

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A. M., on Tuesday, the 1st April, 1947.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, eight Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-eight Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

(Starred Question No. 65 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed was absent.)

Chaulkhoa Bridge in Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

*66. (a) Is it a fact that the Chaulkhoa Bridge in Barpeta Subdivision was constructed from the loan fund received from the Central Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that the aforesaid loan was written off by the Central Government with the inauguration of the 1935 Constitution ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to abolish the toll, now levied on the Chaulkhoa bridge ?

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

66. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The bridge may perhaps be made toll-free when the receipts will cover the expenditure incurred for its construction. This matter will be considered by Government in time.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY : Sir, the cost of the bridge was met from the Central Government fund which was already written off. Then what justification is there for the Assam Government to continue the toll ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The fact of the matter was that this Government had paid some amount of money to repay the loan that was taken from the Government of India and the amount that had been wiped out was only the balance of the amount that was remaining from the loan. There was also a certain amount that was paid as interest for the loan that was taken from the Government of India. The amount repaid together with the interest came to a considerable amount.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: The reply to my Question No. 66(a) is 'yes'. Then how the question can now come in that the Assam Government also contributed some money for the construction of this bridge ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The bridge was constructed from the loan that was taken specially for this purpose and the Government of Assam did not contribute anything for the bridge from its coffers. But the Assam Government had to re-pay a certain amount of the loan before the balance was wiped out.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: In the last Budget Session the reply was that Government had already realised Rs. 96,384 from the toll of the bridge. Then how long will it take to make the bridge free from the toll ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That will have to be calculated. Moreover, there is another point to be considered and that is that the Provincial Government is empowered to impose tolls on any bridge irrespective of the cost or realisation of the amount spent on it. It is for the Finance Department to say whether they are willing to lose this amount of money to be realised from the tolls of this bridge.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Will the Public Works Department refer the matter to the Finance Department for consideration ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That question will be considered in time.

†**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the money that was taken from the Central Government was only for the Chaukhua bridge or for some other bridges ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The loan was taken for certain major bridges, and this bridge was constructed from that loan.

Present Extra Assistant Commissioner of Garo Hills

Mr. MANIRAM MARAK asked :

*67. (a) Are Government aware that the present Extra Assistant Commissioner of Garo Hills is giving troubles to his subordinate staff as well as to the public by keeping them overtime in the Court as also by his irregular attendance ?

(b) Are Government aware that the said Extra Assistant Commissioner attends Court for two hours in the first part of the day and again comes to Court at 3 P.M. and works up to 6 P.M. every day ?

(c) Do Government propose to take action against the Extra Assistant Commissioner after making proper enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

67. (a) & (b)—Government are not aware of the facts.

(c)—An enquiry is being made from the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.

Scheme for Training of Nurses

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

*68. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have adopted any scheme for training of nurses ?
 (b) Whether Government contemplate making arrangement for nursing in the Hospitals to be brought under State management in the near future ?
 (c) Whether they would propose to adopt any scheme for training indigenous nurses for better service in rural areas ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

68. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, so far as Hospitals maintained entirely at Government expense are concerned.

(c)—The question is not understood. All nurses to be trained in Assam will entirely be from the indigenous population.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May we have some idea as to when this scheme for training of nurses in the Province will be taken up ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : When the proposed Medical College at Dibrugarh and the Post-Graduate Medical College at Sylhet would be started, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Is there no provision for giving such training at present ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : At present training in nursing is given at Jorhat Mission Hospital and Ganeshdas Hospital at Shillong. In addition we have taken a scheme which will be started along with the starting of the Berry-White Medical College at Dibrugarh and the Post-Graduate Medical College at Sylhet.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Cannot Government make some arrangements to give training of nursing somewhere in Lower Assam say, at Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That will be considered, Sir.

Separate Subdivision for Mikir Hills of Assam

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

- *69. (a) Is it a fact that Government are proposing to make a separate Sub-division of the Mikir Hills of Assam ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what are the proposed boundaries of the said Subdivision and where the headquarters of the Subdivision is proposed to be located ?
 (c) How long it will take to materialise the proposal ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

69. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The Commissioner of Divisions has been asked to obtain from District Officers, estimates which should provide for all necessary ancillary arrangements for the establishment of Subdivisions and to suggest boundaries. Reports from District Officers are awaited.

(Starred Questions Nos. 70-72 were not put and answered as the hon. Questioners were absent.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Abolition of the Custom of "Hangar Dhara" or "Dora-Agosa"

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

274. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the Assam Tribune of the 11th February 1947, under heading "One killed and several injured—Tragedy at Golaghat marriage" ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to undertake necessary legislation for making obstruction to bridegroom's party an offence by abolishing forthwith the custom of "Hangar Dhara" or "Dora-Agosa" from the Province, especially in the Assam Valley ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

274. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have no such proposal in contemplation.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Are Government aware that this has become a public nuisance now-a-days, and so some legislation is necessary to stop this nuisance ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : The hon. Member has given only one instance of this nuisance. Government are not aware whether such occurrences are very frequent and common.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Will Government be pleased to take it from me that there are many such cases also pending in law Courts ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : The hon. Member himself admits that there is law to proceed against such nuisance.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Are Government aware that most of our people do not like to go to take the help of the police on such occasion ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : So far as this social custom is concerned, Government should expect that leaders of society should combine to take steps.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Cannot Government instruct their officers to keep an eye to this evil practice which is generally practised in towns ? Cannot the Government also instruct the district police officers to depute some police to see that such nuisances are not committed in future ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : Sir, it appears that it was a very old custom and it is only recently that this custom has become a nuisance, and I am afraid, Sir, that Government will not find it possible to give general instructions to their officers. They are alive to their duties and if anything untoward happens Government will take steps to prevent this.

*Speech not corrected.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Cannot Government instruct the police to see that such untoward events do not happen?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** This is not a matter for which Criminal Investigation Department officers should be deputed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I do not propose to request the Government to take the help of the Criminal Investigation Department. What I want to say is, that the District Superintendents of Police might be instructed to be alert and to see that such nuisances do not continue.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** Very well, Sir. If the leaders of the society come forward to co-operate with our officers, certainly they will do their best.

Financial benefit accrued to the cultivators in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

275. Will Government be pleased to state the financial benefit accrued to the cultivators by following and working under the advice given by officers of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the "Grow-More-Food Campaign" Subdivision, and the total expenditure incurred by the Government for this purpose from the beginning upto the end of the last financial year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

275.—Government have no statistics to show as to how far the individual cultivators of a particular Subdivision were financially benefited as a result of the advice given by the officers of the Agriculture Department in connection with the "Grow-More-Food Campaign". They can, however, furnish the information that these officers helped in the distribution of the following quantities of improved seeds, from the beginning of the campaign which generally give 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. higher yield than seeds of ordinary varieties

Name of seeds	1942-43 (concessional rate)	1943-44 (concessional rate)	1944-45 (concessional rate)	1945-46 (Market rate)
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Paddy	8,600	33,600	24,200	36,000
Potatoes	19,700	8,100	28,000	10,900
Pulses	8,020	20,500	26,800	10,800
Wheat and Barley	700	3,600	1,900	Negligible
Millets	100	...	...	...
Oilseeds ... ..	...	3,600	900	1,100

*Speech not corrected.

These officers also helped in the construction of 1,051 irrigation projects which benefited 53,964 acres of new area and 5,67,957 acres of cultivated areas with a total estimated increase of 1,34,523 tons of paddy. The money value of this increased yield at the rate of Rs.160 per ton comes to Rs.2,15,23,680.

The expenditure so far incurred by Government on the two schemes mentioned above and on the temporary staff scheme which provided the necessary staff for the campaign is given below :—

	Seeds and manure Distribution Schemes	Irrigation Scheme	Temporary Staff Scheme
1942-43	4,69,946	38,296	Nil
1943-44	11,42,341	1,90,579	1,14,988
1944-45	14,91,383	1,37,263	2,17,207
1945-46	8,22,710	3,30,662	3,40,456

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: Am I to understand that Government do not follow any systematic policy in regard to the Grow-More-Food Campaign nor have they any accurate accounts ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government have followed a systematic policy, Sir.

