



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A. M., on Saturday, the 18th March, 1944.

PRESENT :

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Amount paid by Government for imported foodstuffs**

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*68. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount paid by the Government for the imported foodstuffs in 1943 (including outstanding bills, if any) ?
- (b) The total price realised by the sale of foodstuffs (including the amount of unrealised bill if any) ?
- (c) The value of foodstuffs in hand on the 1st January 1944, including the value of goods in transit, the price of which has been included in the total price paid, as mentioned in (a) above ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

68. (a)—The amount paid by Government for purchase of imported foodstuffs during 1943 was Rs.1,81,67,751.

(b)—Sale proceeds of imported foodstuffs and indigenous foodstuffs (Rice, paddy and mustard oil) were credited into the Treasury under the same head 85A, Capital Outlay. Sale proceeds of imported foodstuffs cannot therefore be given separately. Total sale proceeds credited into the Treasury during the year 1943 was Rs.2,32,25,381.

(c)—Value of foodstuffs in hand and in transit was Rs.86,87,683.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will it not be possible for Government to get separate figures so far as answer to question No. 68 (b) is concerned? It may take time, but can we not expect that in future when such Questions come, Government will give separate figures?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It will be difficult, Sir, because money is deposited into the Treasury by chalans. These chalans do not show whether they are for imported foodstuffs or for indigenous foodstuffs like rice, paddy and mustard seed.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire from the Hon'ble Prime Minister, how will it be possible for Government to realise the real situation so far as the total amount of expenditure and income under this head is concerned?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government do not propose to make any income from this semi-commercial transaction. In order to safeguard the tax-payers' money from loss, Government impose a cess of 6½ per cent. which covers loss in transit due to pilferage, shortage and shrinkage, and also interest on capital invested.



†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then, are we to understand that there will be no income from this Department and that there will be no loss also to the Government ?

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

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How can Government then know the actual position unless figures are shown separately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They will get the figures of money deposited into the Treasury. They will also have bills of the forwarding agents and also of the purchasing agents. The total paid and the outstanding bills will give us the total figures as regards total collection from these various sources.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, if Government can get the total figures of receipt from these figures, I exactly want those figures. Why these figures cannot be supplied to the House ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think, my hon. Friend has misheard or misunderstood me. I said that the total collection into the Treasury plus the bills of our agents will give us an idea whether Government have lost anything by this semi-commercial transaction, both of imported goods and indigenous goods. All I wanted to impress upon the hon. Questioner is that at present we have got no separate figures in Shillong for money deposited into the Treasury on imported foodstuffs.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case may I enquire of the Hon'ble Premier whether in future we can get exact figures ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It will take a lot of time as well as cost a lot of money to collect these figures.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Without these figures there is no chance of coming to a conclusion whether there will be any gain or loss under this head. So, if it is necessary to know the real position under this head, they must have the figures of sale proceeds of the imported foodstuffs separately. Otherwise, there may be some difficulty in coming to a conclusion whether there is loss or gain.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is a debate, so I need not reply.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My supplementary Question is: whether in future Government will collect exact figures so far as sale proceeds of these imported goods are concerned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have nothing to add to the reply I have already given.

### Election to the Shillong Municipal Board

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*69. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any date for election of members of the Shillong Municipal Board held on the 11th January 1944, was notified in the *Assam Gazette* ?
- (b) If so, in which issue of the Gazette ?
- (c) Whether the preliminary electoral roll for the Shillong Municipal Board Election was prepared by any Magistrate in form "A" ?
- (d) Whether the electoral roll so prepared did not include the full particulars in accordance with the prescribed form ?
- (e) Whether the polling date was postponed sine die by the Magistrate on the 31st December 1943 ?



(f) Whether the said Magistrate withdrew his said order on the 3rd January 1944 ?

(g) If so, do Government propose to direct a fresh election of members of the Shillong Municipal Board for this irregularity ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

69. (a) & (b)—At first the date of election fixed was 4th January 1944, and that was duly notified in the Gazette of 10th November 1943. That date was however changed to 11th January 1944, for the convenience of all concerned but this change was not again notified in the Gazette although the changed date was duly notified to the candidates, sitting members and polling officers and it was widely published in the town by beat of drum.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—It is reported that column 2 of the form was omitted from the roll except in the case of the roll relating to the Ward "Kench's Trace and Rilbong".

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do not Government think it proper that according to rules the date of election should be notified in the Gazette—I mean whether it is incumbent on the part of Government or not according to rules ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The Magistrate notified the date.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Why the date fixed for the second time for election on the 11th January was not notified in the Gazette? May I know whether it is optional or obligatory ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: There is no rule indicating that any change of date should be notified in the Gazette.

#### *Re Cattle Breeding Farms*

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*70. Is it a fact that the cattle breeding farms under the Agriculture Department are being utilised for production of vegetables for supply to the Military ?

\*71. Are Government aware that the works of these cattle farms are at a standstill owing to the occupation of the farm staff for military vegetable production ?

\*72. Will Government be pleased to state how far the object for which the cattle breeding farms in the Province were established, are being fulfilled ?

\*73. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The reasons for utilising the cattle farms of the Province for production of vegetables for the Military ?

(b) Why cultivators were not subsidised for increased production of vegetables for supply to the Military ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

70.—Certain areas of the Agricultural Farms are utilised by the Military for direct production of vegetables.

71.—No. The Military maintain a separate staff for production of vegetables for the Army.

72.—The objects of the Cattle Breeding Farms have been fulfilled in the following spheres:—

(a)—Expansion of herd.

(b)—Addition of goat and poultry, and



(c)—Increase in the area under fodder grass.

73. (a)—It is the policy of Government to help war efforts. The production of vegetables in some portions of the Cattle Breeding Farms by the Army supplements food crops and goes a great way in easing their demand for vegetables and reduces the heavy Military demand on markets for civil population. In addition, the fallow lands within the farms are brought under cultivation at the expense of the Army which will constitute an asset to the farm after the war and will be to the interests of the Department of Agriculture.

(b)—Though there is some risk, Government have taken up a scheme of subsidizing cultivators for the purpose which is being operated with some success in Sylhet jointly by the Agricultural Department and the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet. The subsidy took the form of oilcake issued on credit. The Agricultural Department will endeavour to work such schemes in other parts of the Province also. The Agricultural Department is now actively helping the subsidized producers in disposing of their produce.

### Shortage of Foodstuffs and other essential commodities

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*74. (a) Are Government aware that there is acute shortage of rice, wheat, pulses, potatoes, onion, sugar, gur, milk and other dairy products in Assam ?

(b) Do Government propose to take vigorous steps to increase production of these essential commodities and other foodstuffs immediately in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

74. (a) There is no acute shortage of any commodities but in fact, the demand has increased for certain commodities and attempts have been made to increase production under the Grow More Food Scheme. The normal import of certain commodities from other Provinces, is sometimes hampered owing to transport difficulties which cannot be avoided during this abnormal situation.

(b) Rice, wheat, pulses, potatoes, onion and sugarcane are included in the Grow More Food Scheme during 1944-45 and it is expected that the production of these commodities will be increased.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, are Government aware of the acute shortage of milk in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir, in some parts of the Province.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But how is it, Sir, that in reply to my Question No. 74(a), the Hon'ble Minister says that there is no acute shortage of milk in the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir, there is acute shortage of milk in some parts of the Province and not in places like Shillong and other towns.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand, Sir, that there is no shortage of milk in Shillong ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Not in comparison with other parts of the Province, Sir.

(Starred questions Nos. 75-76 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali were not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

### Scarcity of Cattle.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*77. Are Government aware that at present cattle of Assam are very inefficient both for ploughing lands and milk production ?

\*78. (a) Are Government aware that there has been enormous slaughter of cattle, goats and poultry in Assam recently irrespective of sex ?



(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the existing inordinate scarcity of cattle for ploughing, and acute shortage of milk, milk products, eggs and meat ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

77.—Assam cattle are relatively inefficient both for ploughing lands and milk products and Government realise this.

78. (a)—Government have no figures but they have placed an embargo on the slaughter of working bullocks, cows pregnant or in milk and female goats. The situation is being closely watched with a view to warding off any serious depletion of live stock.

(b)—Government do not admit that there is any general scarcity of plough cattle in the Province as a whole, though there may be local difficulties at places. It may be pointed out that the general import of cattle which took place annually in normal times, has since considerably fallen off owing to the present war situation and transport difficulties. The shortage of milk, milk products, eggs and meat is due to a general increase in demand for these commodities and the general inflation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, with regard to answer to Question No. 78 (a), may I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge whether Government have fixed any age limit so far as cattle is concerned ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir, not below the age of ten.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, with regard to Question No. 78 (b), I find that Government do not believe in general scarcity of plough cattle in the Province. May I know, Sir, on what data Government put their belief ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Sir, we have to depend on the reports of the District Officers.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Names of Scholarship-holders for the year 1943-44

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

54. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of students who were awarded Scholarships in the year 1943-44 ?

(b) The amount granted to each of them ?

(c) The amount drawn by each of them up to January, 1944 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

54. (a)—Maulavi Bazlul Karim and Srijut Bholaram Deka.

(b)—Rupees 25 per month each plus an increase of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. with effect from 1st October, 1943 in view of the present high cost of living.

(c)—Maulavi Bazlul Karim—Rs.208 $\frac{1}{3}$ .

Srijut Bholaram Deka—Rs.208 $\frac{1}{3}$

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, my Questions have not been properly answered.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The Questions are rather vague, Sir. I do not understand whether the Questioner means only agricultural scholarships or veterinary scholarships too.



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire, Sir, if my language is so very defective?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: But the hon. Member has put his Questions in a vague term.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If it is the intention of the hon. Member that he wants statistics regarding scholarships granted by all the Departments then his Questions are not vague.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is exactly what I meant, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will remember that he tabled his Questions as starred Questions; but I considered that long and elaborate answers would be necessary and therefore I admitted his Questions as unstarred Questions. But I do not understand how the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge could think that he could answer these Questions fully, although they relate to other Departments of which he is not in charge.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Sir, I gave my replies with regard to agricultural scholarships only, as I presumed it to be the intention of the hon. Member.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am not asking these Questions today, rather I put the Questions long ago, so there is no justification for the Hon'ble Minister in presuming that my Questions relate to Agricultural Department only.

May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister whether he would properly answer them if I put the Questions as short notice ones?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: They cannot be answered by this Hon'ble Minister only on the ground that they will require elaborate enquiries from the different Departments concerned.

Now, instead of tabling the Questions in this way the hon. Member should have tabled them specifying different Departments so that the Hon'ble Ministers in-charge could give answers accordingly.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case, Sir, it is, I submit, a quite well-known practice in this House that whenever there is any such difficulty confronting any particular Hon'ble Minister, the Hon'ble Prime Minister takes up the responsibility on his shoulder and comes to the rescue of the Ministers concerned in answering the Questions. In this case also that procedure could have been adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the answers to the Questions should be prepared by the different Departments. And it is too much to expect that the Hon'ble Premier should forthwith supply the answers to the hon. Member just now.

#### A. R. P. Personnel at Dhubri

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked:

55. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(1) the names of A. R. P. Personnel at Dhubri, (2) their home districts and (3) present pay?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI

replied:

55.—A statement is given below:—

#### A. R. P. PERSONNEL AT DHUBRI

Name	Home district		Pay			Remarks
			Rs.	a.	p.	
<i>Assistant A. R. P. Officer</i>						
1. Maulavi Imdadul Haque	... Sylhet	...	300	0	0	plus a charge allowance of Rs.50.
<i>Depot Superintendent</i>						
1. Himangsu Bimal Dhar	... Sylhet	...	150	0	0	
<i>Deputy Depot Superintendent</i>						
2. Syed Sarwar Ali	... Goalpara	...	75	0	0	



Name	Home district	Pay	Remarks
		Rs. a. p.	
<i>Staff Officer</i>			
3. Surendra Nath Sarkar	... Mymensingh (Bengal.)	135 0 0	
4. Satendra Mohan Das Gupta	... Goalpara	100 0 0	plus Rs.20 Special pay.
<i>Rescue Leader</i>			
5. Ananta Kumar Seal, B.A.	... Goalpara	75 0 0	plus Rs.25 Special pay.
<i>O/C &amp; R/C.</i>			
6. Md. Shahid Bakhta, B.A.	... Goalpara	75 0 0	
<i>Instructors</i>			
7. Animesh Lochan Chakravarty, M.A.	Goalpara	90 0 0	
8. Phanibhusan Kahali	... Barisal (Bengal)	85 0 0	
9. Bijoy Kumar Das	... Goalpara	90 0 0	
10. Abu Bakar Siddique	... "	90 0 0	
<i>Drill Instructor</i>			
11. Lal Bahadur Thapa	... Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	80 0 0	
<i>Assistant Instructors</i>			
12. Ajoy Kumar Chakravarty, B.A.	Goalpara	60 0 0	
13. Wazul Haq	... "	60 0 0	
14. Pijush Nath Chakravarty	... "	60 0 0	
15. Mohan Prasad Barman	... "	60 0 0	
16. Saradindu Kumar Chakravarty	... "	60 0 0	
17. Md. Jamaluddin Ahmed	... Kamrup	60 0 0	
18. Abdus Sarwar	... Goalpara	60 0 0	
<i>F. A. Post Doctor</i>			
19. Sukumar Das	... Goalpara	60 0 0	
<i>Assistant Sub-Officers</i>			
20. Kutub Uddin Ahmed	... Goalpara	30 0 0	
21. Elahi Baksha	... "	30 0 0	
22. Prafulla Sarkar	... "	30 0 0	
23. Abdul Matin	... "	30 0 0	
24. Jiban Gopal Chattarjee	... "	30 0 0	
25. Taimur Rahman	... "	30 0 0	
26. Jahanuddin Ahmed	... "	30 0 0	
27. Anil Kumar Chakravarty	... "	30 0 0	
28. Manindra Chandra De	... Dacca (Bengal)	30 0 0	
29. Abdus Salam	... Sylhet	30 0 0	
30. Abdul Kashem	... Goalpara	30 0 0	
31. Gunindra Chakravarty	... "	30 0 0	
32. Zia Uddin Ahmed	... "	30 0 0	
33. Asmat Ulla	... "	30 0 0	
34. Eman Uddin Ahmed	... "	30 0 0	
35. Safiar Rahman	... "	30 0 0	
36. Azizul Haq	... "	30 0 0	
37. Protab Lochan Deb Burman	... Mymensingh (Bengal)	30 0 0	
38. Hara Kishore Das	... Goalpara	30 0 0	
39. Mafizuddin Ahmed	... "	30 0 0	
40. Surendra Nath Seal	... "	30 0 0	
41. Jahiruddin Ahmed	... "	30 0 0	
42. Sunil Kumar Biswas	... "	30 0 0	



