



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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 p.m. on  
Friday, the 15th November, 1940

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten  
Hon'ble Ministers and 94 members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(to which oral answers were given)

**Tour of the Hon'ble Ministers**

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** asked :

\*75. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement  
showing :—

- (i) The date of each tour of every Hon'ble Minister ?
- (ii) Places visited on each tour by them ?
- (iii) Purpose of each tour.
- (iv) Amount drawn as travelling and other allowances by each  
Hon'ble Minister on each tour ?
- (v) Amount drawn as allowances by the Establishment of each  
Hon'ble Minister on each tour during the period from the  
22nd March 1940 to the 31st October 1940 ?

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

75. (i) to (v)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.75 (i) to (v) asked by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by E-stablishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Prime Minister.	7th April 1940 13th April 1940	Calcutta ... ..	To attend Jute Conference.	Rs. a. p. 256 12 0	Rs. a. p. 193 2 0
	27th April 1940 2nd May 1940	Sylhet, Habiganj, Sherpur, Srimangal, Maulvibazar.	Inspection ...	115 8 0	83 9 0
	11th May 1940 12th May 1940	Cherrapunjee, Mawsmai ...	Ditto ...	26 4 0	.....
	13th May 1940 22nd May 1940	Gauhati, Mangaldai, Tangla, Nagarbahi, Dalgaoon, Tezpur, Kacharigaon, Chariali, North Lakhimpur, Kumraketi, Laluk and Nowgong.	Ditto ...	250 10 0	246 3 0

25th August 1940	Simla	...	...	To attend Home Ministers' Conference.	629	12	0	456	14	0
4th September 1940										
10th September 1940	Gauhati,	Rampur,	Dhup-	Mass Literacy Campaign.	161	0	0	159	12	0
16th September 1940	Gauhati,	Rampur,	Dhup-							
	guri,	Dharamtul,	Goalpara and Baida.	Total	1,439	14	0	1,139	8	0
15th April 1940	Sylhet,	Dalty Rail,	Thakur-	Tour of inspection	145	14	0	141	12	0
22nd April 1940	bari,	Karimganj,	Bhanga, Badarpur, Silchar, Sonai, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Patharkandi, Sylhet.							
16th May 1940	Gauhati,	Ghagrapara,	...	Ditto	106	1	0	104	13	0
20th May 1940	Pathsala,	Patacharkuchi, Nalbari, Chaigaon, Rampur.								
2nd June 1940	Gauhati	...	...	To select a suitable site for Women's College, Gauhati.	41	8	0	35	0	0
3rd June 1940										
6th July 1940	Gauhati	...	...	To inspect Cotton College and site for Girls' College.	64	0	0	44	8	0
10th July 1940										

Hon'ble Minister,  
Education.

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by Establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	10th August 1940	Gauhati, Nowgong, Jorhat, Tirwal, Thengal, Dibrugarh, Digboi, Titabar, Mariani, Golaghat.	Tour of inspection	280 4 0	277 0 0
	20th August 1940				
	9th September 1940	Gauhati, Rampur, Khetri, Dharamtul, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh.	Mass Literacy Campaign.	233 12 0	260 1 0
	17th September 1940				
	5th October 1940	Gauhati, Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar, Mariani, Kakajan, Dhuli, Sarbaibandha, Masarhat, Jhanji, Sibsagar, Nazira.	Tour of inspection	235 0 0	241 5 0
	21st October 1940				
Total				1,106 7 0	1,104 7 0

Hon'ble Minister,  
Revenue.

9th—20th April 1940

Gauhati, Sorbhog, Khudubari, Barpeta, Shapur, Kharabally, Raha, Belarhat, Dekaibari, Mandia Mauja, Ultisafa Kamar Chafa Kamar, Bhangabari-gaon, Bhangabari-pathar, Kuthijar, Bhowanipur.

Tour of inspection

177 5 0

159 1 0

1940]

13th—22nd May 1940

Gauhati, Mangaldai, Tangala, Nagarbahi, Dalgaoon, Tezpur, Kacharigaon, Chariali, North Lakhimpur, Kumrakheta, Lahuk, Kamalabari, Jorhat, Nowgong.

Ditto

250 10 0

243 3 0

QUESTIONS

9th—16th September  
1940.

Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar, Mariani, Kakejan, Sib-sagar, Napukhuri, Gaurisagar, Desangmukh, Naharani, Golaghat, Nowgong.

Mass Literacy Campaign.

196 4 0

203 2 0

Total

...

624 3 0

610 6 0

1365

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by Establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture.	25th March 1940 15th April 1940	Sunamganj, Jamalganj, Sachna, Joyshri, Dharmapasha, Habiganj, Nabiganj, Sylhet, Shaistaganj, Srimangal, Sherpur, Gauhati, Goai para, Ghagmari, Lakshipur.	Tour of inspection	Rs. a. p. 282 4 0	Rs. a. p. 334 12 0
	24th April 1940 25th April 1940	Gauhati, Khanapara ...	Ditto	41 8 0	48 0 0
	12th May 1940 19th May 1940	Sylhet, Sunamganj, Gauhati, Rampur.	Ditto	104 8 0	110 8 0
	4th June 1940 6th June 1940	Gauhati ...	To preside over the meeting of the Advisory Board for Development, Agriculture Section.	49 0 0	51 12 0

21st August 1940 4th September 1940	Delhi, Simla, Calcutta ...	To attend meeting of the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.	607 12 0	542 8 0	
6th September 1940 19th September 1940	Sylhet, Ramnagar, Sunamganj, Golapganj, Joypur, Tilagar, Kariganj, Kulaura, Patharkandi, Maulvibazar, Srimangal, Rajnagar, Shamsheernagar, Kamalganj.	Mass Literacy Campaign.	288 15 0	196 9 0	
		Total ...	1,373 15 0	1,284 1 0	
17th April 1940 19th April 1940	Gauhati, Sarbhog, Nowgong, Jorhat, Sibsagar.	Tour of inspection	211 13 0	226 3 0	
27th April 1940 2nd May 1940	Sylhet, Habiganj, Bamai, Maulvibazar.	Ditto	121 8 0	100 2 0	
13th May 1940 20th May 1940	Sylhet, Habiganj, Karimganj.	Ditto	145 12 0	124 0 0	
2nd June 1940 3rd June 1940	Gauhati ...	Ditto	41 8 0	45 0 0	

Hon'ble Minister,  
Local Self-Government and  
Judicial.



Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by Establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government and Judicial— <i>concl.</i>	22nd June 1940 24th June 1940	Sylhet ...	Tour of inspection...	Rs. a. p. 60 8 0	Rs. a. p. 32 4 0
	23rd August 1940 28th August 1940	Gauhati, Mangaldai, Kalaigaon, Tezpur.	Ditto	120 0 0	135 8 0
	8th September 1940 18th September 1940	Sylhet, Habiganj, Shais- taganj, Mirpur, Andioo- ra, Kheria, Nabiganj, Baniachang, Agna, Sherpur.	Mass Literacy Cam- paign.	241 6 0	194 9 0
	20th September 1940 24th September 1940	Sylhet ...	.....		
			Total ...	942 7 0	857 10 0

Hon'ble Minister, Medical.	17th March 1940 21st March 1940	Sylhet, Hailakandi.	Tour of inspection...	53 0 0	15 8 0
	28th April 1940	Sylhet	To inspect the Civil Hospital.	43 0 0	10 0 0
	13th June 1940 16th June 1940	Sylhet, Karimganj	Inspection	82 6 0	35 14 0
	29th June 1940 8th July 1940	Hailakandi, Silchar, Sylhet	Ditto	151 8 0	93 14 0
	17th July 1940 31st July 1940	Calcutta, Poona, Sirur	Attended Central Advisory Board, to see health unit at Sirur.	737 10 0	559 2 0
	1st September 1940 2nd September 1940.	Sylhet	Inspection	53 0 0	.....
	10th September 1940. 16th September 1940.	Hailakandi, Silchar, Lala...	Mass Literacy Campaign.	151 4 0	143 8 0
			Total	1,271 12 0	857 14 0
Hon'ble Minister of Industries.	15th April 1940 22nd April 1940	Sylhet, Dattarail, Karimganj, Bhanga, Silchar, Sonai, Badarpur, Karimganj.	Inspection	127 4 0	85 12 0

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by Establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Minister of Industries— <i>conold.</i>	19th May 1940 20th May 1940	Gauhati ...	Accompanied Hon'ble Minister of Bengal.	Rs. a. p. 41 8 0	Rs. a. p. 30 0 0
	5th August 1940 6th August 1940	Sylhet ...	Inspection ...	53 0 0	23 0 0
	10th September 1940 16th September 1940	Gauhati, Rampur, Dharamtut, Goalpara, Baida.	Mass Literacy Campaign. Total ...	161 0 0 382 12 0	157 6 0 296 2 0
Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department.	28th March 1940 8th April 1940	Sylhet, Karimganj, Umarpur, Matiura, Fullota, Balaut, Mobarakpur, Asharkandi, Hailakandi, Badarpur, Anipur.	Inspection ...	266 11 0	193 13 0
	13th April 1940 ... 22nd April 1940 ...	Nowgong, Jorhat, Bhogdoi, Golaghat, Heeleekot Tea Estate, Mariani Tea Estate, Ketalguri Tea Estate, Jorhat Tea Company, Laboratory, Daklungia Tea Estate,	Visited tea gardens	307 4 0	217 1 0

Mukulbari Tea Estate, Rajbheta Tea Estate, Jamica Tea Estate, Hah- sora Tea Estate, Beesa- copee Tea Estate, Tara Tea Estate, Daimukia Tea Estate, Tulup Tea Estate, Rajgarh Tea Estate, Kanjkowa Tea Estate, Seelkati Tea Estate, North Baliyan, South Baliyan, Udalguri Tea Estate, Ghilaphukri Tea Estate, Bokakhat.	28th April 1940 1st May 1940	Inspection	...	91 0 0	82 2 0
Silchar, Dewan Buitall, Nilambazar, Hailakan- di, Srimangal, Juri, Ku- laura, Maulvi Bazar, Habiganj, Khajuri- cherra Tea Estate, Rajghat, Sindhurkhal, Patharkhola, Gobinda- pur, Allynagar Tea Es- tate, Kajaldara, Medly Tea Estate, Chankhua, Bhubrighat, Sylhet.	13th May 1940 21st May 1940	Dito	...	202 6 0	144 5 0