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: My question was—"Will Government be pleased to state the financial benefit accrued to the cultivators by following and working under the advice given by officers of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign (the financial benefit accrued to the cultivators should be shown Subdivision by Subdivision, etc. etc)." The answer is—"Government have no statistics to show as to how far the individual cultivators of a particular Subdivision were financially benefited as a result of the advice given by the officers of the Agriculture Department in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign." My question was in regard to individual cultivators and it was as to how far a Subdivision is benefited and if any accurate account was kept Government could tell me at once that the Province was benefited thus far, Subdivision by Subdivision and district by district.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is there, Sir. It is sufficiently made explicit in the reply. Government have no statistics; it is not possible to show how far individual cultivators of a particular Subdivision were financially benefited as a result of the advice given by the officers of the Agriculture Department in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign. They can however furnish the information that these officers helped in the distribution of the following quantities of improved seeds from the beginning of the campaign which generally give 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. higher yield than seeds of ordinary varieties.

It is borne out by records, Sir, that wherever these seeds were distributed by the Agriculture Department, the cultivators did get an improved and increased yield. That is certain. But it is not possible to assess as to how much more yield was obtained by each cultivator in a particular village: that has not been possible.

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** I think that is not an accurate answer to my question, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No accurate answer to your question can be given.

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** I think that is not the answer I asked for.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How can they keep account? There are, say, 1,000 cultivators in Sunamganj. What portion of their profit is directly the outcome of the Grow-More-Food Campaign and what portion of the profits is due to other sources—how can they ascertain?

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** The account is given here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question was—“Will Government be pleased to state the financial benefit accrued to the cultivators by following and working under the advice of the officers of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign. This is an impossible affair.

If a cultivator gets Rs.1000 by selling his paddy, how can it be ascertained what portion of it accrued due to the Grow-More-Food Campaign and what portion accrued due to his own labour?

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: Are Government satisfied that the seeds actually reached the growers and they grew crops with these seeds?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir. The hon. Questioner is referred to the latter portion of the reply where it has been stated that “These officers also helped in the construction of 1,051 acres of cultivated areas which benefited 53,964 acres of new area and 5,67,957 paddy. The money value of this increased yield at the rate of Rs.160 per ton comes to Rs.2,15,23,680’.

This increase is on account of the Grow-More-Food Campaign.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will Government be pleased to state whether in giving these figures, Government made any sample statistics?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I cannot give any off-hand reply as to whether any such statistics were kept or not.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: One more question, Sir. Are Government aware that the general mass people are of the opinion that this Grow-More-Food Campaign did no good to the people of the Province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be, Sir. Government have been doing many other beneficial projects of which the mass people have absolutely no idea. This is a matter of opinion.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA. Will Government please give more attention to the working of this department?

*Speech not corrected

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Not only more attention but the Government will give more and more attention, Sir.

Allotment of Yarn in each Subdivision of the Province

Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA asked:

276. Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) What procedure is followed by Government in respect of allotment of yarn to each Subdivision in the Province?
- (b) Whether it is on population basis?
- (c) Whether Government has received any representation from the Administrative Head of the Lakhimpur District and the public to the effect that the quota of yarn allotted to Dibrugarh Subdivision is quite insufficient on population basis?
- (d) If so, what action Government has so far taken on that representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

276. (a)—The allotment of yarn to each Subdivision has been made with an eye to the requirements of each centre in consultation with the Director of Industries, Assam.

(b)—No.

(c)—There was persistent demand from the Deputy Commissioner and recently a telegram from an M. L. A. was received.

(d)—Dibrugarh centre has been allotted 40 bales of yarn from December 1946 to April 1947, out of the "ad hoc" allotment recently received from the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India.

***Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA:** With regard to Question No. 276(a) do Government take into consideration the percentage of population of weavers in each Subdivision in the allotment of yarn?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Not necessarily, Sir. Because if we take into consideration the population of weavers, as enumerated by the hon. Questioner, it would be very difficult for us to make the distribution.

***Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA:** May I know, Sir, what other basis is taken into consideration by the Government in making the distribution of yarn?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I have already replied that—'The allotment of yarn to each Subdivision has been made with an eye to the requirements of each centre in consultation with the Director of Industries, Assam.' The hon. Questioner cannot say that the question of population was not at all considered, though the question of weavers population was not the only consideration.

***Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH:** What was the basis of ascertaining the requirements of each centre?

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: It was already stated in the reply 'with an eye to the requirements of each centre in consultation with the Director of Industries, Assam'.

* Speech not corrected.

***Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH**: How can the requirements be ascertained? In order to keep an eye to the requirements we must first of all know what are the requirements. So my question is whether the Director of Industries, Assam, has ascertained the number of handlooms in each centre or each Subdivision.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: As I have already stated, the number of weavers has certainly been taken into consideration, otherwise we would not have mentioned the name of the Director of Industries.

***Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH**: Has the Director of Industries got any census of the handlooms in each of the Subdivisions?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Certainly, he has got some rough idea though not the exact number.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR**: With regard to Question No. 276(a), will the Hon'ble Minister please give us some idea as to the quantity of yarns allotted to the adults in the Province?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: 400 bales, Sir.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR**: Is it periodically allotted, Sir?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: It is not periodically allotted.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: Are Government aware that in the Assam Valley at least two looms on an average in each family are to be found.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: It may be, Sir, but I cannot accept that to be true to the letter that every house has got two looms. But I am willing to accept the hon. Member's statement if it is a fact.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us as to how many handlooms are there in each Subdivision of Upper Assam?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: I cannot give that answer after two years, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Did the Director of Industries place before the Government any statistics of the handlooms.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, it was not considered necessary. Because a report from the Director of Industries was considered sufficient for our purpose. We did not think that the report of the Director of Industries should be challenged.

* Speech not corrected.

**Operations performed by Assam Civil Veterinary
Department**

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

277. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether major operations like Laparo-Gastrotomy, Ceasarian-Section, Hysterectomy, Overiotomy, and Herniotomy in small animals were performed successfully in last ten years in Assam Civil Veterinary Department ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i) how many of such operations were performed each year during the above period, (ii) when and where, and (iii) by whom (name of the Surgeon) the operations were done ?

(c) Are Government aware of the result of treatment in fell cattle disease Rinderpest with M. & B. 693 ?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published under caption "M. & B. 693 in Rinderpest" in the Indian Veterinary Journal, Madras in its November, 1945 issue in pages 196-197 ?

(e) Did Government supply sufficient quantity of M. & B. 693 to the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons for full trial of the drug during recent Rinderpest epidemic in Nowgong—particularly in Kampur Circle ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any law for restraining movement of cattle during an Epidemic wave of contagious diseases especially among the cattle population just to check the spread of disease along with the cattle movement ?

(g) If not, do Government propose to introduce a Bill immediately to this effect in the coming Budget Session of the Assembly ?

(h) Whether Government have ever appointed any Special Veterinary Post-War Reconstruction Officer in the Department as they have done in the case of Agriculture Department ?

(i) If not, why not ?

(j) Are Government aware that nearly 40 per cent. of cattle population of Assam were eliminated during the last war for supplying meat to the Military ?

(k) If so, what steps Government now propose to take to replace the eliminated stock of cattle ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

277. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Informations have not been available within the time at the disposal. They are to be collected from each of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and will take more time.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—No.

(g)—Proposal for such a legislation is under the contemplation of the Government.

(h)—No.

(i)—Government did not launch upon a scheme of the kind as such an extra officer was not easily available

(j)—Only two per cent.

