

Proceedings of the Tenth 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
Monday, the 8th December, 1941.

PURPORT

The Hon'ble Mr. Baranta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair; the ten
Hon'ble Ministers and eighty three members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Assam Education Service, Class III

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked:

*63. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to
state

(a) What steps have been taken by Government to implement
the assurance given in connection with the resolution
moved by Mr. B. N. Mookerjee, M.L.A., in the last
Budget session regarding the newly created Class III
of Assam Education Service?

(b) Whether they propose to revise the scale of pay of that
service?

(c) If so, what is the proposed initial and maximum pay of the
scale?

*64. (a) Is it a fact that recently some promotions have been made
from Class III to Class II of the Assam Education Service?

(b) If so, what is the principle on which these promotions
have been made?

*65. (a) Are Government aware that in some Sections no vacancy is
likely to occur in Class II of the Assam Education Service for a consi-
derably long period?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make provision for automatic
promotion of the Assistant Lecturers to Class II of the Assam Education
Service after a fixed number of years as in Bihar, Orissa and the Punjab?

*66. Will Government be pleased to state whether any of the Assistant
Lecturers has been placed in charge of College Hostel as assured by the
Hon'ble Minister of Education in the last Budget session of the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

63. (a)- The details of arrangements for fulfilling the assurance are
still under examination.

(b)- Yes. Such a proposal is under examination.

(c)- These details have not been decided.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN : The answer to (a) is "the details of arrangement for fulfilling the amutance are still under examination." May we know, Sir, when it will be finished?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I may say, Sir, that the administrative Department has passed orders and the whole proposal is under examination of the Finance Department.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : How long will the Hon'ble Minister take to come to a decision, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I cannot say that, Sir, now. But Government shall make every effort to come to a decision as early as possible.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : May I know whether it will be before or after the budget session?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : It is very difficult to give any definite reply on the point of time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know, Sir, what is the recommendation of the Education Department?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Increase of pay.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : That is quite clear, Sir. But the point for consideration is whether it is according to my resolution of anything else?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The Education Department considers that although the maximum may be allowed to remain as it is at present, the initial pay should be increased to a reasonable and decent sum so that these post-Assistant Lecturers may meet both their ends together.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Am I to understand that there is no definite scale proposed by the Education Department?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : A definite scale has been proposed; but I do not consider it will be prudent to disclose that scale now and raise false hopes unless and until final orders are passed.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

64. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government considered that in particular cases, the higher posts might suitably be filled by the persons promoted, but no general principle was followed.

65. (a)—Government are aware that this may be so.

(b)—The suggestion will be considered.

66.—No, but arrangements that may involve such action are under consideration.

Ayurvedic System of treatment

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked:

*67. (a) Are Government aware that a substantial proportion of people in Assam depend upon the Ayurvedic system of treatment?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if anything has been done by Government to encourage and foster this form of treatment?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied:

67. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government called for reports from the Local Boards and Municipalities as to whether they propose to encourage the system by establishing Ayurvedic Dispensaries in their areas and the replies are under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would the hon. member be good enough to inform this House what is the Ayurvedic cure for malaria?

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: If my hon. friend undertakes to pay with me, Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett, I shall be very pleased to do so, Sir, and might risk it together. May I also point out that a substantial number of people who are undergoing Ayurvedic treatment in Assam do not suffer from the same hardship as Mr. Blennerhassett and myself (*Laughter*).

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Thank you, Sir.

Amount of money spent for A.R.P. purposes

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

- *68. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The total amount of money spent for A. R. P. purposes up to the end of October 1941? To be shown district by district.
 - (b) If any travelling was performed by the A. R. P. Officer, Assam, since his appointment?
 - (c) If so, what is the travelling allowance drawn by him so far?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir **MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied

68 (a)	The figures reported are—	
	Lakhimpur	Rs 57,024
	K. & J. Hills	Rs. 1,245

It must be understood however that this does not represent fairly the commitment of the province. Much equipment is being obtained through the Central Government and the cost of this will be adjusted. Many works are being carried out, the cost of which is being met after the end of October. Again, the cost of A. R. P. measures is the subject of negotiation with the Central Government, which has engaged to pay in some instances the whole, and in others, the majority of instances, half the cost.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rupees 2,116-4-0 up to the end of October.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In view of the latest international developments, Sir, may we assume that the supply of equipment will be expedited and that nothing from the financial point of view will stand in the way of securing adequate supplies for this Province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Everything possible is being done. The matter of supplies rests entirely with the Central Government and we have been impressed by Mr. Hodgson—who is the Secretary in the Defence Department and who was recently in Shillong—of the urgent necessity of these things being available to this Province.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Thank you, Sir.

Realisation of Grazing tax

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

- *69. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether grazing tax is realised from the owners of cattle where there is no Government grazing ground?

(b) Why grazing tax is realised from the people of Abotganj Mauda in the Golaghat subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

69. (a) & (b)—The hon. member is referred to the Grazing Rules in Appendix II as substituted by correction slip No 47 with the subsequent modifications, at pages 218-221 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual, Vol. I, which govern the assessment and realisation of grazing fees.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: What about (b), Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: (a) and (b) are answered together. I am referring to the rules under which the grazing tax is realised.

Postal arrangement between Surma Valley and Shillong

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked:

- *70. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the present arrangement for carrying mails between Surma Valley and Shillong?
 (b) Are Government aware that the present arrangement of carrying mails is causing serious inconvenience to the public?
 (c) Do Government propose to take up the matter into consideration for restoring the former arrangement, i.e., to carry the mails by the Sylhet-Shillong Road?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

70. (a)—General Surma Valley mails are sent *via* Amingaon, Parbatipur, Goalunda, Chandpur, while mails for Silchar proper are sent *via* Gauhati, Lumding, Badarpur.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question (Unstarred No.43) by Mr. C. W. Morley, M.L.A., at this Session of the Assembly.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: This matter has been under consideration by the Government for some time, but will not Government make some statement as to how the matter stands now?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think, Sir, on the previous occasion I made a statement on the subject that the matter is under correspondence with the Government of India and the last letter was sent in November to which a reply is awaited.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May we have the contents of that letter, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: We made a definite proposal to the Central Government as to the cost that would be fair and equitable to be charged for carrying the mails.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In view of the words 'fair and equitable,' would not the Government take us more into confidence by saying what is fair and equitable in this matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: When the matter is at the state of negotiation?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In view of the fact that this question had been under negotiation for the last 18 months may I press that question, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: We suggested that Rs. 240 months would be a fair amount for carrying the milk.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Thank you, Sir.

Settlement of Longai Reserve

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked

* 71. Will Government be pleased to state when they are going to open the Longai Reserve for settlement?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

71. The Forest Reserve is to be surveyed for available areas, to see if any, and what, land can reasonably be disforested. The survey has however been delayed by disputes about the boundary, which have now been settled. The Conservator will examine the position as soon as he can do so on the spot.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: How long will he take to open the reserve for settlement?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: As soon as we get the report from the Conservator, we shall take up the matter.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Were not the same replies given in the last budget session?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have already stated that the delay was due to the boundary dispute. Now as it has been settled, the matter will come up before Government for their consideration soon.

Names of Internees

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked:

* 72. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of persons who are at present under any restrictive orders for their political activities?

(b) How many of them have been granted any allowance?

(c) What is the allowance if any so granted?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

72. (a) & (b) — The hon. member may refer to the questions raised in similar questions (Starred Nos 17-52) asked in the previous Session. This is the first Session.

Outbreak of Cholera in Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

*73. Are Government aware that cholera has broken out in the Barpeta subdivision and what steps have been taken up till now by the Government to combat the disease?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

73.— Government is aware of the outbreak of cholera in the Barpeta subdivision. Sufficient measures have been taken by the Government to combat the disease.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : May I know, Sir, the number of villages affected and also the area affected and what steps have been taken to combat the disease?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : This question involves many matters. I think it would take me some time to give the number of cases. But I suggest that there is a cut motion already tabled on this matter and I can give detail when dealing with it. If the number of villages affected is wanted, I would require notice.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The cut motion may not be discussed. Will the Hon'ble Minister please enlighten me as to what measures were adopted by the Government to combat the disease?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Government took prompt action in sending medical relief to the Barpeta subdivision. The Civil Surgeon of the district visited several times the subdivision and according to his requirements vaccine and other medicines were supplied. We also sent the Director of Public Health and the doctors of the Medical Department to combat the disease and the Local Board doctors also were utilised for it.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Is that the right answer to my question? I want to know from Government what measures Government adopted to combat it and what are the areas affected?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : I can give the numbers if I am given time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think a cut motion to a supplementary demand will come up for discussion and this information can be given then.

Further supplementary questions to starred questions Nos. 58-60*

Maulavi MAHARAK ALI—Some supplementary questions were asked in connection with the starred questions Nos. 58 to 60, Sir.

***Teaching Staff of the Murarichand and Cotton Colleges**

Mr. M. A. KHAN—Sir,

1. It is a well-known fact that the regulation of the Government of Bihar regarding the teaching staff of the Murarichand and Cotton Colleges, the addition of an Assistant Lecturer to it, has been suspended since the 1st July 1941.

2. In the advertisement for the recruitment, dated the 4th July 1941, the Government of Bihar has mentioned the appointment of a Lecturer in Mathematics in Murarichand College, Sonapatna for a second class M. A. degree. It is requested that the Government may consider the appointment of an experienced M. A. holder in Mathematics in this post.

3. It is requested that the Government may re-open the recruitment for a Lecturer in Mathematics in Murarichand College, Sonapatna.

4. It is requested that the Government may

5. It is requested that the Government may consider the appointment of an Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics in Murarichand College, Sonapatna, in September last year made vacant by the resignation of Mr. M. A. Khan.

6. It is requested that the Government may consider the appointment of an Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics in Murarichand College, Sonapatna, in that post.

7. It is requested that the Government may

8. It is requested that the Government may consider the appointment of an Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics in Murarichand College, Sonapatna, in that post.

9. It is requested that the Government may consider whether it is a fact that there is no post of Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics in the Department of the Murarichand College, Sonapatna.

The Hon. Mr. MAHARAK ALI SA MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied on behalf of the Hon'ble Supt. **ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**.

10. (a) No. At the request of the Calcutta University a post of Lecturer was provided for in the budget, and a Lecturer was appointed accordingly.

(b) Government have referred to the advertisement mentioned. It does not say or mean that a candidate with a second class degree and teaching experience is to be given preference to a candidate with a first class degree without teaching experience.

(c) Maulavi Nurul Islam.

(d) Yes. He had more than the minimum qualifications, and a claim to the post on the preferences laid down. The advertisement laid down that teaching experience would be considered, but it was not a necessary qualification or a condition for appointment.

59. (a) The appointments were made from among the candidates applying for the post of Lecturer advertised on the 4th July, since the Public Service Commission considered that the same candidates would apply to a second advertisement for similar posts, and that re-advertisement was not necessary.

(b) A temporary post was created from 25th January 1941, and it was made permanent from 1st March 1941. Srijut Phanidhar Dutta was temporarily appointed to the post, and later, in consultation with the Public Service Commission as mentioned in the answer to question 59 (a) Maulavi Muhib Ali was appointed to the post.

(c) The hon. member is referred to the answer to question 59 (a).

(d) No, he belongs to the under-represented Muslim community.

60. Yes.

May I put them now? My question is whether he satisfied all the conditions as required by the advertisement?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Whom does he refer to, Sir,—which candidate does he mean?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: The candidate who was appointed, Maulavi Nurul Islam.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, he has more than the minimum qualifications required. That answer is already given.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I am not concerned with the minimum qualification. I want to know whether he satisfied all the conditions that were required.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, most certainly.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Was it a necessary condition that teaching experience would be considered? Does not the advertisement dated the 4th July 1941, say that a second class man with teaching experience will be preferred than a first class man?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The Public Service Commission gave him first nomination and they were satisfied that he had a high position in the University in first class. Therefore they preferred him and I had no reason to differ from their selection.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I think that the answers to 59 (c) and (d) are not correct. My question 59 (c) was whether the post was advertised. And in the answer given I have been referred to the answer to question 59 (a) wherein it is mentioned that the appointments were made from among the candidates applying for the post of Lecturer advertised on the 4th July. But that appointment was made on 25th November 1940, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not know to which case the hon. member is referring, to Srijut Phanidhar Dutta or Maulavi Muhib Ali?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: My question is quite clear. I want to know when the post of the Assistant Lecturer was created in the Cotton College and who was appointed in that post and whether the post was advertised? There is no ambiguity in that question.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: About the Assistant Lecturer or Lecturer, Sir?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Assistant Lecturer.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Srijut Phanidhar Dutta was temporarily appointed to the post of Assistant Lecturer but subsequently according to the recommendation of the Public Service Commission Maulavi Muhib Ali was appointed to the post.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the post was advertised.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The advertisement was not necessary because as I have explained the selection was made from among the candidates applying for the post of Lecturer.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Which advertisement was not necessary?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will the hon. member be pleased to read the answer to question 59 (a)? It says that "the appointments were made from among the candidates applying for the post of Lecturer advertised on the 4th July, since the Public Service

Commission considered that the same candidates would apply to a second advertisement for similar posts, and that re-advertisement was not necessary." The Commission said that an advertisement was not necessary and they had already sent their selected list.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Was this advertisement dated 4th July 1941, while the appointment was made on 25th November 1940?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Government's answer is that to make that appointment no fresh advertisement was necessary.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I am afraid my point is missed, Sir. The advertisement was on 4th July 1941 and I do not understand how the appointment was made rather on 25th November 1940?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have already answered that, Sir. It was as a temporary measure.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: My question is whether the temporary appointment was made after advertisement?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The answer is clear that Srijut Phanidhar Dutta was temporarily appointed to the post, and later, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, as mentioned in the answer to question 59 (a) Maulavi Muhib Ali was appointed to the post. So Srijut Phanidhar Dutta's appointment was on a temporary basis under Regulation 33 of the Public Service Commission's regulation.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Maulavi Muhib Ali has been appointed in September last, but how that appointment was made in November 1940?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Appointed on a temporary basis.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know whether that appointment was made after due advertisement?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No, under Regulation 33 no advertisement was made.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: When that appointment was made permanent?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It was made permanent after consulting the Public Service Commission later on.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know for how long this officer was officiating, was it more than three months?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not exactly remember that. Ordinarily we can appoint a man for 3 months. I think he was there up to the closing of the College.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: At the time of making the appointment permanent, was it advertised?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The post was made but the appointment was not made. Appointment was made subsequently after the advertisement.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May we know whether Srijut Phanidhar Dutta was acting in the post?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Not in the Lecturer's post. Subsequently he was made permanent in the Lecturer's post.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Combined Experimental Institution at Rangiya

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked

137. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education aware that a combined experimental institution with High English School Classes and High Madrassa Classes is being conducted at Rangiya?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this School has not been able to put adequate staff for conducting it due to inadequacy of Government grant?

(c) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the peculiar case of this School at the time of distributing grant to Madrassa and Secondary Schools in the Province?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied

137. (a)—Yes.

(b) — The School at present receives a grant of Rs 250, which does not appear to be inadequate. Whether the staff is inadequate will be examined.

(c) — The case of the school will be considered.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: With regard to (b), the reply is that "the school at present receives a grant of Rs. 250, which does not appear to be inadequate. Whether the staff is inadequate will be examined." Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to make that enquiry at an early date?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir.

Free-studentship to Scheduled Caste students

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked:

138. (a) Are Government aware that the scheduled castes people are backward in education?

(b) If so, do Government propose to grant free-studentships in Government Schools and Colleges to Scheduled Castes students?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

138. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Revised provision of free-studentship is under consideration.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: May I know when Government will come to a final decision on this point?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have proposed to appoint a special officer to revise the scholarship rules, but the officer has not yet joined. We expect that these rules will be ready at least before the next school session.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Is it not a fact that the Congress-Coalition Government fixed up certain percentage of free-studentship for the scheduled and tribal students?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The number may have been fixed, but we are to see whether we can increase the number of free-studentship; and rules should be framed to that effect.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the harm in giving effect to the suggestion which was already fixed?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I shall come to the suggestion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is there any bar to increase the number of members if the number is low in comparison to what is in the Constitution of the House of Ministers?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The subject is being discussed now. As I said I hope to be able to get there a few days from now, but it is not to be reviewed at any rate before the next session.

Abolition of the Upper House

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked:

139. Is it a fact that this Assembly in its Winter Session, 1940 passed a resolution recommending the abolition of the Upper House of Assam?

140. If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has since been taken by the Ministry and with what result?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: (b) (i)

139. (a) A motion recommending the abolition of the Assam Legislative Council was adopted.

