

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 2 P. M. on  
Friday, the 28th March, 1947.

PRESENT:

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

#### Development of Fisheries in Assam

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

- \*54. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether they have adopted any scheme for the development of fisheries in Assam ?
  - How many persons of the Province have been trained in pisciculture in Madras or Bengal ?
  - How are they employed ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** replied :

54. (a)—Government have taken up the question of preparing a scheme.  
(b)—Three.  
(c)—One of them has been appointed as permanent Fishery Officer and the other two have been appointed temporarily as Fishery Officers for collecting necessary data required for drawing up a scheme for development of Fisheries.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : Have not Government drawn up any scheme by now ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** : The scheme is being drawn up.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : For how long these officers have been working in the Department, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** : One officer has been working since 1940 and two others were appointed two months back.  
(Starred Question No. 55 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Srijut Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury was absent.)

#### Complaint re Non-receipt of replies to certain Questions.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information. I submitted a set of Starred Questions on the 6th of this month, but so far I have not got any reply. Might I enquire, Sir, if there is any possibility of getting replies to my Questions during the current Session ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Which department do the Questions relate to ?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** I think, the Questions concern mostly the Supply Department.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I have not received them as yet, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** All that I can say is that it is one of the fundamental and undoubted privileges of the hon. Members of the House to get reasonable replies to admitted Questions and it is up to the Government to see that replies are forthcoming. But sometimes it so happens that it takes really considerable time to obtain the necessary information from the districts in order to enable Government to give replies. Under such circumstances, some delay is unavoidable.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** When I submitted the Questions, Sir, I anticipated some delay. But during the course of this Session I have been informed that the accounts from which the details are to be extracted are in a very satisfactory state. If that is so then the detail I require should be "on tap".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When the Questions were submitted ?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** On the 6th of this month, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Did not the hon. Member get a reminder from the Assembly office sometime back to send the Questions early so that business of the House might not be conjected. ?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** But there is the 15 days' Rule, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If the hon. Member insist on 15 days' Rule the Government have the rule of unlimited time to their advantage.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** In this connection, may I submit, Sir, that I submitted some Questions during the last September Session of the Assembly but unfortunately I did not get any replies then. These Questions were again submitted for this Session but up till now I have not received any reply. I have already filed a petition to this effect.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When were the Questions submitted this time ?

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** I think, Sir, I submitted them in the first week of February last.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Which subjects do the Questions relate to, please ?

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** They relate to Consumers Goods.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I will look into it.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Thank you, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As is well-known, the British-Indian system of our Secretariat is so much saddled with red-tapism that it will take another decade to clean the stable.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

#### Difficulties of Assamese Government servants on transfer to Sylhet, Dhubri and Silchar

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS,** asked :

224. (a) Is Government aware of the difficulties of Assamese Government servants on transfer to Sylhet, Dhubri and Silchar in the matter of education of their children for want of proper facilities of teaching Assamese ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider their grievances and remove them ?

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

224. (a)—Yes, but transfers are made according to the exigencies of the public service.

At Dhubri there is facility for Assamese and if number of students of Government servants be sufficient to warrant appointment of teachers in Assamese, the matter would be considered.

(b)—Does not arise.

#### Number of Lower Primary Schools and Muktabs in the Province

**Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED** asked :

225. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of Lower Primary Schools and Muktabs with the number of teachers serving in them, maintained by (i) Government and (ii) the Local Boards in each of the two Valleys of the Province ?
- (b) What is the starting monthly salary allowed to such Government and Local Board teachers ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the Lower Primary teachers are the most ill-paid employees under the Government and the Local Board ?
- (d) Whether Government contemplate immediately to take up the cause of Lower Primary teachers and formulate a scale of pay for them ?
- (e) If so, what will be that scale of pay ?

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

225. (a)—The total number of primary schools and Maktab with that of teachers under different management is:—

		Government	Local Board	Aided
Assam Valley	Number of Schools ...	430	4,300	336
	Number of Teachers ...	564	5,479	384
Surma Valley	Number of Schools ...	82	3,021	352
	Number of Teachers ...	123	3,896	428

(b)—The starting salary of Government and Local Boards' Lower Primary School Teachers is Rs.15 and Rs.12 per month each respectively, but the present pay of Boards' and Aided Schools Primary Teachers comes up to Rs.20 in the minimum.

(c)—Yes.

(d) & (e)—These questions are receiving careful consideration of Government and accordingly they have included budget schedules in the list of new schemes for 1947-48 to raise the pay of trained primary school teachers under all non-Government primary schools.

#### Improvement of Maktab and Madrasa Education

**Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked:

226. (a) Is it not necessary for the Education Department to appoint sufficient number of persons having enough qualification on that line as inspecting officers?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint sufficient number of Madrasa passed persons as inspecting officers to improve Maktab and Madrasa Education?

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

226. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not at present. Other Inspecting Officers are equally able to do this.

#### Award of compensation money to deceased porters

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked:

227. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Subdivisional Officer, Jowai or the War Committee is responsible for awarding the compensation money of the deceased porters?

(b) If it is done by the Committee, who were the members of that Committee in 1946?

- (c) Whether they were elected members ?  
 (d) If so, by whom they were elected ?  
 (e) If not, whether they were nominated members ?  
 (f) If so, by whom they were nominated ?  
 (g) How is the compensation money awarded, when—  
     (i) a deceased porter was a Christian but had no children ; and  
     (ii) a deceased porter was a *Pnar* (Non-Christian) who had children ?  
 (h) Whether there is any standard rule or procedure adopted in awarding the compensation money ?  
 (i) If so, what are those rules ?  
 (j) Whether they are strictly followed ?  
 (k) Whether there were any instances known to Government where a member or members of the committee wrote or drafted petition for the claimants of the compensation money ?  
 (l) If so, what are their names ?

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

227. (a)—The claims were scrutinised by the War Committee with the Sub-divisional Officer as Chairman.

(b)—The Committee consisted of the following :—

- (1) Mr. L. Khyriem, M.L.A.
- (2) Mr. L. Gatphoh, M.B.E., B.A. (*Ex-M.L.A.*)
- (3) Babu Jeeban Roy.
- (4) Babu Sorendro Bareh.
- (5) Babu Granwill Lytan.
- (6) Mr. W. S. Shullai, M.A., B.L.
- (7) Mr. B. M. Shullai.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e) & (f)—They were invited as leading citizens to join the War Committee by the Subdivisional Officer.

(g) (i)—To the wife.

(ii)—The children and the 'Kurs' according to settlement made between themselves and approved by the Committee.

(h) & (i)—The principles that guided the Committee are to be found in answers given to (g) (i) and (ii).

(j)—Yes.

(k)—Yes.

(l)—Mr. L. Khyriem, M.L.A.

„ J. Roy.

„ S. Bareh.

„ G. Lytan.

„ W. S. Shullai, M.A., B.L.

„ B. M. Shullai,

**Civil Porter Corps recruited from Jaintia Hills (Jowai Subdivision)****Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked :

228. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Civil Porter Corps recruited from the Jaintia Hills (Jowai Subdivision) during the year 1941-45 ?
- (b) The number of those who died while on active service ?
- (c) Whether the death compensations were all paid up to the families or relatives of the deceased ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to see that the unpaid death compensations are paid as early as possible ?

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

228. (a)—4,613 were recruited through the Subdivisional Officer. Some others probably joined directly.

(b)—About 100.

(c)—Yes.

(d) &amp; (e)—Do not arise.

