

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Saturday, the 27th March, 1948.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

People coming from Pakistan to Assam

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

* 27. (a) Are Government aware that many people are coming into this Province from Pakistan to settle here permanently ?

(b) If so, what is the up-to-date number of such people who have already come to settle in different districts of Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

27. (a)—There are persons coming into the Province, but it is not possible to say whether any of them come with the intention of settling down permanently. (Government have made it plain hitherto that there is no more land in Assam for settlement of new immigrants).

(b)—In view of the Government declaration that there is no land for settlement with immigrants who have come in recent years, Government are reluctant to believe that any of the new comers could have come with a view to settle down on land as settlement holders.

Government have no information about the number of people who have come and are now in different districts.

(Starred Question No.28 standing in the name of Maulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain was not put by the Questioner).

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Establishment of Leper Colony**Dr. JINARAM DAS** asked :

112. (a) Are Government aware that lepers move freely in streets and roads everywhere in Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to bring forth necessary legislation to stop this nuisance and increase their accommodation in the existing leper asylums and start new ones ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

112. (a)—It is true that some poor lepers beg in towns, but all cases are not infectious.

(b)—The Lepers Act, 1898 (Act No. III of 1898) is already in force and hence no new legislation is necessary. It is proposed to establish early a Provincial Leper Colony with accommodation for 275 infectious cases.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : How can we distinguish a particular case whether it is infectious or not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Of course, man like me can not distinguish, but a doctor can.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN. Has Government taken census of the lepers regularly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Yes, Sir, we are doing.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : How many cases have been detected as yet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : The survey is still being conducted and uptill now 2,615 cases have been found all over Assam.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Are all of them infectious ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : No, not all of them.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : How many ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : About 30 per cent. of them are infectious.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Then, it is quite certain that there are more than 275 cases which are infectious.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Thirty per cent. of the number that I have quoted.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Then, why do Government make provision for accommodation for 275 cases only ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We are going to make further provision for 275 and we have already got existing accommodation.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Is it not quite clear that those who cannot be accommodated in the colony will roam about in the towns and villages ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We are trying our best to accommodate them as far as practicable.

Ratio of Bengali and Assamese Speaking Population in Goalpara Subdivision

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

113. Will Government be pleased to state the ratio of Bengali and Assamese speaking population thana by thana, in the Subdivision of the District of Goalpara (to be shown separately) ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

113.—The information required by the hon. Member is not available in the Census Statistics.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Was there any census prior to 1941 on the basis of language ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir. The 1941 census did not at all go into the number of people who speak different languages in the Province.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: In the absence of statistics, will Government say that the Assamese language will not be thrust upon the people who speak Bengali, specially in the districts where they are in majority ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That may be a question of the future. But Government have not been able to ascertain the number in any districts.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Should not the people who settled here in Assam adopt Assamese which is the State language as their language ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think, Sir, for the homogeneity of the Province they should adopt Assamese language as a common language ; but one cannot force it on anybody.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Are Government bound to make it a bilingual State ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is not the intention of the Government to do so, but no finality in the matter has been arrived at.

Appointments made in the Assam High Court

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

114. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many appointments have yet been made in the Prize Posts of the Assam High Court ?
- (b) On what basis they were appointed ?
- (c) From which community each of the appointments were made ?
- (d) How many applications were received for these posts from the Tribal, Ahom and Scheduled Caste Hindus ?
- (e) Whether there were any suitable and deserving candidates from these communities ?
- (f) How many posts are still lying vacant ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to fill up these vacancies from the above minority communities ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

114. (a)—It is not understood what is meant by "Prize Posts". Such appointments as were needed for making all arrangements necessary for the Assam High Court to start functioning on the due date have been and are being made.

(b)—The primary basis is suitability of the appointee. Government have also considered the claims of Government employees who have lost their jobs due to abolition of their permanent posts.

(c)—The number of appointments made initially without advertisement to start work in connection with organization is 15. Of these 11 are Caste Hindus, 1 Ahom, 2 Muslims and 1 Tribal.

(d) & (e)—In the posts not filled as in (c) applications were called for and have been received. They are under scrutiny.

(f)—The appointments yet to be filled up are as follows:—

Superintendent	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stamp-Reporter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Upper Division Assistants	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bench Clerk and Stenographer	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lower Division Assistants	...	...	...	...	...	19
Typists	...	...	...	...	...	6

(including 4 extra Typists).

(g)—The appointing authority will be guided by considerations of efficiency tempered by communal and other relevant factors.

***Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI**: ১১৪ (a)—জজ. বেজিষ্ট্ৰাৰ, এচিষ্টেণ্ট বেজিষ্ট্ৰাৰ, চুপাৰিন্টেণ্ডেণ্ট এই বিলাক বস্তৰ কথা কৈছে।

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Superintendentৰ উত্তৰ দিয়া হৈছে। হাইকোর্টৰ জজ নিযুক্ত মন্ত্ৰকে আমাৰ কোনো হাত নাই। আৰু যিজন Registrar আমি এতিয়া appoint কৰিছো সিও subject to the confirmation by the Chief Justice. Assistant Registrarৰ কাৰণে Public Service Commission ও advertise কৰিছে। Public Service Commissionৰ nomination পালে Assistant Registrars লোৱা হব কিন্তু সিও subject to the confirmation by the Chief Justice. বাকী বিলাক ১১৪ নং প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত দিয়া হৈছে।

* **Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI**: আহোম এজনক কোন post ত লোৱা হৈছে ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: কি post ত লোৱা হৈছে মই এতিয়া ঠিককৈ কব নোৱাৰো।

মুঠৰ ওপৰত সকলো appointments are provisional subject to the approval or confirmation by His Lordship the Chief Justice.

Assam Access Road between Golakganj and Sonaghat

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

115 (a) Are Government aware that a portion of the only road link—Assam Access Road between Golakganj and Sonaghat, places within the Province of Assam, falls within Eastern Pakistan ?

(b) Are Government aware that the movement of commodities for trade and other traffic including that of the Government officials between these two places of the Indian Dominion are being interfered with over that portion of the road which falls within Eastern Pakistan ?

(c) Do Government propose to construct a diversion road not more than a mile in length running exclusively through the Indian Dominion to connect these two places ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

115. (a)—Perhaps there may be a short distance falling within Pakistan area.

(b)—Government are aware that there is disturbance in the movements of commodities when they have to be transported through Pakistan area from one place to other places in Assam.

(c)—This is engaging the attention of the Government and the matter is under consideration.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: With reference to their reply to (c), will Government take up construction of this road this year ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Government is looking in—to this. Probably we shall have to take up this year.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: The answer to (c) is rather vague. May I know from the Government whether they are keen about the construction of this road this year?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is engaging the attention of the Government. At first we thought that this road was entirely within Assam, but on enquiry we found that a very small portion of it is in Pakistan and therefore we are preparing a diversion for it which will fall in Assam.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: In view of the fact that the communication between Sonaghat and Golokganj is completely cut off, will Government be pleased to give this road some priority?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir, I have received information, which I shall have to verify. The Assam Access Road has already been completed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: That is about the road which is connecting Assam with the rest of India directly through the Indian Dominion. But this is a question of connecting Sonaghat which is within Assam in Golokganj area.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Regarding that little portion of the road Government will surely look into it and Government is very anxious that that should be done.

Re: Disposal of Session Business by the 3rd April, 1948

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Members are aware that there is a general desire of the House that the programme of this Session should be shortened, if possible. In deference to the wishes of the House I wanted to know from the hon. Leaders of the different Parties if that was possible. I had the privilege of a joint consultation with the hon. Leaders and according to their suggestion I have drawn up a revised programme, which is placed before the hon. Members' table today. I hope as we work this programme on we shall be able to finish the non-official and official business pending up to now on 3rd April 1948. I must make it clear that if we find there is no likelihood of the programme being finished, we shall sit on the 31st March which is a recess day and which is fixed for non-official business and also sit on the 1st and 2nd April which are fixed for official business and shall sit beyond the scheduled hours, if necessary. Government Bills have been fixed for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and today I have asked for submission of Amendments to these Bills. All the Bills will be considered clause by clause on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I fix today, 3 P.M. as the last day and time for tabling Amendments to these Bills.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Just today I don't think I shall be in a position to submit Amendments.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: However, I fix 11 A.M. on the 29th for tabling Amendments.

Oath of Allegiance

The following Member was sworn in:—
Maulavi Mahammad Roufique:

***Adjournment Motion**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I see there is an Adjournment Motion standing in the name of Maulavi Mahammad Roufique. Hon. Members know that no Adjournment Motion can be brought on a day which is fixed for Government business, particularly Demands for Grants. However, I may suggest one thing. To-day we have got the Demands on Police and there is also an omnibus Cut Motion standing in the name of Maulavi Abdul Hai. Will it not do if the hon. Member lays the grievances and speaks on that Motion?

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Mr. Hai is not present to-day and there is no chance of his coming and participating in the discussion to-day. As such his Cut Motion may fall through on account of his absence.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I find there is one difficulty as Mr. Hai is absent. However, I may allow the hon. Member to speak on this Motion. Although no Cut Motion will be moved, the hon. Member will be able to oppose the original Motion and obtain some sort of reply from the Government.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my intention in bringing this Adjournment Motion is not to censure the Government, but to bring to their attention certain happenings at Lunding and get an assurance of remedy from the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why can't you do this under "Police"?

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: This is not directly connected with the subject-matter of my Adjournment Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Law and Order is under Police. I think you can do so.

**Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee
on the Appropriation Accounts for 1945-46**

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1945-46.

I think I need not speak anything at this Stage. There will be time for discussion afterwards.

* The House do adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence to wit—the failure of Government to maintain peace and security at Lunding and Chaparmukh stations of the Assam Railway which have been seriously disturbed by miscreants from 21st March last indiscriminately attacking, assaulting Muslim travellers including women and robbing them of their money and belongings.

Point of Order *re*: Constitution of the Public Accounts Committee

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, may I request a ruling from the Chair as to whether this so-called Committee is a Public Accounts Committee? You will recollect that in the last session of the House this question of a vacancy on the Committee was raised and it was the case.....

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: A decision was given by the Chair on that day.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Not on this point, Sir. The point is that Government took no step to fill up the vacancy as soon as possible. Now the report has been published and that contingency has arisen. The vacancy is not filled up although the Government gave an undertaking to fill it up.

My further contention is that it is not a matter for Government but for the House to decide. It is a question of the Members of the House to decide whether this Committee is properly constituted or not. The constitution of the Committee is laid down in Rule 102 of the Assembly Rules. It requires that the Committee should consist of 8 members, but I find, Sir, that the Committee is constituted of 7 members. One member was compelled to resign on the 15th of August 1947. Now, Sir, you will recollect that on the 10th of November, 1947 this matter was discussed in this House and Government gave an assurance that they were taking steps after consulting the Government of India to fill up this vacancy.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Next earliest opportunity will be this session.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: May I suggest, Sir, that this was a Committee constituted for the consideration of the Accounts for the year 1945-46. We have, Sir, taken steps in this session to constitute the Re-appropriation Accounts Committee for 1946-47, but there have been no steps taken so far to re-constitute a Committee for the Appropriation Accounts of 1945-46 and it is difficult to say how the Committee can be re-constituted after the final Report is received. This document which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has placed before the House purports to be the final Report of the Public Accounts Committee. It is not his intention that this is an interim Report contingent on the reconstitution of the Public Accounts Committee. If that was his case, I would have no ground for objection.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: This point was decided on the last occasion. When the question was raised there was no time for election in the last session of the Assembly. So the Committee was sitting and it was not possible to postpone the Committee for the next year and the deliberations had to be completed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The point was raised on the 10th November, 1947 and the House was prorogued on 11th.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There was no purpose in having the members of the Committee constituted anew.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: May I draw the attention of the Finance Minister to his statement on the 10th November last? He said that there was no time limit prescribed for filling up a casual vacancy. He did not say that the casual vacancy would not be filled up, but he stated that it would be filled up.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I know that perfectly well. I immediately drew the attention of the Chair if it was possible to elect a member, but there was no time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I know from Mr. Hardman whether the point was raised on the 10th November?

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: I have the public records here. The Hon'ble the Speaker may like to refresh his memory after reference to this printed report. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister is talking at some disadvantage in not having the written record before him. The statement which he contends was made does not appear to have received any prominence in the recorded proceedings of the House. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister said, "At any rate it (vacancy) will be filled up. If the members of the Committee want to go back without finishing the other items which are yet to be discussed in the Committee I have no objection. But in that case the report of the Public Accounts Committee will not be complete." There was no fixed period for filling up the vacancy. But I hold that a casual vacancy has to be filled up as soon as possible. That, Sir, is the case. If the vacancy has to be filled up there can be no final report until the Committee is duly constituted.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: May I point out, Sir, that there is no point in saying that simply because there is a vacancy the Committee is not duly constituted. There is the Committee. As soon as I made the statement that the vacancy would be filled up and there would be an election of the member, the Hon'ble the Speaker definitely told me that there was hardly any time for election.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to the word "shall" in rule 102 which says that the Committee of Public Accounts shall consist of eight members including the Hon'ble the Finance Minister who shall be a member *ex-officio*. This Committee consists of seven members, therefore, it does not comply with the statutory provision.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Simply because a vacancy occurs it cannot be said that the Committee was not duly constituted. That decision was already given by the Hon'ble the Speaker.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: The casual vacancy has not been filled up as soon as possible. That vacancy occurred on August 15th. By no method of interpretation can it be said that it can be left un-filled up to the 27th of March. This cannot be a reasonable interpretation of the word.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We come to the next item—Demands for Grants.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.30

57.—MISCELLANEOUS

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs 28,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.28,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'."

