

The following is a list of the names of the members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, as of the 1st day of January, 1911.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

[Handwritten signature]

Proceedings of the Seventh 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 2 P.M., on Friday, the 15th March, 1940.

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers and 89 members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Number of Public Health Dispensaries or Centres maintained by Government at Gauhati

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI asked :

*163. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Public Health dispensaries or centres maintained by Government at or near Goreswar, Dhamdhama, Khetri, Loharghat, Rangia, Boko, Tamulpur, Choygaon, before the establishment of dispensaries by the Gauhati Local Board in those places and the amount spent annually by Government for maintaining those dispensaries and centres by Public Health Department ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that with the establishment of the dispensaries in those places, the Public Health Department closed down its dispensaries and centres from those areas and thereby made a large saving ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the work of Public Health dispensaries or centres referred to in question 163 (a) above were taken up by the Medical Officer of the dispensaries opened by the Gauhati Local Board in those places ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that of all the Local Boards in Assam, Gauhati Local Board spends the highest amount (*i.e.*, more than 25 per cent. of its own income) in giving medical relief in rural areas ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Gauhati Local Board has been persistently making representations to Government for a substantial annual grant for allotting more money for supply of medicine to the existing dispensaries within its jurisdiction and for opening new dispensaries in backward and tribal areas like Mukalmua, Musalpur, Khetrapara side, Nagarbera and a substantial non-recurring grant for repair of the existing dispensary buildings and quarters ?

- (f) Whether Government is aware that in places like Nalbari, Tihu, Choygaon, Hajo, Kamalpur, and Rangia, a large number of Government servants receive free treatment in those dispensaries without payment of "one anna" as levied under the "one anna system" on ordinary villagers ?
- (g) Do Government propose to contribute an annual grant for treatment of Government officers in those dispensaries ?
- (h) Do Government propose to consider favourably the said representation of the Gauhati Local Board and allot substantial annual recurring grants and non-recurring grants to this Board ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
replied :

163. (a)—Three dispensaries, namely, at Khetri, Boko and Chhoygaon and an out-centre at Goreswar. The cost per annum of the dispensaries was Rs.2,000 each approximately. It is not possible to calculate the cost of the out-centre.

(b)—Yes ; but thereby Government made no saving. A Public Health Department dispensary is not actually closed but shifted from one place to another as necessitated by incidence of *kala-azar*.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes. They are exempted under the rules.

(g)—No. Government servants are entitled to free medical aid by Local Board doctors on reciprocal basis.

(h)— No.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to inform us what amount is actually being spent by the Gauhati Local Board in giving medical relief ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
I cannot give the answer off-hand.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Sir, my submission is that I want to know what amount is actually being spent by the Gauhati Local Board for giving medical relief.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
I cannot give the actual amount off-hand.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Sir, the answer to question No.163(d) is 'Yes' and that is why I want to know what is the actual amount being spent by the Gauhati Local Board.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
The hon. questioner is the Chairman of the Gauhati Local Board and so perhaps he himself knows about it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member wants to know whether the Hon'ble Minister knows about it.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I cannot give the actual amount off-hand.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Is it not the intention of Government to help the different Local Boards in the matter of giving medical relief in the rural areas ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The Government is ready to help the different Local Boards as far as the funds permit.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: May we know why not a single farthing is given to the Gauhati Local Board for medical relief ? Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the reason ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Fund was not available, Sir.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Is this the only Local Board in the province which does not receive any grant from the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, the Gauhati Local Board did not want to utilise the services of the Government Doctors in their Local Board and that is why they are not getting any compensatory grant from the Government.

Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: That is not the answer to my question. Is it the only Local Board which does not receive any grant from the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think, Sir, I have already explained in reply to a previous question that the Gauhati Local Board could have got certain amount as compensatory grant for the Doctors from the Government if they would require ; but this Local Board does not like to get the services of the Government Doctors in their Local Board and so they are not getting the benefit of the compensatory grant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The complaint of the hon. member is that that is not his question.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I cannot say that off-hand.

Karimganj High Madrasa

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*164. With reference to the answers to unstarred question No.1039 of the December session of the Assembly, 1938, will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the answer to (e) should be Rs.150 instead of Rs.140 as supplied by Government ?
- (b) Whether with effect from October 1937, the number of teachers is 14 and not 12, as supplied by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

164. (a)—As a Middle English Madrasa the grant was reduced from Rs.150 to Rs.140 per mensem in 1932-33. The reduced grant continued till 1936-37. In 1937-38 it was raised to Rs.155 to enable the Committee to meet the increased expenses for opening classes VII and VIII. In 1938-39 the grant was further raised to Rs.180 per mensem on the addition of the High Madrasa classes.

In the current year the grant has been raised to Rs.195 per mensem.

(b)—Yes, the number of teachers is 14 if the Vernacular teachers for the muktab section are also included.

Reconstitution of the Managing Committee of the Karimganj High Madrasa

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*165. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether in accordance with the reply given to unstarred question No.1044(d), (e) and (f) of the December session of the Assembly, 1938, the reconstitution of the Managing Committee of the Karimganj High Madrasa has been made ?
- (b) If so, how and with effect from what date ?
- (c) Whether the members of the new Committee are nominated or elected and by whom so elected or nominated ?
- (d) The names of the members of the newly formed Committee and the capacity in which they hold their seats ?
- (e) Whether these representatives were properly elected by their constituents—namely guardians and the staff ?
- (f) What are the rules governing the constitution of the Managing Committees of Aided High Schools or High Madrasas ?
- (g) Whether the said Committee has been reconstituted in conformity with the rules governing the constitution of the Managing Committees of High Madrasas ?
- (h) If not, why not ?
- (i) Whether the rules prescribe that President and Secretary of the Managing Committee should be nominated by Government or elected by the Members themselves ?
- (j) Whether the rules prescribe any standard of educational or other qualifications for the membership or at least the Secretaryship of such Committees ?
- (k) Whether the out-going Committee submitted any proposal for the reconstitution of the Committee ?
- (l) If so, when and with whom ?
- (m) Why that proposal could not be accepted by the Department ?
- (n) Do Government propose to dissolve the present Committee and to take proper and immediate steps for the reconstitution of the same, strictly in accordance with the rules and to make the same a representative and efficient Committee ?
- (o) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

165. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The Managing Committee has been reconstituted with effect from 15th May, 1939 by the Director of Public Instruction in consultation with the Madrasa authorities, the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education.

The members were all appointed ; none were elected.

(d)—The reply is as follows :—

(1) The Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj	...	...	President.
(2) Hazi Maulavi Idris Ali	...	...	Secretary.
(3) Hazi Maulavi Furkan Ali...	...	...	Assistant Secretary.
(4) Deputy Inspector of Schools	...	...	Member, <i>Ex-officio</i> .
(5) Superintendent of the Madrasa	...	...	"
(6) First English Teacher of the Madrasa	...	...	"
(7) Khan Bahadur A. Majid Choudhury	...	...	"
(8) Maulavi Md. Arjan Ali	...	...	"
(9) Maulavi Md. Osman Ali	...	...	"
(10) Maulavi Hashim Ali, B.L.	...	...	"
(11) Haji Maulavi Md. Watir Ali	...	...	"
(12) Haji Maulavi A. Bari Choudhury	...	...	"
(13) Maulavi Arshad Ali, Headmaster, Government High School, Karimganj.	...	...	"
(14) Haji Ubedul Hussain	...	...	"
(15) Haji Md. Hashim Ali	...	...	"
(16) Maulavi Sajjad Ali Choudhury	...	...	"

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—The constitution of an Aided High School Committee may be as follows :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. President. | } Nominated. |
| 2. Secretary. | |
| 3. Headmaster. | |
| 4 and 5. Two teachers elected by the staff. | |
| 6 and 7. Two Government Officials. | |
| 8, 9 and 10. Non-official members elected by the panel of electors. | |

Departures are permissible with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction where the merits of the case demand.

These rules were extended to High Madrasas by the Director of Public Instruction.

(g) and (h)—The reconstitution was taken up in July 1938 under the old rules which did not provide for election.

(i)—Nominated.

(j)—No.

(k)—Yes.

(l)—In July 1938, the outgoing Committee submitted a proposal as follows :—

1. Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj	...	...	President.
2. Head Maulavi (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	...	...	Member,
3. First English teacher (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	...	...	"
4. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Karimganj	...	...	"

5. Munshi Furkan Ali	} To represent the guardians	} Members.
6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.		
7. Khan Bahadur Abdul Majid Choudhury.		
8. Maulavi Watir Ali	... ..	Member.
9. Maulavi Abdur Raquib	... ..	"
10. Maulavi Haji Idris Ali	... ..	"
11. Khan Sahib Abdus Salam Chaudhury	... ..	"
12. Maulavi Abdul Karim Chaudhury	... ..	"
13. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury	... ..	"
14. Maulavi Arjan Ali	... ..	"
15. Maulavi Sajjad Ali Chaudhury	... ..	"

(m)—The proposal was accepted with some modification in the interest of the Madrasa.

(n) and (o)—The Committee will be next reconstituted under the new rules when the term of office of the present Managing Committee will expire.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May we know why there is a deviation from the rules in this case regarding the constitution of the members of the Managing Committee of the Madrasa?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have already stated, Sir, that the departure is permissible with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction where the merits of the case demand.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Is there any other Madrasa or High School Sir, in the province which has got so many members in the Committee?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I want notice, Sir.

Scales of Pay of teachers in the Karimganj High Madrasa

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*166. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The scale of pay of teachers in the Karimganj High Madrasa?

(b) Whether there is any Aided High School or Madrasa in which the scale of pay is as low as, or lower than, that obtaining in this Madrasa?

(c) Whether the teachers of this Madrasa get a much lower pay than those holding similar positions and doing similar work in other Aided High Schools and Madrasa?

