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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on Monday, the 5th December, 1938.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(to which oral answers were given)

**Posts of Superintendent of Excise**

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** asked :

\*376. Are Government aware that there is no Surma Valley Hindu in the Assam Excise Service ?

\*377. (a) Are Government aware that according to a previous decision of Government, every alternate vacancy in the grade of Superintendent of Excise should be filled up by new recruitment ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the last vacancy in the same grade was filled up by promotion in contravention of the decision mentioned in question 377(a) above ?

(c) Whether such promotion defeated the claims of the Surma Valley Hindus and the ratio of communal representation was disturbed ?

\*378. Is it a fact that two vacancies are likely to occur soon in the grade of Superintendent of Excise ?

\*379. Do Government propose to consider the case of the Surma Valley Hindus at the time of filling up those vacancies when they occur ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

376.—Yes. There is, however, a domiciled Bengali Hindu.

377. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—It is a fact that the promotion increased the representation of Assam Valley Hindus beyond the mathematical proportion. In promotion, it is not possible to rectify any such inequalities.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD ABHAB CHAUDHURY**: With regard to 377(c), may I ask whether Government propose still to adhere to the principle of proportionate representation of each community in this branch of service ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: Yes.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD ABHAB CHAUDHURY**: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state the total number of posts of Superintendent of Excise and the number of Moslem officers respectively ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: Eight and two respectively.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state the number of posts the Moslems are entitled to get ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** 2·4.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Has the ratio of percentage of Moslems been filled up ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** Two are filled up, and the decimal portion is still remaining. The Moslems are entitled to get 2·4 posts ; they have already got 2, so 0·4 is remaining. But on the whole the Moslems are over-represented in proportion to other communities.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Has not the Hindu community been over-represented in this Branch ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** But the Surma Valley Hindus are under-represented still now.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Are the Surma Valley Hindus separate from the Assam Valley Hindus ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** Yes.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** According to the principle of the present Congress Government, may I know which community will get preference ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** All under-represented minority communities will get preference.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Which minority communities, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** This time Scheduled castes, tribal people and Moslems will be given preference.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** But, Sir, I have seen in the Gazette that Scheduled castes will get preference. Is it true ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** Yes.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Are not the Scheduled castes included in the Hindu community ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** No, perhaps the hon. member knows that the Scheduled castes have been separated from the caste Hindus for political purposes, *i.e.*, for purposes of appointment, etc.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by "political purposes" ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** I would refer the hon. member to the dictionary.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Is it not a clear device to suppress the legitimate claims of the Moslems ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think this question is not a proper one to be put.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** May I ask to which community the Hon'ble Minister belongs ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** I belong to the Kaibarta community of the Scheduled castes.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** May I ask the Hon'ble Premier whether he wants to back this community by this method and introduce nepotism.....?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think it is not a proper question.

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

378.—One vacancy has already occurred. Another is expected in 1941.

379.—Government will consider the case of each under-represented community. In the present vacancy they determined the proper order to be Scheduled castes, tribal people of the plains and Muslims.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Are Government aware that there is no Assamese Muhammadan in the cadre of the Superintendent of Excise ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** At present there is no separate representation for the Assam Valley Muhammadans and the Surma Valley Muhammadans in the matter of appointments.

### Appointments in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** asked :

\*380. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether appointments in the offices of Deputy Commissioners are held by the natives of the districts concerned ?
- (b) Whether in accordance with Government circular of 1935, the Hindus of Sylhet have no claim to have any appointment in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur ?
- (c) Whether 2 Sylheti Hindu clerks are in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, now ?

\*381. If the answer to question 380(c) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to make rooms for the children of the district by transferring them to their own district of Sylhet ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

380. (a)—The present rule 307(4) in the Executive Manual provides that if qualified local candidates are available, appointments to a district staff should be limited to *residents* of the district.

(b)—They have no claim.

(c)—There are three on the staff including North Lakhimpur subdivision.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** May I ask why outsiders have been taken into the district staff ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, the answers make it clear that the cases of the residents in the matter of the appointments are taken into consideration and there is no bar to the natives of other districts from being given the appointments provided they are residents of the districts in questions.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Is not the recruitment made on district basis ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, the recruitment is on the district basis, but the recruitment is open to those people who are residents in that particular district.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that these two Hindu clerks are residents of Lakhimpur district ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** They were appointed in the office before the circular was issued. As far as the information of Government goes, they are residents of the district.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

381.—Government could not undertake transfer in all such cases. In some cases the persons concerned may have been posted in the district under the operation of the rule quoted in reply to question 380(a) which provides that local candidates are liable to transfer after appointment. It may be a hardship to transfer an officer to his original home district, if he is a resident of the district in which he is posted, nor will he be necessarily suitable for his home district.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : Will Government be prepared to accept the statement that they are not residents of the district and that they were transferred from Sadiya ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : As far as the information of Government goes, those people were appointed before this circular was issued and they were the residents of the district then. I have also explained the difficulty why a particular officer, who was appointed before the notification, cannot now be transferred.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : Are Government aware that these gentlemen are anxious to go back to their district ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : Government have no information.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : Will Government please make an enquiry about it ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : Yes, if the person concerned will make an application, the matter will be taken into consideration.

### Royalty on Coal and Oil

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** asked :

\*382 Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the article under the caption "Coal and Oil" sent from the Shillong Office of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and published in its issue of the 24th July, 1938 ?

(b) Whether there has been any attempt on the part of Government to augment the resources of the Province by raising the royalty on coal and oil as suggested in the said article ?

(c) What actually or approximately is the total annual output of coal from Assam and the amount of royalty obtained from it ?

\*383. Do Government propose to give due weight to the suggestions made in that article ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

382. (a)—The article referred to in the question does not appear in the issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated 24th July 1938, received in the Secretariat.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The total output of coal in Assam during the year ending on the 31st December 1937 was 240,915 tons. A sum of Rs.37,967 was realised as royalty.

383.—As Government have not seen the article no reply can be given.

## Reservation of road side land

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** asked :

\*384. Are Government aware that there is no "road side reservation" of 35 feet from the foot of the slope of the Assam Trunk Road running from Dibrugarh to Gauhati at several places notably between Sepon and Dimau in the Sibsagar Subdivision and Bokakhat and Jorhat in the Golaghat Subdivision ?

\*385. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the road side reservations existed at any time ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) How and when the said reservations came to be under the occupation of different tea concerns ?
- (d) Whether the tea companies hold any lease for the land lying within the reservation by the road side ?
- (e) Whether rule 23 of the rules under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation has been contravened in any of these cases ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

384.—This is the case in many places along the Assam Trunk Road. The reservation of 35 feet is not uniform.

385. (a)—This cannot be ascertained without prolonged and exhaustive enquiry into old records.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—This is not known.

(d)—Yes, especially in the case of Fee Simple lands.

(e)—Not as far as is known.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Are Government going to take any steps to make it uniform ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I should like to make this point clear. The proper "roadside reservation" is not and cannot be kept in cases where the localities, which become centres of interest first, have often to be joined with other parts of the country by roads later, and as far as practicable, the existing structures are not disturbed and cannot be disturbed as this would mean a far larger cost in the acquisition of lands. *Where, however, the path or road runs through khas lands alone such reservation is kept, and will be adhered to.*

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Will Government be pleased to make an amendment in the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation to that effect ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** To what effect ?

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** That these roadside lands are not always kept ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I may point out that these reservations are kept as far as the road runs through the *khas* lands.

**Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA:** May I know what is meant by "Bokakhat and Jorhat in the Golaghat Subdivision" ? Is there any sub-division as Jorhat in the Golaghat Subdivision ?

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** I may inform the hon. member that Jorhat is in the Golaghat Subdivision as far as the Public Works Department is concerned.

**Election of Chairman in the Dibrugarh Local Board****Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** asked :

- \*386. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) How many members of the Dibrugarh Local Board tendered their resignation in connection with the election of the Chairman of the said Board ?
  - (b) Whether it is a fact that the members who had tendered their resignation were asked by Government to withdraw the same ?
  - (c) Whether the said members accordingly withdrew their resignations ?
  - (d) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether such withdrawal of resignation was accepted ?
  - (e) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

386. (a)—Twelve.

(b) to (e)—The hon. member is referred to the answers given to unstarred questions Nos. 631-636 by Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah on the same points.

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(to which answers were laid on the table)

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before taking up unstarred questions may I remind the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operative Societies that he promised to reply to my supplementary questions in connection with unstarred\*\* questions Nos. 651-656 ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI**: I shall give the information when I get it.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI**: May we know when we may get the information ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI**: In this session, I hope.

**Digging of irrigation canals in the Kamrup district****Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

- 689.(i) Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) If they have any plans in the matter of digging irrigation canal in the Kamrup district in near future ?
  - (b) If so, how many they propose in the Barpeta subdivision ?
- (ii) Do Government propose to take up at least two schemes in this subdivision at an early date ?

690. Do Government, in the meantime, propose to render help to the villagers towards the digging or improvement of canals now obtaining in the subdivision in an effective scale ?

691. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received representations from the people of Sarukhetri in the Barpeta subdivision for help to drain out the Alpa river ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

689.(i)(a), (b), 689(ii) and 690.—The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

691.—No.

\*\*For unstarred questions Nos. 651-656 see the Assembly Debates of 3rd December, 1938

**Gentlemen farmers at Barpathar and the names of cultivations taken over by them**

**Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA** asked :

692. Will Government be pleased to state the number of gentlemen farmers at Barpathar and the names of cultivations taken over by them ?

693. (a) Do Government propose to help them ?

(b) If so, in what way ?

(c) If not, why not ?

694. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have taken any step to increase the number of gentlemen farmers there ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

692.—The number is about 50 and they have taken mostly to the cultivation of fruits and sugarcane.

693. (a)—Yes.

(b)—With expert advice. Supply of improved seeds and plants, etc., and loans.

(c)—Does not arise.

694. (a)—Yes, the Agricultural Department have tried to add to the productive efficiency by the supply of seeds, plants and fertilisers, etc.—while the Development Board have added to the ordinary amenities of life by providing for roads and water-supply.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Re Supervisor of the Barpeta Co-operative Central Bank who canvassed in the last Local Board General Election**

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

695. Is it a fact that a representation was made to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister recently to the effect that a Supervisor appointed and paid by the Barpeta Co-operative Central Bank, Limited, took part in canvassing in the last Local Board General Election in the Damka Chakabousi and Ripasi mauzas of the Barpeta subdivision ?

696. Is it a fact that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister sent it for enquiry by a Government official and the Sub-Deputy Collector, Barnagar Circle, actually issued notices upon the Supervisor and his father asking them to produce evidence and enquired into the representation ?

697. Will Government be pleased to state if the Supervisors, appointed and paid by the Co-operative Central Banks, are Government servants and if there is any bar in their taking part in canvassing in the Local Board or other elections ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

695.—Yes.

696.—It was sent to the Deputy Commissioner for enquiry and report ; and the Sub-Deputy Collector, Barnagar, made an enquiry under the latter's orders.

697.—They are not Government servants.

Reply to the second part is in the negative.



**Resignation of Maulavi Musabbir from the membership of the Karimganj Local Board**

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** asked :

698. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Maulavi Musabbir, a member of the Karimganj Local Board, has recently resigned his membership from the said Board ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the date of his resignation ?
- (c) The date when he joined the service in the Education Department ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

698.(a)—Yes.

(b)—28th July 1938.

(c)—26th June 1938.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI**: May I know whether a Government servant is allowed to be a member of any Local Board ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: No, Sir.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI**: Is it not a fact that he joined Government service on 26th June, but he resigned his membership of the Local Board on the 28th of July 1938 ? If so, why did he not resign it before ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: I cannot say, Sir.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI**: Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: Yes, Sir.

**Havoc caused by Malaria in the Sreemangal thana**

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY** asked :

699.(a) Are Government aware that malaria is creating havoc in the Sreemangal thana of the South Sylhet subdivision ?

(b) If so, what step, if any, have Government taken to combat the disease ?

(c) Do Government propose to adopt anti-malarial measures in that thana immediately ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

699.(a)—Malaria breaks out in some parts of Sreemangal thana during the rainy season.

(b)—The patients of the affected villages get medicines conveniently from Sreemangal and Bhunabir Local Board dispensaries and also from the Pachaun out-centre of the Shamsherganj Public Health Department Dispensary. Quinine has been supplied to these dispensaries by Government for free distribution to the indigent malaria patients. In addition, epidemic staff are occasionally deputed to the heavily affected localities when necessary.

(c)—Government will consider the question and ask the South Sylhet Local Board what amount they are prepared to contribute towards such measures. They will then consult the Assam Medical Research Society.

**Improvement of the Golaghat-Dimapur Road**

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG** asked :

700. Do Government propose to arrange for immediate improvement of the Golaghat-Dimapur Road from Barpathar to Dimapur to make it motorable throughout the year ?

701. Do Government propose to take over this road into the books of the Public Works Department from the Development Board ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

700.—There is no such proposal pending with Government. This road has never, even when under the Public Works Department, been kept up as a motorable road through the rains and the present time of financial stringency is not favourable for starting such a project.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: May I know whether this road is under the control of the Public Works Department.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: A portion of it is under the Public Works Department.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Which portion of it ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: The portion from Golaghat to Dimapur.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: May I know what is the total length of this road ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: I want notice of that question.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: What was the total length of the road under the control of the Public Works Department ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: The length is not known to me now.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the entire road was never under the control of the Public Works Department ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: A portion of it was transferred to the Development Board, and the proposal is under consideration whether the entire portion can be taken under the Development Board.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED**: Is it a fact that the Central Government's grant that has been given to this Government has been stopped for this area for the development of this road ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: I want notice.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: May I know if any enquiry has been made by the Government as to the necessity of making it a motorable road ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN**: As soon as the proposal comes up, an enquiry will be made.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

701.—No.

**Earthwork of North Trunk Road from the 62nd mile to the 78th mile**

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA** asked :

702. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When the earthwork of North Trunk Road from the 62nd mile to the 78th mile began and when it was finished ?
- (b) whether it is a fact that traffic was practically suspended between these 16 miles while the earth work was being done late in season ?
- (c) Why it was done so late in the year causing great inconveniences to the public as well as the checking officer of the Department ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

702.(a)—Earthwork between miles 62 and 78 was begun in October 1937. The main earthwork could not be started until December/January owing to lack of labour. The major portion was completed by April, and all earthwork stopped by the end of May.

(b)—No.

(c)(i)—Because it had to wait the arrival of Noonian labour.

(ii)—Government do not admit that any undue inconvenience was caused. A certain amount of inconvenience is inevitable when a road is being raised.

**Spar work at Buroi river**

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA** asked :

703. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether spar work at Buroi river was done during last April ?
- (b) If so, why it was done so early ?
- (c) What was the total cost for the said spar work ?
- (d) Whether any purpose was served by the spar work on the said river ?
- (e) What was the total amount spent on the bed of the Buroi river last year for the convenience of traffic ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the approach road of sand (on the bed of the river) was gravelled last year ?
- (g) If so, at what cost ?
- (h) Whether that road is washed off during the rains ?
- (i) What were the reasons of gravelling a temporary road of this nature ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

703.(a)—Yes.

(b)—In order that the work might be completed before the first possible flood.

(c)—Rupees 384.

(d)—Yes. This facilitated traffic during the rainy season.

(e)—Rupees 1,615 altogether was spent on the crossing.

(f)—No.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Previously this has been so. This year the bamboo staking has protected the road.

(i)—Does not arise.

**Re a mahajan of Pandul under police station Tahirpur who takes bonds of a larger amount than actually advanced**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

704. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have got any information that a *mahajan* of Pandul under Police station Tahirpur, in the district of Sylhet takes bonds of a larger amount than actually advanced, from the debtors ?

705.(a) Are Government aware that he realises interest from the debtors at a rate of one anna per rupee per mensem ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to enquire about the matter from the following persons :—

1. Shabdul, 2. Sharif, 3. Pir Baksh of Harina Kandi under Police Station Dharmapassa, {district Sylhet, 4. Imanali of Ramjibanpur Police Station, Tahirpur of Sylhet, 5. Kalamia of Mamudpur, Police Station Dharmapassa, 6. Hashmat of Gopalpur, Police Station Tahirpur, district Sylhet.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN** replied :

704.—No.