	Name	Home district	Pay			Remarks
			Rs.	a.	p.	
43.	Manu Sheikh ...	Goalpara ...	30	0	0	
44.	Kamala Kanta Das ...	" ...	30	0	0	
45.	Santi Maitra ...	Faridpur (Bengal)	30	0	0	
46.	Md. Rouf Ali ...	" " ...	30	0	0	
47.	Bankim Behari Biswas ...	Rangpur (Bengal)	30	0	0	
48.	Hari Charan Roy ...	Kamrup ...	30	0	0	
49.	Jalaluddin Ahmed ...	Goalpara ...	30	0	0	
50.	Kalipada Tapadar ...	Dacca (Bengal)	30	0	0	
51.	Jasimuddin Ahmed ...	Rangpur " ...	30	0	0	
52.	Hari Pada Chowdhury ...	Goalpara ...	30	0	0	
53.	Lakshmi Kanta Roy ...	Kamrup ...	30	0	0	
54.	Manindra Chakravarty ...	Barisal (Bengal)	30	0	0	
55.	Dinendra Kumar Sen ...	Goalpara ...	28	0	0	*Skilled men.
56.	Md. Sultan ...	" ...	28	0	0	
57.	Safiuddin Ahmed ...	" ...	28	0	0	
<i>Drivers</i>						
58.	Premjit Sonami ...	(Domiciled in Goalpara)	42	8	0	
59.	Prakash Chandra Singh ...	(Darjeeling) ...	42	8	0	
60.	Prabhat Chandra Sarkar ...	Goalpara ...	42	8	0	
<i>Ordinary Rank</i>						
61.	Sirajuddin Khan ...	Sylhet ...	22	8	0	
62.	Biswanath Ganguli ...	Faridpur (Bengal)	22	8	0	
63.	Abdul Goffur No. II. ...	Goalpara ...	22	8	0	
64.	Osman Ghani ...	" ...	22	8	0	
65.	Faizur Rahman ...	" ...	22	8	0	
66.	Mazhab Uddin ...	" ...	22	8	0	
67.	Sridhar Chakravarty ...	Dacca (Bengal)...	22	8	0	
68.	Nil Kanta Roy ...	Goalpara ...	22	8	0	
69.	Sujal Uddin ...	" ...	22	8	0	
70.	Kanai Lal Paul ...	Dacca (Bengal)...	22	8	0	
71.	Ashak Kumar Sarkar ...	" ...	22	8	0	
72.	Samarendra Roy ...	Goalpara ...	22	8	0	
73.	Amser Ali Khandakar ...	" ...	22	8	0	
74.	Manik Lal Sen ...	" ...	22	8	0	
75.	Abdur Rahman ...	" ...	22	8	0	
76.	Anjam Sheikh ...	" ...	22	8	0	
77.	Gulzar Hussain ...	" ...	22	8	0	
78.	Upendra Mohan Shaha ...	" ...	22	8	0	
79.	Amar Charan Nandi ...	Rangpur (Bengal)	22	8	0	
80.	Abdul Matin ...	Goalpara ...	22	8	0	
81.	Abu Bakr ...	" ...	22	8	0	
82.	Abdus Samad ...	" ...	22	8	0	
83.	Abu Taleb ...	" ...	22	8	0	
84.	Jitendra Nath Seal ...	" ...	22	8	0	
85.	Suresh Chandra Chakravarty ...	Sylhet ...	22	8	0	
86.	Ajit Rakhit ...	Dacca (Bengal)...	22	8	0	
87.	Samarendra Das Gupta ...	Rangpur (Bengal)	22	8	0	
88.	Anser Rahman ...	Goalpara ...	22	8	0	
89.	Nazibur Rahman ...	" ...	22	8	0	



	Name	Home district	Pay			Remarks
			Rs.	a.	p.	
90.	Mosaraf Hussain	Goalpara	22	8	0	
91.	Bhagirath Barman	"	22	8	0	
92.	Khalil Khan	"	22	8	0	
93.	Maniruddin Sheikh	"	22	8	0	
94.	Sanowar Ali Khandker	"	22	8	0	
95.	Sk. Mafazal Haque	"	22	8	0	
96.	Sunil Adhikari	"	22	8	0	
97.	Birendra Kunda	Dacca (Bengal)	22	8	0	
98.	Ramjan Ali	Goalpara	22	8	0	
99.	Suresh Chandra Roy	"	22	8	0	
100.	Amarendra Naik	"	22	8	0	
101.	Ali Ahmed	"	22	8	0	
102.	Debendra Nath Mukherjee	Rangpur (Bengal.)	22	8	0	
103.	Sankar Prasad Ghose	Dacca (Bengal)...	22	8	0	
104.	Samsuddin Ahmed	Goalpara	22	8	0	
105.	Musa Mandal	"	22	8	0	
106.	Jagadish Chandra Dey	"	22	8	0	
107.	Nitai Chand Roy	Mymensingh (Bengal)	22	8	0	
108.	Bata Krishna Kunda	Dacca	22	8	0	
109.	Saidur Rahman	Goalpara	22	8	0	
110.	Rajani Kanta Kunda	Chittagong (Bengal.)	22	8	0	
111.	Behari Lal Sarkar	Goalpara	22	8	0	
112.	Anil Barman Deb	Noakhali (Bengal)	22	8	0	
113.	Ali Hussain	Goalpara	22	8	0	
114.	Manaranjan Roy	Dacca (Bengal)	22	8	0	
115.	Taslimuddin No. I.	Goalpara	22	8	0	
116.	Maizul Haque	"	22	8	0	
117.	Anseruddin Sarkar	"	22	8	0	
118.	Abdul Halim	Rangpur (Bengal.)	22	8	0	
119.	Narendra Sarkar	Mymensingh (Bengal)	22	8	0	
120.	Tarini Chandra Roy	Goalpara	22	8	0	
121.	Satish Chandra De	Dacca (Bengal)	22	8	0	
122.	Taslimuddin No. II	Rangpur	22	8	0	
123.	Riazul Haq	Goalpara	22	8	0	
124.	Nara Hari Das	Kamrup	22	8	0	
125.	Bhupendra Nath Lahiri	Mymensingh (Bengal)	22	8	0	

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: From the statement furnished, I find, Sir, that one gentleman from Mymensingh has been appointed under the Civil Defence Department. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge why an outsider has been appointed?



The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, when the Department came into existence, some persons were immediately required and most probably no other person was available at that time and the appointment was made.

**Adjournment Motion re: assault of a Garo constable by three Nepalee constables at shillong.**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have got notice of an Adjournment Motion standing in the name of Mr. Jobang D. Marak. I do not consider this Motion to be in order. However, I allow the hon. Member to read out the Motion.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent and very important public interest and of recent occurrence—namely—a Garo constable No. 387 Probinson Sangma of the village Karkuttā, Northern Constituency, Garo Hills was most severely and brutally assaulted by three Nepalee constables at the Armed Police reserve compound, Shillong.

This is, Sir, an uncalled for assault. That man is quite innocent. The occurrence took place regarding the removal of a bucket. One Garo constable, No. 374, Nikorson Marak removed a bucket from the water tap, washed his face and went away. After him the other Garo constable Probinson came to the water tap and was washing his face.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid Mr. Marak, this matter should not have come up at all as an Adjournment Motion.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, the Garo constable was severely beaten and he was also tied with a big rope and was dragged to the guard room and was kept confined therein for 1½ hours. Afterwards, Sir, a Sub-Inspector released him. I am a Garo, Sir, and this uncalled for assault has wounded my feelings.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I enquire of the date?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: The date is 1st March, 1944, but this matter was brought to my knowledge only last evening.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Very well, I promise to send a letter to the Superintendent of Police, Shillong, regarding this matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion is clearly out of order. It does not satisfy any of the requirements of the Rules relating to Adjournment Motions.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

**GRANT No.30**

**(57—Miscellaneous)**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,54,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:  
"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,54,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous.'"

There are eleven Cut Motions.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Allowance to terrorist and other state prisoners at page 144 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tabled this Cut Motion to criticise Government for their failure to give adequate allowance to state prisoners.

This matter has been discussed on several other occasions also and the hon. Members who took part, all requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to make adequate provision for the security prisoners. Sir, I do not in the least desire that there should



be any lawlessness in the country but at the same time I desire that justice should be done to one and all whether one is a terrorist or a security prisoner. Sir, a terrorist of today may be a patriot of tomorrow.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: A patriot of today may become a Minister tomorrow.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My Friend the Leader of the Opposition says that he is the patriot even today and may be a Minister tomorrow. Sir, what has been happening in France, I mean in the territory that has been occupied by the Nazis? Sir, the whole world is declaring that those who are fighting for the independence of France are all patriots and brave men. But here, Sir, we know nothing against these security prisoners. Nothing definitely has been said against them that they acted in such a way that there was every chance of our country being led astray even according to the opinion of the rulers of this country. Sir, without bringing any definite charge, they have been detained only on suspicion that if they are kept outside they may create some trouble. So, in this case there is full justification for giving adequate allowance and I hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is an inhabitant of this country will realise my feeling and the feeling of the people of the country and will forget if he has got any misgivings on any particular person or any particular community or any particular group and see his way so that the dependents of these unfortunate security prisoners do not die of starvation and can live like so many human beings. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Allowance to terrorist and other state prisoners at page 144 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after all these security prisoners or the internees are really persons who were prosecuted for their own actions. My hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee said that no definite charge is known against them. Hon. Mr. Mookerjee knows that there are expert police officers and C. I. D. officers who follow and detect movements and actions of certain persons which were creating some trouble in the country.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Now I realise why the Garo constable was hammered.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Another point, Sir. The hon. Mover was saying that the Hon'ble Premier being a native of the Province could not do anything in the way of releasing the security prisoners or internees. I do not find any reason to blame Hon'ble Sir Saadulla, Sir, though he is a *bonafide* native of the Province. With these words, I oppose this Cut Motion, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: In considering the present Motion we have to think of three aspects of the matter. First of all whether it is necessary to detain the security prisoners in jail any longer. Secondly, whether the Government have been giving them individually suitable allowance or not. Thirdly, if this question is to be answered in the negative, whether it is justified in detaining them any longer or not. Sir, most of the security prisoners who are now detained in different jails were arrested on the 9th of August 1942, that is the date in the morning of which there was a general upheaval in the city of Bombay. No such upheaval took place at all in the Province till about a month or two later. Yet most of our leaders who were supposed to have some connection with that movement or who were suspected that in future they might make a general subversive movement, were rounded up on that date. Of course the present Government was not functioning at that time and no fault can be attributed to them for this indiscriminate and unreasonable arrests. The question is whether, after a lapse of two years, there is still a justification for detaining them. I may ask further more whether a more humane policy, namely the policy of internment, would not in extreme cases be more justifiable than detention in prisons for such a long time. When a man commits a particular offence and has undergone some sort of trial and has received a sentence in the Court, he can reconcile himself to



his position. But when a man feels that he has committed no crime and no charge can be formulated against him and is being detained or put in jail for a long time, the reaction that comes to this man is utter contempt of Government in power and that contempt is not merely of the person who is detained in prison but also of his next kith and kin and ultimately it affects the whole Province. Whatever good things this Government might do, that is always viewed with suspicion and distrust when they remember that Government have not been able to do the primary duty, namely, to punish only those who actually offended and to release those who did not commit any offence. I submit, Sir, that after this lapse of time and in view of the fact that there has been no instances of subversive movement within the recent months, the Government should at once set them free. The other day the Hon'ble Premier was pleased to mention in reply to a certain Question that after the release of some security prisoners there has been some cases of sabotage movement in the District of Nowgong. I do not know from what source of information the Hon'ble Premier has stated this, or whether from the Criminal Investigation Department of Government. But the little enquiry that I have been able to make gives me this knowledge that those were not really the acts of sabotage, but those acts were the result of the difference of opinions of two different parties of Ahom Sabhaists who wanted to put one party into trouble.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: How that can be when the Conference was held at Sibsagar?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: But there are a large number of Ahoms in Nowgong. This occurrence of setting fire to Primary School houses took place in a locality in Nowgong where members of the Ahom community of two different Khels were at loggerheads and so one Khel, in order to put the other into trouble set fire to two Local Board Primary School houses. That is the general impression and there were only two such instances of this kind. It cannot be supposed for a moment that those acts were engineered by some security prisoners of Nowgong. But so far only two security prisoners of Nowgong have been released who are members of the Bar. I do not know how it can be said that those were the acts of those two security prisoners. So, Sir, I can say with emphasis that this sabotage movement has practically subsided and therefore there is no reason for detaining the security prisoners any longer.

Then as regards the allowance that has been given to the security prisoners. Most of the prisoners have not got any allowance, and those who have got this is very inadequate. The maximum allowance that has been given is only Rs.50 per mensem and that also has been given to pleaders of some standing. The other day I cited the instance of Mahi Kanta Das who is the sole earning member of his family and he is a pleader of ten years standing and still, in spite of his repeated applications, he has not so far been given any allowance. There is another instance of Bhadra Kanta Phukan who is in jail now and who has been making application after application but has not been granted any allowance. Another instance is of Maulavi Tayabulla, a security prisoner, who was first given an allowance of Rs.50 only per month which he did not like to accept. But after some time he was granted Rs.75 per month with effect from the date of this subsequent order, but he has not been given as yet the allowance at the rate of Rs.50 per month up to the time when the next order was passed. This is the way, Sir, how the cases of allowances have been dealt with. I can also cite numerous instances of this kind and how petty amount is granted to persons whose earning was very much more and who have got large families to maintain. So, allowance of Rs.30 or so to pleaders can be described as disgraceful. The salary of a Chaprasi or a Chowkidar now ranges from Rs.30 to Rs.35 a month. The fact that an allowance of Rs.25 or Rs.30 is being granted to the families of respectable people shows an utter lack of sympathy and feeling for the poor dependents of the security prisoners.

The Hon'ble Premier said the other day that he has granted release to a number of security prisoners. I do not deny that fact: I am grateful to him for those acts of mercy. What I want to say is that in no instance he has been pleased to grant unconditional and absolute release to the security prisoners. His mercy has been drawn only in case of death or serious illness. If there has been any family bereavement he has been pleased to grant short parole and if the



prisoner has been suffering from very serious malady, he has been granted temporary release. But in no instance I have found him granting release to a prisoner on the merits of individual cases. In those provinces where there has been review of these cases, for instance in Bombay, a large number of prisoners have been released, there is a reviewing body composed of High Court Judges. The very fact that no such body has been set up in this Province shows clearly that the Hon'ble Premier is taking on his shoulders the responsibility of such release and that responsibility, I must say, he should exercise duly and considerately. I would again appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to review the cases of these security prisoners now under detention or under orders of internment and see whether any justification exists for having detained them for so long and for detaining them any longer. Sir, I refer in this connection to the case of internees. In no such case allowance has been granted. The conditions which have been imposed on them are most deplorable. Is it not disgraceful to impose humiliating restrictions on any security prisoners who belong to the profession to which my Hon'ble Friend, the Premier himself belonged at one time? If they have been released on humanitarian grounds why should such humiliating conditions be imposed on them that they must be at home at certain hours and respond to the knocks of the Police Officers who would come at such and such time. I hope the Hon'ble Premier will consider all these matters. I could multiply number of instances like this. That will only evoke frown from the Hon'ble Premier. But I make it perfectly clear that no amount of derisive laughter from my Friends of the European group and frown from the Hon'ble Premier will desist me from taking the course of action which I consider it my duty to perform and I shall take with pleasure and enjoyment all the abusive remarks which the Hon'ble Premier may hurl on me, because I know that in the long run I will be able to put him in the right and make him do what is just and proper.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would draw your attention to the fact that the speech delivered by my Friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri is entirely out of order in this Cut Motion, because this Cut Motion relates to the Demand under "Miscellaneous" and the only item that can be referred to this is payment of allowance to state prisoners. The general question of release or bringing to Court of justice could only be brought under Cut Motion under "Police".