(d) If so, whether Government propose to consider sympathetically their case by granting adequate increased grant to the said Madrasa so that the teachers may get a reasonable remuneration?

(e) If the answer to (c) above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the names of such schools and the scales of pay obtaining there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

166. (a)—The scale is given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 166(a)

Scales of pay of teachers in the Karimganj High Madrasa

	Rs.
166.(a)—1. Maulavi Khurshed Ali, Head Maulavi...	50 per mensem.
2. Maulavi A. Matin, B.A., Assistant Master	40 ,,
3. Maulavi Tutiur Rahman Chowdhury, B.A., Assistant Master.	30 ,,
4. Maulavi Mudassir Ali, B.A. ...	30 ,,
5. Babu Ambica Ch. Nath, B.sc., (Mathematics teacher).	30 ,,
6. Maulavi Hurmuj Ali Laskar, Assistant Master.	25 ,, plus 5 clerical allowance.
7. Maulavi Ahmad Ali, Assistant Maulavi	20 per mensem.
8. Maulavi A. Bari Khan, Assistant Maulavi.	15 ,,
9. Maulavi A. Bari, Assistant Maulavi ...	15 ,,
10. Babu B. C. De, 1st Vernacular Master...	25 ,,
11. Maulavi Md. Hamdu Mia, Vernacular Master.	20 ,,
12. Maulavi Monowar Ali, Vernacular Master.	16 ,,
13. Maulavi Muhibur Rahman, Vernacular Master.	15 ,,
14. Maulavi Farman Ali, (Islamic teacher)	10 ,,
Total ...	351 monthly.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—The question does not arise.

(e)—The particulars are given in the statement laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 166(e)

166.(e)—

1. Scale of expenditure of the Deorail Senior Madrasa :—

	Rs.
1. Maulavi Toybur Rohman, Head Maulavi.	35 per mensem.
2. Maulavi Masaddar Ali, Assistant Maulavi.	30 ,,
3. Maulavi Habibur Rohman	20 ,,
4. Maulavi Faizul Hasan 	20 ,,
5. Hasan Ali 	20 ,,
6. Abdur Razaque 	20 ,,
Total ...	<u>145</u> ,,

2. Scale of expenditure of the Aziria Senior Madrasa :—

	Rs.
1. Maulana Muzahid Ali 	42 per mensem.
2. Maulana Md. Suleman 	32 ,,
Maulana Md. Musahid 	26 ,,
4. Maulana Jamaluddin 	24 ,,
5. Maulana Abdul Jabbar 	20 ,,
6. Maulana Akhlasul Mumin 	18 ,,
7. Maulana Habibulla 	30 ,,
8. Maulana Golam Mustafa 	32 ,,
9. Maulana Abdus Sobhan 	30 ,,
10. Maulana Mufassir Uddin Ahmed 	20 ,,
11. One Maulavi to be appointed 	15 ,,
Total ...	<u>289</u> ,,

3. Scale of expenditure of the Kasim Ali High School :—

				Rs.	
1. Headmaster	...	...	...	50	per mensem.
2. Assistant Master	...	...	...	21	”
3. Head Pandit	...	...	...	21	”
4. Assistant Pandit	...	...	...	16	”
5. Temporary Assistant Teacher			...	15	”
6. Maulavi	...	...	...	11	”
Total				134	”

4. Scale of expenditure of the Chhatian Biswanath High School :—

				Rs.	
1. Headmaster	...	...	...	70	per mensem.
2. Assistant Headmaster	...	...	...	50	”
3. Assistant Teacher	...	...	...	40	”
4. B. Sc. Teacher	...	...	...	30	”
5. Assistant Teacher to be appointed	...	...	...	25	”
6. Head Pandit	...	...	...	30	”
7. Head Maulavi	...	...	...	30	”
8. Anglo-Persian Teacher	...	...	...	25	”
9. Assistant Teacher	...	...	...	25	”
10. Assistant Teacher	...	...	...	25	”
Total				350	”

5. Scale of expenditure of the Hazi Md. Fazil High School, Patharkandi :—

				Rs.	
1. Headmaster	...	...	...	50	per mensem.
2. Assistant Headmaster	...	...	...	30	”
3. Head Pandit	...	...	...	22	”
4. Two Vernacular Teachers at Rs.15 each	...	...	...	30	”
5. Head Maulavi	...	...	...	18	”
6. Assistant Maulavi	...	...	...	15	”
Total				165	”

Purchase of certain contingency articles by the Headmaster of the Goalpara Government High School

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*167. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that two Petromax lights worth Rs.30 or so each were purchased by Srijut Indreswar Barthakore, Headmaster of the Goalpara Government High School, during the year 1937-38 from the school contingency grant ?
- (b) Whether during the year 1938-39 one "Satranji" was also purchased from the same contingency grant by the said Headmaster ?
- (c) Whether any special sanction was accorded by the Government for purchasing these two items of furniture as mentioned in (a) and (b) above from the school contingency grant ?
- (d) Whether the amount spent for these two items of furniture fall within the common or usual expenditure, from the contingency grant ?
- (e) If so, which other schools in the province do possess the same, from the school contingency grant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

167. (a)—Two Petromax lights at Rs.17-8 each were purchased by the Headmaster, Government High School, Goalpara, from the Contract Contingent grant during the year 1936-37 and not during the year 1937-38.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—As the expenditure did not exceed the sum placed at the disposal of the Headmaster under the head "Office expenses and Miscellaneous" the Headmaster did not ask for any special sanction.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The following high schools have been found on enquiry to have purchased Petromax lanterns or Satranjis or both from their grants under contract contingencies :—

NAME OF SCHOOLS

1. Government High School, Sylhet.
2. Government High School, Hailakandi.
3. Government High School, Golaghat.
4. Government High School, Maulvibazar.
5. Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati.
6. Government High School, Karimganj.
7. Government High School, Barpeta.
8. Government High School, Silchar.
9. Government High School, Habiganj.
10. Government Girls' High School, Sylhet.

Names of holders of different classes of land in the Bijni Court of Wards

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

- *168. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The number.
 - (b) The names of the present holder.
 - (c) Area under each holder,
and
 - (d) Conditions attached to each of the following classes of land under the Bijni Court of Wards—
 - (1) Debottor
 - (2) Brohmottor.
 - (3) Pirpal.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

168.—Without prejudice, a list showing names, approximate area and situation of Lakhiraj tenures is laid on the Library table. As regards further details required, these are not readily available without spending time and labour on it, totally incommensurate with the purpose to which the information may possibly be put in public interest.

Refusal of settlement of waste land to and cancellation of Pattas of immigrants in the Darrang district

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

*169. (a) Is it a fact that Government have refused settlement of waste land in the district of Darrang to some of the *bona fide* Assamese Muhammedans, on the plea that they are employing the Muhammadan immigrants either as *adhidars* or domestic servants to cultivate the land ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of such cases of refusal in the Mangaldai and the Tezpur subdivisions separately in the years 1938-39 and 1939-40 ?

*170. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of annual pattas of the immigrants cancelled by the Government in the Mangaldai and the Tezpur subdivisions separately in the years 1938-39 and 1939-40 ?

(b) The grounds for the cancellation of the said pattas ?

(c) For how long these immigrants are settling in the district ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

169. (a)—*Bona fide* Assamese Muhammedans have never been refused settlement of waste lands. In 1938 a group of Garos (Christians) were given settlement of waste lands at the village of Barduaneja which is not

open to settlement by Mymensinghians. In April 1939 the Garos complained that several leading Muhammadans of Dumnichauki which is about 25 miles from Barduaneja were settling Mymensinghians there. An enquiry was held by the Sub-Deputy Collector of Mangaldai and it was found that the Dumnichauki people were speculators whose real object was to sell lands of Barduaneja to Mymensinghians. To prevent difficulties of Benami the then Subdivisional Officer of Mangaldai passed orders forbidding settlement of lands in the village with the people of Dumnichauki who could have applied for lands in the Kalaigaon-Silpota where there would be proper supervision against speculation.

(b)—In the Mangaldai subdivision the number of such cases in 1939-40 was 9 and that in 1938-39 nil. There are no such cases in the Sadar subdivision.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Can Government deny that these Assamese people did not open up land in Barduaneja but in village Owarpara in mauza Samabari?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government are not aware of that, Sir.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: There are some cases, Sir, in which the Garo residents have been ousted in the immigrant area. Will Government enquire into this matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government are not aware of the complaint referred to by the hon. member. If he so desires, an enquiry will be made.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I do desire so, Sir, very strongly.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

170. (a)—In Mangaldai 3 pattas (annual) were cancelled in 1939-40. There was no case of cancellation in 1938-39. No annual pattas were cancelled in Tezpur subdivision.

(b)—The villages in which annual pattas were cancelled are not open to settlement by the immigrants.

(c)—Not known.

Restrictions on enlargement of sections in the Government High Schools

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

*171. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Resolution No. 1 of the public meeting held on 12th January 1940 at Tezpur under the presidency of Rai Bahadur P. Gohain Borooah, relating to the letters Nos. 34731-781, dated the 9th December 1939 and 35238-86, dated the 15th December 1939 of the Director of Public Instruction enjoining restrictions on enlargement of sections in the Government High Schools, published in the "Times of Assam" dated the 3rd February 1940?

*172. Has the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education received a copy of a similar resolution, resolution No. 6 of the Golaghat Town Welfare Committee, adopted at a meeting of the same Committee held on 4th February 1940 under the presidency of Srijut J. C. Goswami?

*173. If the replies to questions 171 and 172 above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any action on the same?