705.(a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Government do not propose to make an enquiry, since such matters are proper to be dealt with by the Courts.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Under (b) do I understand that the poor cultivators cannot expect any relief from the Government without going to the Court ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** It might be so. But these sort of matters should be properly dealt with in a Court and I do not think we should interfere in the matter.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** When certain facts have been brought to the notice of the Government, cannot the Government take the matter into consideration ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** The reply is already there and the Government do not propose to interfere.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** When the parties are not in a position to go to the Court, cannot the Government interfere to remove the grievance of the public ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** The Government do not want to interfere where a court has jurisdiction.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** When the people are oppressed, is there no duty imposed on the Government to come to the relief of the people ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** The courts are open for them.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** I am asking that when the parties are unable to approach the Court whether the Government feel that no duty is cast on them to interfere and relieve the people's grievance ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** I think if a man has not got the means, the Court's help can be sought in such cases in proper form.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Is it not the duty of the Government to remove the grievances of the helpless people when the facts are brought to the notice of Government ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** The law is there.

### Appointment of a non-Botanist to a post in the Jorhat Normal School

**Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI** asked :

706. Will Government be pleased to state, whether they advertised some time in the year 1937-38, for a post in the Jorhat Normal School with Botany as special qualification ?

707. Is it a fact that a non-Botanist was appointed to the post ?

708. Is it a fact that there were applications from candidates with Botany as their subject ?

709. Will Government be pleased to state the reason why a non-Botanist was appointed ?

710. Will Government be pleased to state the qualification of the present incumbent of that post ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

706.—Yes.

707.—No.

708.—Yes.

709.—Does not arise.

710.—M.Sc. with high Second Class in Physics. Took Botany in his I.Sc. course.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** May I know who made the appointment, whether it is the Public Service Commission or the Departmental Head ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It is well known to the hon. member that appointments to Class III of the School Service are made by the Director of Public Instruction.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** May I know whether there are any candidates with B.Sc. in Botany Honours?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** As far as I know there was no candidate like that.

### Ummatunassa High School

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked:

711. Are Government aware that the Ummatunassa High School of village Andiura, Police Station Madhabpur, is struggling for existence and as yet Government aid has not been extended to it?

712. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of the Middle English Schools in the district of Sylhet?

(b) How many of them are receiving aid from the Local Board?

713. Are Government aware of the fact that in the backward areas, the people start at first with the Middle English Schools and then raise such schools to the standard of High Schools?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

711.—The Ummatunassa High School is presumably in the same position as many other Unaided High Schools.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I know, whether it is a fact that several representations were submitted to the Government to take up this particular school in the maintained list?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Not to my knowledge.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Is it a fact that the particular school is being financed by a Muhammadan widow with all the properties she had in her possession?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am glad to have the information, but I had no knowledge of it before.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Will Government be pleased to enquire about the School and make adequate provision in the next year's budget?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The matter will be considered when funds are allotted for taking up schools, if funds are available.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reply without an 'if'? I would like to have a definite reply.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It is not possible at this stage to give better reply. We are not conscious of what funds we have just now.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Is it not a fact that the Inspector of Schools of the Surma Valley, who visited the school on many occasions, has recommended that this school should be taken in the maintained list?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am not aware, but I presume it is correct.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

712. (a)—One hundred and nineteen including Middle English Mad-rassas.

(b)—Twenty-seven.

713.—Yes.

**Death of cattle belonging to the graziers of Charkholia, Simul and Sukhan Chapris**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH** asked :

714. Is it a fact that a large number of cattle belonging to the professional graziers of Charkholia, Simul and Sukhan *Chapris*, were carried away by the recent heavy flood and a large number of cattle staying in the *Chapris* died for want of fodder grass?

715. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state the number of cattle that died for want of fodder and other causes and of those carried away by the flood in the above *Chapris*?

716. Is it a fact that in order to prevent the death of cattle, the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur requested the Political Officer, Sadiya, to temporarily remove the cattle to his adjoining *Chapris*?

717. Is it a fact that such a request was refused by the Political Officer, Sadiya?

718. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Deputy Commissioners of Goalpara, Sib-sagar, Nowgong and Lakhimpur visited the areas affected by the last heavy flood of July in their respective districts?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of days spent by each of them for that purpose?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

714.—It is a fact that a large number of cattle were washed away from the *Chapris* in question during the recent floods and it is not unlikely that a number died subsequently owing to the want of fodder.

715.—It is impossible to form any even approximately accurate estimate at present of the number of cattle which have died or been washed away. The Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of grazing and the Mohsirdars have been directed to make enquiries.

716.—The Deputy Commissioner asked the Political Officer, Sadiya, that the graziers of Simul and Sukhan *Chapris* might be allowed to keep their cattle temporarily on Kaplong and Majuli *Chapris* after the flood.

717.—The Political Officer was at first unable to allow the use of Kap-long *chapri* for this purpose as it was a thatch mahal and thatch crops would be ruined but temporary accommodation was allowed on Mesaki *chapri*. Accommodation was also provided on Majuli *chapri*, which was found to be in this district. Subsequently, after the question had been considered by Government, the use of Kaplong *chapri* also has been allowed by the Political Officer, Sadiya, in the case of the graziers of Sukhan *chapri*.

718. (a)—Yes.

(b)—According to the latest report available—  
 The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, spent—15 days,  
 Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong—22 days,  
 Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara—28 days, and  
 Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur—15 days  
 in connection with the flood.

### Opening of Forest Revenue Office at Jagadishpur

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

719. Are Government aware that very recently Forest Revenue Office has been opened at Jagadishpur ?

720. Will Government be pleased to state the necessity for opening this Revenue Office ?

721. Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent by Government in opening out this Forest Revenue Office ?

722. Will Government be pleased to state the income that Government expects to derive by opening this new office head by head, by sale of fuels, *sangrass* and other materials ?

723. Will Government be pleased to state the number of officers and employees serving in the Forest Office of Jagadishpur and the dates of their posting there ?

724. Will Government be pleased to state the rate of permits during the last 12 years for different kinds of produce from the Jagadishpur Forest Division ?

725. Are Government aware that the price of forest produce has comparatively come down at the market ?

726. Is it a fact that a large number of villagers of the Madhabpur Police station mainly live on the income they derive by removing forest products and selling them in the bazar ?

727. Will Government be pleased to state the number of criminal cases launched by the Forest Department in the course of the last 3 years in the district of Sylhet ?

728. Will Government be pleased to state how many of them were contested ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

719.—A Forest Beat Office was established at Jagadishpur in 1905. This beat office has recently been declared as a revenue station under rule 5 of Import Rules at pages 68 and 69 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I, for examination of, and issue of passes for forest produce imported from Hill Tipperah ?

720.—This revenue station is necessary for examination of forest produce imported from Hill Tipperah forests for sale in the markets in the neighbourhood of Jagadishpur and other markets and for issue of transit passes in lieu of certificates of origin (Bhatials) issued by the State in accordance with rule 6 of Import Rules at page 69 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I.

721.—Nothing has been spent in declaring the Jagadishpur beat office as a revenue station.

722.—No income is derived from transit passes as these are issued free of charge in lieu of certificates of origin (Bhatials). The office continues however to derive an income from the fees on permits issued for the extraction of forest produce from Sylhet forests.



723.—The number of officers and employees serving in the forest office at Jagadishpur and the date of their posting there are furnished below :—

Rank	No.	Date of posting
Forester ... ..	1	1st July 1936.
Forest Guard ... ..	1	21st July 1936.
Ditto ... ..	1	25th July 1937.
Ditto ... ..	1	1st September 1929.

724.—The rates of permits for different kinds of forest produce issued during last 12 years from the Jagadishpur forest office are given below :—

1. Home consumption permit for removal of forest produce under Rule 4 at page 50 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I at Rs. 3 each.

2. The rates of trade permit are according to the schedule of rates of royalty on forest produce in Appendix VII page 188, of Assam Forest Manual, Volume I. In consonance with this schedule of rates the following kinds of permits are issued for the convenience of the poor villagers.

Ticket for removal of bamboos in *Bhar* load not exceeding 12 big bamboos (1" diameter and over) or 100 small bamboos (under 1" diameter) or 50 bundles of *sangrass* ... .. Annas 2 each ticket.

For removal of firewood up to one maund in *Bhar* load. Anna 1 " "

For removal of two ploughs ... .. Annas 4 " "

Gail 18"—20" long up to 3' ... .. Anna 1 " "

Gail 18"—20" long over 3' girth ... .. Annas 2 " "

Paddle upto 5' length ... .. Anna 1 " "

Paddle over 5' length ... .. Annas 2 " "

725.—A depression occurred in the price of forest produce from 1930-31, but from the past 2 years the market for all forest produce has improved.

726.—A number of villagers near *the Madhabpur* Police Station deal in forest produce.

727.—The number of criminal cases launched by the forest department in the course of the last 3 years in the district of Sylhet is furnished below :—

1935-36 ... .. 234 cases.

1936-37 ... .. 163 "

1937-38 ... .. 95 "

728.—Accurate information in regard to number of cases contested is not available ; about 10 per cent. of the cases were contested.

### Promotion of a clerk of Gauhati Seed Depot to the Head clerkship

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked :

729. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture aware that a clerk of Gauhati Seed Depot, who was dismissed being entangled in a defalcation case of a Co-operative Bank has been reappointed and promoted as Head clerk in the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Gauhati, superseding the claims of others ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

729.—The clerk was neither dismissed nor reappointed but was placed under suspension in connection with a case of a Central Banking Union. When he was acquitted from the charge he was transferred to Sylhet and degraded to a lower post. He has, however, been promoted to the temporary post of Head clerk being the seniormost man.

**Young men released from Agricultural Training Classes of Sylhet and Jorhat**

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR** asked :

730. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of the first batch of middle class young men who were released from the agricultural training classes at Sylhet and Jorhat respectively ?

(b) Whether Government has rendered any help in any way to those young men so as to enable them to settle ?

(c) If so, in what way ?

(d) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

730. (a)—12 and 11 respectively.

(b) & (c)—Government have sanctioned loans of Rs. 250 each to 8 unemployed youngmen to enable them to settle on land to be selected by them. So far only one trained youngman has settled down with the loan. Out of the rest, 17 have been engaged in the Department as Agricultural Demonstrators, Stockmen, Insect trap operators, Godown keepers and Jute Demonstrators and also a few in pump irrigation work. Five are still unemployed.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Appointment of the lecturer in the Higher Motor Mechanic Section of the Jorhat Technical School**

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA** asked :

731. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the entire expenditure in connection with the Higher Motor Mechanic Section of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, is met from the Bholanath Barua Endowment Fund ?

732. Is it a fact that a non-Assamese has been appointed as a lecturer of this section, viz., as the lecturer on Automechanics and Electrical Engineering in preference to an Assamese candidate ?

733. Are Government aware that by depriving an Assamese of the benefit accruing out of the Bholanath Barua Endowment Fund, they have frustrated the intention of the donor, now deceased ?

734. Are Government aware that according to the terms of management of His Royal Highness Technical School of Jorhat, as published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 16th August 1922, the said school is mainly meant for the industrial education of the natives of the Assam Valley ?

735. Are Government aware that on account of the low general education of the students of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, the knowledge of Assamese on the part of the teachers, is indispensable ?

736. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if the knowledge of the Assamese language was considered indispensable in the case of the lecturer newly appointed on Auto-mechanics and Electrical Engineering ?

b (If not, why not ?

737. Will Government be pleased to state—

Whether the newly appointed lecturer on Auto-mechanics and Electrical Engineering possesses sufficient knowledge of Assamese to explain matters and deliver lectures on technical matters ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** replied :

731.—Yes.

732.—Yes.

**Mr. NABAKUMAR DUTTA** : May I enquire whether the Lecturer that has been appointed on Auto-mechanics and Electrical Engineering was given the first nomination by the Public Service Commission ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** : Second nomination.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA** : Why was he given preference to an Assamese candidate who was given the first nomination ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** : There is no record as to why it was done.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA** : May I know why the Hon'ble Minister did not care to go through the record ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** : I went through the record and there is no mention why this preference was given. This appointment was made by the previous Government.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** : Is he related to an *ex*-Minister, Sir ?

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

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** replied :

733.—The Jorhat Technical School is maintained by Provincial Revenues and so all the people of Assam are entitled to its benefits.

734.—No. Preference in the matter of admission when possible, is to be given to the natives of the Assam Valley so far as the Higher Motor Mechanic Section is concerned as it is solely maintained by the Bholanath Barua Endowment Fund. The Handicraft Sections are maintained from Provincial Revenues and as such others are also entitled.

735.—Even if not indispensable, it is most desirable.

736. (a)—No.

(b)—The appointment was meant for the Higher Motor Mechanic section to which only Matriculates are admitted.

Se737.—Yes.

**Settlement of the Sessa Ghat opium shop**

**Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN** asked :

738. Is the Hon'ble Minister of Excise aware that on 20th February 1938, an Officer of Dibrugarh Excise Staff brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur that one Hemchandra Mech, the then lessee of Sessa Ghat opium shop of Dibrugarh used to issue opium on a dead man's pass, and that in consequence of the said report, the Deputy Commissioner and his Advisory Committee which sat a few days later probably on 25th February 1938, refused to settle the said Sessa Ghat opium shop or any other opium shop in the name of the said Hemchandra Mech ?

739. (a) Is it a fact that the said Hemchandra Mech was afterwards fined Rs. 50 by the Deputy Commissioner without issuing any notice on him and without giving him any opportunity to submit his explanations ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make a thorough enquiry and take necessary action against the person or persons at fault ?

(c) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

738.—Yes.

739. (a)—Yes, but it would not be correct to say that the lessee had no opportunity of explaining the charge against him. The lessee furnished a written explanation on the day of detection.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Was this explanation given to the Deputy Commissioner or to the Superintendent of Excise ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** : To the Deputy Commissioner through the Superintendent of Excise.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI\*** : Is it not a fact that this explanation was taken in the shop premises by the Superintendent of Excise and no opportunity was given by the Deputy Commissioner subsequently ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS\*** : Government have no such information.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : My question is whether the Deputy Commissioner called upon him to show cause as to why he was not given an opportunity to submit an explanation to the Deputy Commissioner ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** : The answer is clear Sir. The lessee furnished a written explanation on the day of detection.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Did the Deputy Commissioner get that explanation on that day ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** : He himself detected it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : It may be explained as to how the Deputy Commissioner detected it.

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** : It is based on the statement of the Superintendent of Excise to the Deputy Commissioner.

\* Speech not corrected.

**Number of Mikirs who submitted tenders for the settlement of opium shops in Sibsagar, Nowgong and Khasi and Jaintia Hills**

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG** asked :

740. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Mikirs who submitted tenders for the settlement of opium shops last year in the districts of Sibsagar, Nowgong and Khasi and Jaintia Hills stating the names of shops tendered for by each ?

741. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of shops granted to the Mikir tenderers in these three districts ?

(b) The names of these shops with the names of their mahalders ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

740.—A statement is given below :—

Name of districts	No. of Mikir tenderers for opium shops	Name of shops tendered for	No. of Mikirs who submitted tenders for the respective shops shown in column 3
1	2	3	4
Nowgong	... 28 (for 15 shops)	1. Naopani ...	6
		2. Mohagaon ...	1
		3. Phoolani ...	1
		4. Howraghat ...	2
		5. Krungjang ...	1
		6. Borthol ...	1
		7. Baithalangcho	1
		8. Lengeri ...	1
		9. Nizrongkhang	2
		10. Singimari ...	1
		11. Lumding ...	1
		12. Diphu ...	4
		13. Bokoliaghat ...	1
		14. Amchoi ...	2
		15. Laopani ...	3
			28 Tenders.
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	2 (for 2 shops) ...	1. Umbasso ...	1
		2. Umkarto ...	1
Sibsagar ...	... 10 (for 5 shops)...	1. Mahongdijua...	2
		2. Thuramukh ...	1
		3. Bokajan ...	1
		4. Sarupathar ...	3
		5. Piagow ...	3
			10

741. (a) & (b)—The information is furnished in the statement below :—

District	Name of the shops granted to the Mikirs	Names of Mikir Mahalders
Nowgong	1. Naopani	1. Sirthe Timung Mikir.
	2. Phoolani	2. Sikari Tichu Borchenot Mikir.
	3. Krungjeng	3. Sartul Dera Mikir.
	4. Baithalangcho	4. Basa Hanshe Mikir.
	5. Lengeri	5. Lindok Ronghang Mikir.
	6. Borthol	6. Ragiram Ticho Mikir.
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Nil	Nil.
Sibsagar	1. Mohongdijua	1. Diliram Trang.
	2. Bokajan	2. Bonglong Trang.
	3. Piagow	3. Monsing Be.