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department— <i>concl.</i>	10th June 1940 22nd June 1940  6th August 1940  23rd August 1940 25th August 1940	Bombay, Calcutta  Dawki  Nowgong, Bamuria, Sallona, Hospani, Kalidobha, Daboka.	To discuss with Bombay and Bengal Governments about labour matter. Inspection  Ditto	Rs. a. p. 669 4 0  25 8 0  97 4 0	Rs. a. p. 491 8 0  10 8 0  91 9 0
			Total	1,659 5 0	1,230 14 0
Hon'ble Minister, Excise.	7th April 1940 19th April 1940  1st June 1940 to 9th June 1940.  26th June 1940 to 28th June 1940.  10th July 1940 to 12th July 1940.	Nowgong, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Goalpara, Mornai. Nowgong  Ditto  Ditto	Inspection  Private business  Ditto  Ditto	281 12 0  ...  ...  ...	302 8 0  9 15 0  8 7 0  8 9 0

14th July 1940 20th July 1940.	Sylhet, Karimganj, Silchar	Inspection	...	130 14 0	55 7 0
25th July 1940 13th August 1940.	Nowgong, Sibsagar, Bhojo, Dibrugarh, Rahmaria, Tinsukia, Doom Dooma, Jorhat.	Ditto	...	262 0 0	330 12 0
10th September 1940 19th September 1940.	Nowgong, Nonoi, Kuoritol, Raha, Dharamtul, Sil- ghat, Tezpur, Nijhales- war, Siloni, Mangaldai, Harisinga, Silghat.	Mass Campaign.	Literacy	238 6 0	221 14 0
4th October 1940 to 22nd October 1940.	Nowgong, Golaghat, Rang- dhali, Kumabandha, Charingia and Chinatoly.	Inspection	...	158 12 0	156 10 0
		Total	...	1,071 12 0	1,094 2 0
12th April 1940 20th April 1940.	Sorbhog, Karabally, Raha, Balapat, Barpeta, Dekar- bari, Mandia Mauja, Vil- thisafa Kamar, Chafa Kamar, Bangsibaripathar, Bangsibargaon, Kultari- jan, Bhowanipur, Gauhati.	Inspection	...	175 14 0	153 5 0

Hon'ble Minister,  
Forests.

Hon'ble Minister	Date	Places visited	Purpose	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn	Travelling allowance and daily allowance drawn by establishment
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hon'ble Minister, Forests— <i>concl.</i>	13th May 1940 25th May 1940.	Gauhati, Mangaldai, Tang- la, Nagarbahi, Dalgaon, Tezpur, Kacharigaon, Charali, North Lakhimpur, Laluk, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Sala reserve, Nitaipukhuri, Nowgong.	Tour in connection with Line System Committee.	Rs. a. p. 302 15 0	Rs. a. p. 226 8 0
	10th September 1940 15th September 1940.	Kokrajhar, Bilasipara, Rokakhata, Bijni, Bongai- gaon, Chapaguri.	Mass Literacy Cam- paign.	122 5 0	99 6 0
			Total... ..	601 2 0	479 3 0

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Referring to the Hon'ble Minister for Medical, I find that from 17th July to 31st July 1940, he went to Poona to attend the Conference of the Public Health Advisory Board and to see the Health Unit at Sirur. May we be enlightened as to what did he go there for and what did he do there and what did he see there ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** May I reply in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister ? There was a Conference of the Public Health Ministers and Directors of Public Health convened by the Government of India at Poona. The Hon'ble Minister went to attend that Conference. He availed of that opportunity to look into the working of the health unit that is functioning at a place called Sirur. My hon. friend probably knows that the present Ministry wants to start a health centre in Golaghat subdivision. If he is not acquainted with the details of the scheme, I may give some details, but if he knows I need not.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** We do not know.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The Rockefeller Institute of America with the trust fund of that multimillionaire Mr. Rockefeller has undertaken humanitarian duties of starting health centres in different parts of the world. The beneficence of that trust includes India also in their operation and in different parts of the sub-continent of India, such health centres are functioning. Assam was so long deprived of such a centre. Two representatives of the Rockefeller Trust came to Shillong and saw me, and according to their scheme, for the first five years they contribute, on a gradually decreasing rate, the costs of such a centre. For a population of (I am giving all these details from memory) about 40 thousand for which a centre operates, they spend about Rs.35,000 annually. In the first year four-fifth of the cost is borne by the Trust and one-fifth has to be borne by Government and the next year that Trust contributes three-fifth and Government bears two-fifth. Ultimately after the fifth year the cost is entirely borne by Government. According to this scheme, in a certain area where any fell disease is prevalent, they appoint certain number of Health Visitors who are fully trained in hygiene and other matters in an institute at Bombay. The Health Visitors visit the houses in the area. They give all kinds of facilities for improved hygienic condition in the area. They give all lady visitors to help maternity cases and undertake every kind of hygienic matters and of sanitary arrangements in that area. As *Kala-azar*, as the hon. member knows, is prevailing in a devastating manner in the subdivision of Golaghat we are going to open a health centre there in immediate future. And it is in this connection that the Hon'ble Minister visited Sirur to see the working of the health unit there.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** What was the purpose of that Conference at Poona ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This is an annual conference held by the Government of India in order to get information from the different provinces about public health matters and also to give to the Ministers and Heads of Public Health Department the latest informations and ideas that they receive from outside India.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Did the Hon'ble Minister submit any written note before that conference ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Yes, he took one note with him.



**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Would that note be placed on the library table in this session ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** In the absence of the Hon'ble Minister, I am not in a position to say whether he will be able to place it.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I would request the Hon'ble Speaker to allow me to receive this information when the Hon'ble Minister comes to the House. Meanwhile I would ask another question—has Government been able to set apart that money for that purpose—I mean Golaghat health centre ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Only one-fifth of the amount necessary will be provided.

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** For what purpose the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government visited Habiganj on 27th April 1940 and again on 13th May 1940 ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** The purpose was tour of inspection. As my hon. friend wants to have the details, I say that there was a communal tension at Habiganj and most probably along with the Hon'ble Premier I went there to try to effect an amicable settlement.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I refer to [the statement relating to the tour of Minister for Industries—19th May 1940 and 20th May 1940—Gauhati—accompanied Hon'ble Minister of Bengal. What is this ?

**The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN:** The reply is quite clear, Sir.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Is it the custom that an Hon'ble Minister of this province should accompany an Hon'ble Minister of another province while on a visit here ?

**The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN:** The Hon'ble Minister from Bengal wanted to see our Government Emporium and Weaving School. He requested me to accompany him, and I did.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Now I understand.

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** Sir, are all the Hon'ble Ministers educational experts ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Without being experts how can they go ?

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** The statement shows that the Hon'ble Minister for Education visited Gauhati on the 2nd June 1940, 3rd June 1940, 6th July 1940 and again on the 10th July 1940 to select a suitable site for the Women's College at Gauhati. May I know whether any site has been selected ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We are considering whether we could not lend the compound in which there is a bungalow, formerly occupied by an I. E. S. officer. In the meantime, the college authorities are thinking of expanding the buildings in which

the college classes sit at present. I mean the school and other buildings in the present site at Panbazar and they have not renewed their application. The matter is still under consideration.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May I know from the Hon'ble Education Minister what actually did he do when he went to visit the site ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I visited various places that were suggested by leading gentlemen.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May we have a few names of the places which the Hon'ble Minister visited ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have already said—The I. E. S. officer's Bungalow, the Panbazar Girls' School compound. There is another compound called the Bachelors' Quarters. Again, it has been suggested in certain quarters whether the Commissioner's Bungalow and the compound could be taken up for the College.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May I know whether all these sites could not have been visited during one visit ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** There were various other occupations also.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As we see from the reply, Sir, the purpose of these visits was for inspecting sites.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** There were other occupations also.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** What other occupations ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I cannot detail them.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, are we not entitled to know for what purpose the Hon'ble Minister paid so many visits to Gauhati ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have already stated the main purpose.

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** May I know if the Women's College at Sylhet have applied for a land ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The authorities have already submitted an application during my last tour to Sylhet. I visited that site and the application is under consideration.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister pay another visit to Gauhati for the purpose of selecting the site ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Sir, the question time is intended for eliciting information, and not to subject Hon'ble Ministers to cross-examination.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, I have repeatedly said that.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH:** It appears that the Hon'ble Education Minister was touring in Gauhati, Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar, Mariani, Kakajan, etc. from the 5th to the 21st October 1940. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where he was on the 18th October 1940 ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** On the 18th October I was at Jorhat and also visited the Jhanji School.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May we know from the Hon'ble Minister the time when he visited the Jhanji School on the 18th October ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** It will be some time between 3 and 4 p.m. because I visited the school at Teok and Kakajan also on the same day.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Will the Hon'ble Minister deny if I say that I saw him there not after 3 p.m., but much earlier ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I do not think so, because I visited Kakajan, and the Teok Schoowhich took some time. I also visited two *maktabs* near Kakajan, so it musbe between 3 and 4, in any case not earlier than 3 p.m.

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** Was it on your return from Jhanji ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** On my way to Jhanji.