*174. Has Government received any report of similar grievances from any other place in the province?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

171.—Yes.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Is it the meaning of the Director of Public Instruction's circular that no new sections should be opened in the classes of the High School even if the number of students demands such an enlargement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I think, Sir, that is the meaning.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Is it also the meaning that the guardians have to bear the expenses of building extra house or to pay for extra teachers if the sections have to be enlarged ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : If a section is to be enlarged more teachers will have to be appointed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will the guardians have to pay for it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Certainly not the guardians.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : May I know whether such a circular was not issued to the Headmaster of the Government High School, Golaghat ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Some circular was issued imposing restriction on the enlargement of the sections, but we have withdrawn that circular in two towns already and are considering the matter.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

172.—No.

173.—The restrictions have since been withdrawn in the Dhubri and Goalpara Government High Schools. The withdrawal of the restrictions in the Golaghat and Hailakandi Government High Schools is under the consideration of Government.

174.—Yes.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Are Government going to withdraw the restriction with regard to the Tezpur High School ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I am considering about other High Schools. So far as Goalpara and Dhubri are concerned the circular has been withdrawn. As regards the other High Schools we are considering the matter.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Did the Tezpur public make any representation to the Minister-in-charge ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Yes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Has the circular the approval of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I did not know of the issue of the circular.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Then how did the Director of Public Instruction issue this circular ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I think he has got that authority in himself. I do not know whether he consulted the previous Government, but so far as I am concerned I was not consulted. I think the Director of Public Instruction has got the authority.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister associates himself with the circular ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I have already said that I have withdrawn the operation of this circular in two towns. I am considering about others.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Does the circular apply to all the schools in the province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Government are considering the question of the withdrawal of the circular in other schools.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is the circular meant to apply to other high schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As regards restriction of enlargement of sections, that circular relates to Government schools.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Do Government mean to help other high schools in other towns ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am considering the whole question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Re Jaintiapur Bazar

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY asked :

166. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are the owners of the Jaintiapur Bazar in the Jaintiapur Purganah, Sylhet District ?

(b) Whether the Nripa of Jaintiapur had any share in it ?

(c) Whether the Nripa's inheritors have now any share in it ?

(d) The names of the Managers of the said Bazar now ?

(e) Whether the rates of the Bazar tolls realised from sellers are fixed by the Government ?

(f) If not, who fixed the rates of tolls there ?

167. (a) Are Government aware that owing to the high rates of tolls realised, there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the people of the southern slopes of the Jaintia Hills who take their agricultural produce to the said Bazar ?

(b) Is it a fact that in summer, during the time of floods, it is very risky and troublesome for these people to go to Jaintiapur Bazar, as they have with their loads to cross by country boats, the streams named Kympleng and Lakroh ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said people of the lower slopes of the Jaintia Hills have several times before petitioned to the Subdivisional Officer of Jowai and also to the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, to allow them to start a market at Mukhtapur at the foot of the southern slopes of the Jaintia Hills on the Kympleng stream ?

(d) Do Government propose to make an enquiry as to the possibility of starting a Government Bazar at Mukhtapur for the convenience of the said people where they can sell their agricultural produce such as *pan*, areca nuts, oranges, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

166. (a) to (c)—The daughter of the late Kumar Chhatra Singh Nripa of Jaintia—Raj Kumari Ira Devi, who is a ward under the Court of Wards after the death of the Nripa, owns the Bazar. The Nripa Estate is under the management of the Court of Wards.

(d)—The Sub-Deputy Collector, Gowainghat Circle, is the Manager.

(e) & (f)—It is reported that after the Jaintia Kingdom was annexed to the British Empire both the hill and the plains people of the Jaintia Kingdom established the bazar and fixed the rate of tolls at a conference about 100 years ago with the approval of the then deposed king of Jaintia. That rate of tolls still continues.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : In the reply it is stated that the Nripa Estate is under the management of the Court of Wards. Since when, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Since about twenty years, I think.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : As regards (e) and (f) how do the Government know that the rate of tolls in the Jaintiapur Bazar was not at all changed during the 100 years ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is the information on which I have replied to this question.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Wherefrom did this information come ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : From the local officer. It is already said that the Sub-Deputy Collector is managing the Court of Wards.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Have Government made any enquiry from the Jowai Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : This is from the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

Rev. L. GATPHOH : Is there any record to show that the Bazar was established after the Jaintia Kingdom was annexed to the British Empire ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No, Sir.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: From whom has the report been obtained?
The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That has been answered.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know the source of information of the Sub-Deputy Collector?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government do not think it necessary to know the source.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I think it is necessary, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This will be starting a discussion.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Will Government place a list of tolls in the Khasi Hills so that we can compare it with those in the Garo Hills.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, no. This question does not arise.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: May I know if the Government will make an enquiry whether there has been high rate of tolls realised from the people and there has been a good deal of dissatisfaction.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If the hon. member desires, an enquiry will be made.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The necessity has arisen now, I see. Better late than never.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

167. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—Government are aware of the agitation for a Bazar on the border of Jowai subdivision in the neighbourhood of Mukhtapur and of the inconvenience of transport to the Jaintiapur Bazar during the rainy season. But, as the opening of a rival *hat* near the Jaintiapur Bazar would seriously affect the income of the Nripa Ward's Estate whose main source of income is the Bazar, Government have recently directed that any new *hat* that may be opened in the neighbourhood must not be allowed to sit on the Nijpat Bazar days, that the rates of toll should be same in both the Bazars and that if possible the lease of the new Bazar should be granted to the Court of Wards on behalf of the proprietress of the Nripa Estate, till the debt of the estate is fully repaid.

It has been recently reported by the Commissioner of Divisions that a new Bazar has already been opened at Sripur—in the Jowai subdivision and so the question of opening of a new Bazar does not arise.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: In the reply, Government say that they realise the existence of an inconvenience to the cultivators in taking their agricultural produce for sale to that Bazar. Now, if the cultivators want to sell their produce in any other place on the same day, will Government object to that?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Why?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The answer is down in print.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Is it also not the duty of Government to see to the convenience of the people who sell their produce, and not merely the interest of one person?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know the reasons for objection.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The reason is given as "in the interest of the estate". The Government would not like to change the rate of tolls "till the debt of the estate is fully repaid".

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : But the estate is in the Sylhet district and the Bazar is going to be started in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district, so why should there be any objection to that ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The answer is there although it may not be justified.

Rev. L. GATPHOH : Will Government state the reasons for making the British subjects of the Jowai subdivision liable to pay the debt incurred by the relatives of the deposed king in the district of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadu Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : This is altogether a new question, Sir.

Rev. L. GATPHOH : Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry as to whether the report of the Commissioner is correct and whether he personally visited that place ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Government have no reason to think that the report of the Commissioner is incorrect.

Rev. L. GATPHOH : Will Government be pleased to enquire whether Sripur is in the Jowai subdivision or in the Sylhet district ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is not necessary.

Assumption of control of Motor Vehicles by the Police

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

168. (a) Are Government aware that the Police Officers granting drivers' License, have no technical qualification for the task ?

(b) Is it a fact that the police in general have no capacity to detect any motor offence except overloading ?

169. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of fines (both departmental and judicial) realised each year from the province since the assumption of control of motor vehicles by the police and the relative offences under the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules for which the fines were imposed on the drivers and owners ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what was the corresponding amount of fines imposed in each of the three years previous to that period ?

170. (a) Is it a fact that motor vehicles are condemned without any statement of grounds for such condemnation ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to direct the authorities to supply a certificate to the owners stating the defects for which the cars are condemned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

168. (a)—Officers who grant such licenses are certainly adequately qualified to do so.

(b)—No.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, the reply given to question No 168 (a) is evasive. The question was whether the Police Officers granting drivers' License have any technical qualification for the task, but the reply is that they are adequately qualified. I want to know definitely whether they are technically qualified or not.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Does my hon. friend want to know the meaning of the word "adequate"?

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, I say the reply is evasive. I want to know whether "adequately qualified" means "technically qualified" too.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend is welcome to his own conclusion, but the meaning is clear that these Officers have got sufficient knowledge to test one for driving knowledge.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: My question is whether they are technically qualified for that purpose.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If by "technically qualified" it is meant that these Officers have passed through a school of motor mechanics, the answer is "No".

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Can they drive car?

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Are they put to necessary test before they are certified to be qualified as such?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Unless the superior Officers are satisfied about the capacity of these Officers to test driving ability they will not be detailed to this duty.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: By "superior officers" does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean the Superintendents of Police and the Assistant Superintendents of Police? (*loud laughter*).

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Are they themselves qualified?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As they drive their own car they are qualified. (*laughter*).

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not desirable that in such matters a technically qualified man should be appointed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If we have to appoint technical men for the only purpose of granting driving License, the cost will be prohibitive.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to (b), may I know what other offences do they detect?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Every motor offence.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: For instance?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Violation of traffic rules.

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

169. (a)—The information is not readily available and is being obtained from the local officers.

(b)—The information is not now procurable, as the Public Works Department which was then in charge of Motor Vehicles work did not keep any statistics.

170. (a)—No. The defects are clearly stated in the certificates granted to owners.

(b)—Does not arise.

Survey of the culturable wastes in the Illam and Reserve Forest area of the Karimganj subdivision

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

171. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have made any survey of the culturable wastes in the Illam and Reserve Forest area of the Karimganj subdivision that would be available for settlement ?

(b) If so, what is the result of that survey ?

(c) Are Government aware that the people from those areas where the pressure on land is very high or the productivity of land has deteriorated, have submitted a large number of applications for settlement of these lands ?

(d) If the reply to question 171 (a) above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to explain the reason ?

(e) Did Government conduct any such enquiry at any time into the Longai, Singla or Patharia Reserve ?

(f) If so, did the enquiring authorities recommend any area in these reserves being deforested and thrown open for settlement ?