### Elimination of foreigners from obtaining settlement in respect of Excise shops in the Province

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

742. Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter of elimination of foreigners from obtaining settlement in respect of excise shops in the province as envisaged in the recent Government orders on the subject ?

743. Do Government propose to warn the district authorities not to grant domicile certificates to Mahalders who are foreigners and have been holding excise and opium licenses in the province at present ?

744. (a) Is it a fact that there was a proposal in the past to restrict the settlements of excise shops, Public Works Department contracts, ration contracts and the like to the *bona fide* natives of or those domiciled in the province of Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to reconsider the matter for the exclusion of foreigners in the light of the recent order in the matter of excise settlements specially ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

742.—The policy pursued by Government has resulted in the elimination of foreigners during the last settlement by 32·8 per cent. in case of country spirit, 44·2 per cent. in case of *ganja* and 51·7 per cent. in case of opium shops, and this is proposed to be continued.

743.—Orders under which domicile certificates should not be given to persons wishing them for the purpose of contracts without a reference to Government, are still in force.

744. (a) & (b)—The whole question is under consideration, and Government are examining the terms of a new circular.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN\***: The answer to this question is—“the whole question is under consideration, and Government are examining the terms of a new circular.” May I know when the matter will be decided?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS\***: As early as possible.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN**: For other questions put we have got the same answer. May I know the exact time?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: That may be with the last Government. We have no connection with the past.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI\***: The Hon'ble Minister certainly has some connection with the past.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE\***: But he was not properly trained last year. (*Laughter*).

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: So far as the excise circular is concerned, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it will be issued during this month?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: Not within this month.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the excise settlements take place from January?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: I know that. We shall try to expedite the issue of the circular.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the new circular will not affect the next settlement?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: Yes, it will.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: How?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: There are 31 days in the month of January.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: May I know from what date the settlement will commence?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: I cannot say.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: The Hon'ble Minister does not seem to have understood my question and I will make it clear. It is said that the circular is not going to be issued this month. The settlement of shops may take place from next month. So I wanted to know whether this circular which he is contemplating to issue will be issued before the next settlement?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: Yes.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the settlement will be postponed?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS**: No.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA\***: The Hon'ble Minister's answer was that January contains 31 days—a fact which we have learnt in the primary schools. But he could not answer on what date the excise settlements take place, so that one might say even now he is not properly trained. (*Laughter*).

### Establishment of a steam ferry between Goalpara and Jogighopa

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** asked:

745. Are Government aware that there has been a great demand from the public of the Goalpara district for a steam ferry in the Goalpara and Jogighopa-ghat?

\* Speech not corrected.

746. Is it a fact that a ferry boat capsized this year on this ghat ?

747. Are Government aware that there is risk of life and property in crossing the Brahmaputra river specially during summer and stormy weather by means of country boat from the existing ghat ?

748. Do Government propose to place a steam ferry in this ghat for the convenience and safety of the public ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

745.—Yes.

746.—Government have no information but are enquiring.

747.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question 380(c) asked by Maulavi Md. Amjad Ali at the December session of the Assembly, 1937.

748.—The question is under consideration.

### Establishment of a steam ferry between Goalpara and Jogighopa

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** asked :

749. With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 47(c) during the February-March Session of the Assembly, 1938, will Government be pleased to state what official information has been elicited on the enquiry made ?

750. With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 48(a) and (b) of the said session will Government be pleased to state (a) the further details obtained by Government about the offer of private individuals to run a steam launch ferry in connection with a bus service ?

(b) The decision made for taking over of the said ferry by the Public Works Department ?

751. Is it a fact that this ferry now feeds the Public Works Department road at Jogighopa ?

752. Is it a fact that some years ago the Public Works Department did run a steam launch ferry between Jogighopa and Goalpara ?

753. (a) Is it a fact that a numerously signed memorial was sent from Goalpara to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on the 6th of May 1938, for running a launch ferry by Government at an early date ?

(b) If so, whether any enquiry has been made or action proposed to be taken to redress the grievances and inconveniences by running a launch ferry by Government ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

749.—The Subdivisional Officer did not receive any such petition. The lessee has, however, been asked not to cross men and animals simultaneously on the same boat.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: The answer is "The Subdivisional Officer did not receive any such petition. The lessee has, however been asked not to cross men and animals simultaneously on the same boat." On what information Government have taken this action ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: I do not know, Sir, exactly on what information. But that instruction has been issued.



**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

750. (a)—The further details called for have not yet been received.

(b)—A decision will be arrived at on receipt of the information called for.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: With regard to (a) may I know, Sir, whether information has by now been received ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: Not yet, Sir. A reminder has been issued to Mr. Majumdar, but no reply has been received.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: Are Government aware that Mr. Majumdar is not in the field now ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: He has not yet definitely said anything about it. As I said a reminder has been issued, but no reply has been received.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: Is it a fact that Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, a member of this House, has sent a representation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister saying that one Indo-Swiss Company is willing to run that ferry ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: Yes, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: May I know what steps Government are taking to materialise it ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: If no reply is received from Mr. Majumdar, Government are contemplating the ferry being taken over by the Public Works Department.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: I have said, Sir, that Mr. Majumdar has finally left the field. That being the case, will there be any difficulty in running the ferry now by another agency ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: We are trying to expedite it, only we are waiting for the reply of Mr. Majumdar.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: This is not a question of Mr. Majumdar giving his reply. What I say is that the Indo-Swiss Company have already sent their boats to Goalpara. That being the case, will Government permit the company to run the ferry from now ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: I shall enquire into the matter.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: May I put it to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the people of Goalpara waited on a deputation during his last visit to Goalpara and the Prime Minister gave them hopes that as soon as any private company was in the field there would be no difficulty in allowing them to run that ferry ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: Yes, Sir, that is a fact. If I may be permitted, I can tell the hon. member what steps we are taking. We are grateful to the hon. member for having introduced a company who would like to take up the ferry. All that remains is possibly the examination of the launch that will be plied there as to how far it is sea-worthy. There are other technical difficulties regarding the transfer of the ferry either to the Public Works Department or allowing the Local Board itself to continue to maintain it as at present. After the determination of this question and as soon as we know that the launch that is to be used is really sea-worthy, there will not be any difficulty in giving effect to the proposal of my hon. friend from the next April.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: May I put it to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the ferry in question has been given to the present lessee on a provisional basis and as soon as the steam launch appears there will be no difficulty in determining the lessee's ferry and permitting the launch to run ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I can tell the hon. member that in that case the matter may be expedited.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** There is no question of any technical difficulty arising now.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** If that is a fact, there may not be much technical difficulty, excepting that the launch shall have to be examined whether it can be plied with safety.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Whether there is any competent officer locally available to examine the boat that has arrived?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** We generally have these boats examined by Mr. Bay.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** If that launch, before it had arrived at Goalpara, was examined by an expert in Bengal, will there be any difficulty in allowing the Company to run it?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** For that we shall have to consult the Chief Engineer and get his opinion.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied:

751.—Yes.

752.—Yes.

753. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are waiting to see the final result of Mr. Mazumdar's proposal to start a bus *cum* launch service between Bongaigaon and Goalpara.

#### **Spread of *kala-azar* in the villages round Gaurisagar**

**Srijut BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI** asked:

754. Are Government aware that *kala-azar* is gradually increasing in the villages round Gaurisagar?

755. Are Government aware that the patients from those areas are to attend the Sibsagar Dispensary at a distance of 10 miles?

756. Are Government aware of the hardships of these patients in attending the said dispensary from such a long distance?

757. Do Government propose to open an injection centre at Gaurisagar?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied:

754.—The information at present available shows a large increase of cases of *kala-azar* only in Namdang village which is situated about 7 miles from Sibsagar town.

755.—The distance is about 7 miles.

756.—As those patients who are not fit to travel are admitted into the hospital as indoor patients, no hardship seems involved.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** Does the Hon'ble Minister consider it unsafe to admit *kala-azar* patients as indoor patients in the Sibsagar hospital?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** The Government do not consider it to be so.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied:

757.—Government will consider the matter in the light of the results of the survey of the neighbourhood to be undertaken during the coming winter season.

**Number of deaths due to cholera in South Salmara Police Station**

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN** asked :

758. Are Government aware that 1,074 persons died of cholera during the recent flood within the jurisdiction of the South Salmara Police Station ?

759. (a) Is it a fact that the Civil Surgeon, Goalpara, did not take prompt and timely action to prevent this high mortality ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take any action against this official ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

758.—The hon. member's information that upto 20th August last the number of deaths due to cholera in this area amounted to 1,074 is not correct. There were 314 deaths only.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** -৫৮ নম্বর প্রশ্নের উত্তর মাত্র যে ৩১৪ জন মরিয়া ছ বলা হইয়াছে, এই রিপোর্ট গবর্নমেন্ট কোথা হইতে পাইয়াছেন ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** From the Civil Surgeon.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** বাংলা ভাষায় উত্তর চাই।

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** সিভিল সার্জনের পাছ থেকে পাওয়া গিয়াছে।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** সিভিল সার্জন নিজে গ্রামে গ্রামে ভ্রমণ করিয়া এই figure সংগ্রহ করিয়াছেন না অন্য কোন অফিসারের throughতে পাইয়াছেন ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** সিভিল সার্জনের তলত থকা ডাক্তরব রিপোর্টের পরা সংগ্রহ কবি সিভিল সার্জনে পঠিয়াইছে বুলি অনুমান হয়।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** বাংলা ভাষায় উত্তর চাই।

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** আমি তা বঙ্গানী নই।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** পূর্বে বাংলা ভাষায় উত্তর দিয়াছেন। এমতাবস্থায় পুনরায় বাংলা ভাষায় কথা বলা সঙ্গত।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister will try to answer in Bengali.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I do not know Bengali well.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** আমি বাংলাতে উত্তর চাই।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister may reply in English and I will translate the reply in Bengali.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** What is the question, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** মো নি সাহেব, আপনি প্রশ্ন করুন।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** বিভিন্ন সার্জন নিজে গ্রামে গ্রামে ভ্রমণ করিয়া এই figure সংগ্রহ করিয়াছেন না অথবা কোন অফিসারের দ্বারা এই হিসাব সংগ্রহ করিয়াছেন ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Whether the Civil Surgeon himself went to the villages and collected the information, or was it collected through somebody else ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** It is known to the Civil Surgeon and not to me.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলিয়াছেন যে বিভিন্ন সার্জন কি প্রকারে সংগ্রহ করিয়াছেন সেটা তিনিই জানেন এবং ইনি তাহা জানেন না।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** আমি বলিতেছি যে ঐ সময় আমার মতে ১,০৭৪ জন বিনা চিকিৎসায় কলেরায় মরিয়াছে। এটা মন্ত্রী মহোদয় স্বীকার করেন কি না ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We do not admit that, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** সেটা তিনি স্বীকার করেন না।

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I see without translation he understands Bengali, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, he may understand Bengali to some extent, but he may not express himself in Bengali.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** May I know from what date to the 20th August these 314 deaths took place ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I want notice of that question.

**Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF:** The question is "Are Government aware that 1,074 persons died of cholera during the recent floods within the jurisdiction of the South Salmara Police Station"? May I know from what date floods took place in the South Salmara Police Station ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Flood is dealt with by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

**Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF:** May I know on what date the first man out of these 314 persons died ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I cannot tell him now.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** May I know when Cholera broke out first ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I do not know the exact date.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Is there no Government report on that point ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** There may be. I want notice of that question.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Do I understand that the Hon'ble Minister did not try to ascertain from what date cholera took place ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** The number of deaths upto the 20th August is given in the reply.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** What I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister is that it may be that the Civil Surgeon may have calculated from a certain period though cholera actually broke out earlier than that.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** He calculated from the commencement of the recent floods.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I want to know the exact date of cholera during the recent floods.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I have no information of that, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Can Government give us an idea of the total number of deaths ? I want to know the period within which the number of deaths that has been stated occurred ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I have already replied to that question.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I want to know the duration during which these deaths took place.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** It might be from the beginning of August.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** May I ask the questioner what was the period in his mind which he intended while putting that question ?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** That is the only thing I want to know. My mind is absolutely blank in that respect.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that during the recent flood what was the period in the mind of the hon. member during which the deaths took place.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I have nothing in my mind as regards the period. There must be some period during which the epidemic broke out. The number of deaths given by the questioner is not admitted. So the period will give some idea during which these deaths took place.

**Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA:** Mr. Aditya wanted to know from the questioner which period he meant by the recent flood and you, Sir, held the question to be in order, But the answer has not come and it is for Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan to give that answer.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** The end of that period is given.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I can now give the accurate date from the file. The period began from 8th August 1938.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** From the number of deaths which are given by the Government to have taken place within a very short duration it seems that cholera broke out in a very serious form. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether after receiving this report he cared to have a look into the locality ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** The epidemic which broke out was at the time of the previous Government.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister when was this reply framed ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Before we took office.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** Were there any death from cholera after the reply was framed ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I do not know the exact number but there were some deaths.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Is it a fact that this Government do not care to take any information about cholera in Goalpara ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** That is not correct.

**Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF:** In view of the fact that there is a great difference between 1,074 and 314, will Government please make an enquiry in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Government ascertained it and gave the accurate number of deaths.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** May I know when this epidemic actually stopped ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We have dealt with the question sufficiently. Let us go to the next question.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

759. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** May I know what measures the Civil Surgeon had taken to prevent this high mortality ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** All possible measures were taken. Injections and certain lectures were also given to the people.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** Are these sufficient measures to prevent the epidemic ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Among other things the Civil Surgeon also did what I have said.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Does the Hon'ble Minister know when this epidemic was actually stopped ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I have no information about that.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Do I understand that it may be continuing now ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Certainly not, as it was at the start.

**Maulavi Saiyid ABDUR ROUF:** May I know from the Government whether the Civil Surgeon went to the locality at all ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I cannot say.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I know whether Government did care to call for a report from the Civil Surgeon ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Yes.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Did Government receive any report from the Civil Surgeon ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Yes.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister went through the report of the Civil Surgeon ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Yes, I did.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Where is the report, Sir ? Will the Hon'ble Minister read from the report ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I am not bound to do that.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Is it in order to give a reply like that, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Of course the Hon'ble Minister is not bound to read the file.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Is it the form of reply expected of a Minister ? Is it because he is a Minister and we are not, that he wanted to reply like that ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member may recollect similar replies in the past.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I want a ruling from you, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Minister is bound to answer my question or not.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Government are not always bound to answer any question and I cannot compel Government to answer the question. I said that on another occasion also.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Premier and the Minister of Excise visited Goalpara last time ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Did they visit the cholera affected areas ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** We did not go there because at that time the cholera had already subsided.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** Am I to understand that the Hon'ble Prime Minister got this information from Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua and Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, Sir. I got this information from my hon. friend Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed. There were sporadic cases at that time.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

##### Resolution *re*: increase of pay of Primary School Teachers

(Discussion continued from the 13th September 1938)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. We were dealing with the resolution of Babu Lalit Mohan Kar regarding the question of the salary of the Lower Primary School Teachers on the day on which resolutions were to be discussed in September last. There were 21 speeches and I think, it will be better if the present Government state their attitude with regard to this resolution. That would, I think, minimise the matter a good deal.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** While listening to the debate over this resolution, no doubt was left in our minds that the whole House treated the case of these poor teachers with consideration. Members after members stood up and spoke about the hard lot of these teachers and showed sympathy for their cause. They all wished that some considerations should be shown to the condition of these poor teachers and requested the then Government to take steps in the line of the resolution. The then Hon'ble Minister Maulavi Munawwar Ali had of course, in the meanwhile, given consideration to the subject on the basis of his scheme according to which he thought that there was not much necessity for actually increasing their pay ; but at the same time he sympathised with their hard lot nevertheless. His main argument was that the teachers could engage themselves in other avocations during certain months of the year. For example, he thought that the teachers could be effectively given leave during the

period of harvesting and reaping and he therefore thought that the pay that was given to these teachers was quite sufficient. The present Government have also tried to give its best consideration to the case of these poor teachers and in spite of our poor finances we are thinking that something should be done for the improvement of their lot. It is not quite possible for me just now to say what we should be able to do, but in connection with the increase of their pay we are also considering how the activities of these teachers can be utilised by Government in carrying out other schemes for which Government shall have to spend money. Now we have got the question of rural upliftment work in our mind and we think, Sir, that these teachers who are naturally the leaders of the villages can be profitably utilised for that purpose, and from the money that will be spent for this work, a portion of it, at any rate, might go towards the increase of their pay.