There are no Cut Motions.

(After a pause)

I am putting the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.28,18,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1949 for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.13

29.—POLICE

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,12,83,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,12,83,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '29.—Police'."

There are four Cut Motions. The first one stands in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.89,600 under Grant No 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(b)—River Police (total), at page 92 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Rs.89,600.

The object of my Motion is to raise discussion on the imperative need of saving public money proposed to be spent under this head.

Under this head, Sir, a provision of Rs. 89,600 has been made for River Police Force at Goalpara, as has been stated in the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. He said, Sir, "the 'Char' area in Goalpara has become populated with immigrants of a very turbulent nature and organised smuggling by boat,

protected by a well-armed gang prepared to resist by violence any steps taken by the Police to prevent their nefarious activities, is being carried on openly and on a large scale and has led to disaster and contempt of authority. It is, therefore, necessary to revive the River Police Force at Goalpara at an estimated cost of about Rs.8,96,000" (this is a printing mistake, the figure should be Rs.89,600).

I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that this smuggling is being carried on by foreigners and not by the people of the district of Goalpara, and this is being carried on with the help of the officers and at the connivance of the Police. Before setting up another Police Force, Government should enquire whether these armed gangs defy the authorities and do so with their connivance. I think Government is going to revive the River Police Force depending on Police reports ; this will only help the smugglers because in the absence of any River Police Force it will be possible for the people at large to prevent smuggling when they so desire. But when there will be a Police Force on the river bank who will encourage the smugglers, the people will have no other alternative but to sit idle and see smuggling carried on in broad day-light. My suggestion is this : before spending this money let us seek the co-operation of the people of those areas and form committees and ask our people to see that not a single commodity is smuggled outside the Province. We may also take as many fit men as possible in the Home Guards, who are being recruited now, in consultation with the leading people of those areas where our Finance Minister thinks smuggling is going on.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : On a point of information, Sir, May I know whether the people of those areas ever co-operated with the authorities to prevent smuggling ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : The 'char' area in Goalpara means the bordering area most of which is included in my constituency. It was never the habit of the hon. Member in the past to seek co-operation of the people. Before State money is misused in this way we shall co-operate and see that smuggling is stopped. Only when the hon. Member or the Government is satisfied that our co-operation has not been successful Government may revive this River Police Force. But let us first actively co-operate and stop smuggling. My hon. Friend does not say whether he ever sought the co-operation of the people. I would ask him also to create public opinion in favour of stopping smuggling. If we all co-operate, I do not think there will be any need for spending this money, which can be better utilised for other nation-building purposes.

With these few words, Sir, I would ask the Hon'ble Premier and other hon. Members of the House to consider whether they cannot save this money with the help of the public.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Is there any instance of co-operation before ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Has there been any occasion to seek co-operation of the public ?

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Does that question arise, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.89,600 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(b)—River Police (total), at page 92 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Rs.89,600."

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, on principle, I want to oppose this Cut Motion. Sir, the hon. Member's only argument is this that so long as we can co-operate there will be no necessity of Police force, but this is a principle if we follow to the letter and the spirit, there will be no necessity for any Police force. Sir, when we have read in papers that thousands of maunds of paddy from these areas have been smuggled by a large number of boats even in spite of the public, the Police forces have been fired, can we say that the people of these areas are on the side of peace and anti-smuggling campaign? How could so many paddy boats escape even in spite of Police vigilance? In view of this the River Police is not only necessary but essential. This will help the public if they co-operate with the Police and the smugglers will be nowhere in that locality. From this point of view and as this also involves a question of principle, I think my hon. Friend will be well-advised to withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I oppose this Motion most emphatically. As a matter of fact, I could not pursue the arguments of the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion. He admitted in his speech that smugglers were coming from outside the Province. But the remedy which he suggested was that we should stop smuggling by means of co-operation with the people. I just relate to the House what kind of co-operation we received, when we tried to stop smuggling with a lesser expenditure than we have proposed now. It was found, Sir, the smuggling boats that passed through these areas had safe abode in some of these *chars* of Brahmaputra inhabited by immigrants, and when the Police used to go there the people of the place tried not merely to cover the actions of the smugglers by some camouflage but had actually obstructed the Police in many places. I do not know whether he was one who actually moved an Adjournment Motion for shooting at Dhubri which the Police had to resort to in order to stop a convoy of 34 boats which were taking away paddy from Assam, when the Police was attacked by some of the smugglers. Government was then criticised for having resorted to firing on account of the desperate attitude which was taken by some of the smugglers. Nobody was more sorry for the loss of lives than myself, but there was no alternative but to do that. In order that such incidents may be avoided and that the whole situation may be under the control of Government, the Government had to put this expenditure, which I consider, not only necessary but essential for the purpose of maintaining self-sufficiency of the Province on the one hand, and the maintenance of law and order on the other. It may be stated, Sir, that on account of smuggling Dhubri area came to starvation point last Autumn, and it is only after that we have been able to establish this River Police that conditions have come to normal to-day. Therefore, I most strongly oppose this Cut Motion. Looking, Sir, into the details of the expenditure it will be seen that a part of the expenditure is for the maintenance of motor boats on the river. If the object of the hon. Member was one of co-operation as he has suggested in his speech, the best co-operation that he could give is to allow Government to act in the manner proposed and to withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Member propose to do?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

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

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,12,83,400 under Grant No.13, Major head 29.—Police, at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By moving this Cut Motion I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the fact, that there has been no change in the outlook of the Police which ought to be in an independent country, so far as Karimganj is concerned.

Sir, in order to create bad blood between the two major communities some mischief-makers are working from behind. They magnify every petty incident and report to the Police with a communal or anti-Government colour; and the Police also without going through the actual happenings, begin persecution, prosecution and harassment upon those against whom such reports are made. A good number of such cases are pending yet in Karimganj.

Sir, we all look upon the Police as custodians of peace. They should not do anything without making proper investigation into the matter with a clear and peace-loving mind. I think, Sir, the time has come that there should be a change in the angle of vision of all, specially among Government officials who can make hell a heaven and heaven a hell if they so wish.

I, therefore, request the Government to see that every section of people gets proper protection and justice in the hands of Government officials, in order to create an atmosphere of peace, amity and happiness in the country. With these few words, Sir, I move my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.1,12,83,400 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Motion because on the one hand it seems to me that the situation of the Government has not been properly understood by the hon. Mover and, on the other, the report which the hon. Member has given about, the situation is more or less exaggerated. The hon. Member had put a Question in the House and the reply that has been given sufficiently explains the position. The position is this, Sir, that these four thanas of Karimganj over which Section 144 has been applied is a border area. Fermented agitations are being manufactured by interested parties in these areas resulting in an unrest and there is the possibility of irruption of feeling at any time. Therefore, the Government has special responsibility for maintaining peace and order in the part of Cachar District. Instead of taking any stronger measure in this respect, Government only promulgated Section 144 prohibiting certain activities in those areas. It will be seen from the figures that I am placing before the House that there has not been any wide-spread disturbance in this matter. The Government has received only 4 cases of disobedience of these orders. So, from this it is clear that there were only a few persons who were involved in punishment against breach of the order. Beyond these cases, there has been no harassment whatsoever and I am sure these punishments were deserved. The Muslim Traders Association at Sylhet, I think, has

sent some representations to Government. The Government sent those representations for enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner concerned as to the truth of the allegations. From the report that was received it has been found that opposition to the promulgation of Section 144 was very limited to the extent as I have just now said and beyond that no case of any harassment has been reported to us. The allegations brought by the Muslim Traders Association were very vague and of general nature and it did not appear that those allegations were particularly against the Police. The criticisms which the hon. Member has levelled against the Government about the activities of the Police in Karimganj cannot be said to be true. In the circumstances, Sir, I would request the hon. Mover that after hearing these facts, he would withdraw his Motion.

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Sir, having heard the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier 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 Cut Motion?

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

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,12,83,400 under Grant No.13, Major head--29.—Police, at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The intention of moving this Cut Motion is to criticise Government on their failure to eradicate corruption rampant in the Police Department.

Sir, the Police is to maintain the law and order and to see that peace and tranquility in the country is secured and therefore they should be above all sorts of corruptions. The people must feel that whenever they go to the Police, they must get the help of them in their troubles and difficulties. But reverse is the case in our country even after the Independence. The public cannot expect any help from the Police unless they pay something in their pockets. Sir, I understand the Government have taken a good gesture towards removal of corruption from this Department, but they have so far failed to do so. For instance, I can cite how Police Officers take bribes even at a place where justice is administered, i.e., in the Court. In any case of granting bail, the bail bond is not certified by a Police Officer unless the party concerned pays something to him. The grant of a bail does not generally depend upon the fitness of the bailer but it depends mostly upon the amount of money paid.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: On a point of information, Sir, may I know from the hon. Member whether he has actually seen Police taking bribes?

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Yes, Sir. But I do not like to disclose these facts on the floor of the House, but I can give the Hon'ble Minister privately certain information, if he likes. Sir, in case money is not paid, the bail bond is sent to the Police Officer of the police station concerned for enquiry as to the fitness of the bailer. Thus the local Police Officer is also empowered to see his own way. When there is any danger of the breach of peace in a certain locality, the public generally come to the Court and file petition. The Magistrate generally sends the petition to the Police for enquiry and report. But such enquiry and report are never done in time. If a party pays something to the Police such enquiry and report are made at once. Sir, these are not the instances of a single district. They are prevalent in almost all the districts of the Province. Therefore, Sir, I request Government to devise ways and means to remove all

sorts of corruption from the Police Department which is in-charge of maintenance of law and order and peace and tranquility of the country. Sir, I may suggest that a subdivisional committee be formed with a small number of members for the task of making enquiry and report whenever any complaint is lodged and such report be sent to the Government for proper action.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.1,12,83,400 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 88 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,12,83,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, I sympathise with the object of this Cut Motion. The hon. Mover wants to eradicate corruption from the Police administration. This Government are at one with him in this object of eradicating any kind of corruption in any Department under Government and they are particularly anxious, that so far as Police Department is concerned, it should serve the people effectively and sincerely and not merely be free from corruption but should be actuated by a spirit of service to the people. I do not want to shut out the facts altogether that there is corruption among certain Police people. Government in appointing and retaining Anti-Corruption Branch disclosed that there were a number of *prima facie* cases of corruption which required enquiry. But I shall satisfy the hon. Member that the Government are doing their best to eradicate the evil from the Police people.

But one fact has got to be borne in mind, that the Government cannot be blamed that they are not taking action when there are cases of corruption. My hon. Friend had stated that there have been cases of corruption, but he has not reported anything to me. I can tell him that there are cases where disciplinary action is being taken. There are people—I need not mention any particular name—who are coming to ask us for the relaxation in the action that we are proposing to take. But as I have just now said, I will tell the House of what the Government have done in this connection in the course of these two years in trying to root out corruption.

It will be seen that in 1947 there were six cases against Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables. In these cases, four Sub-Inspectors, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, three Constables and one Head Constable were involved. Of these, one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and one Constable in one case were convicted in the Lower Court and they preferred appeal which is now pending before the Sessions Court. Other cases are pending in Courts. Besides that, disciplinary action was taken against one Sub-Inspector and one Assistant Sub-Inspector by the respective Superintendents of Police of those districts. In 1948 it is only three months of the year.....

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Does the Hon'ble Premier quote from the figures given by the Anti-Corruption Branch ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, if I give the whole list given by Anti-Corruption Branch I could give a still larger figure, but it is not the intention of the Government to disclose publicly what the Anti-Corruption Branch are doing. Now then, in 1948, of which, as I said, only three months have elapsed, it will be seen that four Sub-Inspectors, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and one Constable are also involved in six cases, but these cases are now pending. I can tell the hon. Member that I have also taken disciplinary action

against one Deputy Superintendent of Police. So it cannot be said that Government are doing nothing in trying to root out corruption. In the face of these facts, no criticism against Government can stand. In view of all that I have said, I think the hon. Member will consider it his duty to withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: On the information given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the Government have done much for eradicating corruption and also that they are trying their best to eradicate corruption, 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 Cut Motion?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion No. 4 by Maulavi Abdul Hai, but he is absent.

Maulavi Mahammad Roufique can move the matter which he wanted to bring in by an Adjournment Motion by speaking on this Motion of Mr. Hai who is absent.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: But when nobody moved this Motion, how can I speak on it, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But he can oppose the whole Grant that has been put before the House.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of this House the failure of Government to maintain peace and security at Lumding and Chaparmukh Railway Stations which have been seriously disturbed by the action of certain miscreants who are creating troubles by assaulting men and women and robbing them of their money and belongings. For this purpose I intended to bring in an Adjournment Motion, but I am obliged to the Government and also to the Hon'ble Speaker for having given me this opportunity to discuss this matter in connection with the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Hai.