(b) A copy of the motion together with a copy of the debates thereon was submitted to His Excellency the Governor without any recommendation from the Ministry, under sub-section (1) of section 308 of the Constitution Act, but such action as His Excellency might consider necessary, was intimated by the Hon'ble Premier on the floor of the Assembly Chamber. Nothing further has been heard of the matter yet.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: May I know why an address was not presented to His Excellency as required under section 308 of the Constitution Act?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Within 10 years the Ministry cannot recommend the abolition of the Upper House.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May we know when the copy of the motion was submitted to his Excellency?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have not got any recollection of the exact date, but it must be immediately after the motion was adopted.

Prisoners imprisoned on charge of theft

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

140. Will Government be pleased to state the names of prisoners over 35 years of age, either still undergoing imprisonment in any of the following jails or released during the last five years after serving their terms of imprisonment in any of those jails, who were first imprisoned on charge of theft when they were below twenty years of age—(i) Sylhet Jail, (ii) Gauhati Jail, (iii) Tezpur Jail and (iv) Jorhat Jail?

141. Do Government propose to enquire about the cause of those prisoners becoming such habituals and to find out means for stopping such bad habits being formed in those young prisoners?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied.

140.—A statement is given below:

Jail	Names of prisoners over 25 years of age released during the last five years after serving out their terms of imprisonment who were first imprisoned on charge of theft when they were below 20 years of age	Names of prisoners over 25 years of age still undergoing imprisonment who were first imprisoned on charge of theft when they were below 20 years of age
1	2	3
1. Sylhet ...	1. Katu <i>alias</i> Ganu 2. Rami-Zuddin <i>alias</i> Romar	1. Idris Ali <i>alias</i> Narpan Ali. 2. Am. Ula.
2. Gauhati ...	1. Gaya Nath Sarkar. 2. Mukundu Sk. 3. Jagat Goala. 4. Kampala Charal. 5. Ismail Sk. 6. Ramesh Chandra Nath. 7. Dasarath Tanti. 8. Ful Sk. 9. Abdul Bari. 10. Warish Sk. 11. Sadak Sk. <i>alias</i> Isamuddi Sk. 12. Degen Tanti. 13. Binondi <i>alias</i> Anandi Rajbangshi. 14. Musst. Mathuri. 15. Sahid Bepari. 16. Bhim Dhubi. 17. Fazlur Rahman. 18. Benga Hira.	1. Poul Karbatta. 2. Ful Sk. <i>alias</i> Hoto Koch 3. Durea Charan Ghosh 4. Arjun Tanti. 5. Ravan Sangma
3. Tezpur ...	1. Somnath Sut. 2. Narsingh Momin.	1. Digom Tanti. 2. Benga Hira.
4. Jorhat ...	1. Utsub Pantanti. 2. Jaman Mussalman. 3. Badhia Miri. 4. Kulaguti <i>alias</i> Kirthikanta Gohain. 5. Lokenath Hazarika.	

141.—A scheme for special reformatory treatment of juvenile prisoners is under the consideration of Government.

Settlement of land in Nowgong

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

142. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the then Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong in giving evidence before the Land System Committee on the 7th January 1938 stated that "the net area available (for settlement) comes to only 62,000 acres and even out of this, large area in Hojai and Nomati is completely allotted" in the district of Nowgong?
- (b) The total area that was thus allotted in Hojai and Nomati according to the said statement of the then Deputy Commissioner and also the area that has been brought under settlement till now after the 7th January 1938?
- (c) The total area, if any, available for settlement in future in Hojai and Nomati?
- (d) Whether the Land System Committee accepted the said statement of the then Deputy Commissioner?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that some 83 per cent. of the available cultivable land has been taken up and the majority members of the Land System Committee endorsed the Deputy Commissioner's opinion that there was not much room for extension of immigrant settlement in the district?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, when asked to submit proposals for settlement, could not make available for inclusion in the Development Schemes more than 64,000 *bighas* of land in the district of Nowgong?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that even of the proposed area of 64,000 *bighas*, the Development Scheme Officer, excluded 12,811 *bighas* of land as unsuitable for settlement for the present?
 - (h) Whether Government propose to reserve 30 per cent. of the available and unopened land that has been brought under the Development Scheme for expansion of the existing population?
 - (i) Whether Government propose to maintain this area for settlement of indigenous people from the present and future population of the district, viz. Hindus including scheduled castes, Musalmans and tribals?

143. Will Government be pleased to state the basis of their statement in paragraph 3 of the Government Resolution on the Development Scheme for the district of Nowgong, dated the 28th July 1941, to the effect that "roughly about six lacs *bighas* of cultivable waste lands are available for settlement in Nowgong"?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

142. (a)—The quotation is correctly given in the question except for the words "for settlement" in brackets. The Deputy Commissioner in his evidence was referring to the availability of the land for colonization on a large scale, as would be evident from a perusal of the whole of the paragraph from which the quotation is taken.

(b) — The area in Hojai and Nomati which had been at that time allotted cannot be given as a good deal of that area is non-cadastral and figures are not available.

(c) — For the same reason the area available for settlement in Hojai and Nomati cannot be given.

(d) — No.

(e) — The figure of 83 per cent. does not refer to the amount of cultivable land which has been taken up by the District Settlement Officer which has been cadastrally surveyed in that area. The Deputy Commissioner stated that 1,80,000 acres was still available in cadastral villages. The majority of the Line Committee expressed the opinion that there was not much room for the extension of immigrant settlement in that district.

(f) — Yes; but he was only asked to submit details of blocks of land containing over 500 *bighas*.

(g) — Yes; but the area was not finally surveyed.

(h) — No; the reason will be found in paragraph 1 of the Resolution No.3926/R., dated the 28th July 1941, laid on the table.

(i) — The areas allotted to the various classes of the population under the Development Scheme are shown in paragraph 5 of the above mentioned Resolution.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: The reply to question 142 is "the area in Hojai and Nomati which had been at that time allotted cannot be given as a good deal of that area is non-cadastral and figures are not available." Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the figures after making an enquiry what area in Hojai and Nomati is allotted?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have got nothing to add to what I have already stated. These two mauzas are non-cadastral and we have not got the figures.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire and supply me with the figures during the next session of the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will attempt. If any figures are available in the Deputy Commissioner's office, I will give the figures to my friend.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Then how can he say that the total cultivable waste land available for settlement in the district of Nowgong amounts roughly to six lakhs *bighas* without knowing the area allotted in Hojai and Nomati?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: An approximate figure was given from the material available.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: What is that approximate figure?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already stated that and my hon. friend also quoted from my reply.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: In reply to it it is stated "the figure of 83 per cent. does not refer to the amount of cultivable land which has been taken up in the district but to the amount which has been cadastrally surveyed in that area. The Deputy Commissioner stated that 1,80,000 acres was still available in cadastral villages. The majority of the Line Committee expressed the opinion that there was not much room for the extension of immigrant settlement in the district". But on examination of the figures given in the report of the Line System Committee by the Deputy Commissioner it appears that the Deputy

of the area available for settlement that may, in a village of 2,000 acres you might get 100 acres for settlement, and he has given the total thus and so. But it is in the report. Which is correct, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

I am not in a position to support.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: What is the basis?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

On the basis of the figures we have been able to collect.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: When?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

At present I am not in a position to say.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please

say

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

I do not know. There was a full-dress debate on the development of the district which was discussed on that motion.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: After a pause? No reply has been

given.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

I have nothing to add to what I have already stated.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Can I presume that the present

total

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

The figures are not correct. I do not know anything he likes but I assert that my figures are approximately correct.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA

replied.

143. From the Deputy Commissioner's statement quoted in question 142, the area available for settlement in the Nowgong district in January 1933 was calculated as being 1,80,000 acres in cadastral villages and 1,71,000 acres in the non-cadastral area, from this must be deducted 20,000 acres for hills and *bils*, 68,000 acres for forest reserves and 17,000 acres for professional grazing reserves. The extension of cultivation in the years 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40 and 1940-41 accounts for a further 50,000 acres so that the total cultivable waste land left in the district amounts roughly to 1,99,000 acres or six lakhs *bighas*.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: The reply to question 143 is: "From the Deputy Commissioner's statement quoted in question 142 as above, the area available for settlement in the Nowgong district in January 1933 was calculated as being 1,80,000 acres in cadastral villages and 1,71,000 acres in the non-cadastral area; from this must be deducted 20,000 acres for hills and *bils*, 68,000 acres for forest reserves and 17,000 acres for professional grazing reserves. The extension of cultivation in the years 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40 and 1940-41 accounts for a further 50,000 acres so that the total cultivable waste land left in the district amounts roughly to 1,99,000 acres or six lakhs *bighas*".

But from the figures supplied by Mr. Marar, the then Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong, Sir, the net area available comes to only 62,000 acres and out of that 50,000 acres has already been allotted in the last 4 years and so the net area available in the cadastral villages is only 12,000 acres, and of this, a large area in Hojai and Nomati is completely allotted. So the area is even less than 12,000 acres.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then what is the question?

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Then which is correct, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have given all the figures that we possess.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: No, you have not given that figure for that portion of the Report in which Mr. Marar said I am reading, Sir—

“The balance available is 1,74,000 acres. Out of this as the Sub-Deputy Collector has reported, 20,000 acres are hills and hills. This is a rough estimate. There is a balance under the non-cadastral area of 1,54,000 acres. Taking into account even the cadastral villages you get some land which is available for cultivation but most of them are scattered say in a village of 2,000 acres you might get 200 acres being *phul*. This area cannot be said to be available for any kind of immigration on a large scale. I have examined mauza by mauza and found that out of 1,80,000 acres available in cadastral villages only 20,000 acres at the most would be available for any kind of immigration or colonization on a large scale. I have examined mauza by mauza and found that out of 1,80,000 acres available in cadastral villages 28,000 at the most would be available for any kind of immigration or colonization on a large scale, and not 2,00,000 acres as you have stated. So total in non-cadastral area 1,54,000 acres and in cadastral area 28,000 acres and so the total comes to 1,82,000 acres. Then out of that for professional grazing reserve take away 78,000 acres, and forest reserves 68,000 acres. So the balance is 97,000 acres. We have already got under colonisation 35,000 acres and so the net area available comes to only 62,000 acres and out of this as you have stated in your reply 50,000 acres have been settled within the last 4 years. So the net area available will be 12,000 acres only. Which figure is correct, Sir?”

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I stick to the reply which I have already given.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is there any basis for that, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have not given these figures from my imagination but from official papers.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: But I am quoting this from the report of Mr. Marar of 7th January 1938.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: These may be from the report of Mr. Marar but there were subsequent Deputy Commissioners of Nowgong.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Now the hon. members know that we have got a debate on this subject pending which would come up to-morrow and will it not be better to utilise the answers given to these questions in the course of the debate? The points that are being raised now may be raised in that debate. (*A voice:*—The resolution may not come up, Sir).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I ask one question, Sir? When the Hon'ble Premier finds that there is some discrepancy will he kindly enquire which figure is correct?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Land Development Scheme

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

144. Are Government aware that the Land Development Scheme of the present Government has been condemned by a section of the people of the province as highly detrimental to the best interest of the people of Assam?

145. (a) Is it a fact that the Extra Assistant Commissioner Maulavi Madaris Chaudhury was specially appointed to draw up a scheme of land development in the Assam Valley?

9. Is it a fact that he has accordingly submitted his report ?
10. If so, do Government propose to publish it for general information ?
11. Is it a fact that Government, without inviting any criticism from the public or submitting the same for acceptance by the Assembly, have already sent the same to the respective Deputy Commissioners for putting them into operation ?
12. Will Government be pleased to state—
- How much land has been proposed for settlement under the Development Scheme in each district ?
 - How much of the same has been reserved for indigenous people, showing the Hindus, Muslims and the Tribals separately in each area ?
 - The area proposed for each of these sections of people and the immigrants ?
 - How much land has actually been settled under the said scheme in each district, with indigenous people—Hindus, Muslims, Tribals and immigrants separately ?
13. Are Government aware of the necessity of maintaining intact the existing reserves, viz., village and other grazing reserves, Game and Forest reserves, and such other reserves created for special purposes ?
14. Will Government be pleased to state whether the opening out of any such reserves involves in the operation of the Development Scheme being put in force by Government ?
15. If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of such reserves, if any, with the districts where they are situated ?
16. Are Government aware that both experts and the general public strongly resent the opening out of such reserves as being detrimental to the future security and development of the resources of the province ?
17. Do Government propose to take steps to stop opening out of any of these reserves and to evict therefrom any persons who are in occupation of the same ?
18. Will Government be pleased to state whether the said Development Scheme Officer's report includes recommendation for opening out such reserves ?
19. If so, what are they and where are they situated ? (To be shown district by district.)
146. (a) Is it a fact that the Congress-Coalition Government in their resolution, dated the 4th November 1939, enunciated that the tribal and backward areas particularly in the submontane regions, large blocks consisting of whole mauzas, and clusters of villages, should be considered prohibited areas for immigrants and that the present Government in their resolution, dated June 21st, 1940, also promised protection to the tribal people ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to stop the settlement of immigrants into the areas predominantly inhabited by tribal and backward people ?
- (c) If the reply to question No. 146(b) above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor ?
- (d) Is it a fact that the report of the said Development Scheme Officer involves recommendation of settlement of immigrants in such areas ?
- (e) Is it a fact that the local settlement authorities of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong and North Lakhimpur districts have already taken action for settlement of immigrants in these tribal and backward areas under orders of Government ?

147. Will Government be pleased to state whether the percentage of reservation of 30 per cent. of the cultivable waste lands in the Development Scheme of June 21st, 1940, excluded the reservation of lands which are reserved for special purposes?

148. Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether Government propose to give preference to the indigenous people of the area in the Development Scheme?
- (b) If so, how Government propose to do so?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the report of the District Development Scheme Officer, Kamrup, is not in accordance with the District Officer's commendatory settlement of waste lands in the Development Scheme and proposed for settlement among the indigenous people of the area and that people receive the rest of the land?
- (d) Whether the present method of settlement of waste lands among indigenous landless people and smaller holdings is not in accordance with smaller holdings which are being settled by the Government's settlement of lands?
- (e) If so, whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government that such a method is faulty and unsatisfactory?
- (f) Whether Government will consider the desirability of ascertaining the number of indigenous landless people and of indigenous people with smaller holdings, the actual contents of land records and from local sources and of making sufficient provision of lands for these classes of people before offering waste lands for settlement to immigrants?

149. Is it a fact that the report submitted by the District Development Scheme Officer disregarded the proposal of the District Officers of Nongoma, Kamrup and Darrang, in the matter of settlement of waste lands amongst the indigenous people, tribals and immigrants?

150. (a) Are Government aware that the whole Development Scheme of Government has created great unrest and alarm amongst a large section of the people?

(b) Do Government propose to drop the same?

151. Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the predominant population of villages Dawgakhata, Hatitandha, Letakhata, Sonakhata, Bojrahata, Charanpara in Majikuchi Mauza, Mangaldai subdivision, are tribal people, viz., Kacharies and Totlas?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the people of this locality has applied for settlement of waste lands to the extent of 615 bighas in Darogakhata village in the Majikuchi mauza and that they wired to Forest Minister for settlement of the land with them?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that 500 bighas of this land was settled on annual lease and 117 bighas on periodic lease with one Srijut Prafulla Chandra Goswami, a land-lord of Gauhati?
- (d) Whether Government enquired through the Deputy Commissioner if it was a fact that the said Srijut Prafulla Goswami had already settled Mymensinghia settlers in the land so settled with him?
- (e) If the answer is in the affirmative, whether the said areas of lands are in a locality predominantly in the occupation of tribal people from time immemorial?

- (b) Have any immigrants have thus been introduced in such a manner?
- (c) Will the Government make any enquiry on receipt of the notification to the Hon'ble Forest Minister?
- (d) Will the Government be aware that there was a clash between Muslim and other immigrants and the local Kacharies and that there was a rising case at Vergaon in 1940 near this area?
- (e) Does the Government propose to consider its decision regarding the settlement of this land with the local Kacharies?

152. (a) Is it a fact that in mauzas of Nakhonah in Harisinga mauza, in A. S. Mauza, A. S. Mauza, and in Kacharabari Goremari (No 1), Kacharabari (No 2), M. S. Mauza, M. S. Mauza, Lawrabari, Singhaon, Sidha-Garua, A. S. Mauza, and No 2 in the Mangaldai subdivision, an area of about 24,000 acres of land has been reserved for enforcement of Development Scheme?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how much of this land has been reserved for settlement to Mymensinghia immigrants and how much for the local people?

(c) Is it a fact that in the said villages more than 30 per cent. of the population consist of immigrants such as Kacharies, Totias, etc., and that in villages of Singhaon and Amripur in Baschila mauza in the Mangaldai subdivision, a large number of Goalpara and Kamrup tribals have settled?