**Kaki Reserve in Mauza Lanka****Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE** asked :

229. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If Government has thrown open the Kaki Reserve in Mauza Lanka in the district of Nowgong for settlement ?
- (b) If so, whether the land comprised in the Reserve is proposed to be settled with persons belonging to any particular community ?
- (c) Whether the land in question is proposed to be included in the Planned Settlement for settlement with persons of different communities as envisaged in the Government proposal for Planned Settlement ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that a very large number of persons have already occupied land in the Reserve by erecting houses ?
- (e) If so, under whose orders and authority this had been done ?

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

229. (a)—No.

(b) &amp; (c)—Do not arise.

(d) &amp; (e)—Yes, some encroachers have entered the Reserve and Divisional Forest Officer and Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, are taking necessary steps with the help of the police to evict them. Two sections out of eighteen have already been evicted.

### Golapganj-Bhadeswar Road

**Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHRY** asked :

230. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The date on which Golapganj-Bhadeswar Road under the North Sylhet Local Board was taken over by the Public Works Department ?
- (b) How long it was under the Public Works Department ?
- (c) Who maintained the road during the period it was under the Public Works Department ?
- (d) For what purpose the road was taken over when it was formally made over to the North Sylhet Local Board ?
- (e) How much money was spent over this road during this period ?

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

230. (a)—1st November 1941.

(b)—Till 31st May 1942.

(c)—The Public Works Department.

(d)—The question is not understood.

(e)—The question is not clear. But it is stated that about Rs. 32,000 was spent.

### Expansion of the Veterinary Department

**Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

231. (a) Are Government aware of the public feeling that the Veterinary Department of the Province is a neglected one ?
- (b) Do Government propose to expand this Department ?
- (c) Is it a fact that the lower grade employees of the Veterinary Department get very low salaries ?
- (d) If so, do Government propose to increase their scales of pay ?
- (e) Is it a fact that the stipends and initial pay of the Veterinary Field Assistants are low ?
- (f) If so, do Government propose to raise the same ?
- (g) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** replied :

231. (a)—No. But it is very likely that there may be such feeling in some quarters.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c) & (d)—The question is not very clear. If the question refers to the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons—it has been decided to raise the initial pay of the service to that of the Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeon.
- (e)—No.
- (f)—It is a matter of opinion but Government are prepared to give it their due considerations.
- (g)—Does not arise.

**Eviction of a certain cooli Hadiatullah by name**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

232. (a) Are Government aware that notice has lately been served for the eviction of a certain Muslim cooli Hadiatullah by name of Borgoria village near Hautley in the Golaghat Subdivision?

(b) Are Government aware that he was born and brought up in Assam and has been living there for over seven years ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether similar notices of eviction have been served on other such settlers in the Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

232. (a)—Yes. It is presumed that the notice had reference to occupation of land in contravention of settlement rule 16.

(b)—Government understand that he was born in Assam and that he is living in village Ougari Chapari for 1½ years past.

(c)—All occupation of land in contravention of Settlement Rule 16 is unauthorised and the occupants are liable to eviction. Government believe that the District Officers take action wherever necessary.

**Registration of Co-operative Stores**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

233. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of applications received by them for the registration of Co-operative Stores from different places of the Province during the last four years from 1942-43 to 1945-46 showing separately the number of applications received in each year ?

(b) Of the said applications, how many stores were registered during each of the years as stated above ?

(c) How many applications relating to each different year still remain to be disposed of ?

(d) What extra staff has been employed to supervise the stores and to check their accounts ?

(e) Whether the staff is adequate to control the working of the stores ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that some of the registered stores have not received any supervision and also certain other stores (registered or unregistered) have not been able to start their work for want of proper guidance ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that the accounts of those stores which were organised by the Officers of the Co-operative Credit Department but not registered till now, have not been audited at all ?

(h) Whether Government are aware that due to the accounts of the unregistered stores being not audited and also some of the registered stores being not supervised the consumers in a large number of these stores are often exploited by the Managers of the stores ?



- (i) If so, what action Government propose to take to protect the consumers ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that the staff which was appointed to supervise the stores has been reduced ?
- (k) If so, to what extent and why ?
- (l) Whether it is also a fact that the staff meant for the control of the stores is to be maintained solely from the audit fees of the stores ?
- (m) Whether Government are aware that the stores can play an important part in co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and the products of cottage industries ?
- (n) If so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps so that these stores may be properly managed ?
- (o) Whether it is in the contemplation of Government to reduce the staff of officers now engaged in the supervision and audit of the co-operative stores in near future ?
- (p) If so, what posts are going to be abolished and how Government propose to control the stores ?
- (q) Whether Government propose to increase the number of posts of Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies in view of the large increase in the number of co-operative stores ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** replied :

233. (a)—

Year	Year	Year
In 1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
30	539	675
Year	Year	
1945-46	1946-47	
144	405	
		Total—1,795
(b)—	Year	Year
Year	1943-44	1944-45
1942-43	539	675
30	Year	
Year	1946-47	
1945-46	357	
144		Total—1,745
(c)—	Year	Year
Year	1943-44	1944-45
1942-43	Nil	Nil
Nil	Year	
Year	1946-47	
1945-46	48	
Nil		Total—48.

(d)—Two Superintendents, 20 Inspectors and 45 Assistant Auditors.

(e)—It appears to be so.

(f)—Government are not aware of any such situation.

(g)—Yes, audit becomes obligatory only after registration.

(h)—Government are not aware of any such unusual development beyond the ordinary.

(i)—Strict supervision by Departmental officers and re-organisation of committees wherever necessary are the steps under contemplation.

(j)—Yes.

(k)—Ten posts of Assistant Auditors and one of Auditor, as sufficient audit fees as anticipated could not be realised to meet the expenditure.

(l)—Yes.

(m)—This requires further investigation.

(n)—Yes, as far as practicable.

(o) to (q)—The questions are under consideration.

### Officers of the Excise Department

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked :

234. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Excise aware that the Excise Officers of the Province held a Meeting at Shillong in April last, when resolutions ventilating their grievances and demanding redress thereof were passed by them ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has received any copy of those resolutions ?

(c) If so, what action has been taken on those resolutions ?

235. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Excise aware that the present Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, and his predecessor belong to Provincial Excise Service, Bengal ?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, do Government contemplate to follow the same practice in this Province ?

(c) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to revise the grade and status of the Inspectors of Excise, Assam, in the light of those of the Inspectors of Excise and Inspectors of Police in Bengal ?

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

234. (a), (b) & (c)—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the replies given to Unstarred question No. 337 at the last September Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

235. (a)—The present officiating Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, belongs to the Provincial Excise Service and so also his predecessor. It is not known whether the latter held the post temporarily or permanently.

(b) Government after taking all relevant factors into consideration do not think it desirable at present to appoint a member of the Assam Excise Service to the temporary post of the Commissioner of Excise, Assam.

(c)—The conditions in Assam are not quite the same as in Bengal. Provision of the scales of pay, etc., of all officers including Excise Officers is under examination independently of the conditions prevailing elsewhere.

**Separation of District Excise Office from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner**

**Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA** asked :

236. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to separate the District Excise Office from the office of the Deputy Commissioner and place Excise offices in the District under the control of Excise Commissioner with the Superintendent of Excise as head of the office ?

(b) Do Government propose to build quarters for Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise ?

(c) Are Government aware that non-availability of dwelling houses seriously embarrasses officers and makes them afraid of transfers which they generally try to avoid ?

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

236. (a)—The question of separating the District Excise office from the establishment of the Deputy Commissioner is under examination.