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** Was not Jhanji School closed on that day ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** When I was there the school was open.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I want to know the purpose behind putting these questions.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, the Hon'ble Minister was interfering with the Assembly bye-election that was going on that day.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I can straightaway say that I did not do any canvassing or anything of the sort. Had I done so the result of the election might have been entirely different.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Was it a fact that the Jhanji school was ordered to be kept open for inspection on that day particularly ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** No, Sir. I received an invitation on the previous day from the Secretary of the school inviting me to visit that school. I asked the Inspector to write a letter to the effect that I understood that the school was going to be closed on account of the bye-election, and that I could visit the school only if they agreed to keep it open.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Did the Inspector pass orders to keep the school open for your inspection ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** As far as I know he did not pass any orders.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA :** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister of Excise whether he visited Sibsagar on the 15th October ?

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :** Is it on the statement that has been laid on the table ?

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA :** No.

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :** Then I do not remember exactly.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA :** Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister was at Sibsagar from the 14th to the 16th October ?

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :** It may be, but it was certainly not on an official visit ; otherwise it would have been mentioned in the statement.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** We find from the statement that within the period from 4th to 22nd October the Hon'ble Minister for Excise visited Nowgong, Golaghat, Rangdhali, Kumarbandha, Charingia and Chinatoly for the purpose of inspection, and that he drew Rs. 158-12-0 as travelling allowance. Is it a fact that he was at Sibsagar, which has not been mentioned in the statement, for more than one day during this period ?

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :** Yes Sir, there has been a mistake in the print. Sometime during the *Puja* holidays, which I availed for my private business, I went to Sibsagar to see my new relations.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order. order. I was thinking whether it would be proper for hon. members to put questions in order to challenge the facts that have been put down by the Hon'ble Ministers in the statement that has been placed on the table. I think it is not always proper that the statement of a Minister should be challenged, and that he should be cross-examined. But now that I have found that the Hon'ble Minister for Excise has stated that a mistake has been committed in the statement I shall have to allow these questions (*Hear, hear*). There has been a mistake and it has been admitted by the Hon'ble Minister for Excise. So, if the Hon'ble Ministers cannot vouch for the correctness of their answers I am afraid I shall have to allow such questions.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Sir, may I explain the mistake that is alleged to have been committed ?

I had been receiving complaints from the Golaghat subdivision that no Hon'ble Minister had visited the *Kala-azar* infected area of Golaghat. I was personally requested to go and visit those places. But on account of the month of *Ramzan*, while I was fasting, I could not go there then. When the *Puja* holidays came, my hon. friend the Excise Minister asked my permission to go and visit his newly married wife's relations in the Sibsagar district. As he was going that way, I asked him to visit Golaghat and go inside into affected villages. Probably while returning from Sibsagar, he visited Golaghat and accompanied by some hon. members of this House, he went to villages where ravages of *kala-azar* was greatest. He has given me a long report. For his visit to Sibsagar district during the *Puja* holidays for the purpose of meeting his wife's relations, he has not charged a single pie from the Government exchequer. The bill for travelling allowance is only for his journey to Golaghat subdivision to visit the different centres which had been badly infected with *kala-azar*.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** The statement made by the Hon'ble Premier is not accurate. He is not placing correct facts before the House. The hon. members of this House have seen the Hon'ble Excise Minister in Sibsagar from 14th to 16th, attended by orderlies in official livery, etc.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. It seems the hon. members is starting a discussion. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. member to rule 40, which says "No discussion shall be permitted in respect of any question or any answer given to a question. Provided that on notice given to the Speaker at question time, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow half an hour after 4 p.m. or after the conclusion of the business of the day, whichever is earlier, to enable a member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent importance which has been subject of a question on that day. No division shall be taken on such debate, and such time shall not be available for the transaction of any other business."

The hon. members will please remember this rule and if they want to raise any discussion on the answers given to any question they may do so for half an hour after 4 p.m. or after the business of the day is finished, whichever is earlier, if necessary.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** May we have some time after 4 p.m. to-day, Sir?

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Sir, I can put an end to this matter just now. I can give all the facts and figures that may be required by the hon. members.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Let this be discussed after 4 p.m., Sir.

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Sir I went down on tour on the 4th, but in the meantime the *Puja* holidays intervened from the 6th or so and I availed myself of the *Puja* holidays upto 16th. During the *Puja* holidays I went to Sibsagar on private business, and the days I availed for private business I did not charge any travelling allowance. My arrival at Golaghat was due on the 17th according to the tour programme published in the Gazette.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** This is not correct, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should not challenge the statement of the Hon'ble Minister in this way.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I beg your pardon Sir, but how can we stand an incorrect statement?

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** How is it incorrect?

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, I have seen the Hon'ble Minister after the 17th in the Sibsagar town.

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** How that could be? I did never go to Sibsagar after the 17th. Then, Sir, from 17th upto 20th I was there at Golaghat and on the 21st I left for Nowgong where I passed the night and arrived Shillong on the 22nd.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Are the hon. members satisfied with the replies given by the Hon'ble Minister?

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** No, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then after 4 p.m., I shall fix half an hour for discussion, if necessary.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Sir, the Hon'ble Medical Minister has visited Hailakandi and other places in the Surma Valley as many as five times. He was pleased to visit Bengal, Poona and Bombay but could he not make any time and find work to visit the Assam Valley even once?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** I have visited several places in the Assam Valley too, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** From 17th March to 16th September the Hon'ble Minister did not visit Assam Valley. When then the Hon'ble Minister proposes to visit Assam Valley, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** If there is any necessity to visit Assam Valley, I shall be only glad to visit as early as possible.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will it be necessary.....

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** On a point of order, Sir. We have not been able to follow the hon. member. If the hon. member has asked my question, I will not repeat it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is to put a question.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I enquire, Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister will keep in view Kamrup and Goalpara in his next visit ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Certainly, Sir.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Now Sir, may we hear what did the Hon'ble Minister for Medical see at Sirur ? The Hon'ble Minister has come by now.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Sir, I had been to that place to see the working of the health unit. The Bombay Government started a health unit there and as we are contemplating to start one at Golaghat, I wanted to have some firsthand information there as to its working.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The statement of the Hon'ble Minister was very well stated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister already. What we now want to know, Sir, is what the Hon'ble Minister did see at Sirur.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRABARTY :** That will necessitate a long statement to be made Sir, and cannot be done in reply to a question.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Are we not entitled to hear what the Hon'ble Minister saw there, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** If the hon. member wants the information, he may see me in my chamber where I shall give him all the information he requires.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I regret my inability to see the Hon'ble Minister in his chamber, Sir, because this is a public matter and *purdah* discussion will not be proper. Moreover the Hon'ble Minister is surrounded with so many people there that I do not like to take his valuable time in private. A brief statement—a very brief statement of what he saw there and what he thinks will be of any use to this province will do, Sir.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** I have seen, Sir, the working of the health unit there and it will not be possible to give him an idea of all that I saw there by one or two words. It will take a long time to explain as to how it works, but if the hon. member wants to have all these information, he may see me at any time.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Is it permissible to ask, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister does not remember seeing anything at all ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member knows that an Hon'ble Minister cannot be expected to make a long statement in the course of an answer to a question.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I would be satisfied with a very brief statement, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But the Hon'ble Minister is willing to give a long statement.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Did the Hon'ble Minister submit a written note to Government of what he saw there and what will be useful to our province, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** It is not necessary to submit a note to Government as to what I have seen and what I have done there. I went there to gather some information and according to that I am to formulate my policy.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Has the Hon'ble Minister formulated any scheme or proposal in the light of the useful knowledge he gathered, Sir ? If so, will he please lay a copy of the scheme on the Library table ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** The scheme is under preparation, Sir. I may say for the information of this House that it is not a matter concerning the Government of this province alone. We are getting some money from some outside sources.....

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** From Rockefeller Trust Fund.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** We are getting some money from Rockefeller Trust Fund and we are still carrying on correspondence with all these people. So it will be too premature now for me to make a statement on this, but after the scheme is completed, I shall be glad to supply the information referred to by the hon. member.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Now I come to the question which the Hon'ble Prime Minister could not reply to, *i. e.*, whether the Hon'ble Minister will be pleased to lay on the Library table at his convenience a copy of the statement that was submitted to the Conference convened by the Government of India ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** The hon. members have seen that I attended the Conference of the Central Advisory Board of Public Health at Poona and the hon. members know that a Conference is not convened for submission of written statement. A conference is called for discussion of subjects relating to a particular matter. The purpose of such discussion is to formulate certain policy with a view to have a co-ordinated action. Our Government was asked to inform the conference about the effect of the Opium Prohibition Scheme and how it has effected the health of addicts in Assam—that was the main question concerning Assam.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think the Hon'ble Minister can do without making such a long statement. It will be far better if the Hon'ble Minister says that he will be able to place on the Library table a copy of the minutes of that conference, if there is any.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Only the other day I got a draft copy of the minutes for correction. This has since been returned. When the final copy reaches us the hon. member can see it.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Did the Hon'ble Minister keep a private note of his discussions ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When the minutes are finally published a copy will be placed on the Library table.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** Was it a Public Health Conference ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:**

The answer is there in the reply.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** Sir, the meaning of the questions is not clear to us. Is it that the Hon'ble Medical Minister should not have attended the Conference?