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. The release should be granted to those who cannot be granted proper allowance.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That was not the plea of my hon. Friend. Any way as he is entirely out of court, I will take no notice of this speech, but I will reply to the request made by my Friend Mr. Mookerjee. This is no new Motion that my Friend has raised to-day, because this subject has been discussed threadbare not only in an earlier Session but in this Session also. I have pointed out that the payment of allowance to these prisoners is regulated by an all-India instruction from the Government of India. I have mentioned earlier, and on a previous occasion in November last, that although the Assam Government was giving Rs. ten as personal allowance to some of the security prisoners to enable them to purchase articles of toilet etc., *i. e.* tooth brush, hair oil and things of that sort, but an order came from the Central Government that such personal allowance should not exceed Rs. five. We have been compelled since then to reduce the allowance of this nature to Rs. five, but I have continued, after much correspondence and difficulty with the Government of India, the payment of Rs. ten to those whom we had already given. Then again, I have pointed out that the maximum allowance that could be given has been limited to Rs.60, but in some cases before the order came I had paid Rs.75 as allowance. Therefore considering from this point of view, I have overstepped the instructions that have come from high above. It therefore ill-behoves my hon. Friend to criticise my conduct as inhuman or unsympathetic. On the other hand I have gone to the maximum length allowed to the Provincial Governments.



Next again, I have reviewed the cases in which allowances were given early in 1943. The allowances that were given in 1943, in many cases were Rs.15 and Rs.25 or amounts of that nature. When the price of paddy and rice had risen towards the middle of the year 1943, I reviewed those cases and in a considerable number of cases I increased the allowances by Rs.10. Yesterday I have reviewed the case of another Kamrupi security prisoner. He was given Rs.25 and I have raised it to Rs.35. So, in this way I have been doing whatever possible for the security prisoners.

It has been laid down not only by us, but also in the instructions from the Government of India, that these maintenance allowances should be given only when the prisoners apply. Either on account of prestige or as a matter of principle, or on account of the fact that they are endowed with sufficient material wealth, many of the prisoners have not applied.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On a point of information, Sir. Is it not a provincial responsibility nowadays to grant allowances, etc. to security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is a provincial responsibility no doubt, and the money comes from the provincial exchequer. But a set of instructions uniform for all-India has been issued by the higher authorities.

Sir, I have been reviewing these cases in the light of the present market prices, and I have granted, whenever necessary, an increase in the allowance. My hon. Friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri made pointed reference to three cases. One is that of Srijut Mahi Kanta Das, B.L., of Tezpur. He raised this question the other day; I immediately sent for the papers and I found that although I had passed an order in September last granting an allowance to this prisoner, the office did not issue that order because the question of releasing him as a home internee was pending at the time. The office thought that as the man would be released, there would be no necessity for granting the allowance. On going through the papers, I have called for explanation of those assistants in the office who detained that order, and I have passed an order that as an arrears allowance, for not carrying out my orders, a sum of Rs.200 should be given to the family of this prisoner. The question of his release and home internment has also been decided upon.

As regards Srijut Bhadra Kanta Phukan, the report is that his family is quite well off, and they are not in need of any help. Therefore, if I remember aright, his application for an allowance was not entertained.

Sir, Mr. Mookerjee appealed to me that as a citizen of Assam, I should treat these people with sympathy—people who though may be misguided at the present moment are nevertheless real patriots and who may later on adorn Treasury Benches. I say, Sir, that within the limits of their previous activities which I review periodically and within the limits of their conduct as reported by the jail authorities, I am willing to help as far as possible these unfortunate people who have been detained behind the prison bars. But my offer to them is still open. I stated the other day, and I repeat it to-day, that it is in their hands to come out of the jail if they only recant that they never joined the subversive movement and that they will not encourage any subversive movement if released from jail. I stick to my policy and all the political prisoners of the Province can come out of the jail immediately if they only take advantage of it. The other day I mentioned, giving facts and figures, that I had released during the last year 60 per cent. of these people. Mr. Chaudhuri as usual has stated that to his knowledge not a single prisoner has been released unconditionally. I can assure him that those whom I could release without any fear that they would be able to mislead or misguide simple village people, I have released them unconditionally both in Nowgong and Sibsagar districts, and their number is not less than 100. They may not be known to my hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri who moves in the higher planes of society and who hobnobs only with the leaders of the Congress party; these are smaller fries whom he may not know.

One more word, Sir, and that is that I had to issue a serious warning here the other day that although Nowgong and Sibsagar were free from any acts of sabotage during the period when most of the suspected people were in jail, since I have



started releasing a lot of them, there have occurred cases of arson not only in Nowgong but also in Darrang and Sibsagar districts. Mr. Chaudhuri wanted to explain away the burning of a few village school houses to party factions in the village, but how can he explain the burning of military dumps of thatch, burning of a railway station, cases of which were reported to me only last month from the Sibsagar district? (Srijut Rohini Kumari Chaudhuri:— Not from Nowgong?) No.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mover want to press his Motion?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.-30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Allowance to terrorist and other state prisoners at page 144 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next Motion stands in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.19,725, under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—E.—Petty Establishments—(a)—Circuit and Sessions Houses (total), at page 145 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

By this small Cut Motion I want to bring to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity of constructing a separate Circuit House at Sunamganj. At present we have got only one building, of which one room is used as Circuit House and the other as Inspection Bungalow. Under the existing arrangements, visitors and the inspecting officers are put to a good deal of difficulty. Even the Hon'ble Ministers who are pleased to visit Sunamganj suffer from it. On one occasion one Hon'ble Minister had to be accommodated in the dining room, and two other Hon'ble Ministers in a steam launch. When the Hon'ble Prime Minister had been to Sunamganj I showed him a vacant Government plot adjacent to the present building which can very well be utilised for constructing a separate Circuit House. Sir, I do not want that the Government should take shelter under the plea of war, and say that though it is a necessity, the project will be taken up after the war. The necessity is so urgent that immediate steps should be taken in the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.19,725 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—E.—Petty Establishments—(a)—Circuit and Sessions Houses (total), at page 145 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Khan Sahib Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury has moved this important Motion.

Sir, this is a long standing grievance of Sunamganj. Every district and subdivision has got a separate Circuit House and a Dak Bungalow of its own. We drew the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the urgency of constructing a separate Circuit House when he visited Sunamganj. The number of visitors, both official and non-official, is on the increase and the Hon'ble Minister who comes from Sunamganj will surely bear me out when I say that the construction of a separate Circuit House will remove a great grievance of the people of Sunamganj.

With these few words, Sir, I support this Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, Government realised that the headquarters town of Sunamganj Subdivision was very ill-provided with accommodation both for officials and non-officials and therefore they of their own motion in 1941 investigated whether a separate Circuit House should not be constructed there. After consulting the local officers and in view of the reports then received about the very small number of Government official then visiting Sunamganj, it was found that there was no justification for building a separate Circuit House.



In 1943, my Friend Khan Sahib Alhaj Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury brought this before this House in the shape of a Question. He pointed out the difficulties even of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to get accommodation at Sunamganj. This question was again discussed by Government but in view of the general policy which, for the disappearance of suitable materials and high cost of labour, the Government have adopted, a policy of not starting any new building scheme during the present difficult situation arising out of war emergency, the Government were reluctantly compelled to drop the idea of building a separate Circuit House at the present juncture. But in order to avoid the difficulties of our Friends, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, who want accommodation, the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj was authorised, as a special case, to permit the Members of the Legislature to occupy the Circuit House pending construction of a separate Dak Bungalow there. After this, I hope, my hon. Friends will not find difficulty in finding accommodation when they come from their ancestral homes to Sunamganj in course of their duties.

My Friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury mentioned that on a recent occasion many members of the Cabinet had to be housed in steam launch whereas my Hon'ble Friend, the Minister in-charge of Public Works Department, was accommodated in the dining hall which was converted into a reception room for His Excellency the Governor to interview the Sunamganj public and my Friend was thrown out into the street for a short period. But that was a special occasion unknown in the history of Assam when a subdivisional headquarters was visited not only by His Excellency the Governor but by five Hon'ble Ministers of the Cabinet simultaneously (*A voice*: six). My Hon. Friend says six but one Hon'ble Minister had his own house and lived there; therefore five had to be accommodated.

So, Sir, I have done whatever was possible and I hope my hon. Friends will see that Government had intended to provide a separate Circuit Bungalow at Sunamganj but they are waiting for a suitable moment.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I inform the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, that officers do not visit Sunamganj frequently because they do not get suitable accommodation there?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It cannot be because there are two rooms—one labelled Circuit House and the other Inspection Bungalow.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member has got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion.

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

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.5,718 under grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—I.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contribution, etc., to Local Bodies, Detailed head—Grants to Municipal Boards for special purposes at page 147 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of moving my Cut Motion is to remind the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government of his assurance given to me in the last Budget Session of the Assembly that he would take steps so that the Tezpur Municipality could remove the grievances of the people, *viz.*, the extension of Urmsen Road and provision for water supply there. Tezpur Municipality did not take any step to remove the grievances of the Lalmati people for want of funds, *i.e.*, for extension of the road and for providing water supply. I moved this same Motion at that time in the last Budget Session but up till now nothing has been done to remove the grievances of the people of Lalmati area. Again, Sir, I have moved this in this Session and I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government will kindly allot some adequate amount for the Tezpur Municipality and see that steps are taken by the Tezpur Municipality for removing the said grievances. Sir, the people of Lalmati are experiencing great hardship for want of drinking water. The water they are drinking is not



good for their health, so is the case with the road and it is difficult for the people to go in and come out. The Board have already passed a resolution to extend this road but, Sir, I am sorry to say that nothing has been done up till now. So, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will please see that something is done this time for the extension of the Urmon Road and the water supply there. With these words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved.

"That the provision of Rs.5,718 under Grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions, etc., to Local Bodies, Detailed head—Grants to Municipal Boards for special purposes at page 147 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

The Hon'ble Sriji HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, to provide water in the Municipal area and to construct good road are the duties of the Municipality concerned. The hon. Member raised this question during the last Budget Session and I held a promise to enquire into the matter. Accordingly we asked the Deputy Commissioner to report and he got a report from the Chairman of the Municipality. I find from the report of the Chairman that the Municipality is trying to improve that path running from Lalmati to the Tiger hill by gravelling small portions every year. So they have undertaken that work and in that report the Chairman has stated that there is a re-inforced concrete well at the vicinity of that area and so they do not take it that there is a real dearth of drinking water in that area. Any way, Sir, I feel that the Board is not friendly with the hon. Member. The Board is going to be reconstituted shortly and I would advise my hon. Friend to see if he can get some relief from the new Board.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. Member press his Motion ?

\*Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : Only one word, Sir. The report the Hon'ble Minister has received that the people are not suffering for want of water is not correct. If the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to visit our locality I will show him how the people are suffering for want of drinking water.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, the hon. Member has no right of reply. Does the hon. Member press his Motion ?

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion ?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury move his Motion ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But Motions Nos. 5 & 6 are important and should get more time.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.1,77,209 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contribution, etc., to Local Bodies, Detailed head—Grants to Local Boards for general purposes at page 147 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My intention in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the arbitrary distribution of the grant to Local Boards for general purposes.

Sir, from the Report that Government published regarding grants to Local Boards for 1940-41, it is seen that under this particular head the Silchar Local Board was granted Rs.16,331, Hailakandi Rs.15,388, North Sylhet Rs.3,378, Karimganj Rs.8,064, South Sylhet Rs.16,726, Habiganj Rs.6,256 and Sunamganj Rs.6,357. In the Assam Valley, under this head, Dhubri received Rs.5,128, Goalpara Rs.3,876, Tezpur Rs.17,455, Mangaldai Rs.10,260, Dibrugarh Rs.19,783, and North Lakhimpur Rs.11,688. From the figures I have just now quoted it is seen that there is no symmetry or system in the distribution of this grant. This grant is given to Local Boards to square

\* Speech not corrected.



up their Budget and to meet their urgent unforeseen expenditure. I do not know why this arbitrary distribution is being continued from year to year. It is rather curious that the Local Boards which had a good proportion of planting members only received bigger grants. Perhaps this arrangement was first made many years ago. I think, Sir, the matter ought to be reconsidered in the light of present circumstances and equitable distribution made.

With these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.1, 77,209 under Grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—I.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contribution, etc., to Local Bodies, Detailed head—Grants to Local Boards for general purposes at page 147 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100”.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just rise to support the Cut Motion before the House. I merely want to draw the attention of the Government to the affairs of the Sibsagar Local Board. This Local Board passed a resolution towards the end of 1939 by which they sought to compulsorily retire their employees who have completed 30 years of service, without attaining the age of superannuation, which is 55 years. I understand this resolution was since declared null and void by this Government and in the last November Session I asked a question in answer to which Government assured that these employees who had been retired would be re-instated from the date of their respective retirements. On the strength of this Government answer, those employees, who are more than 30 and who are all poor village school Pundits, have represented to the Board for their reinstatement ; but in spite of their representations the Board have not yet done anything. I hope Government will be pleased to take up this matter and will please do something for these poor village school Pundits.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion before the House.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : I am tempted to speak a few words on this Motion. In the Assam Valley districts—Gauhati, Jorhat and Dibrugarh Municipal roads were not intended for heavy vehicles. Perhaps, the hon. Members who have come from these three places will support me when I say that the roads in these Municipalities are in a very deplorable condition. I have noticed that for some time the Hon'ble Minister of Local-Self Government and the Hon'ble Minister of Finance have not visited these places because, I fear, they thought if they go to these towns they would simply break their cars.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does this arise ? The Motion was regarding arbitrary distribution of the grant to Local Boards.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It was regarding grants to Local Boards for general purposes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : There is the head “Local Bodies”. Anyway, I will finish in a second. I do not think that Government will be justified in asking the Municipal Boards to take up the repairs of these roads, because the Municipalities are not expected to repair them as somebody else is responsible for causing damage to these roads.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Which is that somebody else ?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : I should not pronounce the name in this House.

I think, Government should provide funds from their own coffers or ask the parties who have been responsible for damaging these roads to provide funds.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I do not think that Government are distributing general purposes grant arbitrarily to Local Boards. In this case, Sir, Government follow the golden rule of helping those who are most needy. Our principle under which the grants are distributed is to help those Boards which have got a large expenditure but whose income is small and this grant is distributed taking into consideration the income and expenditure of the different Boards.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : May I interrupt for a second ?



From the list I have stated that South Sylhet Local Board has received Rs. 16,726 in spite of the fact that the South Sylhet Local Board is most solvent.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I cannot give the details now. I think, the South Sylhet Local Board might have a larger number of mileage of roads and have to maintain a larger number of dispensaries. When this grant was distributed, this was done with the advice of some representative committee, but from what I find, Sir, the last distribution was made in 1931-32; after that no distribution could be made. I myself feel, perhaps, this is the time to reconsider the matter and I am taking up this matter with the department to see if we can reconsider the distribution of general purposes grant again. If necessary, we shall have to call a committee to go through the details in this matter. Of course, it will appear from the distribution list that there are some small variations, these are due to different situations. There was some decrease in the amount of grant to the North Sylhet Local Board because of the fact that when Government provincialised the dispensary that grant was reduced. There was some increase in grant to some of the Local Boards in Assam Valley; that was due to the fact that those Boards undertook to run a few more dispensaries. On this consideration there may appear some decrease or increase. Any how, Sir, I shall reconsider the matter if there might be readjustment.

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,32,728 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Cut Motion I have wanted to raise a discussion about the situation arising out of the control of Cloth and Yarn Order

Sir, for the last few months after the promulgation of the Cloth and Yarn Control Orders, we have been experiencing acute cloth famine in the Province, specially in the villages. The position in Assam is decidedly worse than that of Bengal. We have got no cloth mill of our own and we have to depend on the Ahmedabad, Bombay and Bengal mills. Our handlooms cannot meet even a portion of our requirements and in addition we have got our own difficulties regarding transport. All these factors have contributed to our distress.