(b) & (c)—Some of the Excise Department officers have already been provided with quarters and the questions of widening the scope of provision is under consideration of Government.

**Assam Excise Service**

**Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA** asked :

237. (a) Do Government propose to create a higher post in Assam Excise Service with a view to see that the preventive activities of the Excise Staff throughout the Province are carried on in an atmosphere of helpful collaboration ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state when that post is likely to be created ?

(c) Are Government aware that in Bengal a Deputy Commissioner of Excise supervises the preventive activities of the Excise Staff throughout the Province ?

238. Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff attached to Assam Excise Intelligence Bureau ?

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

237. (a) & (b)—Government are aware of the fact and a proposal to create the post of the Assistant Commissioner of Excise in Assam is under consideration of Government.

(c)—Yes.

238. —One Inspector of Excise,

One Clerk.

Two Peons;

**Candidates sent abroad with overseas stipends**

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked :

239. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of candidates sent abroad with Overseas stipends with their respective qualifications and subjects of study for which the Scholarships have been awarded ?
- (b) Whether there were no candidates left with superior qualifications ?
- (c) The qualifications of each of the candidates selected and sent for Overseas Engineering training ?
- (d) Whether there are any special claims of those selected for such Training ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

239. (a) to (d)—Five lists of scholarships awarded in 1945-46 and 1946-47 are given below. Joint Provincial-Central Scholarships are those awarded jointly by the Provincial and Central Governments, each bearing 50 per cent. of the cost. These scholarships are finally awarded by the Central Government after scrutiny by a Central Selection Committee. The Provincial Government sends up its recommendations, generally nominating three candidates for each subject in order of preference ; but it is up to the Central Government to accept the Provincial Government's recommendations or not. For the purpose of scrutiny by the Central Government, the applications of the candidates have to be sent up. Joint Central-Provincial Scholarships are granted only in the case of persons other than those who are permanent Government servants entitled to study leave. In some cases the names of permanent Government servants entitled to study leave were sent up for Joint Central-Provincial Scholarships in the absence of other suitable candidates ; but, though the Central Government exercised its power of scrutinising their cases and accepting or rejecting their selection, they declined to meet their 50 per cent. share of the cost. In consequence, the scholarships virtually become purely provincial scholarships ; but as they were granted out of the quota of seats allotted by the Centre, they have been shown in the lists below as joint scholarships. Purely provincial scholarships are those which are granted by the Provincial Government entirely at its own cost without reference to the Central Government and are not debited to the Central quota. The purely provincial scholarships not debited to the Central quota were granted to candidates who had already arranged passages and seats in foreign institutions.

In making selections, this Government took into consideration the candidates' relative qualifications, along with the communal ratio as far as it was practical and appropriate to consider the latter.

The qualifications of the candidates selected for engineering training will be found in the lists.

**1945-46 JOINT PROVINCIAL-CENTRAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Names	Qualifications	Subject in which scholarship was awarded.
1. Kamada Ranjan Kar	... M.Sc. 1st Class 1st Ph. D.	Ind. Chemistry. (still in India.)
2. Promode Ch. Goswami	... M.Sc. 2nd Class	Forestry.
3. Biresh Ch. Dey ...	... B.Sc. 2nd Class...	Textile Engineering.

Names	Qualifications	Subject in which scholarship was awarded
4. Shamsul Hussain Hazarika ...	B.Sc. 1st Class 2nd.	Sericulture (But actually undergoing a course of training in Entomology.)
5. Akhataruz Zaman ...	B.Sc. (2nd Class) Inter Eng.	Mech. Eng.
6. Bhabakanta Saikia ...	M.Sc. 1st Class 1st.	Chemical Eng.
7. Salil Kumar Ghosh ...	B.Sc. (Dis.) ...	Electrical Eng.
8. Dharendra Nath Barbara ...	B.Sc. (Mining) • 1st in the Uni- versity.	Hydraulic Eng. Still in India.

#### \*1945-46 PURELY PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1. Abdul Latif ...	B.Sc., B.E.	Agricultural Eng.
2. Md. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed Chaudhury	G. V. Sc.	M. R. C. V. S. (Still in India.)

\*This is in fact, a joint scholarship; but as the stipendiary is a Government servant entitled to study leave the Provincial Government is to bear the whole cost.

#### JOINT CENTRAL-PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1946-47

Names	Qualifications	Subject in which scholarship was awarded
1. Rajkumar Das ...	M.B. 1st Class ...	Midwifery.
2. Moslehuddin Ahmed ...	M.B.	Ear, Throat, Nose
3. Chaitnya Nath Hazarika ...	M.B.	diseases.
4. Dharani Nath Phukan ...	M.B.	Psychiatry.
5. Dambarudhar Gogoi ...	M.Sc. 1st Class...	Tubercular diseases.
6. Prasanna Ch. Goswami ...	M.Sc. 1st Class...	Oil Technology.
7. Nirmal Kumar Dhar Chowdhury.	M.Sc. 1st Class...	Sugar Technology.
8. Shamsuddin Ali Ahmed ...	M.Sc. 2nd Class	Radio Engineering.
9. Miss Tilottama Gogoi ...	M.Sc. 1st Class...	Textile Manufacturing.
10. Md. Abdul Haque ...	B.Sc. (Ag.) 1st Class.	Mycology.
11. Manada Ranjan Das ...	I.D.D.	Horticulture.
12. Samirendra Narayan Sen ...	B.Sc. (Engr.)	Dairying.
		Hydro-electricity Mechanical Engineering with practical training in Turbines.
		Hydro-electricity Electrical and Mechanical Engineering with practical general training.

Names	Qualifications	Subject in which scholarship was awarded
14. Mohendra Nath Goswami ...	B.Sc., L.E.E. ...	Factory Inspection.
15. Golam Rahman ...	B.Sc., B.E. ...	Sanitary Engineering and Water Supply.
16. Kulada Prasad Chowdhury ...	M.A. 1st Class His. B.T.	M.Ed.
17. Bhabananda Dutta ...	M.A. 1st Class 1st Phil.	Child Psychology.

#### ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS 1946-47—PURELY PROVINCIAL

Names	Qualifications	Subject in which scholarship was awarded
1. Surendra Nath Sarma ...	M. B. ...	Ear, Throat, Nose Diseases.
2. Suresh Ch. Rajkhowa ...	M. A. 1st Class...	M. Ed.
3. Jugal Kishore Chowdhury ...	Passed Inter and Advance Examination in Architecture.	Final R.I.B.A. and post graduate Diploma course in Town Planning.
4. Peejush Kiron Bhattacharyya ...	B.A. ...	Electrical Engineering.
5. Ramendu Bhattacharya ...	B.Sc. ...	Pharmaceutical Chemistry.
6. Satya Ranjan Boruah ...	B.Sc. (Ag.), M.Sc. (Agri. Bot.).	Agronomy.
7. Keshab Chandra Pathak ...	B.Sc. (Agri. Eng.)	Irrigation Engineering.
8. Gousul Hussain ...	B.A., B.T., T.D.	M. Ed.
9. Dharendra Nath Dutta ...	B.E. ...	1. Civil Engineering Multipurpose Dam projects Design and construction. 2. Reclamation of water logged areas Flood control.

#### \*PROVINCIAL STIPENDIARIES 1946-47

1. Mohammed Ekhlal ...	M.Sc. 1st Class 1st	Paper Manufacture.
2. R. L. Gunville ...	M.B. ...	Bacteriology.
3. Sarada Charan Sarma ...	M.Sc. 1st Class 1st	Statistics General.
4. Abdur Rashid ...	B.E. ...	Hydroelectricity. Civil Engineering with practical training in Dams and pipes lines.
5. Capt. S A. Laskar ...	M.B., D.T.M. ...	Eye Diseases.