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The idea is this that if the Government cannot devote sufficient money for a particular purpose it is no use for officers of our Government to go to places like Simla and Bombay to attend conferences as no useful purpose can be served by going there. But if Hon'ble Ministers take part in these conferences and the province is incapable of finding the money for them, it is no use attending.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** May I be enlightened whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Labour visited Bombay in connection with labour matters and which officers of the Labour Department he saw there?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** While there I saw the Labour Commissioner, the Assistant Labour Commissioner and other officers of the Labour Department.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** Is it a fact that there was a meeting of the Muslim League there which the Hon'ble Minister attended?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** How did the Hon'ble Minister get time to see all these officers when he was attending the Muslim League meeting?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** I spent two full days to consult the officers of the Labour Department.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Has the Hon'ble Minister kept any note of these discussions?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Not in any note book but in my mind.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Can the Hon'ble Minister give us an idea as to what actually he discussed with them.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** This Government has under consideration a proposal for starting a Labour Office here, and as Bombay is the most advanced place in this respect I took an opportunity of visiting the Labour Office in Bombay.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** From the manner in which supplementary questions are being put to-day, I feel tempted to lay down certain principles for putting supplementary questions. One point that arises from the questions that have just now been put to the Hon'ble Minister should be impressed upon the House. Now, it appears that after the Hon'ble Minister had said that he went there in connection with public duty, the hon. member put certain questions to ascertain from him whether there was not a Muslim League meeting there at that time. Then further questions followed and the trend of those questions was to establish that the Hon'ble Minister went there not in connection with any public duty but in connection with the Muslim League meeting. I do not think that such questions are permissible. Questions for the purpose of establishing that he had some other motive are not at all permissible. After the hon. member asked whether there was a meeting of the Muslim League, and the Hon'ble Minister had replied that there was one, he should have been satisfied with that answer, leaving the whole matter to the House to draw its own inference as to the purpose of the tour. But in order to establish the fact that he did not go there on public duty but for the purpose of attending the Muslim



League meeting supplementary questions are not at all permissible. Members are to get informations. When informations have been supplied, to utilise those informations for further supplementary questions for the purpose of establishing a certain point of view during question hour on the floor of the House is not permissible.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** For the information of hon. members, I can mention that the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, is a member of the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League, and in connection with that, he had to go to Lahore, Delhi and other places but he has never charged a single pice, as travelling allowance for going to these places.

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister state why he was at Ramgarh on the 6th of September?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** I went there in connection with the Mass Literacy Campaign.

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY:** Was there a big meeting there?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** Yes, there was a big gathering there in which I gave out the plan and programme of the campaign.

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister state where he was on the 16th September?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** May I know why this question has been asked?

**BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY:** There was Municipal election at Sunamganj on that date.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** I shall have to search my diary, Sir.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** What was the purpose of the Hon'ble Premier's visit to Kumarkhati on the 18th of May?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Hon. members may remember that in the last Budget Session when I was pressed to solve the problem of settlement of land for the landless, I promised that I would make a personal enquiry visiting the different localities. In connection with that enquiry I had to go to Barpeta, Mangaldai, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur, but before I could go to Barpeta I had to attend a very important conference about jute production and restriction at Calcutta. So I deputed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to go to Barpeta, but on my return from Calcutta I undertook that tour. While going from Tezpur to North Lakhimpur, there was a question of some immigrants encroaching upon the grazing reserve there.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** What was the result of the Hon'ble Premier's inspection there? Did he see that the immigrants had really encroached on the grazing reserve there?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Both sides were present there—the Nepalīs as well as the Mymensinghīas. I ordered that those Mymensinghīas who had encroached on the grazing reserve should be asked to withdraw, but some of those people who had paid premium and occupied Government lands which had been washed away by the erosion of the Brahmaputra were allowed to remain there till some other land was made available for them.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Labour say whether he examined the conditions of Labour in Bombay?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** I visited several welfare centres started by Bombay Government in the city of Bombay.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Did the Hon'ble Minister make a comparison between Labour conditions in Assam and those in Bombay ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** I made a mental comparison.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** May I know whether he found the Labour conditions in Assam better or worse than those in Bombay ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** That is a matter of opinion.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** May I know what that opinion is ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** The hon. member is entitled to ask for information and not opinion.

### Schemes for the prevention of ordinary floods as well as reclamation of paddy lands

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** asked :

\*76. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If any suggestions or schemes were received by Government from public organisations or individuals in Cachar concerning the prevention of ordinary floods as well as reclamation of paddy lands ?
- (b) If so, what are the said suggestions or schemes ?
- (c) Whether any action has been taken or is any proposed to be taken on the same ?
- (d) Whether any official of Government visited the district to examine the said suggestions or schemes ?
- (e) Whether he met the authors of the schemes, if any, or representatives of public organisations offering suggestions or any members of the public for consultation ?
- (f) What were the places visited by him ?
- (g) What are his findings and suggestions ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** replied :

76. (a)—Twelve Schemes have been referred to the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division, some through the Chief Engineer and the rest direct by the applicants.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** My question was if any schemes were received from public organisations.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Some of the schemes were received, as I said, direct from the applicants themselves and they have been referred to the Executive Engineer, Drainage and Embankment Division.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Do any of these schemes refer to the Assam Valley ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** They only refer to the Cachar district alone.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

(b)—A list of all the Schemes in the Cachar district is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 76(b) asked by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda

*Schemes selected for surveys during 1940-41 in the Surma Valley (Cachar)*

Name of scheme	Rough cost of survey	Period required by one survey party	Expenditure during 1940-41	Expenditure during 1941-42
	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
<b>SILCHAR DISTRICT</b>				
<b>HAILAKANDI SUBDIVISION</b>				
1. Construction of a Bund across the Dara Khal and re-excavation of Pola near Hailakandi.	350	1 month	350	...
2. Construction of a Bund across the Jamarmia Khal near Lalabazar.	350	1 ,,	350	...
<b>SILCHAR SUBDIVISION</b>				
3. Removing the rocky barrier in the Ghogra river channel for the better drainage of Chatla Bil.	900	3 months	700	200

(c)—Of these, three schemes, Nos.1, 2 and 3 of the list of Schemes selected for surveys during 1940-41 in the Surma Valley, are under investigation. Preliminary enquiries have already been made and a detailed survey of the area affecting Scheme No.1 for Surma Valley, is in progress.

(d)—The Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division, has been twice to Hailakandi and once to Silchar, for enquiring into the proposals contained in the above three Schemes.

(e)—The Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division, during his visits, met the local people and also other persons who could be expected to give useful information on the subject.

(f)—The Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division, has been to Hailakandi, Lala Bazar and Chatla Bil area in connection with the preliminary investigation of the 3 Schemes.

(g)—It is as yet not possible for the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division, to come to a final decision regarding the best solution of the problems raised in the above three Schemes, because detailed surveys have just been started. On completion of the surveys, and after collection of necessary hydraulic data, plans and estimates for works will be prepared. Such plans and estimates for Schemes Nos.1 and 2 are expected to be completed in January, 1941. No.3 is a difficult problem dating back to 1916 and its solution may take longer time.

It has not been possible to take up any more Schemes in Cachar during this year, on account of limited staff and surveying instrument available to the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division. Selection of Schemes for survey during 1941-42 has not yet been finally made.

**Rates of tolls charged from pedestrians on the Public Works Department ferries in Cachar**

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** asked :

\*77. (a) Is it a fact that the tolls charged from pedestrians on the Public Works Department ferries in Cachar are double those charged on the Local Board ferries ?

(b) If so, why ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** replied :

77. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This proportion has been in force for many years, and is uniform throughout the Province, and Government see no reason why the district of Cachar should be treated differently from the rest of the Province.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** : On what lines were these tolls on the Public Works Department ferries made double those of the Local Board ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** : This is not an innovation. This practice is in force for the last 10 years.

Starred questions Nos. 78-79 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali were not put by the questioner.

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(to which answers were laid on the table)

**Proposal for the general election in the Sylhet Municipality**

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

68.(a) Do Government propose to have general election in the Sylhet Municipality at an early date ?

(b) If not, why not ?

69. Will Government be pleased to state if Babu Banawari Lal Das, a landlord of the Sylhet Town and the former Chairman of the Sylhet Municipality is a supporter of the present Cabinet ?

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

68.(a)—The period of supersession does not expire till February 1941. Government do not propose to shorten it to enable a general election to be held at an earlier date.

(b)—Because they see no adequate reason to do so.

69.—He is neither a supporter nor an opponent of the present Cabinet.

**Realisation of fines by the police from persons who serve imprisonment instead**

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

70. Is it a fact that fines are realised by the police from persons who serve imprisonment instead of paying fines according to the order of the Magistrate, who in his findings write that if fines are not paid, the persons convicted should serve the term of imprisonment ?

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

70.—The Court passing the sentence sometimes proceeds with recovery even though imprisonment in default of payment of the fine has been undergone. The law provides for such a course.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister which section of the Criminal Procedure Code provides imprisonment for non-payment of fine? May I know also whether the same section provides for payment of fine even after undergoing imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** : The hon. member's attention is invited to section 386 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know, whether a man can be pursued for an indefinite period for realisation of fine for which he suffered imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** : There is no time limit. It is left to the discretion of the Court passing the sentence.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it not a fact that Magistrates do not like to exercise their discretion by way of remission even after the accused suffer imprisonment?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** : So far as I can understand, it is within the discretion of the Court and they have to assign special reasons for proceeding in the realisation of fine after the imprisonment in default has been served.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know whether Government can come to the rescue of these unfortunate people?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : The hon. member can himself do so by bringing in a Bill for amending the Criminal Procedure Code.

### **Construction of a bund in Abuakhal near village Pirujpur under Sunamganj Police Station**

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

71. Do Government propose to enquire and state—

- (a) If it is a fact that there was a proposal in 1928-29 to have a bund in Abuakhal near village Pirujpur under the police station Sunamganj?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to take up the scheme for constructing this bund in the next dry season?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** replied :

71.(a)—No such proposal is traceable.

(b)—Three schemes have been selected for survey in Sunamganj subdivision and the question of bund in Abuakhal will be considered, when further selections are made for the next year.

**Number of documents registered in the permanently-settled districts**

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

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

- (i) The number of documents registered in the permanently-settled districts, in connection with the sale of occupancy rights by tenants in the year 1939-40 ?
- (ii) The number of documents registered in the permanently-settled districts in connection with abandonment of rights of lands by tenants, for arrear rent or past debts in the year 1939-40 ?
- (iii) The total registration fee received by Government in the year 1939-40 for the registration of aforesaid documents ?

**The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN** replied :

72.—The figures are given below :—

- (i)—10,032.
- (ii)—215.
- (iii)—Rs.12,169.

**Reduction of grazing tax on buffaloes in the Assam Valley**

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

73.(a) Are Government aware that the grazing tax on buffaloes is Rs. 3 per head in the Assam Valley and Re. 1 per head in the Surma Valley annually ?