Under the Cotton and Yarn Control Orders all unstamped cloths have been sealed by the Government: these cloths will not be released until they are tex-marked. Further, Sir, the dealers are reluctant to indent on account of the small margin of profit which they make under the present system. Of course, supplies of standard cloths will mitigate our difficulties to some extent but it is not enough. We have a big staff under the Textile Controller, but, I submit, Sir, appointment of big officers alone will not solve our problem. I do trust Government will devise sufficient means to ease down the situation.

With these words, I beg to move my cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 2,32,728 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. I want to draw Government's attention to the mishandling of the Cloth and Yarn Control Orders as they apply to large employers of labour, particularly the Tea Industry.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How can he discuss this matter now?

I think it is better that the hon. Member discusses about it when he moves his own Motion.



Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to touch upon a specific point on the Motion of my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Sir, by Government's orders bales of cloths were sealed up some three or four months ago with the result that even after a lapse of about three months people could not get any supply of mill-made cloths. I have experienced myself this difficulty in Shillong, Gauhati and Nowgong where I went to purchase cloth. At that time no cloth was available in the shops. Three months thereafter some demands were made to release stocks. As a matter of fact, Mr. Sundram went down to Gauhati for release of the stocks. He also supervised the opening of such bales of cloths in Shillong and after opening bales he found that there was no price list for certain commodities, so orders were again issued to stop sale with the result that even now it is difficult to obtain any supply of mill cloth. That is all due to the dilatory and perfunctory action of the Textile officers.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit that there was a temporary shortage of mill-made cloths in Assam.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Cloths are all there in the Province, Sir, but they are all sealed up.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If my hon. Friend will not disturb me I can give the entire history of the matter.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I will not disturb, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Thank you very much.

The control over cotton cloth and yarn was introduced by the Central Government in June 1943 with the passing of their Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order. This matter was adopted with the best of intention, namely compelling the hoarders to bring out their stock and to sell it within a reasonable period of time. The dealers in cotton cloth and yarn were ordered to produce for sale every bale of cloth or the yarn that they might have kept in their godowns by 31st August 1943. They were given originally time up to 31st October 1943 to dispose of the goods that they kept for sale. Pursuant to these orders very large stock came to the market and prices of cotton cloth fell down considerably. But there were howling protests made to the Government of India that the time given for sale was too short. The Government of India then extended the period upto 31st December 1943, after which it was ordered that unsold stocks would be seized by the Provincial Textile Controller and be released for sale to the public only after they have been marked and stamped according to the instructions of the Government of India. The Government of India appointed a Textile Commissioner to look after the promulgation of these orders. Local Governments were also ordered to appoint their own Textile Commissioners and we have appointed our Director of Industries, who is conversant with both cloth and yarn to undertake this job. He has appointed quite a big staff to seize on the 31st December the cloths that remained unsold. In spite of the warning to the traders, there were stocks which could not be sold by them within the limited time. Therefore the officers of the Textile Department had to seize and seal the stock and pack them till they are to be re-opened for sale after placing the price and tex-mark stamped on them. The staff of that department were not sufficient for the huge quantity of cloths that had to be taken charge of by them. I know, Sir, personally in Shillong it took them very near by three months to mark every piece of cloth and fix the price of cloths. The price was fixed by the Government of India and they issued a price directive. My Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman is correct in saying that these price directives were coming piece-meal for different grades of cloth, when certain sealed bales were opened it was found that price directive for that material has not come from the Central Government. How a Local Government can be censured, Sir, for the orders that have been passed by the Central Government? We are only their agents carrying out their orders. In order to implement the Central enactment we have also passed our own Cotton Cloth and Yarn Licensing Order, and during this period of sealing and re-exposing for sale there was an acute shortage of cloth. Then again, there were two impediments in the Province of



Assam for bringing a sufficient supply of cloth. Government of India, with the best of intention, wanted to impose a uniform price for these cloths throughout the length and breadth of India. Assam has got no cloth mill of its own, neither have they got any big dealers who could import whole-sale from the mills direct. Our dealers buy from whole-salers at Calcutta and they found that the whole-salers would not sell at any price less than that was marked on the cloth itself. No trader was willing to undertake a loss as they will have to pay interest on their capital and cost of transport. Therefore Assam traders refused to bring cloth from Calcutta. Some dealers became sub agents of some manufacturers at Calcutta. I know a very reputed Marwari firm throughout the Assam Valley became the agent of Kesho Ram Cotton Mills. According to Government of India's orders these traders are given only a margin of 20 per cent. to cover all their expenses. They found that the cost of transport, cost of storage as well as the cost of the establishment and the rent of their shop was so much that nothing practically was left for them within this 20 per cent. They are confronted with this position. We approached the Government of India to revise their orders. As a matter of fact, I asked our Textile Controller Mr. Hadi Hussain to write demi-officially to the Textile Commissioner at Bombay to come to the aid of the Province of Assam and requesting him to prevail upon the big manufacturers of Bombay and Ahmedabad to establish their own agencies in the province or failing that to allow some reputed firms or syndicate of Assam to get goods at the mill price so that they can sell within the price that has been fixed by the Government of India in the Province of Assam. All these efforts have been made by the Local Government. If there has been a temporary inconvenience to any of my hon. Friends here and the general public outside—(myself was a sufferer and could not buy a piece of *dhoti* which was badly wanted—the shortage was on account of the policy of the Central Government. We have taken sufficient steps to ensure a steady supply for the future and if Government of India accede to our request we will be able to bring for the public, cotton cloth at a much cheaper rate than what used to prevail before. It has been found, Sir, that by stamping the seized cloth with the price which has been fixed by the Government directive, that is, invoice price from the mills *plus* 10 per cent. profit to the stockists, the price has come down a hundred per cent. less than what it was in December 1943. So, Sir, when Government is taking all the steps that are open to them, when Government is encouraging local traders to combine and to bring a large quantity direct from the mills, their attempt has been to satisfy the public and to produce before them a sufficient quantity of cotton cloth and yarn which will be sold at a much cheaper rate than what prevailed in 1943. The intention is to reduce the price of cloth in every quarter by at least 10 per cent., whether that intention will be fulfilled by the activities of the big mill associations, I am not in a position to say. But if we get the quantity of cloth which we want to bring, I hope, there will be no difficulty in Assam, for, even the poorest of the poor will be able to buy cloth which is one of the necessities of life.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In view of what I have heard from the Hon'ble Prime Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion?

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

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,32,728 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My intention in tabling this Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the inequitable and unjust effect of the recent Cloth and Yarn Control Orders as they apply to the large employers of labour, particularly the Tea Industry.

On 13th March 1943, in reply to a question put by my hon. Friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen, the Hon'ble Prime Minister informed the House that out of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  million yards of



Standard cloth allotted to Assam (delivery expected in April 1943), there would be little available for tea garden labour, and made the further comment that the Tea Industry was well-organised and able to look after itself. From this reply it was evident that if tea gardens required supplies of cloth during 1943, Managers would have to secure such supplies themselves and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's advice was accordingly acted upon. Many gardens obtained supplies of cloth and in anticipation of increasing difficulties of supply, built up stocks so that supplies for their labour forces would be available until such time as Standard cloth became available in inadequate measure to the industry.

The Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order was promulgated in June 1943, under which dealers were prohibited from selling untext-marked cloth or yarn after 31st October 1943. This date was ultimately extended to 31st December 1943 and we had every reason to believe, as a result of representations to the Provincial Textile Commissioner, that a further extension would be granted to enable gardens to dispose of their stocks of untext-marked cloth into 1944. In January 1944, however, without any prior reference to the Industry, the Provincial Textile Commissioner issued instructions to all Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officers directing them forthwith to make arrangements for stocks of untext-marked cloth held by tea gardens after 31st December 1943 to be stamped and a charge of 10 per cent. of ceiling ex-mill price to be levied and paid before further stocks could be disposed of. Vigorous representations were immediately made to the Department as a result of which, in an order, dated 15th February, stocks of cloth up to 5,000 yards in the possession of Managers were exempted from seizure and stamping, any stocks over and above this amount being "frozen" pending stamping and payment of the stamping fee; alternatively, Managers would be prosecuted for being in possession of unmarked cloth. Five thousand yards of cloth may sound a considerable quantity, but anyone with a practical knowledge of estate management will realize that for a garden of approximately 150 acres such a figure may be adequate, but for larger estates with proportionately larger labour forces, the amount is totally inadequate. Needless to say, any such concession should have been based on population and not on length of material.

Again, Government entirely overlooked the incidence of *Doljatra* festival which fell on 9th of this month. Just when it was most necessary for gardens to issue cloth to their labour, Government stepped in and, in effect, froze stocks. It may be thought by those in the Department that the 5,000 yards so-called "concession" was sufficient to enable the *Puja* issues to be made. In certain cases of small gardens, this is true, but in the case of gardens over 150 acres, this paltry allowance would be hopelessly inadequate, and to issue cloth to only a proportion of a labour force, leaving none for the remainder, is not only grossly unfair but is dangerous and calculated to promote serious discontent. Under such circumstances many Managers would prefer to issue no cloth at all.

The Industry carries stocks of cloth solely for the use and benefit of its labour forces. Unstamped cloth was only purchased because supplies of standard stamped cloth were not and still are not available in sufficient quantity. Managers are not dealers—as admitted by Government—for the purposes of either the Control Order or the Licensing Order and as such the Industry claims exemption from these orders in respect of their stocks and payment of the stamping fees. When such stocks have been disposed of, future purchases will only be of text-marked cloth or stamped cloth for disposal to the labour forces at or below the maximum retail prices stamped thereon.

In case Government may think that unnecessarily large stocks of cloth are held by gardens, I may say that from details collected by the Indian Tea Association the total stocks of *Saris* and *Dhotis* held on 31st December 1943 totalled 2,022,754 yards, representing less than 2 yards of cloth per head of the total labour population.



Government may claim that their so-called concession of 5,000 yards to gardens represents over 2 lacs of rupees loss in revenue. To this I reply that Government's attempt to obtain such revenue from an Industry whose sole aim in building up stocks of cloth was to safeguard the interest and welfare of its labour forces, amounts to extortion in its worst form.

May I, at this point, draw the attention of Government to the great inconvenience caused by the repeated issue of minor amendments to the already large number of complicated Control Orders? Such irksome procedure only serves to irritate the layman and make his task more difficult at a time when the common citizen has little enough consideration shown to him. Government's handling of the cloth control orders in so far as they effect the Tea Industry has throughout shown a deplorable lack of understanding of realities and has caused serious harassment. I may quote one specific case which has just come to my knowledge. In December 1943, Manager, Dekorai Division (Bishnath Tea Company, Limited) applied to the Director of Industries for an extension of the time-limit under clause 14 of the Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, and enclosed a statement of his stock of cloth. No reply to this application has yet been received and at the moment 26,000 yards of cloth still remaining in stock have been frozen although the cloth is for sale to 5 gardens of the Division. On 17th December 1943, the Manager of this same Division applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, in Form A for a Cloth Dealers' License, forwarding the necessary fee by Registered post. Although 3 months have now passed, no reply has yet been received to this application, and no license has been forwarded. If Government will not consider totally exempting individual gardens from the Order concerning stocks and payment of stamping fees, we ask that the 5,000 yards concession be applied to the Industry as a whole and not to individual garden. With a total membership of 565 gardens, at 5,000 yards per garden, the Indian Tea Association alone would be entitled to carry a total stock of cloth amounting to 2,825,000 yards. I have no relevant figures for other Associations, but there is every reason to believe that their stocks would come well within the allowance. If the necessary discretionary powers are not available locally, we ask that the matter be taken up with the Central authorities in the strongest terms and with the least possible delay.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.2,32,728 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take all the statement of facts narrated by my Friend Mr. Moore as correct. But we are confronted with two legal questions. First whether the Tea Industry or the Managers of individual tea gardens can come within the purview of the definition of dealers, according to the Control Orders passed by the Central Government and according to our own Licensing Orders. As regards this matter if we go to the spirit of the Government of India's Control Orders we come to the unhesitating conclusion that every form of stockists of cloth come of within the ambit of that definition, though the stockists do not sell to the public but to their own labour force. When Government of India promulgated their orders their chief concern was to find out what were the stocks available for the people at large—whether in the hands of professional dealers or whether in the hands of employers of organized labour. Therefore, Sir, the Assam Government came to the conclusion that the tea garden employers came within the definition of dealers. And as such they could not be exempt from the provision of the Licensing Orders issued by the Provincial Government. It is quite correct that



last year when we apprehended that there would be difficulty in purchasing and procuring goods necessary for our people in the Province, I gave the advice to the Tea Industry to stock all necessaries of life for their population, in their godowns. Normally the Tea Industry stock over 3 months' supply. But I urged upon them the advisability, subject to godown capacity, to stock 6 months' provision. In the course of that I urged upon them to stock cloth as well. But in March 1943 when I gave that advice I had no inkling that the Government of India would pass this Cotton Cloth and Yarn Order in June 1943. If my Friends of the Tea Industry feel that I have taken them the wrong way, I plead guilty to it. But it was in perfect good faith that I gave that advice. Some Managers of the tea gardens who ought to have applied under the Licensing Orders to disclose their stock by 15th December 1943, according to our Licensing Orders failed to apply. There is a penal clause of realising double fee for giving such defaulters licences. But in this case, as the Tea Industry do not sell to the public and they are not professional dealers, as a concession to them, we did not realise any penal fee from them. Then the Tea Industry represented that, as they are keeping a very big stock, they should be exempt from the freezing orders and also from the fee that the Provincial Government is levying for tex-marking and fixing the price on the stock of cloth. We want clarification from the Centre and we also consulted other Provinces and we got reply from the Madras and Bengal Governments who inform us that no exemption whatsoever has been allowed to employers of labour from those orders.

There was a loophole by which the Textile Controller in Assam could exempt up to 5,000 yards of cloth from being tex-marked, and taking advantage of this, concession, up to 5,000 yards was given to each garden who stocked cloth for the labour force. My hon. Friends will realise that the Assam Government has gone to the furthest limit of the concession that could be given to the Tea Industry according to their Licensing Order. Not being satisfied with what has been done, the Tea Industry, through their Political Secretary my hon. Friend Mr. Whittaker, has taken up this matter with the Textile Controller and has also given me a copy of the correspondence that he is having with him, with the idea that I may see whether their request may be acceded to. I am waiting for an opportunity when my Friend Mr. Whittaker and myself as well as the Textile Controller will sit together and discuss the best lines of action that we can take on his representation. I can assure him this much as well as Mr. Moore that if we can find any way to approach the Government of India, we will put in a very vigorous plea for the Tea Industry. Beyond that I cannot commit myself just now. But the question has not yet been decided finally. It is pending discussion between all parties concerned. I assure you as well as the Tea Industry whether they are members of the Indian Tea Association or not that I shall try to see that the cloth stocked by them is not only not frozen but also that they are afforded an opportunity to stock as much more as possible, and I will remember that responsibility of mine.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: On a point of information, Sir. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Premier for what he has said. But pending this matter being decided, would it be possible for Government to suspend the order which has resulted in the freezing of stocks of cloth.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It would be going against the order of the Government of India issued for the purpose of freezing. But I will take up this matter as soon as the Assembly is over. So there will be no undue delay.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: No.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 12,31,903 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous. Minor head—K—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges (total) at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.



Sir, to some extent my purpose has been served by the Cut Motion moved by my Friend Mr. Moore. But I have got a few points more which I like to bring to the notice of this Hon. House.