Secondly, we have also before us the question of prohibition. It may not be possible for the Government to take up the whole of the province or even a part of it as the sphere of their activities, but it is quite possible to take up a particular district. We may be taking up this question from the next financial year and as I have already said, the teachers being the natural leaders of the villages can be utilised for that purpose also. Then, Sir, we are also thinking of launching a campaign against mass illiteracy.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** What about the main resolution, Sir?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That is what I am speaking, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister is defining his attitude with regard to the resolution.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The money that may be allotted for this purpose might very well go towards the improvements than what they have got now. Thus, Sir, they will get some more avocata that will be incurred on these heads should be shared by these teachers in the improvement of their pay. We are also asking the Local Boards to let us know what contribution they can make towards the improvement of their pay. Taking all these facts into consideration, we think, Sir, that we shall be able to translate our sympathy into action. In view of the assurance that I have now given, I hope the hon. mover of the resolution will be pleased to withdraw his resolution.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. We want to know whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister is going to accept it or not.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** We have accepted the resolution subject to the modifications that I have made in my speech. I have already said that we shall try to translate the terms of the resolution into action as far as practicable.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** What does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean by saying 'as far as practicable'?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I have already said, Sir, that we shall try to translate our sympathy into action. I cannot explain the phrase 'as far as practicable' which is so clear.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir. May we know whether the Hon'ble Premier is going to increase the pay of the School Teachers?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The school teachers will get some allowance by some other methods.



**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY :** May we know from when and what amount ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** As soon as we shall start our new schemes. It will be from the next financial year, we hope.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY :** May we know the amount of increment that the Government are going to make ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** It is not possible for me to say just now. The amount of increment will depend absolutely on the merits of the teachers themselves and the work they may be required to do.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Sir, I have listened with great attention to the schemes which have been outlined by the Leader of the House, the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He says that he has got full sympathy with the lot of the primary school teachers and he will try as far as practicable to implement his sympathy by giving material aid to them. We are all very glad to hear this, but (there is a very big 'but') we are not convinced that he is really in sympathy with them. What he proposes to do is to put additional burden on the primary school teachers and for that additional work he proposes to pay them something more. Sir, he says that the primary school teachers are the natural leaders of the villages and therefore they should be compelled to do rural upliftment work. That will surely require some additional time, outside school hours and therefore he proposes that a certain sum which will be available for rural upliftment work should go to contribute to the improvement in the pay of the primary school teachers. I would have thanked him, I would have known that his sympathy for them is not mere lip sympathy but a real one, if he had just mentioned what is the amount he proposes for rural upliftment work, and how much of it will be transferred for aiding the primary school teachers.

Well, Sir, the former Government had a very modest scheme to start rural uplift with and they had proposed to spend a sum of about Rs. 25,000, if I remember aright, and we know that if we are to improve the pay of the primary school teachers by even one rupee a sum of a lakh of rupees is necessary. (*Voices:* No, Sir, not more than Rs. 15,000, there are about 4,000 primary school teachers. *Another voice:*—No, the number is 8,000). Well, from my knowledge, the total is nearly 9,000. For argument's sake taking the number as 4,000, a sum Rs. 48,000 to Rs. 50,000 is necessary for increasing the pay of the primary school teachers by one rupee. I do not know what the increase, one rupee or two, is in the mind of the Hon'ble Premier, but one rupee will be a very small increment. The sum necessary cannot be had, even if the whole of the uplift grant is transferred for this work.

Then my friend said that they wanted to introduce prohibition and he said that he could not introduce prohibition throughout the province, but only in certain localities. There also he wants to utilize the primary school teachers. It will be rather a differentiation of very keenly-felt type to increase the pay of the teachers of that particular locality for his services towards propagation of the ideas of prohibition ; or in other words, the primary school teachers of these localities would get increased pay for doing this additional work, whereas, the teachers of those localities where there is no prohibition would get the same increment for nothing.

Next, the Hon'ble Premier says of utilising the teachers for removal of 'mass illiteracy'. I cannot understand the implication of this very vague idea. I do not understand how he is going to launch a campaign against mass illiteracy. If it is thought that the poor primary school teacher shall

be compelled to give up his leisure hours towards adult education, night education, or occupation of that sort, then it is a serious point to consider whether he will have any time left for attending to his ordinary avocation or towards his cultivation, if he has any cultivation at all.

Lastly, I heard my hon. friend going to ask the Local Boards to contribute, if they can, towards increasing the pay of the primary school teachers. My friend the Hon'ble Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen, who is a member of the present Cabinet, knows the condition of the finances of our Local Boards. He himself for many years was the Chairman of a particular Local Board. There is another shining light—I refer to my friend the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operative Department, he was also for a long time the Chairman of the Karimganj Local Board. I think they will tell their colleague, the Hon'ble Premier, that these Local Boards cannot meet their ordinary requirements without the contribution from Government and there have been on the floor of this very House any number of resolutions and requests from different groups to increase the contributions from Government to the local bodies so that they can bring some amenities to the countryside. Knowing this fully well it is simply a camouflage to say that the efforts of the Government will be supplemented by contributions from the Local Boards. I therefore find, Sir, that the whole thing is really an eye-wash and not a real and sincere attempt to improve the lot of the primary school teachers.

**Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** I want to inform the hon. Leader of the Opposition that in Jorhat Local Board the pay of the primary school teachers has been increased by Re. 1 from April last, and I think the Sibsagar Local Board has also done so.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our erst-while Chief Minister has levelled a scathing criticism against the whole scheme enunciated by the Hon'ble Premier. Sir, the Hon'ble Premier has given only the outlines of the scheme, but he has not given any details. One point he wanted to emphasize is that he was eager to find out money for improving the pay of the primary school teachers (*Hear, hear*). How that is to be done is certainly a question to be considered and the suggestions that would be coming from different quarters of the House will certainly be taken into account.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** On a point of order, Sir. Is it not a fact that the hon. member spoke on this resolution during the last Session ?

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** No, Sir. So now it seems that opposition is only given for the sake of opposition, and it is not a *bona-fide* attempt on the part of the opposition to help Government in materialising the scheme. We know fully well how the members of the present opposition vehemently opposed the scheme when this resolution was discussed in the House during the last sitting. But when a constructive suggestion has been given from this side of the House they now come forward only with a destructive criticism, and not with any constructive suggestion. We think the suggestion that has been advanced by this Government was never even hinted by the previous Government. They only wanted to shelve the matter on the plea of absence of funds. So, on the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier—and we think there is force in the arguments advanced by him—I hope the hon. mover of the resolution will be pleased to withdraw it.

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR:** In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We want to discuss this question further, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When the hon. mover of the resolution asks for leave of the House to withdraw his resolution then that becomes a motion to be dealt with, whether leave should be granted or not and there cannot be a discussion on such a motion. But if after a discussion on the resolution the House wants not to grant him leave, that is another matter. But when the motion is before the House, no further discussion on the main resolution can be allowed under the Rules.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** But the Speaker has a discretion not to put the motion at this stage, but to allow the members to continue the discussion for some time, and to put the motion at a subsequent stage.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Very well, I will allow a short discussion on the resolution itself and not on the motion for leave to withdraw the same.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** Sir, বর্তমান অবস্থা দৃষ্টে বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্টের মহযোগীতাই হউক কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন মিনিষ্ট্রীই হউক অথবা যে কোন অভিজাততন্ত্র গভর্ণমেন্টই হউক, তাহার দ্বারা যে দেশের দরিদ্র সমাজের উপকার হইবে তাহা সম্পূর্ণ অসম্ভব। আমার আশা ছিল যে কংগ্রেস শক্তের ভক্ত নরমের বন্ম হইবে না। আজ কংগ্রেসের অক্ষমতা দেখিয়া মনে হইতেছে যে কংগ্রেস বন্যা পীড়িত লোকদের সাহায্য করিতে অক্ষম—দরিদ্র প্রাইমারী শিক্ষকদের বেতন বৃদ্ধি করিতেও অক্ষম; তাহা হইলে কি শুধু আমলাতন্ত্রের প্রধান মন্ত্রী মন্ত্রীর সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করিয়া তাহাদের বেতন বৃদ্ধি করার জন্যই সক্ষম? বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্যে য কোন অভিজাত তন্ত্র কোয়ালিশন মিনিষ্ট্রীই গঠিত হউক, আশা মনে হয় যে যাইবে লক্ষ্য সেই হইবে রাবণ (laughter)।

দরিদ্র শিক্ষক সমাজ দীর্ঘকাল যাব : তাহাদের অভাব অভিযোগ কংগ্রেস কমিটির through দিয়া এবং অন্যান্য বিভিন্ন প্রকার প্রাতিষ্ঠানের ভিতর দিয়া প্রকাশ করিয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের দরজায় ধরা দিয়াছে; কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত তাহা গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্ণগোচর হইবার সুযোগ হয় নাই। অনেক দরিদ্র শিক্ষক মনে করিতেছেন যে এইবার কংগ্রেস মিনিষ্ট্রীর আশ্রমে নিশ্চয় তাহাদের অভাব অভিযোগ দূর হইবে। কিন্তু হুঃখ ও পরিতাপের বিষয় যে এই resolution এর প্রতি কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেন্টের পরিস্থিতি দেখিয়া মনে হইতেছে যে কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেন্ট ও শুধু পনিকবাদ গভর্ণমেন্টের উপরই প্রতিষ্ঠিত—দারিদ্রের হুঃখ দূরিত্ত করিবার ক্ষমতা মোটেই তাহাদের নাই। লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা অন্যান্য অফিসারদের জন্য নানা ভাবে আদায় হইতেছে কিন্তু এই ২১,০০০ টাকা যাহা দিলে এই দারিদ্র্য দূর হইতে পারে তাহা পাওয়া যায়না.....

*A voice*—২৫,০০০ টাকা হইবে না। ৫০,০০০ টাকার দরকার হইবে।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** ৫০,০০০ টাকাই হউক বা এক লক্ষ টাকা হউক, এই ২১ সামান্য টাকার জন্য যে শিক্ষকদের উপর সমাজের ভবিষ্যৎ নির্ভর করে সেই শিক্ষকদের প্রতি অবহেলা করা বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষে মোটেই শোভনীয়

নয় বা উচিত হইতেছে না। শিক্ষকদের যা অবস্থা তাহাতে যদি তাহারা ছুবেলা খাইতে নাপান,—তাহাদের দারিদ্র্য যদি দূর না হয় তাহা হইলে তাহারা কিছুতেই ছেলেদিগকে ভাল ভাবে শিক্ষা দান করিতে পারিবে না। ইহা জানা সত্ত্বেও গবর্ণমেন্টের এ ভাবে তাহাদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির দাবী প্রত্যাখ্যান করা মোটেই উচিত বলিয়া আমি মনে করি না। গবর্ণমেন্টের উচিত যে কোন প্রকারে হউক—যে কোন source থেকে হউক টাকা সংগ্রহ করিয়া তাহাদের ন্যায় সঙ্গত দাবী পূর্ণ করা উচিত। তাহা না হইলে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টকে তাহারা ধনিকবাদ গবর্ণমেন্ট বলিয়া বিশ্বাস করিবেন। গবর্ণমেন্টের কার্য পদ্ধতির দ্বারা দেশের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষিত হইবে। যে কোন পলিসির গবর্ণমেন্ট হউক না কেন ছুর্কলের সাহায্য করিতে না পারিলে এবং ছুর্কলের দাবী যদি প্রত্যাখ্যাত হয় তাহা হইলে মনে হইবে যে তাহারা গবর্ণমেন্ট মানিয়া চালাইতে তাহাদের পক্ষে তাহাদের দাবী রক্ষা করা সম্ভবপর হইবে না—নিঃসন্দেহ তান্ত্রিক ভাবে গবর্ণমেন্টের প্রতি একদিন বিশ্বাস রক্ষা করা মানুষের পক্ষে অসম্ভব হইবে। ন্যায়সঙ্গতভাবে দাবী উদ্ধার না হইলে শিক্ষকেরা অন্যায় ভাবে তাহাদের দাবী আদায় করিবার জন্য বন্ধপত্রিকর হইবেন। ন্যায় সঙ্গত ভাবে তাহারা বহু আবেদন নিবেদন করিয়াছেন—বহু দাবী দাওয়া পেশ করিয়াছেন কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্তও গবর্ণমেন্ট তাহাদের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করিতেছেন না। আমার মতে শিক্ষকেরা তাহাদের দাবী রক্ষার জন্য অসহযোগ অর্থাৎ সত্যাগ্রহ করা দরকার। সমস্ত শিক্ষকদের উচিত হইবে তাহাদের দাবী আদায় করিবার জন্য বন্ধপত্রিকর হইয়া সত্যাগ্রহ করা.....

*Voices*—আপনি Lead করিবেন।

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** এই ধনিকবাদ গবর্ণমেন্টের দ্বারা তাহাদের দাবী আদায় হওয়া মোটেই সম্ভবপর হইবে না। তাহাদের দাবী আদায়ের জন্ত বিকার গ্রস্ত হইয়া দেশে যে বিপ্লবের সৃষ্টি হইবে সেই বিপ্লব থামাইতে যে টাকা খরচ হইবে সেই টাকা এখন তাহাদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির জন্ত গবর্ণমেন্টের খরচ করা উচিত। আমি আশা করি এই বিপ্লবের দায় হইতে রক্ষা পাইবার জন্ত কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্ট যে কোন প্রকারে হউক টাকা সংগ্রহ করিয়া তাহাদিগকে দিবেন। ইহা শুধু শিক্ষকদের দাবী নয়—ইহা সমস্ত আশ্রমের কৃষকদের দরিদ্র সমাজের দাবী। এই শিক্ষকদের উপরই সমাজ গঠনের—মনুষ্যত্ব লাভের পথ নির্ভর করে। তাহাদের দাবী সর্বতোভাবে গ্রাহ্য সঙ্গত এবং তাহা পালন করা নিতান্ত উচিত। আমি আশা করি যে কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্ট নিজেদের মর্যাদা রক্ষার জন্ত পুনরায় এবিষয় বিবেচনা করিবেন এবং যে কোন উপায়ে হউক শিক্ষকদের দাবী রক্ষা করিবেন এবং এই প্রস্তাব বাহাতে পাশ হয় তাহার জন্ত সকলেই গ্রাহ্য সঙ্গত ভাবে চেষ্টা করিবেন।

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a new resolution. It was passed as long ago as in the year 1930, and after that a censure motion was carried against the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education. Every time and on each occasion the Hon'ble Minister for Education has expressed his sympathy for the sad lot of the primary school teachers but has expressed his inability to implement that sympathy. I am not surprised at what the Hon'ble Premier has said as he is only following the precedent, but I am tempted to strongly criticise the attitude of the Hon'ble Premier for two reasons. That the lot of these primary school teachers is very unenviable is admitted on all hands, even then they are somehow making the two ends meet by resorting to subsidiary occupations and by looking after their cultivation. If the scheme which has been outlined by the Hon'ble Premier is given effect to it will mean that they will not be able to attend to their cultivation and to their other subsidiary occupations. It will mean that for a poor pittance of increment, one or two rupees, they will be saddled with more work and be prevented from doing subsidiary work for augmenting their incomes. That is one reason.

The other reason is that he wants to practically do nothing for rural uplift work. The mere imposition of this duty on the primary school teachers will not improve the rural uplift work at all. It will amount to giving a go-bye to all prospects of village uplift.

For these two reasons we should express our disapproval of the attitude of the Government by not allowing the hon. mover to withdraw his motion.