(d) Is it a fact that notices of ejection have already been issued against the said Goalpara and Kamrup Kachari settlers in the two villages mentioned in Question No 152 (c) above?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such an action in view of paragraph 4 of the Resolution adopted by the Congress-Coalition Government on 4th November 1939, and of the fact that the present Government in their Resolution of June 21st, 1940, reiterated the policy for the protection of the tribals?

153. (a) Is it a fact that Pabbaska, Defeli and Betna mauzas in the Kamrup district are predominantly inhabited by the tribal and backward people?

(b) Is it a fact that in several villages of the above named mauzas, Development Scheme is being proposed to be applied?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the total area of land brought under the Scheme, and how much of the same have been reserved for immigrants and how much for the (i) tribal people and (ii) other indigenous local people? (To be shown mauza by mauza.)

(d) Is it a fact that in pursuance of the Development Scheme, several tribal settlers from Goalpara have already been served with the notice of ejection from Dangargaon in Defeli mauza?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances that have led them to allow the Muslim immigrants to settle into the tribal areas?

(f) Is it a fact that Mymensinghia immigrants are in wrongful possession of several villages in the Pabbaska mauza in the Kamrup district and that in spite of orders from the local authorities, they are squatting on it by force?

154. (a) Are Government aware of the apprehensions which have been expressed and have come upon the minds of the tribal people in the districts of Khasi, Jaintia and Darrang, as a result of the proposed settlement of the Muslim and Sikhia immigrants in these districts under the Development Scheme?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any steps to allay the apprehensions for settlement of any immigrants in those places, and under circumstances, about eviction from the areas where there are any such apprehensions?

155. (a) Is it a fact that all the officers, whose the supervision of Khasi areas goes who have been entrusted to execute the Development Scheme in the various districts, are all Muslims?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state their numbers and how many of them are Hindus and how many Muslims?

156. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for delaying the appointment of wholesale Muslim Sub-Deputy Collectors for putting the Development Scheme into operation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

144. —This is a matter of opinion. Government have seen certain criticisms in the Press.

145. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) —No.

(d) No. Deputy Commissioners have been asked for their opinion on the report.

(e) (i, ii and iii). The Development Scheme has only been worked out so far for one district, Nowgong, and the orders of Government may be seen in Resolution No.3926 R., dated the 28th July 1941 (and on Library table). The areas proposed for settlement with the different classes of population in Nowgong are shown in paragraph 5 of that Resolution. Schemes for the other districts are still under consideration.

(iv) —No settlement has actually yet been made but allotment will commence shortly.

(f) —Government are aware of the importance of the various kinds of reserves mentioned.

(g) —As already mentioned the Development Scheme for only one district has so far been decided on. No reserves have been included in the lands notified as falling within this scheme.

(h) —Does not arise.

(i) —This is a matter of opinion.

(j) —Government do not propose to open any reserve which are considered to be vitally necessary for the surrounding people.

(k) —Government do not propose to publish the contents of the Development Scheme Officer's report but only their own decisions which may be subsequently reached.

(l) —Does not arise.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: With reference to question No. 145(c) Sir, do this Government recognise the necessity of publishing the Land Development Scheme as drawn up by Maulavi Madaris Chaudhury for public criticisms to find out whether the figures given by him regarding the availability of waste land is correct or not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the suggestion will be considered.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, do we understand that Government will publish that report for public criticisms and place it before the House?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have already said that the suggestion will be considered and I cannot go beyond that.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, before this is carried out are we to understand that this scheme will not be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have not done anything, Sir.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, will copies of the same be available to the members of this House?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, the hon. members will be supplied with copies.

Srijut GOPINATH BORDOLOI: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state the reason why he did not think it necessary to take into confidence at least such members of the Committee to decide upon the policy before the policy underlying the report of Maulavi Madaris Chaudhury was given effect to at least in Nowgong?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have followed mainly the general principle that was arrived at in the conference except in the matter of 30 per cent. reservation about which I have explained in the Resolution.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: May I know, whether this matter was placed in a Cabinet Meeting, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The matter was discussed in the Cabinet, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do I understand, Sir, that the operation of allotment of land that is going on in the district of Nowgong will be stopped pending the opinion of this House?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, all that I assure is that in view of the objections on account of some allotment being made to outsiders near tribal villages there will be an adjustment.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Was there any agreement in the conference, Sir? The Hon'ble Premier referred to the conference and said that an agreement was arrived at therein. But my information is that there was no agreement so far as Srijut Sarveswar Barooah and the other Congress colleagues were concerned.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There was perfect agreement. It was only in the case of premium that my hon. friends objected.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: With regard to question No. 145(f), are Government prepared to maintain these reserves in tact?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, so far as they are necessary in public interest.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Our question is whether all these reserves, viz., grazing reserves, game reserves, forest reserves, etc., will be kept in tact?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I cannot say that these will be kept in tact in perpetuity. So long as these reserves are necessary in the public interest, they will be kept.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR Who will decide that this House or the Cabinet ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Neither the Cabinet nor this House. The Government of the time will come to a decision on the report of the local officers.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Does not Government think that this important matter of opening the constituted reserves for settlement should be decided by this House, because this question is of vital interest to the people of the province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir, this matter concerns day to day administration, and I don't think that the Legislature need be consulted on the point.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS With regard to question No. 145 (g), will Government hear the objections of the surrounding people before final decision is arrived at for opening out any particular reserve ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Surely, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR With regard to reply to question No. 145 (g), may I know whether the Development Scheme Officer's report recommends any of the reserves to be opened out for settlement under the Scheme ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Up till now there is no recommendation from the Development Officer about opening out any reserves.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Is it a fact that the Development Scheme Officer recommended for only 42,000 *tighas* to be included in the Development Scheme for the Nowgong district ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This question has been replied to.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : In view of reply to question No. 145 (i), may I know whether any reserves have been encroached upon, and if so, whether the encroachers have been evicted from the reserves ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This matter has been agitated from both sides of the House. Certain people, especially in Barpeta, who were settled by Government, had their lands eroded. For want of any other land, some did encroach on reserves. Government enquired into those encroachments, and where necessary, these people have been evicted, and the process of eviction still continues.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard to question No. 145 (j), the reply is "Government do not propose to open any reserve which are considered to be vitally necessary for the surrounding people". Do Government propose that other reserves which are not vitally necessary for the surrounding people should be opened for settlement ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have already replied, Sir, that this or any Government cannot bind themselves that the reserves will be kept in tact in perpetuity. Every case will be considered on its merits. If the reserves are necessary in the public interest of the province, they will be kept in tact.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : replied :

146. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No.

(e)—No such orders have been issued.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: With regard to reply to question No. 146, what steps Government are going to take to give effect to the policy regarding the Gabsardhana mauza which is primarily and predominantly a matter of tribal people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This is a general question regarding a particular mauza, Sir. I have not got the exact details at present.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Is it a fact that there have been various petitions from the tribal people of the Gabsardhana mauza to give effect to a policy of the Government indicated in reply to this question?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I want to know the exact details, Sir.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: With regard to question No. 146, the Government have answered "No". Will the Hon'ble Premier take it into consideration that the same questions involve the settlement of immigrants from one part of the State to another, like in Bomdihag which are overwhelmingly and predominantly occupied by tribal people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I mentioned, Sir, during the course of the debate on this matter, when ever such infiltration according to the development scheme is brought to our notice, we will be glad to remedy the same and make necessary adjustments.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Will he do it in Pubbaska mauza particularly?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have not taken up the scheme of Kamrup as yet, but the point made out by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition will be borne in mind.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The reply to question No. 146 is "no such orders have been issued". Are Government aware that the local settlement officers have already taken action for settlement?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government please enquire?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Surely, we will enquire.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: replied:

147. — Yes.

148. (a) and (b) The application of indigenous people will be considered along with those of others in the allotment of land under the Development Scheme. In the case of Nowgong the areas allotted for settlement by the indigenous people amount to 40,000 bighas as against 24,000 bighas for immigrants.

(c) No.

(d) Government made no attempt to ascertain the exact number of either indigenous or immigrant landless people. They considered it more to the point to try to find out how many landless people wanted land and for that reason they have invited applications for settlement.

(e) — Does not arise.

(f) — No. Government do not see the object of going into great expense in trying to enumerate the people who are actually landless or in possession of only small holdings when there is no guarantee that all such people are willing to take up land at a premium. Moreover, the land records contain no details of the number of people who are tenants.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The replies to question No. 148(a) & (b) are "the application of indigenous people will be considered along with those of others in the allotment of land under the Development Scheme". Is it not a fact that the Congress-Coalition Ministry made it a principle that before lands are opened for settlement with newcomers the number of landless indigenous people and people with smaller holdings should first be ascertained, and then the question of settlement should be thought of?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, this general principle was mentioned in the Congress Resolution.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government approve this principle?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I stated during the course of the debate, the difference was not a matter of degree. My hon. friends of the Congress-Coalition Government did not mention how the number of landless people would be found out. We thought we should ask those people who want land to apply for it. That is the difference.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it the principle of Government to ascertain the need of the indigenous people for land by the number of applications received?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. We cannot start a fresh census.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: If the indigenous people do not apply for land, do Government propose to settle the available surplus land with the outsiders?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. We have divided the available land into blocks to be allotted to each category of the people and these blocks have been made on the application *cum* population basis of each category. Therefore, there is no point for complaint if the people do not apply for settlement of land.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: If owing to the non-publication of notice inviting applications, the indigenous people do not apply for land, though they are landless, should their cause suffer?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. If the landless people do not apply for land, should the Government go out and settle the land with them? My friends are there to start propaganda among the people.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it not the duty of Government to ascertain for themselves whether there is need of the indigenous people for land and then settle the available land with them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government have adopted a policy which appealed to them best.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do not Government consider that the standard of ascertaining the necessity of the indigenous people for land on the number of applications received from them, is defective?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Then, how will Government ascertain whether the people, who have not submitted any applications for land, actually want land or not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have given detailed information on the question the day before yesterday while discussing the motion on Development Scheme.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS Is it not a fact that a unanimous decision was given by the Line conference that blocks to be reserved for development purposes were to be in proportion to the population of the indigenous people and the immigrants and that the Surma Valley people were to be included among the category—the indigenous?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS May I know whether in the district of Nongong this proportion has been maintained in creating the blocks for settlement in the less populated areas?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Every consideration has been made in creating the blocks for settlement with different tribal natives.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA Is it not a fact that in the Line Committee it was decided that in allotting blocks, the ratio of the indigenous Assamese people of the whole province and of the immigrants will be taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The proportion of population according to religion for the whole province was recommended to be taken into consideration at the time of settlement, but as this will be rather unpropitious, Government had not followed that recommendation, e.g., in the Darrang district, where the Muslim population is very low.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member entitled to elicit information by putting supplementary questions to Government which he will use in criticising the policy of Government on their Land Development Scheme which will come before the House in the shape of a resolution?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER Order, order. I want to tell the hon. member that the debate on the Land Development Scheme is still pending, and for the purpose of making use of some informations in that debate, hon. members are quite entitled to seek them from Government by putting supplementary questions. But it is a question of opinion whether the informations supplied by the Hon'ble Premier is sufficient for the purpose of the debate.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is it not a fact that in the Line system conference it was decided that no distinction should be made between the indigenous Assamese Hindus and indigenous Assamese Muslims?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is quite correct.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: If that was so, how the Muslim settlers in the Darrang district are affected by taking the total population of the whole province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: About 95 per cent. of immigrants are Muslims. If we are to settle lands to them as the Muslim population of the province is 38 per cent. in that district. The percentage of Muslims in the province is 38 per cent. whereas it is about 13 per cent. in the district of Darrang.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Was that not at the expense of the indigenous people—both Hindus and Muslims?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That was why we have not adopted that principle.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is it not a fact that in the Line conference it was decided that for future settlement of lands among the

indigenous people and the members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes who were before January 1938, will be given allotment?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA

Yes.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Is it possible to give more land to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA

Yes, Sir.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : It is stated that 24,000 bighas are available for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the Kamrup Valley people in Assam. Will the Government consider the possibility of giving more land to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes if the 24,000 bighas are not sufficient?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Including all categories of indigenous people, the Government has reserved 40,000 bighas for the indigenous people in Assam. These 40,000 bighas surely include the tribal people as well as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. We have reserved 10,000 bighas for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and 24,000 bighas for the Hindus. Therefore, the total is 40,000 bighas.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Do you think that these 40,000 bighas are not sufficient for the indigenous population?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I wish there were more land for allotment to the indigenous people. But as I stated the other day, in the block allotted to the indigenous people, 100 bighas of land to each one of those who applied for it, they will not get more than 100 bighas per head, whereas members of the other categories will get more than that.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA

replied :

149.—No.

150. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to his question No.144 above.

(b)—No.

151. (a) to (i)—No papers are available or could be traced in the Secretariat. Local officers are being asked for report and the reply will be communicated to the hon. member.

152. (a)—The Development Scheme in the Mangaldai subdivision has not yet been decided on.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d) and (e)—Government have no information and the local officers will be asked to report.

153. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under consideration and the details of the Scheme in the Kamrup district have not yet been decided.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d), (e) and (f)—Government have no information, but are making enquiries from the local officers.

154. (a)—As Government have not yet decided where they will make lands available for settlement by immigrants in the Kamrup district under the Development Scheme the alleged apprehension of the tribal people appears to be premature.

(b)—Does not arise.

155. (a) and (b). The checking of the applications under the Development Scheme was entrusted to the Colonization Officers of Nowgong and Dalgachandranagar which are Muslim. In Kamrup most of the work was done by a Hindu Officer. The only district in which the Development Scheme has been approved is Nowgong in which the Colonization Officer is a Muslim and his Assistant is a Hindu. The Development Scheme Officer is also a Muslim who has had previous experience of Colonization work.

156. (c) Government do not admit that only Muslim Sub-Deputy Collectors are appointed in putting the Development Scheme into operation.

Names of internees

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

157. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of restricted persons in the Province who are to present themselves in their respective police stations, every week or on alternate days?
- (b) Are Government aware that most of them have to travel 8 to 10 miles a day for their attendance to their respective police stations?
- (c) Do Government propose to pay to the aforesaid persons conveyance allowance for travelling from the place of their respective internment to the police stations and back?
- (d) Whether Government propose to supply cycles to those of the aforesaid persons who want to travel on cycles?
- (e) If the replies to questions Nos. 157 (c) and 157 (d) are in the negative, do Government propose to transfer them in places adjacent to police stations, making provision for their boarding and lodging?
- (f) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

157. (a) The list is as follows :

1. Ashutosh Sen.
2. Benoy Lal Majumdar.
3. Jitendra Kumar Bhattacharji.
4. Sachindra Ch. Dutta.
5. Nibaran Dutta.
6. R. mendra Kumar Bhattacharji.
7. Sukumar Nandi Majumdar.
8. Gopendra Deb.
9. Hemanta Chakrabarti.
10. Jyotirmoy Chakrabarti.
11. Nikhilendra Mitra.

12. Manik Lal Chaudhuri.

(b)—No: not more than 5 miles, approximately, and that was in 3 cases out of 12.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f)—The distances, and the frequency of reports filed on that account, are not in the opinion of Government such as to require special arrangements.

Ministers' Visit to Habiganj Subdivision

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked

158. Will Government be pleased to state

(a) How many times the Hon'ble Revenue Minister visited the subdivision of Habiganj in connection with flood and famine relief works there?

(b) The amount of travelling allowance drawn by him in this connection?

(c) How many times, other Ministers visited Habiganj in this connection?

(d) The amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of them in that connection?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir **MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied:

158. (a)—Hon'ble Minister, Revenue, did not visit the Habiganj subdivision in connection with flood and famine relief.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c) and (d)—Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, visited Habiganj once during one of his tours and the travelling allowance drawn for this tour was Rs. 202-3-0.

Names of Satyagrahis

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

159. Will Government be pleased to state, district by district, up-to-date—

(a) The names of persons offering Satyagraha by shouting anti-war slogans?

(b) The names of persons arrested or whose movements have been restricted for violation of the Defence of India Rules?

(c) The names of persons convicted for the same with their terms of imprisonment or fines?

2. The names of persons arrested and convicted with their terms of imprisonment simply for notice of intention to a District Magistrate to offer Satyagraha by shouting anti-war slogans?

160. Will Government be pleased to state—

1. Whether their attention has been drawn to the rulings of the High Courts of Lahore and Allahabad to the effect that the mere giving of a notice to a District Magistrate, of intention to offer Satyagraha does not constitute a prejudicial act under the Defence of India Rules?
2. If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of releasing forthwith those persons so convicted for mere giving of a notice to offer Satyagraha?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

159. (a) & (b).—Statements have been placed on the Library table.

160. (a).—His attention of Government has been drawn to rulings of the Lahore High Court. They are not aware what rulings the High Court of Allahabad may have given.