(g) If the reply to question 171 (f) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table, a descriptive list of the plots thus recommended for settlement ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

171. (a), (b), (d), (e), (f) & (g)—No, but the Forest Department will survey the Longai Reserve and is also considering the petitions regarding the Patharia. The question of Hakaluki is under the consideration of Government.

(c)—Yes.

Resolution No. 11 of the Tezpur Local Board re Local Board office building project

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

172. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received a resolution (No. 11) passed by the majority of votes by the Tezpur Local Board on 28th November 1939 about the Local Board Office building project ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

172. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In view of the fact that the orders suspending execution of the original resolution dated 29th November 1938 had been withdrawn and the Board had been allowed to draw the general purposes grant, no further action appeared to be necessary on the part of Government.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA : May I know on what consideration the orders suspending execution of the original resolution, dated 29th November 1938 had been withdrawn by the present Government ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: On receipt of the Resolution No. 11 of the 28th November 1939.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Does that resolution contain all the objections that were raised by other members of the Board ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I require notice of that question, Sir.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: On what date has the order of suspension been withdrawn ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I cannot say that without making a reference.

Jhowbari Mauza in the Bijni Pargana under the Bijni Police Station

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

173. (a) Are Government aware that a large portion of the Jhowbari Mauza in the Bijni Pargana under the Bijni Police Station is at present washed away owing to the change of course of a river ?

(b) Is it a fact that several petitions have been made to the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara and Government by the villagers to redress their grievances in connection with this matter ?

(c) Do Government propose to take any measure to ameliorate the pitiable condition of the poor villagers ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

173. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Representations have been received from some quarters but Government regret that nothing can be done till the whole question is examined by the Embankment and Drainage Division, which is proposed to be formed from next year, and for which necessary funds have been provided in the next year's budget subject to the approval of the Legislature.

Opening of the Sanskrit Section in the Bar-nadi Middle Vernacular School in Kamrup district

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

174. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education aware that the opening of the Sanskrit Section in the Bar-nadi Middle Vernacular School in Kamrup district has removed a long felt want and that it has been very much appreciated by the people ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make the arrangement permanent and to make a substantial grant for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

174. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The grant is like all other grants renewable annually.

The question of its increase will be considered along with others when funds are available.

The Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill, 1937, by Maulavi Abdul Aziz.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been approached by various hon. members of both sides of the House that some arrangement should be made for considering the Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill that was passed by this House

but which has come back from the Upper House with amendments. I find, Sir, that Government Business is very heavy, so unless you provide some extra time, that Bill may not come before the House at all during this Session. A suggestion has been made that as the Bill will take not more than 15 minutes.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It will take more than that, Sir. On the last occasion we finished the Bill in course of an hour only, and hence the trouble with it. If we are not cautious even now the same difficulty will arise again in future.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am speaking of what I was given to understand. So, Sir, if on any day you allow the House to sit for 15 minutes after the day's business, this Bill may be considered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have seen the programme, and I think it will not be possible to allot a date before the 18th as the day on which the matter could be taken up, but it will be taken up on that day if any time is saved from the question hour, *i.e.*, after the questions if any time is available from the question hour. If it be not possible to take up the matter on the 18th, then I think it could be taken up on the last day, after the close of the Government business.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No.26

[50.—Civil Works—(Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)]

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.49,16,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges)."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,16,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head 50.—Civil Works—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges)."

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.16,57,300 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications; Detailed head—5.—Petrol Tax Projects, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, the purpose of my moving this motion is to urge upon Government the necessity for improving the Barpeta-Kholabanda Road as an embanked road. Sir, this is a Public Works Department road, but to call it a road is only a misnomer; it may at best be called a fair-weather track. For about six months in the year it remains under water, and for another 3 months any wheeled traffic is impossible on this road. So the plight of the villages in its neighbourhood can easily be understood. It is one of the oldest and most important roads of the subdivision. It purports to serve about one-third of the total population of the subdivision, and the total population of the subdivision is about four lakhs. It connects the only steamer station of the subdivision with the subdivisional headquarters. It is supposed to afford transport facilities for the local crops *i.e.*, jute, mus-

tard, paddy, pulse, etc., which are in abundance in the neighbourhood. Had the road been improved as an embanked road, the importance of the subdivision would have greatly increased by this time. Unfortunately the Government are callous regarding its improvements. Barpeta seems to be a cursed place. High Government officials very seldom visit this subdivision. I am in doubt if any Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer has ever visited this road. If at any time any high Government official or an official of the Public Works Department goes to the subdivision, he goes there in the midst of the dry season, and even then goes only as far as Barpeta town only. For want of communication facilities they are afraid of going into the interior. Sir, this is the state of things in the Barpeta subdivision. As early as 1928, this road was included in the list of projects of provincial importance and was selected for improvement as an embanked road to be maintained by mechanical means. But soon after, that project was dropped, for what reason nobody knows. Of course the usual plea the Government is likely to put forward, is that there was paucity of funds. That plea is, however, not liked to be appreciated by the people of the subdivision in as much as Government is spending huge amounts elsewhere from year to year for this very item of improvement of communications, I hope the Government will take early steps to do something to effect some improvements in respect of this road. With the improvement of this road, the agriculturists of the neighbourhood will greatly be benefited; they will get higher prices for their crops and business will also improve. Formerly Kholabandha station used to serve not only the people of Barpeta, but also the people of a part of the Gauhati subdivision. Owing, however, to the very bad condition of the road, its importance has now gone down greatly. It is for this reason that I urge upon the Government to realise the plight of the people of this subdivision for want of communications, and I hope that they will see their way to improve this road by making early provision for it in the coming year. With these remarks, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.16,57,300 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—5.—Petrol Tax Projects, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: সভাপতি মহাশয়, মোব নামত ১০ নম্বৰ আৰু ১৭ নম্বৰ ছুটা cut motion আছে। সেই সম্পৰ্কে মই ইয়াতে কব খোজোঁ।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: How does this arise, Sir? The motion of the hon. member relates to toll realisation on bridges in the Sibsagar division whereas this is as regards Barpeta-Kholabandha road.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That does not come in at all. The hon. member wants to discuss quite a different matter unconnected with the matter moved.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: This motion refers to the Barpeta Kholabandha road. This is truly not an all-weather road but as the hon. member has rightly described it, it is only a cold weather track. He has said that for six months in the year it remains under water. The facts are these. From November to April this road carries all kinds of traffic; but in May only small wheeled traffic is carried on this road

and for the rest of the year, from June to October the road remains under water. Government recognise the importance of the road and it has been described as the most important and oldest road of the subdivision by that hon. mover. Having regard to the importance of the road Government has in the past examined the feasibility of making further improvement in that road and, if to-day I am not able to accept the suggestion of the hon. mover it is not merely because of the paucity of funds but for other reasons. In the year 1934, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Michael Keane, visited Barpeta and he was presented with an address in which the people of Barpeta subdivision prayed for raising the level of this road above flood level. He had the matter enquired into by the Chief Engineer. The hon. mover has said that no Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer ever visited that place. But Mr. Burke, the former Chief Engineer, himself enquired into the matter. And this is what he says in his report: "By making an embankment road between Barpeta and Kholabanda we should be enclosing an area of some 800 to 1,000 square miles with no outlet for the Brahmaputra floods except through bridge openings, which cannot by themselves cope with a flood stream. The road itself will go straight across the flood stream of the Brahmaputra. The Eastern Bengal Railway would probably have something to say about as it would intensify the floods along their railway embankment, so also would the cultivators in the large area affected. I therefore do not regard it as such a simple engineering problem as might at first appear and even doubt whether we shall find it easy to maintain."

Even after that, Mr. Taylor, the Superintending Engineer, made a detailed investigation into the matter and his view was that these 13 miles of road would cost Rs.4,78,000 and even then it will not be possible to have a permanent access to the steamerghat at Kholabandha.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Burke did not consider it a sound proposition and Sir Michael Keane accepted that view and the proposal was dropped. As I have pointed out, Government did examine the possibility of improving the road. In view of these difficulties, it has not been possible for Government to put it before the Communications Board and we have no other alternative but to maintain it as a cold weather track.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: May I enquire whether the road was included in the List of Provincial Projects in 1928 for examination by the Committee?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: This road was included in the Road System, but was not selected for improvement from the Second Road Board Programme.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: May I know whether the character of this road as well as the surrounding areas have not totally undergone a change in the meantime?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The matter was enquired into as late as in January 1936 and we do not think that during the course of these two years there has been such a substantial change. Even then we are prepared to enquire whether there was such a substantial change in the character of the countryside as to justify revision of our present views.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion. The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.1,60,000 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head (b) Communications, Detailed head—6(ii)—Local Board Projects, at page 184 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500, do stand reduced by Rs.101.