(b) Do Government propose to reduce the grazing tax on buffaloes in the Assam Valley to Re. 1 per head as in the Surma Valley ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** replied :

73.(a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** : Is it because the buffaloes of the Assam Valley yield more milk or eat more grass ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : The hon. member is coming up with a resolution in the matter and the reasons will be fully explained in connection with that resolution.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH** : Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to reduce the rate ?

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

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH** : Will the Hon'ble Minister give the reasons ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : I have already said that the reasons will be given during the discussion of the resolution.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH** : Is there any chance of the resolution coming up at all.

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : I think so. As there are many identical resolutions, this one may get a chance.

### Splitting up of Barpeta Circle

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

74.(a) Are Government aware that the Barpeta Circle is too big for a single Sub-Deputy Collector to manage and that the Line Enquiry Committee also suggested in their report to split it up into two ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to split up the Circle ?

(c) If not, when do they propose to take such steps ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** replied :

74.(a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Provision is being made in next year's budget for increase of staff and addition to office accommodation at Barpeta, as the headquarters of the new Circle has not yet been decided. Whenever possible an extra Sub-Deputy Collector is always posted at Barpeta even now.

### Emergent meeting of the Dibrugarh Local Board in connection with the offer of Rs.10,000 to the Lakhimpur Fighter Plane Fund

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

75. Is it a fact that the Chairman, Dibrugarh Local Board, convened an emergent meeting of the Board, to declare, by a resolution, that Rs. 10,000 offered by the Board to the Lakhimpur Fighter Plane Fund as an appropriate charge on the Board fund ?

76. Is it a fact that the motion moved by the Chairman in that connection was opposed by a member of the Board present in the meeting and no vote was taken by the Chairman ?

77. Is it a fact that six members present in the meeting including two hon. members of this House, informed the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government that no vote was taken on the motion and as such the sense of the meeting could not be ascertained ?

78. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what action he took to remedy this constitutional anomaly ?

79. Is it a fact that Government issued orders to stop the payment of the amount but the Chairman made it over to the Deputy Commissioner, thus nullifying the order of Government ?

80.(a) Is it a fact that the said Local Board expressed its inability to take up a number of venture Lower Primary Schools for want of funds ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how the Board was able to make a gift of the amount under the circumstances, to the Lakhimpur Fighter Plane Fund ?

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

75.—Yes.

76.—There is an allegation to that effect.

77.—Yes.

78.—A report was called for.

79.—While calling for the report referred to in the reply to question 78, the Board was requested to withhold payment till disposal of the representation received but it appears that payment was made before receipt of the letter.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH**: In view of the answer given, will the Hon'ble Minister direct the Chairman of the Local Board to refund the amount paid to the Deputy Commissioner ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI**: The matter is under consideration. What will be the decision of the Government, I am not in a position to say now.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH**: Will not the *status quo* be maintained pending the investigation ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI**: Pending their decision the Government had asked the Chairman not to pay the amount, but later on the Government was informed that before receipt of the letter, the Chairman had already paid the amount to the authorities concerned.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH**: In view of the investigation made by the Hon'ble Minister, as I said, will he not now ask the Chairman to refund the amount ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI**: The matter is under enquiry now and the Government have not come to a decision as yet.

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

- 80.(a)—Government have no information, but are enquiring.  
(b)—Does not arise.

#### Settlement of a plot of land, free of rent, with one European in village Baikhangaon in the Sidli Estate

**Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV** asked :

81. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that a plot of land measuring about one thousand bighas had been settled sometime ago with one European, free of rent, in the village Baikhangaon in the Sidli Estate in the Sidli Police Station in the district of Goalpara ?
- (b) If it is a fact that the proprietor of the Estate, the Raja of Sidli, on whose behalf the Government is managing the Estate, has not been informed of the settlement ?
- (c) If it is a fact that the proprietor is seeking information on this subject in his repeated letters to the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara and that no information was supplied to him ?
- (d) If it is a fact that in previous cases of acquiring land for public purposes by the Government in the said Estate, the proprietor was allowed compensation by the Court of Law ?

82. Will Government be pleased to state why no permission was asked for by the Government from the proprietor for this free settlement ?

83. Is it a fact that some smaller existing settlements were cancelled to settle the said one thousand bighas of land with the said European ?



84. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware that the said European realises one rupee on each head of cattle from the owners for trespassing into his waste land ?
- (b) Whether the said European's land is not demarcated by any kind of boundary line, etc., from the adjoining *khas* waste land ?
- (c) Whether the adjoining *khas* land is used by the neighbouring villagers as pasture land ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** replied :

81.(a)—No : the land in question was settled with a Mission as a leper colony.

(b)—The Raja was not informed : Government do not propose to discuss in reply to a question the status of the Raja as proprietor.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—No : the Raja petitioned for this privilege in 1925, but it was not given except in cases where rent was previously paid for the land so acquired.

\***Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV** : Will Government state whether the land was settled free of rent ?

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

\***Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV** : What is the amount of rent realised ?

\***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : I cannot give it just now. I want notice.

\***Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV** : The answer to (b) is that the Raja was not informed. May I know why he was not informed ?

\***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : Because he is not the proprietor of the land.

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** replied :

82.—The Raja refused settlement of the Estate, and so it is now managed by Government.

83.—No.

84.(a) & (b)—Government have no information.

(c)—Yes.

### Renewal or cancellation of gun licenses in Nowgong district from January to October 1940

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA** asked :

85. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of gun licenses that have been cancelled or whose renewal has been refused in the district of Nowgong from January to October 1940 ?

(b) The kinds of guns together with the names and addresses of persons whose licenses have been so cancelled or the renewal so refused during that period ?

86. Is it a fact that in the beginning of this year, several guns of Juria and Laokhoa Mauzas, Nowgon, were seized without ascribing any reason to the owners ?

87. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, asked owners of the guns so seized, to appear before him on the 29th April 1940 to refute allegations, if any, against them ?

88. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner cancelled the licenses and confiscated the guns of several persons by his order dated the 9th April 1940 and that he did so *ex parte* and without giving a hearing as promised ?

89. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The reasons of not renewing the licenses or of cancelling the same in each of these cases and on whose reports orders were passed by the Deputy Commissioner ?

(b) If the Deputy Commissioner enquired into the allegations against each of the gun owners and satisfied himself about the truth of the same ?

90. Is it a fact that almost all the persons whose licenses for guns were not renewed, prayed to the Deputy Commissioner to make a personal enquiry into the matter to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the allegations against them ?

91. Is it a fact that guns were given to those persons for protection of crops of the villages to which they belong ?

92. Is it a fact that their villages are in the neighbourhood of game reserves and are frequented by wild animals damaging the crops and killing cattle of the villages ?

93. Is it a fact that after the seizure or confiscation of the guns, no preventive measures have been adopted by the authorities in those villages concerned ?

94. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of returning the guns to the owners ?

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

85.(a)—Thirteen licenses were not renewed in this period and therefore cancelled.

(b)—The particulars are given in the list below :—

*List showing the names of gun-holders with their addresses and kinds of guns*

Name and address of gun-holders	Kind of guns
1. Yakubali, Vill.—Kaliadonga, Mouza—Juria.	D. B. B. L.
2. Ratiram Das, Vill.—Lalunggaon, Mouza— Juria.	S. B. B. L.
3. Mamud Ali, Vill.—Fotaljar, Mouza— Laokhowa.	D. B. B. L.
4. Munshi Abbul Mandal, Vill.—Salpara, Mouza—Laokhowa.	D. B. B. L.
5. Govinda Sikdar, Vill.—Kanchanpur, Mouza—Laokhowa.	S, B, M, L,

Name and address of gun-holders			Kind of guns
6.	Lahor Sekh, Laokhowa.	Vill.—Fotaljar, Mouza—	D. B. B. L.
7.	Abbas Ali, Laokhowa.	Vill.—Salpara, Mouza—	D. B. B. L.
8.	Hamed Ali, Juria.	Vill.—Telonipar, Mouza—	S. B. M. L.

86.—Eighteen guns were seized at the time of examining licenses for renewal.

87.—No.

88.—All the owners were given the opportunity of showing cause against cancellation of their licenses, and all did so. The licenses were cancelled in the eight instances given in reply to question 85(b).

89.(a)—It was reported by the Divisional Forest Officer that the persons concerned were habitual poachers in the Laokhowa game sanctuary.

(b)—The Deputy Commissioner considered the Divisional Forest Officer's report, which was in detail, and the representation of the owner in each case.

90.—No.

91.—Yes.

92.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. There has however been no subsequent report of damage from wild animals.

93.—No need for special preventive measures has arisen, and there are still many guns in these villages.

94.—Government do not propose to interfere. The owners may represent their case to the Deputy Commissioner and demonstrate any need for crop protection licenses which may exist, with such guarantees against the repetition of abuse as they can afford.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I rise on a point of order, Sir. In reply to my supplementary question to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister under unstarred question No.73\* regarding the grazing tax on buffaloes in the Assam Valley, the Hon'ble Minister said that he was not prepared to consider the question of reduction of tax to the Surma Valley level. When I put a further question to him asking for the reasons, he replied that the reasons would be given in the course of the discussion of the resolution which has been tabled by the hon. member who originally asked the question. Knowing it for a certainty that there is no chance of the resolution coming up for discussion, I want to know if it is proper for the Hon'ble Minister to withhold giving a reply basing it on an assumption which he knows will not materialise?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It may be that many resolutions may not be moved.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The number of this resolution is 20.

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** This resolution has got a higher place on account of the repetition of some other resolutions.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** I should like, Sir, to start a discussion on this point.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** All right, I will fix some time.

**Adjournment motion regarding illegal demand and realisation of subscriptions from the villagers within Jringam Eleka of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District as remuneration by the Census Enumerators and Supervisors.**

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Mr. Speaker Sir. I gave notice of an adjournment motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, the hon. member can go on.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** I beg leave of the House to move: "That the House do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent origin namely illegal demand and realisation of subscriptions from the villagers within Jringam Eleka, Khasi and Jaintia Hills District, as remuneration by the Census Enumerators and Supervisors."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is Jringam Eleka within the British area?

