

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 P.M. on Friday, the 10th November, 1944.

PRESENT :

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

Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance

The following new Member was sworn in :—
Mr. W. D. Rutherford.

Panel of Chairmen

The Hon'ble the Speaker : I now announce the names of the hon. Members who will constitute the Panel of Chairmen for this Session—

1. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
2. Srijut Beliram Das.
3. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
4. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Oral answers were given)

Keane Bridge, Sylhet

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

- *1. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The total cost of the Keane Bridge, Sylhet ?
 - (b) The total collection from the same bridge upto 1944-45, including unrealised instalment, if any, from the present lessee ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

1. (a)—The total expenditure on original works upto March 1944—Rs. 4,62,749.
- (b)—Rs. 2,36,050 were realised as receipts from the Keane Bridge and the contiguous town ferries over the Surma river at Sylhet which were auctioned as one unit.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know what was the total cost when the bridge was first completed and opened for traffic ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I want notice of that question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Was not my question quite clear and how is it that the Hon'ble Minister wants notice for my supplementary question ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When the Hon'ble Minister claims for notice I cannot compel him to answer the question.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I am sorry, the figure is not available at the moment.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Are the military vehicles required to pay any toll ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Probably not.
Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will Government please let me know if the collection of tolls will be stopped after the entire expenditure is realised?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That contingency has not arisen as yet. The matter will be considered later on.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know how much was spent from the provincial revenues on this account?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I think the money came from the Road Fund.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know how the recurring cost was included in the total cost?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I want notice of that question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that this bridge was built from the receipts of petrol duties received from the Central Government?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government admit that this is a case of double taxation?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When this bridge was built from the tax realised on account of petrol duty, the people were already taxed. Then again Government is taxing the people by collecting tolls from them. In that case how the Hon'ble Minister can say 'No'? Will he kindly make the position clear?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The question is not clear, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What the hon. Member has urged is this: the petrol fund is from the taxes realised and as the expenditure was met from that fund, how do Government realise tolls which amounts to double taxation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The amount which was realised from petrol tax went to the central revenue, and this was Government money, and no longer a tax paid by the people.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Hon'ble Minister most probably has not understood the question. My question is this: is it a fact that this bridge was built from the money received from the Central Government on account of petrol duty, being the share of the Assam Government. If that is a fact, Government cannot tax again in the shape of toll.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That is a matter of argument, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if it is the policy of the Government to discontinue collection of tolls after the total cost has been realised?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As I said the question will be considered.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am not speaking with regard to this particular bridge. Is it the general policy of the Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not prepared to answer that question now.

Introduction of free Primary Education in the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*2. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they intend to introduce free primary education in the Province?
- (b) If so, when?
- (c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

2.(a) to (c)—Government are examining the report of the Primary Education Committee which has recommended introduction of free primary education and the proposal is under consideration.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know when the Committee was formed ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The Committee was formed about three months back.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know who are the members of the Committee ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Mr. S. C. Roy, Retired I. E. S., Ex-D. P. I., Srijut Sarat Chandra Goswami, Retired Inspector of Schools and Maulavi Solman Chaudhury, Professor of Mathematics, Murarichand College.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : When was the report submitted to Government ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Only last month.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May we have some idea as to how long it will take to consider the report ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The report is being printed now and as soon as the printed copies are available the report will be considered by Government. I hope very shortly we shall be able to come to some decision on this matter.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : Are Government aware of the fact that Mr. S. C. Roy, as the Director of Public Instruction of Assam, lost the confidence of the Muslims of the Province by his Recreation Club Scheme ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Does this question arise ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question does not arise.

Debt Conciliation Boards in the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*3. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Debt Conciliation Boards in the Province with the names of their respective Chairmen and members ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

3.—A list is laid on the table.

A list of Debt Conciliation Boards in Assam with names of their respective Chairmen and Members

| Names of Boards | Names of Chairmen and Members |
|--|---|
| 1. Silchar Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuya, B.L., M.L.A. (Chairman). 2. Maulavi Mufiz Ali Laskar of Katigora (Member). 3. Babu Taracharan Deshmukhya, Retired Sub-Deputy Collector (Member). 4. Maulavi Ambarali Laskar of Dayapur (Member). 5. Babu Haraprasad Das, Hailakandi (Member). 6. Maulavi Md. Yousuff Chaudhury of village Dhalai, Hailakandi (Member). 7. Maulavi Wazidali Chowdhury of Algapur, Hailakandi (Member). |
| 2. North Sylhet Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Maulavi Ashraf Ali Chaudhury, B.L., village Silghat, P.O. Dhakadakshin (Chairman). 2. Babu Birendralal Das, Ex-M.L.C. (Member). 3. Dewan Taimur Raja Chaudhury, Honorary Magistrate (Member). 4. Maulavi Akmal Hussain, Ex-M.L.C. (Member). 5. Maulavi Sheikh Abdur Rahim (Member). |