The intention of my moving this motion is to censure Government for not taking up the Local Board projects.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tax on motors were realised by Local Boards and the money realised formed a part of the communications grant from the Local Boards. But now these things have changed and the collection of the tax on motors and vehicles have been taken over by Government. And since 1938, we have been hearing that after collection charges are taken, the money will be given to the Local Boards for the road projects which is called technically the secondary road project. But when Local Boards were consulted with regard to this, I understand that many Local Boards have sent programmes with regard to particular subdivisions. But since 1938, they have taken no action to give effect to these projects and we find that projects to the tune of Rs.1,67,000 have been accumulated and nothing has been done to give effect to the recommendations of the Local Boards. Also, Sir, nothing has been done as yet to get the recommendations of the Local Boards which have not yet sent in their recommendations. I, therefore, press that the Government should take immediate steps so that these projects that came from the Local Boards are given effect to and those Local Boards that have not yet replied may be asked to send them immediately.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.1,60,000 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head(b) Communications, Detailed head—6(ii)—Local Board Projects, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500, do stand reduced by Rs.101

Mr. N. DAWSON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a great deal of sympathy for the hon. mover of this motion. It is difficult for us to know on whom to lay the blame for the delay which has occurred in carrying out the projects submitted by the Local Boards: It may be the Government or it may be partly the Local Boards themselves. But whoever is at fault, this dilatory method of conducting business is not conducive to soothing the nerves of an already sorely tried public. As long ago as the 20th March, 1939, Local Boards were asked by Government to formulate schemes for the improvement of the roads in their particular areas and to submit them to the Executive Engineers concerned by the 15th May of that year. Whether this was done or not I am not in a position to say. But what I do know is that the schemes submitted by different Local Boards have just reached the Commissioner. That is to say, practically a whole year has elapsed between the date of the Government letter calling for schemes and the receipt of those schemes by the Commissioner. I freely admit that a certain amount of time must be allowed for consideration and for framing an estimate of any scheme pertaining to road communication. But I consider that a period of 12 months is entirely unwarranted. It is for Government to say where the delay has occurred and to take appropriate action. The whole countryside is crying for improvement of secondary roads. The money is available; but in spite of that little or nothing has been done. I would appeal to Government to get rid of this apparent slackness, to speed things up and to ensure that the public will not be subjected to these irritating and what appear to be inexcusable delays.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Sir, I would like to speak a few words on this motion and I will just refer to the Dhubri Local Board. Sir, we have submitted our scheme, but Government is not taking action in the matter because they find that some of the Local Boards have not yet submitted their schemes and unless Government can consider the schemes of all the Local Boards they are not in a position to distribute the money according to the schemes submitted by the Local Boards. But I like to request the

Government that those Local Boards who have not yet submitted their schemes, their case might be deferred because it seems that they do not want the money, but those Local Boards who have already submitted their schemes, their case should be taken up immediately. My submission is that first of all Government made a eight years' scheme. Afterwards they altered it to a four years' scheme as the money which they realised seemed to be more than what they expected. Now Government should take up those schemes that have been submitted by the different Local Boards at an early date and should not wait for the other Local Boards who have not yet submitted their schemes. I hope the work will begin without further delay and with these few words, I resume my seat.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of the mover of this motion seems to be that he wants to censure Government for not taking up the projects of the Local Boards in the province. But I do not think this is in order because the Local Boards are primarily responsible for the maintenance of their roads as the whole amount of local rate realised goes to fill the coffers of the Local Boards. Local rates are mostly spent for the purpose of maintaining the roads for which a Local Board is responsible. There is also the Tea Cess Fund from which the Local Boards sometimes get contribution for the maintenance of roads. But in order to bring the general condition of the Local Boards to the notice of the Government I may say that Government may come forward with the direction to all the Local Boards that they should prepare a scheme for 8 years, or 10 years or 15 years and it may be taken up and partly completed from the Government contribution which is annually made to the Local Boards.

Sir, the Local Board of Habiganj, I may say, has to maintain approximately 600 miles of roads. The money which the Board spends particularly for the maintenance of that portion of the road that lies in the lowlying areas is a sheer waste. Every cold season they put earth work on this portion of the road but during the rains the whole of the earth work is washed away. No permanent improvement can be made on such roads by any Local Board. So my suggestion to the Government is that they should urge upon the Local Boards to prepare a scheme, no matter whether they complete that scheme within 10 or 20 years. But if annually they make some palpable improvement on the roads that will continue for some years it will save the Local Board from recurring expenditure. Now the amount distributed by Government to the Local Boards has been reduced to a very small amount. I can speak of my Local Board, that is the Habiganj Local Board. This Local Board formerly received Rs.33,000 towards original work of roads, but that has been reduced to Rs.9,000 in course of 10 years. With this Rs.9,000 the Local Board is not in a position even to do the surface work of those roads which they maintain.

Sir, again to come to local affairs, the other day I brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that the Habiganj Sherpur Road which is the only possible inter-link with Sylhet Sadar should be taken up by Government. If this road can be taken up with little improvement and gravelling, this will connect Habiganj town with Sylhet town and it will make the communication so easy that one starting from Habiganj at 6 in the morning will reach Sylhet at 11. But the railway communication is so embarrassing that it takes almost one day to reach Sylhet from Habiganj. If one is to come in the day time he is to start from Habiganj at 8 in the morning to reach Sylhet in the evening and if one starts from Habiganj at 11 O'clock at night he will arrive at Sylhet on the following morning.

Sir, the road I mentioned above is an easier road and this being the only convenient road linking Habiganj and Sylhet, I would urge upon the Government that they should look to the interest of the public and take up this project. I may also tell the Hon'ble Minister that very recently it was inspected by the Deputy Commissioner and the Divisional Commissioner and about a month ago the Executive Engineer also visited the locality and I understand a scheme has been prepared and submitted to Government. If this scheme be taken up by Government that will remove a long felt inconvenience to the public. With these words I urge upon the Government that they will look to the interest of our local Boards.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I agree with hon. Mr. Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri and hon. Mr. Dawson that there has been delay in taking up these projects. But I shall explain that the fault is not of the Department. Under section 21 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, two-thirds of the surplus proceeds after deducting the cost of imposition and collection is to be devoted for the improvement of the Local Board roads and we have constituted separate funds for it. Now, Sir, Government have decided to take up some of the Local Boards' schemes with the money available from this fund and money for this has been provided in the Budget also. As far back as 20th March 1939, as has been pointed out by Mr. Dawson, the Government addressed a letter to all the Local Boards to submit their schemes not later than 15th of May to the Executive Engineer of their respective divisions who will forward it to the Deputy Commissioner and it will reach Government through the Commissioner. So far, Sir, we have not received any scheme from the Local Boards of Silchar, Hailakandi, Jorhat, and Karimganj and this has held up our work of taking up the schemes and putting it before the Board. We shall, Sir, again send reminders to these Boards and as soon as we receive their replies, we shall consolidate them into a statement and put it before the Communications Board. I can assure the House that there will not be any undue delay in this matter. We could not so long proceed with the work only because we did not get the reply from these Boards. As soon as we get the recommendation of the Communications Board we shall push on with the work.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: As regards the scheme just now referred to by the Hon'ble Minister, may we know whether it was for five years and whether Rs.15,000 was provided for each Local Board?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The money saved out of the proceeds of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act will be utilized for this purpose.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Was it for 6 or 8 years?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, it was for eight years.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. When the work will be started?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: We shall again send reminders to all the Boards to send the schemes. We cannot take up the work before next cold weather.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: In view of what I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister, I do not like to press my motion.

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

The Hon'ble the Speaker: The next motion* stands in the name of Srijut Kameswar Das.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: No, Sir, I do not like to move.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then comes the motion in the name of Srijut Sarveswar Barua. Will he move it?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.20,18,300 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A—Original works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total), at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my motion is to draw the attention of the House to the failure of the Government to restore the Kamalabari North-Lakhimpur Road to its former condition. The subdivision of North Lakhimpur is a singularly out of the way place. It has got no railway communication altogether and is out of touch with the main line of Steamer service also. Dibrugarh—its district head-quarter—is inaccessible from North-Lakhimpur except through Jorhat, the head-quarter of another district. Tezpur is 25 miles away and intervened by turbulent hill rivers like the Dikrang, the Burai and the Bharali—leaving aside the Bargang which is now being bridged. The nearest railway station is at Kokilamukh across the Brahmaputra, opposite Kamalabari which is 28 miles from the town of North Lakhimpur. This had been the only outlet for the subdivision for many years and the road to Kamalabari had recently been improved and gravelled by the Public Works Department resulting in the establishment of a regular bus service which continued for about five years till the road was badly damaged by the unprecedented high flood of 1938, causing several breaches from the 11th to the 25th mile. Since then, the road has remained closed to vehicular traffic during the rainy season and the travelling public have experienced the greatest possible difficulty and inconvenience in having to travel by road up to Badatighat and then by the feeder steamer to Subansirimukh and then by the Mail steamer to Kokilamukh taking a two days' journey in place of one day. This difficult situation has made North Lakhimpur a most out of the way place during the rainy season. so much so that Government Officers do not like to go to North Lakhimpur which has been called the "Andamans of Assam." The visits of the Departmental Heads and the Hon'ble Ministers also are very few and far between—the local officers practically enjoying *Dominion Status* if not full *Independence* in the Subdivision.

The local public including the Tea Planters and merchants have cried hoarse for the improvement of the road. They had passed resolutions and sent representations to the Government for early restoration of the road but the Department after preparing estimates and having repaired the portion lying in the Sibsagar district, *i. e.*, between the Tuni and the Subansiri has left the breaches between the Subansiri and the 11th mile post unrepaired. We are told that the Department has abandoned the idea of repairing and restoring this portion of the road to its pre-flood condition of an all-weather

*That the provision of Rs.20,18,300 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head (b) Communications (total), at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To criticise Government for neglect of improvement of communications in backward subdivision like Barpeta.)

motorable road. But inspite of this decision we find them re-gravelling the restored portion of the road between the Subansiri and the Tuni at a huge cost of Rs.29,000 or so. This portion of the road has no provincial importance apart from its use as linking up North Lakhimpur with Jorhat. Still the Department has curiously enough thought fit to spend this large sum in repairing and gravelling this portion of a road which they are contemplating to abandon.