(k)—A cattle rehabilitation scheme is being worked upon to improve the number and the breed of the local cattle.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** With regard to question No.277(k), will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge please give us some idea as to the rehabilitation scheme that is under the contemplation of Government ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR :** It is in the contemplation of Government to open up centres at places where breeding bulls would be kept for breeding indigenous local cattle. This plan is under the contemplation of Government and it is hoped that this plan will materialise in the near future.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Is not that scheme already in practice for the last several years ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR :** Sir, that was the scheme which has been followed so long but it has been found on experience that it has not been very satisfactory because the bulls distributed and given in charge of the local people have not been taken good care of, with the result that after some time most of them became unserviceable. Hence no benefit was derived by the local public. As the public could not derive any appreciable benefit the Government themselves should open centres and allow them to roam at large by which means improvement of the local cattle will be achieved. That is the programme under the contemplation of the Government because the scheme that has been followed so long has not been found satisfactory. The reason is, as I have stated, Sir, our people have not appreciated taking good care of all bulls with the result that they did not derive much benefit.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these bulls were imported from other Provinces or these are indigenous and born in the Province for the purpose ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR :** Government may import Sindhi bulls as well as indigenous bulls which are of a better type than ordinary bulls in our country.

Meeting of the Dhubri Liaison Committee

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

278. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the following informations in a tabular form relating to all the meetings of the Dhubri Liaison Committee since the date of its formation—

Date of Meeting.	Date of issuing notice for meeting.	Date of despatch of notice.	Date of sending telegrams if possible.	Memo. No.	Agenda
------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------	--------

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether objections were raised by any body against short notice of meetings of the Committee ?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

278. (a)—A statement in the prescribed form is given below :—

Statement containing informations relating to all the meetings of the Dhubri Liaison Committee since the date of formation

Date of meeting	Date of issuing notices for meeting	Date of despatch of notices	Date of sending telegram if possible	Memo. No.	Agenda
15th August 1946.	3rd August 1946.	7th August 1946.	..	1072-91S	Distribution and sale of cloths and yarn in the Subdivision.
5th September 1946.	30th August 1946.	31st August 1946.	..	1441-60S	Distribution of cloth to consumers for Durgapuja.
21st October 1946.	18th October 1946.	19th October 1946.	19th October 1946.	2086-98S	Distribution of cloths and yarn to respective areas.
23rd November 1946.	19th November 1946.	20th November 1946.	..	2599-614S	Discussion about cloth Rationing.
3rd December 1946.	1st December 1946.	2nd December 1946.	..	2756-67S	Urgent discussion about the financial difficulties of the subdivisional cloth and yarn wholesale dealer's society.
18th December 1946.	13th December 1946.	14th December 1946.	..	2914-72S	Distribution of cloth to the respective areas and settlement of a foodstuff wholesale and a few retail shops.
26th January 1947.	16th January 1947.	16th January 1947.	16th January 1947.	3245-63S	Ditto ditto.
19th February 1947.	17th February 1947.	17th February 1947.	..	113-30S	To discuss an urgent Government letter No. STC. 308/46, dated the 31st January 1947 regarding immediate distribution of cloths after delivery.
28th February 1947.	18th February 1947.	18th February 1947.	..	1759-78S	Survey of surplus or deficit of paddy by vigilance committees.

(b)—No written objection regarding short notices was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara. However, some time ago some member raised this point at a meeting ; but all the members were satisfied when the urgency of the meeting was explained to them by the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara.

Number of Dispensaries in Jowai Subdivision

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

279. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of dispensaries in the Jowai Subdivision ?

(b) Are Government aware that these dispensaries are not sufficient to meet the need of the Subdivision ?

(c) If so, whether Government propose to open at an early date a dispensary at Sutnga, Jrikyndeng and a Public Health dispensary at Umpanai ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Are Government aware that Umpanai is a place where there are Leprosy, *Kala-azar*, Malaria, etc. ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to open a Public Health Dispensary at Umpanai for the protection of the people in that area against spread of Leprosy, *Kala-azar*, etc. ?

280. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a Subdivision is, according to rules, entitled to get an Assistant Surgeon ?

(b) Are Government aware that no Assistant Surgeon has yet been posted for the Jowai Subdivision ?

(c) If the answer to Questions (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint immediately an Assistant Surgeon at Jowai in order to meet the long felt need of the Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

279. (a)—Five.

(b)—Similar circumstances are prevailing in other Subdivisions also.

(c)—There is a proposal for Sutnga. The survey of the area around Umpanai is now in progress and if the result of the survey justifies it, Government will consider the opening of a Public Health Department dispensary at Umpanai.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Government have no information, but as stated in reply to Question (c) above, a survey of the area is in progress.

(f)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply to Question (c) above.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM : Will Government be pleased to state whether there are only five dispensaries in the Jowai Subdivision ?

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

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM : Where are they ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I want notice of that because I do not know the places.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

280. (a) & (b)—Government are not aware of any rules in this respect. So far there has been no post of Assistant Surgeon for the Jowai Subdivision, which is the only Subdivision in the Partially Excluded Areas.

(c)—A proposal for posting an Assistant Surgeon at Jowai has been included in the Budget for 1947-48.

Improvement of Railway communications in Assam

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

281. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have approached the Railway Board to improve the Railway communications in Assam ?
- (b) What are the new Railway projects they have recommended for adoption ?
- (c) What is the total additional mileage they have recommended for new construction ?
- (d) Whether they have recommended for the extension of the Bengal Assam Railway from Rangapara North to Tezpur and also from Rangapara North to North Lakhimpur ?
- (e) What reply they have received from the Railway Board on these points ?
- (f) What steps they contemplate to take for the improvement of communications in the North Bank ?

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

281. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(i) Railway extension from Bongaigaon to Jogighopa with construction of Goalpara-Jogighopa Bridge and construction of Railway line from the south end of the bridge to Pandu.

(ii) Construction of Railway line to connect the above route with Manka-char.

(iii) Restoration of Shaistaganj-Habiganj branch.

(iv) Construction of Railway line from Sylhet to Chhatak.

(v) Extension of the Rangia-Rangapara Railway to North Lakhimpur with conversion of the Tezpur-Balipara Railway to metre gauge.

(vi) Restoration of the Moran-Khowang section and extension of the Railway to Dibrugarh.

(vii) Construction of a Railway line from Chhatak to Phalibazar *via* Umsong and Shella.

(c)—The actual mileage is not available.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The matter is receiving attention of the Railway Authorities.

(f)—Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to road communications in the sub-question. The programme of improvements as has been drawn up aims at providing an all weather road between Bengal boundary and the bank of the Brahmaputra opposite Dibrugarh, including bridging the rivers Pagladia, Puthimari, Gabru and Dikrong. Other big bridges may also be included if funds permit. There is also a proposal for improving minor roads as can be seen in the list of the Assam Communication Board's proceedings placed on the Library table.

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Will the Government be pleased to state what they have decided regarding bridging of Dhansiri river on the North Bank ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY**: I cannot tell off-hand, Sir, what is the difficulty in regard to that ? All the information that I have got is this: "The Programme of improvement as has been drawn up aims at

providing an all weather road between Bengal boundary and the bank of the Brahmaputra opposite Dibrugarh, including bridging the rivers Pagladia, Puthimari, Gabru and Dikrong. Other big bridges may also be included if funds permit." That is the reply, Sir.

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Have the Government decided to bridge this river or to avail of the railway bridge on the upper portion of the river?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** I have no information about that particular bridge but this matter will be looked into and we shall see what can be done in the matter. If the hon. Member wants I can inform him afterwards.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Are Government aware that railway bridges have been utilised for road traffic as well as railway traffic?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Does the hon. Member mean about the Goalpara-Jogighopa road?

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Will Government press for more utilisation of railway bridges where possible for road traffic and avoid Public Works Department ferries?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** It is a question of circumstances, Sir. If it is found necessary to do so it will be done; if not, we shall not do so. It may be better for us to have another bridge altogether. That will depend on circumstances.

Damages caused by 1946 flood in Cachar District

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR asked:

282. Will Government be pleased to state the extent of damages caused to (i) crops, (ii) houses and (iii) roads by the flood of 1946 in the district of Cachar and steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by them to stop the recurrence of any such future calamity?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

282.—The extent of damages caused by the flood of 1946 in the district of Cachar was considerable?