| Names of Boards | Names of Chairmen and Members |
|--|--|
| 3. South Sylhet Debt Conciliation Board. | 6. Babu Kaliprasanna Chaudhury, village Dattarail, P.O. Dhakadakshin (Member). 7. Khondkar Ojihuddin Ahmed, village Alapur, P.O. Goherpur (Member). 1. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, M.L.A. (Chairman). 2. Babu Rajkishore Das (Member). 3. Babu Girindranath Gupta Chaudhury (Member). 4. Maulavi Mahiuddin Ahmed Chaudhury (Member). 5. Maulavi Abdul Khaliq Chaudhury, Ex-M.L.C. (Member). 6. Maulavi Abdul Hanan Chaudhury, village Hajipur (Member). 7. Babu Nanda Lall Das (Member). |
| 4. Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Chaudhury, B.L., M.L.C. (Chairman). 2. Khan Sahib Haji Abdul Karim Chaudhury (Member). 3. Maulavi Manajjir Ali (Member). 4. Rai Sahib Umesh Ch. Dutta (Member). 5. Babu Suresh Ch. Das (Member). 6. Maulavi Abdul Khaliq Chaudhuri, B.A. (Batarashi) (Member). 7. Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen (Masli) (Member). |
| 5. Habiganj Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A. (Chairman). 2. Maulavi Syed Shamsuddin Ahmad Chaudhury, Madhabpur (Member). 3. Babu Josodakumar Modak, Sujatpur, Baniachang Police Station (Member). 4. Babu Ramanath Das, B.L., Ajmiriganj Police Station (Member). 5. Maulavi Syed Khalilure Rahman (Member). 6. Maulavi Syed Obeidur Rahman, Habiganj Police Station (Member). 7. Maulavi Abdur Rashid Chaudhury, Kamar-gaon, Nabiganj Police Station (Member). |
| 6. Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, M.L.A. (Chairman). 2. Maulavi Abdul Hannan Chaudhury (Member). 3. Maulavi Abdul Maksud Chaudhury (Member). 4. Maulavi Abu Hanifa Ahmed, B.A. (Member). 5. Maulavi Abdul Bari Talukdar, Member, Local Board (Member). 6. Babu Jogendra Kumar Chaudhury, Ex-Vice-Chairman, Municipal Board (Member). 7. Babu Nripendranath Roy, B.A., Retired clerk (Member). |
| 7. Dhubri Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Khan Sahib Bakshu Mohammad (Chairman). 2. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmad, B.A. (Member). 3. Srijut N. N. Roy Mandal (Member). 4. Md. Kasimuddin Sarkar (Member). 5. Md. Abdus Samad, B.A. (Member). 6. Srijut Bhabendra Chandra Shaha (Member). |
| 8. Nalbari Debt Conciliation Board. | 1. Srijut Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury, B.A. (Chairman). |

Names of Boards

9. Nowgong Debt Conciliation Board.

Names of Chairmen and Members

2. Maulavi Mahabat Ali Mahajan, Nalbari (Member).
3. Srijut Pratap Chandra Goswami, Nalbari (Member).
4. Babu Rameswar Agarwalla (Member).
5. Srijut Hit Ram Chaudhury, Goreswar (Member).
6. Maulavi Syed Ahmad, Rangiya (Member).
7. Srijut Nilaram Das, Nalbari (Member).
1. Maulavi Ubaidur Rahman (Chairman).
2. Srijut Debendranath Barua, Retired Revenue Sheristadar (Member).
3. Maulavi Kafiluddin Ahmad, Mauzadar (Member).
4. Srijut Chenaram Das (Member).
5. Srijut Narendranath Bordoloi (Member).
6. Maulavi Abdul Karim, Mauzadar (Member).

Grant of allowance to Sreejukta Girija Bala Gupta

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*4. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have recently received any application from Sreejukta Girija Bala Gupta of Village Atgaon, P. O. Aloha, District Sylhet, praying for the grant of allowance on account of the detention of her elder brother and guardian Srijut Abala Kanta Gupta as a security prisoner in the Sylhet Jail ?

(b) If so, what decision has been made in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

4.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government see no reason to sanction a maintenance allowance as Srijut Abala Gupta has been released from detention.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Has he been released unconditionally ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : He has been asked to live within a certain limit.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it a fact that he cannot see anybody except the medical men and his relations ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir, it is not a fact.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Is it not a fact that he has been released on the ground of health ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I need not give out the reasons why he has been released from detention, but he has been asked to live in his former place of habitation and as he was suffering from some disease in the jail he has been given every facility for medical treatment.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it fact that he has been given permission to proceed to Calcutta for medical treatment ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If he wants to do so, that permission has been granted to him.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In that case how can he earn his livelihood ? It is perfectly clear that he is very ill.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Is he in a position to maintain his family ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I don't know to which question I should reply, but in either case Government is satisfied that Mr. Gupta can maintain himself.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Are Government satisfied that Mr. Abala Gupta is ill ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Surely, Government is not satisfied that Mr. Gupta should be ill.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Are Government satisfied that he is in a position to maintain somebody else?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is the report we have got, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: From the answer the position is not quite clear. The reply is that as Mr. Abala Gupta has been released the question of giving assistance to his sister does not arise, because it necessarily follows that he will be in a position to earn money. Now, the Hon'ble Premier says that he is satisfied that though Mr Gupta is unwell and cannot work he can maintain his sister. These two statements are contradictory. Without taking advantage of my putting questions, will the Hon'ble Premier kindly let us know whether he is satisfied that the sister of Mr. Abala Gupta is really in straitened circumstances, and requires some relief from Government, since Mr. Gupta is under medical treatment and restrictions and cannot earn anything?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The report is that Mr. Gupta is not bed-ridden, and he can carry on his normal avocation. Therefore the question of separate maintenance for his sister does not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government take it from me that the report is an entirely false one and Mr. Gupta is very ill and not at all fit to earn anything due to his health?

Re Administration of Railway and Steamer Companies

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*5. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any representative of this Province in the Central Railway Board?

(b) If so, who is he?

(c) If not, why not?

*6. (a) Are Government aware that, now-a-days, it takes at least 31 hours to reach Sylhet from Calcutta in place of 24 hours according to the arrangement prevalent in 1943, and that it causes hardship to the passengers?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or intend to take to remove this hardship?

*7. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have got any voice or say in the administration of the Railways with regard to their timings or any other matter in so far as they relate to the Province of Assam?

(b) If so, what are they?

*8. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any voice or say in the administration of Steamer Companies in so far as it relates to this Province?