Sir, I regret that I have to bring this unfortunate affair to the notice of the House, this unfortunate happening, this sad episode. Sir, this tendency to lawlessness which was in evidence at Lumding and other places, if not properly dealt with, will, I am afraid, invite widespread repercussion in the whole Province. It seems to me, Sir, the enemies of Assam are conspiring to deprive Assam of the honour and reputation which she has undoubtedly earned and which she is enjoying throughout the length and breadth of India as the only Province in India free from unnecessary troubles and disturbances. While the faces of other Provinces in India were disfigured by communal troubles and disturbances, it is only the Province of Assam which has stood aloof from all these troubles as an example to other parts of India, yes, as an example as to how different communities can live together in peace and harmony. Only the other day, the Governor-General of the Indian Dominion congratulated the Government of Assam, he congratulated the people of Assam that they have been able to maintain peace and security here. From a newspaper report I find.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member knows the Rules that he cannot quote from the papers.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I am quoting from the speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister given on the floor of this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Even then, he is holding a newspaper and I cannot allow it.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: I remember, Sir (I am not quoting from the paper), the Hon'ble Prime Minister some time ago said that Assam was the only Province where different communities could move freely and also he claimed that in Assam there is no communal troubles. But, Sir, I say that this claim is being challenged—this claim is being falsified by the happenings at Lumding. On the 21st of March last a mob numbering 400 to 500 surrounded the train on arrival at Lumding and put off the lights and started assaulting the passengers. This mob were armed with deadly weapons and they not only assaulted men, but they also assaulted women and then robbed them of their money and belongings. The men had to run hither and thither for their security and to save their lives. This was happening under the very nose of the Police. There are two Police forces there, one is the Regular Civil Police and the other is the Government Railway Police. Under the very nose of the Police this widespread rioting took place. Really the House will be surprised to know that one man who came to see me told me that he wanted to go home with his wife and when he got the scent that his wife was going to be assaulted, he ran to the Police and two constables came at his request whom he had to pay Rs.40 to save himself and his wife from the hands of the assailants. The target of attacks was generally the Muslims. It was said that there was some trouble in Pakistan and that some Hindus were subjected to harassment by the Muslims there, but is this the place where retaliation should be taken by the Hindus? But I may say for the information of the House that amongst the assailants there were not a single Assamese Hindu and all the Hindus were Bengali Hindus. From the way they made the attacks it is perfectly clear that it was an organised attack, but, what was the Police doing? They did nothing to stop this organised attack planned beforehand. What they were doing? Why they could not take timely precaution for preventing these people from attacking the innocent people? It was not unknown to the authorities that Lumding has all along been the hot bed of Communist intrigues and communal tension. How is it that when it was known as such, no step was taken to put sufficient force there in order to maintain peace and security. Government could have easily maintained sufficient forces there to prevent people from attacking passengers. I found the other day the Government could send military forces to Goalpara because Government got panicky at the sight of the white flags being hoisted on the house-tops. To Goalpara they could send military forces to fight the white-flags, but why could they not send force to Lumding to save these travellers from the attacks of these evil-doers?

Now, if the Government is serious about maintaining its fair name, then I should say that the Government should immediately institute a proper enquiry to find out the offenders and punish these offenders heavily so that in future nobody will dare to disturb the peace of the Province.

With these words, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to institute an enquiry and punish the offenders and stop further recurrence.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation at Lumding was first brought to my notice by a Member of Sylhet. Possibly most of these people alleged to have been assaulted are from Sylhet district and now belong to Pakistan. As soon as I got the report, I asked him to contact the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam to do the needful. Soon after it, from the reports we have received in the meanwhile, that is to say, between ten o'clock yesterday and now, I find that action has already been taken

by the Police. Some enquiry is surely going on and the charge-sheet is being submitted. I had also asked in the meanwhile to expedite the enquiry and let the Government know the situation. Now, my hon. Friend's remark about the situation there that the Government did not take any notice of this situation is something which I strongly repudiate, Sir. I do not know who these people actually are, but the situation that prevails to day and from the information that they are Bengali Hindus, I will not be surprised, Sir, that this might have been a retaliatory measure of what they suffered elsewhere. I did not expect an Adjournment Motion from the hon. Member on that, but, it is well known to the hon. Members of the House, what suffering the people of Assam are being subjected to in Pakistan areas. My own Orderly was stripped of his trousers and coat, a sum of Rs 20 was similarly stripped from the Orderly of the Chief Engineer, and so many telegrams are being received about open day-light and unqualified robberies taking place. I shall not be surprised that the people who might have suffered in Pakistan might have been retaliating in the manner described by my hon. Friend. But, so far as this Government is concerned, I can tell the hon. Members that we have immediately done our duty, and shall also put down in future with the strongest measure any tendency to disorder in the Province. As a matter of fact, from information received it has already been done in the places mentioned by the hon. Member. Sir, Luming is a place where lot of people are coming from outside and it is not possible for us to forestall that so many people might have gathered together for the common object of retaliation as has been alleged by my hon. Friend over there. We have had certain information about the situation at Luming about some political parties and we have actually asked the Railway Authorities there to strengthen their own Police there. I can tell the hon. Members that the occurrence has no connection with any apprehension of communal tension in the Province itself. As I have already said, the Government have brought the situation to the notice of the Railway Authorities to remain alert and to do the needful. So, I can say that there is no failure on the part of this Government to perform their duties when they are actually making proper enquiry in the matter, and assuring that they will take such measures as will be necessary to prevent any occurrence tending to breach of peace. I only wished the hon. Member to realise that the duty of Pakistan in maintaining peace and order is as great as ours, if not greater. If they could keep some kind of control and order in those places, I think, these things would not have happened, and if any repercussion happens here, which Government must guard against, it must be understood that it will not be for the fault of this Government, but for affairs which are taking place outside their own territory. I hope that will satisfy the hon. Member.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,12,83,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head—‘29.—Police’ ”.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.19

“39.—PUBLIC HEALTH”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,57,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head “39.—Public Health.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.20,57,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1949, for the administration of the head—‘39. Public Health’ ”.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,62,250 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other establishments, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, by this Motion I would like to urge the necessity of establishing a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar. The progress and prosperity of a country is intimately bound up with the health of the nation. On this, Sir, opinion could not be divided. As the Bhoire Committee says, “The term health implies more than an absence of sickness in the individual and indicates a state of harmonious functioning of the body and mind in relation to his physical and social environment, so as to enable him to enjoy life to the fullest possible extent and to reach his maximum level of productive capacity”. When we look into the health condition of our country we are terribly disappointed. In support of my contention I want to quote a statement of the most notable authority on the subject. The Bhoire Committee Report was published in 1946. It is still the best literature on the Public Health of India. India is a land of diseases and the incidence of diseases is daily increasing. That the rate of mortality in India is very high will be evidenced by the widespread prevalence of diseases. We can appreciate the present public health of India only when we compare or contrast it with those of other countries in the world. At page 7 of the Bhoire Committee's Report, Volume I, a comparison has been drawn of Indian mortality rates with those of certain other countries. In New Zealand the percentage of death rate is 9.1 of the general population and 31 of the infants. In Australia the death rate is 9.4 per cent. of the general population and 38 per cent. of the infants. In the Union of South Africa it is 10.1 per cent. for the general population and 37 per cent. infantile mortality. In Canada the rate of mortality of the general population is 10.2 and 76 of the infants.

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Sir, it is admitted that the death rate is higher in India than in those countries. So it is no use quoting those figures.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : These figures have been published in the Bhoire Committee's Report for the information of the general public. And it is in order to support and strengthen my contention that I am reading a portion of the Report.

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** But what has it got to do with the public health of Titabar ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : If the Hon'ble Minister accepts my Cut Motion and assures me that he will take necessary steps to establish a dispensary there, I will not make a long speech and will not bother the House with these figures. Sir, it is known to the hon. Members that the Hon'ble Minister and I both come from Jorhat and they also know that Titabar is not

very far from Jorhat. So it is natural that he should like that place. As everyone knows that charity begins at home, I hope he will establish the dispensary at Titabar at an early date.

Sir, in this connection I should like to tell the hon. Members that the most important diseases from which India has never been free are malaria, small-pox and plague.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is to show what conditions are prevailing at Titabar.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: If I should confine to Titabar I might tell the Hon'ble Minister that he should be pleased to refresh his memory as to the conditions prevailing in the Titabar area and also to accept my request that the establishment of a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar is very urgent. Beyond this I should not like to go.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.3,62,250 under Grant No.19, Major head 39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment (a) Superintendence and other establishments, Sub-head 2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Hon'ble Srijiut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Cut Motion. Sir, I cannot be as selfish as my hon. Friend who demanded a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar in addition to the existing full-fledged dispensary run by the Local Board. Sir, he quoted the figures of death-rate of other countries to stress the necessity of a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar. Sir, it is known to all that death rate in India is very high, that India is malarious, that the medical aid given to the village people is very inadequate. The main reason is the dearth of medical personnel. It is apparent to all that the main needs are to expand medical education and increase the number of medical personnels and Government should fix their attention to meet these needs. We have been trying in that direction, Sir. As an example, I may state that we have started our Medical College on the 3rd of November. In addition to the Medical College, we have started Nursing School at Dibrugarh. We are doing everything as far as practicable. This Government will not hesitate to start Public Health Dispensaries wherever they are needed. I may also state that in the district of Sibsagar ten dispensaries are going to be started very soon because the need for these dispensaries was, and is still, there. If my hon. Friend could have proved that there was and is need for a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar in addition to the existing full-fledged dispensary run by the Local Board, Government would not have hesitated to provide a dispensary there. But he should look to the needs of other areas too where there are no dispensaries at all. Instead of being selfish he should be broad-minded enough to give necessary facilities to other areas where there is no medical facilities. With these few words, I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Another example of splendid and stubborn retreat. But there is at least one ray of hope in the speech of the Hon'ble Minister that he will consider my suggestion for the establishment of a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point was that if the hon. Member could have shown the need for a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar in addition to the existing dispensary which is functioning there, I would have considered his suggestion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : This is an indirect assurance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : His assurance is conditional.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister would accept my suggestion if I could prove the need for a Public Health Dispensary at Titabar, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,60,119 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes (total), at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my Motion is to criticise the Government on their failure to make proper use of money under this head in the district of Goalpara. Sir, I would draw the attention of Government to the fact that last year while huge amount of money was sanctioned for supplying drinking water to the villages, the Committee for distribution of the money was formed in such a way that we were deprived of the opportunity of representing our cases. My point is that if Members of Legislative Assembly are to be taken in the Committees then all the Members of Legislative Assembly should be there, but if the distribution is to be done by the Local Board they should in a meeting distribute the money. But the Committee which was formed consisted of only the Chairman and a few selected Members of the Legislative Assembly. This is a sheer injustice. We represent certain areas and those areas remained unrepresented in the Committee. This happened both in the Goalpara as well as in the Dhubri subdivision. I would therefore ask the Hon'ble Minister to see that in future when distributing the money they should form the Committee with all the Members of Legislative Assembly, if Members of the Legislative Assembly are to be taken in at all; if not, the Board may be entrusted with the money to spend in any way they think expedient.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.2,60,119 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes (total), at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend. I would like to inform the Hon'ble House that such a thing happened in my subdivision also; Muslim M. L. A.s were left out of the Committee for distribution of the money for rural water supply. I fail to understand how can the people of some other locality know the real need of the people whom we represent. Nobody could represent my constituency, Sir, in that meeting; only some members sitting in the town distributed the money to some of the localities.

With these few words I support the Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Motion. Although this grant is under "Public Health", the money was distributed through the Local Self-Government Department and by my Colleague, the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government. In the speech delivered at the time of moving the Cut Motion, the hon. Member has not been able to prove that the money that was granted to the Goalpara district was misused or not properly used. The wording of the Cut Motion runs like this: "to criticise the Government on their failure to make proper use of money under this head in the District of Goalpara". He said that he was not included in the Committee which was entrusted with the responsibility of distributing the money for wells or tanks in those areas. Sir, Government at the time of appointing these Committees have not given full scope to these Committees. We have asked these Committees to select sites and submit names of those sites to Government for approval. If Government agreed with the names submitted, they approved them and if they did not agree with the names, they changed them.

Another hon. Member from Goalpara has stated that the Muslim M.L.A.s., have not been included in some areas. Sir, Hindus are excluded in some areas and in some, Muslims are excluded. But it is not the intention of the Government to exclude a person because he is a Muslim. If he was excluded, Sir, the Government thought that the putting of so many members will not be necessary and some time it will be unwieldy. My intention in saying, this, Sir, is that he was excluded not out of any motive or intention but it was done because Government wanted to minimise the number of persons of the Advisory Committees. I do not like to add anything more, Sir, but my point is that this money was granted only to give rural water supplies in the needy areas and the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion has not been able to prove that the Advisory Committee which was appointed by Government for the purpose have not looked to the case of the really deserving areas. Therefore, Sir, he is not justified without giving proper facts and figures to criticise Government for nothing. Therefore, Sir, I am sure, the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak a few words as my hon. Colleague has said that the money was distributed through the Local Self-Government Department and as some allegations have been made on the floor of the House that the interests of all the communities were not safeguarded in the formation of the Committees. I beg Sir, to submit a few words to show that it was not like that.