The question how far Government with its existing resources can control nature is receiving Government's attention.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: To what specific extent calculated in figures the damage was considerable?

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is very difficult to give the exact figure because no survey was taken for the purpose.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: Will the Government take effective steps to check depredations of flood in Cachar in future by adopting a systematic planning of drainage and embankment?

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is very difficult to say that. All efforts are being made to prevent floods in every place wherever possible.

*Speech not corrected.

Malaria Havoc and preventive steps against it

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

283. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of people who have been totally incapacitated from malaria during the monsoon of 1944, 1945 and 1946 ?
- (b) The total number of persons who suffered from chronic form of malaria during each of the above years?
- (c) The number of deaths from malaria during each of the above years and what percentages do these deaths represent the total population ?
- (d) What were the losses in working hours during the above years for people suffering from malaria and other diseases and also in monetary value of same ?

284. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If quinine is now available according to requirements for treatment of malaria in Assam ?
- (b) How much quinine was supplied in Assam during the last year as medicine for cure and how much for prophylaxis ?
- (c) Which parts of Assam are malarious and which parts are very malarious ?
- (d) How are the general economic and social conditions of the people of these malarious places ?
- (e) How quinine and synthetic drugs are made available to the sick people of these malarious places and through what agencies ?
- (f) Whether Government is aware that most of the patent medicines, as sold in the bazar as antidotes for malaria in Assam contain actually little of quinine or of any proved malarial drug ?
- (g) Does Government propose to stop selling of such harmful medicines in Assam ?
- (h) How the price of quinine is fixed for the poorer classes of people ?

285. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Where do the different species of Anopheles which are malaria carriers, breed in different malarious places in Assam ?
- (b) How Government propose to deter them from breeding in the rural areas ?
- (c) Whether Government has chalked out any programme on a time scale for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

283. (a)—The information is not available and it is also not possible to collect the information.

(b)—The information is not available.

(c)—The number of deaths from Malaria is not recorded separately, but this is recorded under " Fevers ". The total number of deaths registered under " Fevers " during 1944 was 104,583, during 1945 was 87,992 and during 1946 was approximately 70,600. The percentage of deaths to total population was 1.05 during 1944, 0.87 during 1945 and 0.69 in 1946.

(d)—It is not possible to ascertain this.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government realise the desirability of keeping separate record of deaths on account of Malaria apart from deaths from 'Fever' in general ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That will be considered, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do not the Government think that it is necessary to have an idea as to the actual number of deaths caused by malaria alone ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS : I have already said that it will be considered.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government take early steps to give effect to this suggestion ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS : That will be considered, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

284. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Quinine is not supplied for prophylactic purposes. The amount of quinine, etc., supplied during 1946 was as follows :—

Quinine Sulphate powder	...	...	...	3,746 lbs.
" " tablets	...	...	...	650 "
" Bihydrochloride ampoules	...	...	...	5,380 boxes
Mepacrine/quinacrine	...	...	...	13½ million tabs

(c)—Almost the whole of Assam is malarious. The foot-hill areas and some low-lying areas are very malarious.

(d)—The general economic and social conditions of all rural areas, where malaria is prevalent, are backward and unsatisfactory.

(e)—Quinine is distributed to the people of the malarious places through the following agencies :—

Public Health staff including Sub-Assistant Surgeons in-charge of Public Health Dispensaries, Sub-Assistant Surgeons on Survey and Epidemic duties, Rural Health and Assistant Rural Health Inspector, Vaccinators, etc., School masters, Post offices, Sub-Assistant Surgeons on itinerating duty and District officers and Subdivisional officers of Hill Districts when on tour.

(f)—Government have no information.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—In malaria stricken areas, quinine and other anti-malaria drugs are distributed to indigent malaria patients free of charge.

285. (a)—Malaria carrier species of mosquitoes breed all over Assam. Different species have their own selective breeding places. The main carrier of Assam, *A—minimus*, breed in seepages or slow moving clear water streams exposed to sunlight. A full survey of the Province has not yet been carried out.

(b)—It is proposed to start anti-malaria measures in rural areas by locating anti-malaria units in the most malarious areas.

(c)—Yes. A 5-year programme is being put into execution and it is hoped that during this period a complete malaria survey of the province would be carried out.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May we know, Sir, whether D.D.T. was used for combating malaria during the last War ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS: Yes, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government try to fight malaria by means of D.D.T. ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That will be examined, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: As regards (c), Sir, when a 5-year programme is said to have been in contemplation, should not this House be given some idea as to the nature of the plan and whether a start has already been given of the plan ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The plan has been prepared and started and a survey is being carried on according to the plan.

Report on the work of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year 1943

Mr. C. W. MORLEY asked :

286. (a) Is it a fact that Government have within the past few days issued the printed Report of the work of Co-operative Societies in Assam for the year ending 31st March 1943 ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take for acquainting the hon. Members of Legislature with the more recent activities of this and other Departments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied :

286. (a)—Yes. The printing of the Reports was suspended during the period of the War. These are now being printed one by one.

(b)—Steps have been taken to have the reports of more recent activities also printed as early as possible.

Reward for the arrest of Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

287. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that certain reward had been promised by Government for the arrest of one Sanker Ch. Barua ?

(b) If so, whether the absconder has since been arrested ?

(c) If the answer is in the affirmative, what reward has been paid to the person who arrested him ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

287. (a)—No.

(b)—He was arrested.

(c)—Government have no information as to the amount of any reward given to an informer in this connection.

Gross annual income of 19 Zamindari Estates in Goalpara

Srijut HARESWAR DAS asked :

288. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state the gross annual income of each of the 19 Zamindari Estates in the District of Goalpara and the annual revenue each pays to Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

288.—A statement showing the gross annual income of the estates and the annual revenue paid by them as far as could be collected is furnished below :—

Statement showing the gross annual income of the 19 Zamindari Estates and the annual Revenue payable to Government for the same

Touzi No.	Names of Zamindari Estates	Gross annual income	Annual Revenue payable to Government	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Bijni Raj Estate ...	10,00,640	2,355 1 0	
2	Gauripur Raj Estate ...	6,08,004	3,299 11 0	
3	Mechpara Wards' Estate	5,27,450	2,105 10 0	
4	Gauripur Raj Estate ...	As shown against Touzi No. 2.	1,704 11 0	
5	Chapar Estate ...	1,28,931	603 13 0	
6	Parbatjoar Estate ...	4,20,301	547 14 0	
7	"Ditto ...	As shown against Touzi No. 6	36 15 0	
	Santosh Kumar Barua...	5,000	7 11 9	
7	Gauripur Raj Estate ...	As shown against Touzi No. 2.	53 12 3	
8	Mechpara Wards' Estate	As shown against Touzi No.3.	59 14 0	
9	Gauripur Raj Estate } Ditto } Ditto }	As shown against Touzi No. 2.	21 6 0 25 10 0 11 12 0	
12	Manindra Mohon Lahiri	20,423	} Figure not received yet. 33,000	
12	Sitesh Chandra Lahiri			
12	Krishna Prasanna Lahiri and others.			3,266 10 1
13	Mechpara Wards' Estate	} As shown against Touzi No. 3.		
14	"Ditto		25 0 0	
			45 0 0	

Touzi No.	Names of Zamindari Estates	Gross annual income	Annual Revenue payable to Government	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs. a. p.	
15	Parbatjoar Estate ...	As shown against Touzi No. 6.	279 7 4	
15	Gauripur Raj Estate	As shown against Touzi No. 2.	160 12 5	
15	Santosh Kumar Barua	As shown against Touzi No. 7.	6 15 4	
16	Naresh Chandra Lahiri and Nagendra Chandra Lahiri.	Figure not received yet. 1,000		As shown against Touzi No. 12.
16	Sailesh Chandra Lahiri and others.			
17	Chapar Estate ...	As shown against Touzi No. 5.	22 6 0	
18	Parbatjoar Estate ...	As shown against Touzi No. 6.	16 7 0	
18	Gauripur Raj Estate	As shown against Touzi No. 2.	5 8 0	
19	Ditto		13 8 0	

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I now pass on to the next item of business.