(b) If so, what are they?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

5. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How (c) does not arise?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In the Central Railway Board, as far as I know, there is no representation from the Provinces. The members are selected from the Central Legislative Assembly.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that the Railway Authorities nominate their own members from the Members of the Central Legislature?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I do not know whether they are nominated or elected.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government make an enquiry and see whether any representation from this Province can be secured in that Board?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am certain there are no provincial representatives in that Board.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government take the initiative in securing one representation from this Province to that Board?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The question may be considered.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

6. (a) & (b)—Government have no information, but if such is the case, this is obviously due to the abnormal conditions caused by the heavy military movements over which this Government have no control.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that the Government is entirely satisfied, while using the word "obviously", that there is no other cause for this delay except military movements?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The hon. Member himself is a member of the Advisory Committee, and I think it is for him to bring this question before the Committee.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case, let question No.7 be answered now, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

7. (a) & (b)—The matters relating to administration of Railways are generally decided in the meetings of the Local Advisory Committee of Railways on which we have got our representatives from amongst the Members of the Provincial Legislature. Besides, sometimes matters like cancellation of Railway timings, closure of stations, etc., are decided by the Railway authorities in consultation with this Government. The views of this Government are sometimes accepted and sometimes not.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the reply is that the matters relating to the administration of Railways are decided in consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee. This is an entirely wrong information. I had the privilege of being a member of the Advisory Committee of both Assam-Bengal and Eastern Bengal Zones of the Bengal and Assam Railway and I dare say that the reply is not correct.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not to start a discussion, but to put Questions.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am just explaining the remark of the Hon'ble Minister who said that I was in a better position to place the matter before the committee. He was entirely wrong to say that matters relating to administration of Railways are generally decided in the meetings of the Local Advisory Committee of Railways. The present-day meetings are farces.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know from the hon. Questioner whether it is not a fact that timings are always placed before the Advisory Board of which I had been a member before?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It might have been the case when the hon. Member was a member of the Committee. But now-a-days the recommendations of the members of the Committee are not even taken into consideration, though most of them are vitally concerned with the travelling public.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Are Government aware that there are many other causes for dis-satisfaction with the Railway Administration, and that its incompetence even extends to inability to protect registered mail packages entrusted to its care from pilferage?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government have no information.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government take it from me that considering the matter as it stands, Government have got some duty towards the civil population and that they should not shirk their responsibility on such unsound grounds?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I will point out to the hon. Members that there is the Economic Advisory Board; their duty is to review monthly the working of the Railways. The hon. Member is himself a member of that Board.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in how many instances the representations of the Government have been disregarded by the Railway authorities?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I cannot say off-hand. Many a time Government representations have been disregarded.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if any representation was made in the course of the last two years pointing out to the Railway authorities the inconvenience of the public?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Only recently we represented this matter. Last time during the Budget Session when the inconveniences were brought to the notice of this House we had correspondence with the Railway authorities but to no effect.

†Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know if any representation was made with regard to question No. 6?

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

†Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Do the Government consider the desirability of presenting this matter before the Railway Board?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The discussion in this House will be forwarded to the Railway authorities for consideration.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

8. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know why there is no representative in the administration?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There is no Advisory Committee for the Steamer Companies.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There is one I know. I know that there is one representative from Bengal who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Dacca. Will Government try so that this Province may also be represented? I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take my statement to be correct.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member ought to have framed this question in a different way.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: For the information of the hon. Member I may say that only recently in July last, we addressed the Steamer Companies about the desirability of formation of an Advisory Committee and we have been informed that there is no Advisory Committee functioning at present. They said that they had a Committee in 1931 but that Committee ceased to function as meetings were not attended by many of the members of the Committee and that they became unrepresentative. Since then there has been no Advisory Committee formed.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Does it relate to this Province only, or it includes other provinces as well? We have been informed that there is no Advisory Committee; is this reply relating to this Province only? May I request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to make a move in the matter so that this Province may be represented and there be one Advisory Committee.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: We had already made that representation to that Committee and we have been informed that no Committee could be formed at present. If hon. Members consider the desirability of bringing the grievance to the notice of the Steamer Companies they had better put themselves in touch with the Political Secretary of the European Group.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand that Government is not going to move the authorities so that we can have an Advisory Committee and that we be satisfied with that reply?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If that be the desire of the House, we can represent the matter to them again.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I think, Sir, that is the desire of the House.

Exterment of Comrade Lal Mohan Roy from Durlavcherra Area

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*9. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why Comrade Lal Mohan Roy has recently been exteined from Durlavcherra area in the Subdivision of Karimganj ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that he has been organising Kisan Samities and popularising the "Grow More Food Campaign" among the Kisans in that area ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the people of the locality requested the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj to remove the ban order on the said Lal Mohan Roy ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Sarpanch who reported against him requested the aforesaid officers to let Lal Mohan come back to Durlavcherra ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to remove the ban on him for public interest ?
- (f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

9. (a)—The Deputy Commissioner exteined him, being satisfied that his propagandist activities in this area were prejudicial to the peace.

(b)—He organized an office of the Kisan Sabha at Durlavcherra, but there is no evidence that he made any effort in the "Grow More Food Campaign".

(c) and (d)—Government are informed by the Deputy Commissioner that he can find nothing on record on these points.

(e) and (f)—Government see no reason to interfere. They are satisfied that the Deputy Commissioner would not have taken action against this individual, had his activities been healthy.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Is it a fact that he was asked to remove the Kisan Sabha office ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That is not so, Sir.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Is it a fact that the people of the locality asked the Deputy Commissioner to keep him in that area ? They represented this to him when he went to that area on the 27th April.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : As I have already answered, Government are informed by the Deputy Commissioner that there is nothing on record on this point.

(Starred questions Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13 were not put and answered as the Questioner Maulavi Amjad Ali was absent.)

Shaistaganj-Habiganj Branch of the Bengal and Assam Railway

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*14.(a) Are Government aware that since Assam was freed from the apprehension of enemy attack, sufficient spare rails from Hills section were available ?