Sir, the Government had no reason to think in terms of different communities. Their only view point was that the area as a whole should be properly served and that all the communities should get the benefit of the Government grant. This, Sir, was adequately arranged. In every committee, Sir, either the Subdivisional Officer or the Deputy Commissioner was a member, the Chairman of the Local Board and one Member of the Legislative Assembly were members. Sir, how can a Committee which consisted of so many responsible persons not look to the interests of the public? If it is so, it is a matter of serious disappointment. Even then, Sir, Government took care of supervising the list of selected sites of the tanks and wells. In the case of Dhubri, there was no reason why the interest of the Muslims would have been jeopardised, because the Chairman was a Muslim, the Deputy Commissioner in charge was a Muslim and I now understand that the hon. Maulavi Ziaosh Shams was also a Member. Maulavi Tahir was then in charge. Sir, I also had been there when the step was being taken for digging tanks and sinking wells. So the question does not at all arise that the Muslim interests could have suffered in that subdivision. Of course, Government knows quite well that the money that was given was not sufficient

and for that reason, Sir, Government wants to distribute a further sum next year. So as my hon. Colleague has submitted already that all steps were taken for the even distribution of money that was given by Government. I also submit that there was no foundation for the allegation which my hon. Friend has made on the floor of the House. Even then, Sir, for future it will be seen how best this money can be utilised. With these words I hope, my Friend will withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak a few words.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You have no right to speak now.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: But, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government has spoken after the reply of the Minister-in-charge.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He was allowed because both the Departments are involved.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া এই সম্বন্ধে মই কেইটামান কথা কবৰ সুবিধা পাব পাৰোনে ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Goalpara district ৰ হে কথা হৈছে ; কাজেই এতিয়া কবৰ সুবিধা দিব নোৱাৰি।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, may we request the Hon'ble Premier to say a few words on this because we are not satisfied with what has been said by the Hon'ble Ministers? Sir, I did not mean any particular community, but what I meant was a particular area which we represent. Sir, I do not know what was the harm in including a few Members of the Assembly in the Committee. Moreover, all sections of the people are included in the Local Board which could very well do the job. If Government do not adopt either of the two, that will mean some injustice to the people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I do not see any necessity for the Hon'ble Premier to say anything because the Motion has been sufficiently replied and all steps have also been taken to see that the money is equitably distributed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, it has not been said whether the money will be distributed through the Local Boards or by the representatives of the poor people. Either of the two must be acceded to otherwise how can there be justice?

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Can the hon. Member point out whether the distribution has not been equitable?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Yes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Member propose to do.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: I will press my Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the provision of Rs.2,60,119 under Grant No.19, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes (total),

at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The question was negatived.

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.20,57,900 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, by this Motion I wish to raise a discussion about the shortage of medicine for *Kala-azar* treatment in Chargula Hospital in Karimganj. In this locality there were some positive cases of *kala-azar* and the sufferers were directed by a Government doctor who examined them, to go to the civil hospital for their treatment. Accordingly they went to the hospital more than once. But the doctor in charge of the hospital told them every time that there was no medicine in their stock for the treatment and that in spite of repeated demand, the medicine was not sent to them. Sir, the people of this locality have no better communication with Karimganj town and as they were very poor they could not afford to go to the headquarters hospital by conveyance for their proper treatment. So, Sir, those people are going without proper treatment. I therefore request the Government that they should supply sufficient medicine to the civil hospital of Chargula for the treatment of *Kala-azar*. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.20,57,900 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,57,900 do stand reduced by Re.1".

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a Local Board Dispensary and the necessary medicine are to be supplied by the Local Board itself. But with regard to the *Kala-azar* treatment and its medicine, we have been giving this dispensary our own medicine. It has been reported by the Department today, that there was no demand for such medicines from the Local Public Health Officers. But after what has been heard from the hon. Mover, I would look into this matter and if there is really a shortage of medicine supply would be made early.

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble 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 Cut Motion ?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I now put the original Demand as a question. The question is :—

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.20,57,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.18

"38.—Medical"

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.19,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.19,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'."

Maulavi Md. Maked Ali may move his Cut Motion first since he wants to raise a general discussion and Maulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain may speak thereafter in support of the Motion.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.19,08,100 under Grant No.18. Major head—38.—Medical, at page 123 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.19,08,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion I want to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that midwives are not provided in our rural dispensaries. These dispensaries are also not properly equipped with the required amount of medicines and with necessary instruments. For want of provision of midwives in the rural dispensaries many delivery cases occur and the local women suffer greatly and also death take place. I hope Government will try to see that these rural dispensaries are provided with proper quantity of medicines, instruments and midwives.

Sir, the number of dispensaries that we have in the rural areas is not quite sufficient to meet the enormous number of diseases that prevail every year. We know that several hospitals under Local Boards have been provincialised. I hope the amount that is spent for maintaining the civil hospitals may be spent for the establishment of dispensaries in the rural areas.

Last of all, Sir, what I want to say is that we have an X-Ray plant in our Dhubri Civil Hospital. But this is not so far working. May I request Government to see that this X-Ray plant is replaced by a new one and special Medical staff its be engaged for exclusive study and whole time work?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.19,08,100 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 123 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.19,08,100 do stand reduced by Re.1".

We may continue after lunch.

Ajournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

After lunch

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Moulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain may speak on his Cut Motion now.

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: In supporting the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, I want to speak only a few words. Sir, there is a vast area about 10 to 12 miles north to south on the eastern bank of Shone Bill, where there is no dispensary of any kind whatsoever and there is also no private practitioner to whom the people of that locality can go for help. I remember Sir, to have urged upon the Government on the floor of this House the year before last for the establishment of such dispensary in that area, but the Government have taken no action about it. I, therefore, again urge upon the Government to establish dispensaries in the areas namely, Gamaria, under Ratabari police station and at Badarpur. With these few words, Sir, I beg to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, the Hon'ble Minister may speak.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Cut Motion, in raising the general discussion has raised three points. One, that the conditions of dispensaries in the rural areas are poor, second—that the district hospitals that have been provincialised by Government and the money saved thereby to the Boards should be spent in rural areas and the Local Boards should be asked to spend it in that line, and third, that the X-Ray plant at Dhubri has gone out of order and that it should be replaced.

I am in full agreement with the hon. Mover of this Motion, Sir, and being in agreement with him, we have provided Rs.76,000 in this Budget and we have granted Rs.76,000 for the current year; that means that we have been adding Rs.76,000 for the relief of Local Boards annually. In addition to that we have provincialised five district hospitals and thereby we have helped the Local Boards. In addition to that we have started a scheme of Subsidised Dispensaries and in the current year we have started 15 such dispensaries and we have budgeted for another 20 dispensaries for the next year, being, as I said, in agreement with the hon. Mover that the conditions of the rural dispensaries are very poor. We have been helping the Boards who have been raising these dispensaries.

The second point that he raised, Sir, is that the Local Boards should be asked to divert that money to rural areas. I may tell him that provincialisation of the five district hospitals was made on a condition precedent that the Boards would spend that money in the rural areas and I hope that the money thus saved would be spent in the rural areas.

As regards the third point that the X-Ray plant at Dhubri has gone out of order and that it should be replaced, I can only say that Government will consider first its repair and then replacement where necessary.

With regard to the demand of the supporter of this Motion, namely starting of dispensaries at Gamaria in Ratabari police station and at Badarpur, I may tell him, Sir, that the establishment of a dispensary in rural areas is the main responsibility of the Local Boards. It is their first concern to see that such dispensaries are established in rural areas. But, although this is their responsibility, we are also not unmindful of our responsibility in the matter. Therefore, Sir, in addition to 15 subsidised dispensaries that we have started this year, we have budgeted for 20 more such dispensaries in the next year. The conditions for establishing subsidised dispensaries in the rural areas are that the building of the dispensary as

well as for the staff should be constructed by the local people and doctors are to be arranged by them. Government in addition to Rs.65 per mensem for the doctor gives annual grant for medicines. If the hon. Member who supports this Motion can arrange to have subsidised dispensaries in those areas by constructing buildings for the dispensaries as well as for the staff and also arrange doctors for them, I think, Sir, we may be able to come to his help. With these words, Sir, I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his motion.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: Subsidised ডাক্তৰখানাৰ ডাক্তৰক কিমান দৰ্শনা দিয়া হয় ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: ৬৫ টকা। I think my hon. Friend has not understood the meaning of Subsidised Dispensary. A doctor who is going to be subsidised is not a Government employee nor a Local Board employee. He is a private practitioner and in his private practice we are going to help him in the rural areas.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: এই ৬৫ টকাৰে আজি কালিৰ দিনত ডাক্তৰ এজন পাব নোৱাৰে। আৰু কিছুমান ঠাই ইমান পিচ পৰা যে এই বিলাকত Private practice কোনো প্ৰকাৰেই নচলে গতিকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে private practiceৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি ডাক্তৰক অকল ৬৫ টকা সহায় দিয়াটো উচিত নহব।

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ৬৫ টকা দিয়ে। এই টকাত ডাক্তৰ এজন যে নচলে এইটো আমি জানো। আমি ৬৫ টকা দিছো যাতে এই টকাটো হাততলৈ গাঁৱৰ মাজত থাকিব পাৰে। ইয়াৰ লগত তেওঁ Private practice কৰি পাব আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে আশা কৰি এই ৬৫ টকাৰ লগত বাইজে বা লোকল বৰ্ডে কিছু দি সহায় কৰিব যাতে ডাক্তৰ গাঁৱত থাকিব পাৰে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: আজিৰ দিনত এই পইচাৰে ডাক্তৰে জীৱন নিৰ্বাহ কৰা সম্ভৱপৰ নহয়। আশা কৰো মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই Government ৰ এই Scheme-টো সাল সলনি কৰি দিব।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the scheme for subsidised dispensaries? It appears the hon. Member does not know the scheme.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Yes, Sir, I think it would be better if the Hon'ble Minister will give us an outline of his scheme for subsidised dispensaries.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: বোধ কৰো মাননীয় সভ্যসকলে জানে যে Subsidised dispensary ৰ সম্বন্ধে Government ৰ যিটো Scheme, সেইটো নতুনকৈ কৰা নহয়। এইটো আজি কেইবা বছৰো চলি আছে। Subsidised dispensary ৰ সম্বন্ধে scheme হৈছে এই যে বৰ্তমান অসমৰ বহুত গাঁৱত কিছুমান ঠাই আছে য'ত medical aid দিবলগীয়া নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ আৰু পাবলগীয়া। অৰ্থাৎ Local Board বিলাকে এনে ঠাইত dispensary কৰি দিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে আমি ভাবিছো যে যদি কোনো ডাক্তৰে গাঁৱৰ নিতান্ত দৰকাৰী ঠাইত private practice কৰিবলৈ ওলায় তেনেহলে যাতে ডাক্তৰে অসুবিধা বোধ কৰিব নালাগে, এই উদ্দেশ্যে আমি তেওঁলোকক কিছু সুবিধা কৰি দিয়াৰ বন্দৱস্ত কৰিছো। আৰু মাহে এই ৬৫ টকা দিয়াৰ বন্দৱস্ত কৰিছো বুলি কেতিয়াও ভবা নাই যে এই ৬৫ টকা এজন ডাক্তৰৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট হব; private practice কৰিও কিছু টকা উপাৰ্জন কৰিব পাৰে। গাঁৱৰ মানুহে তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত কমিটি form

কৰিব আৰু এই কমিটি বিলাকে টকা তুলি য'ব সাজি দি ভেঙলোকৰ ডাক্তৰক ৬৫ টকাৰ ওপৰত দি সহায় কৰিব। চুটিকে কবলৈ গলে এইটোৱেই Scheme। গাৰ্বৰ মানুহে ইচ্ছা কৰিলে ডাক্তৰক ৩০, ৪০ টকা দিব পাৰে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে backward গাঁওবিলাকতো ৩০, ৪০ টকা মাহে তুলি দিব পাৰে। এইটো বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰি। মই ক'ওঁ টকা পইচা কোনো প্ৰকাৰেই দিব নোৱাৰে। এনেকুৱা উদাহৰণ মই দিব পাৰো। ৩০, ৪০ নালগে এটকাও দিব নোৱাৰে। মোৰ জনা মতে আহতগুৰি Dispensary টো এজন Compounder এ চলাইছে কাৰণ ৬৫ টকাত কোনো প্ৰকাৰে ডাক্তৰ পোৱা নাযায়।

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Compounder এ কেনেকৈ চলাব পাৰে ?

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মই নিজে দেখিছো যে এজন Compounder-এ চলাইছে।

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: বোধ কৰো তেখেতে কথাটো বুজা নাই। আহতগুৰি Dispensary যিটো, সেইটো হৈছে Public Health Dispensary. তেখেতক এইটো কব পাৰো যে তাত ডাক্তৰ নেথাকি Compounder থাকিব নোৱাৰে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: সেই জন ডাক্তৰ হ'বই নোৱাৰে।

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir, the point raised by the hon. Member has no bearing whatever to the Cut Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: According to hon. Mr. Karka Dalay the Doctor of the Dispensary was absent but he was not replaced by another Doctor and instead the Compounder was doing his work.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It may be that the Doctor was absent with permission, or, it may be also that due to the coming down of the number of *Kali-Azar* cases the services of the Doctor and the existence of the Dispensary were no more necessary.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, Subsidised Dispensary ৰ সম্বন্ধে দুআঘাৰ মান ক'ব খোঁজো। এই সম্বন্ধে তেখেতৰ কথাটো পৰিষ্কাৰ হোৱা নাই।

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Dalay যে হে জানে বুজিছে নে নাই ?