Presentation of Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Expenditure for the year 1947-48

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the *authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1947-48 and the schedule is placed on the table of each of the hon. Members.

Presentation of Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1946-47

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, I beg to present the **authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1946-47. All these Demands were passed yesterday and the schedule has already been placed on the table of each of the hon. Members.

*Appendix "D".
**Appendix "E".

The Assam Opium Prohibition Bill, 1947

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We will take up now consideration of the Assam Opium Prohibition Bill, 1947, clause by clause. Hon. Mr. Kenny will please move the first Amendment under clause 2.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I will make my observations on the Amendments in respect of clauses 2(b) and (h); 20 and 21; Chapter VIII; Clauses 30, 31, 32 and 38(a) and (b) at the same time as only one point of principle is involved and it will simplify the consideration of these Amendments if these are taken together.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Please move the first Amendment.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: I beg to move, Sir, (1) that sub-clause (b) of clause 2 shall be deleted and (2) that sub-clause (h) of clause 2 shall be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Though the speech will cover all the Amendments in moving them we shall take only one Amendment. So let us take up the first Amendment.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: The Group has no objection to associating non-officials with the drive against Opium and in fact we commend strongly this intention of Government but we disagree on the question of vesting non-officials with executive power. This is legitimate only in special emergencies as, for example, where in a crisis officers are appointed as special constables when it is urgently necessary to augment the police force. We consider also that the position of Honorary Magistrates can be distinguished from the case of Opium Prohibition Officers, since Honorary Magistrates do not ordinarily exercise out of door executive powers and they devote their time mostly to hearing the simple type of cases. We would, however, mention there has been some criticism in this House from time to time regarding the appointment of Honorary Magistrates and there are Members who have advocated the abolition of this system and the trial of all cases by stipendiary Magistrates. The enforcement of Opium Prohibition is likely to be a long-term operation and it is not comparable with a sudden emergency for which the State should recruit every suitable citizen to assist in combating a crisis. There is, in our view, a very serious danger that Prohibition Committees and Prohibition Officers will tend to be members of a single Party and we doubt whether it is desirable that local Party Committees should be vested with executive functions on the lines of the Soviet model. In order to decide whether this arrangement is desirable, we would ask the Ministry to reflect on the probable attitude of their party if by any chance another Ministry happened to be in power in the Province. If these provisions of the Bill are enacted they would then have the prospect of seeing local Committees dominated by members of a Party in whom they might have little confidence. For these reasons we consider that the functions of local Committees should be kept outside the scope of the Act and Prohibition Officers should be seized of illicit opium, etc. It is not very difficult for non-officials, who are eager to further the anti-opium cause to take an interest in the work and arrange for an official of Government to execute powers of arrest, etc., whenever occasion demands.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:
“(1) That sub-clause (b) of clause 2 shall be deleted and (2) that sub-clause (h) of clause 2, shall be deleted.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would submit that the Amendment moved by my hon. Friend is not in order. When the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, the House accepted the principles of the Bill. The amendment now moved by the hon. Member proposes to cut away one of the principles of that Bill. My submission is this : if the Amendment now moved is allowed and accepted then one of the main principles of the Bill, which had been accepted by the House when the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, will be cut out.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the principle underlying this Bill, please ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : The Bill mainly contemplates two schemes, viz., (1) the Bill tries to adopt certain very comprehensive penal provisions which are not found in any other Act in Assam, and secondly.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am afraid, I have not been clearly understood. What is the underlying principle of this Bill ? Is it not that the opium evil should be eradicated from the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That is the end, to reach which the present Bill has been introduced.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Whether powers should be vested in officials or non-officials, to what extent powers should be vested in the Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors, etc., these are matters of executive detail, which do not affect the main principle of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That is one of the schemes of the Bill which I call one of the principles of the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the Hon'ble Minister raise a point of order ?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then I am afraid, I cannot uphold this point of order because the principle involved in this Bill is that opium evil should be eradicated ; whether non-official help should be taken or not is a question of administration to give effect to this Bill. Whether non-officials will participate in taking measures to stop smuggling, etc., are all matters of detail. So, I cannot hold that any Amendment which seeks to deprive the non-officials from any powers of seizure or arrest, attracts the principles of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : In that case, Sir, I have to oppose the Amendment. As I have already said, in the Bill we have contemplated a scheme and through that scheme we want to seek the co-operation of the non-official organisations, and if we accept the Amendment now proposed by my hon. Friend then the non-official co-operation, which we want to seek under the proposed Bill, will be eliminated. Experience has shown that whatever steps Government take, or did take in the past, Government find it very difficult to come out successful in their attempt to eradicate the evil of opium unless their attempts are supported by whole-hearted public co-operation. Therefore if I accept the Amendment now moved then that scheme for which we have brought this Bill will be nullified. I therefore oppose the Amendment.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : I do not think, the Hon'ble Minister has quite understood me. We have no objection to associating non-officials with the drive against opium, but we disagree on the question of vesting non-officials with executive powers.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : May I add a word, Sir? The Hon'ble Minister has explained the reason for incorporation of this provision in the Bill, *viz.*, to secure the co-operation of non-official agencies for the purpose of effective eradication of opium evil from Assam. The Hon'ble Minister has also said that from experience it has been found that the present stipendiary staff under the Government is not sufficient to prevent widespread smuggling and consumption of opium. In reality, we find, Sir, that smuggling of opium is carried on mainly in the far away villages, and unless private people living in the villages are invested with powers of arrest and seizure the smugglers cannot be caught, because it takes time to inform the stipendiary staff residing generally 30 or 40 miles away; in the meantime the smuggled opium is either sold or disposed of. For this reason it has been found necessary to invest persons in the villages with powers to apprehend smugglers as quickly as possible. With this end in view this provision has been made.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : I have listened to the explanation of the hon. Member, but I am not quite certain if he intends that prohibition officers shall be elected one to each village. Unless one to each village can be elected I cannot say he can get over the difficulty of long distances.

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

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“(1) That sub-clause (b) of clause 2, shall be deleted and (2) that sub-clause (h) of clause 2, shall be deleted.”

The question was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The next Amendment stands in the name of Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Sir, I beg to move that in line 2 of sub-clause (k) of clause 2, after the word “loan” and before the “semi-colon” the words “or otherwise” shall be added.

Sir, my intention in moving this Amendment is to give more power to the authorities because it might so happen, Sir, that in law courts the learned lawyers might in argument say that “sell”, with all its grammatical variations, means any transfer including a gift or a loan. So there might be some loophole and the culprit might escape and so I have sought to add this so that there may not be any loophole for argument in a court of law.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :
“That in line 2 of sub-clause (k) of clause 2, after the word ‘loan’ and before the ‘semi-colon’ the words ‘or otherwise’ shall be added.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, I accept this Amendment as this will improve the provision of the Bill

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in line 2 of sub-clause (k) of clause 2, after the word ‘loan’ and before the ‘semi-colon’ the words ‘or otherwise’ shall be added.”

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 2 as amended stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Sir, I beg to move that in line 2 of sub-clause (d) (i) of clause 3, the word “or” shall be deleted.

Sir, my intention in moving this Amendment is to add two more sub-clauses in clause 3(d). So this is not wanted here and the word “or” will come afterwards.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Can we also take Amendment No. (2) or is it controversial ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : No controversy, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member may move Amendment No. (2) also.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Sir, I beg to move that after sub-clause (d) (ii) of clause 3, the following shall be inserted :—

“(iii) Weighing opium, or
(iv) Preserving opium.”