(b) Is it a fact that the operation in Shaistaganj-Habiganj Branch of the Bengal and Assam Railway has been stopped for the saving of rails ?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to restore the Shaistaganj-Habiganj Branch of the Bengal and Assam Railway very soon ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

14. (a) —The Government have no such information.

†Maulavi Abdur Rahman being absent, Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee put the question on authorisation.

(b)—No. The materials available by dismantling the line were required by the Railway Board for urgent work elsewhere.

(c)—The Railway being a federal subject, the Government of Assam is not in a position to take any steps to restore the line. But the Railway Board is being requested by this Government to take up the question of its restoration *inter alia* in connection with the proposed Post-War Reconstruction Scheme on Railways.

Re Extension of the Town area of Habiganj

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

* 15. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the present total population of Habiganj Town (Municipal area) ?

(b) Are Government aware that the town area has become extremely congested ?

(c) Is it a fact that from some times past there had been public agitation and representations were made to Government for taking necessary steps to extend the town area by bridging the Khowai river ?

(d) Do Government propose to take necessary steps in the matter now ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

15. (a)—11,856 according to 1941 Census.

(b)—Yes ; but this is so with regard to many towns in Assam at present.

(c) & (d)—A deputation waited on the then Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government (Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mudabbir Hussain Choudhuri) in 1939 asking for a loan to construct a bridge over the Khowai. The Municipal Board was asked to apply for a loan from Government but they have not done so. It is for the Municipal Board to take initiative in this matter.

Outbreak of Cholera at Gauhati

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

*16. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of persons attacked with Cholera at Gauhati in August 1944 ?

(b) The number of persons who died of Cholera at Gauhati in that month ?

(c) The steps taken by Government to check the disease ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that Cholera broke out at Gauhati due to unfiltered water supply ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

16. (a)—62.

(b)—21.

(c)—(1) Removal and treatment of cases at Emigration Hospital whenever possible.

(2) Disinfection of the affected houses.

(3) Closure of public eating houses of all sorts.

(4) Mass inoculation with Cholera Vaccine in affected areas of the town.

(d)—No. The Municipality supplied filtered water.

Re Present Director of Public Instruction, Assam

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*17. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The qualifications of the present Director of Public Instruction, Assam ?

(b) The minimum qualifications required for filling up the post ?

†Maulavi Abdur Rahman being absent, Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee put the question on authorisation.

(c) Whether the post was advertised before making the appointment ?

(d) Whether the selection was made through the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

17.(a)—Fakhrul Muhaddesin, passed Calcutta Madrassa Title Examination and B.A. with distinction.

(b)—There are no minimum qualifications laid down.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : As regards (b), Sir, if no minimum qualification is fixed for filling up this highest post of the Education Department, then can anybody and everybody be appointed as Director of Public Instruction ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The post of Director of Public Instruction was formerly held by a member of the Indian Educational Service only. But since the retirement of Mr. S. C. Roy we have written to the Secretary of State to dereserve the post for the members of the Assam Educational Service. So anyone and everyone cannot become Director of Public Instruction.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI :—Sir, is it not necessary to fix the minimum qualification for the post of Director of Public Instruction ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No, Sir, it is not necessary; because only the members of the Assam Educational Service can aspire to become Director of Public Instruction and there is a minimum qualification laid down for recruitment to the Assam Educational Service.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Is not an under-graduate eligible for this post ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :—Probably not, Sir.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :—If no under-graduate is eligible for this post, I may tell the Hon'ble Minister of Education that in the Assam Educational Service there is an Assistant Inspector of Schools who is not a graduate.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I can assure the House, Sir, that in the present cadre of this Service there is no under-graduate.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the previous Director of Public Instruction, Mr. H. N. Sen was a member of the Assam Educational Service ?

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

†Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : If so, is not the present Director of Public Instruction entitled to hold the post of Director of Public Instruction who was previously a member of the same Educational Service ?

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

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the present Assistant Inspector of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle is an under-graduate ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This question does not arise out of the answers given to the question about the post of Director of Public Instruction.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : My hon. Friend the Minister-in-charge has said that anybody from the Provincial Educational Service can be appointed and eligible for the post of Director of Public Instruction. But how is it that the present Assistant Inspector of Schools appointed by the present Hon'ble Minister of Education, is an under-graduate ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The Assistant Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle is in Class II of Assam Educational Service. There is no under-graduate in Class I of Assam Educational Service.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I request the Hon'ble Minister of Education to lay down a minimum qualification for future entrants for the post of Director of Public Instruction ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That will be done, Sir.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: As regards (c) and (d), Sir, why was not the post advertised?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It is a question of promotion, Sir.

Appointment of Mass Literacy Officer

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

*18. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The special qualifications of Maulavi Abdul Gofur Chaudhury, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Sunamganj, for his being appointed as Mass Literacy Officer?

(b) Whether the said post was advertised before the appointment was made?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

18. (a)—He is a B. A., B. T. and Government considered him suitable for this post in view of his long experience and good record in the service.

(b)—No.

Replacement of retailers by Co-operative Stores

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

*19. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that order has recently been passed by Government to replace all retailers by Co-operative Stores for the supply of essential commodities to consumers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

19.—No.

Import of rice into Assam Valley

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

*20. Will Government be pleased to refer to the Press Note, dated the 24th June 1944, to the effect "Thousands of tons of rice are in the course of despatch from North Bengal to Assam Valley.....Government will continue to import rice to the detriment of the interests of cultivators and consumers alike, etc.", and be pleased to state—

(a) Whether this statement is correct?

(b) If not, who are the persons or person responsible for making the statement?

(c) The action, if any, taken by Government against those persons?

(d) The actions, if any, taken by the Central Government or by the Bengal Government either directly or through Central Government against the Assam Government?

*21. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a notice to show cause why the contract for purchasing rice and paddy for the Government will not be cancelled, was recently issued upon the Surma Valley Rice Purchasing Syndicate?