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Yes, Sir, it falls just outside the boundary of the Kamrup district and adjacent to my constituency.

Sir, this is an important matter because the Census Operation has already begun. The Central Government has been financing the Census Operation and the Enumerators and the Supervisors have also been appointed by the Census Department. If these Enumerators and Supervisors take recourse to such an illegal course of realising money from the people, then people will be very much harassed and put to difficulty. Moreover this locality is a most backward locality inhabited by Tribal people like Garos and Khasis. They are ignorant people and these Enumerators and Supervisors are taking advantage of their ignorance and harrasing them. I have been told that they are realising subscription at the rate of annas four per family. I understand they have brought this matter to the notice of the Government and the Deputy Commissioner of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, but they have not taken any steps in regard to this matter. I think, Sir, this is a most urgent and important matter and of recent origin and at the same time of continuing occurrence.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the Hon'ble Minister got to say anything?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am not quite sure whether we can discuss this matter because I doubt whether this area is an 'included area'.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Yes, Sir, it is an 'included area'.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY:** Jringam Eleka is within the 'partially excluded area'.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Is it not within a State?

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY:** It is within the 'partially excluded area' and within the British area.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am glad for the information which my hon. friend Mr. Nichols-Roy has given. Sir, it has been alleged to be of recent occurrence but we have not received any such report up till now. It is needless for me to say that Government never encouraged or instructed these officers to make illegal exactions and in the first place he has not submitted any facts before the House to show that he could not bring this motion at an earlier date. He has also not given us any material up till now that he approached Government and that Government did not take any action in the matter.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** He said that some representations were made.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** To whom the representation was made ?

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** One representation was made to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Deputy Commissioner was also informed. The people are here in Shillong and I am sure they will come and say this. I can prove that these Enumerators and Supervisors are responsible for realising money illegally from the Garo villages such as Rangapara, etc. Money was also realised from some Khasi village such as Nongvolar etc. They are unnecessarily harassing people and if serious steps are not taken now to stop this the situation may take a different turn. Incidentally I also like to mention that in Tezpur Subdivision the Nepalis have declared that British Raj is over. (*laughter*)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should not have mentioned this.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** I am mentioning it incidentally.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My hon. friend definitely says that a representation has been sent to me but up till now I have not received it. It may be lying in the Secretariat and it has not yet been put up to me. It appears that my hon. friend is ready with his client outside and as such I think he might have got a copy of the representation. If he can hand it over to me, I will take immediate steps in regard to this matter. This is the first time I have come to know of this and I am prepared to take action.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is the hon. member satisfied ?

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Yes, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As the hon. member is not going to press his motion, it is not necessary for me to decide if the motion is in order for the purpose of my giving consent to it.

#### Motion *re* the Abolition of the Assam Legislative Council

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take proper and adequate steps for the abolition of the Assam Legislative Council (Upper Chamber)."

Sir, the subject matter of this motion is not at all new to this House. More than once the subject was discussed by way of cut motions, but no regular discussion was held in the form of any resolution or motion. The Hon'ble Premier in connection with a cut motion tabled by Mr. Mahadev Sarma in the last Budget Session said, "if the hon. member (Srijut Mahadev Sarma) wants to discuss this matter, it should not be by way of a cut motion but by way of a resolution when it can be discussed in detail". After this statement of the hon'ble Premier, I have tabled this motion. I hope by this time the Hon'ble Premier has consulted his Colleagues in the Cabinet on this matter.

Sir, the Hon'ble Premier further said that an attempt to influence the decision of the British Government about abolition of the Assam Legislative Council at the present juncture will be knocking against a stone-wall. I realise the force of his argument, but circumstances have taken such a shape that a decision of this House about abolition of the Upper Chamber has become absolutely necessary. The decision will have some worth at least.

Sir, the House of Elders in Assam is composed of the representatives of Zemindars and Mahajans and has unfortunately proved to be a stumbling block on the way of progress and advancement and opposed to all beneficial measures. The Government of India Act of 1935 gives the Upper Chamber ample and unlimited power so far as Bills are concerned. It can delay the passing of Bills into law only when it so desires. Many of the popular measures were refused consideration by the Upper Chamber and were thrown out simply because they sought to give relief to the poor and to those who are not Zemindars and Mahajans. For instance, I may mention here the name of the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill. Two times the Upper Chamber has flouted out the decision of this House. By doing this the Upper Chamber has frustrated the main object of the Bill and has delayed its passing into law. The Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill is another glaring instance. Some two years back this Bill was passed by this House with a view to give some immediate relief to the poor debtor class who compose not less than 95 per cent. of the peasants. But the unambiguous decision of this House on this important Bill was most cruelly turned down by the House of so-called aristocrats. The importance of passing the Bill into law was not recognised by the Upper House at all. If they had agreed with the decision of this House, the economic condition of the peasants would have been otherwise.

In connection with the working of the Debt Conciliation Board, Sunamganj, I come in contact with hundreds of peasants every day. The only cry with them is "when the Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill will come into operation in the form of an Act"? I found, Sir, almost every peasant debtor had become landless for the sake of his debt. In some cases double or treble of the capital has been repaid, but still a large amount remains to be paid. The life-blood of the peasants is being continuously and systematically sucked by the lazy and unworking wasters like 'Mahajans'. Instances can be cited where some Mahajans have out-Shylocked Shylock by their way of money lending. We have passed the Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill for the second time the other day, but from the most unsympathetic attitude shown by the Upper Chamber towards this Bill, I can safely presume that the House of Elders will undoubtedly turn down the decision of this House again. The rejection of the Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees Bill by the Upper House is only another fresh instance as to how the Upper House treats with measures beneficial to the peasants passed by this House. The peasants who are the backbone of the nation can expect no sympathy from that House though there are some hon. members of that House who feel deeply for them. In view of these facts, Sir, this stumbling rock on the way of advancement and progress should not be allowed to continue any more and be removed as early as possible. I do not want that there should be any other House in Assam that will have control over what is done by this House, the representative House of the tillers of the soil of the province.

The Upper Chamber is unwanted in Assam. The previous Legislative Council negatived the motion tabled by Rai Bahadur Brindaban Chandra Goswami for the establishment of an Upper House in this Province. It was forced as a luxury upon the poor and overburdened province of ours whose income is a little above two crores and whose population is not even a crore. From the attitude shown by the Upper Chamber up till now, towards the decision of this House on popular measures, it can be said that no Bill either official or non-official, seeking to give relief to the poor peasants, can be passed without having a Joint Session of the Legislature which is an expensive

business and renders the province poorer for no gains to the peasants. We have the experience of one Joint Session in connection with the Agricultural Income-tax Bill and we are told that by the grace of the unbending attitude of the Upper Chamber we shall have more.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** It is very doubtful whether the hon. member can criticise the action of the other House. It is not Parliamentary to criticise on the floor of this House the action of any members of the Upper House. Whatever the hon. member may have to say with regard to the existence of the Upper House, he should not bring in the action of the Upper House and criticise it on the floor of this House.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :**  
Sir, I have briefly stated the object of my motion. My idea is not to show any sort of disrespect towards the honourable members of that House. I can now rightly claim support on the motion under discussion from all sides of this House. The view of the Congress Party was clearly expressed more than once on the floor of this House. The Hon'ble Premier, so far as I know, is also not in favour of retaining such a useless institution like the Upper Chamber. From our painful experiences of the past, referred to above, it is my clear conviction that until the unwanted Upper House is abolished, it will be extremely difficult to bring any popular measure into operation ; the sooner it is abolished, the better for the peasants whom the Mahajans are daily crushing under the wheel of the heavy car of their wonderfully exploiting system of money lending. I have simply opened the discussion with a hope that more competent friends will do justice to it. With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

“That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take proper and adequate steps for the abolition of the Assam Legislative Council (Second Chamber)”.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. The opinion of the country as to the proposal of abolition of the Upper Chamber contained in this motion is clear and unambiguous. Country's opinion for its abolition was given several times prior to this. I myself moved a motion to the same effect as early as 30th August, 1937, which for want of time could not be discussed and finally lapsed. Of course the then Premier objected to the moving of the motion on the ground of legal difficulties, but you were pleased to allow me to move it which I did, and in support of which I put forward certain reasons which I think still hold good.

The Second Chamber was given to Assam mainly with a view to check hasty legislation by this Assembly and also to endorse the Governor's exercise of special powers to veto such legislation. It was then apprehended that there would be quite a lot of young men in this House, inexperienced in politics and with less knowledge of legislative works and so there would be necessity of an Upper Chamber consisting of veteran politicians who would be able to give the necessary check to any hasty action by this Assembly and give them time and opportunity to revise their views. From the workings of this Assembly, however, during these three and half years and also going further behind if we consider the workings of the last Reformed Council, it is

clear that His Excellency the Governor had few occasions to veto Bills passed by this Assembly or by the last Reformed Council. So these apprehensions that this Assembly would consist of inexperienced legislators are without ground. Now this Assembly, as it appears, is a well representative body. It has representatives of almost all communities and interests. On the other hand the Upper Chamber is a body in which scheduled castes, the tribal or the labour are not represented; commercial interests, planting and mining are also not represented. The Hindus and Muhammadans in the Upper House are almost in the same proportion as in this Assembly. The only difference is that Europeans have one seat in this House whereas they have two seats in the Upper Chamber. That is the only difference, but as there are European planting members here, I think this Assembly can well be said to represent the European interest sufficiently. On that ground, I think, this Assembly is more representative of the people than the Upper Chamber. In some respects it appears to be a duplication of this Chamber in a miniature scale and in others it appears to be a hindrance to the workings of this Assembly. There are signs—there are indications of competition for wielding power. It may be said that the Upper Chamber which consists of only 22 members has been given unduly greater power, inasmuch as they have got the power to reject or amend Bills passed by this Assembly. It is not fair. We saw what classes of people fought for seats in this Assembly and also for the Upper Chamber. Some of the best men of the Province have fought for seats in this Assembly and avoided to contest seats in the Upper Chamber. So there is no apprehension that this Assembly is not or will not be representative of men of experience and excellent calibre. Another reason why the Upper Chamber should be abolished is that save and except the power of rejecting or amending a Bill, it has no direct or indirect power of doing any real good to the people of the Province.