\*These scholarships are in fact, joint scholarship, but as the stipendiaries are Government servants entitled to study leave the Provincial Government is to bear the whole cost.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Has any list been prepared for 1947-48 ?

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

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Has it been sent to Central Government for approval ?

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

### Demands for Grants

GRANT No. 20.

( 40.—AGRICULTURE )

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,70,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,70,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

There are two Cut Motions. The Hon'ble Mr. Tunstall to move his Cut Motion.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,27,939, under Grant No. 20, Major head—40—Agriculture, Minor head—D. Agricultural Experiments and Research ( total ) at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,70,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I find that the object under both the Cut Motions are almost similar. Does the hon. Member propose to move the two Cut Motions standing in his name separately ?

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** I propose to combine both the Cut Motions into one Motion, Sir.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the knowledge that Government is very keenly interested in the welfare of the people tempts me to take this further opportunity of suggesting possible ways of increasing the food supply quickly enough to avert serious disaster. In the absence of supplies of other body-building foods, the estimate of only one seer of pulses per month per person is quite insufficient. Instead of 50,000 tons of pulses, not less than 200,000 tons are required to make up a reasonable diet. However, 50,000 or 200,000 tons,

it is still very obvious that the area under pulses must be increased. There are very large areas of high land available that are unsuitable for irrigated rice but eminently suited for Aus followed by a pulse crop. Mustard, sugar cane, cotton and other crops including fodder crops for the production of dairy products, can also be grown satisfactorily.

The ordinary villager cannot develop such land as the distances from settlements are too great and the protection of small areas from wild animals is very difficult, in many places impossible. If, however, large areas of such land were developed in preparation for settlement it would be possible to make all this land remunerative to Government and help to reduce the deficit in pulses and other commodities.

Some 25 years ago I was instrumental in opening out a large area between Hojai and Lanka. At that time the only inhabitants were a few scattered Mikir villages. Within a very few years the area became thickly populated and is now an important rice producing area. I am quite sure that if Government would take the initiative of opening out large areas of high land and planning out their settlement, the operation would be a great boon to the Province. With tractors and disc ploughs this land can be broken in for cultivation very rapidly and cheaply. Roads, drains, water supply, etc., etc., could be provided and the settlers could then get on with the production of crops without fear of losing the products of their labour. The cost of development and the interest on the money spent could be recovered by enhanced rent over a period of years. Unfortunately Government is not at present equipped with the necessary staff and implements, but this need not deter such development. After selecting a suitable area of say 10,000 acres, tenders may be called for from large Indian firms equipped to undertake such work. In this way large areas may be prepared for settlement without undue delay. Government would in this way avoid the necessity of incurring a large recurring expenditure on staff, etc. and the settlements would yield a direct profit from land revenue that would otherwise not be forthcoming. Opportunity could also be taken to farm some of the areas on a collective co-operative basis.

We must have facilities for experiments in tractor cultivation, but if we can get contractors to open out the high land, experience would be gained without any expense to Government and the result would be directly remunerative. If sufficient land had been opened out it would be possible to carry on collective farms with better chances of success. Opening out of land should be on a fairly big scale. I myself found it quite possible to plough in one operation 15-foot high reeds with a tractor and discplough. By using contractors to open out high land I think we should be able to increase the crops and at the same time develop model villages, collective farms and so on with a fair degree of success. First a suitable area should be selected by Government and then tenders called for from contractors for the preparation of the selected area for settlement *e. g.* breaking in the land ready for sowing, provision of roads, drains and water supply such as tanks and wells.

**THE Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 1,27,939, under Grant No.20, Major head 40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research (total) at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*; the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,70,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.”



**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I do not want to support the Motion moved by my Friend, hon'ble Mr Tunstall, yet I feel goaded to speak a few words by way of suggestion to the Government and I think the Government would give its best consideration to the suggestions. The other day while we were discussing the Post-War Reconstruction Budget, I outlined very briefly a picture of a plan for the satisfaction of our basic needs. I suggested to Government for formulating a plan for increased agricultural production. I placed before them that for self-sufficiency we must cultivate sugarcane on 3 lakhs of acres, pulses on 3 lakhs of acres, mustard on 10 lakhs of acres and cotton on 10 lakhs of acres of land. I have to ask the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture what target he has fixed for the coming year. It is needless for me to repeat on the floor of this House that the Agricultural Department has been the target of criticism throughout the country for its inefficiency, inactivity and absence of any outlook to help the people. I have to ask the Hon'ble Minister to what extent he has been able to enthuse his Department to change their previous outlook and to be of help to the people.

Today, agricultural planning plays an important part in our schemes of national reconstruction. The growth of population and incapacity of the soil to maintain this growing population is a big problem which deserves immediate attention. We must adopt means to increase the productivity of the soil. We have no accurate statistical information as to the percentage of yield per acre, whether this yield is increasing or decreasing. In some provinces, random sample survey is made from time to time to ascertain accurate statistical information on this matter. I understand, a few years ago The Central Government allocated an amount to be spent for collecting statistical informations regarding percentage of yield per acre of various crops in Assam. But owing to the negligence and indifference on the part of the officers of this Department this grant was made to lapse. I trust the present Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture will try to revive this grant and spend the amount on such survey work on random sample basis. In some provinces it is found that yield of various crops per acre has been slowly decreasing. In our Province we are not in a position to say whether this gradual process of decrease is also happening without our notice. But this is a matter which must be checked at once.

If we are determined on building an economic democracy to match our future political democracy we must have facts. The Department of Agriculture must be so well-equipped as to bring out social and economic facts to light, besides scientific discoveries and how these can be made available for use by the cultivators in our country. For this the Department has to study the entire agrarian question. It is no use blaming the cultivators for their inefficiency, idleness and their conservatism in sticking to their old primitive methods. This question is a complicated one and is closely connected with socio-economic factors—our defective land tenure system. We cannot overlook the adverse effects of this defective land tenure system. We cannot overlook of land. The Government have accepted a programme on the productivity have to urge on the Government to expedite the matter. And I gradually expropriate the land-holders not only from the permanently-settled areas but also those big land-holders in temporarily-settled areas who are exploiting the cultivators. They have to reform the law of inheritance and see that each cultivator must possess a minimum holding which should not be sub-divided amongst the members of the family.

Agricultural efficiency depends more or less on the social, economic and legal status of the cultivator and not on technical perfection of his implements and soil only. This fact is sometimes lost sight of and in consequence a bias

in favour of technological improvement has been growing. But it is useless to preach the doctrine of improvement of technological methods in agriculture to our cultivators impoverished by the exactions of parasitic interest.

In the United States, the Development of Agriculture has started Agricultural Banks. It has taken measures to sustain prices of agricultural products. It is financing schemes of soil conserving. There is a direct and continued contact between the Department and the people whom it seeks to benefit.

I have to urge on the Government to think seriously whether they can also adopt measures on such line. They have to evolve a scheme for opening agricultural banks and nationalize the trade of agricultural products so that the agriculturist is assured of an equitable price for his produce. Poverty of our cultivators is the resultant outcome of various forces—uncertainty of prices, exploitation of middlemen, defective land system, unhealthy environment, neglected mental and physical development and disintegrated rural society.