With regard to the importance of this road there can be no question. It links up the north bank with the south bank of the Brahmaputra and serves as an outlet for a large area unserved by any railway or steamer service. It is a feeder road to a railway station and does not run counter to the interest of any railway. It would provide the shortest, cheapest and safest mail route to North Lakhimpur which now misses the Calcutta and Shillong Mails about 8 days a month on the average owing to the unreliable steamer services. A letter from Dibrugarh and any other place in the south bank in Upper Assam takes 3 or 4 days to reach North Lakhimpur. Sir, in these circumstances, I hope the House will realise the imperative necessity of restoring the unrepaired portion of the road and will support my motion. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 20,18,300 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total), at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,16,500, do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Maulvi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Sir, I can tell my hon. friend Mr. Sarveswar Barua at once that the Government is actually acting under the very suggestion that he has made. As a matter of fact this road was badly damaged in the flood of 1938, and because of the huge cost involved in our repairing it, it was at one time proposed to abandon a certain portion of this road. But subsequently there was a great public demand and in response to that demand Government have instructed the Executive Engineer to survey the land so that the road may be restored to the condition in which it was before the flood. I hope in view of the position explained by me the hon. mover will see his way to withdraw his motion.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr D. B. H. MOORE : I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 10,000 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,16,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, no one can deny that the improvement in the Assam Trunk roads during the past 10 years has been something approaching phenomenal. Other main roads have also shown marked improvement, but as the natural result of this development, road traffic has increased, particularly mechanical transport, and far greater speeds are possible now than were possible ten years ago.

Unhappily this development, both in the number and speed of mechanical vehicles has brought in its train a number of problems for which it is now necessary to find a solution.

One of these problems is the severe corrugation which is now occurring on long stretches of the shingled roads of the province. Those who own cars will bear me out when I say that at the present time there are long lengths of shingled roads in this province which are so badly corrugated as to make motoring at a moderate speed a matter of acute discomfort. By a process of trial and error, motorists have now discovered that the only way of even partly eliminating the deplorable effects caused by these corrugations is to proceed at speeds in excess of about 40 miles an hour. Travelling at speed above this rate, the corrugations become comparatively smoothed out and the appalling vibration movement is reduced to a minimum.

Here then, Sir, is my first point. Corrugated roads encourage high speeds, which in turn are the cause of many of the accidents which are occurring now-a-days on the roads with increasing frequency and seriousness. It must also be borne in mind that the severe vibrations set up by these corrugated roads cause enormous wear and tear to motor vehicles thereby multiplying the risk of accidents occurring due to defect of mechanical parts.

We know that this problem of corrugated roads is a comparatively new one and one that up to now has defied a satisfactory solution. The same problem has arisen in America where vastly larger funds are available. There also the same difficulties in finding a solution are being experienced. Nevertheless we feel the problem is one which the Government should tackle with as little delay as possible.

Repeated top-dressing of the shingled roads is known to offer a temporary solution, as also consolidation of the road surface. But whatever method is adopted, we urge upon the Government the need of intensive research to remove this latest danger to motoring in the province.

Again, Sir, we wish to draw the attention of Government to the unsatisfactory methods adopted in stacking road metal on shingled and other roads. How often do we see heaps of road metal thrown on the road-side in such a way as to make two-way traffic impossible. The lorry contractors who dump this metal adopt the simple expedient of opening the back or sides of the lorry and shovelling the metal on to the nearest convenient spot, regardless of whether such action interferes with the traffic. The inevitable result is that in a large number of places along the trunk roads as well as other main roads two-way traffic is impossible with any degree of safety, and the unfortunate driver on the shingle-dump side of the road suddenly meeting an on-coming car has either the option of colliding violently with the on-coming car or mounting the shingle dumps. Neither course is to be particularly recommended. In day time this is extremely unpleasant, and at night in the glare of head-lights it is very dangerous.

If the Department concerned would issue strict instructions that dumps of road metal are not to be placed under any circumstances, in such a way as to interfere with two-way traffic, it would earn the gratitude of motorists and at the same time remove another real source of danger.

Lastly, Sir, where for any reason it is found necessary to throw up fresh earth-work, it would be appreciated if arrangements could be made either for bamboo matting to be put down immediately or the earth-work shingled, so that when rain comes—as it invariably does come as soon as any earth-work is undertaken—cars, lorries and even bullock carts negotiating the earth-work will not become hopelessly bogged.

About two weeks ago the approaches to some six large *pucca* bridges between Dibrugarh and Jorhat were treated with fresh earth. Down came the rain—there was **NO matting**—no shingle. There were, however, a very large number of cars, lorries and carts all axle-deep in mud quite

immoveable. A little fore-thought would have avoided such a spectacle which, while affording considerable hilarity and no little revenue to the on-lookers, did not reflect particular credit on the Public Works Department and was a source of intense irritation to the drivers.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 10,000 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—I.—Ordinary Roads, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 49,16,500, do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : I am thankful, Sir, to the hon. Mr. Moore, as he has not only raised the question of corrugation and traced its causes, and has also suggested a solution. The problem of corrugation is not a problem which is peculiar to India. This is a recognised road problem for which no cheap solution has yet been found. As Mr. Moore has explained, there has been a considerable development of motor transport because of the improved roads that we have and the speed at which they travel is the main cause of corrugation. Until we can afford a better road specification than gravel, I am afraid, we shall have to put up with this trouble. The Superintending Engineer during his last inspection tour at Dibrugarh and Tinsukia found that there is a good deal of corrugation on the road and he has asked the Executive Engineer to submit proposals for dealing with the problem.

On the question of stacking road metal, I shall read out to the House a Circular which we propose to issue in this connection. It is addressed to all Executive Engineers in Assam.

"The berms of all roads are an essential part of its carriage way and must not be blocked by heaps of gravel, metal, chips, tar barrels, etc.

It has been found that the carriage way of many miles of road in the plains has been restricted to 15 feet or even less by the stacking of gravel on the berms.

Contractors prefer to box gravel, etc., on the berms as it saves them carriage by hand both when boxing and spreading.

As there is no objection to gravel, etc., standing in water during a flood, except in the few exceptional cases where the current is strong enough to wash it away, there is no excuse for allowing contractors to make use of the berms except in high embankments where the gravel, etc., if stacked at the toe of the slope, will be entirely submerged and consequently lost.

Special attention must be paid to roads through cutting where the carriage way is already restricted and where it is essential that the side drains remain clean and unobstructed.

Consequently, no materials of any description are to be stacked on the berms in cuttings. Where necessary the hillside must be cut back to provide stacking platforms of a minimum size to take a lorry load of gravel, chips, etc.

Please therefore issue written instructions to all your gravel collection contractors that no gravel is to be stacked on the berms except in those miles or furlongs for which permission in writing has been given by a Public Works Department officer not below the rank of Sectional Officer. This permission should only be given for those lengths along which it is not possible to avoid using the berm and must never be given in cuttings.

When the berm has to be used, the stacks should be as close to the edge of the road as possible and along one side only.

Where the road is very wide there is no objection to using the berm provided a carriage way of not less than 30' is left clear of all obstructions.

No cross drains are to be dug across any berm within a 30' wide carriage way. The need for a cross drain is an indication either that the berm has been allowed to grow too high or that the camber of the road is insufficient.

Rectification of either or both of these faults will remove all necessity for any cross drains."

I hope the facts stated in the circular will remove the grievance of the hon. member.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Sir, I very much appreciate the assurance the Hon'ble Minister has given us, but I am afraid, he did not quite understand the suggestion we made. I referred to the corrugation which is now occurring on long stretches of the shingled roads of the province. Our suggestion is that top dressing should be applied over all these bad stretches of road as quickly as possible. Shingle thus spread over the badly corrugated surface of the road, will have the desired effect.

However, on the facts stated by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.1,50,000 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—2.—Tea rates works, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving this token cut of Re.1, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the hon. members of this House not only to the deplorable condition of the Silchar-Doomerghat road in Cachar, but also to the extraordinary position which has developed—a position which has caused a petition signed by 3,000 local residents to be placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Works.

This road, some 9 miles in length, connects Silchar with Doomerghat and was metalled in 1934-35 at a cost of approximately Rs.35,000 from the Tea Rates Road Fund as it then was. From Doomerghat onwards a metalled road was already in existence, but like Noah and his famous Ark, it remained high and dry until the necessary connecting link was established. However, once the new piece of road had been completed it appeared that our troubles were over and that a new era had dawned—no one could foresee that the Local Board would refuse to take this new construction over, for lack of funds; no one could foresee that Government also would neither help the Local Board with a grant, nor even have anything to do with the matter; the Tea Rates Road Fund, having provided the capital, flatly refused to aid in the upkeep. So there was a very nice new metalled road, which for a time remained ownerless, a veritable Cinderella of a road.

Thus the position remained for some time until the Local Board took over the road on the understanding that they would upkeep it at the same rate as previously, namely Rs. 100 per mile. This as the hon. members will realise, is an entirely inadequate figure for a *pucca* road; consequently with great rapidity deterioration set in until last year the road was closed for two months, and it is anticipated that once the rains commence this will again occur, but this time it will be for the whole season. After that I need hardly emphasize that by 1942, if nothing is done in the interim, it will be completely liquidated—as they say in America—as will also the Rs.35,000 original outlay so painfully extracted from the Tea Rates Road Fund,

I therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Works to take compassion on us and to place the road under the Public Works Department for upkeep. If this is not done, not only will the original cost be a complete loss, and bus owners, carrier services and the local residents be placed in great distress, but also a valuable link in province's communications will be destroyed for lack of the proverbial stich in time.

With these words, I recommend my motion for the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.1,50,000 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—2.—Tea rates works, at page 184 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.49,16,500 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : I received a petition this morning which Mr. Moore referred to in his speech. We shall look into the matter and see in what way we can help him in the matter.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY : In view of what the Hon'ble Minister has told just now, I beg leave of the House, to withdraw the motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,16,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head 50.—Civil Works—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant charges)."

The motion was adopted.

GRANT No. 22

(41.—VETERINARY)

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,95,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,95,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head—41.—Veterinary".

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.53,872 under Grant No.22, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—A—Superintendence (total), at page 166 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,95,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

The whole object of my motion is not to criticise a particular Officer, but to criticise the step-motherly treatment with which the Hon'ble Finance Minister treated this Department. Before the inauguration of the Reforms all the money of the Provincial Exchequer were engulfed by General Administration and Police, but after the inauguration of the Government of India Act, 1935, we thought matters will change. But, Sir, even to-day we find that in Assam, in spite of its revenue to the tune of 3 crores, only 1 lakh 95 thousand has been provided for this important nation-building Department.