(b).—No. Awaris under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court and this Government are not aware of any ruling on the subject by the High Court of Calcutta, and see no reason for the order suggested.

Present Police Staff of Nowgong District

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked:

161. (a).—Is it a fact that the present Deputy Superintendent of Police of Nowgong, the Court Inspector and the Inspector of Police are serving in the Nowgong district for over three years?

(b).—Is it a fact that there is a rule, according to which such officers should not be kept in the same place for over three years?

(c).—If the answers to questions Nos. 161 (a) and 161 (b) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps to transfer those officers from the Nowgong district?

162. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any Assamese Court Inspector has been posted in Nowgong district during the last twenty years?

(b) If so, who were those officers, and how long they served as Court Inspector?

(c) If not will Government be pleased to state why no Assamese Court Inspector was posted in Nowgong during this long period?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

161. (a)—Only the Deputy Superintendent of Police and Inspector of Police, Nowgong "B" Circle, are serving at Nowgong for over three years.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise. Tenants will be considered in accordance with the requirements of the service.

162. (a)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—Offr. Inspector Divisional Forest Officer, No. 200, 7.7.1937 to 10th June 1938.

(c)—Does not arise.

Mohurrirs appointed in the Central Assam Division, Public Works Department

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked

163. Will Government be pleased to state

(a) The names of the candidates who have been appointed Royal Mohurrirs either temporarily or permanently during the period from the 1st January 1941 to the 30th September 1941 showing their dates of appointment in the Central Assam Division, Public Works Department.

(b) The names of the Mohurrirs who have been discharged showing the dates of their respective discharges during the said period in the said Public Works Department division.

(c) The names of the temporary Mohurrirs who have been made permanent showing the dates of their being made permanent in the said Public Works Department division during the said period?

(d) The educational qualifications of the said Mohurrirs who have been made permanent and those of the Mohurrirs who have been discharged?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

163. (a)—A statement showing the details is laid on the Library table.

(b)—As above.

(c)—There are no such terms as temporary or permanent in the case of Mohurrirs who are members of the work-charged establishment.

(d)—Educational qualifications of Mohurrirs discharged are shown in the Statement laid on the Library table in reply to Question 163(b).

Annual General Meeting of the Assam Forest Rangers' Association

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

164. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has received a copy of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Assam Forest Rangers' Association held at Gauhati on the 9th and 10th July 1939?

160. (a) Has any proposal been taken to give the time scale of pay to the Forest Department from Rangers' point of view?
- (b) Has the Annual Forest Rangers' Association managed to hold its annual conference for 1941 during the last Xmas holidays or during the Easter holidays at Sukhrai and if not, what reasons for the Forest Department authorities are there for this?
- (c) Has the Government, the permission to hold the said Conference at any of the above two festive occasions?
- (d) Has the Government propose to permit them to hold their annual conference?
- (e) How many of the existing junior Rangers who had Botany in their Intermediate Examination?
- (f) How long was the training period at the Imperial College, London, England, given practical and theoretical knowledge in Botany?
- (g) What was the minimum qualification made in October last for recruitment to the Forest Service?
- (h) Were there any existing Rangers who had training in Botany at the Imperial College, London, those having Botany in their I.Sc. or B.Sc. examinations, were not allowed to apply for the said recruitment?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

161. (a) Yes.
- (b) Government have examined the question and they are satisfied that the graded system is suitable to the conditions of the Department, rendering it much easier to discriminate between good work and bad work than times-scales permit. For this reason, among others, it was decided not to introduce times-scale.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Because the urgency of War supplies made it impossible to hold a Conference at those seasons.
- (e) The Conservator will consider grant of approval on the first occasion when the Conference can be held without holding up essential work on supplies.
- (f) The information is not available but has been called for.
- (g) Yes.
- (h) The minimum qualification fixed for the said recruitment was B.Sc. with Botany or Zoology in the Intermediate examination.
- (i) Applications from 4 Rangers only were received 3 of which were forwarded to the Public Service Commission while the other was not considered as the applicant did not possess the prescribed minimum qualifications and he also failed in the Forestry Course when deputed by Government some 10 years ago.

Enquiry regarding release of Satyagrahi prisoners

Srijut BELIRAM DAS May we know whether any information has been received by this Government from the Central Government regarding release of Satyagrahi prisoners?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA I have been informed by the Chief Secretary that the matter was discussed yesterday and that the file would be submitted to me as soon as possible with his note.

Adjournment motion on account of Police assault on a students' procession at Gauhati

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi has given notice of an adjournment motion*. I think I will tell the hon. members that to-day is the day which has been allotted by His Excellency the Governor for voting on the supplementary grants. Under the Rules, no other business can interfere with the discussion and voting on these supplementary demands. So, I am afraid, I cannot take this adjournment motion just now. The supplementary demands are to be taken up at 12 noon. Therefore, I suggest that this adjournment motion should stand over for to-morrow, and after question hour it will be taken up.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI May I suggest a motion, Sir? It may be quite possible to admit the adjournment motion now, and its discussion may be taken up after the business of the House is finished.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The supplementary demands are to be taken up immediately after the question hour is over. On the assumption that the discussion and voting on the supplementary demands would not take us up to 4 p.m., we put down some other items of business for to-day, and even after the supplementary demands are disposed of, say within an hour, I am afraid, if I take up the adjournment motion, then no time will be available for discussing the motion. So I suggest that the motion should stand over for to-morrow so that the matter may be taken up just after the question hour. It may be discussed after 2-30 p.m., or at 3 p.m. to-morrow. I think that would be convenient for dealing with the motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: To-morrow is the only non-official day left and there are several non-official Bills to be introduced, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I cannot help when such an extraordinary business crops up.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Cannot this adjournment motion be taken up later, Sir, because to-morrow will be the only non-official business day of this session?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will see to it to-morrow.

*That this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance and of very recent occurrence, to wit, the indiscriminate and brutal assault committed by an armed police force by the command of and personally by the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup upon a large body of students including women and children while proceeding in peaceful and non-violent manner along a narrow public road in Gauhati town in the forenoon of Saturday the 6th December 1941.

Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1941-42

No. 1.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHKRAVARTY.
 Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional sum of Rs.20,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head "39 Public Health"—

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	7,91,800
II Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for	
I Works	
Public Health	
Original Works	20,000
	20,000

The additional amount is required for construction of quarters for the Golaghat Health Unit. There is already a provision of Rs.20,000 for this work in the current year's budget under head "50.—Civil Works—

A Original Works : Buildings Public Health", but it has been found that the work cannot be completed according to the Public Works Department specification with this small sum. It is, therefore, proposed to do the work departmentally with the said cost by making provision for it in the Public Health budget. The corresponding provision in the Public Works Department budget will be surrendered. Thus it is only a question of transfer of funds from one head to another.

The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.20,000 under this head.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.20,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head '39. Public Health'."

Now, there are three cut-motions which have been tabled to be discussed. I think, all these cut motions practically raise the same point. So, if one of the hon. members, who have given notices of the cut motions, move his cut motion, I think, the other members may take part; but I may tell the hon. members that no discussion on the general policy of the Government can be started while discussing these motions. The hon. members will please remember this and proceed.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Under section 81 of the Government of India Act, it is mandatory that a supplementary statement of expenditure is to be laid before both the Chambers. But this has not been done and therefore this demand is out of order, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not necessary that a supplementary statement should be laid before both the Chambers simultaneously. It may be done afterwards and this has been the practice.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: This is not the proper intention of that section, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member knows that the other House has not the right of voting. They can only discuss it. So, if this demand is discussed here first and then sent to the other House for discussion the decision of this House will not be affected in any way.

Every mover of a cut motion gets 5 minutes for his speech and so also the Minister-in-charge for reply and each of the other members taking part in the discussion will get 3 minutes.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : I beg Sir, to move.

“ That the total provision of Rs 20,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head F Works Public Health—Original Works at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs 101, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs 20,000 do stand reduced by Rs 101 ”.

সভাপতি মহাশয়, মোতা বড়বৰ Director of Public Healthৰ হিচাবৰ পৰা আমি জানিবলৈ পাইছিলো যে গোটেই অঞ্চলৰ তিতবৰত কালাজৰ হেটাইটক বেচি গোলাঘাটত স্থিতীয়তে নগাৰ্ঠ ও সেই গোলাঘাটত, সেই স্থান অধিকাৰ কৰা গোলাঘাটত কালাজৰে যি অবস্থা কৰিছে তাক বৰ মৰ অস্বীকৃত, মিৰিসাক ঠাইত চেণ্টাৰ খুলি কালাজৰ চিকিৎসা সম্প্ৰতি উলি আছে সেই বিনাক চেণ্টাৰৰ হিচাব নতে গোলাঘাটত কালাজৰ কৰি থৈছে, কমি থৈছে খুলিছে হটক বা অন্য কাৰণতে হটক কালাজৰ চৰতে কাম আজি কেই মাহ মানৰ পৰা বন্ধ কৰি দিয়াৰ ফলত আপতে মোহোতা বড়ত বিনাক গাৰ্ঠত কালাজৰে দেখা দিছে, আৰু কেইটাই মানিত নতুন চেণ্টাৰ খোলাৰ আৱশ্যকই পৰিছে, অন্য কাৰণে আজি কিছুদিনৰ পৰা Public Healthৰ ডাক্তৰ বিনাকক মুক্ৰলৈ মান লাগিব খুলি নটিচ দিছে ও কোনো কোনোক নিছেও তাৰ ফলত ডাক্তৰ সকলৰ তিতবৰত কাম কাজলৈ নিৰংসাৰ তাৰ জন্নিছে আৰু নিৰংসাৰ হোৱাটো খাতাৰিক কথা। কোন কেতিয়া মান লাগিব তাৰ নিৰ্ণয় নাই ইফালে তেওঁলোকৰ পৰিয়ালৰ কি ব্যবস্থা কৰিব সেইটোও ব্যতিব্যস্ত হব নগা হৈছে ইত্যাদি কাৰণত কামত বেমেজালি ঘটাতো একো আচৰিত কথা নহয়। সেইবাবে কাৰ্য্যৰ গুৰুত্বলৈ চাই—Public Health ডাক্তৰ বিনাকক মুক্ৰলৈ পঠোৱা একেবাৰেই বন্ধ কৰা নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ আৰু উক্ত ডাক্তৰ সকলক মুক্ৰলৈ পঠোৱাত মই দোৰ্গোৰ আপত্তি কৰো। গোটেই গোলাঘাটৰ প্ৰায় সকলো মৌজাতে মিকিৰ পাচাৰ প্ৰায় কালাজৰে বিয়পি পৰিছে তাৰ উপৰিও যোৰহাট, শিবসাগৰলৈকো বাপৰিছে এনে অবস্থাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে চিকিৎসাৰ যি ব্যবস্থা সম্প্ৰতি কৰিছে তাতকৈ ভাল বন্দবস্ত কৰি প্ৰতি গাওঁ বিলাক চৰ্ভে কৰাই ভাল বকমৰ চিকিৎসা যাতে হয় তাৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰিব লাগে। পুৰনা অভিজ্ঞ ডাক্তৰ বিনাকক অন্য ঠাইলৈ বদলি কৰি বা মুক্ৰলৈ পঠায় নতুন নতুন ডাক্তৰৰ হাতত চিকিৎসাৰ ভাৰ দিয়াটোৱেও বাইজৰ অবস্থা বিপন্ন কৰিছে। উক্ত কাৰণত মুক্ৰলৈ Public Healthৰ ডাক্তৰ সকলক পঠোৱা বন্ধ কৰি চিকিৎসাৰ বিধিনি নকৰি বাইজক এই মহামাৰিৰ পৰা বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ এই প্ৰস্তাব উদ্ভি কৰিলো।

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : On a point of information, Sir, will the hon. mover of this cut motion be good enough to inform the House how he substantiates his statement regarding the increase of deaths in the Golaghat subdivision? This motion reads “thus contributing towards higher mortality”.

- **Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA** : বেচি যে মৰিছে সেইটো মই জানো কাৰণ Kala-azar Centre বিলাকত বিশেষকৈ গোলাঘাটৰ প্ৰতি গাৰ্ঠ গাৰ্ঠ

সুবিধই যদি খুব কুৰা। যি বিনাক ঠাইত বেজী দিয়া Centre নাই আৰু গভৰ্ণ-মেণ্টৰ কৰ্মীকো হিচাপ লোৱা বা পোৱা নাই একেদৰা ঠিকিৎসা নোহোৱা ঠাইত বহুত মানুহ মৰিছে এইটো যদি জানো।

[Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese and moved the cut motion to criticise the policy of Government for sending the Public Health Doctors to War Service and for giving inadequate aid in the Kala-azar areas of the Golaghat and Jorhat subdivisions thus contributing towards higher mortality.]

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 20,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—F.—Works—Public Health—Original Works at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 20,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 101."

The other members may take part now.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I rise to a point of order. This supplementary demand is for a specific purpose—for building a health unit. As has been explained, Sir, it is for the construction of quarters for the Golaghat Health Unit and it has nothing whatsoever to do with Kala-azar. You yourself just now said, Sir, that under supplementary demand the question of policy of Government cannot be taken up. The present motion has no relevancy. Health Unit is a new experiment to be started in that area for the general uplift and sanitary improvement of the area.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. member got anything to say on this?

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: প্রধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে Health Unitৰ বিষয়ে যি কথা কৈছে—যাৰা বহু Health Unitৰ কাৰণে বাজেটত কিছু টকা sanction কৰা হৈছিল বুলি আমি জানো কিন্তু সেইটোৰ কি হ'ল আমি অদ্য পৰিমিত একো গ'ৰা পোৱা নাই। Health Unitও আমাক লাগে বুলি আমি কওঁ কিন্তু Health Unitৰ গৰ্হে গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টে কি কৰিছে সেইটো আমি প্রধান মন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা জানিব খোজে।

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: As regards Jorhat, from where I hail, I will say one word in reply to the Hon'ble Premier; the motion was 'to criticise the policy of Government in sending the Public Health Doctors to War Service and then giving inadequate and insufficient aid in the Kala-azar area in the Golaghat and Jorhat subdivisions thus contributing towards higher mortality'.

The question raised by my hon. friend Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua, as far as I can gather is that some amount of attention which was being given in pre-war days is not available now, therefore, there has been a higher rate of mortality among the sufferers. That is my point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier's point is this that this demand relates to the construction of quarters for the Golaghat Health Unit, therefore, how does this question of Kala-azar and cholera come in?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Kala-azar is a matter which is dealt with by the Health Unit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is regarding the construction of Health Unit quarters, the hon. member may say that the construction is not necessary and that the constructions should also be undertaken for other places also. But so far as the question of inadequacy or adequacy of relief for Kala-azar and cholera, I do not see how does this question come up?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: The relevancy is at once apparent and direct. The construction of houses for Health Unit is for Kala-azar area, therefore, this matter may be discussed in this motion.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: May I submit, Sir, that this Health Unit is for Kala-azar, cholera and for other diseases? If they fail to do their duty efficiently then, perhaps, it is quite within the competence of hon. members to criticise their action in this motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think both my hon. friends have forgotten what was said at the time of the last Budget Session about these Health Units. There is the Rockefeller Trust which helps different Governments to start health centres in suitable areas and for the purpose of helping them, for five years the Trust contributes towards the cost. Two representatives of this American philanthropic institution came to Assam to discuss with us that the Assam Government should experiment with one Health Unit centre. In this Health Unit centre, the people will be taught to adopt scientific, hygienic and sanitary measures, where they will be provided with ladies to visit from house to house to give advice and help the people in any maternity matters and male visitors in the improvement of the general health condition in that area so that the people may be immune from attacks of diseases. With this idea the scheme was drawn up and a Health Unit in the Golaghat subdivision was selected. The scheme was passed in this House and at that time, Sir, the scheme provided for quarters, and if I remember aright, the scheme was to cost Rs 45,000 from provincial revenues. At that time, the scheme provided that quarters for the health visitors, nurses, etc., will be erected by the Public Works Department, but on account of the higher prices now ruling, the Public Works Department find it impossible to erect those buildings with the amount granted, but the Public Health Department thinks that they will be able to complete the quarters necessary if the money is transferred to their budget. The present supplementary demand is only for the approval of the House for the transfer of the amount from the Public Works Department budget to the Public Health budget.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Thanks, the Hon'ble Premier's statement supports all this definitely.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How? I do not see it. The hon. members know that cut motions on supplementary demands have got very limited scopes. It appears that these cut motions have been tabled for the purpose of discussing matters which are, no doubt, very relevant in the discussion of the general budget. But so far as the limited scope of this supplementary demand is concerned, I am afraid this motion cannot be discussed. I am putting the original motion to vote—

The question is :
 "That an additional sum of Rs.20,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head '39—Public Health'".

The question was adopted.