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: Subsidised Dispensary ৰ সম্বন্ধে...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপুনি relevant হোৱা নাই। অপ্রাসঙ্গিক হৈছে।

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: What is the qualification required for a Doctor for a Subsidised Dispensary ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: He must be a registered practitioner.

Maulavi MD. MAKSED ALI: As assured by the Hon'ble Medical Minister that the Motion that I have moved will receive due consideration of the Government, 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 Cut Motion?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, I put the original Motion as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '38.—Medica'.1"

The question was adopted.

GRANT NO. 36.

"Loans and advances"

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,87,000, be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,87,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head 'Loans and Advances'."

There is no Cut Motion. Any hon. Member taking part?

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, may I ask one thing for elucidation regarding loans and advances by Government? There are various cases where advances have been made by Government to certain companies in the past which are really not limited companies, *e. g.*, in the Basic Education Scheme about two lakhs of rupees have been advanced to a newly formed company under the name of Building Construction Co., or like that, when Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co., failed to execute the work. Their Manager with some other partners floated a company under the name or style of Building Construction Co., or like that, and they have been advanced, I hear, a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, but not a single building has been raised as yet, the result being for their failure some 22 teachers who have been taught in Basic Education for two years were vegetating in their own homes and making out schemes and not a single institution is working under the Basic Education Scheme. I simply bring this matter before the Government in the way of throwing out a suggestion.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: On a point of order, Sir, that is a quite different matter. He is getting confused. It does not arise as the advance alleged to be made to contractors for construction of Basic Educational building is not included in this Demand.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Because of the word 'advance' I take it in the ordinary sense.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It does not include anything of the kind he is stating.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : At any rate, such advances should be given with great caution.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It is quite irrelevant, Sir, so far as the Motion is concerned. He should not get confused and make a speech not relevant to the Demand.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : I will bring it in proper place then, when the Hon'ble Minister will ask me to do that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,87,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head 'Loans and advances'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT NO. 9.

"18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works"

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,57,200, be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head "18-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,57,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '18-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works'."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Maulana Muhammad Mufazzal Hussain.

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN : I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.9,57,200 under Grant No. 9, Major head—18-B & 68—B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.9,57,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, by moving this Motion I want to discuss the necessity of an embankment in Kurikala under Ratabari Police Station to make hundreds of *hals* of land fit for *buro* cultivation. Kurikala is situated on the southern side of Sonbeel and the land is lying uncultivated. Experienced men of the locality are of opinion that if there is an embankment made, hundreds of *hals* of land will be fit for *buro* cultivation. So I request the Government that they will kindly have an embankment made in Kurikala. With these words, I move my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.9, 57, 200 under Grant No. 9, Major head—18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 9,57,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one thing ? There was a question of the Bhogdoi Bund.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : How can that come in here ?

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : Where can I bring this question of embankment ? I think I am in order because the question of embankment is there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the first time we have heard about the requirement of an Embankment at Kurikala in the Karimganj Subdivision. We shall look into this matter and examine whether the proposal will be feasible or not. I hope with this assurance the hon. Member will withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN : After hearing the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the original Motion.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.9,57,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head—'18-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works'".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.29

"56—Stationery and Printing"

The Hon'ble MAULANA MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs 5,30,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head, '56.—Stationery and Printing'".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,30,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head '56.—Stationery and Printing'".

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : May I again bring some question regarding the buying of Printing Press by this Government in this connection ? I put

certain Questions long ago, but I have not yet been able to get any reply to this Question on the floor of the House. But as this heading is here, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether there was any proposal to buy the Bani Press Limited by the Government of Assam?

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA : Notice is necessary for this.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : I gave notice already. I do not know whether the Question will come in the course of the Session.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You will have to wait up to the end of the Session.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : However, my information is this that some time back some officers of Government in the Secretariat and the Government Press went to Sylhet to negotiate regarding the buying of the Bani Press and my information is this that this is with the partnership of somebody in the Ferndale Hotel in Shillong. They have submitted no tender whereas some people have already submitted some tenders to Government for the buying of the Printing Press. If that is the case, I think it will be proper to publish notices for regular tenders and if any Government officer in conjunction with some other outsiders make this Press business in this very Shillong that will be detrimental to the work of the Government itself. This is what I draw the attention of the Government to. At the same time, if Government requires some new Presses to be bought, regular tenders may be called for and after that regular purchase should be made.

The Hon'ble Maulana MAHOMED TAYYEBULLA : Well, I will look into the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,30,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head ‘56.—Stationery and Printing’.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT NO. 4

“9.—Stamps”

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.49,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head “9.—Stamps”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head ‘9.—Stamps’.”

(After a pause)

No hon. Member is taking part. I therefore put the question.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.49,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1949 for the administration of the head ‘9.—Stamps’.”

The question was adopted.

Resolutions

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, we have finished the Demands for Grants. Now we shall take up non-official business. We were discussing Resolution No. 10. The hon. Mover is absent. When the Mover is absent the Resolution shall be treated as withdrawn according to the rules.

Next is Resolution No. 11. Here also the hon. Member is absent. So we come to Resolution No. 12.

Resolution 12 : ameliorating the condition of the Plains tribals and the Scheduled Castes, etc.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that Government do spend adequate sum of money each year for the next ten years for ameliorating the condition of the plains Tribals and the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes by way of providing them with good communication, sanitation and drinking water and also by way of introducing compulsory education in all tribal areas.

সভাপতি মহোদয়, মোৰ এই প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যে স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিছত আজি নতুন Constitutionত সেই বিষয়লৈ সুকীয়া নিৰ্বাচন উঠাই দিয়া হল—যাৰ ফলত আজি গোটেই ভাৰত জুৰি মৰা মৰি কাটাকাটি দেখিবলৈ পোৱা গৈছে। আৰু বৃটিচৰ সেই দুশ বছৰৰ অমানসিক ৰাজত্বত আজি গোটেই ভাৰত যে জৰ্জৰিত তাক কোনে নাজানে তাতে আৰু আমাৰ অসম আটাইতকৈ পিচ পৰা। এই পিচ পৰা অসমভূমিক উন্নত আৰু আশ্ৰ নিৰ্ভৰশীল কৰিবলৈ হলে আমি সকলোৱে উন্নত হব লাগিব। তাকেই কৰিবলৈ যদি আমি বিচাৰো তেন্তে পোন প্ৰথমে চকু দিব লাগিব ইয়াত খকা পিচ পৰা অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায় সকলৰ প্ৰতি। যেনেকৈ মানুহ এজনৰ হাত নাইবা তাৰ যেই কোনো অঙ্গ যুগীয়া হলে অকামিলা হৈ পৰে ঠিক তেনেকৈ এখন দেশৰ যেই কোনো অংশ পিচ পৰা বা অনুন্নত হলে তাক উন্নত দেশ বুলিব নোৱাৰি। মই সিদিনা মোৰ বাজেট Speechতে কৈছো ইয়াত ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু Scheduled বোৰে আটাইতকৈ পিচ পৰা আৰু নৰুঠা। যিবোৰ ঠাইত ট্ৰাইবেলবোৰে বাস কৰে তাত নাই বাস্তা ঘাট, নাই খাবলৈ পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা, নাই তাত কোনো চিকিৎসাৰ ব্যৱস্থা। যি ঠাইত বাস্তা ঘাট নাই তাকে Backward বুলি কোৱা হয়। আজি তেওঁলোকে বাস্তাৰ অভাৱত তেওঁলোকৰ শস্য উৎপাদন কম দৰতে বিক্ৰি কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। ফলত হাড় ভঙ্গা পৰিশ্ৰম কৰিও কোনোৰকমে অৱস্থা টনকিয়াল কৰিব নোৱাৰে আৰু অনুস্থান থাকিলেও তাত কোনো চাকৰিয়ালে ভয়তে নাযায়। চিকিৎসাৰ অভাৱত তেওঁলোকে কুকুৰ মেকুৰীৰ দৰে হাজাৰে হাজাৰে মৰা কথা কোনে নাজানে। মানুহে উপলুঙা কৰি কোৱা শুনিবলৈ পোৱা যায়। ট্ৰাইবেল বোৰৰ Longivity নেকি আনবোৰ জাতিতকৈ কম? সেইটো জলন্ত মিথ্যা (মিছা) কথা। মই Challege কৰি কব পাৰো Morally ট্ৰাইবেল—অন্ততঃ Plains ট্ৰাইবেলবোৰ আন আন জাতিতকৈ বহুত Strong, কেতিয়াও কোনো কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ Longivity কম হবই নোৱাৰে। শিক্ষাৰ অভাৱত, চিকিৎসাৰ

অভাৱত আৰু কোনো ব্যৱস্থাৰ অভাৱত নৰ্দমাৰ বেয়া পানী খোৱা ইত্যাদি কাৰণতহে তেওঁলোকে তেনেকৈ কুকুৰ মেকুৰীৰ দৰে মৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। আশা কৰো ইমান দিনে বঢ়িচৰ আমোলত অৱহেলীত জাতিৰ প্ৰতি সদয় হৈ তেওঁলোকক উন্নত কৰিবলৈ এই দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত বৰ্তমান গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যথা সম্ভৱ তাগ স্বীকাৰ কৰিব। আৰু তাকেই কৰিবলৈ হলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অপেক্ষাকৃত টকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰিব লাগিব, যাতে উল্লেখিত সকলো কাম হাতত লৈ এই দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰতে তেওঁলোকক আন উন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ সমান শাৰীত আনিব পাৰে, তেহে আমি পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ ভাৱে উন্নত অসম গঢ়ি তুলিবলৈ সক্ষম হম। আৰু আন দেশেও উন্নত বুলি পৰিগণিত কৰিব।

Compulsory Primary Education Bill বিখন ইয়াত পাচ হৈছে, তাক কামত খটুৱা দেখা নাই। সেইটো সকলো area ত apply কৰাৰ সম্ভাৱনা নহলেও tribal area ত Compulsory Primary Education ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিয়াটো ৰব বাঞ্ছনীয় বুলি কব খোজো। কাৰণ তেওঁবিলাকে শিক্ষাৰ মূল্য নুবুজে। Government এ ইয়াৰ বাবে ৫০ লাখ টকা ধৰি দিছে; কিন্তু বাজেটত ধৰি থলে একো নহব বুলি মই ভাবো। আমাৰ Parliamentary Secretary ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে tribal সকলৰ কাৰণে কিমান স্কুল আছে তাৰ লিষ্ট দিয়া টান। কিন্তু লিষ্ট অনাৰ পিছতো দেখা যাব ন'ত দুটা tribal ল'ৰা বা চাৰিটা Scheduled Casteৰ ল'ৰা আছে তাকেই Tribal School বুলি ধৰিছে। গতিকেই মই ভাবো আমাৰ মানুহৰ দ্বাৰা কমিটি গঠন কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ সৈতে আলোচনা কৰি যেন ঠিক কৰা হয়—আমাক ক'ত ক'ত School লাগে ইত্যাদি। গতিকেই এই Resolution টো অনাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যে Tribal বিলাকৰ কাৰণে সুকীয়া ব্যৱস্থা কৰা আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তেনেকুৱা বেলেগ scheme কৰি ৰখাৰ চেষ্টা কৰা আৰু ইয়াৰ বাবে বেলেগ ভাৱে টকাৰ ear-mark কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। সেইটোৱেই মোৰ Government ৰ ওচৰত দাবী।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

“That this Assembly is of opinion that Government do spend adequate sum of money each year for the next ten years for ameliorating the condition of the plains Tribals and the people belonging to the Scheduled castes by way of providing them with good communication, sanitation and drinking water and also by way of introducing compulsory education in all tribal areas.”