All the flesh and juice have been taken away by the General Administration and Police and only dry bones have been left for this Department. When I find this I am tempted to state what the Hon'ble Finance Minister stated the other day. I am tempted to repeat the proverb quoted by him,

“বায়ের চেয়ে দরদ যার বেশী সে হয় জাইনী”

The Hon'ble Finance Minister sheds crocodile tears for the nation-building departments but when it comes to actual figures we find, Sir, no money is provided for the development of the said departments.

Sir, so far as this Department is concerned, we find that there are 58 lakhs of cattle in this province, but we have got only 44 doctors. It comes to one doctor for about 1 lakh 20 thousand cattle, not to speak of other animals. Again, Sir, we find that when epidemics break out, cattle and other animals die in numbers and no proper relief is given. There is no particular Officer who is in charge of this Department; we have got only 4 Inspectors for the whole province, and roughly about one Veterinary Assistant for each subdivision. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to Government to provide more money for this Department so that each thana may have one Veterinary Assistant. I would also testify to the good work done by these Veterinary Field Assistants, who were appointed by the last Government; they are doing immense service. So, much useful purpose would be served by increasing the number of these Field Assistants. Therefore, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command, I urge upon the Government to provide more money and more Officers for this Department, so that we may effectively tackle the problems arising from time to time.

As a particular instance, I can cite that last year all throughout the Sylhet district, particularly in South Sylhet, epidemics broke out, and about one-third of the cattle died.

This state of things is most deplorable, and I hope Government will do everything possible to increase the grant for this Department so that real good may be done to the animals, and through them to the agriculturists who form 95 per cent. of our population.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.58,872 under Grant No.22, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—A—Superintendence (total), at page 166 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,95,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101.”

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. I realise the inadequacy of the provision and the insufficiency of the staff, but we should simply urge upon Government the necessity for providing more money but not to criticise the Government. I have repeatedly mentioned on previous occasions that the provision for this Department is extremely inadequate. The Superintendent of the Department had an interview with me at Tura, and I proposed to him that four centres should be opened in the Garo Hills, and I also showed him the suitable places in the map. I brought to his notice the deplorable condition of the cattle all

throughout the district. But for Tura town alone we do not require any Veterinary Surgeon, because no cultivators live near Tura, but if four Veterinary Surgeons are provided in the places proposed by me, one of them may be placed at Tura. But up till now no action has been taken with regard to my proposal. So, my request to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge is that suitable arrangements may be made for remedying the sufferings of the cultivators in my district, particularly along the outskirts of the district—not in the interior because no cattle disease breaks out in the interior. So, we require arrangements along the outskirts of the district—from Kamrup district to Goalpara, and from Rangpur to the border of Mymensing district. This is a big strip of land. So we want not one or two Veterinary Surgeons, but at least four for our district.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই গ্রাণ্ট সম্বন্ধে আমার একটা cut motion আছে ; এই প্রসঙ্গেই আমি একটু আলোচনা করিব।

গোয়ালপাড়া সাবডিভিসনের দৈর্ঘ্য প্রায় ৬০ মাইল এবং প্রস্থ প্রায় ৪০ মাইল হইবে। এই সাবডিভিসনে ৩ টি থানা—গোয়ালপাড়া সদর, লক্ষীপুর, উত্তর শাল-মারা এবং ছখনই—ইহার মধ্যস্থানে প্রায় ৬ মাইল প্রস্থ প্রবাহিত বিশাল বৃক্ষপুত্রনদী এবং আভ্যন্তরীণ ও নদ-নদীময়, পাহাড় অক্ষয়কার্ণ। গোয়ালপাড়া সাউথ বেঙ্গে একটি মাত্র রাস্তা আছে—ইটা ও লক্ষীপুর হইতে ধুবড়ী সাউথ বেঙ্গে ব্যাপী ভূমিকম্পে ও বতায় বিধ্বস্ত হইয়া গিয়াছে। এই মহকুমায় প্রায় ৩ লক্ষ লোকের বাস হইবে। তাহাদের শতকরা ৯৯ জনই কৃষক। তাহারা গরুর দ্বারা হাল কর্ষণ করিয়া জীবিকা নির্বাহ করে। কৃষকদের একমাত্র সম্পদ ও সম্বল গরু। ভূমিকম্পে এবং উপর্যুপরি অকাল প্রাণনে, অনাবৃষ্টি ও অত্যধিক বৃষ্টি হওয়ায় এবং অজন্মায় তাহাদের ছরবস্থার সীমা চরমে গিয়া পৌছিয়াছে। সাময়িক ভাবে তাহাদিগকে গভর্ণমেন্ট রিলিফ ও কৃষি লোন দিয়া রক্ষা করা হইয়াছে বটে, কিন্তু অবশেষে তাহারা তাহাদের শেষ সম্বল হালের গরু বিক্রি করিয়া জীবন রক্ষা করিতে আরম্ভ করিলে ঠিক সেই সময় কণেরা, বসন্ত, গলাফুলা ইত্যাদি সংক্রামক এবং ব্যাপক পীড়ায় দৈনিক শত শত গরু মরিয়া গ্রামের পর গ্রাম উজার হইয়া গিয়াছে। লক্ষীপুর থানার অধিকাংশ স্থানে মানুষ মরার পূর্বে এক ফোটা ঔষধ খাইয়া মরিতে পারেনা—বিনা চিকিৎসায় অকালে মরিতে হইতেছে ; আর গরুর ঔষধ কোথায় মিলে ? গোয়ালপাড়া টাউনে এই বিভাগের একটি মাত্র পশুচিকিৎসালয় আছে। লক্ষীপুর থানার খবর ডাকে ধুবড়ী হইয়া গোয়ালপাড়া পৌছিতে ৩৪ দিন লাগে। স্থলপথে ৩০।৪০ মাইল দূর দুর্গম পাহাড়ের মধ্য দিয়া মহিষের গাড়ীতে যাইতেও ২১৩ দিন লাগে। জলপথে একদিনের পর একদিন ষ্টীমার—ইহাতেও ২১৩ দিনের দরকার হয়। মোট কথা, পশু পীড়ার দর্যাস্ত প্রথম চেয়ারম্যানের নিকট পছঁছিতে ৫।৭ দিন, ডাক্তারের নিকট পছঁছিতে ৫।৭ দিন, ডাক্তারের ঔষধ সংগ্রহ করিতে ৫।৭ দিন, গাড়ী ঘোড়ায় পাহাড় নদী পার হইয়া পীড়ার স্থানে সরজমিনে পৌছিতে ৫।৬ দিন—মোট ৩।৪ সপ্তাহ গত হয়। ইত্যবসরে পীড়া আক্রান্ত গ্রামে ডাক্তার পৌছিয়া আর

চিকিৎসা করিতে হয়না; অর্থাৎ মরিবার অ'র বাকী থাকেনা। বাস্তবিকই এতবড় একটা মহকুমার চিকিৎসা থানার লক্ষ লক্ষ পশু চিকিৎসা করা একজন ডাক্তারের পক্ষে কিছুতেই সম্ভবপর হয়না। সেইজন্য লক্ষীপুর, গোয়ালপাড়া, ওধনই থানার অন্ততঃ একফাজার গরু বিনা চিকিৎসায় অকালে মারিয়াছে; এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট রিপোর্টে ৫,৫৪৬টি পশু আরোগ্য লাভ করিয়াছে বলিয়া দেখা যায়।

এই অবস্থায় গরু কৃষকদের গরু মরায় হাল কর্ষণ করিবার জন্ত তাহারা যথ্য প্রাতিমন ২১০ টাকার স্থলে ১২ টাকায়, পাট ৭২ টাকার স্থলে ৩২ টাকায় এবং মরিষা ৫২ টাকার স্থলে ২২ টাকায় অগ্রিম বিক্রি করিয়া গরু বন্দি করিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছে এবং কতক প্রাতি মরশুমের জন্ত হাল প্রাতি ৬৭ মন খান, পাট, মরিষা দেওয়ার বন্দোবস্তে গরু ভাড়া নিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছে। এই ভাবে তাহাদের উপা-জ্জিত শস্তাদি স্লেগ শোধ করিতে নিঃশেষ হইয়া যানিতেছে। শুধু কৃষকদের গরু বিনা চিকিৎসায় অকালে মরায় জন্ত তাহারা সারাবৎসর কঠোর পরিশ্রম করিয়াও নিজেদের পেটের ভাত, পরণের কাপড় যোগাড় করিতে পারিতেছেন—কাজেই স্লেগ দায়ে মহাজন এবং খাজানার দায়ে জমিদার ঘটা, বাট, জমি নিলাম করিয়া নিয়া অবশেষে তাহাদিগকে ভিটা ছাড়া করিতেছে।

মহোদয়, কৃষক দেশের মেরুদণ্ড; কৃষকদের রক্ষা করিতে হইলে, গো-জাতিকে তৎপূর্ব অবস্থায় রাখার ব্যবস্থা ক্রিতে হইবে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনার বক্তৃতা একটু সংক্ষেপ করুন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট যখনই দেশের অভাবের কথা জানান হয়, তখনই উত্তর পাওয়া যায়—টাকা নাই। আমি বলি কৃষকদের উপাঞ্জিত টাকা কৃষকদের রক্ষার জন্ত ব্যয় করা হউক। প্রত্যেক থানার উৎপন্ন রপ্তানিকৃত পাটের দরুণ ইতিপূর্বে গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে জুট-ডেউটি বাবৎ আসাম গভর্ণমেন্ট যে টাকা পান, অংশ হিসাবে সেই পরিমাণ টাকা দিয়া প্রত্যেক থানায় একটি করিয়া পশু চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা করিতে এবার দৃঢ়ভাবে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