It will be found at page 49 of the Budget Memorandum under 'Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges'—"The increase in the revised is due to the provision of (i) Rs. 3,000 for expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn, (ii) Rs. 8,000 for compensation for loss of property and (iii) Rs. 10,77,000 for expenditure on issue of free rations to certain class of Government servants counterbalanced by a recovery of Rs. 24,000 from the Central Government."

In the first place I cannot understand why this compensation was paid and why this amount of Rs. 8,000 was spent from the revenue of the Province. Then again Government have spent Rs. 10,77,000 for expenditure on free rations and at the same time say that because they have received Rs. 24,000 that amount has been compensated. That position is not at all clear.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member moved Cut Motion Nos. 8 or 9?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If I am permitted I can move Cut Motion No.9 also, because there is another difficulty. Supply of food-stuffs to different Government servants has been shown both under unforeseen charges and losses on supply. Perusal of the last two but one paragraph on page 49 of the Budget Memorandum will make the position clear. That is why this loss has been shown under this head. That position is also not clear. Moreover I shall request the Government to extend the limit so that some more Government servants may derive the benefit of getting rations at a reduced rate.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member said that he had moved Cut Motion No. 8. Is he speaking on Cut Motion No. 9?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, if you kindly see the explanation given you will realise the difficulty. In the last but second paragraph—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—it has been stated on the third line "Rs. 10,77,000 for expenditure on issue of free rations to certain class of Government servants counterbalanced by a recovery of Rs. 24,000 from the Central Government". That is my difficulty. But if you look to the next paragraph you will see that the explanation is relating to my Cut Motion No. 9. But regarding Cut Motion No.8 the explanation that has been given so far as this huge expenditure is concerned is not clear. I don't know how this amount of Rs. 10,77,000 can be counterbalanced by the receipt of Rs. 24,000. There is the real difficulty in both these paragraphs—the same item has been shown. I hope the Hon'ble Premier will make the position clear and will extend the limit of pay so that some more Government servants may derive the benefit of receiving rations at a reduced rate.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 12,31,903 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges (total) at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we are discussing cut Motion No. 8, my reply is this—my hon. Friend has not uttered a single word in his speech about this, but he was good enough to give the House a short note on the point he wanted to raise. His intention was to "criticise Government's policy with regard to miscellaneous and unforeseen charges and for realisation of fees for stamping cloth under the Cloth and Yarn Order, etc." Now, this Government, in accordance with the Control Order passed by the Central Government, had to seize all stock unsold on the 31st December 1943, and then they had to look into the texture to find out whether these were count 20, count 30, count 40 etc. cloth, the prices of which the Government of India had fixed in consultation with the mill authorities. The Provincial Governments were asked to entertain people in order to perform these duties, and if the Provincial Government had met this expenditure from the provincial revenues it would have imposed a great hardship on the poor people, the general tax-payers. But as these dealers had made thousands by forcing



the price of cotton cloth by four times the pre-war level, it was thought that releasing of the seized goods after realising a fee and ordering them to sell at a price considered reasonable by the Government of India, *i.e.*, *ex-mill price plus 10 per cent.* was a concession to the trade. So, the trade was asked to pay a fee for this concession. By doing this, the public has been benefited; that is, they are getting cloth at a hundred per cent. cheaper price than what it was only 3 months back (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: We are getting no cloth at all). You will be getting from now, as these stocks are being released. So, Sir, I hope the hon. Members of this House will see the justification of realising this stamping fee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The matter of accounts has also been brought in under this Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. Friend's reading of the explanatory memorandum is not quite correct, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: While moving this Motion, I also spoke about Cut Motion No. 9\*.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I cannot allow Cut Motion No. 9 to be moved now. We have already exceeded the time-limit for this Grant. Does the hon. Mover press Cut Motion No. 8?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then the Motion will be put to vote after lunch.

### Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

*After lunch.*

(The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber at 2 P. M., on Saturday, the 18th March 1944, with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the provision of Rs. 12,31,903 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges (total) at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

The question was negatived.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,54,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head “57—Miscellaneous.”

The question was adopted.

### GRANT No. 13.

(29.—POLICE.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,03,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head “29.—Police.”

There are some Cut Motions, Sir.

\*9. Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 15,68,400 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—L.—Losses on supply of food-stuffs to Government servants and others at concessional prices (total), at page 148 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 31,54,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.



The DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,03,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945 for the administration of the head "29.—Police."

Now, I find there are as many as 11 Cut Motions in relation to this Grant. I think, Cut Motion No. 1, standing in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, seems to cover almost all the points that have been raised in the different Cut Motions standing in the names of the different hon. Members. I would therefore like to allow discussion under this Motion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 31,694 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Clerks at page 72 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,03,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

During the last November Session of the Assembly I raised a discussion on a similar matter and stated how corruption was rampant in the Police rank and how, owing to their illegal tactics and high-handed activities, people were suffering. The Hon'ble Prime Minister took exception to my remarks and said that these were too sweeping and generalising in character. I admitted that there might be some solitary exceptions and these only went to prove the general nature of the allegations. At the present moment I apprehend a similar rebuke from the Leader of the House.

I can boldly say, that each and every hon. Member of this House shares the same feeling expressed by me on that occasion. Within the last few months, there has not been any change for the better and with utmost misgivings I repeat the same charges,—against the police—charges of corruptions, bribery, extortions, and high-handedness—with all the vehemence that I can command.

I would humbly submit to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the remedy does not lie in ignoring facts and realities but in facing the gravity of the situation with courage and promptitude and in devising the solution thereof. The police is a mighty institution which does not brook any interference from the outside. It is not easy for the Civil Administration to touch even one from their rank and file though he is convinced of the offences committed by such officer. As soon as an allegation is made and however heinous the crime might be, the whole department will be at the back of the offender and will try to prove that it is the particular magistrate who is at fault. This kind of attitude on the part of the police administration is encouraging the defiant behaviour of the police officers. I submit, Sir, that if there is no collaboration and co-ordination of work between the Civil and the Police Administration, you can hardly hope to eradicate the evil.

Then again, there appears to be a good deal of slackness in the administration itself. There is no proper control over the lower grades. Perhaps, it is due to the additional burden and stress that has been imposed upon the department owing to war duties. But this lack of control has decidedly affected the efficiency of the cadres. The other day, there was a Censure Motion which was carried in the Central Assembly about the abuses of the Defence of India Rules. I submit, Sir, that the police officers in the Province are also guilty of the same kind of abuse. Many police officers made the Defence of India Rules a cover to wreck their vengeance on the people who happened to incur their displeasure. The Government of India realised the gravity of the situation. They have started a drive against bribery and corruption. Already an Ordinance has been promulgated, under which two Special Tribunals have been set up to try at once and at the same time the charges of this nature. I submit, Sir, that a similar machinery should be set up here also to put down the atrocities committed by the individual members of the police force.

This year we have a very big police budget. The revised estimates for the current year has an increase of about 4 lakhs of rupees over the estimated amount. The number of Deputy Superintendents of Police has been raised from 9 to 15. A very big increase is also noticeable in the lower cadres. All of them shall have to be paid from the provincial revenues. This is really a heavy burden. We would like to hear



from the Hon'ble Prime Minister the circumstances which necessitated this huge increase in our expenditure. We would like to be assured that this will mean better efficiency on the part of the officers in the detection of crimes and better treatment to the people at large, who are paying for this enormous increase. I submit, Sir, that that will indeed be a happy day when the police force in the country will be actuated by a spirit of service—when they will consider themselves servants of the people and not their masters.

Another small matter about which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is that at page 74 of the Budget a sum of Rs. 1,200 has been provided as duty allowance to the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet. The amount is provided as charged, but I would like to hear from the Hon'ble Prime Minister the nature of the duty which is performed by this particular officer for which a sum of Rs. 100 is paid to him every month.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.31,694 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Clerks at page 72 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,03,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the object of this Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the numerous cases of theft some times called pilferage, still occurring on the Railways. We have from this Group drawn pointed attention to this, in previous Sessions, with so far very little improvment to record. Surely, it is time that Government acted strongly in this matter. The increase in expenditure recorded in the Budget for the Railway Police seems mainly to cover the appointment of a Senior Officer as Superintendent of Railway Police, larger expenditure for house rent and travelling allowance, and an increase in the rate of dearness allowance, and finally entertainment of additional temporary force necessitated by the present position.

If we compare the actual expenditure of 1942-43 with the Budget figure for 1944-45 there is actually a decrease for the coming year and if we then deduct the amount necessary for the appointment of this senior Officer there will be a further decrease in the amount of money available for the actual force itself—as compared with 1942-43. Is this fair, Sir, to the community? Stealing on the Railway has now reached such proportions that no one can transport goods by Railway with any confidence in practically the whole Province, let alone security.

This is a situation, Sir, which requires Government's immediate attention and we ask that Government will see to it that the Railway Police is not only enlarged but is granted sufficient funds to enable it to cope efficiently and properly with the present abnormal times.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I had a Motion—a very important Motion—which has unfortunately, as is usual for me, taken the bottom of the list, may I speak at some length on this Motion?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would inform the House that the time allotted for the purpose of discussion on the Police is upto 2-45 P.M. I would request the hon. Members to see that the discussion on this Motion under Grant No.13, may be finished before the allotted time.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I request you that the Motion of Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri may be taken up separately.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be no time.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support whole-heartedly the Motion which has been brought before the House by my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, although I can foretell with some precision that the hon.



Member, when this debate comes to a close, will ask leave of the House to withdraw it whether he is satisfied or not with the Government reply. That is the course adopted by him usually.

Sir, I say without any hesitation that the present policy of the Government with regard to the Police Department is the same as it was 30 or 40 years' ago and no improvement has been at all visible in this department so far as complaints of the public against this department are concerned.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Was this Government in existence 30 or 40 years ago?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I can say in one sentence the policy which was adopted by the Government. It is to protect the police at all costs. Whenever there is any public clamour or complaint against the police the policy is to support the police cause.

For instance, we all know of the barbarous excess which was committed by the police in Dhekiajuli and in another place *i.e.*, Gohpur Thana in the Darrang district. One of the cases, which is known as Dhekiajuli shooting case, reports of which were published in certain papers, shows to what length the police can go and to what length the Government can lend their support to these police activities. Sir, not to speak of punishing the offenders, who were really found guilty of exceeding their authorities, our Government tried their best to have the judgment of the trying Magistrate set aside and appealed against his orders to the High Court but to their great chagrin the High Court has upheld all the findings of the trying Magistrate.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order. I think the Motion itself is not in order. The cut Motion is tabled against a particular detailed item and I think discussion on the general policy cannot be allowed. So, I think, Sir, a general discussion in this respect will be out of order.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit that when the Motion has been admitted by the Deputy Speaker, my Friend Srijut Chaudhuri is perfectly in order to raise a general discussion on this subject.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed elaborate discussion on Cut Motion No. 1. This, I believe, covers all the points that have been raised by the hon. Member who tabled this Cut Motion with respect to this police Budget. Therefore, I hold that the arguments advanced by Srijut Chaudhuri are quite relevant.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the point raised by Maulavi Abdur Rahman is quite different to what we have just now heard. He says that only the other day, the Hon'ble the Speaker ruled that when a Cut Motion is tabled against a particular detailed item, discussion of general policy cannot be held. In this present Cut Motion No.1, the item mentioned suggests pay of clerks, so on the general question of grievances of clerks, discussion will be admissible but to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Police Department is not admissible. That is the question raised by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I agree with what the Hon'ble Premier has observed. It was under certain misapprehension that I allowed the Cut Motion No. 1 to be discussed. It would have been better if I had allowed Cut Motion No. 10 which relates to the general policy of the Police Department. Under this head a general discussion could have been welcome. However, since I have allowed Cut Motion No. 1, I think discussion, with some allowance, may be made on that Motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Thank you, Sir, for the ruling. What I was telling just now in the House is that decision has been arrived at by the Hon'ble High Court upholding the orders of the trying Magistrate in order that the Hon'ble the Prime Minister may take action against those officers of the Police Department who were found guilty of excess in the judgment. My complaint is that, as I said before, the policy hitherto followed by Government is the policy of covering under the wings of Government any police officer who may be found guilty of the crime committed. That policy should be abandoned and the Prime Minister should set an example by taking action against those officers who are really guilty of



excesses by the trying Magistrate in his judgment. Similar is the finding of the Gohpur shooting case where, as I said times without number, a girl of 13 years was shot without any provocation by the police. Judicial investigation of the case has been completed and we have got some findings. If the Hon'ble Premier assures the House that he is going to take steps in this matter, we shall be satisfied.

Now, Sir, in this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to the utter helplessness of the civil police to protect the civil population against their harassing by the Army people. Has he not—I ask the Hon'ble Premier—seen the disorderly scenes which take place in the public streets of Shillong? I do not assume that he has any personal knowledge of the situation of Gauhati, his own town, but I ask him, has he not witnessed disorderly scenes from the soldiers in the streets of Shillong—has he not seen soldiers carrying wine and liquor bottles—has he not seen soldiers behaving in a disorderly way in front of liquor shops—has he not seen soldiers sitting and squatting with liquor bottles in their possession even on the steps of this very Assembly Chamber House—has he not heard of what actually took place at Nongpoh? One of my hon. Friends of the Upper House himself saw how they were behaving and how people, even European gentlemen, were inconvenienced and disgusted at the way in which they were carrying their liquor and drinking them in the thoroughfare. Sir, does not this scene affect the morale of our future generation? Are not these things to be checked? If there is disorderly scene of drunken people among the civilians, steps are taken to arrest them and have them tried. Why then, Sir, nothing is done against these soldiers. These people could be very easily brought to justice. Why nothing has been done? Is it because there is a regulation that no American soldiers or officers can be tried in India without reference to the American Army?

Sir, I cited two instances about Gareswar and Pandu. May I ask whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister has heard anything about them. Sir, near at home in the town of Shillong I will cite one instance which may have come to the knowledge of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. A house of a respectable Indian official was invaded by two soldiers. He had no means to protect himself. He at once ran and informed the fact to one of the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Minister had to send a reinforcement in order to save the man and his family. Has not the Hon'ble Prime Minister heard anything about that? Has the Hon'ble Prime Minister made any enquiry about an incident which I reported in a public meeting which was organised by the National War Front in Kukurmara, viz., an incident which took place at Gauhati in the house of a respectable and somewhat superior Police officer whose house was practically invaded by some soldiers. I don't know whether they are American or British, suffice it to say that they are Allied soldiers—and they insisted to remain in that house on the utterly false plea that this house had women of questionable character. The Police officer in question had already reported the matter, and lodged an information at the thana. May I know what has happened on that information? What action has been taken on that? There is no question of want of evidence, Sir, in this case, because my information is that these officers or soldiers remained there for a pretty long time. Has not the Hon'ble Prime Minister heard of another instance which took place only about a stone's throw of his own house at Gauhati, viz., the incident of a respectable merchant who had put on a valuable ring. Some soldiers or officers came to his house and asked the owner to part with that ring and also asked the price. He said that the price was Rs. 2,000. The officer suggested Rs. 1,500. He refused to part with it saying that he was not going to sell it. On a particular evening these soldiers went in a body in his house and enquired of the man who had that diamond ring. The owner at once perceived trouble and he said that he was not the man but the ring belongs to a friend of his who lives in another place. Then he was asked to accompany them there. He took the party cleverly to the house of the officer-in-charge of the thana. When the officer-in-charge came out the soldier or officer said "You have deceived me". One of them drew out a revolver at him,



*i.e.* the owner of the ring. After all, with great difficulty the officer-in-charge could prevent a catastrophe but still those men insisted but the large crowd who assembled there intervened and somehow the man was saved.