(b) If so, whether the said Syndicate has submitted any explanation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

20.(a)—Yes, at the time it was made.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

(d)—The Bengal Government issued a press note saying that it was not an export but only a loan.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As regards question No. 20, Sir, what was the correct position then, and the statement was made by whom—the Assam Government or the Bengal Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The correct position was that on account of the invasion of Assam by the Japanese army, people in the selling areas of rice became panicky and did not bring forward rice for sale, and as Assam Government required immediately sufficient supply of rice, we asked the Bengal Government to send us their surplus and allow that surplus to be exported to Assam which in due course would be paid by Assam.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The statement, as the reply goes, was made by the Bengal Government and that it was a case of loan. But so far as the Press Communique of our Government is concerned it was not a case of loan. My question is whether the Assam Government's statement is correct or that of the Bengal Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position is, we asked for the surplus rice to be brought into our Province. It is not a case of import by Bengal, but import by Assam which the Bengal Government was to be paid. This Press note was issued at the time when final negotiation had not been reached with Bengal whether they would accept money or they were to be paid in kind.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Did the Government contradict the definite statement that it was the case of a loan?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was definite that it was a case of temporary loan.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But am I to understand that Bengal Government took advantage of it and tried to vilify our Government, Sir?

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

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Is it not a fact that a surplus stock is still lying in the Surma Valley Districts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Does the hon. Member mean the stock in the hands of the Government agents or the stock in the hands of the cultivators? If the latter, it is 'yes'.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What was the attempt made by the Government to get rice and paddy from the cultivators, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Assam Government's procurer of rice in the Assam Valley is Messrs. Steel Brothers. They have been operating since September 1942 and are purchasing all the surplus that is brought to the marketing centres by the cultivators or by the middlemen. They buy it, stock it and despatch to the places wherever required by the Army. As I mentioned, the position in certain areas at the time when the Press note was issued was that no rice and paddy came to the market and that the people did not like to sell their surplus of rice and paddy.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Was any attempt made to bring rice from stocks of the Surma Valley Agents to Assam Valley?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have been making many attempts to procure the entire surplus from the Surma Valley and supply it to the Army and to bring to the deficit areas in the Assam Valley but the Railway administration is standing in the way or rather the Regional Priority Committee who have the final say in arrangement of transport is vetoing this and no rice can be booked from the Surma Valley into Assam Valley through the Hill Section of the Railway. We have represented to the War Transport Department and the Food Department at Delhi.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know, Sir, what was the idea when the Government of Assam approached the Government of Bengal for the supply of rice and whether they applied to the Bengal Government to get rice on purchase basis or by way of loan? What was the original proposal?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We simply asked the Bengal Government that the rice should immediately be made available, for it was

required for Military consumption and the question whether it should be paid for, was left for subsequent negotiation.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: What was the object of hurrying to the Press with a statement at that time?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In order to encourage people who hold surplus stock in the Assam Valley, to bring it to the market. If they held it back, we would be compelled to bring from outside.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Could it not be done earlier before the stock was obtained from Bengal?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Our agents were procuring every day of the week and all on a sudden, the Japanese invasion of Naga Hills took place and the people became panicky and so they could not bring rice to the market.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then was the Press note issued to threaten the hoarders of the Assam Valley? Was that the idea?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was to keep the morale of the people and to encourage them to use their surplus stock to best advantage.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government be pleased to state whether they saw the editorial comments of several Newspapers of Calcutta regarding this and blaming this Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Unless Mr. Mookerjee can give me the name of the papers and the editorials which appeared in the particular day I cannot answer that.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government of Bengal was asked to supply rice for Military necessity?

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

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

21. (a)—Yes, on Messrs. E. B. & A. Commercial Syndicate.

(b)—Yes.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know what was the reason for such an action?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There was a complaint that this Syndicate was taking over-weight from the people and not paying the actual price as notified by Government.

†Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I know what reply the Government received from the Syndicate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the Syndicate brought their explanation to show that the rice for which they had charged a higher rate to Government was purchased in December 1943, when the price was not fixed by the Assam Government. The whole matter was thoroughly gone into by myself and Mr. Marar and we allowed only a small sum of Rs. 30,000 on that account and we did not allow them to charge the higher rate for the quantity that was not taken delivery in their godown in December.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact, Sir, that rice sells in Sylhet markets at a cheaper rate than the ordinary market rate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Friend has rather put the question in a rather distorted way. If his question is that rice is available in Sylhet market at a price lower than the controlled price fixed by the Government, the answer is 'Yes.'

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do not the Government agents sell at a price lower than the controlled rate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The control price is for the consumer and the Syndicate purchases rice and paddy sometimes below that price.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Was the Government satisfied that the sellers were receiving a fairly reasonable price?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: So far as we could see from the vouchers they did receive a fairly reasonable price.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Has any complaint reached the Hon'ble Premier or the Government with regard to the manipulation of these vouchers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Various rumours are afloat and I have received complaints in my last tour in the Sunamganj area. I have taken up the matter in hand and it is under enquiry.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that the rice supplied through Government agents is sold at the controlled rate, whereas the rice not sold through Government agents is sold at a lesser rate than the controlled rate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Not so, Sir.

†Maulavi MABARAK ALI: What was the charge against the Syndicate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That has already been replied. The charge was that they sold at a higher rate than at what they bought.

†Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know whether the matter was enquired into by Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already replied to that.

Shortage of stocks of essential commodities in the Surma Valley Supply Agency

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

*22. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a heavy shortage of stocks of essential commodities in the Surma Valley Supply Agency?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government in this matter?

*23.(a) How many maunds of salt were imported by Government in the Province since 1st April, 1944 up to July, 1944?

(b) How many maunds of salt were in Government stock immediately before the 1st April, 1944?