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI:** সভাপতি মহোদয়, যোৰা অধিবেশনতেই এই প্ৰস্তাব উঠে। বেতিয়া বিপক্ষ পাৰ্টিত থাকে তেতিয়া কোনো প্ৰস্তাব তাৰ হৃদয়—দীৰ্ঘ বিচাৰ নকৰি বেই কোনো বন্ধনে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক আক্ৰমণ কৰি আহিগৈ নহয়। যোৰাবাৰ বেতিয়া মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পাৰ্টিত আছিলো, তেতিয়াও এই প্ৰস্তাব কেনে ধৰণৰ হোৱা উচিত তাৰ বিচাৰ কৰিছিলো। আমাৰ আসামৰ দুৰ্ভাগ্য যে বান পানী আৰু মহামাৰীৰ কাৰণে এই বছৰ ১১।১২ লক্ষ টকা deficit হব। যোৰা বাজেটত মাত্ৰ ৪ লক্ষ টকা deficit হৈছিল। এনেকুৱা অৱস্থাতো আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই গোটেই আসামত যে প্ৰায় ৬০০ venture school আছে সেই বোৰ কেনেকৈ লোৱা যায় বা কিমান টকা দিব পাৰি তাৰ উপায় অৱলম্বন কৰিবলৈ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিয়া স্বত্বেও বিপক্ষ পাৰ্টিৰ মানুহে, বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ মৌলানা আব্দুল হামিদ চাহাবৰ দৰে মানুহে যে এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধ কৰিছে সি কিমান যুক্তিসঙ্গত হৈছে কব নোৱাৰো। আগেয়ে গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট পাৰ্টিত থাকোতে তেখেতেই এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছিল।

*A voice:* Oppose কৰা নাই।

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI:** মানুহৰ নীতি প্ৰতিবন্ধক হোৱাকেই ত্ৰায় বুলি নাভাবোঁ। কোনো কাম কৰিবলৈ হলে দেশখনৰ যিমান আয় হয় সেই আয়লৈ চাই দেশখন কেনেকৈ সুন্দৰ পৰিপাটিকৈ চলাব পাৰি তাক সহজ মৰল ভাবে বিবেচনা কৰি সহযোগ কৰাকেই মই কৰ্ত্তব্য বুলি ভাবোঁ। ৰাইজৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হৈ একপক্ষক আক্ৰমণ কৰি নিজৰ বাহাদুৰী দেখুৱাক মই ত্ৰায় বুলি বিশ্বাস নকৰোঁ। এতেকে আমাৰ

প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যি খিনি আশা দিছে—দেশৰ পৰা বিৰক্ষণ তা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছে বুলি যি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি নিচে তাতে নস্তুই হৈ আগৰ বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থালৈ চাই যিজনো প্ৰস্তাব উত্থাপন কৰিছে তেখেতৰ সেই প্ৰস্তাব উঠাই লবলৈ দিয়াৰে এই উচিত বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Does the hon. mover wish to withdraw his motion ?

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR :** In view of the assurance given, 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 the motion ?

Cries of 'No'.

The motion for withdrawal of the resolution was then pressed to a division and the House divided with the following result :

Ayes—52

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das.     | 28. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.                        |
| 2. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.                | 29. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.                        |
| 3. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.                 | 30. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.                    |
| 4. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.              | 31. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.                       |
| 5. Babu Balaram Sircar.                   | 32. Srijut Paramananda Das.                      |
| 6. Srijut Beliram Das.                    | 33. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.            |
| 7. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.            | 34. Srijut Purandar Sarma.                       |
| 8. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.           | 35. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.                  |
| 9. Babu Bipin Behari Das.                 | 36. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.                 |
| 10. Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi.              | 37. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.                  |
| 11. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 38. The Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das.              |
| 12. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.               | 39. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.                 |
| 13. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.                | 40. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.                      |
| 14. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.           | 41. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.               |
| 15. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. | 42. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.                    |
| 16. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.               | 43. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.     |
| 17. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.      | 44. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.                  |
| 18. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha.          | 45. The Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.        |
| 19. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.         | 46. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 20. Babu Kalachand Roy.                   | 47. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.                    |
| 21. Srijut Kameswar Das.                  | 48. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.                      |
| 22. The Hon'ble Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.    | 49. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.                         |
| 23. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.               | 50. Srijut Khorsing Terang.                      |
| 24. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.                 | 51. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.                 |
| 25. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.           | 52. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.           |
| 26. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.            |  |
| 27. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh.             |  |

## Noes—46

1. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
3. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
4. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
5. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
6. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
7. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
8. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua.
9. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury.
11. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
12. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
13. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
15. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
16. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury.
17. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
18. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
19. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury.
20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
21. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury.
22. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
23. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
24. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
25. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.
26. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
27. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
28. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
29. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
30. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
31. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
32. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
33. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
34. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
35. Colonel A. B. Beddow.
36. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
37. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett.
38. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
39. Mr. W. R. Faull.
40. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
41. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
42. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
43. Miss Mavis Dunn.
44. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
45. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
46. Rev. L. Gatphoh.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. Ayes 52 and Noes 46. (Applause from Congress benches.) The resolution stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

**Resolution** *Re* release of prisoners convicted of offences committed with a political motive

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** I beg to move, Sir, that "This Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam that all persons convicted of offences committed with a political motive and still undergoing sentences of imprisonment in Assam be released forthwith".

Sir, I have spoken so many times on this subject that I do not propose to make a long speech, on this occasion. It is a matter of very deep regret that, although nearly two years have elapsed since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in this province of Assam, the victims of the bureaucratic form of Government are still rotting in our jails to-day (*Hear, hear*). I am referring, Sir, to a handful of young men who in their zeal of patriotism were so carried away that they completely lost their balance and committed

breaches of the Criminal Law. Although we have never sympathised with this method of venting political feelings, I do not think, Sir, that there is a single member in this House who has not been impressed by the high resolve and courage which invariably inspired these misguided young men. The purity of their motives has never been questioned. It is well known to this House in what political conditions of the country there was an outburst of political crimes. When our patriotic young men found that the British Government were playing hide and seek with the legitimate political aspirations and ambitions of their country men, when they found that the Government were intent upon adopting dilatory tactics in implementing the promises which they made from time to time, in the matter of granting us political reforms, they took the law into their own hands out of their abundant zeal and fervour and they have suffered heavily for what they did.

The political atmosphere in the country has materially altered to-day. The inauguration of Autonomy has marked the materialisation to some extent of the aims and objects of those young patriots who unfortunately chose to tread the path of violence in pursuit of their ideals. We on this side of the House, Sir, are pledged to the policy and creed of non-violence. But, Sir, I want to make it clear that.....

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Is it non-violence to arrest a Member of Legislative Assembly ?

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Who arrested a Member of Legislative Assembly ? The hon. member is displaying a lamentable ignorance of the duties of the members of this House ! (*Loud laughter*).

I was going to submit, Sir, that with the Indian National Congress preaching non-violence as our political creed, the ideals and the outlook of these young men have also materially altered, and I also wanted to submit, that with the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy, an altered political situation has arisen in this country, which calls for different methods being followed in dealing with this class of young men, than those hitherto followed.

It has sometimes been suggested that the release of these political prisoners would imperil the peace of the province. I say that is an insult to the intelligence of the House to suggest that if a handful of young men were to be released, Government with all the weapons of law and order at their command, would not be able to deal with any recrudescence of political crimes should any such situation arise in the country. I submit that, in the altered political atmosphere now prevailing, it is worth while, even for the sake of an experiment, to give these young men a chance. History records that, whenever there is a truce between opposing forces—I might cite the instance of England and Ireland—one of the conditions preceding such peace is the release of prisoners taken during hostilities. Even at the time of the conclusion of the Great European War, one of the conditions of peace was the release of the prisoners of war. I cannot understand, when there is a change of Government in our country—when it is said that bureaucracy has ended, even then these young men, the victims of another political order, should rot in the jails to-day.

I, therefore, plead with this House that they will accept this resolution. This will create an atmosphere in the country which will give some young men, who are in jails, a chance of remodelling themselves into useful and patriotic citizens. We cannot question their love of country, we cannot question that these young men have made great sacrifices for a great cause. The whole country is eager to get back these young men.



The country is in need of their high courage, noble patriotism and spirit of self-sacrifice. They are men who do not flinch from suffering for the sake of their political ideals and if such men are enabled to take their lawful places in the political life of the country, it is bound to gain in a fresh accession of strength which is being so sorely needed to-day. I therefore place this resolution before the House with full confidence that it will find acceptance in all quarter of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The resolution moved is that, "This House recommends to the Government of Assam that all persons convicted of offences committed with a political motive and still undergoing sentences of imprisonment in Assam be released forthwith".

**Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY:** মাননীয় চন্দ মহাশয় যে প্রস্তাব করিয়াছেন আমি তাহা সমর্থন করি। আমি জানি যে পৃথিবীর যে সমস্ত স্বাধীন দেশ আছে সে সমস্ত দেশে বাহারা দেশের জন্ত প্রাণ দিয়ে দেশের সেবা করে তাহাদিগকে পূরস্কৃত করা হয়, কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে তাহার বিপরীত কল হয়। আমাদের দেশের যুবকেরা দেশের সেবা করার জন্ত ভুল পথে যাইতে পারে কিন্তু তখনও তাহার বুকিয়াই হটক বা না বুকিয়াই হটক দেশের সেবা করিতে বাধ্য; কিন্তু আমাদের দেশের হুঁতগ্য বশতঃ তাহাদিগকে কারাগারে বন্দী করা হয়। সুতরাং আমি মনে, করিয়ে আমাদের যদি কোন ক্ষমতা থাকে তাহা হইলে তাহাদিগকে মুক্ত করা এবং তাহাদিগকে সশোধিত করিয়া যাহাতে তাগবা দেশের সেবা করিতে পারে তাহার সুযোগ দেওয়া। সুতরাং আমি মাননীয় মিষ্টার চন্দের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করিতেছি।

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the consciousness that has come over the Muhammadans, and which we find, is pervading throughout the province, I welcome a resolution like this. I am sure, when the Congress is determined to crush the culture of the Muslims of the country and the Muslim community is determined to fight against the hostile attitude of the Congress, a section of the Muslim youth is ready to sacrifice anything for the fulfilment of that object for it is always difficult to control the impassioned youths. In that spirit and in such circumstances, I welcome a resolution like this. I find that hundreds of young men are ready to pursue their ideal at the cost of anything. We find that the Congress Government in the Central Provinces is launching the Bidyamandir scheme in spite of protests and the Muslims are starting *Satyagraha* on this issue. People are going to sacrifice their precious things for this. In that spirit, on behalf of my community, I welcome a resolution like this. (*Applause.*)

**Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** The question of the release of political prisoners is a crying need of our province. The release of political prisoners was one of the planks in the congress manifesto. It was hoped that with the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy the release of political prisoners would naturally follow. But, Sir, by combination of circumstances—by the combination of reactionary forces, by installation of a reactionary government—that hope of the release of political prisoners has been delayed for these two years. The question was brought before us during the last session and, Sir, we were pained to hear that political prisoners were dacoits and dangerous criminals. I hope, Sir, with the inauguration of the

Congress Coalition Government in this province, the Government will consider it their first duty to release these unhappy children—I mean these young misguided youths who took law in their own hands, and who considered that they were doing service to the country. I am fully prepared to say that these youths have abjured the cult of violence and are prepared to accept the cult of non-violence. I, therefore, appeal to this Government that they should release these unfortunate young men at once. It rather pains me to hear my friend Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury issuing a threat to this Government that a certain number of young men belonging to a particular community are going to make a sacrifice for a particular religious cause. But, Sir, he has given no ground to show that any particular injustice has been done to any particular community. We would have been glad if he had pointed out any such action on the part of this Government. I hope, Sir, if any such cases are brought to the notice of the present Government it would be their first duty to remove the grievance. This Government does not stand for any particular community; it stands for the good and welfare of the province, irrespective of caste, religion and community. With these words I make an appeal and ask the House to support this resolution whole-heartedly and unanimously.

Adjournment.

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

After lunch.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 p. m.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations on the resolution now under discussion. I have no objection to release the political prisoners who have been convicted for the pursuit of their political ideals. I think this House has got no business to consider motives of political offences, but it can consider political ideals and I would be the first man to rejoice if these political prisoners who are now in jails and who can be strictly termed as political prisoners are released forthwith.

**Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** On a point of information, Sir. May I know from the hon. member the meaning of "political prisoners"?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** I mean those who are convicted for offences not connected with violence.

Sir, I will be very brief and will allow my hon. friend ample opportunity to speak and I hope he will not interrupt me now. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Premier that before he proceeds to release the political prisoners, he would release those semi-political prisoners who are now under strict police guard in Shillong and who are not allowed even to see their friends and relatives. I think, before we go to release those political prisoners who are now within the four walls of the jail, our first business is to release these semi-political prisoners who are not allowed to move freely in the town. I hope the Hon'ble Premier has understood what I mean and will do justice to these unfortunate people who are now in Shillong under strict Police guard. I have termed them as semi-political prisoners and if there is any better term for them, I am prepared to accept that.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I am deeply grateful to the mover of this resolution, hon. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda. I am also thankful to hon. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury and hon. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury although in his own way for supporting the resolution which has been moved by my friend Mr. Chanda. I am at one with the mover of the resolution.

I must say at the outset, Sir, that we, as a party, are opposed to any kind of violence, and shall not hesitate to put down violence by methods that have been adopted by the Congress. But in spite of it I must say that the Government position is to accept this resolution. In doing so, however, I want to put before the House the cases which are just now under our consideration.

We had, Sir, only 10 political prisoners—I should rather say 11. One of them has also been convicted by some court in Bengal and is running a sentence in which the court in Assam as well as the court in Bengal gave him the same sentence, *viz.*, transportation for life. Leaving him, Sir, there are 10 prisoners one of whom, as may be known to the House, the last Government was about to release and has been finally released by the order of the present Government. There are now 9 prisoners in our charge.

Going into the cases themselves, it appears to us that all these prisoners were actuated by political motive. The object that they had was no less than the freedom of the country and this they thought could be achieved by armed revolution. It seems that they formed a part of the common organisation, the origin of which is found to be in Bengal. The methods that they adopted were also practically the same in all the cases. In each case there was an attempt or actual commission of robbery of mails, robbery of some money or other valuables. Only in one case there was a robbery in a private house of a local Marwari of Kalighat. But the object of the robbery was distinctly made out and it has been found also by the Courts that dealt with these cases that the object was to acquire money by which they could procure arms and more adherents with the help of which, they would bring about an armed revolution. One thing that is clear is that these robbers or culprits or criminals, whatever you may call them, are all youths belonging to *Bhadralok* class. Excepting two, I believe, the rest of them are under their teens and the present age of one of those two who are somewhat elderly is 26 and that of the other, I think, is about 32. Now, Sir, we cannot have any doubt that these youths were all misguided and they fell victim to certain incidious propaganda that was being carried on in the country by some people. As a result of this, they were led to the commission of these crimes, the full consequence of which, I am definitely sure, they did not know. We have started to scrutinise these cases. Some scrutiny is yet awaiting. We had also interviews with the prisoners in the jail and from their conversation and from the mode of life they are living in the jail, it seems perfectly clear to us that their cases deserve consideration. The matter has not yet been finally disposed of by us but we hope, we will be able to come to a decision within a very short time regarding the release of these prisoners. With these few words, Sir, I accept the resolution that has been moved by my hon. friend Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. May I enquire of the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether he favours armed revolution?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Certainly not, Sir.  
**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** In some cases arms were actually used for committing violence.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order, The resolution stands accepted by Government.

**Resolution re: establishment of an Industrial Development Board for preparing a scheme for starting new industries for finding employments for the unemployed youths of the province**

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN :** I beg, Sir, to move that "In view of the growing menace of unemployment in the province this Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam for establishing an Industrial Development Board consisting of leading Economists and Industrialists of the province for preparing a scheme for starting new industries, in particular cottage industries for the purpose of employing the unemployed youths of the province."

Sir, in moving this resolution, I beg to submit that other provinces in India now-a-days are trying for developing the cottage and other industries of the province. Sir, without improving the industries of the province, the general condition of the people cannot be improved. Now the unemployment question is the burning question of the day and this is very acute in our province of Assam too. In our province vast areas await further development but nothing has been done for their improvement. I think there are two cement companies. One has already began work in the Surma Valley but the other has not yet come to light. There is great talk for improving our cottage industries. We know, Sir, that in Assam there are at least *Endi* and *Muga* and they are in use in every house; but we want some better method for their spinning and weaving. Sir, I should suggest that some new industries as potteries, glass and paper, the raw materials of which can be easily available in our province, should be undertaken. The paper can be made from the bamboos and similarly glass and potteries can also be made from local raw materials. I know that in Barpeta side brass industry is flourishing, but no step has been taken by the previous Government or the present Government for its improvement. I have heard that some scholarships are awarded by the Government for training our youths in Ludhiana for hosiery and other industries. One or two scholarships are also awarded for training students in Benares for brass industry, but Sir, I should point out that these one or two scholarships will not serve our purpose. We want that regular scheme should be worked out to develop our cottage industries. For this I have suggested that a Board consisting of Economists and Industrialists should be appointed to work out a scheme and the work must be undertaken in right earnest. There are scopes for sugar and other industries in Assam. Of course jute mills and paper mills are also necessary to run these industries but there are few capitalists in our province who are willing to come forward and co-operate for starting such industries. I should suggest that Government should provide some means at the beginning to encourage those men who will come forward for starting these big industries and this will gradually solve the unemployment problem to certain extent. There was flourishing rice industry in Assam, but now it is also in its tottering condition. There are no doubt many mills in Assam but there is so much competition from outside and inside that Government should come forward with some measure as the Bihar and United Provinces Government have done with regard to sugarcane and sugarmills. If my resolution be accepted by this Hon'ble House, then in that case a scheme will have to be prepared by the Board and some means will have to be found out for fixing the new method for improving the cottage industries. I hope the House will accept my resolution. With these words, I resume my seat.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The resolution moved is that "In view of the growing menace of unemployment in the province this Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam for establishing an Industrial Development Board consisting of leading Economists and Industrialists of the province for preparing a scheme for starting new industries, in particular, cottage industries for the purpose of employing the unemployed youths of the province".