Now, Sir, in the November session....

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member has spoken a long time. He should finish now.

SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, I am finishing within a minute or two.

In the last November session of the Assembly I gave some instances. May I ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether he had taken any steps to verify the incidents which I reported and whether those are correct or not or whether as usual he presumed them to be all incorrect. May I know, Sir, what machinery he has to keep himself informed of the various excesses which are committed throughout the Province? I cannot have first hand knowledge of them. These are things which are not allowed to be reported in the press and we cannot vouchsafe the truth of all these informations that we get. Have the Government enquired of all the incidents? They must have a machinery to collect the true facts and they must try to prevent recrudescence of such incidents.

Another instance of excesses which has been committed by the Police, I am sure has been mentioned in this House, is that the seizure of the Congress Parliamentary Fund. By what stress of imagination it was decided by the Police to seize that Fund? The Congress Assembly Party have not been declared illegal. Why then this money has been seized? Has not the Police gone to the extreme in doing so? With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, hon. Members who have gone through the Police Enquiry Committee's Report, an enquiry which was held about fourteen years ago under my presidency with representatives of the then Council, will find that I recommended as early as 1930 when I was in charge of the Police Department that the Police Department must consider themselves to be servants and protectors of the people's life and property and not as their oppressors. Wherever I went in the course of that enquiry, I impressed upon all officers, high and low, to inculcate a spirit of harmony and co-operation between the public at large and the Police Department and I am glad to say that the policy then enunciated was accepted and endorsed by all subsequent Inspector Generals of Police. Even now the present Inspector General of Police Mr. Cumming is at great pains that his Department behaves in such a way that it enjoys the confidence of the public. Cases of oppression or cases of high-handedness whenever proved, I lay great stress on the word 'proved', are met with dire punishment. The Police Department are always dubbed as a corrupt Department although majority personnel of the Department may not be corrupt at all. One suffers by old repute. One suffers by a tradition and this traditional blemish still clings to the Department, however great the efforts of those who are charged with the Administration of the Department are to free it from such a tragic and unpopular charge. I will spare no pains to stamp out corruption not only from the Police Department but from other Departments about which mention has been made on the floor of this House provided I get the support of the people and reliable evidence is placed before me. No Police officer, however high he may be, can escape punishment if his guilt is proved.

Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury mentioned that there has been a slackness of control over the subordinate staff. We have increased the supervisory staff, for my Friend himself pointed out that against a cadre of 9 Deputy Superintendents, it has been increased to 15. He, therefore, wants to know why, in spite of this extra staff, there has been no better efficiency or better treatment to the public meted out by the Department. Sir, we have inculcated the spirit of toleration amongst the Police force. We have asked them to behave with all humility with the public and I request every hon. Member to place the grievances on that score to me without fault of exaggeration. In



the course of a certain Adjournment Motion for alleged highhanded action of the Police in a certain thana, discussed on the floor of this House, I found that, and from the report of a high Police officer sent from outside the jurisdiction of that Subdivision, that if at all, the Police suffered in the hands of that hon. Member who moved the Adjournment Motion, and his father. Instead of taking any step against those persons, on that report I asked the Police to behave properly and I warned them that if any further complaint is received from any quarters against any acts of revenge, I would deal the Police officials of that locality with a stern hand.

My Friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury criticised that there has been an increase of expenditure of over 4 lakhs over the Revised. He wanted to know to what it was due. The Government of India enjoined us to appoint a large number of extra Police officers originally promising to pay their entire cost and this staff was to be used for various purposes, for example, for guarding the Railway line, for patrolling some frontier parts and duties such like. While we were corresponding with the Government of India about releasing the Assam Government from the payment of our contribution towards the expenses of the Assam Rifles, Government of India was pleased to give us on one hand the exemption from payment of as much as 5 lakhs of rupees towards the expenses of the Assam Rifles, but made it a condition that the Provincial Government should pay for the additional Police staff which we had entertained on account of the war condition. After various and vigorous protest that we made we have been allowed by the Central Government to get from them only the expenditure incurred due to certain functions performed by this extra police. It is on account of this that there has been an increase of 4 lakhs over the Revised. But if we are spending 4 lakhs more on the Police we have been exempted from payment of five lakhs for the Assam Rifles.

The same Friend wanted to know why an extra amount of Rs.1,200 has been provided for the Police Superintendent of Sylhet. This is on account of the charge of the River Police, a branch which is non-existent in the other Districts of Assam.

Mr. Morley raised the question of the increase of pilferage in the Railway. I have not got any report for the year 1943-44, but in the year 1942-43 I find that there were 26 cases of running train thefts as against 33 of the previous year. Of these, 2 cases ended in conviction, 13 cases were undetected, 2 cases were declared as mistake of law or fact, and 9 cases remained pending at the close of the year. But there has been a general complaint about pilferage in transit in the Railway. As against that, Government has impressed upon the Railway to put additional Chowkidars in important station yards to see that no one approaches the sealed wagons carried by the Railway train. Then again we have very recently enquired of the Railway whether instead of sealing the wagons they could not be rivetted. We are still in correspondence with the Railway administration and, if possible, we will get a suitable solution for stopping such pilferage in Railway wagons.

I now come finally to reply to Mr. Chaudhury. I am sorry to hear the different instances of failure of the Police to protect the people from molestation by individual personnel of the Army. He very feelingly asked whether I had not seen any of these occurrences myself. Frankly speaking, I am confined by so much work that I have no time to roam in the streets to notice such cases and I have never seen any such cases up till now. What is worse is that not a single one of the cases which my Friend has narrated here has been reported to me either officially or unofficially, nor have I heard of one single case from him which he now describes. If there has been such a case that the people had gone to the Police and the Police failed to protect them or to take any action then either my Friend who has espoused their cause,—and it is the duty of every citizen to espouse the cause of such oppressed people,—or the oppressed people themselves should represent either to me or to the Inspector General of Police who will, I have no doubt whatsoever, take suitable action against such occurrences and, if possible, trace the culprits to bring them to justice.

Then as regards the cases of Dhekiajuli and Gohpur, as mentioned by some of the hon. Members. If after a perusal of the High Court judgment we find that, so far as the cases of those two places are concerned, the High Court has passed



strictures upon the Police officials responsible then those Police officials will be suitably dealt with.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, what about the cases which were found as all false?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Time has already passed, Sir, otherwise I could answer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. Mover withdraw his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier to the effect that he will see that bribery and corruption are stopped, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion. I think this assurance satisfies Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri as well.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I object to leave being granted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then I put the Motion as a Question before the House.

The Question is:

"That the provision of Rs.31,694 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Clerks at page 72 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,03,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Assembly divided.

Ayes—12

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.                | 7. Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain.      |
| 2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.             | 8. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.    |
| 3. Srijut Beliram Das.                   | 9. Babu Nirendra Nath Deb.           |
| 4. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.           | 10. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.       |
| 5. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 11. Rai Sahib Daulat Chandra Gohain. |
| 6. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.                | 12. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain.  |

Noes.—33

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| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.          | 15. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.                  |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.                          | 16. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali.                          | 17. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.                  |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.           | 18. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.          |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 19. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.                  |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.                      | 20. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.                        |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.                 | 21. Mr. C. W. Morley.                          |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.           | 22. Mr. R. A. Palmer.                          |
| 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn.                               | 23. Dr. C. G. Terrell.                         |
| 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.                        | 24. Mr. P. Trinkle.                            |
| 11. Babu Kalachand Roy.                                       | 25. Mr. A. Whittaker.                          |
| 12. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.                                     | 26. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.                    |
| 13. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.                                  | 27. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.                |
| 14. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury.         | 28. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.                  |
|   | 29. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.                |
|   | 30. Rev. L. Gatphoh.                           |
|   | 31. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.                       |
|   | 32. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.                   |
|   | 33. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.               |

The Question was negatived



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the main Grant.

The Question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.34,03,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '29.—Police' "

The Question was adopted.

GRANT No.19

(39.—Public Health)

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.14,06,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health."

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,06,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health.' "

Now, I find that there are as many as 14 Cut Motions in relation to this Grant and looking into the list I find that Motion No.12 standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee covers almost all the points that are sought to be raised by the other Motions. I would therefore ask Mr. Mookerjee to move his Motion.

It was decided at the very outset that the discussion on this Grant would continue up to 3-30 p.m., but as the previous Grant has already taken up more than the allotted time I would allow half an hour only, for the discussion of this Motion, that is to say, the discussion will continue up to 3-35 p.m.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 14,06,400 under Grant No. 19, Major head —39.—Public Health, at page 103 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 14,06,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise the policy of Government with regard to the Public Health Department.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. I understand that originally the time allotted for this Grant was 45 minutes. Is it within the competence of the Hon'ble Chair to reduce that time?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The allotment of time was made by His Excellency the Governor, and it would be against official etiquette to go beyond the time allotted by him. But I have got my discretion to make a suitable alteration of time, if circumstances so arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I make a submission in this connection, Sir?

So far as the days are concerned, they were allotted by His Excellency the Governor; but so far as the hours and minutes for a particular Grant is concerned, they were fixed up by the Hon'ble Speaker in consultation with the Leaders of the Parties. So His Excellency has no hand in allotting 45 minutes for this particular Grant.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Mookerjee is not correct.

The Deputy SPEAKER: In the best interest of the discussion of the subject before us, I would ask Mr. Mookerjee to continue his speech without further interruption.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it is unfortunate that in this benign Province of Assam it takes years for our popular Ministers to understand the necessity of any important measure touching the health and lives of the people of the country. Better late than never, and I must thank the Ministry for having seen the wisdom of reorganising the Public Health Department. Had this been



done years ago, I am perfectly sure that much good would have been done to Assam; possibly, many lives would have been saved. Any one who goes through the weekly *Assam Gazette* can find out how hundreds of people are dying from preventable diseases, such as cholera, small-pox, typhoid, etc. and yet in Assam for all these years there has existed a dual control over the doctors of the Public Health Department which has always tended to produce bitterness, friction and inefficiency. I am glad that this reorganisation will put an end to the inefficient administration of the Public Health Department, and that from now on the doctors of the Public Health Department freed from the dual control, will be able to give a better account of their work.

Prevention is better than cure and probably it is the recognition of this fact that is responsible for the establishment of the Health Ministry in Great Britain. Here in India things are so different that in most Provinces, as in Assam, the Public Health Department has been a subordinate adjunct of the Medical Department. Happily for India with the arrival of His Excellency Lord Wavell as Viceroy and Governor-General of India, the attention of both Government and public is being focussed on this important question of improving the health of the people of this country. There has already been sitting in New Delhi an important committee called the Health Survey and Development Committee dealing with the question of improvement of public health. In America, there is great activity on this subject. On February 7th last, Vice-President Henry A. Wallace in a Public address in San Francisco, California, on the subject of peace time prosperity said, "Now let us talk about the things it is our duty to have if this American Civilization is to grow and go forward. First, there is health. Two generations ago in the United States every city dweller had to boil his drinking water or run the risk of dysentery and typhoid. We cut down the death-rate enormously when we made it possible for city people to get safe drinking water at modest cost." So, Sir, it will be seen that America is giving the first place to health. England recently announced a plan for national health service, which will increase the number of health centres and hospital units. It is stated that the British Government is now engaged on improving the plan made by Sir William Beveridge. In my opinion, war or no war, Assam should, in the interest of her future prosperity, keep herself in close touch with the movement with regard to improvement of health in other progressive countries, so that Assam may not be late in introducing measures of public health which other countries are going to introduce.

While on this subject, I would request the Government to so organise the Public Health Department as to ensure proper sanitation and hygiene of not merely the urban areas but also the rural areas. In this connection I might mention the necessity of checking the adulteration of foodstuffs, particularly of mustard oil. A reference was made to this matter in one of our previous sessions by my Friend, hon. Dr. Terrell, and as lately as in the last session the European Group in the House spoke at considerable length on the desirability of improvement of the sanitation in Bazar areas near airfields. I would go further and say that all Bazars should be controlled. Adulterated and rotten foodstuffs must be confiscated and delinquents adequately dealt with. Properly qualified health staff, as necessary, must be provided and the whole thing should be gone about in right earnest. Without this, no good is likely to accrue. The Health Officers must be armed with powers for taking action on adulterated foodstuffs. It is necessary in this as in any other important matters that the health staff should be properly paid commensurate with their responsibilities in order to put them out of all temptation. I have heard that at present the salaries of the Health Officers are lower than the salaries of the medical men of equal or less qualifications in the medical branch. This disparity must be removed. It is understood that in addition to usual medical qualifications, the Health Officers



have to take further health qualification such as the degree of D. P. H. or passing the sanitary course in Bombay. Furthermore, Health Officer working in subdivisional headquarters get neither free quarters nor house rent which their colleagues in the Medical branch enjoy. These and other differences must be removed if good work is to be expected of the Public Health staff. I do not wish to go into details, but I leave it to the good sense of the Ministry and the Public Health Department to work out a reasonable plan to ensure efficient service. If health is the matter of first importance, it is necessary that the health staff should be adequately remunerated.

While on this topic, I should like to mention that the propaganda work of the Public Health Department should go under the Publicity Department, so that the Publicity Officer may co-ordinate the work of propaganda of Public Health along with his other propaganda works so that the result that will ensue may be of inestimable value to the future well-being of the country.

Sir, as regards quinine, I think, it is my duty that I should mention a few words about it.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, he is indulging in manuscript eloquence. As he has already exceeded his time limit this may be taken as read.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want your ruling on this point, Sir. I rise on a point of order whether a Member has got the right to pass a remark like this or not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is as much known to the hon. Members as to myself that since the very inception of the Provincial Autonomy and the present system of parliamentary procedure in this House I have very often noticed manuscript speeches being read. If this has become a practice, how can I prevent it now? Therefore, I have allowed the hon. Member to read his speech.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I hope Sir, it is in the knowledge of the Chair that Mr. Churchill has never spoken extempore.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think, Sir, the point of my Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, is that as you have limited the discussion of this Grant up till 3-35 and it is 3-20, other Members will get no chance nor the Minister will get any time to reply. That is why he brought this point of order to your notice that the time is short and the hon. Member who is speaking be asked to finish.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If that be the case, Sir, I have no objection.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am sorry, Sir, he did not put it in so many words, but he meant that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If he says like that, I am satisfied.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, I meant the excess time the hon. Member was taking.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am satisfied and I am not going to take any more time, Sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am putting the Motion as a Question before the House.

The Question is:

“That the total provision of Rs.14,06,400 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 103 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,06,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The Question was negatived,



The Question was negatived.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,232 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria— 1.—Pay of establishment (total), at page 105 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,06,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of this Cut Motion is not one of criticism, but, more one of concern to take the opportunity of urging Government to ensure that the maximum possible quantity of quinine is made available for the Province of Assam from the Central Government supply.

It would appear that this is not due for allocation until the commencement of the financial year, and as such the quantity—if any—is at present unknown. The very great importance of this drug in the treatment of malaria is so well known to all of us that it is unnecessary to stress the point. It is, however, not so widely known that despite the introduction on a very large scale of substitute anti-malaria drugs, quinine—in the opinion of those most experienced—still holds an unrivalled place in the treatment particularly in the early stages, of an attack of malaria. With the enemy in occupation of approximately 90 per cent. of the quinine producing areas in the world, we are of course faced with an inevitable and increasing shortage, and for this reason it behoves us to make the best use possible of our available resources.