My intention in moving this Amendment, Sir, is to make it prohibitory to retain a scale or preserve opium. We have gathered from our experience that the smugglers generally weigh opium with a scale and we have seen this scale sometime produced in law courts by the Excise Staff. As it had been left out, it should be added. And for preserving opium, there is a habit among the Assamese consumers that they preserve opium in small quota which is called কানিটেয়া. That should also be added to make it more drastic.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :

“That in line 2 of sub-clause (d) (i) of clause 3, the word ‘or’ shall be deleted and that after sub-clause (d) (ii) of clause 3, the following shall be inserted :—

“(iii) Weighing opium, or
(iv) Preserving opium.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, I accept the Amendments. But the full-stop after 3(d) (ii) of clause 3, should be substituted by a “comma.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is a consequential correction and will be done.

The question is :

“(1) That in line 2 of sub-clause (d) (i) of clause 3, the word ‘or’ shall be deleted and that after sub-clause (d) (ii) of clause 3, the following shall be inserted :—

“(iii) Weighing opium, or
(iv) Preserving opium.”

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 3, as amended, stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: I beg, Sir, to move that for clause 4 the following shall be substituted :—

“4 (1) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any shop or place licensed for the sale of opium for medicinal purposes or to any person who buys opium from any place or shop as aforesaid under a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner, or to any hospital or dispensary.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any Registered Medical Practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties.”

It was not the intention of Government to prohibit the use of opium for medicinal purposes as it is fully recognised that opium and preparations prepared from opium are of extreme value in medical treatment. There is a reference in the Preamble to prohibition of consumption except for medicinal purposes, but no provision has been made in the body of the Bill to cover this. The extent to which a reference in a Preamble can be regarded as modifying an Act is a matter on which there are many conflicting decisions and it is most undesirable that any doctor should be required to argue a defect on a legal point of this nature with a long term of imprisonment or fine depending on the successful outcome of his contentions.

Although it has been found unnecessary to make any provisions for doctors, it has, for some reason, been found desirable to make provision for shops and places selling opium for medicinal purposes. If the recital in the Preamble was sufficient to cover doctors who are not mentioned in the Bill, we would have expected similar silence on the question of shops selling opium for medicinal purposes.

It is also necessary to make provision for shops or places selling opium for medicinal purposes which do not happen to fall within a Municipal boundary. We are not certain that all shops which will sell opium for medicinal purposes will be located in Municipal areas and it is, therefore, most necessary to provide for shops even in rural areas. We have, therefore, provided that exemption of the Act should be given to any shop or place licensed for the sale of opium and in clause 38 a new clause to be inserted as 2 (b) to enable Government to make rules for the licensing of a shop or place under clause 4.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :

“That for clause 4 the following shall be substituted :—

‘4. (1) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any shop or place licensed for the sale of opium for medicinal purposes or to any person who buys opium from any place or shop as aforesaid under a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner, or to any hospital or dispensary.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any Registered Medical Practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties.’”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, I have got one Amendment and that is with regard to clause 4, Amendment No.5 (1). I want to ask whether you would allow me to move that Amendment between these two Amendments of Mr. Kenny or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : In clause 4.—“That in line 7, for the ‘full stop’ after the word ‘dispensary’ a ‘comma’ shall be substituted.....” Is that the thing ?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How does it help the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : My Amendment is absolutely necessary. But if we accept the phraseology of these two Amendments together then my Amendment will not fit in.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now what is the position ? Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to accept this Amendment or what ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I propose to accept the first Amendment. I may also accept the second Amendment of Mr. Kenny after my Amendment is moved and accepted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is complicating the matter. Will there be any inconvenience if this is accepted and then the Hon'ble Minister moves Amendment No.5 ? I don't exactly follow.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : If I accept his first Amendment and again if the Chair allow me to move my Amendment then he can move his second Amendment. I think, that will be in order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right, at the time of putting the question I shall put the first Amendment. Then the Hon'ble Minister will move his Amendment and after that the second Amendment of Mr. Kenny will come in.

Then the Hon'ble Minister accepts this first Amendment ?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I shall put the question. The question is : “That for clause 4 the following shall be substituted :—

‘4. (1) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any shop or place licensed for the sale of opium for medicinal purposes or to any person who buys opium from any place or shop as aforesaid under a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner, or to any hospital or dispensary.’ ”

The question was adopted.

Now the Hon'ble Minister wants to move Amendment No.5. But with these alterations, will it fit in with the Amendment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Yes, they will fit in.

Sir, I beg to move that in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 for the “full stop” after the word “dispensary” (in the Amendment now accepted) a “comma” shall be substituted and the following words shall be added thereafter *viz.*, “or to the import, export, transport, possession, sale or purchase of Excise Opium.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then the Hon'ble Minister does not like to put “in line 7” ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : No, Sir.

This Amendment is essential in view of the fact that so far we have started prohibition only in the British and Partially-Excluded Areas, but up till now we have not started prohibition in the Excluded and State Areas where we have got no power to do prohibition work. But at the same time I inform the Hon. Members of the House that we are in correspondence with His Excellency the Governor of Assam to start prohibition in those areas also. Till we are in a position to start prohibition in those areas, the opium, which is being sold and will be sold in those areas, passes through British areas being imported by the Excise Commissioner by indent. So unless these words are added in the Bill there will be difficulty in bringing into Assam opium that is being sold in the Excluded and State areas. It is mainly for this purpose the Amendment is absolutely necessary for the present.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved :

“That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 for the ‘full stop’ after the word ‘dispensary’ (in the Amendment now accepted) a ‘comma’ shall be substituted and the following words shall be added thereafter, *viz.* ‘or to the import, export, transport, possession, sale or purchase of Excise Opium.’”

Now I put the question.

The question is :

That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 for the ‘full stop’ after the word ‘dispensary’ (in the Amendment now accepted) a ‘comma’ shall be substituted and the following words shall be added thereafter, *viz.*, ‘or to the import, export, transport, possession, sale or purchase of Excise Opium.’”

The question was adopted.

Is the subsequent Amendment necessary? It has got to be carefully seen whether it is at all necessary because if it does not fit in with the accepted Amendment of Mr. Kenny there will be difficulty. Let us make it clear because it cannot be altered afterwards.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, it is necessary, because when we have accepted Mr. Kenny's amendment and after my Amendment having been accepted, the words “relating to the Assam Municipal Act” after the word “Exemption” should be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, the Hon'ble Minister will please move.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I beg to move, Sir, that in the marginal heading in clause 4 a “full stop” shall be inserted after the word “Exemptions” and the words “relating to the Assam Municipal Act” after the word ‘Act’ occurring therein shall be deleted, and the “full stop” after the word ‘Act’ occurring therein shall be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved :
“That in the marginal heading in clause 4 a ‘full stop’ shall be inserted after the word ‘Exemptions’ and the words ‘relating to the Assam Municipal Act’ and the ‘full stop’ after the word ‘Act’ shall be inserted after the word ‘Act’ occurring therein shall be deleted.”

The question is :
“That in the marginal heading in clause 4 a ‘full stop’ shall be inserted after the word ‘Exemptions’ and the words ‘relating to the Assam Municipal Act’ and the ‘full-stop’ after the word ‘Act’ occurring therein shall be deleted.”