No. 2

The Honble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.11,820 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head "42—Co-operation."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... Rs. 1,40,500
 II Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for

B Superintendence

			Rs.
Pay of establishment	7,920
Allowance and honoraria	1,800
Contingencies	} Contract	...	1,200
		Non-contract	900
Total			11,820

Each hon. member has been supplied with a copy of the explanatory note * which is self-sufficient. But I wish to tell the House why it was

* EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The Co-operative movement in Assam is at present passing through an acute crisis and unless Government take suitable measures without delay it is bound to deteriorate rapidly and may never be in a possibility of recovery. The committee recently appointed to enquire into the present state of the movement in Assam came to the unanimous conclusion that one of the measures necessary for keeping it alive was to increase the staff in order to ensure the exercise of proper departmental supervision, guidance and control. The additional staff has been sanctioned by Government in pursuance of this recommendation of the Committee, and particularly with a view to helping the primary societies and Central Banks in dealing their outstanding dues, of which a considerable portion is believed to be realisable, so as to restore stability to them. Out of these 20 Inspectors, 15 will take charge of 15 additional circles to be created by subdividing the existing 15 circles so as to bring down the number of societies to about 50 in each circle, and the remaining 5 will take charge of five Central Banks whose managing committees will have to be superseded on account of unsatisfactory work.

It is proposed to reduce the temporary staff of Inspectors, clerks and peons to 15 in each in the second year and to 10 in the third year and to retain the remaining 10 permanently. It is also proposed to appoint 6 Assistant Auditors with effect from 1st June 1942 to relieve all the existing 15 Inspectors entirely of audit work.

Details of the scheme and the cost involved are given below:—

Pay of officers and Establishment	Cost in 1941-42	Ultimate cost
	Rs.	Rs.
20 Inspectors of Co-operative Societies on Rs. 80 per mensem each (and on confirmation on Rs. 80-90-100-110-140-160-200 per mensem.)	4,800	16,680 †
20 clerks on Rs. 40 per mensem each (and on confirmation on Rs. 40-52-60-70 per mensem.)	2,400	6,780
20 peons on Rs. 12 per mensem each (and on confirmation on Rs. 12-13-15-15-17 per mensem.)	720	1,800
6 Assistant Auditors on Rs. 50-52-75 per mensem from 1st June 1942.	..	4,844
Allowance, etc. (Travelling allowance	..	1,800
Contingencies—Contract	..	1,200
Non-Contract—House rent	..	900

The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.11,820 under this head.
 † Ultimate cost for 10 Inspectors, 10 clerks, 10 peons and 6 Assistant Auditors have been shown.

necessary to come up for a supplementary demand. The condition of the co-operative department in this province

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: On a point of privilege, Sir, could something be done about the noise taking place outside the House?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, I have already taken steps in the matter.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Sir, the state of the Co-operative Department in Assam has caused much anxiety to all well-wishers of the movement. From all sections of this House there have been agitation that Government should come forward to do something to save the movement if possible. As a consequence of such agitation, a conference was held, I think, by the end of 1940, and the conference made several recommendations one of which was urging Government to increase the staff which would exercise control. It has been a sad experience that our people may be due to insufficient education, have been unable to manage their own financial affairs and, therefore, it has been found necessary to exercise a good deal of official control, supervision and advice. Details of the scheme have been given in the explanatory note and I hope the House will vote the amount asked for.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved

"That an additional sum of Rupees 11,820 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '42 Co-operation'."

In this case also there are cut motions but I am afraid that these cut motions* will be out of order. But I may suggest to hon. members that if they have got anything to discuss, their course would be just to oppose the demand and speak about their grievances.

* 1. Maulavi MABARAK ALI to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.11,820 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—B.—Superintendence at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42 be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.11,820 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To criticise Government for their apathy towards the Co-operative movement).

2. Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.11,820 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—B.—Superintendence at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42 be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.11,820 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the urgency of starting and re-organising Co-operative and Credit Banks in rural areas).

3. Srijut KAMESWAR DAS to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.11,820 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—B.—Superintendence, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.11,820 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

(To criticise the Government policy).

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this demand. In doing so, I do wish to convey certain things which might be possible for Government to accept. The explanatory note to this demand says that the co-operative movement in Assam is at present passing through an acute crisis and unless Government take adequate measures without delay it is bound to deteriorate rapidly and may soon go beyond all possibility of recovery. This acute crisis, I submit, is not the result of anything that happened in one day. And it has not certainly been the result of anything that happened in one year. It is common knowledge that the movement was not flourishing well for some years past. So it would have been proper on the part of Government if they had cared to take a little more pains earlier to set right these things and make adequate provision in time. To take over this crisis, Government propose to appoint 20 Inspectors which they propose to gradually decrease to 10 in the third year. As it is, there are 15 circles and they want to make 30 units by dividing each unit into 2. If there are 30 circles then there will be needed 30 Inspectors for the purpose of supervision in these circles. So the idea of their desiring to keep only 10 new Inspectors at the end of the third year is not clear. If there are extra Inspectors already than 15 at the present moment then it is not to the credit of the department to come and say that the supervision was slack. I therefore think that further addition to that strength would not improve matters. So this explanation that has been given here seems to me to be misleading. From the third year it appears they will require at least 30 Inspectors for the 30 circles whereas they propose to keep only 10 new Inspectors. How will they make up for the remaining 5 circles? Either some of the Inspectors will have to be asked to take more than one circle or the Government will have to ask for more men later on. That will again mean extra expenditure. From the experience of the past years, this does not appear to be a proper solution. The solution lies probably deeper and somewhere else. My urgent suggestion to Government is, that they should look into the real causes of the failure of the movement in the province and not be satisfied with merely accepting the recommendation of a conference of their creation for having more Inspectors.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: On a point of information, Sir. During the last session of the Assembly I moved a cut motion on the Co-operative Department and I was told that a provision was made in the budget for one lakh of rupees. Now I want to know whether that money has already been distributed to the Central Bank.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: This one lakh of rupees was provided in the budget to be given as a loan to the Provincial Bank, and not to the Central Bank.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I want to know whether that money has been given to the Provincial Bank and whether the Provincial Bank has accepted the money.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Not yet, Sir. The hon. member, Srijut Kameswar Das, is quite correct when he says that appointment of Inspectors is not the only solution of this problem. On examination it was found that this was the most important way of saving the movement from collapse. Sometime later, it may be found necessary that Government should finance the

movement, and unless we have our own staff to set the movement on its legs, I am afraid, we will only suffer a gradual loss. It seems the hon. member does not understand why that staff should be recruited each year. The reason is that we want the co-operative movement, as far as possible, to run in accordance with the co-operative principles, and we hope that when the mass of the people have become sufficiently educated so that they can manage their own financial affairs, gradually it will be slackened, ultimately yielding place to more advanced co-operatives.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is—

"That an additional sum of Rs. 11,520 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head '42—Co-operation'."

The question was adopted.

No. 3

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional sum of Rs. 59,418 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head "43—Industries".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 2,46,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
B.—Industrial Development	Rs. 11,114
D.(b)—Sericultural Development Scheme	15,304

Total 59,418

An explanatory note* has been supplied to each hon. member and I think the note fully explains why the supplementary grant is necessary.

*EXPLANATORY NOTE.

B. (i) *Contingencies.*—Government sanctioned the utilisation of a sum of Rs. 20,000 during the current year out of the accumulated savings from the Grants-in-aid made by the Government of India for the purpose of purchasing certain machineries for the efficient working of the schemes for the development of the handloom industry in Assam and also a sum of Rs. 1,904 which represents the surplus grant received during 1941-42 from the Government of India, for the construction of a shed for the accommodation of the machineries. The provisions could not be made at the time of preparation of the budget. The additional amount is required only to regularise the expenditure.

B. (ii) *Contribution.*—An additional amount of Rs. 22,210 is required to meet the expenditure in connection with the payment of a contribution to the Government Emporium and Central Stores, Gauhati, for keeping sufficient stock of dyes and chemicals for supply to the handloom weavers and dyers throughout the province as a consequence of the non-availability of these materials from other sources owing to war. This sum will be recouped after the sale of dyes to the handloom weavers and dyers.

D. (b)—*Sericultural Development Scheme.*—The additional grant is required to meet the expenditure in connection with the continuance of the scheme for the development of Sericultural Industry for the year 1941-42. For want of timely information from the Government of India as to whether their grant will be continued or not, adequate provision could not be made at the time of preparation of the budget. Now that a grant, which is less than the required amount by Rs. 3,802, has been received from Government of India and as this Government has decided to continue the entire scheme throughout the year and to meet the excess expenditure of Rs. 3,802 over the Government of India grant, from Provincial revenues, a supplementary grant of Rs. 15,304 is required.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 59,418 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head '43 Industries'."

There are some cut motions all practically raising the question of Government policy regarding cottage industries. As the demand stands, the motions are admissible, but I suggest to the hon. members that they would follow the same suggestion that I have made with regard to cut motions under grant No. 2.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I will not move my motion.*

Srijut SONARAM DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No. 3, Major head—43 Industries, Minor head B—Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42 be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 59,418 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I submit, Sir, this cut motion is not in order, because the money which we have asked for comes from the Government of India grant which is for the specific purpose, and it is not one of the items for which the grant has been made from the Government of Assam.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. member has raised the question of cotton industry.

Srijut SONARAM DATTA: Sir, the object of my cut motion is to impress upon Government the necessity of popularising hand spinning of cotton as a cottage vocation.

In these days of acute economic hardships and soaring prices of the primary necessities of life, the resuscitation of our dead and dying cottage industries as a way out of these pressing difficulties is engaging attention everywhere. Mahatma Gandhi has proved beyond demonstration the part the Charka can play in rural reconstruction. The great thing about it is that it is so simple and inexpensive that no special training or skill is necessary to handle it, nor does it call for an outlay of money beyond the reach of the average villager. It does not involve physical strain either; even a child can ply it with profit.

If this craft could be introduced in our decaying villages, if we could get it going in every village hut, the Charka would change the face of our village life and bring back plenty and prosperity which our villages had enjoyed before the advent of machine-made goods.

I am not one who hates machines. But I must say that machines have not been able to liquidate the growing problem of poverty; on the other hand they have increased unemployment and brought ruin to our villages. Industrialisation provides no immediate solution of the crying problem of the half-starved and half-naked masses of our country. The spinning wheel may be a small thing but it is a potent factor in combating poverty. I will go further. The Charka can and will create the will to live better which centuries of foreign domination and exploitation have killed in our masses.

*1. Maulavi Abdur Rahman to move:—

"That the provision of Rs. 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No. 3, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 59,418 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the re-orientation of the cottage industries of Assam.)

Thanks to Mahatma Gandhi and the efforts of the All-India Spinners' Association, the Charka is finding its way to the hands of our poor countrymen and women. That Association have after ceaseless research and experiment evolved and perfected a technique of the craft so that poor villagers may afford to have their own wheels and produce the utmost out of them.

If Government see their way to take up the matter in right earnest I would request them to approach the subject in a spirit of service and not in the nonchalant official or bureaucratic manner. If that is impracticable, I would ask Government to lend all the assistance they can afford to the All-India Spinners' Association which with their vast experience can be depended upon to do the job. The Association has a branch in Assam and has recently appointed Srijut Bimala Prasad Chahika as Assam Secretary. I hope Government will take some interest and get in touch with the Association and do what they can in the matter. That is all that I have got to say.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved.

"That the provision of Rs. 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No 3, Major head—43. Industries, Minor head B. Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42 be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 59,418 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to take advantage of your ruling that the whole subject of cottage industries can be discussed under this application for supplementary demand and to make a request to the Hon'ble Minister that she will kindly enlighten this Assembly as to what steps the Assam Government have been able to take to provide the cottage industries with some of the very large orders of the Supply Department which are now being demanded by the Supply Department of the Government of India. It does seem possible that within the variety and volume of goods required by the Supply Department for the use of the defence services there is some scope for profitable employment of Assam industries. I would like, Sir, to take this opportunity of your ruling to seek a statement from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, if that is possible.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am ready to make a statement such as my friend Mr. Whittaker wants, but will it not impinge upon the time which has been allotted by His Excellency for supplementary demand? I find from the order paper that it cannot be discussed after 1 P.M.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier will remember that the other day I asked the House to let me know whether they would want more time or not for the supplementary demands. But no hon. member told me anything. Yet when I found that so many cut motions had been tabled, I thought the time table up to 1 p.m. would not be sufficient. Under the Governor's Rules the House has a right to continue the discussion of the supplementary demands up to 4 p.m. And I do not like to curtail that right by stopping discussion at 1 p.m. If the discussions take us up to 4 p.m. it cannot be helped under the rules.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank my friend Srijut Sonaram Datta for pressing upon the Government the question of popularising hand-spinning as a cottage industry in Assam. Assam, Sir, is generally noted from time immemorial for being one of the advanced weaving provinces where even the highest in the land, especially the ladies, had no scruple to utilise their spare time for producing beautiful fabrics—cotton and silk—and in early years, all the

varns necessary were produced in the country by means of hand spinning. But since the advent of the machine-made threads—which is not only fine but strong on a count of superior twist—and which over-flooded the market and were cheap, the process of hand spinning was discarded by the people themselves for the cheap and better product, that was readily available. Since 1921, however, Mahatma Gandhi had impressed upon the whole of India that hand spinning may not be economically sound but as a means of using the leisure time which is now spent by the people in gossip, spinning was very useful and had a monetary value. This behest of the Mahatma has been taken up by certain section of the people, but even now, there has been a section who say that why utilise the leisure time in spinning only, why not take up some other avocation which will have better monetary value. But during the present times, when an international war is going on, when shipments of cotton fabrics and varns are unable to reach the shores of India, the local mills, I mean, the Indian mills, are busy in producing at least 5 times more than they did before the war in order to capture the outside market which was in the hands of our enemies and also to produce varna for consumption by themselves. The result has been that there is a yarn famine in the country, the whole of India. The attention not only of the Government but also of the people have been rivetted to the question of hand spinning. We in Assam, Sir, have realised the situation early and have been trying to insist upon our Weaving Demonstrators and Weaving Department generally, to encourage hand spinning along with the introduction of fly shuttle looms. As an instance of what the Department as well as the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge is doing as regards this point, this will be evident if I tell the House that only recently when both she and I were in the Naga Hills, we were requested by the people there to give them some Charkas to produce their own varn. The primitive method of producing varn by rubbing wet piece of cotton on the thigh still prevails in the Naga Hills. My Hon'ble Colleague immediately promised to supply Charka. She was so enthusiastic that without coming to the Weaving Superintendent or the Director of Industries, she purchased some Charkas as well as ginning machines at Imphal which are produced there and these were sent to the people in the Naga Hills who were interested. This is only an instance to show that the Weaving Department as well as the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, is quite alive to the subject of popularising hand spinning as cottage industry in the province.

Now coming to the request of my hon. friend, the Leader of the European Group, I can place before him that attempts have been made from the start of the Supply Department to get a share of the supply required by it for Assam. The Supply Department placed a few orders for blankets with different provinces. I, in my humble way, tried to secure a portion of that order with a view to utilise the short staple cotton produced in the Garo Hills but the Military put their foot down, upon this scheme because they would have nothing to do with blankets made of cotton but they wanted blankets made of pure wool. As we have no wool, we could not do anything.

Then, Sir, when we heard that the Supply Department was wanting large quantity of potato for supply in the middle east, I personally, along with the Minister for Industries saw Brigadier Wood who was at the head of the Department. The Brigadier was very sympathetic, and sent me details of the machinery and the process that will be necessary, but greatest emphasis was placed on the tin container which must be perfectly air-tight. The process that was suggested was rather cumbrous, and when we discussed the matter

in the province we found that it was impossible for us to compete with other provinces on account of high freight charges from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills which alone produce half of our crop of potatoes to Calcutta and other places. We produce in this province 22 lakhs maunds of potatoes of which the hills produce about 11 lakhs.

Then, Sir, we found that nets made of *asa* hemp were largely required for purposes of camouflage, and both Madras and Bengal got large orders for their production. Only the other day our Director of Industries told us that Bengal was producing Rs. 70,000 worth of camouflage nets per day. This Government at once communicated with the Supply Department whether Assam should not be given a chance to supply these nets, for, as everyone knows, our friends of the Scheduled Castes in the Assam Valley as well as the Muslims and Namasudras of the Surma Valley produce large quantities of these nets which are of the same pattern as is used for fishing purpose. There too, we were told that the supply was being adequately met by both Madras and Bengal.