With this in view, it will not be out of place, I think, to record a simple and comparatively new method of preparation and administration of quinine sulphate for intramuscular injection. This form of quinine is practically the only one available, and is the one issued by the Central Government. It is found that if quinine sulphate is dissolved by dilute hydrochloric acid—in the proportion of one minim of acid for every grain of quinine required—it forms a very simple, safe and efficient preparation for intramuscular injection. The ordinary adult dose required is 10 grains, and this is dissolved in 10 minims of dilute hydrochloride acid, and the volume, made up to 2 cubic centimetres with normal saline. This, of course, must be sterilised by boiling and made up freshly every time. The chief value in this new method lies in the fact that very few injections would have the equivalent effect of a number of doses of quinine given by the mouth, and in consequence there is a considerable economy effected in the consumption of quinine. It also has the great advantage of releasing the bi-hydrochloride of quinine,—which was previously used for this purpose, and is in very small supply,—exclusively for treating the worst cases of malignant malaria by intravenous injection and for which it alone is suitable. After the initial one or two injections, the patient can safely follow this up with a course of one of the quinine substitutes with reasonable chance of a cure.

Sir, I apologise for having gone into somewhat technical details in this matter, but hope that I may be excused on the grounds of the urgent need for some practical suggestion for economy in the use of quinine. It is in my opinion certain that this year will see a further deterioration in the malaria position in this Province, with a general increase in this disease, and possibly epidemics in certain areas—such as was experienced at Baniyachong. To a certain extent this is unavoidable, and is the direct result of repercussions of the war situation to which the population of this Province in particular has been exposed. Malnutrition, shortage of anti-malaria drugs, curtailment of anti-malaria control measures, are all adverse factors. In addition to this we have large movements of labour to and from areas of intense infection and a general disturbance of the normal population basis. These are all contributory factors to the situation I visualise, and explain the reasons for my concern to ensure that we should secure as much quinine as possible for our requirements.



In conclusion, may I also put in a plea for a more efficient quinine distributing organisation in the hands of the Department of Public Health? It is suggested that a larger and better staffed packing department is urgently required to cope with the extra work involved.

With these few words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House. Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir, I have got two Cut Motions in my name, and they cannot be moved.....

\*The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already informed the House that for paucity of time allotted for the purpose, I am sorry, I cannot allow the hon. Member any time. I have seen that there are as many as 14 Cut Motions tabled. It is really a matter of great dissatisfaction on the part of the hon. Members not to be able to move their individual Cut Motions. I would, therefore, call upon the Hon'ble Minister that as far as practicable she would touch on all the important points that have been raised in different Cut Motions.

\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The Batarhat *Kala-azar* Dispensary has been stopped. I am sorry that within an area of five miles there is no dispensary. Will that point be touched?

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Cut Motions, on analysis, I find, wish to discuss the general policy of the department. In the discussion points were raised with regard to the problem of malaria and *kala-azar*, water-supply, adulteration of food-stuffs and also improved supply of quinine. I will try, Sir, to reply as far as possible to all of them. I begin by saying that I was expecting the hon. Mr. Mookerjee to give certain suggestions for the improvement of the Public Health Department, I am sorry, I have heard no such suggestions.

\*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: He had no time.

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: But he has made only two suggestions that we should get into touch with the Public Health work of all the nations of the world like America and England and that we should take more care about the sanitation of the Province. These suggestions will be duly considered.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about propaganda?

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I think it is most important to mention the supply of quinine. I appreciate the remarks made by Dr. Terrell. For the information of the House I may tell them that Government is doing its very best to get as much quinine as possible from the Government of India and up till now it has not been said that we have been suffering in any way for insufficiency of the supply of quinine. I think, Mr. Whittaker will bear me out that the Tea Industry as well as the Government dispensaries and hospitals have been very well treated by the Government in the supply of quinine.

We have also tried to keep other substitutes, *i.e.*, Mepacrine, Atebrin and we hope in view of the shortage of quinine throughout India, Assam is having very handsome treatment and we have nothing to complain. It should be recognised that the Public Health Department is only an advisory department; we have large staff of men doing propaganda work to teach the people hygienic habits, good sanitation and simple rules of hygiene. It is up to the people to take the advice that is offered by the Public Health Department. We cannot force such advice on the people. I would also advise the hon. Members of this House to help us in this matter.

With regard to *kala-azar*, especially in the Sibsagar Subdivision, I quite realise that there is an increase of cases in that subdivision. We have no separate *kala-azar* hospital there, but I have asked the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals to reserve 10 beds for treating *kala-azar* cases and we have also opened out-door dispensaries in places where it is needed. A survey is being carried out and wherever it is found necessary to open out-door dispensaries for the *kala-azar* patients we shall do so.

Then, Sir, regarding malaria I may say for the information of the House that after the re-organisation of the Public Health Department we are considering the necessity of creating a malaria section to carry on anti-malarial measures. Up till now we have



been contributing to the Assam Medical Research Society. It has done very good work but there is not enough co-operation which is absolutely essential to carry on the work actively. Local Bodies, which had agreed to contribute to some extent for anti-malarial measures have recently stopped their contributions. So, Government think it is absolutely essential to take up the whole work and close down the research society.

With regard to adulteration of food-stuffs, Local Bodies have been urged to take advantage of the Assam Pure Food Act, but in spite of constant reminders to all concerned they are not taking advantage of that Act. They have done absolutely nothing in this respect. So, Government now consider it necessary to draw up a Public Health Bill which will give more power to the Public Health Department and its officers to deal with this matter. It is hoped that we can grasp the Assam Pure Food Act, which in fact is now a dead letter, and we ourselves shall do all that are necessary in that direction.

I think I have touched all the points raised by the hon. Members.

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: What about the house rent allowance of the Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination do not remain in one place; they are to move from place to place doing vaccination work. So, Government do not consider it necessary to grant them house allowance.

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: But where they will keep Government records etc.?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am putting this Motion as a question before the House.

The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.8,232 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a).—Malaria—1—Pay of establishment (total) at page 105 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 14,06,400 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The question was negatived.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,06,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health.'"

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.18.

(38—MEDICAL).

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.13,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head "38—Medical."

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.13,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '38—Medical.'"

I find that there are as many as 9 Cut Motions in relation to this Demand, Grant No.18. Cut Motion No.8 is expected to cover all the salient points that have been raised in different Cut Motions. I therefore call upon Mr. Mookerjee to move his Cut Motion No.8.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.13,18,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.13,18,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise Government policy with regard to the Medical Department. Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government to the scarcity of medicines in the Province and especially of pure medicines and the dearth of medical men. The Government should take special care, and special attention should



be given to remove these difficulties so that the people of the Province may get pure drug in sufficient quantity and there may be sufficient number of medical men under Government so that people may be treated in time of dire needs.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.13,18,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.13,18,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I rise and straightway inform the House that I rise to speak on this Motion with great reluctance, reluctance not because of the fact that Mr. Mookerjee has moved his Motion. Generally speaking he gives the necessary facts and figures and that suffice for the discussion. But it is very unfortunate that to-day on account of the interruptions of Mr. Abdur Rahman he could not speak properly. I hope there will not be such interruptions in future.

Sir; I am very much discouraged to learn that the Government cannot carry out their intention particularly because of the intervention of the Government of India. This morning the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that although the orders were passed in case of one security prisoner in September last, the order was not given effect to, even now. If that is the position of the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is in charge of the destinies of this Government for not less than fifteen or sixteen years what we can expect from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical Department, the only Lady Minister in this world?

Sir, I wish to make one or two suggestions. I hope these suggestions will be taken into consideration by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. One is the position of the subsidised dispensaries. The subsidised dispensaries were introduced in order to help the rural people, but on account of very poor pay of the doctors and on account of the fact that Government induce subsidised doctors to leave their jobs by tempting them with greater pay, these dispensaries have practically ceased to function. I know of one instance in my locality, *viz.*, Rampur Dispensary, the opening ceremony of which was performed by the previous Hon'ble Minister of Medical Department. That dispensary was closed because the doctor was taken away by the Public Health Department. That is the treatment which is given to us.

Then, Sir, a small sum has been given to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical. That small amount she has spent more for the benefit of the insane people than for others. I do not grudge her anxiety to favour the insane people but the sane people also should have been given some share. Only a sum of six thousand rupees has been allotted for the purpose. I don't know if this small sum is spent for the insane people, what she will spend for the treatment of the sane people in dire necessity.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the object of this Cut Motion is to draw attention to the urgency for consideration of measures to make available a larger supply of pure drugs to the general public in this Province. It is well known to all of us to what extent the general public has suffered from a serious shortage of essential medicines which, when available, have commanded very high prices and usually been provided from black market sources.

With a view to bringing the matter under control and to stamp out the black market, the Government of India recently introduced the Drugs Control Order, which tabulates a comprehensive list of medicines and fixes the retail price of each item, which in every case is 15 per cent above the wholesale rate. The Control Order, which was very overdue, is definitely a step in the right direction, but it is for us to assess its repercussions from a practical point of view as far as Assam is concerned — and to consider whether the Order is liable to make available a larger quantity of medicines for the use of our general public or not.

Although far from wishing to engender any feelings of dissatisfaction in the minds of retailers, if these do not already exist, I feel it is right, Sir, to express my own personal opinion to the effect that the margin of profit allowed is not sufficient to encourage the average small pharmacy proprietors in Assam to increase their stocks or even in some cases to continue in business. It will be observed that the margin of



15 per cent in the Order is applicable to the whole of India, and as such, from a business standpoint the owner of pharmacy in Calcutta is on exactly the same footing as one in say Dibrugarh or Silchar. It is, however, my contention that the overhead expenses of the latter two would compare very unfavourably with the Calcutta firm—chiefly for the reason that the Assam firms have to bear a considerable burden of expenses on account of freight which is not to the same extent borne by firms in such places as Calcutta.

Owing to the abnormal conditions that prevail, it is almost impossible for consignments of medicines to reach upcountry firms by rail, and these have to be obtained by the more costly means of registered postal parcels. I understand that special consideration is contemplated under the Control Order to allow firms doing business in Hill Stations a somewhat more liberal margin of profit, and I suggest that it would not be unreasonable under the present conditions that prevail to urge that the whole of Assam should, for this purpose, be included in the Hill Station category.

It is possible that a solution of the matter may be found by some co-operative medical purchasing organisation at central points in this Province; and in that case the whole problem could be simplified, and, if properly run, such an organisation should make for much greater efficiency in supply and distribution.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to appeal to Government that arrangements should be made as soon as possible for a fully qualified Drug Inspector with an organisation such as exists in other Provinces—including Bengal. It is essential that the general public should be protected as much\* as possible against the danger that exists from the sale of impure and adulterated medicines, whose purity and efficacy are often much below standard. Greed for illicit gain which induces persons to indulge in such criminal practices at the expenses of the lives of human beings requires constant vigilance. To the fact that this is a very real danger, I can myself testify following recent bitter experiences of the use of drugs that had been tampered with, and which even extended to adulteration and substitution of the contents of sealed glass ampules.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Motion for the approval of the House.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I stand to oppose the Cut Motion No. 8, because the hon. Mover has already spoken about the provincialisation of mofussil hospitals and insufficiency of medicine. I think Government has already taken steps for these.

I had moved the Hon'ble Minister for Medical previously to entertain in services two Garo lady doctors who were still not employed by the Government. During the time of the Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty I had brought this fact to his notice and though he had promised he did nothing in his time. I hope the Hon'ble present Lady Minister will see to this.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not with a view to criticise the Government that I rise to speak, but I feel I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place before the House and also before the Hon'ble Minister in charge the deplorable condition of the Jorhat Civil Hospital. Sir, the recent earthquake has caused a lot of damage to the buildings of this dispensary. The walls of the operation room have been so badly damaged that there is a large number of gaping cracks on them. Any patient taken into the operation room, I am afraid, will lose his heart before he is placed on the operation table. As regards the indoor hospital, the condition is the same. The walls are badly broken and I submit that the hospital is not fit even for healthy people, not to speak of unhealthy men. As regards the dispensary itself, Sir, I would only say that sooner the dispensary is dismantled the better. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will kindly take into consideration the early improvement of this hospital.

Sir, on a different occasion I said that the provincialisation of this dispensary should be taken up at once as a post-war reconstruction scheme. In Bengal I hear they have already taken up the provincialisation of mofussil dispensaries as a post-war reconstruction scheme, and in Bihar I hear a Bill is going to be introduced soon for provincialising all the mofussil dispensaries. If these two Provinces are taking steps to



provincialise the mofussil dispensaries in their own Provinces I do not understand why this Government should not take up similar action ; and in particular as far as the dispensary is concerned, steps should be taken as early as possible because as it stands at present this dispensary is no dispensary worth the name.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to very briefly though very earnestly plead on behalf of the Charitable Leper Institutions of the Province. The cost of living has gone up and probably subscriptions for the support from the country running the institutions have diminished. They are doing excellent work, Sir, and I would like to see particularly the Jorhat Leper Asylum receive a substantially larger grant than at present.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I had a Cut Motion on the subject by which I wanted to raise a discussion regarding the dismantling of the laboratories and other fittings of the Medical School buildings at Sylhet. Sir, a huge amount of money was spent in constructing these equipments. But now we find that these fittings, though very expensive, are going to be dismantled. If it is allowed to be done, I think, there will be no chance of starting a Medical School at Sylhet, even in near future. I request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to look into the matter and to take such steps as she might deem proper in the circumstances.

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I am sorry to hear, Sir, about the deplorable condition of the Jorhat dispensary. In the Question hour during the session of the Assembly, I am sure, the hon. Member who has just now spoken raised this question for provincialising that dispensary as a post-war reconstruction. As a matter of fact, the deplorable condition of the dispensary is felt by the people of Jorhat. We understand that there is a large number of very rich people, but only one or two are going to help for this purpose. I hope, Sir, these rich people will see their way to help this institution.

As regards the question raised by Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, it is not a fact that any part of the proposed Medical School buildings is going to be dismantled. As the Military wanted to occupy the buildings we allowed them to occupy a part of the buildings only. So my Friend must not have any complaint on that score.

The hon. Mover of the Cut Motion stresses the importance of importing pure drugs in sufficient quantity. He also states that there is a dearth of doctors. I am marking that the dearth of doctors just now is due to the fact that we have encouraged doctors to take Military service. I do hope that the hon. Mover will agree with me that it is more important to win the war than to stop diseases which are due to war condition. Therefore, although it is regrettable yet it is more urgent that doctors should be sent to the Military Department and not only they are sent but we encouraged them to take service under the Military. But it is only at the time of epidemic that we find ourselves short of doctors.

With regard to the insufficiency of medicine, which becomes a vital question, I may say that every Province suffers in that respect. The Government of India has tried to explore possibilities of getting more medicines in order to ease the situation. They have promulgated the Drugs Control Order as well. Assam is not the only Province to suffer in this respect. But we shall do our very best to get our share and not suffer unnecessarily.

Then again it is our policy to help the lepers as much as possible and for that purpose we have increased our grant to quite a number of leper colonies.

\*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If I may intervene, I heard Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri was complaining that he did not entertain a very high hope because the Medical Department has been in charge of a Lady Minister. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will satisfy Mr. Chaudhuri.



\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I asked the Hon'ble Premier to remind the Minister-in-charge about my subsidised dispensary.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already reminded.

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Hon. Mr. Chaudhuri told the House the other day that he was trying his best to separate the Public Health Department from the Medical, but he did not succeed whereas we have succeeded in effecting the separation.