The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge may give his first reply.

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all I should thank the hon. mover of the resolution for his giving me an opportunity to hear the debate and the verdict of the House about the plan and policy of the present Government regarding the industries of the province. Sir, it appears that there are some Development Boards—one for co-operative, one for industry and one for agriculture—and in those Boards there are some non-official members included. These Boards are working for the improvement of the industries of the province. If the House think that there should be a committee, I will have no objection to consider the matter of appointing such a Committee. But, Sir, what has been done by this time is just sufficient for the fund that has been provided in the budget.

If the House is prepared to give us money, we have many plans and suggestions before us for improving cottage industries and thus to some extent solve the unemployment problem in the Province.

There is a proposal of a Planning Committee at Bombay. I shall attend the conference there and hear what they say. After that we shall take up the question of industrialization in right earnest. I have just seen some centres of these industries. In Gauhati I met the Congress Committee and other gentlemen who also suggested that cottage industries should be developed, and big industries should not be taken up at once. If they are taken up at once, they may kill the cottage industries. The main issue before us is whether we should take up the big industries or we should develop the cottage industries. If we have big industries, I am afraid, the cottage industries will die out slowly. Now, it is for the House to decide whether they should improve the cottage industries or take up big industries. Sir, I think the Planning Committee of Bombay will formulate a scheme for every province as regards big industries and we may await their decision. There are some schemes already made and prepared by the last Government. I am thinking of taking them up, but there is no money in the budget for the current year. If the House votes this money in the next year's budget we can take up many things. Assam is fortunate in having all kinds of raw materials for cottage industries. As the hon. mover said many things, such as brass-making, paper-making, raw hides—I mean tannery—may be taken up. Bones too.....

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by "bones"?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** I mean bone crushing. I think, Moslems have no scruples there and should not be afraid of bones. But the pity of it is, Sir, that our youngmen are encouraged only to have services under the Government. Upto this time they are trying for jobs. This Government is prepared to help any youngman who shows a genuine desire to work for cottage industries. If they come forward with any scheme for their employment in joint liability, this Government is sure to do something for their employment. Sir, I do not like to take the time of the House further. I wish to hear the hon. members and their suggestions and

views on the subject. Really I say that industrialization of the Province means increasing the capacity of the Province to give employment, making the Province more rich, providing money for unempolyed youngmen and also for increasing the salary of Lower Primary teachers. Sir I hope the hon. members will not grudge an increase in the allotment of money for industrial development in the next budget.

**Maulavi Muhammad AMJAD ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. As I followed the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Industries, he pleaded much for the cottage industries. Is he on policy opposed to industrial revolution ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** I said that if the big industries are taken up, the cottage industries may die. In my inspection at Gauhati I found that every female who has a loom earns Rs.10. If they are allowed to work for the whole day they can earn Rs. 40 to Rs.50 a month. I found females were working but boys were idle. Do you want to kill those industries by introducing big industries ? If this is acceptable to the House, I have nothing to say.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this resolution as moved by my hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin, I am glad to find the Hon'ble Minister also practically accepting the resolution as such, intending at the same time to encourage cottage industries by developing and making it a source of income for every one in the Province. Certainly, Sir, it is a lamentable thing that so long the Government of Assam wilfully neglected these cottage industries, because the development of these has been taken up by the Congress organisation in the Province. The Congress, since its birth, has been shouting from every platform that Government as well as the public should both co-operate in the matter of the development of cottage industries.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. When was the Congress instituted ?

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** You don't know that ! It was in 1885.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** Then from 1885 this question of cottage industries was taken up ?

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Yes.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** And nothing has been done as yet ?

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Nothing has been done by any Government up till now. Since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy and the assumption of office by Congress in some of the Provinces only, the development of cottage industries has been particularly taken interest of and in Assam also we are glad to find that Government is now going to take up this matter with interest.

Sir, it has been said in this House on several occasions that these *Endi*, *Mooga* and silk industries of Assam would flourish well and would be able to give employment to thousands of yougmen, like other bigger industries such as paper-making, pottery, glass, bell-metal, cement-making, etc. I would also suggest printing and dyeing materials and also pencil-making which could be done at a very cheap cost in the province, or at least at much less cost than in other places of India. With tea, coal, petroleum and cement industries this province cannot give enough food to the millions, but by selling the products of cottage industries alone thousands of educated people can get employment.

With these few words, I support the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. This resolution recommends the constitution of a Board of leading economists and industrialists of the province for preparing a scheme for starting new industries, and in particular cottage industries. I thought that the hon. mover of this resolution will enumerate at least a few of the leading industrialists and economists of the province so that we could judge whether the constitution of such a Board will be of much help. The Hon'ble Minister for Industries has already told us that our experts who are on our Development Board have already drawn up certain schemes for introducing cottage industries. Sir, to make a thing may be very simple, but the difficulty lies in marketing it. I know that there is ample scope for pencil-making and paper-making in the province, but very little for selling them. Everyone who is interested in the industries of the province knows that one of our young men did endeavour to start a paper mill as early as the twenties of this century, but the history of the venture is known to many that nothing came of it for a variety of reasons which I need not mention here. The cottage industries of this province are well known and I heard the hon. mover speaking of *Endi* and *Mooga*, but he, coming from the community which generally deals in these, knows what fierce competition this *Endi* and *Mooga* have to meet from the imitation silk and also for silk which is produced outside this province, specially in Ludhiana. Everyone knows that in the Upper Assam Valley at least, almost all householders have got a loom and the female members generally utilise their leisure moments in producing either a cotton or a silk piece, but they are meant for home consumption only and very few people try to market it. Unless we are assured that the products of the cottage industries which will be produced for sale will have a ready market, there is no use producing them because so much labour and money will be lost in vain. So, before I develop my points, I would like to hear what economists and industrialists the hon. mover has got in his mind (for if I remember aright the Hon'ble Minister has left the matter to the decision of the House) who are prepared to give their time for constituting the Board. I pause for a reply.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** If this resolution is passed, I think Government will be able to find out the men, and I can give the names of some of them. I think, Sir, Muhammad Saadulla will be one of them, because he was in the Government for a pretty long time and he has experience in this line; and I can name Rai Bahadur Narpat Rai Kedia, a leading Marwari Merchant of Dibrugarh, who was a member of the Assam Banking Enquiry Committee some years ago.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am obliged to the hon. member for giving us a sample of the men he has got in his mind. If he thinks that I am an economist or an industrialist, he is sadly mistaken, for he himself has said that I was much involved in the administration of the country and I had no time whatever to turn to industry.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMAN:** You are an industrialist, I know. (Laughter.)

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I can frankly say that my contribution to a Board of the kind will be of very little value so far as cottage industries are concerned. As regards the introduction of big industries, my own opinion, as well as the opinion of the Governments in which I had a share, was that Government should not meddle in this kind of enterprise, for richer provinces than ours had started some big industries and had failed and ultimately they had to give up these concerns to outsiders.

Then coming to sugar mills I can say that in Assam also we tried such an experiment, but that was long ago—before the beginning of the Reforms. I am referring to the sugarcane enterprise of the Government of Assam of about 1914 to 1918. Probably it will be news to many of my hon. friends of this House that in order to popularise sugarcane cultivation and also starting a sugar mill, the Government launched into a scheme of growing sugarcane at a place called Baroma in Kamrup district in spite of protests of non-official members of the then Legislative Council, including my humble self. It is known to many that in Assam, every cultivator and householder grows a bit of sugarcane in his land and converts it into *gur* for his own personal domestic use. So it was not necessary for Government to introduce sugarcane cultivation in the province on a large scale; and after the experience of just a few years, Government was compelled to abandon that and to give the sugar factory and cultivation to a private company, Bird and Company, if I remember aright. They also could not combat with the Sugar mills of the United Provinces where sugarcane is grown abundantly, and where the prices are cheap. Of course there was no protection for sugar at the time which we have got now. In order to encourage outside capital to come to this province, the late and much abused previous Government did encourage a syndicate from Bengal headed by the Maharaja of Mymensingh to start a sugar factory in the district of Darrang. The Maharaja has got a tea garden there and he has started sugarcane plantation on a large scale, which though not sufficiently large for a big sugar factory, is still about 400 acres in area. I have recently heard from a Marwari gentleman of Calcutta enquiring if I had any scheme for establishing a sugar factory in Assam and he said that he would like to implement such a scheme if practicable.

What I am trying to impress upon the House is that big capitalists themselves will find out whether the establishment of big industries in Assam will be profitable. The case in point is that of the Assam Bengal Cement Company whose lease most probably has been very recently signed and they were introduced, or rather they were encouraged to come to Assam by the previous Government.

I mentioned that other provinces started big scale industries but they had ultimately to give it up. I have in mind the case of the aluminium industry in Madras which was started by the Madras Government and it had to be handed over to a private Company. So, Sir, Assam being a poor country, poor not in resources but in its income, we should not attempt to meddle ourselves in big industries but we should confine ourselves to starting cottage industries after properly reviewing all factors and after convincing ourselves that it would be easier to market the things produced.

I, therefore, make the suggestion before the House that as for cottage industries we have already a Board and it is not necessary to have another. If the House agrees, men of the real industrialist type mentioned by the hon. mover should be co-opted at the time when these Boards meet and power can be given to that end. ✓

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** I have nothing to say about this motion. But I think this Hon'ble House is not against industry as a whole. Neither do I think that any hon. member on the floor of this House is against industry. So, I think, Sir, there is no use of discussing this resolution. Sir, we know nothing about industry in Garo Hills and unless we have some sort of industry we shall never learn about Industry and we shall not know what industry is. Throughout India we are crying for industry and we are also very poor. Our main question and trouble which we should tackle is our finances. So I support whole-heartedly the resolution.



**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** আমি বিশ্বাস করি গৃহ শিল্প ব্যতীত দেশের বেকার সমস্যা সমাধান হওয়া কিছুতেই সম্ভবপর নহে। কিন্তু আমার বর্তমান বাহা অভিজ্ঞতা হইরাছে তাহাতে আমার মনে হয় যে আমাদের বেকার বাহাল খেলা আন্দোলন আছে তাহার চেয়ে বেশী যদি মাড়োয়ারী খেলা আন্দোলন না হয় তাহা হইলে দেশের উদ্ধার হওয়া অসম্ভব (*laughter*)। গোয়ালপাড়া জেলায় প্রায় পাচহাজার লোক ঘানিতে শরিষার তৈল তৈয়ার করিত। খাঁটি শরিষার তৈলে দেশের লোকের স্বাস্থ্য ভাল থাকে। বর্তমান মাড়োয়ারী সম্প্রদায় দক্ষিণ শালমারায় একটি এবং ধুবড়ীতে আর একটি অয়েল মিল স্থাপন করিয়া সমস্ত কুটির শিল্প নষ্ট করিয়াছে। গ্রামে বাহারা ঘানির দ্বারা তৈল তৈয়ার করে সেই তৈলের দাম বেশী পড়ে। তাহারা আজকাল মাড়োয়ারীর নিকট হইতে মিলের তৈল নিয়া বাহুরে বসে এবং নিজের ধর্ম বলিদান দিয়া এবং ধর্মের নামে হলক্ করিয়া বলে যে তাহাদের তৈল সমস্তই ঘানির তৈল। তাই আমার মনে হয় এই কুটির শিল্প উদ্ধার করিতে হইলে, দেশের দরিদ্র দিগকে উন্নতির পথে আনিতে হইলে, এই ধনিকবাদ মাড়োয়ারী সম্প্রদায়কে পূর্বে বিতাড়িত করিতে হইবে। ইহাদিগকে দশাস্থিত না করিলে এই শোষণ শ্রেণীর কবল চইতে আমাদের দেশ উদ্ধার কিছুতেই সম্ভবপর হইবে না। কাষেই আমি বিশ্বাস করি কুটির শিল্প উদ্ধার কল্পে মাড়োয়ারী সম্প্রদায়কে সর্ব প্রথমে নির্কাসন দেওয়া উচিত (*laughter*)।

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Sir, Assam has got immense natural resources which may be rightly harnessed to the development of industries. But I admit that under the present economic structure of society and the capitalistic form of the State very little scope is left for Government to do anything in the matter of Industry. (*Hear, hear.*) All that Government can do is to give financial help or technical advice in the matter of developing industries which must ultimately be in the hands of private capitalists and private enterprises. This would ultimately lead to capitalism and mal-distribution of wealth, in consequence of which, a severe economic discontent will naturally follow. But still so long as the politics of the country does not develop in that line, we must develop our industry within the existing framework of society.

Then, Sir, if that be so, the question of financial help from Government is the primary question which should engage their attention. I have said that this province admits of industrial development in many ways. One of the ways that struck me is the electrification of the province. The topographical situation of the province is rather peculiar. It consists of two valleys divided by a long range of hills where the rainfall is the highest. Now this water power is neither controlled nor regularised, as a result of which we find that there is inundation and immense havoc done to our crops.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Does this come within the ambit of the resolution, Sir?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, it comes. The resolution, as it stands, does not rule out the case of big industries.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** So, Sir, if our Government would divert their attention to this question of controlling our water power

and thereby generating hydro-electric energy, it would not only electrify our agriculture and industries, but will also help us to control the floods and thereby improve agriculture and irrigation.

As for details, it is not for us to say anything. I support the motion of the hon. mover because the Board of Industries which is now functioning is composed of members of this House who are all laymen and have no technical abilities with regard to questions of industries. Even our Director of Industries is a civilian who has got no technical qualifications. As such it is quite in the fitness of things that there should be a separate Board of Industries composed only of industrialists who can give their mature consideration to industrial matters and advise Government as to the possibilities of developing the various industries. The Congress President has taken up the question of industrialisation of the provinces and as it is the order of the day, Assam, therefore, should fall in a line. But Assam has got its peculiar circumstances and immense natural resources, and as such the particular questions of Assam should be discussed separately by another Board which should consist of industrialists and business magnates of the province. If they are all not available in the province, some should be invited from outside. Since the assumption of office by the new coalition Government, we are glad to find that this matter is engaging the attention of the Minister of Industries. Already we have found in newspapers that he is considering various schemes for the development of the existing industries of the province which are now in a moribund condition.

The industries of this province can be better developed at the present time, because the facilities for finance are more easy now than they were some time ago, the rate of interest now prevailing in the market is the least for the last few years. So, if there is any necessity for borrowing money for the development of industries, this is the best time.

Under these circumstances, Sir, I think there should be a separate Board of Industries consisting of men with technical qualifications who can give us ideas, and it is for Government to formulate a policy on the basis of the reports available from them and thereby to launch upon a scheme of industrialisation of the province. With these words, I whole-heartedly support the resolution moved by my hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution that is before us. And in doing so, I want to make a suggestion that the personnel of the Board should be so selected as to include only such men who can give real help in the matter. The resolution that is before us simply says that it should consist of "leading economists and industrialists of the province." I should like to mention here, Sir, that so long we have been suffering in the matter of the development of industries, not on account of any internal deficiency or for want of raw materials for developing our industries, but mainly for want of sound advisers. The gentlemen who have been placed at the head of the Department of Industries, I am sorry to say, are not far better than ordinary lay men. And I am firmly of opinion that, had a real expert with sound ideas and spirit of enterprise been there, probably the face of this province would have been altogether different in the matter of prosperity. So, what I want to draw the attention of this Government to, is that so long as the Head of this Department or the Advisory Board does not approach this matter from a wider and bolder outlook but remains content with our present petty knowledge and narrow outlook we cannot expect any real expansion or improvement of industry. So I would like to say that not only we should seek for experts from sister provinces, but we should also seriously think of importing experts from foreign countries as well, and should not mind the expense that would

be required. If our Government and this House are really anxious to develop the industries of this province with a view to enrich their resources, then I say we must be prepared to bring some experts from outside as early as possible so that they may give us sound advice after making an elaborate survey of the various resources of the province with a view to develop not only the smaller industries but also the bigger ones.