Then, Sir, we heard that a large order was being placed with Kashmir for supply of mulberry silk fabrics to be used for parachutes. We corresponded with the Supply Department and sent our Director of Industries and the Superintendent of Sericulture to Delhi with samples of *Muga* cloth in order to judge whether this *Muga* cloth could not be used for the purpose of parachute. We had a very disappointing treatment at that time, and the Supply Department would not look at our *Muga* until our assertion that the *Muga* yarn was proved of more tensile strength than mulberry silk. Our Director of Industries was asked to have the yarn tested at the Cawnpore Technological Institute; he went there with a sample but the Institute could not examine our stuff within a reasonable time before a conference at Delhi in October last at which the result of the test was to be produced. The Director of Industries came to Bengal and with the help of the Bengal's Director of Industries had our yarn tested in their Silk Institute. It was found that our *Muga* yarn was better in all respects except in its weight. Now, after this the Government of India seems to have taken some interest in our *Muga* yarn and the Director of Industries was asked to go again with samples; he has returned about 4 days ago. He said that the Government of India thought that the yarn produced here was not of sufficiently uniform calibre, and if certain improvements could be made, these yarns would be very suitable for the purpose of using in parachutes. In the province, we produce about 5,000 pounds of mulberry silk yarns, whereas normally we produce more than a lakh of pounds of *Muga* yarns. So, if we can make the Supply Department take our *Muga* yarns, then there is a good future for our *Muga* rearers. Already we have instructed our Sericulture Department to encourage both the growth of mulberry silk as well as the increase of *Muga* products. We hope to get some orders for *Muga* very soon from the Supply Department.

Then, Sir, while our Director of Industries was in Calcutta, he saw Colonel Marriott, who is the Director of Supply for Eastern Circle. Colonel Marriott came up to Shillong, discussed the problem of supply of certain materials he wanted with myself, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge and the Director of Industries. He was prepared to place quite a big order for supply of cotton goods and he was so enthusiastic over samples he saw in Assam that he was prepared to give a contract of 10,000,000 yards. Without a definite organisation to produce this big quantity, especially when there is shortage of yarns, we told him that to start with we would accept an order for a lakh, and in the meantime, organise our cotton handloom industry and after the cotton weavers have been selected take as much order as he could give,

The State of Manipur produces beautiful silk and cotton products, and it is for their collaboration that I went to Imphal to discuss the matter, both with the Political Agent as well as the second son of the Late Maharaja of Manipur, who is in charge of their arts and crafts.

Now, Sir, Colonel Marriott had also told us that they would like to have pith, or what is called *khola* in the Surma Valley and *Kurula* in the Assam Valley, which grows in marshy places and which probably has got no market in the Province at the present moment. The Military Department requires about 5,000,000 hats made of *khola* for use of the army. The harvest time for *khola* is unfortunately over at least in the Assam Valley; in the Surma Valley however it can be gathered even now. If we could collect this pith then, probably we could get it sold locally. Instead of sending this raw material to Calcutta to be converted into hats, the Industries Department are trying to bring to Assam some of the artisans who convert this raw material into the substance for manufacturing hats.

Then again, Col. Marriot told us that his requirement alone, for dehydrated potato to be supplied to the military people would run to the extent of 6,000 tons a month. We have been considering whether even now we can take advantage of this huge demand. We deputed the Director of Agriculture to attend a conference which was held towards the end of October last with a view to see whether we could secure a part of the contract. Unfortunately, Sir, in that conference it was decided that on account of the high price of Assam potato, it could not be accepted. The wholesale price of potato at present in Shillong is in the neighbourhood of Rs.4 per maund and the freight charge for marketing it in Calcutta is in the neighbourhood of Rs.2-8-0. Therefore, the price of Assam potato in Calcutta cannot be lower than Rs.6-8-0 or Rs 7 per maund. Bihar, where also potato is grown in large quantity, has offered to supply potato to the Supply Department at a cheaper rate than that of the Assam potato. But we have been able to interest some local merchants to go in for the industry and start one of these dehydrating plants. I understand 14 such factories have already been started in other parts of India. One merchant of Shillong has already seen me on this score and he told me that he was arranging to buy two such plants, and that if every thing can be settled with the Supply Department, he was ready to establish a plant in the Khasi Hills. In the plains also potato is available in large quantity. I have referred that merchant to the Director of Industries, who, I am sure, will put him in touch with the Supply Department. From all these, Sir, it will be apparent that Assam Government have been doing their level best to capture some of the supply contracts which will help the people and also will encourage cottage industry in the province.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am putting the question, The question is:

“That the provision of Rs.44,114 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Development, at

page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.59,418 do stand reduced by Rs 100

The question was negatived.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : I beg to move, Sir

“That the provision of Rs 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No 3, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs 59,418 do stand reduced by Rs 2”

Sir, my purpose in tabling this motion is explained below.

It is more or less of a technical nature. I think everybody knows that handloom industry in Assam is an industry in its infancy. So, to disregard this industry or to take an indifferent interest in it by Government is an attitude which the people cannot tolerate with propriety. That the Government have been indifferent is clear from the explanation given under the demand. Government have sanctioned a utilization of a sum of Rs.20,000 which represents a part of the accumulated savings from the grants-in-aid made by the Government of India for the development of hand-loom industry in Assam in the previous years.

Now, Sir, this is from the accumulated savings. My objection is why the yearly grants could not have been spent by the Government for the purpose for which it is granted in the very same years of their making. It is idle and ridiculous to think that though our province is a most backward one, industrially it is an easy matter on the part of this Government to seek for more grants from the Government of India when it fails to spend the small yearly grants made to it by the Government of India.

Then, Sir, as the industry is in its infancy there should not have been any savings from year to year, and the grant received from the Government of India ought to have been spent in the year it was received. The sum of Rs.1,904 which represents the surplus grant received from the Government of India during 1941-42, of course, could not have been anticipated and provision could not have been made at the time of the framing of the budget. But as regards accumulated savings, there cannot be any reasonable grounds that this sum could not have been provided in the budget.

We know, Sir, that there is a large departmental machinery maintained at a very high cost too. If in spite of this fact and the fact that they cannot themselves provide sufficient money from the provincial exchequer, they fail also to spend the little money given as a grant by the Government of India and show savings, I think the hon. members will certainly agree with me when I say that we cannot approve of such a policy of the Government. I therefore oppose this demand.

For this purpose, Sir, I have brought in this cut motion and I hope the House will agree with me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 59,418 do stand reduced by Rs. 2”.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : Objection to this motion is merely a technical one, as far as I understand. This is merely a continuation of one of the schemes out of the grants given to us by the Government of India.

Since the outbreak of the war, it has been very difficult to obtain dyes and chemicals which are required for our handloom industry. We were informed by the Government of India that unless we place our orders immediately we shall not get any more of the dyes that we want. Therefore, it has become necessary to come forward with this supplementary demand.

The hon. member has understood the position.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will accept the suggestion. Does the hon. member press his motion?

Sri JUT KAMESWAR DAS: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting this as a question.

The question is—

"That the sum of Rs. 44,114 under Supplementary Demand No. 3, Major Head 43—Industry, Minor head B—Industrial Development, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2,000, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 59,118 to stand reduced by Rs. 2."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question now is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 59,118 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the Head 43—Industry."

The question was adopted.

No. 4

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 7,056 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head 50—Civil works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment).

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	43,06,400
II. Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for	
	Rs.
A. Original works—(a) Buildings—Police (other than Assam Rifles) ...	7,056

This sum is required for the construction of the quarters of the Assistant Sub-Inspectors and one Town Head Constable in the Goalpara Police station. The houses are in a dilapidated condition and it is for this purpose that this demand for grant is moved.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is one cut motion* in the name of Maulavi Md. Majid Ali, but it is clearly out of order.

* Maulavi MD. AMJAD ALI to move:—
That the provision of Rs. 7,056 under Supplementary Demand No. 4, major head—50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), minor head—A.—Original Works—(a) Buildings—Police (Other than Assam Rifles), at page 3 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,056 do stand reduced by Rs. 2.
(To urge upon Government to make the Public Works Department Mohorars permanent.)

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs 7,956 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head '50—Civil works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)' "

The question was adopted.

No 5

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :
On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs 450 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head "25—General Administration"

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.
II—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for	22,69,100
Legislative Bodies	
J. Legislative Assembly Department	450

Sir, this sum is required for the creation of a temporary Watch and Ward staff for the duration of the Assembly session. The creation of this staff was recommended by the Privileges Committee also and this staff is necessary in order to maintain discipline in the inner precincts of the Assembly buildings and also for better arrangements regarding admission of visitors to the gallery and the exclusion of outsiders from the quadrangle. It is proposed to entertain the staff at a suitable date in advance of the next Budget Session and the Assembly is asked to vote a sum of Rs.450 as one month's expenditure is anticipated in the current year.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.450 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head 25.—General Administration."

There is one cut motion* in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, but this is also out of order. (*Laughter.*)
I am putting the motion to the vote.

The question is: "That an additional sum of Rs. 450 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head ' 25—General Administration '."

The question was adopted.

* Maulavi MD. AMJAD ALI to move:—

That the provision of Rs 150 under Supplementary Demand No. 5. major head—25.—General Administration, minor head—J.—Legislative Assembly Department, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.5, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.450 do stand reduced by Rs.5.
(To urge upon Government to settle the Goalpara-Jogighopa-Pachonia Ferry with the only tenderer—Indo Swiss Company of Calcutta, and to draw the pointed attention of the Government for their failure to settle the same for the last 18 months, resulting in serious inconvenience to general public.)

No. 6

The Hon'ble Srijut **ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: On the 11th day of February, 1942, The Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Education, Government of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move the following Supplementary Demand for Rs. 17,386 to be granted to the Minister-in-Charge, Education, Government of Assam, which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head 37 "Education, other than European".

	Rs. 11,44,900
Grant approved by the Assembly	
The sum of Rs. 17,386 which in the supplementary grant will be accounted for	

	Rs.
i) University Education	
B. A. Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges	6,720
ii) Secondary Education	
B. Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools	12,000
iii) Special Education	
N. D. Grants to non-Government Special Schools	3,000
iv) H. Works, Secondary	
Original Works	25,666
	17,386

In the explanatory note* it is clearly stated why and for what purpose the sum is required.

The Hon'ble the **SPEAKER**: Motion moved:

"That a Supplementary Demand of Rs. 17,386 be granted to the Minister-in-Charge, Education, Government of Assam, which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1942, for the administration of the head 37 "Education, other than European".

There are several cut motions in the names of some hon. members. Is any hon. member going to move any of these cut motions?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 6,720 under Supplementary Demand No. 6, major head 37, "Education, other than European", sub-head (A) University Education—B. Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges, at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 17,386 do stand reduced by Rs. 2.

*EXPLANATORY NOTE

- (i) The amount of Rs. 6,720 is required for giving a grant-in-aid to the St. Anthony's College, Shillong.
- (ii) A sum of Rs. 12,000 is required to give grants to some secondary schools for repairing the damages done to their buildings by storm.
- (iii) A sum of Rs. 3,000 is required to give grants to certain special schools for repairing the damages done to their buildings by storm.
- (iv) a) A sum of Rs. 5,600 is required for the departmental construction of an additional building for the Karimganj Government High School.
- (b) A sum of Rs. 11,571 is required for repairs and departmental construction of additional accommodation for the Government High School, North Lakhimpur.
- (c) A sum of Rs. 8,135 is required for the departmental construction of an additional building for the Tura Government High School.

My object to move this cut motion, Sir, is to criticise Government for failure to make adequate recurring and non-recurring grants and provisions to the Madhab Chaudhury College, Barpeta. Sir, this college—Madhab Chaudhury College—stands in the town of Barpeta, in that neglected subdivision Barpeta. (A once Neglected? Yes, neglected Barpeta! Sir, it was actually started by begging and it has been kept alive on the charity of a certain generous woman. This College has been recognised by the University and the Education Department. The Hon'ble Education Minister has shown only a step-motherly treatment to this college. The Education Department has sanctioned a recurring grant of Rs. 200 per month. This sum is quite insufficient for the College. Of course, I should not grudge the other colleges and schools which have got motherly affection in the hands of the Department, but can I not demand an equal treatment for this college, Sir? (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: both motherly and fatherly combined) Yes.

It is painful to state that this college has no building of its own and we have very limited resources for the building of this college. I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Minister of Education cast a kind look upon this college and grant a sum of Rs. 8,000 for the construction of a building. I think it will not be out of place to mention here that the Director of Public Instruction has recommended both recurring and non-recurring grants for this college. Sir, I have already told that a monthly grant of Rs. 200 for this college is quite insufficient and moreover, Sir, it will not be out of place to refer to the enrolment of the students in this college—the enrolment in this year is nearly 75.

Sir, considering the backwardness of this subdivision and also considering the population of the subdivision and the crying need for a college, the Government should consider the case of the Madhab Chaudhury College very kindly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think this will do.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 6,720 under Supplementary Demand No. 6, major head—37.—Education (Other than European), sub-head (1)—University Education—B.—Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges, at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 47,386 do stand reduced by Rs. 2.”

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI*: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhab Chaudhury College at Barpeta is already receiving a grant of Rs. 200 per month. There is no provision in the Budget of the year 1941-42 for any further non-recurring grant for any college and so there will be no provision for such a grant for this college as well. I do not remember to have received any application for grant or for a non-recurring grant to be made in respect of this year for which a supplementary demand had to be brought before the House. But I have received recommendations from the Director of Public Instruction asking the Government to make provision for an increase in both recurring and non-recurring grants for this college in Barpeta. But as we have not finally selected the schedule which will be taken up for the next year, I am not in a position to say whether it will be possible to give non-recurring grants to this institution in the year 1942-43. But I will remember the request which has been made

*Speech not corrected by the Hon. Minister.

by the hon. member of this motion and see whether it will be possible to give any non-recurring grant to the college next year. More than that, Sir, I am not in a position to say anything at the present moment.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS*—Will my request about the recurring grant be also taken into consideration along with other colleges?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI*: I shall remember that also.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motions Nos. †2 and †3, I am afraid, are out of order. They want to discuss the whole general policy and that cannot be allowed in discussing a supplementary demand.

Srijut SONARAM DATTA. I beg to move, Sir:

"That the total provision of Rs.47,386 under Supplementary Demand No.6, Major head—37—Education (Other than European), at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.47,386 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The object of my cut motion, Sir, is to censure Government for not increasing the grants-in-aid of the High Schools in Sibsagar district for the past few years.

Sir, the distribution of the additional grant for secondary education, I must say, has been made on a most inequitable basis. Many of the deserving institutions have been left out and I am sorry to say that the schools in the district of Sibsagar have altogether escaped the attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister. These schools have not had a single pie added to their grants during the past ten years. To cite only one instance, the Bezbarua Aided High School of Sibsagar with more than 500 students on the rolls gets only a grant of Rs.374 although many schools with lesser number of students are getting more than that amount. Then there are other schools; the Nazira Aided High School, I understand, has had only Rs.20 added to its grant-in-aid this year. There is the Jhanji High School which has not received any additional grant for several years. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will see that the grants for these schools are increased in the near future.

In this connection, I must also mention the case of the Assam Polytechnic Institute. The last Government made an additional grant of Rs.100 besides the annual recurring grant of Rs.100. It is strange to see that this Government has not only not paid the additional grant, but they have withheld from payment of the Rs.100 grant which the school has been receiving for the last 10 years and the school is suffering very much for this action of Government.

Speech not corrected by the Member or Minister concerned.

†2. **Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** to move:—

That the provision of Rs.6,720 under Supplementary Demand No.6, Major head—37.—Education (Other than European), Sub-head (i)—University Education—B.—Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges, at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.47,386 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

(To criticise Government for their grant-in-aid policy to non-Government Arts Colleges.)

†3. **Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** to move:—

That the provision of Rs.12,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 6, Major head—37.—Education (Other than European), Sub-head—(ii) Secondary Education—F.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools, at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.47,386 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

(To criticise Government policy of distributing aids to non-Government Secondary Schools.)

While on this subject, I must also say that the Government has not paid any attention to the buildings of the Sibsagar High School. The buildings are more like cow-sheds than built-up structures. The small, wretched thatched cottages are all in need of repair and Government has not cared to rebuild these houses. With these words, I am now done with my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Call another demand.

"That the total provision of Rs. 47,386 under Supplementary Demand No.6, Major head 3, Education, Other than University, page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1941-42, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 47,386 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, I should like to begin my duty if I do not join my hon. friend, Srijut Sonaram Datta, in supporting the motion. In this connection I would like to state the condition of the Government to the miserable plight of the Jorhat Girls' High School. The old Settlement Building was given by Government for the purpose of this School and this house was improved and extended to with the funds raised from the public and we also built up the house out of the funds raised from the public. But unfortunately about a couple of months back, a storm blew away a portion of the roof of the new house and some walls of the old premises were also blown away. So much damage to the premises was caused that certain classes could not be held in the usual way and the common room for the teachers had to be improvised after putting a cloth screen in the open veranda.