(c) The normal requirements of salt in the Province?

(d) How many maunds of salt were sent to Karimganj subdivision by Government since 1st April, 1944 to 31st July, 1944?

(e) The normal monthly requirements of salt in the Karimganj subdivision?

*24.(a) Whether it is a fact that some special permits to import salt in the Province of Assam have been granted to some whole-sale dealers?

(b) If so, what are the names of the whole-sale dealers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

22.(a)—No. Supply of essential commodities allotted to Assam is coming in fairly regularly.

(b)—Does not arise.

†Mr. C. W. MORLEY: May I know whether essential commodities include mustard oil also?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mustard oil is not included among the controlled articles.

†Speech not corrected.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Is the reply of the Hon'ble Premier to Question No. 22

(a) that the supply is coming from Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The reply is "No."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

23.(a)—2,28,381 mds. 22 srs.

(b)—1,59,287 mds.5 srs. 11 ch.

(c)—Approximately 1,26,200 mds. per month.

(d)—7,500 mds.

(e)—Approximately 6,000 mds. per month.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are Government aware of the critical position of the people in view of the paucity of salt?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position was very very acute. There was an acute shortage of imported articles. But that period is over.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is there sufficient supply of salt now?

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

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: The stock position of salt of Karimganj is still very precarious. The surplus stock of salt there will cover a month only.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My report is that every town has got two months' surplus stock.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: In our calculation of the monthly requirement of salt for Karimganj Subdivision and the Government supply of it, I find that there is only one month's surplus there.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That may be the hon. Member's view.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: What is the Government policy in granting the quota of salt to each subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Government policy is not merely to give the guaranteed quota but also to see that each subdivision has at least three months' stock in hand and on that basis they are importing salt at the rate of 1,35,000 maunds per month.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I bring to the notice of Government that Karimganj Subdivision has been suffering much for want of salt and that it should get sufficient quantity of it?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will remember my hon. Friend's request.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is any quota given for cattle?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The quota fixed by Government per adult is $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per month and in arriving at that figure the requirement of cattle of a family has also been taken into consideration.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: লোকের লবণ যাহা দরকার সরকারী লবণ যাহা supply করা হয়—দরকারের তুলনায় শতকরা ২০ ভাগ লোকে পায়। ইহা কি গভর্ণমেন্ট স্বীকার করিবেন?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: ইহা আমি সত্য বলিয়া স্বীকার করি। হিসাব করিয়া প্রত্যেক মানুষের জন্য মাসে $\frac{1}{2}$ সের করিয়া লবণ ধার্য করা হইয়াছে। আমি চেষ্টা করিতেছি যাতে প্রত্যেক লোকে সেটা পায়। মাস কয়েক আগে কলিকাতা পোর্টে লবণ আমদানী বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছিল। আমাদের লবণ কলিকাতা থেকে আনতে হয় সেই জন্য কলিকাতায় লবণ আমদানী বন্ধ হওয়ায় আমাদের লবণের অভাব হইয়াছিল। এখন কলিকাতায় লবণ আসিতেছে এবং আসামেও মাসে এক লক্ষ মণের উপর লবণ আসিতেছে সেইজন্য এখন লবণের অভাব আছে বলিয়া আমি স্বীকার করি।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: ব্লক মার্কেটিং করিয়া যাহারা বেশী মূল্যে লবণ বিক্রয় করিতেছে তাহারা রেলওয়ে ও ষ্টীমার ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাবে আসামে লবণ আমদানী করিতেছেন তাহা কি গভর্ণমেন্ট অবগত আছেন?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
নোকা দিয়া আনে। ইহা এই প্ৰশ্নের উত্তরে বলা হইয়াছে।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : ব্লেক মার্কেটিং যাহারা করে তাহারা
ব্লেণ্ডয়ে ও দ্বীমারে লবণ আনার বলিয়া আমার মনে হয়।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
আপনার মনের কথাই এখানে কোনই মূল্য নাই। মৌলানা সাহেব কি কোন রকম facts and
figures দিয়া প্ৰমাণ করিতে পারেন ?

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : জনসাধারণের প্ৰতিনিধি হিসাবে আমি
গত চার মাস যাবৎ আসামের প্ৰত্যেক ডিষ্ট্রিক্টে ভ্ৰমণ করিয়া অধিকাংশ লোকের নিকট যাহা শুনিয়াছি
তাহা এই যে লোকে শতকরা ২০ ভাগের বেশী লবণ পায়না। ইহা গভর্নমেন্ট বিশ্বাস করিতে রাজী
আছেন কিনা ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
আমি মৌলানা সাহেবকে বলিতেছি যে আমি প্ৰত্যেক লোককে যাঁসে ৩ সের করিয়া লবণ দিতে হুকুম
দিয়াছিলাম কিন্তু কিছুদিন আগে লবণের অভাব হওয়ায় এবং প্ৰত্যেক জিলায় যথেষ্ট লবণ না থাকায়
অনেক সময় ৩ সের করিয়া লবণ লোকে পায় নাই—ইহা আমি স্বীকার করিতেছি। এখন লবণ কলিকাতা
হইতে আসিতেছে এবং সকলে লবণ পাইতেছে। মৌলানা সাহেব যে বলিতেছেন যে ৩ ভাগ লবণ
গভর্নমেন্ট দেন সেটা আমি বিশ্বাস করিনা।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : গভর্নমেন্ট কি বিশ্বাস করেন যে কতিপয়
গভর্নমেন্ট কর্মচারীর সাহায্যে ব্লেক মার্কেটিং কারীরা অতি উচ্চ মূল্যে এই লবণ বিক্রয়
করিতেছে ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. Further supplementaries to-morrow.

Adjournment Motions

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, I have got notices of 22 Adjournment
Motions. I am afraid, I cannot take up these Motions to-day ; they will stand over
for to-morrow.

