjust way of levying tolls. Then, if I go from here to a distance of only say seven miles, at the Mawlai gate I have to pay the

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN I have been speaking about this coming away from the budget.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY I am speaking about the revenue. This is the revenue which the Government is getting from the Government by taxation. I am speaking about this source of revenue.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for a considerable length of time.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY Now, the hon. member has said that he is going to speak to-day. So I hope you will allow me to finish. If my hon. friends will not disturb me I will finish very soon.

I was saying that this is a very unjust taxation. If a man stays at Burnihat and goes in his car to Gauhati, passing the Jorabat gate at 5 a.m. he has to pay Rs. 2 and if he returns again at 5 p.m. he has to pay another Rs. 2, i.e., Rs. 4 a day. This method of levying tolls and getting revenue is really unfair, and I think Government should stop this.

On the Shillong-Sylhet Road, before the gate was situated at Laitlyngkot; now the gate is at Untyngat—14 miles from here. Previously the people of Laitlyngkot coming in a private car to Shillong or vice versa had to pay nothing or perhaps annas 8 at the Mylliem gate, but now they have to pay a toll of Rs. 2-8 for a distance of only 3 miles, whereas if a man goes to Sylhet he has to pay Rs. 2-8 for a distance of about 70 miles. I wonder on what principle these tolls are being levied. Again, when going to Cherrapunji a private car has to pay only 8 annas for a distance of 34 miles, whereas if it goes to Pynursla—a distance of 30 miles—it has to pay Rs. 2-8, and a taxi a road tax they should regulate their tolls in such a way that the tolls will be according to the distance travelled, and that can easily be done by changing the tickets, say so much for Laitlyngkot, so much for Dawki, so much for Pynursla and so much for Sylhet.

Another point, Sir, and I finish. From Sylhet to Dawki a man can drive for 30 miles, passing over several bridges, without paying anything, but as soon as he enters the Khasi Hills he has to pay tolls, and the same applies to the 11 miles of road from Gauhati to Jorabat, but as soon as he begins to enter the Khasi Hills he has to pay tolls. So my district is being surrounded by tolls. If a man for the purpose of industry wishes to start early and retire early. If this sort of thing goes on, it will kill industry. In other parts of the world people can move about whenever they like. In Calcutta tramways ply day and night, but in Shillong and round about Shillong we cannot do so, and if we do we have to pay tolls. In Calcutta friends of Sylhet not paying tolls from Sylhet to Dawki or my friends of Gauhati not paying any toll up to Jorabat or to Sonapur, but, Sir, I do not see why the Government should be unjust to my district and make them pay these tolls in this way. I hope, the Government will think about this and charge these tolls according to the distance travelled. To levy tolls in this way is surely wrong.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will now finish.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have some more points, but as I have no time, I shall end with a hope that the Government will see that these injustices are removed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No other hon. member is going to speak on the Budget. So, I think, it will be better to adjourn the House.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Friday, the 7th March, 1941.

SHILLONG:

The 9th April, 1941.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.