In this connection, I have to state that in the United States, the Development of Agriculture is stated to have opened a rural rehabilitation division to assist the destitute families and other families residing in rural areas to become self-supporting and independent of emergency relief aid. And we understand from the reports that are available that many have lifted themselves out of a hopeless situation to self-respect and honest livelihood. Besides increasing their income, they have increased the amount of food produced for home consumption—the value of which is estimated to be worth more than 30 million dollars.

The agriculturists in our country have been forced into agriculture as a mode of living. This cannot be said to be a business proposition for them. Our fundamental problem is how we can transform this occupation into a business proposition for the benefit of the agricultural people.

Before concluding, I must urge on the Government that they should adopt a definite plan for the attainment of self-sufficiency, by taking measures to extend the present acreage under cultivation of mustard seed, sugarcane, etc.

Regarding agricultural economy, it is essential to know facts as to how that economy is operating. That is why I have laid emphasis on collection of statistical information. After this information is collected it is necessary to take rural census every five years as is being done in the United States.

With these words, Sir, I place the suggestions for consideration by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Agriculture.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cut Motions that have been tabled are clearly meant to encourage mechanised tilling in the Province for which so long no arrangements have been made by the Department, but the points on which an hon. Member has spoken just now are a bit different, that is, to increase the production of the whole Province. Sir, Government are not unapprised of the need of increasing the acreage of yield of various crops that are grown in the Province. It is known, Sir, to the hon. Members that our cultivators have been rather sticking to the old method of cultivation. But this old method, to my consideration, would not serve the purpose for all the time to come in view of large increase of our population. The other day we had a discussion about the rate of increase of our population and some hon. Member made it clear that the population has increased by about 12 lakhs in the Province in a decade. The problem in this respect is rather grave. In view of the rate of increase of our population, if the cultivators still desire to follow the same time-honoured and old method of cultivation, a time will come

when the entire production of the Province will not be sufficient to feed all the people in the Province. Of courses we shall have to find out some means to solve this problem and this, Sir, can be possible only by throwing open some new lands from the reserves for cultivation and for that purpose the help of tractors will be needed to replace the method of cultivation so long followed in our country, and only by that way the demand of the increased population could be met. Now, Sir, we have been led to an idea to find out some means of increasing acreage yield of our production. But, Sir, there is one question: whether the land of this Province is suitable for mechanised cultivation, whether the mechanised cultivation would be economical and whether our cultivators can be made to leave their time-honoured method of cultivation to take to new method of cultivation when that would be introduced. These questions are engaging the attention of Government and, Sir, for this purpose experiments are being made in our laboratory at Jorhat to test the soils of various places that will have to be found out to see whether those soils would be fit for mechanised cultivation. It will take some time, Sir, before the experts give the Government their advice as a result of their test, as stated now. We sent an indent for 14 tractors, but we have been so far supplied with only 4 by the Government of India. These 4 tractors are now not working for want of ploughs and other paraphernalia which have not been available. Then, again, Sir, in these days of post-war reconstruction all over the country every province has taken up its development programme. We are in need of Agricultural Engineers and our Public Service Commission has not been able to find out an Engineer for us. We have sent out one of our officers for agricultural engineering training and we hope he will come back in a short time. Then we may be able to start our new ventures in the field of agriculture on a mechanised basis.

Sir, as regards the suggestions of my hon. Friend, Mr. Omeo Kumar Das, we must not consider only one aspect of the problem. The Province of Assam is now a surplus Province so far as paddy is concerned. But what stands in the way of incentive to paddy cultivation is, as all the hon. Members know, that the Government of Assam have been trying in vain to raise the price of paddy to an economic standard. We have so far failed to convince the Government of India that such a course is absolutely necessary for the Province. As a matter of fact I know all the hon. Members of this House are cornered in villages for not having been able to raise the price of paddy to an economic standard, while the prices of other commodities have risen to an extent that our cultivators cannot obtain them by selling their paddy. Sir, I may mention in this connection that at a Conference held at Delhi I pointed out that grow more paddy in Assam would be somewhat difficult in the near future unless an economic price was offered to our cultivators. Unless that difficulty is obviated our cultivators will not be so enthusiastic in growing more paddy as they would have done had they got an economic price. Government will do their best to advise the cultivators to grow more paddy; they will also help them to improve their crop by doing irrigation works, due to which in some places the difficulty has been removed to a considerable extent.

Regarding pulses, Sir, the difficulty about extending the cultivation of Masur-Khesari is not popular in our Province—is that the soil of Assam is not generally suitable for cultivation of Masur. I have seen the soil of Assam is not generally carried out in the Jorhat laboratory. I have seen the soil of Assam is not generally some cases experiments have been completed. Samples of soil have been taken and in few places—near about the Brahmaputra Valley. The result shows that only in very ing other parts of the Province the general impression that we have got by these experiments is that the soil is not favourable to the cultivation of Masur. Regarding kalai and Moong are being experimented in the newly established farm at Kokilamukh; which is a demonstrative as well as an experimental farm. I hope, Sir,

that this farm will be able by their demonstration to encourage people to grow more pulses in our Province.

As regards mustard, Sir, this year owing to the efforts of the Agriculture Department we have got more mustard than in previous years, but still the need of the Province will not be met because the area that has been brought under cultivation has not been increased to an extent to meet the full demands of our Province. But, Sir, this cultivation is not so economical to our cultivators.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister is not replying to a Food Debate.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** Sir, food debate was introduced to some extent by my hon. Friend, Mr. Das, as I have already submitted, and in reply to that I am submitting that these cultivations were once prevalent in our country, but were abandoned because they were not economical. But still, Sir, our Province is surplus so far as paddy is concerned and so far as other cultivations are concerned, in a few years' time we hope to be self-sufficient, at least in mustard. Of course it is very difficult to say anything now regarding pulses.

As regards the mechanised method of cultivation, I have already submitted, Sir, that Government are trying their best to get trained men as well as tractors to start some experiments wherever conditions are favourable. But we have not as yet been able to get sufficient trained men as well as officers of high grade with requisite training. Our officer will take some time to come back—it will take at least one year more. Unless and until we get sufficient materials, *i.e.*, tractors fully equipped and trained men it is not possible for us to launch upon a scheme of the land within the limitation of the resources available at their command. On a consideration of the handicaps and the limitations under which the Government of Assam have had to work I hope my hon. Friend will see his way to withdraw his Motion. Government will do everything in their power to increase the agricultural production of the Province.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, I delivered my speech too quickly for the Hon'ble Minister to follow what I said. I quite agree with the Hon'ble Minister that we have not got tractors and trained men for the purpose of mechanised cultivation. But we have got a good deal of land which is not suitable for irrigated paddy but very suitable for growing pulses, mustard, sugarcane, cotton, etc., etc., and I say that the land will never be opened out by the small cultivator. So I suggest that Government will do very well indeed if they open out such high land ready of cultivation on contract basis. Selected cultivators may then be settled on this land to carry on the farming either individually, co-operatively or collectively. That was the burden of my song. With the leave of the House, I withdraw my Motion.

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

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now, the question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,70,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'." The question was adopted.

Now, we pass on to the Supplementary list of business. The item in the name of the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi regarding the creation of "Publication Fund" is standing over since yesterday, and he should move it now.