The matter of cost involved in the Upper Chamber has already been dealt with by my hon. friend, the mover, so I need not dilate upon that. But I must say that in a Province like Assam where more useful works of public benefit are awaiting for want of money we should not indulge in having a Second Chamber. By constant rejection and amendment of the Bills passed by this Assembly, there has been an increase of discontent in the minds of the hon. members of this House. Because of the existence of the Upper Chamber the sense of responsibility in the members of this Assembly is not likely to be what it should be otherwise. With very frequent disagreement between the members of this Assembly and those of the Upper Chamber, the members of this House find it very difficult to work with fervour and zeal. For these reasons amongst other grounds, I think, we should not have a Second Chamber in Assam. With these words, I support the motion.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the views of myself and some of my hon. Colleagues about the Upper Chamber is well-known in this House, for, on more than one occasion, I have stated it in unequivocal terms. I have stated in an earlier debate, probably in 1937, that so long as I was the Vice-President of the Executive Council, that is till March 1934, the Assam Government expressed the opinion to the higher authorities, that there was no room for a Second Chamber in this Province at all. Since then, the matter remained in abeyance. While the Government of India Bill was being discussed in the Houses of Parliament, it was thought that a Second Chamber was necessary for the Province of Assam for safeguarding the interests of the landed gentry, as



two districts were under Permanent settlement. On hasty reference, the Government of Assam and the then Members of the Executive Council and the Ministry in 1935 gave the opinion that a Second Chamber should be established for Assam. On that, I find from old proceedings, there was an adjournment motion in the then Council which was thoroughly discussed. The adjournment motion was to the effect that the Government be censured for agreeing to the establishment of a Second Chamber without consulting the Legislature. That adjournment motion was defeated by a narrow margin of votes. My Hon'ble Colleague, the present Revenue Minister, had also tabled a resolution to the same effect; but, probably, seeing the verdict of the then House, he refused to make the motion. My Hon'ble Colleague, the Agriculture Minister was then vehement in protesting the withdrawal of this resolution as thereby a discussion on the floor of the House was shut out. That clearly shows that he too was of opinion that Assam need not have the luxury of a Second Chamber. My hon. friend Srijut Kameswar Das brought a resolution in 1937, and he has just mentioned that I opposed that resolution on a technical ground. Although I am personally of the opinion that there is no necessity for a Second Chamber, now that I am a Minister of the Assam Government, I find that by Act and its provisions my hands are tied. I refer to section 308 of the Constitution Act. Hon. members will find that under sub-section (1) of that section, the moving of a resolution of this nature is left to the Council of Ministers. But, at the same time, by sub-section (3), it has been explicitly laid down that no such resolution can be moved before the expiration of ten years from the commencement of Part III of this Act. Therefore, although on the one hand under sub-section (1) the Council of Ministers have been given the power to move a resolution of this nature for recommending the abolition of the Second Chamber, under sub-section (3) the hands of the Ministry are unable to move in that direction for ten years. We cannot move for the first ten years of the commencement of Part III. All I need say at this present juncture is that in spite of the technical objection, that was raised by me and though objections were raised by two hon. members, you, Sir, were pleased to hold that the provisions of section 308 do not debar any hon. member from moving such a resolution. We bowed down to your ruling. But unfortunately Srijut Kameswar Das's resolution was not discussed to an end. All I need say now is that the views of this House, if they are expressed on the matter, will be forwarded to the higher authorities. But I am afraid the shape that has been given to this motion is rather vague. Beyond expressing the opinion of the House there is no mention of the procedure to be followed. A specific procedure is laid down in section 308, *i.e.*, an Address has to be submitted to His Excellency who will be requested to forward it to His Majesty the King Emperor. But in the present motion no such mention has been made. Even then the opinion of the House, as expressed in the proceedings of this debate, will be forwarded to the higher authorities.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury for allowing an opportunity to this House to discuss a matter of all-absorbing interest to the province. Sir, barring a limited number of vested interests, the whole province of Assam was against the imposition of this expenditure for maintaining an Upper House in this small and poor province. I think, many hon. members who figured in the last election know that all the political parties of Assam agreed that the members who would enter the Provincial Legislature would try their best for the abolition of the Upper Chamber

which was imposed on us by the British Parliament, against overwhelmingly large volume of public opinion.

Sir, we watched how the Upper Chamber worked here, but from our experience we find how difficult it is to enact any popular legislation. Without discussing the merits and demerits of the actions of the hon. members of the Upper Chamber, I cannot check the temptation of saying this much that this House is a great drag-down.

Sir, the hon. members know through what throes the Agricultural Income-tax Bill—a measure to recoupe the depleted finance of the province—a measure to apportion the burden of administration of this province on the rich and the poor on an equitable basis, had to pass.

Secondly, urged by thousand tenants of the Sylhet town my hon. friend Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy moved a Bill, *viz.*, the Sylhet Town Land Tenancy Bill about three years ago. Three long years have passed by, but we have not yet seen it through. The Bill is now in the grips of the Upper House, and I am entertaining honest doubts whether that measure will in the near future see the light of day.

Thirdly, Sir, the hon. members know the fate of the Money-lenders' Bill. Only the other day this Bill was kicked to us by the Upper House.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is the expression used by the hon. member? Did the hon. member used the word 'kick'?

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Yes, Sir, I used the word, but I think, it may be unparliamentary. So, I would use the word 'hurl'. Sir, this Bill was hurled to us by the Upper House and we have again hurled it back to them.

Sir, it is a plain fact that it is one of the innumerable acts of British Government to perpetuate its imperialistic rule in this country. It is one of the acts for stifling popular opinion with the help of a limited number of vested interests. The policy, I feel bound to say, is anti-democratic. It is high time now that the British Government, which have been declaring every day that they are supporters of democracy should prove to the world that they are so by abolishing the Upper Chamber. Only yesterday I heard my hon. friend Mr. Blennerhassett (he is not here now) to declare with all the emphasis at his command that the British people are fighting for saving democracy, for saving civilisation. He declared this with all the force that his stout lungs could give out; well, Sir, if he is really sincere in his announcement and if his party share the same view with him, which I hope they do, they will support this motion.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, মই এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থ কৰো। যি বিলাক যুক্তিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কৰো, মই বিশ্বাস কৰো, এই সভাত মোৰ লগৰীয়া বন্ধুসকলে সেই বিলাক যুক্তি আগেয়ে কেইবাবাৰো ডাক্তি ধৰা শুনিছে। বিষয়ৰ যুক্তিযুক্ততা আৰু ইয়াৰ আৱশ্যকতা অৱূৰ কৰি মই মোৰ মতামত নাৰবে প্ৰকাশ নকৰি দুটামান মাথোন ভাষাবে মোৰ কৰ্তব্য পালন কৰিবলৈ থিয় গৈছো। মই ভাবো যে এই বিষয়ত কোনো নতুন যুক্তিৰ অৱতৰণা কৰি ইয়াৰ নতুন গঢ় দিব পাৰিম। আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই এই প্রস্তাবৰ প্ৰকৃততে যেনেকুৱা গঢ় হব লাগিছিল, ঠিক তেনেকুৱা গঢ় নোহোৱাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পক্ষে এই বিষয়ে কাৰ্য্য