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত বসুমতাৰীয়ে যি প্ৰস্তাৱ আমাৰ আগত তুলি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ প্ৰতি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সহানুভূতি আছে। মই আলোচনাৰ প্ৰথমতে কওঁ যে তেখেতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৰা কথা বিলাক ভালকৈ বুজিব পৰা নাই। মই তেখেতক আৰু মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক জনাব খোজো যে এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নীতি হৈছে এইটো যে পিচ পৰা জাতি আৰু পিচ পৰা লোকৰ উন্নতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। আৰু সেইটো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্তব্য বুলি মানি লৈছে। আচলতে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত আমি সকলোৱেই পিচ পৰা। আন কোনো প্ৰদেশৰ লগত তুলনা কৰিলে আমি দেখা পাওঁ যে যেতিয়ালৈকে আমাৰ সকলো মানুহে উন্নতিৰ পথত সকলো সুবিধা নাপাই তেতিয়ালৈকে আমি কোনোয়েই উন্নত বুলি কব নোৱাৰো। সেই কাৰণে যি যি লোক পিচ পৰি আছে বা যি যি ঠাই পিচ পৰি আছে, সেই বিলাকৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ নতুনকৈ আঁচনি আৰু নতুন কাৰ্য্য তালিকা হাতত লবলৈ যুগুত কৰা হৈছে। মই আলোচনাৰ পিছত বিতংকৈ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ আগত কম যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বা গৱৰ্ণপৰিষদত সেই সম্বন্ধে কি কি কাম কৰা হৈছে। মই ইয়াকে কৈ বসুমতাৰী ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ আলোচনা আৰম্ভ কৰক।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত ধৰণীধৰ বসুমাতাবীৰ পুস্তাৰটো সম্বন্ধে মই কেই আঘাবমান টাইবেল জাতিৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ সম্বন্ধে অসম চৰকাৰক জনাব খোজো।

অসম চৰকাৰৰ বাজেট আৰু Scheme বোৰ চালে মহাসমুদ্ৰত পৰো আৰু গাঁৱলৈ গলে তাত দেখিবলৈ পাও মৰুভূমিময়। ইয়াৰ অৰ্থ এই যে কাগজে কলমে টাইবেল সকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বহুত Scheme লৈছে কিন্তু টাইবেল গাঁৱত কোনো বিষয়ে উন্নতি মূলক কাম কৰা দেখা নাযায়। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলে টাইবেল সকলক সকলো প্ৰকাৰে সুবিধা আৰু আগ ভাগ দিম বুলি গাৱঁভূঞা সভাই-সমিতিয়ে কয় কিন্তু কাৰ্যত তাৰ বিপৰীত দেখা যায়। আমাৰ টাইবেল ছাত্ৰ সকলক স্কুল কলেজ আৰু আন আন টেকনিকেল বিভাগত free education দিব লাগে আৰু বৈদেশীক শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে বৃত্তি দি শিক্ষা দিব লাগে। টাইবেল গাঁও বিলাকত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে যাতায়াতৰ কাৰণে বাস্তা পদূলি কৰিব লাগিব, পৰিষ্কাৰ খোৱা পানীৰ কাৰণে নাদ পুখুৰীৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে আৰু বেমাৰ আদিৰ চিকিৎসাৰ কাৰণে গাঁওবোৰত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে ডাক্তৰ খানা পাতিব লাগে।

সৰ্বসাধাৰণতে দেখা যায় বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰে আমাক যিমান প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিয়ে তাৰ দহ ভাগৰ এভাগো কাৰ্যত পৰিণত কৰা দেখিবলৈ নাপাও। তেওঁ বিলাকে কয় যে কংগ্ৰেচৰ নীতি হৈছে দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত অনুন্নত জাতি সকলক উন্নত জাতি সকলৰ সমান শাৰীত গঢ়ি তুলি। কিন্তু কাৰ্যত পৰিণত নকৰি মুখেৰে কলেই জানো হব?

শিক্ষা দীক্ষা, চাকৰি বাকৰি, কাৰবাৰ আদি সকলো বিষয়তে special quota দিব লাগিব, অকল লোক সংখ্যা অনুপাতে দিলেই নহব। মই তাৰ উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কও যে দুজন মানুহ আছে তাৰে এজনক চাইকেলত উঠিবলৈ আৰু আন জনক মটৰ গাড়ীত উঠিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে। কিন্তু চাইকেলত উঠিবলৈ দিয়া লোক জন কেতিয়াও মটৰ গাড়ীত যোৱা জনক লগ ধৰিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে মটৰ গাড়ীত উঠা লোক জনক ধৰিবলৈ হলে চাইকেলত উঠা লোক জনক Special arrangement কৰি দিব লাগিব। এই দৰে টাইবেল সকলক উন্নত কৰিবলৈ হলে অসম চৰকাৰে তেওঁ বিলাকৰ প্ৰাপ্যকে দি সন্তোষ্ট নাথাকি তাৰ ওপৰিত কিছু special consideration কৰিব লাগিব।

বৃত্তি, ফিজ মাফ আদি সম্বন্ধে চাদুল্লা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি কৰি থৈ গল, তাতকৈ এটাও বৰ্তমানলৈকে বঢ়াব পৰা নাই। এনেকুৱা সাধাৰণ কামতে যদি টাইবেল সকলক সুবিধা দিব নোৱাৰে তেন্তে ইয়াতকৈ ডাঙৰ কামত কি সাহসেৰে আশা কৰিব পাৰো?

মই অসম চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন টাইবেল সকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি সকলো প্ৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্যত হাতত লব।

Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE: One thing is not clear, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister has opposed the Resolution or he will give his opinion after hearing the discussion?

(A voice—Yes.)

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: Sir, in the way of supporting the Resolution moved by my Friend Sri. Dharanidhar Basumatari, I desire to draw the pointed attention of the Government to the fact that inspite of all attempts towards reservations, classifications, safeguards, privileges, the lot of the plains tribals and the scheduled castes people has not improved to any appreciable extent. There might have been various handicaps on the part of the past Governments in taking effective steps for amelioration of the conditions of these minorities due to different outlooks but the present Government is pledged to take speedy actions to bring them to the level of other advanced brethren which is embodied in section 37 of the India's Draft Constitution. Surely good communication system, sanitation measures, good drinking water and compulsory primary education help to a great extent in improving the status of the backward people who, in this Province, are generally inhabitants of rural and interior areas. It is a fact that the wastage of education among the pupils of the backward classes is much more than that among the pupils of forward classes due to poverty and other factors. I am sure that this Government is serious enough to uplift the backward people as is evident by the setting up of the Backwardness Removal Committee whose recommendations have already been submitted and I hope, will be implemented.

In our district, there are plains tribals, such as Kacharies, Dhyans, Tipras, Riyangs, Dimachas and scheduled castes, such as Namasudras and other scheduled caste people in Cachar who are educationally and economically very backward. I think, if cross country roads are constructed along with other sanitary arrangements and in introducing compulsory primary education the areas inhabited by these people are given the first scope, the social, economic and educational condition of these plains tribal and scheduled castes will be improved soon.

It is not sufficient to cry from the house top all alone that we mean to improve the lot of these people but instead of a separate department styled as 'backward welfare' should be set up in no time to chalk out a programme for ten years to bring the backward classes of Assam to the level of forward classes and the department will be useful in co-operating with the rural development and other nation building departments to uplift the backward people. Of course, I have no misgiving about the sincerity of purpose of the Government in this line and I quite realise the handicaps which the Government is facing but even then I feel, Sir, there is much room for accelerating effective measures.

With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend Mr. Basumatari for the acceptance of the House.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, while supporting the Resolution as a non tribal member of this House I only want to emphasise one side of the question. This ten years Scheme to bring all these people to the level of the highest in the society has been made by the Indian Dominion Parliament or the Constituent Assembly. It is undoubtedly now necessary that good communication, sanitation, drinking water and compulsory primary education should be provided for the upliftment of these people in these areas. When they have been given to understand that after 10 years they should come upto the level of the forward communities as after these 10 years there will be no special consideration, it stands to reason if these people claim acceleration in these matters. At the same time, if we cannot take the whole burden of expenses, certainly we can again look even askance, for special grant from the Centre for the purpose of accelerating these things. Primary education, to my mind is the first thing that should be attended to. As my hon. Friend has already said that

these tribal people are not very keen about educating their children rather many of them think that education make them bad members of the society, as such, these people must be forced to give compulsory primary education to their children at least. Moreover, as some years have been mentioned for special consideration, certainly it will be possible for Government to introduce compulsory primary education first in these areas so that within these ten years they may come upto the level of other progressive communities of the nation. If however some money is necessary, certainly when the Centre have made it a statutory provision that they would be spoonfed only for 10 years, when the Centre has given that direction, certainly it has a duty towards these people and if the Provincial Government cannot take this question up for want of finance, it should be helped by the Centre by earmarking some money for the purpose. Their demand is quite justified and if we have given a time-limit of ten years to come up to our level, we have a duty also to help them morally and materially and not by resolution only.

Srijit MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: (Parliamentary Secretary)
Sir, I would have no occasion to speak on this Motion but as my Friends Sri Basumatari and Sri Karka Dalay Miri have referred to conversations they had with me. I am compelled rather to speak a few words. The Hon'ble Prime Minister will reply to the Resolution in detail. What I want to speak is regarding only education. Sir, I have already made it clear on the floor of the House the other day in reply to a question put by my hon. Friend Sri Harinarayan Barua that we have already asked the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education to furnish us with a complete list of all the venture primary schools in the tribal areas and also in the Majuli area of the Sibsagar District and we have almost decided to take up as many of them as possible from the grant that this House will be sanctioning for the coming year. Regarding compulsory primary education the policy is that the Subdivisional Committees are being constituted and on the recommendation of these committees the areas will be selected accordingly. It is very difficult to say just at present which of the areas will be included for the experiment of the compulsory primary education. I think, the House is aware of the fact that we are going to introduce compulsory primary education as an experimental measure and for this reason we must be very cautious so that our experiment may not prove a failure. For that matter, Sir, though the policy has not yet been determined finally, I may say that the intention of the Government is that we should select the backward areas as well as some advanced areas too.

Regarding scholarships, in every case certain scholarships in some cases amounting to more than 1/3rd has been particularly earmarked for the tribal students. On this score, Sir, the allegations, I am sure, brought against in the speeches that the Government is only showing lip sympathy to the tribal people, have no foundation whatsoever. The Government is doing their utmost to ameliorate the conditions of the people and the Hon'ble Prime Minister has already given out that he looks with sympathy with the spirit that has been ventilated in the wordings of the Resolution. I also hope that every hon. Member of the House is in full sympathy with the spirit of the Resolution. Once again I refer to Sri Dharanidhar Basumatari's allegations that some of the schools in question have been included in the list of tribal schools where there are only a few tribal students. I may tell for his information that regarding selection of the schools Government have very little scope to exercise their discretion because in every subdivision there is a committee constituted of the Local Board Chairman, the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-divisional Officer, the local Members of the Legislative Assembly and representatives of different communities. On the recommendations of such committees

Government take up as many schools as they can in order of preference put by the committee. Therefore any tribal schools that are not recommended by such committees and, as a result, not taken up by Government the fault is not of Government but of the committees concerned. Whenever it is brought to the notice of Government that a certain school requires special attention of Government they do their utmost to comply with such a request. And whenever attention is drawn of an Hon'ble Minister while he is on tour to dilapidated condition of a certain school, the Government try to come forward with sufficient help both in the scheme of recurring and non-recurring grants.

Therefore, Sir, the criticisms levelled against the Government in the matter of education has very little foundation.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Srijut Karka Dalay Miri has found fault with us for not including him in the local committees that are entrusted in distribution of wells and tanks and also he has alleged that this Government has excluded him from such committees for the reason that he does not belong to this Group. I am sorry, Sir, that he has said like this. He has not seen the list of members of such committees. If he has seen it he would not have said in this way. There are some members in these committees who do not belong to this Group. For instance, I like to cite the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury who belongs to a different Group other than ours. There are many other members also who although do not belong to our Group, have been included in these committees. Therefore, Sir, the charges that those who do not belong to our Group are not included in these committees, have no grounds. He says that these committees have not allotted wells and tanks to the areas inhabited by the Miri people. It is known to my Hon'ble Collegue Srijut Omeo Kumar Das that in Tezpur wells and tanks have been allotted to some Miri villages. Similarly, some wells and tanks have been provided with at Majuli.....

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI :** May I know, Sir, in how many villages of Miri areas such wells and tanks have been provided with and to name those villages ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I cannot exactly say the number of villages and to name them, Sir, at the present moment. If the hon. Member wants it I may inform him to-morrow.

It is known to many hon. Members of the House that some Miri villages are generally situated in the sandy places where wells and tanks cannot be made. I myself have been seen the house of Srijut Karka Dalay Miri and it is situated in a place where wells and tanks cannot be made.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We cannot say that all Miri villages are situated on the river side. There are some Miri villages not situated near about the rivers and they have no wells and tanks.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Secondly, Sir, we generally look to the urgent needs of those areas where there is no water-supply at all. First of all we look to the interests of those areas where there are constant epidemics of cholera. In the circumstances, Sir, I hope the hon. Member will not find fault with Government for not being able to provide wells and tanks to all the areas inhabited by Miri people.

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI :** এনেকুৱা বহুত মিৰি গাওঁ আছে যত একো সুবিধা পোৱা নাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: কিবা particular case কব পাৰেনে ?