**Motion Re : creation of "Publication Fund"**

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :—

"(1) The work of compilation and publication of historical works by the Department of the Historical and Antiquarian studies by its very nature often takes much time and it becomes impossible to utilise the provision made for the purpose within the year. This necessitates surrender of the lapsed amount provided for the purpose and fresh amount for the same purpose is required to be provided in the following year, resulting in voting on the same demand by the House over and over again. The work ready for publication is thus deferred till the next sitting of the Assembly. This means considerable waste in time and handicap in the progress of the work of publication of books of historical interest. To provide against this it is proposed that—

(2) This House therefore considers it necessary that a separate fund to be called 'The Publication Fund' be opened in the Debt Head Section of the Accounts out of the savings from the provision under the head—'47—Miscellaneous Departments—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts' made in the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1946-47 for the expansion of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies, and that the amounts of Rs.3,660 and Rs.1,000 for publication of Dr. Bhuyan's thesis 'Anglo-Assamese Relations' and printing of other historical books, respectively, provided in the current year's Budget under the aforesaid head be also transferred to this 'Publication Fund'. As the amount will be utilised for the specific purpose of publishing books of historical interest and accounts will be kept under rules to be framed by Government it is also proposed that the Legislature may agree to the creation of the fund to be utilised by the Society in accordance with rules made by Government in that behalf".

Sir, I will just explain to the hon. Members that this kind of lapsing of the fund meant for publication of certain books has gone from year to year; and in anticipation of the re-sanction or sanction the work was stayed on and much delay has occurred in the publication of these books. Now, this year also, I mean the year 1946-47, this amount was shown as I have just now referred. There are also other savings in the department besides these two amounts, which Government think fit to consolidate into a Fund which will be utilised according to the direction of Government under rules framed and allow publication of the books from time to time under sanction of Government. The proposal that has been made before the Legislature herein is that, in the first place a Fund should be created and secondly that the money that has been saved should be appropriated to this Fund. There is one other advantage if such a Fund is created and that is that we might be getting private subscriptions also to this Fund. So, I think the House will agree in this. It will be wise to have them under the direction of Government under certain rules rather than leave them to be drawn by people at their sweet will. In view of all these, this proposal has been made. The whole proposal is more or less a appropriation.

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

"(1) That the work of compilation and publication of historical works by the Department of the Historical and Antiquarian studies by its very nature often takes much time and it becomes impossible to utilise the provision made for the

purpose within the year. This necessitates surrender of the lapsed amount provided for the purpose and fresh amount for the same purpose is required to be provided in the following year, resulting in voting on the same demand by the House over and over again. The work ready for publication is thus deferred till the next sitting of the Assembly. This means considerable waste in time and handicap in the progress of the work of publication of books of historical interest.

(2) That this House therefore considers it necessary that a separate fund to be called 'The Publication Fund' be opened in the Debt Head Section of the Accounts out of the savings from the provision under the head—'47—Miscellaneous Departments—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts' made in the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1946-47 for the expansion of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies, and that the amounts of Rs.3,660 and Rs. 1,000 for publication of Dr. Bhuyan's thesis 'Anglo-Assamese Relations' and printing of other historical books, respectively, provided in the current year's Budget under the aforesaid head be also transferred to this 'Publication Fund'. As the amount will be utilised for the specific purpose of publishing books of historical interest and accounts will be kept under rules to be framed by Government it is also proposed that the Legislature may agree to the creation of the fund to be utilised by the Society in accordance with rules made by Government in that behalf".

(After a pause)

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

"(1) That the work of compilation and publication of historical works by the Department of the Historical and Antiquarian studies by its very nature often takes much time and it becomes impossible to utilise the provision made for the purpose within the year. This necessitates surrender of the lapsed amount provided for the purpose and fresh amount for the same purpose is required to be provided in the following year, resulting in voting on the same demand by the House over and over again. The work ready for publication is thus deferred till the next sitting of the Assembly. This means considerable waste in time and handicap in the progress of the work of publication of books of historical interest.

(2) That this House therefore considers it necessary that a separate fund to be called 'The Publication Fund' be opened in the Debt Head Section of the Accounts out of the savings from the provision under the head '47—Miscellaneous Departments—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts' made in the list of Supplementary Demands for grants for the year 1946-47 for the expansion of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies, and that the amounts of Rs.3,660 and Rs. 1,000 for publication of Dr. Bhuyan's thesis 'Anglo-Assamese Relations' and printing of other historical books, respectively, provided in the current year's Budget under the aforesaid head be also transferred to this 'Publication Fund'. As the amount will be utilised for the specific purpose of publishing books of historical interest and accounts will be kept under rules to be framed by Government it is also proposed that the Legislature may agree to the creation of the fund to be utilised by the Society in accordance with rules made by Government in that behalf".

The question was adopted.

### **The Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now we pass on to next item of the agenda, consideration of the Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946, clause by clause. *i.e.,* Under clause 2 there are two Amendments—the first one stands in the name of Mr. Tunstall.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in line 3 of sub-clause (1) of clause 2 after the words "section 40", the following be added as a proviso:—

"Provided always that no such part of a subdivision shall be less than the area of a Police Thana, but may include the whole area of more than one police Thana".

Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given his reasons for wishing to retain the power of applying the Bill to areas smaller than a subdivision. I fully realise that where there is a strong local demand for the introduction of compulsory education and at the same time the necessary facilities for the rapid implementation of the provisions of the Act it may be desirable to apply it to an area less than a whole subdivision. It is, however, very important that the area thus selected have boundaries that coincide with those of a well established administrative unit. In our opinion this should not be less than the whole area of a Police Thana, and that should it be found desirable to extend beyond the boundaries of one Police Thana, the whole area of the Police Thana, in which the extension is desired, should be included in the area of compulsion.

The acceptance of the Amendment suggested would tend to ensure orderly development which would include all classes within the area prescribed. It is easy to imagine that without this clear definition of boundaries it would be possible for a particular community to get all the benefits of compulsory education while others less advanced, such as the scheduled castes, tribals, etc., are left signalled out for compulsion while the more advanced communities to be the latter case a few enthusiasts may induce some of the members of their community to ask for compulsion while the bulk of its members may resent it as soon as the provisions of the Bill are brought into force. Invidious distinctions would be avoided if the whole population within a well-defined area, irrespective of caste or creed, is included. This is a matter of great importance to the success of the objects of the Bill.

From a study of the speeches of some of the hon. Members I anticipate that the representatives of the scheduled castes and tribal areas will demand an early application of the Bill to the areas they represent, and at the same time ask for preferential treatment in regard to the tax. I would, however, draw the attention of the House to the fact that in spite of their lack of education, which is admitted, many of the members of these communities are in fact better off than the average Caste Hindu. This is particularly the case at the present time when the cost of food is very high and the Caste Hindu, who is not a food producer, is very much worse off than the cultivators who get, at any rate, some benefit from the high prices of the commodities they produce. I am drawing pointed attention to this, not from any lack of feeling for the scheduled castes and tribal peoples but because I am very strongly opposed to the pauperisation of any community. The 'Ma-Bap' idea has too long been a curse in this Province. I feel that every one should be taught to accept the principle of payment for benefits received.

In this connection education cannot be considered alone, it must be co-ordinated with other aspects of rural development which, combined, will eventually increase the tax-paying ability of the general population so that eventually the whole cost of the benefits conferred may be paid without undue hardship by the people directly concerned.

Keeping in mind this principle I am still convinced that compulsory education should be integrated with all other aspects of rural and urban development

and that balanced development should be the aim. The principle I have put forward above should, in my opinion, be applied throughout. By co-ordinating the various activities of rural development, it should be possible to accept and encourage people with ample free time to contribute their labour in whole or in part payment of the cost of the benefits conferred, including free education. To keep the overhead costs to a reasonable level, I am still of the opinion that a whole Subdivision, including a town, is the smallest unit likely to be economical.