Provision for female education is very meagre in our province and even out of that the Girls' High School at Jorhat has not received its due quota although it is carrying on a very useful existence partly with funds raised from the public and from fees of the pupils. No doubt the Government has given a small recurring grant of money, but considering the number of pupils and the necessities of the institution that fund is absolutely inadequate.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think a word is necessary from me in connection with the motion that has been moved by my friend, Srijut Sonaram Datta. Besides the usual grant that was being given without any condition to that school, I had also granted Rs.100 as an additional grant to be given to the Polytechnical School. Subsequently on seeing some correspondence between the Director of Public Instruction and the School, I found that the whole order by me was misunderstood. Sir, for the original grant there was no condition. Regarding the second grant which I granted, there was some question of condition being imposed and about which the then Director of Public Instruction had given certain notes. But so far as the previous grant is concerned, I very much remember that it was without any condition, because the late Mr. Bhuban Chandra Gogoi refused to take any grant from the Government with any conditions. So my object in clearing this matter is this that now it has been sought to be pointed out that these two grants are one and the same and now even this grant of Rs.100 is sought to be on the condition of the grants-in-aid prevailing in the school. Thus two grants amounting to Rs.200, are now being withheld by Government.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Sir, while supporting the motion of my hon. friend, Srijut Sonaram Datta, I want to urge upon the Government to pay their attention to the non-Government Secondary Schools in the Barpeta subdivision which have been very unfairly treated by the Government. Sir, these High Schools are offering candidates

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The discussion is about Sibsagar.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS I submit, Sir, that I may be allowed to speak on this motion about my subdivision as my own motion was about all the subdivisions of the province. There are 8 schools in the Barpeta subdivision and 1000 candidates are offering candidates for Matriculation examination. Some of them are receiving from Government an amount of about Rs.600 per month. The average Rs 100 per school. There are two high schools, one at Barpeta and the Sarupeta High English Schools and though they are also offering candidates for the Matriculation examination they are not getting any grant at all. So I request that the Hon'ble Minister will see whether an amount of grant is quite sufficient for a subdivision which is responsible for the progress of education. I also request him to make some grants to the Sarupeta and the Bhabanipur Schools. There is in this subdivision a school which is getting only Rs.20 per month. Is not it a disgrace, Sir, to grant it so? I, therefore, request that the Hon'ble Minister will consider these anomalies and inequities and make increased provisions from the next year.

Srijut BHIRAM DAS Sir, in supporting this motion I also like to point out the case of Paschim and Chaugaan High Schools.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, no, the hon. member will please take his seat.

Srijut JADAV PROSAD CHALHA Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the motion, Srijut Sonaram Datta, on this cut motion, I beg to point out that the secondary schools in the Sibsaigar subdivision are very badly treated in the matter of grants. As for the Nazira High School, it is declared to be one of the best institutions in the valley and has been showing excellent results for years. It is now six years that the teachers of that school have not got a single rupee as increment about their hard lot, but they have been constantly representing to the Government and also the Inspector of Schools, the Director of Public Instruction and the Commissioner of Division, but nothing has been done so far. As a matter of fact, the Commissioner of Schools were so much impressed by the consistently excellent results of the school that they in their inspection reports have always been insisting that a better consideration should be shown to the teachers. Then about the Bezbarua High School, the condition is the same; and I may point out that out of three buildings two are without walls and Government have not done anything to help the institution even in this respect. Lastly about the Jhanji High School, the consideration shown by the Government is not any better. So I fully support the cut motion moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Datta.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: সভাপতি মহাশয় শ্রীমত গোলাঘাট ডাঙৰাঘাট প্ৰাথমিক সন্থা কৰি এই কণ্ড, গোলাঘাট Town Middle English School এখন আছে, সেই স্কুলখন হাই স্কুলত পৰিণত কৰিবলৈ কোনো যোৰা কৰি Class VIII পৰ্যন্ত পোলাও হৈছে; গোলাঘাটত মাত্ৰ এখন হাইস্কুল, তাৰে সন্ধানত চাই মানক এখন স্কুলৰ অতি দৰকাৰ আছে, উক্ত স্কুলখনৰ ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ ভাঙি কৰিবলৈ আৰ্হি নেইবা বড়ৰূপে পৰা এডোখৰ মাটিৰ কাৰণে গভণমেন্টৰ গুচৰত আবেদন নিবেদন কৰিও একো ভাৰ ফল পোৱা নাই। মাটিৰ অভাৱৰ বাবেই ভাৰ মান-দুৱাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰি স্কুল খনৰ উন্নতিত বহুতো বাধা পৰিছে। অদ্য পৰিমিত গভণমেন্টৰ পৰা কোনো প্ৰাণে পোৱা নাই, এই স্কুল খনৰ কাৰণে এডোখৰ মাটিৰ নন্দৰূপে পোনকালে কৰি দি লগতে কিছু প্ৰাণে দি স্কুলখন যাতে ভাল হয় তাৰ যত্ন লবলৈ গভণমেন্টক টান অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

[Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua, M. L. A. Spoke in Assamese and supported the cut motion].

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the various hon. members who have drawn pointed attention of the Government to the conditions prevailing in the schools in the district of Sibsagar. I will just read out the grants which have been already given to the Sibsagar Schools and the House will be in a position to judge, at any rate the hon. members who belong to the district of Sibsagar will be in a position to judge, whether Sibsagar has been unfairly treated comparing with other districts. Sir, I have visited all the schools mentioned in the speeches of my hon. friends and my opinion is I may be excused if I express it that save and except the Jangra High School building all other school buildings in that district are so much better than the buildings in other districts that, at any rate, the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara will have to hang their heads in shame comparing the buildings in other places.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Did the Hon'ble Minister mean that with the exclusion of the Jorhat Girls' High School?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, I read out the amounts of grants

Nazira High School gets	Rs. 595 per month
Jhanji High School gets	Rs. 400 "
Bezbarua High School gets	Rs. 424 "
Dergaon High School gets	Rs. 200 "
Jorhat Girls' High School gets	Rs. 475 "
Fuleswar High School gets	Rs. 350 "
Kakajan High School gets	Rs. 70 "
Titabar High School gets	Rs. 45 "

These are the grants, Sir, which have been given. Titabar High School is a new High School and it was started last year and so the grant is small.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: On a point of information, Sir, as regards the damage done by storm to the Jorhat Girls' High School, we could not find out anything.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We have received applications and those applications have already been included in the list. Schools which have applied, and, as hon. Mr. Sarma has drawn our attention, this school also, we shall try to include in the list.

As regards other schools, the Department has put in a schedule this year for non-recurring grant to non-Government Secondary schools. Last year we had no such grant. Year before last we had no non-recurring grant to give to secondary schools, but this year we are trying to give them. These secondary schools in most places were built up by the villagers themselves and they paid substantial sums, but now they cannot carry out repairs on account of economic depression. The Managing Committee and the local public are unable to have necessary extension as well as to keep the buildings in a tip-top condition. Therefore we are examining what amount we can allot next year in non-recurring grant. I have to admit the truth of what Mr. Karneswar Das has said, viz., that the Barpeta school has not been adequately helped so far and I think we should give special attention to the schools in that subdivision.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I want to seek one information, Sir. The other day we heard about motorisation of police force. Now we hear regarding the walls of the school buildings, particularly girls' schools. They are without walls at the present moment. Sir, will the motorisation of police force get precedence or will these schools get precedence in disbursement of provincial revenues?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Education Minister is not in a position to say this.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Any way, Sir, the Hon'ble Premier can supply us with the information.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is it necessary to reply, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I do not think. Does the hon. member want to press his motion?

Srijut SONARAM DATTA: The Hon'ble Minister has not told us anything about the Assam Polytechnic School.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As regards the Assam Polytechnic School, the grant was first given in 1938-39 during the regime of the first Saadulla Ministry. Since then, the grant has not been made. The reason for withholding the grant is that the Department wanted the school authority to have a Managing Committee, but the school authority had not agreed to that. But now the matter has been taken up by my friend, Srijut Sonaram Datta, and the son of the late proprietor, Srijut Bhuvan Gosai, who discussed the matter with the Director of Public Instruction and I think in a few days the matter will be settled.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I seek your indulgence for half a minute, Sir. From what the Hon'ble Education Minister has said, one may be inclined to think that something has been done substantially considering the finances of the province. But may I submit, one thing, Sir? Let us take the case of Jorhat for example. There is a Government High School for boys and there is one High School for girls. For the boys' high school the Government has to spend, I believe, Rs 3,000 or near about per month out of the provincial exchequer to make good the deficit i.e., the difference between fees collection and the total expenditure, of the school. If we compare with this the sum of Rs 450 granted per month to the Girls' High School we feel the difference and find how the Girls' High School is neglected.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have nothing to say, Sir.

Srijut SONARAM DATTA: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister that he would consider the cases of those schools favourably in the next budget, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question now is: "That an additional sum of Rs 17,386 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '37 - Education (other than European)."

The question was adopted.

Consideration of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1939-40

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move: "That the Assembly do proceed to consider the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1939-40 and that the Assembly do approve and vote the expenditure of Rs.49,180 as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee of the Accounts for 1939-40."

A copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee at Appendix B has been laid on the table of every hon. member of

this House. I hope each of the members has seen it. This report and so I need not enter into the details of this report. In general, I might say that the Public Accounts Committee sat for 4 days and went chiefly into the Appropriation Accounts and they have found out that the general standards of budgetting is creditable to the process. The Auditor General in his Audit Report at paragraph 13 at page 7 has also given a certificate to the Government of Assam for their good budgetting and control of expenditure. I might read out this paragraph only.

"The degree to which surrender was made in the year under review indicates a close control of expenditure notwithstanding individual instances showing scope for improvement which appear in the preceding paragraph and in the Appropriation Accounts. Such cases represented only a small percentage of the total financial transactions of the Government of the year without prejudice to the general standard of control."

Sir, you will find from the report that some reappportionment was made from one grant to another. In 7 cases, voted grants were exceeded and the circumstances were explained in the Committee by the controlling authorities. Now, the Public Accounts Committee, Sir, have in paragraph 6 of their report have made certain useful recommendations for achieving a better result in budgetting and in the control of expenditure, and I can assure the House that these recommendations will be duly considered by the Government and action taken thereon.

Now, Sir, as you ruled last year, the report of the committee is to be considered as a whole and only the excess expenditure of Rs. 49,180. is to be voted by the House as recommended by the Committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"That the Assembly do proceed to consider the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1939-40 and that the Assembly do approve and vote the expenditure of Rs. 49,180 as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts for 1939-40."

Only the last part of the motion will be put to the vote of the House. The meaning of the entire motion is that after considering the report of the Public Accounts Committee the House do approve and vote the expenditure of Rs. 49,180 as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, the Public Accounts Committee made a recommendation in (f), that "Government should inform the committee as to the amounts recovering from the Assam Oil Company in connection with expenditure on law and order during the strike at the Digboi oil fields". May we have an idea of the amount since recovered or to be recovered from the Assam Oil Company? It was not a recommendation to be given effect to afterwards. We do not know whether the information was supplied to the Committee; but whatever that might be, may we know the amount recovered or to be recovered from the Assam Oil Company?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, as regards the matter which has been enquired into by Mr. Kameswar Das I wish to inform the House that it is a fact that the Congress-Coalition Ministry expressed a feeling that the Company ought to pay the costs of increasing the garrison at the Digboi oil fields. This Government had however to consult the Government of India for several reasons including the one that the Assam Rifles, which is a Central force, was garrisoned for most of the time at Digboi. In view of the additional expenditure in housing the forces, providing transport, etc. the Government of India hoped that the Company would not behave ungenerously in the matter. The Company argued, however, not without reasons, that it was the duty of the

Government to protect them from intimidation and maintain law and order. The matter is still under correspondence and the Government will be pleased to refer the final decision to the Committee as well as to the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER The question is: "That the Assembly do approve and vote the expenditure of Rs 49,180 as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts for 1939-40."

The question was adopted.

Government motion regarding introduction of regulation and control of areas for Jute cultivation in Assam and proposal for taking a loan of rupees four lacs, without interest, from Bengal Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly approve the policy of the Government to introduce regulation and control of areas for jute cultivation in this Province and the proposal for taking a loan of rupees four lacs, without interest, from the Government of Bengal for the purpose.

I think, Sir, it would be of interest to the hon. members of this House if I were to say a few words about genesis of this subject. The Bengal Government addressed the Government in 1937 regarding voluntary restriction of jute cultivation in that province which was continuing for some years on the lines indicated by them. They also informed us that they were being hard pressed by their Legislature to undertake legislation for the regulation of jute cultivation in their province. They invited this Government to a conference in November 1937 in Calcutta, and subsequently in January 1939 in which the ex-Premier of the Congress-Coalition Cabinet, Srijut Bardoloi, represented Assam. But that conference could not come to any definite conclusion. Meanwhile in the middle of November they again addressed this Government for a conference there, but as the Congress-Coalition Cabinet resigned, no steps could be taken in the matter. Then, the present Premier, Sir Md. Saadulla, discussed the matter in December 1939 with His Excellency the Governor of Bengal and the Minister-in-charge of the subject, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, but even then no definite conclusion could be arrived at. The Government of Bengal again in February 1940 suggested a conference of the representatives of the provinces concerned, viz., Beng l, Bihar, Orissa and Assam, which are the four jute-growing provinces. Our Government agreed to the suggestion and in April 1940, a conference was held in which Assam was again represented by her Prime Minister, and Bengal by her Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture. Our Prime Minister made certain suggestions in order to arrive at an agreed solution of the problem on these lines:

He admitted that poor, as we were, we could not afford to provide the money for the survey of the jute areas in our province which was an indispensable factor in the whole affair. He demanded that Bengal should be ready to give us a loan of 4 lakhs of rupees without interest for a survey in Assam, and secondly, that the Government of Bengal must support Assam's claims to an increased share of the jute export duty payable on the basis of acreage as reported by the Indian Central Jute Committee. He further wanted that the two jute-growing provinces, viz., Bihar and Orissa should be in the picture, and should participate on the same lines and on the same terms as Bengal and Assam. Bengal at that time

almost agreed to all the proposals that were advanced by the Hon'ble Premier of Assam, provided that Assam should be permitted to undertake a complete survey in 1940-41. They also agreed that the loan should be repaid in 10 equal instalments of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum. In the event of failure on the part of the Government of Assam to secure the crop as would be wanted by the State, the Government of India should refund the money advanced on part thereof at the rate of 10 per cent of the amount of the demand made for them. They also agreed that the Government of Assam should be permitted to a larger share of the joint expenditure which would be incurred by the Government of India.

Meanwhile, on the 17th May 1940, the Bengal Memorandum was approved by the Chief Whip of the Government of Bengal. A conference was held with us at the Ministry of Agriculture, Assam, on 20th May. The matter was again discussed there and as the Bengal representatives agreed with us in substance, and as the terms and conditions were agreed mutually, it was suggested that Bengal should present a memorandum, which they subsequently did. The general content of the memorandum of Bihar and Orissa in the matter of Bihar and Orissa was similar to that of Assam. In the matter, the whole thing was delayed for some time.

Then, it seems that Bengal represented the State to the Government of India, who wrote to us suggesting in substance that it would accede to our benefit if we came to an understanding with Bengal.

Advantage was taken by our Prime Minister in December 1940 when he attended the meeting of the Imperial Commission on Agricultural Research Governing Body held at Lucknow, in which they had an opportunity of discussing the matter again with the representatives of the Government of Bengal. We were advised that it would be to the great advantage of Assam if we came to an understanding with Bengal. The matter was hanging in that fashion for some time.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMA: What was the benefit to Assam?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Then, again there was a conference when the Bengal representatives came to Shillong in May last. Three Hon'ble Ministers of Bengal came and discussed the matter with us in a conference presided over by the Prime Minister of Assam and my Hon'ble Colleague, the Revenue Minister and myself also attended. In this conference the things were further clarified. We urged that it would not be possible for us to repay the loan in 10 years and that the period should be extended. I am glad to inform the House that they agreed to extend the period from 10 years to 20 years.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: How do you propose to repay the loan?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: We again reduced the terms as I have already enumerated and each one of us agreed on the principle of the agreement arrived at, at that conference and Bengal were asked to draft the Memorandum of Agreement. When they did it and sent it to us, we as Government considered it and also got it examined by our legal experts and found that it was acceptable on the basis of understanding that had been arrived at.

Sir, it is a common thing in economics and the whole matter is so simple and easy that it does not need any explanation from me. Why there

should be regulation of areas for cultivation of jute, it must be admitted, is understandable by each and every one of us.

Sir, it was seen in the Bengal newspapers the other day that the six annual restriction in the rupee was not satisfactory to them, and the Bengal Press urged for further drastic reduction as the Policy to be adopted by that Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The policy by newspaper or public?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: By the Legislature.