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** টিয়ক অঞ্চলত বহুত মিৰিয়ে এটাও পোৱা নাই। North Lakhimpur তো এনেকুৱা বহুত মিৰি গাওঁ আছে।

***Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই যি বিলাক কথা কৈছে সেই বিলাক কথা শুনি মই আচৰিত হৈছো। তেখেতে কৈছে যে নৈ বা নাদৰ বুকত আনি পুখুৰী দিব নোৱাৰো আৰু মিৰি গাওঁ বিলাক নৈৰ ওচৰতে। মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই এনে কথা কৈ ফাঁকি দিয়া উচিত হোৱা নাই। মই নিজে জানো এনে বহুত মিৰি গাওঁ নাদৰ কাষত আছে আৰু তাত বহুত পুখুৰীও আছে। তেখেতৰ এই কথা শুনি মই আচৰিত হৈছো যে নৈৰ বা নাদৰ ওচৰত পুখুৰী দিব নোৱাৰি। মই তেখেতৰ কথা বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰো আৰু তেখেতৰ কথা শুনি মই বিশেষভাৱে আচৰিত হৈছো।

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** মোৰ কথা হৈছে যে তেওঁলোকে বালিৰ ওপৰত গাওঁ পাতি আছে আৰু নৈৰ ওচৰতে খকাৰ কাৰণে নৈৰ পৰা পানী পায়। কিন্তু বৰ্তমান Government ৰ Scheme হৈছে য'ত একেবাৰে পানী নাই আৰু বেয়া পানী খাই Cholera ইত্যাদি বেমাৰত ভোগিব লগীয়া হয় সেই বিলাকত পানী দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা।

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** মাজুলী অঞ্চলত এটাও পুখুৰী নাই কিয় ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** ইয়াৰ কথা মই বিশেষকৈ নাজানো।

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** One-third of the Miri population এ গৰণ মেন্টৰ এই scheme ৰ পৰা একো সহায় পোৱা নাই।

***Maulavi ABDUL HALIM:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মিৰি বিলাকে sand ৰ ওপৰত গাওঁ কৰি থাকে সঁচা কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে গাৱতে পুখুৰীও খানি থাকে মই নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰে জানো।

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া মই আকৌ এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ উত্তৰ অসমীয়াত দিম বুলি ভাবিছো তেতিয়াহলে আমাৰ বন্ধুসকলে ভালকৈ বুজিব পাৰিব গৰণ মেন্টৰ উদ্দেশ্যটো কি। পোনতেই কৈছিলো যে এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰত অকল সহানুভূতিয়েই নহয়, গৰণ মেন্টে এই প্ৰস্তাৱ অনুযায়ী যথেষ্ট কাম হাতত লৈছে আৰু লবৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰস্তুতহৈ আছে। শ্ৰীযুত ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই উত্থাপন কৰিছে যে পিচপৰা জাতিৰ উন্নতি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এটা scheme কৰিবলৈ আৰু ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ পৰা টকা আনিব লাগে বুলি। এই কথাটো আমাৰ কাৰণে নতুন নহয়। যদি উপযুক্তৰূপে আমাৰ বাজহ থাকিলহেঁতেন তেনেহলে এই সম্বন্ধে ইমান তৰ্ক নালাগিলহেঁতেন। কোনেও কৰ নোৱাৰে যে যি গৰণ মেন্ট প্ৰতিনিধিমূলক হব সেই প্ৰতিনিধিমূলক গৰণ মেন্টে, তাৰ যি সকল লোক আছে তেওঁলোকৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগৰ বিষয়ে আওকাণ কৰিব পাৰে। বিশেষকৈ কংগ্ৰেচ গৰণ মেন্টে, যাৰ নীতি হৈছে—পিচপৰা লোকৰ উন্নতি আৰু সহায় কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা। মই আগেয়েই কৈছো যে বহুত উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ কাম আছে। সেইটো যে কৰিব পৰা নাই তাৰ মূল কাৰণ হৈছে অৰ্থাভাৱ। এই যে অনাটনৰ কথাটো অকল tribal ৰ কাৰণে খাটে এনে নহয়। যি ফালেই যাওক আজি অভাৱ। ৰাইজৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে ইমান কৰিব লগীয়া কাম আছে কিন্তু যথোপযুক্ত টকাৰ ব্যৱস্থা ইমান কম যে সেই কাৰণে আমি ৰাইজৰ গৰিহণা খাবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ বিবেচনাত যদি টকাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব নোৱাৰি তেন্তে আমি হাজাৰ ইচ্ছা কৰিলেও উন্নতিৰ পথত নিজমতে চলিব নোৱাৰোঁ। আজি গান এখন প্ৰদেশৰ লগত আমাৰ তুলনা কৰক

তেনেহলেই বুজিব আমাৰ অৱস্থাটো। দুমুঠি ভাত আমি খাইছোঁ গঁচা কিন্তু আচলতে মানুহৰ যি আৱশ্যকীয় আৰু লাগতিয়াল বস্তু এইবিলাক সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে কোনো মানুহে পাইছেনে? পোৱা নাই। সেইকাৰণে এই ডাঙৰ সমস্যাটোৰ এটা বিধান কৰাৰ আৰু আমাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে আমি দুটা কথা মনত ৰাখিব লাগিব। প্ৰথমতঃ আমাৰ ভিতৰত কিবা এটা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে যি উৎসাহ আৰু কাৰ্যতৎপৰতা সেইটো থকা। আমি উন্নত হ'বৰ কাৰণে যিখিনি কৰিব লাগিব তাৰ দায়িত্ব প্ৰত্যেকজনে গুটীয়াকৈ আৰু সামাজিক হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িব লাগিব। দ্বিতীয়তে তাৰ বাবে যিমান অৰ্থ লাগে তাক গোটাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিব। আপোনাগকলে জানে যে আমাৰ Tribal Area Sub Committee ৰ সভাপতিৰ দায়িত্ব মোৰ ওপৰত পৰিছিল আৰু সেই সময়ত এই ঠাই আৰু লোকসকলৰ মধ্যত আমি যি কৰিব খোজোঁ সেইটো বিশেষকৈ আলোচনা কৰিব লগীয়া হয় আৰু তাক বিপোর্টত লিপিবদ্ধ কৰা হয়। আমাৰ যি report প্ৰস্তুত হৈছিল সি কেৱল পাহাৰীয়া ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ কাৰণেহে কৰা হয়। কিন্তু তাৰ পাছত বাকৌ অইন ঠাইৰ কমিটিৰ representative সকলে ভৈয়ামৰ অধিবাসী মধ্যত বিপোর্ট দিয়ে, তাৰ পাছত যুটীয়া আলোচনা কৰা হয় আৰু এই আলোচনাৰ ফলত আমি Constituent Assembly ত প্ৰস্তাৱ কেইটামান দিছিলো। সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ বিলাক পিচপৰা ঠাই আৰু পিচপৰা জাতিবিলাকক উন্নত কৰিব লাগিলে কিকি কৰিব লাগে আৰু কৰিব লগীয়া কাম বিলাকৰ কাৰণে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে কি ধৰণেৰে সহায় কৰিব লাগে। অতি সৌভাগ্যৰ বিষয় যে এই প্ৰস্তাৱ Constituent Assembly ৰ Draft Committee ত গৃহীত হৈছে। এই গৰণ মেনেটে এই draft তৈয়াৰ হোৱাৰ আগতে আমাৰ ইয়াত এটা কমিটি গঠন কৰা হয় আৰু সেই কমিটি ইয়াত বহিছিল। মই জানিছিলো কি ধৰণৰ Draft Constituent Assembly এ মঞ্জুৰ কৰিব আৰু সেই কাৰণে আগৰে পৰা তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা বৃদ্ধত হ'ব বুলি ভাবিছিলো। এই কমিটিত এইটো গৃহীত হৈছে যে ইয়াত অনেক জাতি আৰু অনেক ঠাই পিচপৰা আছে আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ ভাবে টকা খৰচ কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ উন্নতি কৰা কাম হাতত ল'ব লাগে। কিন্তু এই কৰা কোনো প্ৰকাৰৰ আঁচনি প্ৰস্তুত কৰা হোৱা নাই নাইবা কিমান টকা লাগিব তাকো নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰা হোৱা নাই। মই ভাবো যে এই সময়তেই আপোনাগকলৰ আগত Constituent Assembly ৰ Draft Committee ৰ অভিনতটো কৈ দিয়া দৰকাৰ। Constituent Assembly ৰ Draft Committee এ সেই বিষয়ে কেইটামান বিধানৰ দ্বাৰা কোৱা হৈছে। তাত সেইটো ২৫৫ ধাৰাৰ প্ৰথম proviso তোত উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে—

“ Provided that there shall be paid out of the revenues of India as grants-in-aid of the revenues of a State for the time being specified in Part I of the First Schedule such capital and recurring sums as may be necessary to enable that State to meet the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Government of India for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in that State or raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in that State to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State”.

এই proviso টোৰ অৰ্থ নিশ্চয় আপোনাগকলে বুজিব পাৰিছে। অৰ্থাৎ যদি পিচপৰা স্থানৰ আৰু সিডিউল ভুক্ত জাতি বিলাকৰ উন্নতি কৰা কোনো Scheme অৰ্থাৎ আঁচনি এই Government এ লয় আৰু সেই আঁচনি ভাৰত Government ৰ অনুমোদন হয়, সেই আঁচনি বিলাকৰ খৰচ ভাৰত চৰকাৰে দিব আৰু সেই প্ৰদেশক সেই পৰিমাণে দান দিব। সেইটো আপোনাগকলে দেখিবলৈ পাইছে। আৰু ২০৮ পৃষ্ঠাত সেই জাতি বিলাক কি তাৰ এটা বিবৰণ দিয়া হৈছে।

At page 208. The following tribes and communities of Assam :—

1. Kachari, 2. Boro or Boro-Kachari, 3. Rabha, 4. Miri, 5. Lalung, 6. Mikir, 7. Gare, 8. Hajonfi, 9. Deuri, 10. Abor, 11. Mishmi, 12. Dafla, 13. Singpho, 14. Khampti, 15. Any Naga or Kuki tribe and 16. Any other tribe or community notified by the Government of Assam.

তাত এটা ডাঙৰ কথা আছে। সেইটো হৈছে যদি কোনো পিচপৰা জাতি এই লিষ্টিত ভুক্ত হোৱা নাই তেন্তে ভেঙলোকক Government এ ইচ্ছা কৰিলে উন্নত লিষ্টিত ভুক্ত কৰিব পাৰে। আমাৰ ইয়াত বহা কমিটি গঠনৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছিল দুটা—অকল School বঢ়োৱা বা বাস্তা তৈয়াৰ কৰাই নহয়। এই বিলাকৰ সম্বন্ধে ভালকৈ আঁচনি কৰা আৰু দ্বিতীয়তঃ তাৰ কাৰণে কি টকা লাগে সেইটো নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা। কিন্তু সেই কমিটি মাত্ৰ এবাৰহে বহে। আমাৰ ইচ্ছা যে মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া শ্ৰীযুত অমিয় কুমাৰ দাসৰ সভাপতিত্বত সেই কমিটি আকৌ বহে। আজি আমাৰ দৰকাৰ হৈছে উপযুক্ত মতে আঁচনি তৈয়াৰ কৰা। আমি আশা কৰিছো যে আঁচনিমতে Government of India ৰ পৰা টকা পাম। দ্বিতীয়তঃ তাৰ পাছত এই আঁচনি বিলাক কামত পৰিণত কৰিবলৈ যথাবিহিত কাম কৰিব লাগিব।

ইয়াৰ বাহিৰে প্ৰস্তাৱত ট্ৰাইবেলৰ বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থা সম্বন্ধে কিছু আলোচনা কৰা হৈছে। খোৱা পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা সম্বন্ধে মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত বাম নাথ দাসে কিছু প্ৰত্যুত্তৰো দিছে। এই সম্বন্ধে মই ইয়াকে কব খোজো যে শিক্ষা বিভাগত বৰ্ত্তমান খৰচ যি হ'ব ধৰিছে তাত ১/৩ ভাগ minority সকলৰ কাৰণে হ'ব ধৰিছে—তাত immigrant সকলো বাদ পৰা নাই। কিন্তু এইটো আমি মানি লও যে সকলো অভাৱ পূৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ অৰ্থ-কোষৰ বিশেষ অভাৱ। এইটো দুখৰ বিষয় যে Law আৰু Order ৰ কাৰণে আমি ১ কোটি ১২ লাখ টকা খৰচ কৰিব লাগিছো অৰ্থচ জাতি গঠন কামত সেই পৰিমাণে খৰচ কৰিব পৰা নাই। কিন্তু ইয়াকো মানিব লাগিব যে বৰ্ত্তমান যি পিৰিস্থিতিত পৰিছো সেই খৰচ নকৰিলেও নহয়। কাৰণ আমাৰ অস্তিত্ব ৰাখিবই লাগিব; তাৰ পাছতহে উন্নতি।

এই অৰ্থৰ নাটনি অৱস্থাত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যি কৰিছে তাক উপযুক্ত নুবুলি নোৱাৰি।

কিন্তু ভবিষ্যত সম্বন্ধে চাব লাগিব যে অৰ্থাভাৱত আৰু কাৰ্য্যতৎপৰতাৰ অভাৱত যেন আমাৰ উন্নতি পথত বাধা নপৰে। এইটোও মানি ল'ব লাগিব যে যি কথা মই Tribal লোক সম্বন্ধে কৈছো সেইটো আন লোকৰ সম্বন্ধেও খাটে। যদি Post-War Development ৰ আঁচনি বিলাক কামত পৰিণত কৰিবলৈ টকা পাওঁ আৰু আচলতে কামত পৰিণত কৰিব পাৰো, তেতিয়াহে অসমে আন প্ৰদেশৰ শাৰীত এখন উপযুক্ত খান পাব। এই প্ৰদেশৰ উন্নতিৰ লগত ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ উন্নতিও একেলগে নিহিত আছে। যদি শৰীৰৰ এটা অঙ্গ পচি থাকে তেন্তে গোটেই body টোক ভাল বুলি ক'ব পাৰিনে ?