There is another aspect which should be emphasised, *i.e.*, the introduction of compulsory primary education will be of doubtful value unless the population in the area be large enough to maintain secondary schools. To be effective, there must be a ladder up which a child with sufficient ability may climb to higher levels of culture. In a small more or less isolated unit the ambition to climb would not grow and even if it did, the ladder provided by middle and higher secondary institutions would not be conveniently near.

Hence, from a number of points of view I believe that it would be better to make a whole Subdivision the minimum unit but to meet the objections raised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I am now limiting my suggestion to the whole area of a Police Thana and I hope that this Amendment will be accepted. I feel sure that by accepting it, a more balanced development would be possible to the greater benefit of all communities.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS :** On a point of information, Sir, may I know as to how Mr. Tunstall could say that the scheduled castes and tribals are far better off than the Caste Hindus?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now, I am putting the Amendment.

Amendment moved :

“That in line 3 of sub-clause (1) of clause 2, after the words ‘section 40’ the following be added as a proviso :

‘Provided always that no such part of a subdivision shall be less than the area of a Police Thana, but may include the whole area of more than one Police Thana’.

Yes, now Mr. Das may speak, if he wants.

**Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. The object of the Amendment is not very much different from the intention of the Government in this behalf. Only Mr. Tunstall wants to be more precise about the area of compulsion than what Government could afford just at the present moment to be. It will be seen from the main clause 2 (1) how the area of compulsion has been defined. The area of compulsion means a subdivision or part of a subdivision under clause 40. Of course, part of a subdivision would include what Mr. Tunstall chooses to define as the area of a Police Thana or may include the whole area in more than one Police Thana. Now it may be pointed out to Mr. Tunstall that his Amendment suffers from some defect and vagueness is one of them. Now it might be easily understood what is the meaning of a Police Thana ; but it would be too difficult to understand what “the area of a Police Thana” is, *e.g.*, the area may be made up of several villages in different parts in two or three Police Stations and may also otherwise be constituted. I think, his object in these words is to mean that the area of compulsion should be within a Police Thana. But my main objection is that he wants Government to be more precise than what Government could just be at the present moment. I quite realise the force of his argument that a wider area could be a proper administrative unit for the purpose of compulsion ; but it is very difficult to say just at the present moment, as I have already made it clear.



When the report of the Select Committee was presented before the House I stated that we might be thinking of taking up an area where education is very backward, where people demand it and other factors which shall lead to better fulfilment of the object of compulsion. Therefore, Government want to keep certain rights in respect of the area to be chosen. I do not know whether the hon. Members know certain facts, but as early as 1937-38 the Miri population of the Majuli and North Lakhimpur areas wanted to introduce compulsory Primary Education. They even wanted to pay a cess for the purpose. What Government propose to say over this Amendment is that Government should be left free to consider all these possibilities, and then decide their action accordingly; and would not like to be limited to a particular area or definition of a particular area. It is transparent clear from the clause itself that it could mean any area smaller than a subdivision or equivalent to a subdivision.

In view of all these, I feel that the Amendment proposed by Mr. Tunstall is not necessary. Whenever compulsion in any particular area will be decided, the opinion of the particular area will be taken into consideration. In view of this I would request Mr. Tunstall to withdraw his Amendment. At the same time, I would give him this assurance that the points he has made out will be taken into consideration before compulsory areas are selected.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** In view of the assurance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he will take into consideration this question sympathetically, bearing in mind that it is better to have a bigger well-defined area, if possible, I will withdraw my Amendment.

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

(Voices—Yes)

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is another Amendment in the name of Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta. Is he moving it?

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2, the following shall be added after sub-clause (13) as sub-clause (14):

“(14) Religious education means such education as may be prescribed”.  
The object of moving this Amendment is in consideration of clause 41 because there some exemption is given for religious education. Here it is stated that provided always that no guardian shall be compelled to cause a child to attend a school which is managed or maintained by a religious organisation in the interests of any religion or religious sect which is not the religion or sect of such guardian. On the plea of religion, guardians will try to withhold their children to go to a school. Therefore definition of religion should be given in the section. This is a simple Amendment and I think Government will have no objection to accept it.

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

“That in clause 2, the following shall be added after sub-clause (13) as sub-clause (14).  
“(14) Religious education means such education as may be prescribed”.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am afraid the scope of clause 41 was not as clear to the hon. Member as the clause itself seeks to make out. The object of this clause is not to enforce compulsion on any student to attend schools run by religious institutions in the interests of any particular religion. Supposing some religious organisations are running certain institution for the benefit of that religion Government can be no party to enforcing compulsion on any student for attending that institution. Let us take a concrete instance, *e. g.*, Missionaries run their schools. Such schools may be a recognised school according to the definition in this Bill and it may be made compulsory for students in the neighbourhood to attend the school. Such an institution need not be an institution to which the students should be compelled to come unless it was not run in the interests of a particular religion. I do not think there will arise any necessity for Government to decide what religious instructions will be. As a matter of fact my hon. Friend will realise the greatest difficulty to define religious education, when we find that we have so many diverse religious institutions in India particularly in this Province and in prescribing rules for defining them. I think in view of the real meaning of clause 41 he will not press his Amendment for acceptance of the House.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Though I am not satisfied and as Government is not ready to accept my Amendment I am not pressing it. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

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

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

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

"That clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill, stand part of the Bill".

The question was adopted.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** I beg to move.

(1) That in item (a) of clause 4, the words 'who shall be the Chairman of the Board' shall be deleted.

(2) That after item (d) of clause 4, the following shall be added as item(e)

'(e) A whole time Chairman to be appointed by the Government'.

The object of this Amendment is that considering the immensity of the task of the Provincial Board, I think a whole-time Chairman should be appointed and not the Director of Public Instruction as suggested, because the Director of Public Instruction will be busy with other higher education, though the function of the primary education is stated to be in the nature of an advisory one, as a matter of fact, we can foresee that some inspection and other local activities will be required to be done by the Advisory Board, otherwise they will not be able to cope with the situation. In the duties and functions of the Provincial Board we find the curriculum, duration, standard and syllabus of primary education and much attention is to be given to these works. And again for method of recruitment and the conditions of services of primary school teachers and attendance officers, making of grants to School Boards, for all these, inspection and other things will have to be made. There are about 3,600 primary schools in the Province and the number of students will be about 4,10,000 and the number of teachers will be about 11,200. In the Act, we find that the age of the children is stated to be from 6 to 14 and from that

calculation we can say that there will be about 16,16,000 students in Assam and about 57,000 teachers, as given in the Sargent Report, and the Provincial Board will have to tackle this problem, which is undoubtedly a vast problem. The Sargent Report adopted the Basic System of education. This is a new system and in this Province we have appointed one Adviser for Basic education for an experiment in a small area. If the idea to make education compulsory in the primary stage throughout the Province is accepted, then we shall require a whole-time Chairman who will be in charge of the preparation of curriculum and other things, viz. control and direction of the activities of School Boards, making of grants to School Boards, method of recruitment and conditions of services and the training of Primary school teachers and attendance officers, etc. All these things shall have to be decided by the Provincial Board. Of course, the Bill says that the function of the Provincial Board would be to advise the Government on these matters; but unless the Board study things for themselves and also study the system of education prevailing in other provinces, it will be difficult for the Board to advise Government on all these matters. So considering all these factors, I think the Chairman of the Board should be a whole-time educationist and not the Director of Public Instruction, who is already over-worked at the present moment.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Amendment to the acceptance of the House.