With these few words, Sir, I support the resolution of my hon. friend, Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, শ্ৰীমান কেদাৰমল ব্ৰাহ্মণ ডাঙৰীয়াই সমৰোপযোগী যি প্ৰস্তাব আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ গৈ মই দুই চাৰিটা কথা সেই প্ৰসংগতে ক'ম। যি কৃষ্ণত—ভাৰতে স্বাধীনতা হেৰুৱালে, স্বাধীনতাৰ লগে লগে ভাৰতৰ ভাগ্য দক্ষী বোলক কিম্বা ভাৰতৰ জাতীয়দক্ষী বোলক বা সম্পদ বোলক সেই সকলো সম্পদ ভাৰতবৰ্ষই হেৰুৱাব লগা হ'ল। বুৰঞ্জীৰ পিঠিত সোনালী আখৰেৰে লেখা আছে ভাৰতে কেনেকৈ ক্ৰমে ক্ৰমে নিজৰ স্বাভাৱিক সম্পত্তি হেৰুৱাই আক্ৰি সৰুহাৰৰ পৰা বহিছে। সৌভাগ্যৰ কথা যে এতিয়া ভাৰতৰ চেতনা আহিছে। আক্ৰি জাতীয়তাৰ কিক্ৰিত আভাস ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজাসাধাৰণে পাবৰ কাৰণে এটা প্ৰয়াস কৰিছে। মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ নেতৃত্বত ১৯২১ চনৰে পৰা ভাৰতে নিজৰ হেৰুৱা সম্পদ পাবৰ কাৰণে অলপ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। চেষ্টা কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে আমাৰ দেশত কংগ্ৰেছে পদে পদে বাধা পাই আহিছে—আমাৰ মানুহৰ পৰাও আক বিশেষকৈ অন্যান্য দেশৰ স্বার্থ বিজৰিত মানুহৰ পৰাও। সেই কথা বহুলাই নকলেও সভ্যমণ্ডলৰ অবিদিত নহয়। মই মুঠতে ইঙ্গিতস্বৰূপে দুই এটা কথা কৈছো—মোৰ বিশ্বাস মোৰ লগৰীয়া বন্ধু সকলে সেই ইঙ্গিতৰ পৰাই সকলো বুজি পাব। ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ সম্পদে পৃথিৱীৰ সকলোৰে দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি কেনেকৈ স্বাধীনতা হেৰুৱালে সেই কথাকো মই ক'ব লাগিবনে? ভাৰতবৰ্ষ এনেকুৱা ঐশ্বৰ্য্যখালী দেশ আছিল যে সেই ঐশ্বৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰলোভনত পৰি অন্যান্য ঠাইৰ শক্তি আহি আমাৰ সেই সময়ৰ জাতীয় দুৰ্বলতাৰ সুযোগ লৈ আমাৰ স্বাধীনতা হৰণ কৰি ললে। সি আক্ৰি হাজাৰ বছৰতকৈও অধিক দিনৰ কথা। কাজেই আমি ইমান দিন পৰাধীন থকাৰ কাৰণে মনোবল লুপ্ত হোৱাৰ ফলত আমাৰ স্বাভাৱিক শক্তি লুপ্ত প্ৰায় অৱস্থাত—তত্ৰাচ আমাৰ মনলৈ স্বাধীনতা লাভৰ চেষ্টাৰ লগে লগে যে আমি এইদৰে আমাৰ লুপ্ত শিল্প পুনৰুদ্ধাৰ কৰি ক্ৰমে আমাৰ হেৰুৱা সম্পদ লাভ কৰিব লাগিব—সিও স্বাভাৱিক কথা। সময়ৰ লগে লগে আমি সদায় যাব লাগিব। আক্ৰি ভাৰতীয় বাজ নৈতিক পৰিস্থিতিত যদি আসাম প্ৰদেশে নিজৰ অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগে, সেই কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগে, তেনেহলে এনে ধৰণৰ প্ৰস্তাব লৈ কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিত আগ নাৰাঢ়িলে আমাৰ গত্যন্তৰ নাই। যদিও আমি কোনো কাৰ্য্য বশতঃ সাধাৰণ অন্যান্য সাম্প্ৰদায়িক ভাবৰ লগত বিৰোধ কৰি এইদৰে আগবাঢ়ি নাযাওঁ তেন্তে জগতৰ জাতিৰ মাজত অন্ততঃ ভাৰতৰ তথা আমাৰ লগৰীয়া প্ৰদেশবিলাকৰ লগত নিশ্চয় পিচ পৰি যাম। সম্প্ৰতি আপোনাকো জানে যে অন্যান্য আন্দোলনৰ লগে লগে শিল্প

উদ্ধাৰৰ বাবে ভাৰতত এটা আন্দোলন হৈছে। আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেচৰ সভাপতিয়ে সেই আন্দোলনৰ নেতৃত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। যি কমিটি গঠিত হৈছে তাত প্ৰত্যেক প্ৰদেশৰ উপ-যোগী ভাবে কোন কোন প্ৰদেশত কি ভাবে সেই শিল্প উদ্ধাৰ কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ নিষ্ক্ৰান্তি সিবিলাকে বিশেষ ভাবে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। আৰু আজি যি জন মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বিভাগৰ দায়িত্ব লৈছে তেখেতে আমাক সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে আশা দিছে যে আমি যি দৰে কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ ইঙ্গিত দিছে তাক গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ তেখেত প্ৰস্তুত আছে। ইয়াতকৈ সন্তোষৰ কথা আৰু কি আছে? যি গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট এদিন আমাৰ সম্পদ উদ্ধাৰ কৰিবলৈ বাধা জনাইছিল, বিদেশী বৰ্জন কৰিবলৈ পিকেটিং কৰাত ফাটেক পৰাস্ত দিছিল, সেই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যদি আমাৰ সহায় বিচাৰে শিল্পোদ্ধাৰ কৰাত তেওঁ মোৰ মনেৰে ইয়াতকৈ আনন্দৰ কথা আন একে হ'ব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে আমাক যিমানই অন্যাগ্ৰ লোকে বেয়া চকুৰে চাওক, মই ভাবোঁ যে কৰ্ত্তব্য হিচাবে যি দিলাকে এই কথা হাতত লবলৈ ওলাইছে সেই বিলাকক ধন্যবাদ নিদি নোৱাৰি। শ্ৰীমান কেদাৰলাল ব্ৰাহ্মণে যি সময়ত এই প্ৰস্তাব দিছিল সেই সময়ত তেখেত বেলেগদল ভুক্ত আছিল। এই coalition Government তেতিয়া নাছিল। তেতিয়া সময়ৰ প্ৰভাবে তেখেতক প্ৰভাবান্বিত কৰিছিল আৰু সময়ৰ প্ৰভাৱতেই এনে উপযুক্ত প্ৰস্তাব তেখেতে দাঙ্গি ধৰিছিল। এই কাৰণে এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কেনেকৈ কৰিব লাগে তাৰ বাবে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক সমৰ্থন কৰা মই আৱশ্যক বুলি ভাবোঁ।

**Colonel A. B. BEDDOW :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is rather outside the orbit of my competence ; but I do feel there is tremendous scope for an organisation, such as has been suggested by the hon member, who has tabled this resolution. As an instance, I may mention that quite recently I received a letter from the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills. He told me that he was very much interested in Cottage industries, and had been doing his best to improve them and to enable people to sell their wares. He pointed out that he had great difficulty in getting these particular products made known or saleable, and he asked me if I would do anything that I could to help him. I said that the subject was rather beyond me. When I came up here, however, I went to the Assam Industries Association and mentioned the matter, and asked if they could do anything for the Lushai products. The organisers said that they had received certain samples of their weaving and so forth. These were found very attractive, so much so, that they sold wonderfully well. Good prices were paid and they ordered a large consignment of various goods from the Lushai Hills, but have since received neither the goods nor any reply to their letter. I do not know how many thousands of miles the Superintendent has under his control and here many an opening for an organisation that could get in touch with outlying districts and open up a direct line of trade. The demand is here, the demand is all over the place, the difficulty is getting into touch with the producer. I do feel that this is a matter that should receive the attention of any Government, particularly the present Government which profess of any Government in the welfare of the people and particularly the people of the outlying districts.

I support this resolution.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Sir, I must congratulate the hon. mover and I support this resolution. It is a timely move because there is a vast scope for further improvement of the industrial side and the industries. But the scanty income of the province is a great handicap.

I heard from Mr. Aditya that so far as the Head of the Department was concerned, he was a lay man. On the same breath he says that the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali was taking a keen interest. He also says that the President of the Indian National Congress was taking a good deal of interest. I do not find any logical consistency between the two, because two other gentlemen who are not experts in the Department are taking interest. Why cannot the Director of Industries take any interest if the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur can conceive of a scheme of industrial development.

I take objection to the remarks of the Maulana Sahib about Marwaris. Marwaris have been of great help. I find Marwaris are taking active interest in the affairs of the province, and there is a Marwari contractor, who is very busily utilising his resources for strengthening the position of the Ministry. He is allowed to use the Assembly Members' hostel, in contravention of rules.

**Babu RAJENDRA NATH ADITYA:** On a point of order, Sir. Is not our friend trying to create a feeling of bitterness between communities?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I do not think the hon. member was speaking in a serious vein when he referred to Marwaris.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** So, Sir, the very fact that my friend is the sponsor of this resolution shows that Marwaris are taking a great interest.

I have already said that there are various resources in the province that can be improved upon and can be utilised if there is an Industrial Development Board like the one as suggested in the resolution and so once more I congratulate my hon. friend who has brought this resolution and I wholeheartedly support it.

**Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to hear that the Hon'ble Minister is advocating the cause of cottage industries. His remark that big industries may kill the cottage industries appeals to me. Sir, it is known to every one of us that the introduction of cotton mills have killed production of cloths by the process of hand-spinning and hand-weaving. It is fortunate that in Assam the absence of any cotton mills is a great help to our handloom industry, but on account of the introduction of cheap mill yarn, hand-spinning has received a setback.

I have advocated the cause of hand-spinning and hand-weaving in the floor of this House several times. It is the cottage industries alone that can sustain the lives of many of our people—fill their hungry mouths by their labours in leisure hours. In my opinion, the cottage industry is the lifeblood of the nation. There are now over 4 lakhs of handlooms in Assam producing about 22½ million yards of cloths annually. If these handlooms produce fine hand-spun cotton cloths, we shall be able to provide employments to thousands of unemployed youths of the province.

Then I come to the question of oil and rice. Ten years back we had no rice mills and oil mills in our province. Our village people used to produce oil and rice in their homes and they had got sufficient employment. But since the introduction of oil mills and rice mills, hand-pressed oil and *Dheki*-husked rice have become a rarity, and as a result our people have lost that quality of food which is necessary to keep their health. It has been proved

that mill-produced oil and rice are injurious to health. Then I come to the quest on of milk. Some machinery has been invented and that machinery has now come in our midst which makes out cream and butter and thus the worst quality of milk is sold to the people. If we look to our village life we find that every sort of nutritious food is being taken away by industrial methods. It is a matter for the big capitalists to start big industries and not for Government to start big industries at the cost of the poor people. I entirely support this resolution and at the same time agree with the Hon'ble Minister when he said that as there is already a Board, this Board should have some technical experts. A layman is quite unable to produce big schemes. As members of the Legislature, we can shape out some policy but we are unable to give technical advice which is quite necessary in industrial matters.

In this connection I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble House to works done by All-India Spinners' Association and All-India Village Industries Association under the patronage of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. It will be helpful for this Government to take their advice and co-operation of these august bodies to develop the handloom and other innumerable cottage industries now existing in Assam. We should also take the help of the newly started organisation which has been so well advertised and so highly spoken of and for which credit goes to our Congress President, Srijut Subas Chandra Bose. I think we will get ample help and co-operation from these associations if we simply wait and see what other provinces are going to do in the matter.

I am really sorry to hear our Maulana Sahib about *Bangal kheda and Marwari kheda*. If even on a resolution like this we lend ourselves into feelings like this, it will not be at all helpful for the success of our administration. But I am glad to see that our friend Colonel Beddow has come to our assistance and lent his support.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, my utterances in connection with this resolution must not be taken as Government committing itself to any particular line of action. My hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin has raised an important matter of debate in which practically all provinces of India are interested and as it comes as a part of the programme of the Congress, I consider it my duty to speak a few words in this connection.

In this House two opinions have been definitely submitted. One is that there should not be any industries but cottage industries. On the other hand there is also an opinion which favours certain big industries. So far as the Congress is concerned, I think I can say with some degree of authority that it is not against all kinds of big industries. It is certainly against certain kinds of big industries—industries which will have the effect to kill cottage industries altogether. But there are other industries which will not only improve the resources of the country but also would give employment to our unemployed youths. Taking into consideration the question of big industries, we can divide them into two kinds, *viz*, the industries which can be termed as State utility enterprises and others which can be more profitably run by private capital. So far as the public utility services are concerned, our opinion has always been that it would be better for the State to take them up and to run them as best as possible by Government or under the direction of Government. This principle has been followed also by the countries in the west. Thus, the railways are the concern of the State. Similarly it is quite possible to have other transport business taken up by the State. We can, for example, take up an enterprise of electricity because it

seems, it can be very profitably run by the State. So Sir, so far as the utility services are concerned, the State should try its best to run them to the advantage of the public for which the State exists.

Then with reference to other industries, I quite agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we should be able to have capital brought from outside when we cannot ourselves raise that capital within our province; but at the same time I must say that these enterprises should be such as would not aim at killing the cottage industries in our province. We have enough resources—mineral resources—resources in plants and in many other things which really require careful survey and if the resolution has any object, one of its principal objects should be to have a survey of all the possible resources of the province through experts. We have undoubtedly the services of the Geological Survey of India in reference to the mineral resources of the country; but I think there are many other wealths of many other kinds which also require careful survey and investigation, to know as to how far they can be utilised for the good of the people of the province. Therefore, Sir, I hail this resolution from that standpoint, namely that it encourages a survey of the resources of the province. Then, Sir, in regard to the cottage industry, I feel that I cannot quite agree with the Leader of the Opposition when he says that the money which the State will be required to spend will be merely wasted over it. On the other hand, I think if little more energy is spent and if we can have a body of self-less workers who may be willing to work in the villages, then a lot can be gained by a large number of poor people. We can just take the instance of two silk industries that we have in Assam Valley, *i.e.*, *Endi* and *Muga*. Those who have some acquaintance with the people who work in this line, very well know that they can easily earn a very fair income by working in this silk weaving business, but on account of some third party intervening, the producer seldom gets the price which he ought to have got for these things. My information is that in the district of Kamrup alone, we produce not less than two lacs of rupees in *Endi* and possibly a similar amount in *Muga*, but it would be seen that even 50 per cent. of the produce are not obtained by the weavers or by the persons who deal with the stuff directly. The result is that it often times happens that these poor villagers who produce them are left to the indiscriminate mercy of certain people who advance a little amount of money in the beginning of the year, and getting these people into their clutches, they take away the produce at very small prices. It is really pitiable that the innocent people of the tribal community are mostly engaged in this business of *Endi* and *Muga* and it is not very difficult for cunning trader to get these things out of them for a very smaller consideration than what they would have obtained in the *bazar*. These things, I believe, can be prevented by the State. I think, some funds are necessary, but if the work is taken up in right earnest by the Department, I feel that most of the abuses can be stopped. There is an organisation called the All-India Spinners Association and this fact I think is known to all the Congress men. They have been working in this line, and they have been able to collect things directly from the people with whom they can come to some sort of agreement. In the first instance they pay some money for the produce in advance, and after selling of these things, they again return other profit which they obtain for selling them at higher rates elsewhere. Again the Leader of the Opposition has said that one reason for the fall of the price of this article is due to the competition from outside. I think the Provincial Government has power to tax goods which may be brought into the province, so that the home industries may not be killed. As a matter of fact we have power to legislate on the sale of goods and if we adopt some measure of protection in that line, I think, it may be possible to conserve

these industries. All these points are worthy of consideration and we are obliged to our hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin for having given us an opportunity for discussing about the industries of the province. With these few words, Sir, I finish my remarks regarding this resolution.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** I am really thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister who has suggested to us the means of improving our cottage industries. Sir, there is no doubt that the Ludhiana silk is competing with our *endi* and *muga*. There is vast difference between Ludhiana silk and our *endi* and *muga* and I think our Government should see that the foreign competition is discouraged. Sir, my hon. friend Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan has suggested to drive away the Marwaris from the district of Goalpara. On a point of personal explanation, I should say that his natural grievance is against me as I do not belong to the party to which he belongs, but he cannot accuse my community which has made Assam as its home.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. The hon. member should not consider the speech of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan as conveying any insinuation to be seriously dealt with.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** I should say, to the hon. members that most of the mustard seeds are not consumed by the mills of Assam. About four lacs are exported to Bihar. So the natural conclusion is that the mill owners of Assam have not ruined the *ghani* system of Assam. Sir, there are various suggestions for various industries and I am thankful to all of them. My hon. friend Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla has asked me to give some names. I may mention to him that I am ready to give him some names. I am ready to accept that suggestion with regard to this motion. With these few words, I resume my seat.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge say anything in reply?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** Sir, I am glad to hear the learned views of the House and I have been enlightened for my future guidance. What the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla said out of his experience as Minister of Industries for many years and as the Chief Minister of Assam, is really very valuable. The hon. Mr. Beddow has said something about Lushai Hills Cottage Industries and I shall be glad to make correspondence with the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills in that direction. Now, coming to the resolution itself the hon. Leader of the House said what we should follow in the next programme of our work. I do not like to say anything more. We shall co-opt some economists and industrialists and with these words, I like to accept this resolution.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then the resolution has been accepted by Government. Is it the sense of the House that the resolution should be accepted by the Government?