The question was adopted.
The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I shall put the question in respect of Amendment No.4(2) of Mr. Kenny. Now, what has the Hon'ble Minister, to say about this Amendment No.4(2) of Mr. Kenny, *viz.*, “the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any registered medical practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties”.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It appears that there is one marginal heading--'Assam Act I of 1923'. Therefore, as we have accepted the Amendment, this becomes redundant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Mr. Kenny followed what the Hon'ble Minister said? Let the Hon'ble Minister please repeat.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The provisions in clause 4, as it stood in the original Bill, contemplated exemption under the Assam Municipal Act. Therefore the words, 'Assam Act I of 1923' were there. These words are redundant now as we have accepted the amendment moved by Mr. Kenny which has got no reference to the Assam Municipal Act.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already admitted that my Amendment seeking to incorporate proposed sub-clause No.2 has nothing to do with the Assam Municipal Act.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That is why I submit that these words should be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This Amendment No.4(2) relates to any medical practitioner afford protection to them. Of course I have not got Assam Act I of 1923 before me.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We got these words "Assam Act I of 1923", that is the Assam Municipal Act of 1923. Under clause 4, as it stood in the original Bill, exemptions were made under the provisions of the Municipal Act. Therefore, the words "Assam Act I of 1923" were incorporated in the draft. When we have deleted the original wordings of the clause, these words "Assam Act I of 1923" have become redundant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How the registered practitioners will get protection under this provision?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Under the Dangerous Drugs Act.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: With your permission, Sir, shall I be allowed to move one Amendment now?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have to dispose of the Amendment of Mr. Kenny. Is it accepted or rejected? Let Mr. Kenny, however, move his Amendment formally.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that after sub-clause (1) of clause 4, the following be inserted as sub-clause 2:—

"(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any Registered Medical Practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

"That after sub-clause (1) of clause 4, the following be inserted as sub-clause (2):—
 '(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any Registered Medical Practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties' "

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It is accepted, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That after sub-clause (1) of clause 4, the following be inserted as sub-clause (2):—

'(2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any Registered Medical Practitioner who acquires, possesses, prescribes or dispenses opium in any form in due fulfilment of his medical duties'."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: In consequence of the Amendment we have now accepted, with the permission of the Chair and the House I want to move one Amendment relating to the marginal reference in clause 4. That is consequential when we have accepted the Amendment moved by Mr. Kenny.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is your Amendment please ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: In place of Assam Act I of 1923.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I must sound a word of caution. Really if the Hon'ble Minister wants time to look into the matter probably he can have it. But this legislation is of great importance and once these are accepted here if any substantial mistake remains it will be extremely difficult to correct it. The whole thing will have to be gone through in a subsequent session. I have signified my assent but it is up to the Hon'ble Minister to formulate what Amendments he wants. The Hon'ble Minister knows that 4 Amendments have been accepted by the House.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: If the Chair pleases I can take at least 10 minutes' time to do this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then we rise for 10 minutes with the consent of the House.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for 10 minutes till 12-40 P. M.
(After adjournment)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical Department been able to make up his mind ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, Sir. I do not want to add anything now but I would suggest that the words 'Assam Act I of 1923' noted in the margin against clause 4, should be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is consequential and it will be deleted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:
"That clause 4 of the Bill, as amended, stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is no Amendment to clause 5. So I put the question.
The question is:
"That clause 5 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

Mr. E.W.B. KENNEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

That in line 3 of clause 6, for the word "knowingly", the word "voluntarily" shall be substituted.

Sir, we regard the word "knowingly" as somewhat ambiguous since a person's knowledge must necessarily be a matter of argument. This may create difficulties particularly in the case of persons in charge of extensive premises where labourers have quarters. Whether the Manager knows what is happening inside a particular labourer's quarters will neither be easy to prove or easy to disprove. A dissatisfied person may allege that a Manager had some definite knowledge and the Manager on the contrary will disclaim it. In the meanwhile a case may be instituted and the Manager would be placed in a most unenviable position. We realise what Government intend to penalise. It is the deliberate furtherance of opium consumption and we recommend that this can be most easily be defined by using the word "voluntarily" instead of the word "knowingly". The advantage of this is that "voluntarily" has been defined under section 39 of the Indian Penal Code in the following terms:—

"A person is said to cause an effect 'voluntarily' when he causes it by means whereby he intended to cause it, or by means which, at the time of employing those means, he knew or had reason to believe to be likely to cause it".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

"That in line 3 of clause 6, for the word "knowingly", the word 'voluntarily' shall be substituted."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, I am afraid, I cannot accept this Amendment. Because in the Select Committee when the different provisions of the Bill were discussed the members of the Select Committee were of the opinion that the provisions of the Bill should be made more stringent than what they were in the original Bill that was presented before them. The hon. Member's objection to the word 'knowingly' can be equally applied to the word 'voluntarily' as in both the cases evidence to prove the guilt will be necessary. So, Sir, my point is that if we keep the word 'knowingly' then the provision would be more comprehensive than what it would be with the word 'voluntarily'. Therefore, Sir, I cannot accept the Amendment of my hon. Friend.

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

Mr. E.W.B. KENNY: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I put the question.
The question is:

"That in line 3 of clause 6, for the word 'knowingly' the word 'voluntarily' shall be substituted."

The question was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As there are no Amendments to clauses 7—16 both inclusive, I put them as a question.

The question is:

“That clauses 7—16 both inclusive stand part of the Bill”.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In clause 17 there is an Amendment but the hon. Member is absent. So I put the question.

The question is:

“That clauses 17, 18 and 19 both inclusive stand part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: I am not going to move my Amendments under clauses 20, 21, 30, 31 and 32.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no other Amendments. So I put the question.

The question is:

“That clauses 20 to 36 both inclusive stand part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we come to clause 37.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

That after clause 37 a new clause shall be inserted:

“Subject to rules which may be prescribed with the previous approval of the Legislature, a District Magistrate or a Sub-District Magistrate may authorise the detention of any consumer of opium for purposes of medical treatment”.

This clause with a very minor modification was part of the Bill as originally drafted but was excluded from the Bill on the ground that it was undesirable to include provision for treatment of opium addicts in a Prohibition Bill. We are advised on very high medical authority that it will be necessary to treat opium addicts if they are deprived of opium. This is essential on humanitarian grounds. The question cannot be shelved by omitting any provision in the Act and we consider that Government have a moral responsibility to make provision in the Act and to see that adequate arrangements are made. We regard it as a legal quibble to maintain that treatment should not form part of a Prohibition Bill. If the title of the Bill is inappropriate, the title should be changed but we do not think that the treatment is in any way inconsistent with prohibition. The fact that Government have found it necessary to impose penalties—and very serious penalties—for breach of the law in respect of opium session, consumption of opium and penalties for being an habitual addicts, indicates that Government do not expect that the age of prohibition will dawn with the passing of this Bill. There are still unfortunate people who are addicted to opium and Government, when restricting their rights who are must be prepared to make arrangements for their treatment.

We have departed from the draft of the original clause 38 merely to provide for rules regarding detentions to be laid before the Legislature for previous approval. Medical treatment of opium addicts will involve very close segregation and in many cases may result in individuals being deprived of their liberty for prolonged periods. It is undesirable that the executive should have unrestricted powers to deprive persons of their liberty and for this reason we propose that rules giving conditions of such detention should be prepared first by Government and then approved by the Legislature before being brought into operation. Such rules, we expect will provide safeguards against detention of persons who are not urgently in need of medical treatment. A system of remand on the lines of under-trial prisoners might be considered suitable for adoption.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :

“That after clause 37 a new clause shall be inserted :—

Subject to rules which may be prescribed with the previous approval of the Legislature, a District Magistrate or a Sub-District Magistrate may authorise the detention of any consumer of opium for purposes of medical treatment’.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I appreciate the intention of hon. Mr. Kenny in moving his Amendment yet I cannot accept it and I have to oppose the Amendment. If we accept the Amendment it will be just contrary to the provisions already made. Under clause 5 of the Bill a consumer is to be convicted and sentenced to go to jail. Sir, under clause 4 we have exempted hospitals and dispensaries and treatment can be given there. Therefore when a man voluntarily declares that he is ready to give up the habit he can take shelter under hospital and dispensaries where he can be treated. So in all fairness we should avoid the present Amendment as it will be contrary to the provisions already inserted. For this reason I cannot accept this Amendment.

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

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That after clause 37 a new clause shall be inserted :—

Subject to rules which may be prescribed with the previous approval of the Legislature, a District Magistrate or a Sub-District Magistrate may authorise the detention of any consumer of opium for purposes of medical treatment’.”

The question was lost.

The question is :

“That clause 37 stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : I am not moving my Amendment to clause 38, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 38 stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, there was one Amendment in clause 38 which was consequential to the Amendment which has already been accepted. It is Amendment No. 15(2) which stands in the name of Mr. Kenny.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is it not too late. I put the question in respect of clause 38 and then there being no opposition, declared that clause 38 stands part of the Bill. When Mr. Kenny did not move it, the Hon'ble Minister himself should have moved it.