প্ৰস্তাৱকে তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱত মাত্ৰ কেইটামান কথাহে উল্লেখ কৰিছে যেনে good communication, Sanitary Conditions, Compulsory Primary Education. মোৰ মনেৰে Tribal সকলৰ মাজত কৰিব লগীয়া আৰু অনেক বেচি কাম আছে—তাত Irrigation and Drainage ৰ বহুত কাম আছে; সেই দৰে ব্যাধি নিবাৰণ আৰু চিকিৎসাৰ কাম আছে আৰু বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ ইয়াৰ দৰে Rural Development ৰ কাম তাত ভালকৈ চলিব।

এই এটাইবিলাক কাম ৫।১০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আঁচনি ল'ব লাগে। আমাৰ ডাঙৰ কাম হৈছে সেইটো।

যদি উপযুক্ত ভাবে আঁচনি আমি গ্ৰহণ কৰি সেই বিলাক কামত পৰিণত কৰিব পাৰো তেতিয়া Tribal আৰু আন Tribal সম্বন্ধে যি প্ৰভেদৰ কাৰণে আমি আমাৰ ভিতৰত বিভিন্ন মনোবৃত্তি সৃষ্টি কৰিছো সেইটো দূৰ হ'ব। আৰু সকলোৱে মিলি গৈ এক অসমৰ সন্তান বুলি ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ আগত ঠিয় দিব পাৰিম। মই আশা কৰো মাননীয় সদস্যসকলে আমাৰ এই সফলতাৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা আৰু সহায় কৰিব।

মই আৰু বিশেষ কৰ নোখোজো। মই ইয়াকে কৈ শেষ কৰিব খোজো যে tribal সকলৰ কাৰণে Constituent Assembly এ যি guarantee দিছে তাক আমি পালন কৰিবই লাগিব। এই Constituent Assembly ৰ বিধানো Congress অনুষ্ঠানিক নিতীৰ পৰা আৰু কংগ্ৰেচীলোকৰ দ্বাৰাই গৃহীত হৈছে। পিছপৰা জাতি বা পিছপৰা লোক সকলৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা সকলো সজ লোকৰেই কৰ্তব্য আৰু এই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই কৰ্তব্য পালন কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব। এইখিনি কথাৰ পিছত মই বিশ্বাস কৰো যে শ্ৰীযুত বসুমাতাৰীয়ে তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ ভোটত নিদি উঠাই লব।

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা সকলো কথাৰ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি বা সন্নিধান পালো আৰু তেখেতৰ কথা মতে মই এই Resolution press কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰো। কিন্তু এইটো কৰ খোজো আমাৰ Parliamentary Secretary ডাঙৰীয়াই মই allegation অন্য বুলি দোষাৰোপ কৰিছে। সেই মতে কণ্ট আচলতে মই allegation অন্য নাই। Committee গঠন কৰা কথা আগে জানিলে এই বিলাক কথা নকলোহেতেন। যিকি নহওক সকলো কাম কৰি দিয়া হব বুলি যি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিলে তাকে আশা কৰি মই প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই নলো।

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

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

Resolution re-affording facilities to Muslims for the observance of their religious festivals

Maulavi Muhammad ABUL KASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

“This Assembly is of opinion that as Muslims form an important factor of the population in Assam, in order to afford them facilities for due observance of their religious festivals, also in deference to their religious susceptibilities and also in view of the fact that the Muharram holidays have been reduced from 5 days to one day only, Government do reintroduce the Shab-I-Barat holiday and also provide two days' holidays each for Id-ul-fitr and Id-uz-zuha”.

In bringing this Resolution I only want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that in case of Id-ul-fitr which is celebrated on seeing the moon, we remain in doubt even on the first day of the appearance of the moon, in many places and it so happens that Id-ul-fitr is celebrated on two days. So it is very necessary that we should have two days' holidays for Id-ul-fitr. As for Id-uz-zuha sacrifice is permissible for three days but the holiday is sanctioned only for one day. So I request that our demand for 2 days would be accepted by the House. As for Shab-I-Barat one day's holiday was granted before and now only a request has been made to reintroduce it. I have not said anything with regard to the Muharram holidays which have been reduced from 5 days to one day only. With these words I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

“This Assembly is of opinion that as Muslims form an important factor of the population in Assam, in order to afford them facilities for due observance of their religious festivals, also in deference to their religious susceptibilities and also in view of the fact that the Muharram holidays have been reduced from 5 days to one day only Government do reintroduce the Shab-I-Barat holiday and also provide two days' holidays each for Id-ul-fitr and Id-uz-zuha”.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I think that this Resolution does not require any more discussion in view of the discussion which

we had the other day in respect of holidays. I had pointed out in that connection that the list of holidays was drawn up by a Committee consisting of the leaders of all communities as well as commercial interests and the Government. The holidays were curtailed with a view to giving more work to the Government and to the public. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition represented the community on behalf of which the hon. Mover of the Resolution has spoken for more holidays. I don't think, Sir, that in the circumstances there is any necessity for going against the list which was prepared according to the agreement of all interests and religious communities. I therefore oppose this Resolution and I request the hon. Member that in view of the decisions arrived at in this respect, he will see his way to withdraw his Resolution.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Hearing the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

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

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

Resolution re Compulsory Primary Education

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take steps to meet the expenses of making Primary Education compulsory throughout the Province from the next Session out of the Government of India's contributions for Reconstruction Schemes.

Sir, if I know the real necessity of the mass people of my country and if I have some touch with their everyday life, I can say without any fear of contradiction that compulsory primary education will be the necessary criterion for democratising our people, their outlook and the constitution of the Government. Our difficulty now is that the mass people do not even know what is the voting power under which they cast their votes to elect representatives who hold the political power of the country. When these people cast their votes in the ballot box under certain symbol of tiger, jackal or any other thing, the members whom they symbolise appear to them also like that. If I could have said for the last decade or so that our Mass Literacy Campaign had been successful to a great extent, if I could have said that even the new ideology of education under the Basic Education Scheme at the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi had at least begun to some extent in this very Province which had sent about 30 teachers for training, if I had found that some initiative had already been taken with some effect, I would not have thought of moving this Resolution for making primary education compulsory. From my experience of at least last 10 years, I find that the new ideology of education has not taken root anywhere in the country. I still hold to the old belief that primary education at least should be made compulsory in the country. Unless we make our children at least literate the democratic principle under which we want to run the Government will never be fruitful. We may say that we have no money for introducing compulsory primary education in the country. It is a fact that it requires a mint of money to be spent, but primary education is still more a grimmer fact of life, and money must be found from some source. If the village reconstruction scheme under the Government of India's grant is to be helpful to the people, why should we not be able to spend a portion of it in making primary education compulsory? It is a common adage in our village that the village people always count as their wealth 'godhan' and 'podhan'; i.e., cattle wealth and the children,

These are their mainstay and source of their wealth. If that be the case why should we not improve the human stock also, along with livestock, out of the fund earmarked for village reconstruction from the Centre ?

Sir, we have often accused Government for not being able to spend money for this scheme or that. But is it not a fact that we have not been able to touch our own resources ? Under these circumstances those who are taking the lion's share of our resources should give back something for our rescue if they really mean that we should stand shoulder to shoulder with others as one Great Indian Nation. Nobody can deny that much of help. As the Hon'ble Premier has already said, if a limb is rotten the whole body-politic is rotten. Why should we not claim sufficient amount of money which we have been giving not for one or two decades but possibly for half a century from our resources to the Central Exchequer ? So long we had no hand in it, our voice was not effective, we were not even allowed to protest. But can we say that the same thing now obtains ? Certainly we are part and parcel of the Central Government now, and they are bound to help us when necessary. Can anybody now say that primary education is not the primary necessity of civilised life and the most urgent thing ? If that is the case whatever money is necessary must be found. Recently, we heard about the statutory provisions for land reforms and other things. The public are clamouring for land reforms and all sorts of reforms and enactments. If I am correct, our Finance Minister has already taken a census of the different kinds of lands for finding out a new lever for revenue-raising purpose. If we take that into consideration money will be forthcoming. Can we think that lands which are lying fallow in tea-garden and other places, which we have not been able to utilise in any way because of the settlement difficulties, should for all time to come remain so because they were given under a certain old and rotten statute ? Those very people who were in power then are no longer here and should these archaic laws stand in the way of our modifying the land policy and find out money, if possible, for this purpose ? Our tea, coal and oil have been exploited for the last half a century or so. We have not got even one anna out of a rupee from these resources. Should we not claim all these things now ? Should we not go and tell the Central Government that all the money which have been robbed from us by the last Government should be returned to us ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : This has no bearing on the Resolution.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : Is it irrelevant, Sir ? I think not. I am within my constitutional right to refer to this with all the emphasis. I should say this is constitutional and if any of the hon. Members do not agree, I only pity him.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, in the Resolution the hon. Member does not say anything about it. His Resolution says : "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take steps to meet the expenses of making Primary Education compulsory throughout the Province from the next Session out of the Government of India's contributions for Reconstruction schemes."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He is suggesting means.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN : I think, it is relevant. However, I am only pointing out the resources from which the Hon'ble Premier who is also the Education Minister may be helped but if he says that "you need not

think of approaching the Central Government, that I will find out the money," I have nothing to say. But my whole idea is to strengthen his hand but if he takes the whole responsibility on his broad shoulder, I shall thank him and think that our problem will be solved. The country should be democratised and if it is to be democratised, no other agency will be so powerful as education. Without this if we say we democratise people, it will be a mirage and you know what will be the effect of a mirage. I say this Resolution, of all the Resolutions will be the most pressing one and the people of the country-side will bless the Government if this can be introduced immediately. I know the difficulty—the dearth of teachers but that will have to be solved. I know 2,500 youngmen who get some sort of degree or diploma, they may be asked to serve the country for one year before they think of any profession. I think, this has been done by some Province. At least, let us accept this as a principle and decide once for all that within 10 years we will make primary education compulsory in the country. If not, it will be unfortunate for the country, for, to-day we being the representatives of the people—pledged to the upliftment of the masses—if we cannot accept the Resolution, it will be an unfortunate thing.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take steps to meet the expenses of making Primary Education compulsory throughout the Province from the next Session out of the Government of India's contributions for Reconstruction Schemes."

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to comment on the Resolution at the initial stage I would say that the way in which the Resolution is worded it is more or less a Financial proposition rather than an educational one. His Resolution on compulsory primary education suffers, I am afraid, from the same defect which occurred in his Resolution on the University. Here the proposal is that compulsory Primary Education should be established in the Province from the next Session out of the Government of India's contributions for Reconstruction Schemes. He knows it very well, Sir, that it is on specific schemes that Government of India sanction finance and then we incur expenditure. The schemes are submitted by Provincial Government as the schemes of development and the Government of India approve the schemes ; and it is only after the schemes are approved and agreed to their being put into execution with finance that this Government can take them. Therefore, the Resolution cannot be a proposition which the Government could accept. I mean the Government could not say that they could divert certain money which have been provided for any reconstruction scheme to one for compulsory primary education. That is, Sir, my first observation and the difficulty of Government in accepting the Resolution as it is.

There are other very important matters for consideration also. I sympathise with the hon. Member in his desire to have compulsory primary education as early as possible. Government, it is well-known, have already had an Act passed and it has received the approval of His Excellency the Governor in December last. According to that scheme we have got to have certain School Boards who after study of local condition will apply the provisions of the Act in certain areas or the whole of the area under their jurisdiction. Now, we have reached an important stage at which this subject is being discussed at all-India level, viz., what will be the scope of the primary education. You know, Sir, that the present course of the primary education is only 5 years. In the last Educational Conference that was held in December last which was convened by the Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of India it

was decided that the course for primary education should be 8 years instead of 5 years only as now. The question necessarily arose as to how to finance such a project as it was impossible for any Province to do it. The question arose whether the Government of India should not borrow the entire expenditure that will be necessary for the purpose and to give to the Province the share that will be necessary for them to put the scheme into execution. It was thought by the learned men of India who gathered there that States duty to give education upto the standard of making its inhabitants true citizens should lie on the State. They came to the conclusion of having a 8 years course after examination of that point of view. It is therefore not known what is going to be done in reference to this very great and important question. So far as the provincial finances are concerned I could inform the hon. Member that this matter was examined by the last Government. They wanted to know what would be the approximate expenditure if primary education under the present course was made compulsory and with the calculation, I believe, of teachers' pay at Rs. 25. They came to the conclusion that it will require a crore and thirty lakhs of rupees for putting that scheme into effect. Of course, Sylhet was then in Assam. But even if we want to put the scheme into effect leaving Sylhet and with the proposed increased pay, I am sure the amount, that will be necessary, will not be less than Rs. 1,50 lakhs. Of course, that will be spread over a number of years.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How long the Hon'ble Premier will take?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I will take a little long, Sir, I don't mind speaking on the next day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Before we rise I have got to say something. Hon'ble Members have got 2 documents—one Resolution to be moved by the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy and the other Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1947-48. According to the original programme these items should have been considered on the 30th. But according to the altered programme these two matters will have to be considered on the 29th, that is the day after to-morrow. If any hon. Member wants to table any amendment on the Resolution he will do so upto 3 P. M. to-morrow. If any hon. Member wants to move any Cut Motion on the supplementary demand, he should do so to-morrow before 3 P. M.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Monday, the 29th March 1948.

SHILLONG :
The 28th May 1948

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