Now, I am to announce the Message from His Excellency the Governor regarding
allotment of days during the present Session :—

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE COMMUNICATING ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1944-45

“For the purposes of section 81 read with sections 78, 79 and 80 of the Government
of India Act, 1935, and in pursuance of rules 18(1), 18(2)(a) and 19 of the Assam
Legislative Assembly (Governor's) Rules, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, hereby appoint the
following days, for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly, of the Supplementary
Statement of Expenditure for the year 1944-45 and for the subsequent stages thereof
in the Legislative Assembly during its November Session, 1944, namely :—

Friday, the 10th November

and

Saturday, the 11th November

Saturday, the 18th November

Tuesday, the 21st November

} Presentation of the Supplementary Statement
of Expenditure.

... Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants.
... Placing of the authenticated Schedule of
authorised expenditure in relation to the Supple-
mentary Demands for Grants for 1944-45.

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

Shillong.

The 1st November, 1944.

A. G. CLOW,
Governor.”

Allotment of days for Private Members' Business by the Hon'ble Speaker

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, my statement regarding Private Members'
Business for November Session, 1944. In pursuance of Rule 17 of the Assam Legislative
Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with the Hon'ble Prime Minister,

the following days for Private Members' Business during the present Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly :—

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Monday, the 13th and 20th ... } November | 1. Private Members' Bills. |
| Tuesday, the 14th November ... } | |
2. Private Members' Motions and Resolutions.
- This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

Statement regarding Course of Government Business

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement about the course of Government Business during this Session.

2. The Government Business which is to be taken up to-day and to-morrow is shown in the agenda, a copy of which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail it again. If the Motion for taking the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944 into consideration is accepted by the House either to-day or to-morrow we propose (i) that this Bill be considered clause by clause and (ii) passed, on the 16th and 17th November.

3. On the 16th and 17th November, 1944 we also propose to move the Motion for consideration of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1942-43 and then to move for approval of the excess expenditure, if any, recommended by the Committee.

On these days we also propose to take up the following Government Business :—

(1) Motion regarding approval of the scheme for the procurement and distribution of consumer goods.

(2) Consideration of the draft amendments to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, item by item, and Motion for their adoption.

If the House allows, we also propose to introduce and move for taking into consideration the following Bills on the 17th November, 1944 :—

(1) The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944.

(2) The Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944.

(3) The Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944.

Others we propose to take them up on the 18th.

4. On the 18th November, we propose to move for taking into consideration of the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941 and if this is accepted by the House, we propose to take it up again on the 23rd for consideration of further amendments, if any, to the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council.

5. If the Motions for consideration of (1) the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1944, (2) the Assam Ministers' (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1944 and (3) the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1944, are passed by the House on the 17th or 18th November we propose to take up the Bills clause by clause and to move that they be passed on the 23rd November, 1944.

We also propose to take up any unforeseen and unfinished Government Business on that day.

Committee of Petitions relating to Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under rule 112(1) of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current Session of the Assembly :—

1. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.

2. Dr. C. G. Terrell.

3. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.

4. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.

Under the rules, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

House Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under rule 126 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the current Session of the Assembly:—

1. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury,
2. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya,
3. Mr. Jobang D. Marak,
4. Srijut Surendra Nath Buragohain,
5. Srijut Beliram Das,
6. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.

Message regarding Assent to certain Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am naming the Bills to which His Excellency the Governor has given his assent.

Information has been received from the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam that, under the provisions of section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency the Governor has assented to the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Assam Legislature:—

1. The Assam Nurses', Midwives' and Health Visitors' Registration Bill, 1942.
2. The Assam Finance Bill, 1944.
3. The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency) Provisions Bill, 1944.
4. The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1944.
5. The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944.
6. The Assam Dadans Bill, 1944.

Condolence Motions

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we take up the rest of the items in the agenda of our discussion to-day, I have got a melancholy duty to perform in referring to the death of one of our colleagues in this House, *viz.*, late Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain. I think it is but meet and proper that we, the Members, do record our sense of sorrow at the untimely death of our colleague and also send a copy of our condolence to the bereaved family.

Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain was the scion of a noble Ahom family, who are connected with the last Rulers of Assam before British occupation in 1826. He was a gentleman, simple but sincere and in him we have lost a valuable colleague. And, though he did not take much part, on account of ill health, in the debates of this House, he was zealous to safeguard the interests of his own community and he spared no pains to bring to my notice the claims of his community, the Ahom.

Originally he had cast his allegiance to the great Congress Party, but later on, at the pressure of public opinion of his own community, joined the group of four Ahom Members, who were not attached to any party but had been supporting the cause of good administration of the Province wherever occasion had arisen.

I, therefore, propose, Sir, that the House do record their sense of sorrow at the sad and untimely death of such a Member and that we authorise you to send a letter of condolence to the bereaved family.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of the Party to which I have the honour to belong associate myself with what has been said by the Hon'ble Premier. Late Mr. Joges Chandra Gohain joined politics early in 1921 and since then he was an ardent Congress Member. In 1937 he was elected to this Assembly as a Congress Member and in 1941, for reasons of his own, he left the Congress Party and joined the Ahom group. As hon. Members know late Mr. Gohain was a man of amiable disposition and a perfect gentleman who took lively interest in all national causes both inside the Congress and outside. Sir, in