Can that be re-opened ? What is the sense of the House ? Do the House agree to the re-opening of this matter ? It is very extraordinary and this should not, in any case, create any precedent for future.

(The House agreed that the Amendment may be moved.)

Will the hon. Member please move the Amendment ?

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 38, the following sub-clause shall be inserted as sub-clause (2) (d) and the existing sub-clause (2)(d) shall be re-numbered as sub-clause (2) (e):—

“(2) (d) Licensing of a shop or place under sub-section (1) of section 4”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

“(That in clause 38, the following sub-clause shall be inserted as sub-clause (2) (d) and the existing sub-clause (2) (d) shall be re-numbered as sub-clause (2) (e):—

“(2) (d) Licensing of a shop or place under sub-section (1) of section 4”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“(That in Clause 38, the following sub-clause shall be inserted as sub-clause (2) (d) and the existing sub-clause (2) (d) shall be re-numbered as sub-clause (2) (e).

“(2) (d) Licensing of a shop or place under sub-section (1) of section 4”.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“(That clause 1 stands part of the Bill”.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“(That the Title and Preamble of the Bill stand part of the Bill”.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Opium Prohibition Bill, 1947, be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“(That the Assam Opium Prohibition Bill, 1947, be passed”.

(After a pause)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“(That the Assam Opium Prohibition Bill, 1947, be passed.”

The question was adopted.

Result of Election to the Textile Control Board of the Government of India

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Another item of business which I mentioned yesterday was that the nominations for election to the Textile Control Board of the Government of India were to be submitted by 1 P.M. to-day. I fixed this time for the election of the same. We have only one name before us. Therefore no election will be necessary. The name is that of the Hon'ble Mr. B. Mookerjee. So, I think, I can declare him elected to the Textile Control Board of the Government of India and I do so hereby.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 3rd April, 1947.

SHILLONG:
The 25th June, 1947.

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

APPENDIX D

Authenticated schedule specifying the grants made by the Legislative Assembly and the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of Assam for the year 1947-48 as required by section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935

No. of grant	Description	Charged			Demands as presented to the Assembly (Voted)	Amount of cut made by the Assembly (Voted)	Amount included by Governor (Voted)	Authenticated amounts (Voted)
		Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amounts				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.	..	..	..	60,600	..	..	60,600
2	Land Revenue ..	36,700	28,900	65,600	23,72,300	..	..	23,72,300
3	Provincial Excise ..	24,500	22,600	47,100	5,67,600	..	..	5,67,600
4	Stamps .. ..	..	..	..	65,800	..	..	65,800
5	Forests	1,87,400	3,29,500	5,16,900	22,79,700	..	..	22,79,700
6	Registration ..	..	..	..	2,30,500	..	..	2,30,500
7	Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	3,600	40	3,640	4,81,300	..	..	4,81,300
8	Other Taxes and Duties.	..	..	..	8,700	..	..	8,700
9	Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	500	..	500	15,72,700	..	..	15,72,700
	Interest on debt and other obligations.	7,32,000	..	7,32,000	..	..	..	..
	Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of Debt.	4,48,400	..	4,48,400	..	..	..	..
10	General Administration.	12,27,700	4,97,500	17,25,200	38,66,300	..	..	38,66,300
11	Administration of Justice.	2,46,900	1,600	2,48,500	11,89,000	..	..	11,89,000

No. of grant	Description	Charged			Demands as presented to the Assembly (Voted)	Amount of cut made by the Assembly (Voted)	Amount included by Governor (Voted)	Authenticated amounts (Voted)
		Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amounts				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
12	Jails and Convict Settlements.	5,100	24,500	29,600	12,75,800	..	..	12,75,800
13	Police ..	4,15,600	1,35,600	5,51,200	60,98,800	..	..	60,98,800
14	Ports and Pilotage	..	..	..	2,100	..	..	2,100
15	Scientific Departments.	..	..	..	15,900	..	..	15,900
16	Education (European).	500	3,700	4,200	1,04,400	..	..	1,04,400
17	Education (other than European).	..	4,03,500	4,03,500	76,66,100	..	..	76,66,100
18	Medical ..	1,58,300	3,83,500	5,41,800	18,61,200	..	..	18,61,200
19	Public Health ..	32,000	60,600	92,600	19,45,800	..	..	19,45,800
20	Agriculture ..	..	70,200	70,200	12,70,100	..	..	12,70,100
21	Veterinary ..	..	9,700	9,700	4,00,600	..	..	4,00,600
22	Co-operation ..	32,800	..	32,800	4,14,700	..	..	4,14,700
23	Industries ..	..	6,200	6,200	4,19,200	..	..	4,19,200
24	Miscellaneous Departments.	..	100	100	2,27,000	..	..	2,27,000
25	Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment).	55,000	20,11,800	20,66,800	1,35,71,800	..	..	1,35,71,800
26	Tools and Plant and Establishment charges.	1,33,600	1,87,500	3,21,100	17,44,400	..	..	17,44,400
27	Famine Relief ..	..	5,000	5,000	1,00,000	..	..	1,00,000
28	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	8,61,100	..	8,61,100	22,66,400	..	..	22,66,400
29	Stationery and Printing.	1,400	1,300	2,700	5,33,800	..	..	5,33,800
30	Miscellaneous ..	19,60,400	2,81,600	22,42,000	36,10,500	..	..	36,10,500
31	Extraordinary charges.	..	..	..	14,300	..	..	14,300
32	Post-War Development Schemes.	28,800	16,08,500	16,37,300	4,91,89,000	..	..	4,91,89,000
33	Civil Defence ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34	Capital outlay on provincial schemes of State Trading.	20,500	..	20,500	100	..	..	100
35	Loans and advances bearing and not bearing interest.	..	..	..	12,30,000	..	..	12,30,000
	Grand total ..	66,12,800	60,73,440	1,26,86,240	10,66,56,500	..	..	10,66,56,500

The 31st March, 1947.

A. G. CLOW,
Governor.

APPENDIX E

Authenticated Schedule of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1946-47, laid before the Legislative Assembly in the March-April Session, 1947, under Section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935

Number of grant	Heads	Supplementary amount laid before the Assembly in this Session				Amount of cut made by the Assembly		Amount included by Governor		Amount now authenticated				Remarks
		Non-excluded areas (Voted)		Charged		Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Total	Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Total	Charged		Non-excluded areas	Total	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					Rs.	Rs.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1	7.—Land Revenue ..	1,90,777	8,370	2,810	11,180	..	..	1,90,777	8,370	2,810	11,180	Rs.	
2, 1 & 2	8.—Provincial Excise ..	53,900	..	..	..	..	..	53,900	..	..	..	Rs.	
3	9.—Stamps ..	9,200	..	..	..	..	..	9,200	..	..	..	Rs.	
4 & 3	10.—Forest ..	1	..	79,136	79,136	..	..	1	..	79,136	79,136	Rs.	
5	11.—Registration ..	30,031	..	..	..	..	..	30,031	..	..	..	Rs.	
6 & 4	12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Tax Act.	3,30,633	..	1,000	1,000	..	..	3,30,633	..	1,000	1,000	Rs.	
7	18.—B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	1,32,002	..	..	..	..	..	1,32,002	..	..	..	Rs.	
8, 5 & 6	25.—General Administration.	4,13,777	67,001	54,694	1,21,695	..	..	4,13,777	67,001	54,694	1,21,695	Rs.	
9, 7 & 8	27.—Administration of Justice.	2,55,632	8,348	775	9,123	..	..	2,55,632	8,348	775	9,123	Rs.	
9	28.—Jails and Convict Settlements.	..	..	5,550	5,550	..	..	..	..	5,550	5,550	Rs.	
10, 10 & 11	29.—Police ..	23,76,058	38,635	42,489	81,124	..	..	23,76,058	38,635	42,489	81,124	Rs.	
12 & 12	37.—Education (other than European).	6,08,710	..	42,740	42,740	..	..	6,08,710	..	42,740	42,740	Rs.	