গোয়ালপাড়ার উপরোক্ত অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে আসাম ভেলীর কমিশনার, ভেটেরিনেরী ডাইরেক্টর, চেয়ারম্যান, এসিস্টেন্ট সার্জন—তাহাদের রিপোর্টে ট্রিসব ছুরবস্তার বিষয় এবং তজ্জন্ত লক্ষীপুরে শীত্রই একটি পশু চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপনের আবশ্যিকতা ইন্স্পেকশন্ নোটে স্বাক্ষর করিয়াছেন। গোয়ালপাড়া বোর্ডের কাছে টাকা না থাকায় একান্ত ইচ্ছা স্বত্বেও উহা করিতে পারা যাইতেছেন। অতএব বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট উক্ত লক্ষীপুরে অগোনে একটি পশু চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপন করিবার জন্ত অনুরোধ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

আমাদের অভাবের বিষয় আমরা হাউসে জানাইলে গভর্ণমেন্ট পক্ষ হইতে শুধু প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াই মাননীয় মন্ত্রীগণ তাহাদের কর্তব্য সামাধা করেন। আমি আশা করি

এবার তাহারা শুধু মুখের মিষ্ট কথায় আশা দিগকে মস্তষ্ট না করিয়া অভাবগ্রহ নিরূপায় কৃষকদের অভাব পূরণ করিয়া তাহাদিগের রক্ষার জন্য তাহাদের অকৃত্রিম শুভ ইচ্ছার এবং সংসাহসের পরিচয় পাইবার কামনা করি।

পূৰ্ব্বমেন্টে হইতে উক্ত লক্ষীপুরের ডিম্পেন্সারীর জন্য উপযুক্ত গ্রাণ্টের মঞ্জুরী পাইলেই মেছপাড়া ষ্টেটে জমি ও তহপরি নুতন ধৰে করিবার নিমিত্তে স্বীকার করিয়াছেন।

Srijut PARAMANANDA DAS: My constituency, *viz.*, Lakhipur has been visited in successive years with cattle epidemics, and therefore it requires the services of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon very badly. The Local Board of Goalpara, in a resolution passed on the 20th November requested the Government, through the Deputy Commissioner, to provide a sum of Rs.1,000 (recurring) for the entertainment of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Lakhipur as the Board was not in a position to provide the whole amount out of its own funds. The Local Board provided Rs.500 in the last Budget, but when we went up to the Commissioner, the Commissioner replied:—"It is quite useless to approach Government for a grant for the purpose, as, if given, it will mean depriving some other Board of some benefit at least equally necessary." So, Sir, the reply is a very callous one. The Goalpara Local Board has already provided Rs.500 and it cannot provide any more, and so the people are feeling great distress. From experience we know that the locality is very suitable for the spread of cattle epidemics. So in the fitness of things Government should come forward to lend its helping hand in the matter so that the Goalpara Local Board may appoint a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. member who has mooted this motion. It is practically an omnibus motion and various issues have been raised under it. I wish I had sufficient time at my disposal to deal with all the issues one by one, and if I had time I could convince the House that the charges levelled against the Government were not wholly justified. I think I cannot go beyond my time.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Why not?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may proceed for a few minutes.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: We have been charged that we have treated this Department with step-motherly treatment, but in the course of my reply it will be found that this is not so. The hon. member is certainly mistaken when he says that there are only 44 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in this province. Even at the present moment the number is 61. Of these:—

Forty-four have been lent to Local Boards,

Five are posted in hill districts,

Two are staff Veterinary Assistant Surgeons for special work,

Four are stationary Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, and

Six are reserved for leave vacancies and epidemic duties. The number is 50 per cent. more than the hon. member puts it at.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: And therefore more than enough?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Well, I admit, Sir, that it is not possible to cope with the epidemics in all situations that arise as much as in the case of human beings as in the case of four-footed animals, but the earnestness and the endeavours of the Government are there.

For information of hon. members, I may state that the average area under one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon is half a subdivision—the number of villages under each being 1500, and the number of livestock under the care of each Veterinary Assistant Surgeon is over 1 lakh. The chief cattle diseases prevalent are rinderpest, anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, foot-and-mouth disease, helminthiasis and surra in horses. Rinderpest is the worst kind of disease and is alone responsible for more than half the cattle mortality.

To appreciate the correct position, I would request hon. members to look at these figures which will amply testify to what the Government have been doing to combat cattle diseases and for the preservation of the bovine race.

The total number of cattle in Assam in 1935 was 5,448,670. The total cattle mortality in 1938-39 was 54,263 (that is 1 per cent.) of which 27,600 died from rinderpest alone. (To this must be added the cattle that are killed by poisons, and their number is not very scanty.) Special stress is therefore laid to control rinderpest, particularly by preventive vaccination. The present Director of the Department replaced costly and less efficient rinderpest serum with highly efficient and incredibly cheap goat-tissue-vaccine. Goat-vaccine has become immensely popular with the raiyats, so that call for it comes from most distant corners, and the work is tremendously increasing as may be seen from the figures quoted below:—

In 1933-34	the number treated was	2,733.
„ 1934-35	„ „	20,396.
„ 1935-36	„ „	70,081.
„ 1936-37	„ „	1,11,857.
„ 1937-38	„ „	1,25,521.
„ 1938-39	„ „	2,76,814.

From above it is evident that in course of six years the increase in treatment (since 1933-34) has been more than 100 times, a no negligible improvement in the state of things!

That shows the activities of this Department and the earnestness with which the Government has been trying to cope with the mortality. Mortality amongst the vaccinated is less than negligible, *i.e.*, 1 per cent. only. The happiest feature is that if rinderpest serum were to be used for 276,814 cattle treated with rinderpest vaccine in 1938-39 roughly a sum of over one lakh of rupees would have been required, whereas for the goat-tissue vaccine Government spent only Rs. 2,553 for the same number of animals.

The number of animals treated by our limited Veterinary staff is also quite big, and stands a much better comparison with other provinces. Thus in 1938-39 in all 1,52,614 animals were treated. To this is to be added 31,300 castrations performed.

A very large number of horses of raiyats and trolly ponies of garden coolies used to be seized and destroyed under the provision of Glanders and Farcy Act for Surra which made the Veterinary Department most unpopular. Now by curative treatment as adopted by Department during the last three or four years we get almost cent per cent. cure and not a single horse has to be destroyed. Anthrax and Hæmorrhagic Sepeticæmia are two other most fatal diseases of cattle for which no cure was known so that

almost 100 per cent. of the attacked succumbed to the disease. A simple curative treatment has been worked out by our Department and it ensures 60 per cent. cure. Apart from this, other important works on animal diseases are in progress in collaboration with the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute. Specific instances are *Micro-fariasis of cattle*, *contagious abortion of cattle*, *Bovine mastitis*, *contagious Pleuro Pneumonia of cattle*, *Thielirasis* and *Deficiency diseases*. *Kumri* in horses, *poultry diseases*, etc. Another difficulty is *cattle poisoning by chamar* (butcher) under the cover of epidemic or without epidemic. Several cases have been confirmed by the Chemical Examiner to the Government of Bengal and to them already I have made a passing reference.

Several hon. members have demanded more Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Government realises that there is the necessity and have always endeavoured to increase the number within their resources—but there have been in insurmountable difficulties in their way.

There have been many instances of detection by police of such poisoning all over the Province and in a large majority of their cases have resulted in conviction and severe punishment by criminal courts and I understand some cases are still *sub judice*. The main difficulty is the paucity of qualified veterinary graduates who are also natives of the Province. We had to recruit one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon who has been discharged and one who had resigned. Yet there are four sanctioned posts of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon which are vacant. Government have made additional provision for an additional 17 field Veterinary Assistants for the coming year and 10 Veterinary scholarships have been provided for and made tenable at the Bengal Veterinary College. As hon. members are aware, the other day the Hon'ble the Prime Minister stated on the floor of the House that the Bengal Government had pleaded their inability to give accommodation to more than 7 of them. We have also been told that it would be desirable to have one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for each thana and it is our ideal that there should be one hospital for each district. But as stated just now, our difficulties are multifarious.

Sir, this Department was at one time thought to be a prodigal Department of the Government of Assam, but now it has become so very popular. This is gratifying to Government. This is gratifying to this Honorable House. And this fact is palpable. As many as 12 cut motions have been tabled and out of them as many as 10 refer directly or indirectly to the expansion of this Department. Notable success has been made by the Department during recent years and Government is overanxious to do as much as possible under their financial limitations. I can only assure the House that Government will continue to do all that is possible and they of course expect that the Local Boards and the members of the public would be ready to do their part as well.

I hope, Sir, I have been able to convince hon. members that Government do not at all deserve any censure. Rather Government should deserve getting their co-operation and sympathy from the hon. members of this House. With the spirit of co-operation, as evinced in these cut motions, that is in the minds of the hon. members, we hope, Sir, that in the near future we shall be able to make a profound impression on the country so as to deserve much greater sympathy of the hon. members of the House and also of other members for the public. I hope, Sir, the hon. mover of the motion will now be pleased to withdraw his motion.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: What I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister clearly strengthens my case for expansion. And unless I get an assurance from him that the Department is going to be expanded, I regret I cannot possibly withdraw it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I have already stated that our intention is the expansion of the Department and our ideal is to place one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in each thana with at least one Veterinary Field Assistant. This, the hon. members may remember, is the ideal. What more could the hon. member desire just at the present moment ?

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: In view of these assurances I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,95,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head 41.—Veterinary".

The motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11a.m. on Saturday, the 16th March, 1940.

Shillong,

The 10th May, 1940.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.