*Voices—Yes, Sir.*

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The resolution stands accepted by Government.

**Resolution that proportionate percentage of all Government appointments be kept reserved for backward tribal people of the plains on population basis**

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that "this Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam that proportionate percentage of all Government appointments be kept reserved for backward tribal people of the plains on population basis."



In connection with this I beg to submit, Sir, that in the Province of Assam, we the tribal people are the real Assamese people. We have passed more than 100 years under the British Government here and under the reformed Government we have passed about 16 years. Now we are having Provincial Autonomy, but it is a matter of great regret, Sir, that in district and Provincial and district services the district officers and Heads of Departments do not consider our due demand and the share we are entitled to have. For instance, I will show that recently at Gauhati, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur the district officers did not appoint tribal candidates and moreover I can show you that this is a reflexion on the last Government. In the Gazette of 7th September an advertisement was published that some Superintendents of Excise had to be taken, but in the Gazette it was written in this way: "Preference will be given to Muhammadans and Scheduled Castes". But I submit, Sir, that in this Province my tribal community is the most backward community in education and we, as a community, are totally under-represented in the services. For this reason I demand Sir,—it is my legitimate demand—that first preference should be given to us instead of eliminating the community from the Provincial Service. Even in this regime of Provincial Autonomy, we are deprived from our due share. If this Hon'ble House do not consider the due demand of my community, who else will do that? Sir, I can draw any analogy from a man with one of his limbs broken. If you break one of the limbs from your body politics—I mean the backward tribal people, it is bound to effect the whole body, and if the tribal people cannot compete in this Province, this Province will not be able to compete with its sister provinces (*hear, hear*) of India. Not only that; if the Province of Assam lag behind, this British India will also not be able to compete with the civilized countries of the world.

For this reason, Sir, I hope this Hon'ble House and the present Government will be pleased to give our legitimate share of appointments on population basis. It is clearly written in the Government of India Act, 1935, that we, the minority communities, should be protected by some special favour. With these few words, Sir, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The resolution moved is that "this Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam that proportionate percentage of all Government appointments be kept reserved for backward tribal people of the plains on population basis."

There are two amendments tabled to this resolution. One stands in the name of Babu Balaram Sircar to the effect that in the fourth line, after the word "tribal" the words "and the scheduled castes" be added. I am afraid this amendment is beyond the scope of the resolution, importing something else into it. So I rule this amendment out of order.

Then there is another amendment which stands in the name of Srijiut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. That also suffers from the same defect. It is to this effect that in lines 4 and 5, after the words "backward tribal people of the plains" the following should be added.

"Including the tea garden labourers, as well as the *ex*-garden labourers settled in Assam, and Indian Christians." If these people come in the category of backward tribal people then this amendment would have been in order, but as they cannot be included in the category of the backward tribal people of the plains, I rule that this amendment also is intended to extend the scope of the resolution and is therefore, out of order.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the resolution that my hon. friend has tabled for the reservation of proportionate percentage of appointments for backward people on population basis. Here I have got an opportunity of ventilating the grievances of the Muslim League about the reservation of seats on population basis, and that the fact that these communities have not got their percentage of appointments is due to the fact that they cannot stand with other advanced communities in open competition and to say that it is essential that they must have some safeguard for the protection of their rights and interests. What my hon. friend has demanded is also the demand of the Indian Muslim League, that is, that certain reservations must be made for the minority communities so that they can also aspire to their legitimate share of appointments, so that their community can prosper and stand side by side with the caste Hindus who are now far advanced. So I say that so far as the Muslim League is concerned, and also the other minority communities, there should be a reservation according to population. I do not say that this should be done always, but that we must have this reservation till we have got our full share, otherwise it will be difficult to get our legitimate share. My hon. friend has given a specific instance and said that there is no Excise Superintendent from his community. My hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has also put some questions about the appointment of Excise Superintendent from the Surma Valley Hindus. My hon. friend Mr. Kachari also thinks that unless some special reservation is made, members of his community cannot hope to get appointments in an open competition. This is what he wants, and this is what the Muslim League wants. So we stand on the same level.

With these few words, I support the resolution.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say one little thing about this resolution. At present the Government have accepted the position that tribal people—not as tribal people of the plains or of the hills, but tribal people as a whole, should obtain a proportionate share of appointments. That has been the policy of the Government. But here in this resolution a distinction is made. The resolution says that appointments should be kept reserved for backward tribal people of the plains on population basis. This resolution just indicates that a distinction has got to be made between the tribal people of the plains and the tribal people of the hills. I therefore, want the opinion of the House, and request the House to give an opinion on this point alone. So far as Government is concerned, Government has already accepted the principle of giving a proportionate percentage in all services to the tribal people as a whole.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words as to the reservation of the appointments for plains and hills tribal people.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble the Premier has given the House the policy which has been adopted by Government, and he has asked the House whether they are going to accept that policy or to reject it. So if any discussion is to go on, that discussion is to give the Hon'ble Premier points on the question as to whether that policy should be altered or not.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** The resolution specifies certain areas only. I wanted to make it wider, but I cannot do it now. However on the principle of the resolution I support it.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will just say a few words. It was the policy of the Government in previous years to group together all the tribal people of the whole of Assam. In the

previous Government of which I was a member, we decided that we would accept this resolution on account of the demand of the tribal people of the plains; and if I remember rightly, I think, it is in the file that this resolution would be accepted by the Government; and some rules were being formulated for this purpose. We accepted the principle that the tribal people of the plains should be grouped separately and that they should have their proportionate share of appointments on a population basis, and in the same way also that the people of the hill areas should be grouped together and should have appointments on a population basis. That was our position, and I think, it is a reasonable position. The progress of the tribal people of the plains is somewhat different from the progress of the people of the hill areas, and therefore the previous Government thought that it would be wise to give them a separate representation on a population basis instead of grouping them together with the people of the hills, and I think this Government also would have no objection to adopt that same principle for both the peoples of the hills and of the plains.

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, বন্ধুৰ শ্ৰীযুত ববি চন্দ্ৰ কছাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ গৈ মই অলপ কব খুজিছোঁ। এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো যদিও সবল ভাৱাত কোৱা হৈছে, কিন্তু ইয়াৰ অৰ্থ বহুত গুৰুতৰ। যি দিন বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই আসাম দেশখন তেওঁলোকৰ হাতলৈ আনিলে বাস্তবিক সেই দিনৰ পৰাই এই প্ৰদেশৰ অন্তৰ্গত জাতি বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা অতি হীন হৈ আহিবলৈ ধৰিলে। তেতিয়াৰে পৰা এই জাতি বিলাকৰ শিক্ষা দীক্ষা চাকৰি-বাকৰি ইত্যাদি সকলো বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে একেবাৰেই কোনো step লবলৈ মন কৰা নাই। এই tribal সকলৰ—tribal জাতি নাম নতুনকৈ তেওঁবিলাকক দিয়া হৈছে কিন্তু আচলতে তেওঁ-বিলাক এই দেশৰ প্ৰকৃত বাসিন্দা—এই অন্তৰ্গত জাতি বিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ অৰ্থে বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে “প্ৰভিন্সিয়েল অটোনমি” হোৱাৰ আগলৈকে প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে কোনো উন্নতিৰ বিধান কৰা নাছিল। ইয়াৰ আগতে শিল্প সম্বন্ধে যিটো প্ৰস্তাব আছিল তাত প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈ গৈছে যে ধৰুৱা শিল্প বিলাক এই tribal মানুহ বিলাকক বেচিকৈ লাগে। যি অতি সচাঁ কথা। যি সময়ত বৃটিছৰ বৈজ্ঞানিক শিল্প বাণিজ্যই আমাৰ বাণিজ্য শিল্প ধ্বংস কৰিলে সেই সময়ৰ পৰাই—আমাৰ লগে লগে tribal জাতি বিলাককো বেচিকৈ চুলে। এই জাতি বিলাকৰ সকলো অনেক chieftains অৰ্থাৎ বজা আছিল। সেই chieftains বিলাকৰ যি বিলাক সুবিধা আছিল সেই বিলাক সুবিধাও তেওঁলোকৰ হাতৰ পৰা সমূলি কাঢ়ি লোৱা হল। লালুং, কাছাৰি, কোচৰ কোনো বজা বা petty chiefsএ যি বিলাক সুবিধা ভোগ কৰিছিল সেই বিলাক আজি নাই। তাৰ সলনি আজি তেওঁবিলাক পথৰ ভিখাৰী হৈ পৰিছে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ যি পৈতৃক সম্পত্তি আছিল সকলো কৰ কতলৰ ভাৰত আৰু ধৰুৱা শিল্প নষ্ট হোৱাত, মাটিৰ খাজানা দিব নোৱাৰাত বেপাৰী বিলাকৰ বহাতলৈ গল। মই জানো যে নগাওঁ জিলাৰ উত্তৰখোলা মৌজাৰ দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ লালুং সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ অৱস্থা নিতান্ত বেয়া হৈছে। তাত কোনো লালুঙৰ মাটি বাৰী নাই বুলিলেই হয় সেই বিলাক মাটি ধনী ধনী মহাজন বিলাকৰ হাতলৈ গল আৰু তেওঁ-

বিলাকৰ বৰণা শিল্প নষ্ট হোৱাত তেওঁবিলাকৰ লৰা বিলাকক স্কুলত পঢ়োৱা বা অন্যান্য সুবিধা কৰিব নোৱাৰাত তেওঁবিলাকৰ চাকৰি বাকৰি পোৱাটো অসম্ভৱ হৈছে। বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই জাতি বিলাকক শিক্ষিত কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে কোনো চেষ্টা কৰা নাই। এতিয়া ১৯২১ চনৰে পৰা কংগ্ৰেচৰ বানী প্ৰচাৰ হোৱাত, tribal বিলাকৰ শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে এটা ধাউতি হৈছে। তেওঁবিলাক যে মানুহ—মানুহ হিচাপে যে সমাজত ঠাই পাব লাগে আৰু বাঞ্ছনীয় যে তেওঁবিলাকৰ স্থান আছে, সেইটো বুজিব পাৰি, তেওঁবিলাকে তেওঁবিলাকৰ লৰা ছাৰালী বিলাকক শিক্ষা দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ বহুত লৰাই এতিয়া I. A., বা B. A., পাচ কৰিছে। সেই বিলাকক চাকৰি দিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নিতান্ত কৰ্তব্য। আৰু ম আশা কৰোঁ যে বৰ্তমান যি কংগ্ৰেচ কোয়ালিফিকেশ্বন মিনিষ্ট্ৰী (Congress Coalition Ministry) গঠিত হৈছে এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তলত তেওঁবিলাকে নিশ্চয় তেওঁবিলাকৰ প্ৰাপ্য অধিকাৰ পাব আৰু শিক্ষা আদি বিষয়ত যে তেওঁবিলাকে সকলো বৰম সুবিধা পাব তাত আমাৰ কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। আমি উচ্চ জাতি বিলাকে বহুত দিনৰে পৰা চাকৰি বাকৰি ইত্যাদি সকলো বিষয়ে সকলো বৰম সুবিধা ভোগ কৰি আহিছো। মই কওঁ যে percentageৰ কথা কিয় যদি তেওঁবিলাকৰ মাজত শিক্ষিত মানুহ থাকে তেন্তে সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে চাকৰি বাকৰি আদিত তেওঁবিলাকৰ percentage (সংখ্যা-অনুপাত) পূৰণ কৰি দুই এক percentage বেচি দিব লগীয়া হলেও দিব লাগে। আমাৰ বজা থাকোতে তেওঁবিলাকৰ বহুত সুবিধা আছিল—তেওঁবিলাকৰ chieftain আছিল আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ ৰাজত্ব আছিল। আজি ১১১ বছৰ বৃটিছ ৰাজত্বত আমি উচ্চ জাতি বিলাকে সকলো সুখ সুবিধা ভোগ কৰি আহিছোঁ। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকৰ চাকৰি আদিত নায্য percentage হে নালাগে দুই চাৰি percentage বেচিকৈ দিব লগীয়া হলেও দিয়া উচিত। টুইবেলটেল যি কথা, সেই একে কথা অন্যান্য অল্পত জাতি বিলাকতো খাটে। মই আশা কৰোঁ বৰ্তমান কোয়ালিফিকেশ্বন (coalition) গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত নিশ্চয় তেওঁবিলাকক সকলো বৰম সুবিধা দিয়া হব আৰু কংগ্ৰেচৰ উদ্দেশ্য ও সেয়ে। কংগ্ৰেচৰ কাৰ্য্যতালিকালৈ যদি তেখেত সকলে মন কৰে তেনেহলে দেখিব যে কংগ্ৰেচ এটা কোনো সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ স্কীয়া অনুষ্ঠান নহয়। ই এটা সকলো জাতিৰ, সকলো ধৰ্ম্মৰ লোকৰ অনুষ্ঠান। ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতা অৰ্জন কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে সন্মিলিত শক্তিৰ সংযোগ। গতিকে তেখেত সকলে কংগ্ৰেচৰ কাৰ্য্য তালিকা কিম্বা কংগ্ৰেচ কৰ্মী সকলৰ কাৰ্য্য আৰু সাৰল্যতাৰ সম্বন্ধ কেতিয়াও যেন অবিচ্ছিন্ন নকৰে। কিয়নো কংগ্ৰেচ কৰ্মী বিলাকে ভালকৈ জানে যে এমুঠি উচ্চ জাতিৰ মানুহে অকলৈ Indian Nation (ভাৰতীয় জাতি) গঠন কৰিব নোৱাৰে। দেশৰ কি অনুন্নত, কি ব্ৰাহ্মণ, কি গুদিৰ, কি হিন্দু, কি মুছলমান, কি খৃষ্টান আটাই বিলাক গোট খালেহে আমি এটা শক্তিশালী জাতিত পৰিণত হব পাৰিম। গতিকে মই তেখেত সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন তেখেত সকলে কংগ্ৰেচৰ ওপৰত সম্পূৰ্ণ আস্থা ৰাখি দেশৰ কাম কৰে। এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা তেখেত সকলে নিশ্চয় সকলো সুবিধা পাব আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টকো অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে তেওঁবিলাকক সম্পূৰ্ণ সুবিধা দিয়া হয়। ইয়াকে কৈ মই এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, we accept the resolution as it is *in toto*. I am particularly grateful to the hon. member, Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy for giving his support to this resolution. If the resolution would affect anybody, it would affect the tribal people of the Hills, but with his support all difficulties for the acceptance of the resolution is removed. In doing so, I must say that although the tribal people of the plains form at least one-sixteenth of the population of the province, their representation to the services hitherto has been very small in spite of the fact that there have been occasions where they might have been profitably engaged and appointed. Such opportunities have been denied to them in the past, and it will be the duty of this Government to remove these inequities. As I said, I accept the resolution *in toto*.

#### Announcement of the result of elections to the Agricultural and Industrial sections of the Assam Development Board

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I shall now announce the results of the elections to the Agricultural and Industrial Sections of the Development Board. For the Agricultural Section Babu Bipin Behari Das; and for the Industrial Section Srijut Dhirsing Deuri have been duly elected.

The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. to-morrow.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 6th December, 1938.

SHILLONG:

The 21st January 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary to the Assam Legislative Assembly.