him Assam has lost a true patriot and Assam is really poorer to-day by his untimely death. Personally speaking, I have lost in him a true friend and his loss is a personal loss to me. With these words, I whole-heartedly associate myself with what has been said by the Hon'ble Premier and support his Motion expressing condolence at the untimely death of Mr. Gohain.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the party to which I belong, I most sincerely associate myself with what has been said about late Mr. Joges Chandra Gohain by the previous speakers. I used to know Mr. Gohain since his College days. One particular trait that impressed me most is this : Mr. Gohain acted in all circumstances according to his conscience. Whether he was a student or a public man he never hesitated to act as he thought fit. It is therefore no wonder that although he was a Congress man practically throughout his life, at one time, because he did not agree with the principles of the Congress Party, he resigned from that party. What he thought right he had stuck to that throughout without any fear of frown or favour. As I said he always acted according to his conscience.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAİN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly associate myself with what has been said by the Hon'ble Premier regarding the demise of our hon. colleague Mr. Joges Chandra Gohain. Mr. Gohain died in harness. His was a career rare in many ways. He was a public man for quarter of a century and he had been a political sufferer. He broke his health early in his public life due to the amount of work he had put in behind the cause he loved so dearly. Mr. Gohain served the cause of the people of this Province and of his community very ably and as best as he could. His death has been very widely mourned all over the country and deeply grieved by the members of the Ahom community whose uncrowned king he was till the day of his death. With these words, I associate myself with what has been said by the Hon'ble Leader of the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been pointed out that I have unintentionally omitted to mention the death of another politician of Assam late Maulavi Abdur Rashid Chaudhury who was a Member of the Central Assembly. We had a convention not to mention or record our sorrow at the death of a Member of another Assembly. But it escaped my notice that late Maulavi Abdur Rashid Chaudhury was a Member of the predecessor of this House till 1937. Therefore, I request the hon. Members through you, Sir, to record their sense of sorrow at the death of this representative of Assam in the Central Assembly and convey our sorrow to the bereaved family.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : In this connection, I beg to mention the name of late Khan Bahadur Nuruddin Ahmed who expired in April, last. He was born in 1854 in an ordinary family, but by sheer force of character and intellectual integrity he occupied a prominent place in public life. He was not only a prominent member of the bar but a prominent Member of the last Council. He was held in high esteem by all sections of the people and his death has really created a gap in the public life of Nowgong which it will be very difficult to fill up in the near future. Sir, his heart was large, his mind was broad. There was not a single organisation for the welfare of the people of Nowgong which did not receive his sympathetic help. Only about 3 days previous to his death though he was practically confined to bed he could not but preside over a public function which was held for the establishment of a College at Nowgong. His motto of life was the service to his country. Indeed when his death was known to the people, all sections of the people thronged his residence to have a *darsan* of and pay homage to the departed leader and his funeral procession was largely attended by all sections. I hope this Assembly should send a letter of condolence to the bereaved family.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly support Mr. Bora's Motion and I also associate myself with what

he has said in this matter. We should condole the death of late Khan Bahadur Nuruddin Ahmed. He was, if I remember aright, a Member of the predecessor of this House in 1926 and also in later years.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: I also associate myself with what has been said by the Hon'ble Premier about the two departed souls and I whole-heartedly support the Motion of the Hon'ble Premier regarding expression and conveyance of condolence to the bereaved families.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I also associate myself with these expressions of condolence on the deaths of Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain, Maulavi Abdur Rashid Chaudhury and Khan Bahadur Nuruddin Ahmed.

By the death of Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain this Province and this House have certainly lost an ardent worker for the cause of the country. He had been a Member of this House since 1937 and although I had no occasion to know him intimately I did nevertheless acquire a very good impression about him from what I saw of him on the floor of the House all these years. As a man of amiable disposition he endeared himself to all sections of the House. From what has been said by the hon. Members it appears that his public career began long long ago, and all these years he served this Province and his community to the best of his ability and according to his conscience. That is certainly a great thing that can be said about a deceased, and the House certainly loses a Member whose place may be difficult to be filled up so adequately.

Maulavi Abdur Rashid Chaudhury was very well known to me. On many occasions I associated myself with him intimately in connection with various

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
এ বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেন্ট অবগত নহেন।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : এই বিষয়ে মুছলিম লীগের Provincial Committee হইতে যে আপত্তি করা হইয়াছে তাহা মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী পাইয়াছেন কি না ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
এক সপ্তাহ হইল আমি ইহা পাইয়াছি।

*SHORTAGE OF STOCKS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN THE SURMA VALLEY SUPPLY AGENCY

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*23. (a) How many maunds of salt were imported by Government in the Province since 1st April, 1944 upto July, 1944 ?

(b) How many maunds of salt were in Government stock immediately before the 1st April, 1944 ?

(c) The normal requirements of salt in the Province ?

(d) How many maunds of salt were sent to Karimganj Subdivision by Government since 1st April, 1944 to 31st July, 1944 ?

(e) The normal monthly requirements of salt in the Karimganj Subdivision ?

*24. (a) Whether it is a fact that some special permits to import salt in the Province of Assam have been granted to some whole-sale dealers ?

(b) If so, what are the names of the whole-sale dealers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

23. (a)—2,28,381 mds. 22 srs.

(b)—1,59,287 mds. 5 srs. 11 chs.

(c)—Approximately 1,20,200 mds. per month.

(d)—7,500 mds.

(e)—Approximately 6,000 mds. per month.

matters of public importance. He was a gentleman of broad outlook with unmistakable patriotic fervour. His public life was full of useful activities. With the death of such a man the Province has lost a hardened worker in the cause of the country.

Khan Bahadur Nuruddin Ahmed was a Member of the old Legislative Council when I was also a Member of that Legislature for some time, and from what I could know of him I formed a very high opinion about him. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the term with a large heart and always anxious to do his best for the Province and his community.

As a mark of respect to the memory of these deceased gentlemen, I would ask the hon. Members to rise in their seats and observe two minutes' silence.

(The hon. Members rose in their seats in silence.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I would suspend the business of the House for the rest of the day out of respect to the honoured deceased. Messages of condolence will be sent to the members of their bereaved families.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Saturday, the 11th November, 1944.

SHILLONG ;

The 1st December, 1944.

A G P. (L. A.) No: 88—123—6-12-1944.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly Assam.

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