কৰিবলৈ অসুবিধা হৈছে বুলি যি আশংকা কৰিছে, সেই আশংকা যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ সহিত সেইটো আমি জানো। কিন্তু মই আশা কৰো যে যি কোনো খুঁত বা ত্রুটি এই প্ৰস্তাৱত বৈছে, সেই ত্রুটিৰ সংশোধন কৰা আৰু কি ভাৱে দিলে প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে কাৰ্য্যকৰী হ'ব সেই ভাৱে এতিয়া গতি লোৱা মোৰ বিশ্বাস অতি আৱশ্যকীয় আৰু প্ৰয়োজনীয়। কাৰণ, আমাৰ বিষয়ত আমাৰ এই সভাত কোনো দলৰে বিৰোধ বিশেষ নাই। আমাৰ নিচিনা এখন দুখীয়া দেশত—আমাৰ নিচিনা এখন সৰু দেশত, যি দেশত আমাৰ ৰাজনৈতিক পৰিস্থিতিত জটিল বিষয় নাই, সেই দেশত Upper House (উচ্চ পৰিষদ) আমাৰ পক্ষে যে এটা বিলাসতাৰ বস্তু, আৰু যি যে আমাৰ পক্ষে এটা নিতান্ত অপ্ৰয়োজনীয় আৰু আমাৰ পক্ষে যে সি এটা বোজা স্বৰূপ, এইটো সকলোৰে অনুভৱ কৰিছে আৰু এই বিষয়ে আমি প্ৰায় সকলোৰেই একমত। সেই কাৰণে কি প্ৰকৃত উপায় অবলম্বন কৰিলে আমাৰ ওপৰত অন্যান্য ৰকমে দিয়া বোজা আঁতৰ হয়, সেইটো কৰা সকলোৰে কৰ্তব্য। প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা এইটো পৰিষ্কাৰ ভাবে ওলাইছে যে Second Chamber বা Upper House (উচ্চ পৰিষদ) যি বোজা আমাক দিছে, এইটো প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে আমাৰ দেশৰ সেই সময়ৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিচাৰা নাছিল। আনকি আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত যে Second Chamber (উচ্চ পৰিষদ) আৱশ্যকতা আছে এইটো কথা Simon Commissionৰ ৰিপোৰ্টতো নাই। একে বাবে শেষত পাৰ্লামেণ্টৰ আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত স্বাৰ্থ জড়িত দলে হয়তো বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্ণধাৰ সকলক হেঁচা দিয়াতহে এই পৰিষদ আমাৰ ইয়াতলৈ আহিল। কাৰণেই সেই সময়ত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ জনসাধাৰণে সিবিলাকৰ প্ৰকৃত মনোভাব public opinion প্ৰকাশ কৰিবৰ কোনো সুযোগ নাপালে; আৰু আপোনা সকলে জানে যি মুহূৰ্ত্তে এই প্ৰদেশৰ লোকে এই বিষয়ে প্ৰথম ৰাজহুৱা মতামত প্ৰকাশ কৰিবৰ সুযোগ পালে, সেই মুহূৰ্ত্তৰ পৰাই এই Upper House (উচ্চ পৰিষদ) বিষয়ে বিৰোধিতা প্ৰকাশ কৰি আহিছে। অকল এই ব্যৱস্থা পৰিষদৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলেই ইয়াত আপত্তি কৰা নাই—ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও অন্যান্য ৰাজহুৱা সভা সমিতি বিলাক বা ৰাজহুৱা অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকৰ পৰাও এই উচ্চ পৰিষদ যে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ পক্ষে নিতান্ত অলাগতিমান, অপ্ৰয়োজনীয় আৰু অনৰ্থক ব্যয়বহুল এটা অনুষ্ঠান, এই বিষয়ে মতামত প্ৰকাশ কৰি আহিছে। জনপ্ৰিয় কোনো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এনে ধৰণৰ যুক্তিযুক্ত মতামত কেতিয়াও দলিয়াই পেলোৱা উচিত নহয়। সেই কাৰণে, এই যে প্ৰস্তাৱ আমাৰ আগত ডাঙি ধৰিছে সেইটোক কি ভাবে গঢ় দিলে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কাৰ্য্য কৰিবলৈ অসুবিধা হয় আৰু আমাৰ উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি হয় তাৰ এটা বাট উলিয়াবলৈ মই তেখেতক অসুৰোধ কৰো। বেচি বাহুল্য কথা টেক আপোনা সকলৰ সময় ল'ব নোখোজো। কিন্তু এইটো নটক নোৱাৰো যে কেইজনমানৰ স্বাৰ্থ ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে বা কোনো দলৰ অসুবিধাৰ কাৰণে এনে এটা ব্যয়বহুল অনুষ্ঠান—যি অনুষ্ঠানে দেশৰ ৰাজহুৱা মত পদদলিত কৰিবৰ চেষ্টা সমৰ্থন কৰে, তেনে এটা অনুষ্ঠানৰ বিৰোধিতা নকৰা আমাৰ পক্ষে অন্যান্য হ'ব; আৰু সেই ভাৱৰ পৰাই এনে এটা পৰিষদৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰো। নীতি হিচাপে সি ৰাজহুৱা মতৰ বিপক্ষে যাবৰ চেষ্টাত

সদস্য থাকে ; নতুবা দ্বিতীয় পৰিষদৰ অন্য উপযোগীতা বা প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা একো দেখা নাযায়। যি বিলাক যুক্তিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি এনে এটা উচ্চ পৰিষদৰ বিধান কৰা হৈছে, তাত পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰি লেখা হৈছে যে নিম্ন পৰিষদৰ লোকসকলে কোনো সময়ত নিজৰ ভাবৰ প্ৰেৰণাত কোনো কাম কৰি পেলালে, তাক ব্যৰ্থ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বা তাত বাধা জন্মাবৰ কাৰণ এই উচ্চ পৰিষদৰ সৃষ্টি কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু সৰ্ব্বসাধাৰণে বা গণতন্ত্ৰমূলক মনোভাব লৈ যি সকলে দেশৰ শাসন চলাবলৈ ইচ্ছুক, তেওঁবিলাকে গণতান্ত্ৰিক মনোভাবৰ লগত এই উচ্চ পৰিষদৰ অস্তিত্ব স্বীকাৰ কৰিবলৈ ভাল নাপায়। মোৰ বিশ্বাস, এই বিলাক যুক্তিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি আমাৰ এই সভাই এই উচ্চ পৰিষদৰ অস্তিত্ব লোপ কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছুক। যে হেতু স্থাপন কৰিবৰ সময়ত আমাৰ প্ৰজাসকলে প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিবলৈ বা বিৰোধিতা কৰিবলৈ সুযোগ নাপালে, এতিয়া আমি আশানকৰা বিধান বিলাকে যিমানেই আমাৰ হাত ভৰি নাবান্ধক, মই বিশ্বাস কৰো, বক্তৃতাৰ জৰিয়তে আমাৰ বিৰোধিতা প্ৰকাশ কৰিবৰ যি সুযোগ, সেই সুযোগ আমি লৈছোঁ। মই অনুৰোধ কৰো যে এনে এটা পস্থা উলিওৱা হওক, যি পস্থাৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে উচ্চ পৰিষদ উঠি যায় আৰু আমাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ যেন গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়।

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. Sir, so far as I remember, the Upper Chamber was thrust upon the people against their will. I remember, when I was a boy of the college, this motion was discussed before the old Legislative Council and was defeated. That means that the members disapproved the idea of having an Upper Chamber in Assam. Now we have come here with enlarged franchise and we are expressing from the very beginning of this Assembly and in every session in some way or other, our opinion that the Upper Chamber is creating difficulties by impeding all popular measures in Assam. Sir, it may be argued by the European group, and it has been urged by some members, that to check hasty legislation this Upper Chamber was introduced. May I ask those hon. members whether our Hon'ble Premier, our Hon'ble Ministers, and our I. C. S. Secretaries are so inefficient as to allow such hasty legislation to be introduced and to be passed in this Assembly. I do not think, and I do not consider for a moment, that they will allow such legislation to be introduced which will not be for the improvement of our masses.

As regards the other point my hon. friend has already explained before the House that for the existence of this Upper Chamber we have not up till now been able to give any benefit to the general masses and that instead of giving any benefit to our general masses what are we doing? We are spending for the existence of this Upper Chamber about Rs. 46,451 annually from public exchequer. And I would like to request the Hon'ble Premier that as the Upper Chamber was forced upon this Province against the wishes of the people of Assam, he will take special steps to represent our wishes to His Majesty the King Emperor.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that so many hon. members have supported my motion, and I am thankful to the hon. members for their support. I have got only to say a few words about what the Hon'ble Premier has said. The Hon'ble Premier has pointed out some defects in my motion. So far as I understand, the words "Proper and adequate" cover all technicalities. If it is that these words do not cover the technicality pointed out by the Hon'ble Premier I am willing to alter the motion as suggested by the Hon'ble Premier.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member may refer to the ruling which I gave on the subject in which I pointed out the way in which this matter may be dealt with. I refer to sub-section (4) of section 308 in which it is stated that at any time the Parliament can take up this question, and I think that if the Government think it necessary to take action on the basis of this resolution they can do so, because in sub-section (4) hon. members will find that so far as the Parliament is concerned there is no time limit and even before ten years they can consider the question of abolishing the Assam Legislative Council.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I again thank hon. members for the support they have given to my motion.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I mentioned about provision of section 308, but none of the hon. members who spoke has shown how in my capacity as Prime Minister I can do anything in this matter. If the House gives its verdict, we will send it to the higher authority without any recommendation from the Ministry because we cannot move in the matter within ten years. But we will submit it to His Excellency under sub-section (1), and it will be at the discretion of His Excellency to send it to His Majesty or not.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take proper and adequate steps for the abolition of the Assam Legislative Council (Second Chamber)."

The motion was adopted—dissentient voice of "Noes" came from the European Group only.

#### **The Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda**

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submitted on the last occasion that with a view to accelerate matters, and in deference to the wishes of my party I have decided to withdraw my Bill.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As I have not put the motion, the motion may be considered to be withdrawn.

#### **The Assam Temple Entry Bill, 1940, by Srijut Ghanashyam Das**

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Temple Entry Bill, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

I would like to change some names here, and from my party I suggest the names of Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora, Babu Akshay Kumar Das, Srijut Beli Ram Das, Babu Balaram Sircar, and the mover, and I request the Government side to mention the names of four members from their side.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I do not exactly follow what the hon. member means.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** In that case I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

1. Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi,
2. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
3. Srijut Beliram Das,
4. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev,
5. Babu Akshay Kumar Das,
6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia,
7. Srijut Dhirsing Deuri,
8. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari,
9. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
10. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education,
11. And the mover.

Five members to form a quorum.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Was not the Leader of the Party consulted?

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** Sir, there is a suggestion to include the name of Mr. Bideshi Pan Tanti.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** I accept the name in place of the Hon'ble Dr. Saikia (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Sir, I also do not like to sit on the Committee as a member.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** Sir, the Bill was sent for opinion and the volume of opinions is before the House. It will be found that the majority of the opinions are in favour of the Bill.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is 4 P.M. now. We are exceeding the usual time of sitting. We shall take up this matter the next day.

**Discussion on starred question No. 75 relating to the tour of the Hon'ble Ministers put and answered during the question hour of the day**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Mr. Debeswar Sarmah is to start a discussion on the answer given to starred question No. 75\*. The hon. member will please state definitely the matter which he wants to discuss.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMA:** Sir, in view of the fact that, even though an incorrect statement has been made, we on this side are as much anxious to maintain the dignity of the Hon'ble Ministers, as anybody else, we have thought over the matter and have come to the conclusion that a discussion like this is not likely to be a happy one. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I forego the discussion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am really happy that the hon. member has realised the position. I pointed out the rule. I quite realise that it was not possible for the hon. member to think of the advisability or otherwise of such a discussion at the time he came forward with the request that a discussion should be started. I am very glad that he has understood the position and is not going to start a discussion.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 16th November, 1940.

\*See Page 1361.