I was telling about leper colonies. It is our policy to increase the number of leper colonies as much as possible. If the Jorhat Mission Hospital applies for extra grant we shall see our way to give it extra grant.

Then as regards subsidised doctors, I may inform the hon. Members that the pay of the subsidised doctors has been increased from Rs.35 to Rs.45 a month. We have made extra grant for the purchase of medicine. In addition to that, recently we passed an order to encourage the doctors to serve in subsidised dispensaries, that there should be no age limit for the subsidised doctors and also that in recruitment to the medical service some preference should be given to subsidised doctors. Recently we have also allowed rice concession to subsidised doctors.

\*Dr. C. G. TERRELL: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister if she will make some comment as to provision for Drug Inspector? It is possible that she has done so, but owing to the noise going on outside, I could not hear it from her.

\*The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I realise the importance of the suggestion. We shall examine the question further.

\*The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am putting the Motion as a question before the House.

The Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.13,18,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.13,18,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

\*The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then I put the main Motion as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.13,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '38.—Medical.'"

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No.24

##### (47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,20,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head "47.—Miscellaneous Department".

Sir, I find there are some Cut Motions under this head which relate to different departments and the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of those departments will deal with those Cut Motions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,20,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '47.—Miscellaneous Departments.'"

I find there are as many as 6 Cut Motions and these Cut Motions relate to different subject matters. But I do not find any such Motion of the widest scope that can cover all. Therefore I would like to put them one by one and at the same time request the hon. Members to be as brief as possible.



Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: They may be guillotined and the main Motion may be put.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: As no hon. Members are going to move their Motions I would like to put the main Motion.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to move *in*ce, *i.e.*, Cut Motion No.4.

I beg to move that the provision of Rs.29,513 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour (total) at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, I shall take some time with this Motion because it deals with contractors' labour engaged on project work. I do not think they have any advocate to speak on their behalf other than myself. The object of my Motion has been clearly stated but in order that the hon. Members may understand the position, it is necessary for me to give a short explanation regarding the procedure adopted in these cases of compensation.

In the case of the Indian Tea Association labourer who has died on a project, a claim for compensation is submitted by the garden manager concerned; this claim is considered by the Chief Medical Officer of the project, and if admitted, the claim is passed to the project Commander for his concurrence and action. An interim payment of Rs.250 is immediately paid by the project Commander to the dependants and the claim is forwarded to the Controller of Emigrant Labour in Shillong for final settlement. In due course, and I regret to say after a period of four months or so, the claim is settled less the amount already paid. This interim payment is of great assistance during this period of waiting and is obtained from Government by the Indian Tea Association on behalf of its labour as a special concession.

In the case of a claim by a contractor's labourer, the procedure is somewhat different. No interim payment is possible and the Deputy Commissioner decides as to whether compensation is payable. I have had cases which had been actually admitted by the project authorities but refused by the Deputy Commissioner. Literally he may be correct for ignoring the medical certificate and recommendation of the project officials, but it does seem hard on the labourer, that a claim should be admitted by the project officials which is fully aware of the circumstances of the case, only to have it refused by Government—such action is not good policy particularly if contractors' labour for projects is to be encouraged. In these contractors' labour cases also there is a period of waiting before a final settlement is made, sometimes extending to 6 months.

My submission is, Sir, that the time that lags between the submission and the final settlement of all these claims is too long. How are the dependants of these labourers to live during this period? In the case of Indian Tea Association labour, the interim payment is of the greatest help in keeping the wolf from the door, but the contractors' labourer has no such assistance and his dependants, Sir, may even starve before the final settlement takes place—a poor recompense for his effort in working on a Defence project! I am given to understand, Sir, that these cases are taken in rotation. I have submitted during the past 18 months 122 cases; only 22 of these have been finally and completely liquidated. I do urge upon Government to take immediate steps to ensure that these cases receive final settlement within one month of submission.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.29,513 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour (total) at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”



The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must thank the hon. Mover for bringing this matter to the notice of Government, *viz.*, the matter of giving compensation to the heirs and dependants of those unfortunate people who died in work in various projects. I must confess, Sir, the hon. Mover has given us enough materials on which we can take such action as we are competent to take. I may inform the House that this matter did not come before us in this shape before, and I shall take very serious note of what the hon. Mover has said and shall do whatever is possible to expedite payment of claims.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I bring one matter to the notice of the Government? In the Public Works Department road between Shaistaganj and Chunarughat, some labourers were engaged in earth-cutting work and some of them had been knocked down while at work by military lorries, and they died subsequently. May I know whether their dependants are entitled to get any compensation?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think every case will be decided on its merits. I do not know what sort of labourers they were, and whether Government have got any responsibility for them. Unless all the details are before the Government, I cannot say anything either way.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that, if the employer is a contractor, those people will get no compensation whatever, because contractors, in our experience, evade all their responsibility for labourers?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What does the hon. Mover propose to do?

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: In view of what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,400 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B—Labour, Sub-head—I—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Labour Commissioner at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I like to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that some tea estates of the Surma Valley, which are not members of the Indian Tea Association, do not get any supply of food-stuffs at controlled rates whereas similar non-members in the Assam Valley do get their regular supply individually in the same way as member gardens.

Sir, as far as my information goes, the managers of the Maniknagore, Kalinagore, Aylabari, Sabajpur, Sridharpur, Pallathal, Jаланagore, Dadshingole, Chaklapunji, Dildarpore, etc. etc. in the district of Sylhet approached the authorities to have food-stuff supplied at controlled rates, but many of them returned in vain and were instructed to have the commodities for their officers and labourers through co-operative societies. Sir, is it possible for non-Indian Tea Association gardens to form a co-operative society in a subdivision when they are staying scattered from one corner to another? In this connection a letter was written, I understand, to the Hon'ble Premier on the 30th January last by Mr. G. Gupta, the Manager of Sabajpur Tea Estate reminding him about the discussion made at Karimganj by that gentleman, but no reply has been forthcoming.

With these few words, I draw the attention of the Government to give facilities to the non-Indian Tea Association gardens and other industrial concerns so that they may get supplies individually at controlled rates at an early date.

Sir, in connection with Motion No.2, I also beg to bring to the notice of the Government another most important point as regards the inadequate wages to labourers given by the Indian Tea Association and non-Indian Tea Association gardens. I hope Government will kindly take prompt steps so that the labourers of all kinds of gardens may get considerably increased daily wages from their own authorities in these hard days.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.2,400 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Labour Commissioner at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. I also know something in this connection. When I was approached about this matter I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, but I do not know what steps he has taken. Those gardens which are members of the Indian Tea Association get something for their labourers and staff at controlled prices. But those gardens, which are not members of the Indian Tea Association, when they approach the Subdivisional Officer, either they are given nothing or sometimes they are given something, and the quantity that is given is most insufficient and very much less in comparison with that of the gardens which are under the Indian Tea Association. Sir, I myself saw the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj in this connection, and he asked me to request those gardens to form a co-operative society in which case he could assist those gardens. Pursuant to that, I consulted several managers and from the discussion I was convinced that it was not possible to form a co-operative society when the gardens were scattered at such long distances. Sir, if the Hon'ble Prime Minister is willing to help those gardens, which are not members of the Indian Tea Association, he can do so by fixing a quota on the basis of which the member gardens of the Indian Tea Association are getting their supply.

With these few words, I support this Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as our information goes the Indian Tea Association get their supply in bulk from Calcutta direct and they advance funds and also bear the cost of transport and other incidental charges but the gardens which are outside the Indian Tea Association are so scattered and their quotas are so small that it is not possible for them to get a bulk supply from Calcutta. Therefore, they are to get their supply from the wholesalers and from the agencies. It is perhaps for this reason they are to pay something more than the Indian Tea Association. Sir, I do not know—the gardens being small and scattered—what will be the solution. The hon. Mover himself has said that it is not possible to have a co-operative society. I expected that the hon. Mover and Mr. Mookerjee who followed him would give us some suggestion in what way Government could help them but none was forthcoming.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, I can give the answer to the Hon'ble Minister. The Indian Tea Association have never refused to get supplies for any garden—both member and non-member—which is prepared to pre-pay the cost of consignments which are sent from Calcutta. The Indian Tea Association are only too glad, as in the Assam Valley, to supply according to the quota allotted by Government. There has been no difficulty about it in the Assam Valley. There is no question of asking a garden to become member of the Indian Tea Association. In this respect the Indian Tea Association are prepared to act for the whole of the industry. The only thing wanted is to put the Association in funds as it is required to pre-pay all the costs even if some of them take six months to arrive in the Surma Valley. We are prepared to do this for all gardens and not treat one garden differently from the other because one is a member and the other is not. We are thankful to Government for giving us a quota and we are prepared to divide that quota equally among the members and the non-members. The only thing is that the costs will have to be pre-paid.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that a quota has been fixed for all the tea gardens? Am I also to understand that there is a definite quota for all the tea gardens whether they are members of the Indian Tea Association or not? What is the real position?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: A quota has been fixed, Sir, based on the population figures published by the Controller of Emigrant Labour. According to the population of each garden which subscribes to the scheme we divide the quota. As more gardens come in, the quota is raised. We divide the quota mathematically. There is no question of taking more for the member-garden than for the non-member-garden. If the number of participating gardens increase, the population obviously increases and the Supply Secretary is always prepared to adjust the quota accordingly.



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know from the hon. Mr. Whittaker whether these facts were given proper publicity. Had it been so, I think, these gardens would not have suffered so long. These should be brought to the notice of all the gardens by some publication so that they might come to know that if they apply to the Chairman, Indian Tea Association, stating their population as accepted by the Controller of Emigrant Labour or by the Government of Assam in that case they will get their requirement according to the population of the gardens.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: All I can say, Sir, is that in the Assam Valley a very large number of gardens—practically cent. per cent. of the gardens—are participating in this scheme. I cannot exactly say what the percentage is in the Surma Valley; but I do know that there is a large number of non-member-gardens coming into the scheme and draw their quota in this way.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the scheme? Will hon. Mr. Whittaker give me a copy of that scheme, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I be permitted at this stage to speak a few words? The point raised by Mr. Balaram Sircar is that the Government should endeavour to make available to non-Indian Tea Association labourers imported commodities. I was approached, as Mr. Mookerjee has mentioned, by him as well as by certain gentlemen at Karimganj. To all of them my reply was that the Indian tea gardens in the Surma Valley should form into an association like the one we have in the Assam Valley. In the Assam Valley, side by side with the Indian Tea Association which is generally confined to almost all the European managed tea gardens and also bigger Indian-owned tea estates, the smaller gardens have formed into an association with their headquarters at Golaghat and they represented that they were willing to take the responsibility of getting the quota and also of distributing it to its members. As two organisations with the same purpose will be difficult to manage, we informed the Assam Valley Indian Planters Association that they could in this matter combine with the Indian Tea Association. That is why the requirements of the Indian-owned gardens are being met by the Indian Tea Association. If the Surma Valley Indian tea planters or small tea garden-owners combine and form an association and they ask Government, Government will at once request the Indian Tea Association in the Surma Valley to work in the same principle as is being done in the Assam Valley.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is not possible.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Friend Mr. Mookerjee says 'that it is not possible' to combine and get bulk supply direct from Calcutta. If that be the case, the smaller tea gardens shall have to depend upon the subdivisional quota that is issued to the general public. The general public, in that case, suffer to that extent. For tea garden labourers, the better system will be that if the gardens combine and we get the same scheme operated in the Surma Valley, as Mr. Whittaker has explained, the quota will be increased. We may try to get higher quota from the Government of India and I wish Mr. Mookerjee will use his great influence and see that the association of the nature be formed by small tea gardens in a particular area which want to get these food-stuffs for the labour population. Unless bulk supply is obtained from outside the Province for the tea garden labourers, they will, in a particular subdivision, be taken as participating in the goods meant for that subdivision and thereby they will denude the local population to that extent and if they get the bulk of the quota as organized labour, Assam may get increased quota.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What I understand from Mr. Whittaker, he does not insist on the combination of Indian gardens as a pre-requisite for supply but he wants to say that if small Indian tea gardens who are not members of the Indian Tea Association apply through the Indian Tea Association branch of the Surma Valley they can have the supply.



Mr. A. WHITTAKER: He is correct, Sir, and undoubtedly the Hon'ble Prime Minister is also correct in saying that it would simplify matters if we deal with one association. It is extremely difficult in these days to deal with large numbers of small gardens. The Indian Tea Association therefore would prefer to deal with an association rather than with individual gardens. If individual gardens apply simultaneously I think, we can make some arrangements. The Supply Department, however, cannot alter the quota after each application is made. That is why we should like to deal with an association rather than with individuals who may apply at different times for their small quotas.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Prime Minister on behalf of his Colleague, the Hon'ble Minister in-charge, has thrown sufficient light on the points raised by Mr. Balaram Sircar. Does he like to press his Motion?

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: I do not like to press my Motion.

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

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.18,000 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—I.—Pay of Officers—Detailed Head—Chief Electric and Factory Inspector at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The minimum charges, I mean, quarterly charge for electricity in the town of Sylhet is fixed at Rs.6—this is too much in these hard days and in view of the fact that the Company gets 0—3—6 per unit, I think, they ought not to press for this minimum charge of Rs.6 per quarter. I hope, Sir, Government will intervene in this matter and the grievance of the public will be redressed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.18,000 under Grant No.24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—I.—Pay of Officers—Detailed Head—Chief Electric and Factory Inspector at page 131 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,20,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I rise to oppose the Motion moved by my hon. Friend. The hon. Mover of the Motion should thank his stars that in the town of Sylhet they are getting electric supply by paying some sort of charge. But at Gauhati though we pay full charges, we do not get any supply. When I went down to Gauhati the other day, I heard that for about a week there had been no supply of electricity for the civil population but the Military had been getting their supply all right.

In these circumstances, should he not praise and admire the Government that in Sylhet on some payment they are getting electric supply. Had he been at Gauhati his speech would have been more murderous.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Is it a point that people of Sylhet should suffer because Gauhati people are not getting supply?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that my hon. Friend Mr. Deb has given me an opportunity of explaining the position before the House on this subject. I think, my hon. Friend will agree with me that electric supply industry is now in a very difficult position. It is difficult to obtain spare parts and as has been already stated by my hon. Friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, at Gauhati there has been no supply for some days. These are due to the difficulty of getting parts and there has been a considerable increase in the load due to war.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, it seems that Government do not support me when I oppose the Motion and Government also do not support me when I support the Government.



The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Increase in load due to war is really imposing much strain on generating plant. It is very difficult to get parts. There has been increase of working costs and as a matter of fact, Bengal has already anctioned 2 per cent. surcharge due to the increased working cost. In this matter, we have to be guided by the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act. According to the provisions of the Act we are first of all to appoint a Statutory Board and unless and until we get the opinion of the Statutory Board we cannot compel any licensee to reduce the rates. In view of what I have said, I hope my hon. Friend will not press his Motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : What about Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have already said that parts are not avilable now. Government will, however, take note of it and see what can be done.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Member will not press his Motion.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB : Any way, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that even if a Statutory Board cannot be formed, Government may have some correspondence with this Electric Supply and see that something can be done.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I put the main Grant.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,20,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head '47—Miscellaneous Departments'."

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No.35

#### (Loans and Advances bearing and not bearing Interest)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,24,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances".

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6.24,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1945, for the administration of the head 'Loans and advances'."

The question was adopted.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned, till 11 A. M., on Monday, the 20th March, 1944.

SHILLONG,

A. K. BARUA,

The 3rd May 1944.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.