Sir, I think every one of us here would welcome the policy of regulation that the Government proposes to adopt not only to fall in line with Bengal but in the interest of the province herself. Every one of us has been painfully aware of the ridiculously low level to which the price of jute went down during the last two years. In Assam, in certain quarters it was selling at Rs 2 to Rs 3 per maund. Now, if the cultivators were not assisted in regulating the areas so as to give them the best out of it, Government would be considered to have been apathetic towards their interests. As I have already told the House that the economy involved in the interest of the subject is so simple that it needs no dilution at all. We are getting the money which would be needed to carry out the survey of the jute areas in Assam. We are getting that free of interest from our neighbouring province and we have been given a term of long 20 years for its repayment. This is an advantage which should not be allowed to slip.

Perhaps, on the merit of the subject, it was necessary for Assam herself to undertake of her own accord, in the interest of the province and in the interest of the cultivators, a survey of the jute-growing areas under actual cultivation.

I think, Sir, the motion that I have moved, deserves support from all quarters and every member of this House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, May we know the exact terms of the agreement with the Bengal Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Shall I state the terms, Sir, or give a gist of the terms?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Gist will serve the purpose.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The gist of the terms are:

For mutual benefit of Bengal and Assam, it is necessary to control and regulate growing of jute in both the provinces.

Assam is required for the above purpose to undertake a survey and make a record of the areas under actual jute cultivation by individual growers.

Bengal will lend to Assam without interest 4 lakhs of rupees to be repaid by Assam in 20 equal instalments of Rs. 20,000 annually. Assam is to carry out the survey and control and regulate jute cultivation from 1943.

Unless otherwise agreed to by Bengal, Assam should control and regulate jute growing in the same manner and in the same proportion as Bengal does.

Cultivable wastes under the Development Scheme would not come under the agreement during the first five years, after which the position will be reviewed by both the Governments jointly.

Failure to observe any terms of the agreement on the part of Assam shall lead to repayment of Rs. 4 lakhs or part thereof as may be outstanding within 12 months of the demand made to Bengal without interest.

The agreement will commence from 1943 and can be terminated by either party by giving 12 months' notice.

During the pendency of the agreement, Bengal will not oppose Assam's claim to any enhanced share of jute export duty calculated on an accepted principle.

These are the main gist of the terms of the Memorandum of the Agreement that has come to us for our acceptance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly approves the policy of the Government to introduce regulation and control of areas for jute cultivation in this Province and the proposal for taking a loan of rupees four lakhs without interest from the Government of Bengal for the purpose".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. This very subject was brought before this House in this very year on two previous occasions. First it was brought before this House by my hon. friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, during the last Budget session. And then again this question was raised during the last June session when I begged leave of the House to move an adjournment motion, because we saw something in newspapers in this respect. This fact is quite well-known to the hon. members of this House, who attended the last two sessions of this year.

Sir, when by a cut motion my hon. friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, brought this matter before this House, the Hon'ble Minister in one sentence said that the policy of the Government and the policy then advocated by my hon. friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, were just the same. Now, Sir, I shall read the relevant portion from the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury—

"The hon. members are aware that Bengal has launched a campaign of regulating and restricting its jute cultivation and has also promulgated regulations and ordinances to enforce its decision upon the public. In Bengal for the last few years there had been a steady increase in the acreage under jute cultivation. Supply far exceeded the demand and Bengal jute has failed to fetch a good price in the open market. The world war that is raging outside has added new difficulties in the way of exports and the jute cultivators of Bengal have been placed in a very precarious condition. All these factors have contributed to lower the price of jute below the irreducible minimum. To avert the crisis, the Government of Bengal have assumed extraordinary powers to restrict, regulate and control the production of jute in the province. Should Assam follow suit?

way to withdraw his cut motion." So, at that time, I said that this much, that the policy that was advocated by the Government, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, was just the same as that of the Hon'ble Minister. When that, Sir, during my adjournment motion when I raised the point again and I read from the newspaper, it was said by the Hon'ble Premier that the report was hopeless. Now, it is for the Hon'ble Premier and for the hon'ble members to say whether the report was hopeless or not. We can be sure of nothing that was omitted there, but others that were reported in the newspaper, practically as we find now, were reported correctly. The terms of the agreement that have just been mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department were just the same as I raised at that time. Only the Bengal Government will not stand in the way of the Assam Government getting her share of jute duty according to the principle that is prevailing at present. Sir, really I cannot understand this point as to how the Bengal Government can stand in the way of the Assam Government getting her adequate and due share of jute duty. Sir, at that time, as we were told that the Government gave several terms to the Bengal Government and that they were still under consideration and there was no certainty whether there will be any agreement at all. Now, Sir, from the speech that has just been delivered by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture we find that no other term was added than the terms which were advocated from the very beginning.

On the other hand we find that at the very beginning, our Premier pressed hard that Orissa and Bihar also should join the scheme. But now we find that, so far as Bihar and Orissa are concerned, they have not joined. Now, Sir, not to speak of any better terms that have been added, we find that one term has been left out and the effect would be that Bihar and Orissa will enjoy the benefit whereas Assam that is going to have a loan of 4 lakhs of rupees, free of interest, will suffer with Bengal. Sir, I do not know why the policy that was accepted by the present Government only a few months ago has been changed. We have not heard anything from the Hon'ble Minister regarding this point.

Another point which I mark is this. In case the Assam Government break any term of the agreement they shall have to pay the balance of the money out of these 4 lakhs. But if Bengal defaults and does not abide by the terms of the agreement, no penalty has been laid down. Of course, there is the omnibus condition that either party can terminate the contract on 12 months' notice.

It has also been said that just to fall in line with Bengal, it is necessary that we must agree to the terms and we should get this resolution passed by this House. I cannot really understand the necessity of falling in line with Bengal in this respect. Our cultivable lands so far as jute is concerned are very little in comparison with that of Bengal. And so far as the waste lands are concerned, for the first five years we can increase or we can open new areas for jute cultivation. But after that the same terms will apply to these new areas also.

***The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** May I correct a mis-interpretation, Sir?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On which point, Sir?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is not in the memorandum. It is regarding the waste lands. After 5 years the position will be reviewed and then what steps will be taken will be decided by mutual agreement of both the parties.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I could not exactly follow the Hon'ble Minister.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister.

*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I shall not be made to bear for the hon. member, Sir. My hon. friend stated that according to the terms of the agreement, after five years the terms of the agreement will automatically devolve.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I did not say 'automatically', Sir.

*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The agreement is open for consideration between the two Governments.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But we have to draw our conclusions from what has been happening and from what the experience of the last few years. I am quite inclined to the view that whatever the Government would dictate, the Assam Government will accept.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has already exceeded his time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then I am resuming my seat. Not only a bill, but the move on the part of the Government is injurious to the best interests of the province and the real remedy, if any, is to be looked for elsewhere and has nothing to do with the checking of profiteering by the Government. Assam has absolutely no need to follow the lead of Bengal, particularly when Orissa and Bihar have not entered into this agreement.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, I followed the speech of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to make out the profit and loss account of the transaction he is negotiating with the Bengal Government. But I am sorry to say that I could not find out the exact profit that is likely to accrue to the province as a result of this contract with the Government of Bengal. Sir, it appears that the Hon'ble Minister has been overwhelmed with the easy nature of the terms of the loan. But perhaps in his ecstasy he forgot that he was mortgaging the future of jute cultivation of the province of Assam for a mere loan of four lakhs of rupees only. There are a variety of reasons for which the price of jute declined for the last few years. It is not only jute but all other agricultural produce suffered in prices as a result of the economic depression that prevailed over a decade before the war. One of the important causes for the decline of jute price was the capitalist combine, the mill-owners and also to some extent the future market of jute, which is again ruled by the capitalists. It is these people who are flirting with the destiny of the agriculturists and their contribution is no less in lowering down the prices of jute. So, unless we can remedy all these evils which go to affect the price of jute, simply the restriction scheme would not improve the position of jute even a little. Even last year, the prices of jute shot up from Rs.5 to Rs.15, but then the agriculturists' quota in that booming market was very very low. There is a galaxy of middlemen in between the grower and the consumer and it is these people that consume all the profit that could otherwise accrue to the grower. Have we been able to check all these?

Sir, we have been referring to the activities of the Government of Bengal.

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I was only trying to impress upon the hon. members of this House that this is not the way to regulate the price of jute or to give a proper deal to our agriculturists. And as I have said these middlemen should be eliminated

first. As far as possible a direct connection between the producer and the consumer should be established, at least an attempt should be made in that direction. The price of commodities should be regulated in the case of a supply and demand. During the war the demand has been very high and so the jute mills even by working at full capacity are unable to meet the demand that the war has created. It is not the business of the Government of Assam to launch on a scheme of restriction of the supply of jute. It is more proper to substitute it found out in other parts of the world where the demand for jute in the present circumstances would be more acute and so to be able to meet the necessities arising out of the war. Therefore the war, we are now in, where we stand not only with regard to jute but with regard to other agricultural and industrial commodities of the country and the welfare of that of the country. There will be new adjustments of the national rights and obligations and unless there is a substitute for it, we can only expect that our jute growers will have a hard deal. It is not possible to say anything about the future. All that could be said is that this is not the right time, at least when all economic orders are in a state of confusion and chaos like this which vitally affects the interests of the millions of people in the province. Sir, it is not an attractive term that the Bengal Government is offering for buying out the natural resource of jute cultivation in Assam. I think our Minister for Agriculture has fallen for this matter and down by the Bengal Government. We think that this matter should be deferred now and we may wait to see how the economic conditions after the war. In the meantime, so long as the war continues, probably the demand for jute will be naturally very high and all that is necessary for Government is to see that the middle agencies are out of the picture and the agriculturist gets a right price for the commodities he grows. With these few words, I oppose the motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am somewhat reluctant to intervene in this debate, but I should like to reply to some of Mr. Mookerjee's remarks. Unlike most of Mr. Mookerjee's speeches, I think, his last speech lacks a good deal of his usual clarity. I have followed him very carefully, but I cannot yet make out whether he opposes the scheme of restriction or whether he opposes the scheme of a survey or whether he opposes the scheme put forward by the Government of Bengal for a loan of 1 lakhs of rupees. But taking it that he opposes the first part, namely the scheme of restriction, I find it very difficult to reconcile this with Mr. Mookerjee's personal prosperity due to restriction scheme of a commodity, Tea, which he is interested in, as I am interested in, and which the Government of Assam is interested in—a scheme for the regulation of a product which has been so successful and profitable to so many people in this Assembly. That is my first point. I do not think that restriction is necessarily a bogey. Restriction is a device which has been applied not only in India, but in most countries in the world. In the United States of America they had to apply it to their cotton crop, in Brazil they had to apply it to their coffee crop; and in Malaya they had to apply it to their rubber crop. Therefore *prima facie* there is nothing intrinsically wrong with a scheme which aims at the restriction of jute.

Mr. Mookerjee's second point, assuming again that he objects to a survey, seems to me to come surprisingly ill from a speaker who only a few days ago was baiting the Government of Assam, because in the matter of flood relief they did not conduct a survey as Mr. Mookerjee's own Committee so skilfully did.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I am sorry that my bad English was not understood by

Mr. W. H. TAKER: I am sorry for that. The proceedings are there and he can call for the report. Then he will find that I did not raise any point against the report. He is just creating some points for his convenience. I was not against any survey.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has not understood you.

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE: The point is, neither he understands nor do I understand him.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you will agree that I presented a report which was what the diplomatists call "an escape clause."

He is not very much interested about the terms of this loan. I am not very much interested about the terms of this loan. The difficulty, as it seems to me, is that the Government have put the cart before the horse. Before even mentioning the restriction, I think the right course was to bring forward the restriction.

But the Government have argued the argument advanced by Mr. Aditya. He says everything is done for the benefit of all possible worlds and that after the war everything will be all right, because there is a very little fear of a substitute for jute. I think I have a right to speak with knowledge, Sir, when I say that one of the bogies of the jute market and one of the bogies of both the jute market and the wheat market is that there is a substitute and a very effective substitute already found in America. Much wheat is now being collected in sacks, especially for export, in bags whereas before wheat used to be packed in sacks. There is a very real danger of substitute and all is not as it seems to the Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will restriction be a remedy then, Sir?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Might I be allowed to develop my arguments, Sir? My main difficulty was Mr. Aditya's economies; we may say that it all depends on the law of supply and demand, but I would suggest to him, Sir, that the weakness of the jute market at present, and also for many years past, has been very weak selling by the cultivators. The cultivator is always a weak seller. He goes to the market and must get his cash quickly. Therefore, says Mr. Aditya and I here agree with him very strongly, the cultivator is a victim of middle-men who buy but who can afford to wait before they sell. The whole difficulty in Bengal is a large carry over from previous years, of jute which does not deteriorate by storing. It is not a perishable commodity and this large carry over hangs over the market and depresses the current price to the very great loss of the cultivator. Somehow or other, Sir, whether it is 4 lacs or 40 lacs, does not really seem to me to matter. The Government of this province will have to convert the agriculturist, whether he grows paddy or he grows jute, it does not really matter, they will have to convert agriculturist from a weak seller into a strong seller and I suggest, Sir, the main method of converting the agriculturist from a weak seller into a strong seller is to regulate the supply of the crop which he grows. Therefore, I am inclined to give this scheme a favourable welcome, as it will mean, at any rate, regulating the supply of Assam jute on the market. I am quite certain that if the agriculturist is left to his own devices, he will continue to be a weak seller. I think, it to Government's loss. Therefore, Sir, I think, the present scheme approved by the Government of Bengal is a reasonable one. I think, it would be un-reasonable for the Government of Assam to say "let Bengal regulate and we will go on with unrestricted supply." I do not think that is any one's idea of a business deal and in this particular job, I think, we have got to apply reasonable business principles. Therefore, we should co-operate with Bengal which has got a far greater stake than we have in maintaining the price of jute. Jute to the Government of Bengal is an infinitely more important product than it is to Assam. Therefore, if we tie ourselves to Bengal, I do not regard that as a harmful thing. On the contrary, it is good that we are tying ourselves to a Government which is far more successful.

With these words, Sir, I wish to support this scheme. One difficulty remains that we are arranging the finances without having arranged the necessary legislation to give effect to the scheme. However, I have no doubt that the Government of Assam will overcome that difficulty.

***Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** Mr. Speaker Sir, this restriction scheme does not come from this Government's own accord, as we apparently listened from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister. Because Bengal Government wanted the co-operation of this Government it is only for that reason this scheme is forthcoming. So, I say Sir, that this scheme is not originated at all by this Government's own accord.

I for myself see no good reason at all for restriction in Assam because there are vast areas of land which are lying waste and uncultivated and there is no reason why this restriction should come in Assam.

Another thing, Sir, when we were listening the explanation, we heard that this restriction will take place only in the lands belonging to the indigenous people, but not in the case of lands to be newly opened. This means Sir, if I understand aright, encouraging the intruders and impoverishing the indigenous people because these indigenous people will be handicapped by this restriction, but the immigrants will enjoy.

***Mr. A. WHITTAKER :** On a point of information Sir. Does the hon. speaker agree that it is possible to get larger volume of money from smaller crop than a larger crop?

***Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** I cannot say this Sir. But some few years back the price of jute was Rs 2, to Rs 5, per maund but this year it is Rs.8 and Rs.9. I do not see any reason why we should blindly follow the Bengal scheme without any good reason.

Another thing, Sir. Why should we borrow Rs 4 lacs? This will again entail in more deficit in future. Assam Government is a deficit Government and it will still make the condition worse. Now they are speaking of restriction of jute, but restriction will be coming in gradually one after another. Cotton cultivation is very important in the Garo Hills. And if jute restriction is allowed today, restriction may come on cotton some day. (A *twice-tea* restriction) Tea is being produced by a limited number of people. But if the hon. members say that jute cultivation does not concern most people, I say, this is wrong. Even in Garo Hills jute cultivation is carried on. But the most important of all crops in the district are cotton and rice. Jute cultivation is largely carried on in the plains and it is done in the hills also. Sir, I think, I need not say much about this. Once we agree to the restriction scheme and if one kind of crop fails in a particular year there will be no other crop to depend upon. That is a very helpless position. Take for instance rice cultivation; sometimes the yield is very poor due to too much of rain, sometimes due to less rain and sometimes due to untimely rain.

If cotton and jute cultivations are restricted, and only some particular kind of cultivation is allowed, the cultivators will experience difficulties and wants. One word more, Sir. Cotton cultivation should not be restricted at all. Cotton, rice and various vegetables are grown together in the same area in Garo Hills. Of course jute is grown in a quite separate area, but why should its cultivation be restricted? On these various grounds, therefore, I cannot support the scheme for restriction of jute cultivation.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 9th December, 1941.

SHILLONG,

The 30th January, 1942.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

* Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

His Excellency Sir ROBERT NIEL REID, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S.

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