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

- “(1) That in item (a) of clause 4, the words ‘who shall be the Chairman of the Board’ shall be deleted.  
 (2) That after item (d) of clause 4, the following shall be added as item (e):  
 ‘(e) A whole time Chairman to be appointed by the Government.’”

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the spirit in which this Amendment has been moved, but I am disposed to believe that the structure of the Bill has not been fully appreciated by the hon. Member. I am one of those who believe that we should have as many experts to guide our activities as it is possible for us to appoint. But the structure of the Bill will show that the Provincial Board is an Advisory Body and my hon. Friend has already said that. He will also see that we are not losing sight of the fact that an expert has got to be at the helm of affairs, and therefore, a special officer is proposed to be put as the Secretary of the Board. The function of the Chairman will be, more or less, to keep in touch with what is going on in the School Boards in particular and to have a kind of general supervision over the work of the Provincial Board. It is the Secretary actually, who will be the Special Officer and he shall be a whole-time officer and on him the work of advice and supervision will, more or less, lie. Detailing further the structure of the Bill, it will be seen that the Executive Body is the School Board. It is the School Board which will carry out the Primary Education Bill in operation. They have been given very wide powers, which even the Advisory Board do not propose to interfere with; and at the same time, though there will not be many points of reference from these School Boards to the Advisory Body, the Advisory Body will be expected to advise Government on matters of policy, finance and such other very broad things. In view of this, Sir, I feel that time has not, at any rate, come for the appointment of a whole-time Chairman. That time may come and if it do come, then we shall surely think about his proposal. But at the present moment, it seems to me that the Director of Public Instruction, being the Head of the Department of Education, should be able to manage the affairs as

Chairman. I mean to say that he will be able to be the Chairman of the Board and act as a liaison between the Government and the Provincial Board.

I hope, Sir, in view of what I have said, the hon. Member will be pleased to withdraw his Amendment.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Sir, in view of the statement of the Hon'ble the Premier to the effect that when time will come they will consider the appointment of a whole-time Chairman, I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

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

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

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

"That clauses 4 to 8 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, I do not propose to move the Amendment standing in my name under clause 9.

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

"That clauses 9 to 16 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Sir, I beg to move that in lines 2 and 5 of item (e) of clause 17, for the words "one representative" the words "three representatives of whom at least one shall be a female teacher" shall be substituted.

The reason for my Amendment is that there should be sufficient representation from among the school teachers. There will be some representatives of Local Boards and Municipalities and it will not be easy for the boards to do the executive work smoothly as enunciated in clause 24. Some of the provisions are against the decision of the Central Advisory Board. The report of the Central Advisory Board at page 74 says that the members of these bodies in both cases should be nominated by the Provincial Education Department and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that they should on no account be set up, unless enough people of the right kind are available to serve on them. The School Board should appoint one or more of its members either to serve on the Managing Body of each recognised school (Government or Aided) in its area or, where there is no Managing Body to take personal interest in the welfare of the school. The Central Board also recommended that the School Board should in no case include any control over the appointment, promotion, transfer or dismissal of teachers. But these duties have been entrusted to the School Board. So, I think that more teachers should be represented in the Board to safeguard their interest and at least one of them should be a female teacher. We expect in the near future, the whole of the primary education will be entrusted to the female teachers and it is proper that female teachers should get their representatives in the School Board.

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

"That in lines 2 and 6 of item (e) of clause 17, for the words 'one representative' the words 'three representatives of whom at least one shall be a female teacher' shall be substituted."

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Sen Gupta for the inclusion of a female teacher in the School Board. It is true that with more participation in education of children of the country, the part to be played by females would

definitely be of more importance. But I find a little difficulty in accepting the Amendment that he has proposed. His proposal is that there should be three representatives in the School Board from the teachers of whom one will be a female. Now, I do not know whether my hon. Friend has realised the importance of giving a large number of teacher members in the School Board. He will agree with me that if it is to be a body which will be carrying out its work as a Government-cum-non-official body then he would naturally like that it should be composed in such a way—I mean official and non-official portion of the members of the School Board—by which it does not grow into a clique. Now, he wants three representatives from among the teachers. He can well see that with two members of the inspecting staff and these three might form themselves into a caucus. That is a factor I do not know whether the hon. Member has taken into consideration. I expect that the inspecting staff will be trying to do the duty properly and efficiently. Yet the preponderance of the opinion of the inspecting staff with the teachers who are naturally expected to follow them may be something, which we do not know will be conducive to the best management of the School Board. That is the reason why we thought that there should be one representative from teachers which would be an adequate step for their representation. But if my hon. Friend suggests any other way by which we can get the services of a lady I shall be only too happy. If the Amendment is proposed in that way I shall gladly accept it. I personally feel that instead of a lady teacher of the Primary School being one of the members of this committee, if a lady who was otherwise interested in education, not a representative of a lower primary school teachers (say a mistress of a high school) was proposed, it would have been a better suggestion. If my hon. Friend suggests that way then I can accept an Amendment. Possibly he might also request the Government to nominate at least a lady representative in which case we can see that a lady is represented in the School Board. We may have even a rule to that effect.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, the Bill gives ample authority to Government to nominate any number of members to the School Board. So we may leave the matter here and request them to nominate such a lady teacher whose services may be deemed helpful.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** In view of what the Hon'ble Premier has said I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment?  
The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
“That clauses 17 to 23 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill.”  
The question was adopted.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in item (5) of clause 24, after the word “inspection,” the words “and treatment” shall be added.  
Sir, in the functions for the Provincial Board we find in respect of clause 9 that medical inspection and treatment for children will be taken into consideration, but when the actual time for imparting the said medical inspection came, it was omitted to be done. Consequently it means that the Primary School Board will simply make arrangements for inspection only in regard to the health of the children, but nothing has been provided for their treatment. So, Sir, I do not know how the Board will try to give effect to any treatment if and when

found necessary as a result of their inspection. Of course, Sir, I do not say that Government will take the responsibility of treating the children themselves. But they can make some arrangements when the diagnosis is made. Teachers might take some preventive measures and may direct the guardian for sending the patient children or students to the hospital for treatment when it is needed. So some arrangements shall have to be made by Government for their treatment after inspection. With that aim in view, Sir, I have brought in this Amendment.

It seems to be an omission, not to mention treatment as the function of the School Board, when treatment is provided as the duty of the Provincial Board.

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

“That in item (5) of clause 24, after the word ‘inspection’ the words ‘and treatment’ shall be added.”

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Here again, Sir, is an instance in which the functions of the Board have been differently understood, and as it seems to me that is also the reason why my hon. Friend wants some words to be inserted in the Bill. The Provincial Advisory Board will advise Government on medical inspection and treatment of children—whenever that treatment has actually become necessary to be given. At present Government do not commit itself to giving such treatment to all the children at all places and that for adequate reason. I may say that the utility of the Amendment of my hon. Friend however desirable it may be, will be an impracticability for the reason that the number of our doctors, even if funds permit, would not be enough for making treatment possible to all children in all rural schools.

**Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA:** Sir, in that case will it not be possible to take the help of the Homeopathy doctors?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am not opposed to the Homeopathy doctors, but at present their number is such that even they would not be enough for the purpose unless their number is increased overnight. There would be about 16 lakhs of students. Would it be practicable to give them all medical treatment, especially in the rural schools? As I have said just now, this difficulty is not for financial reasons alone. Even though funds might be available, the task could not be undertaken for the reason I have now explained. So, Sir, however cruel I might look to have to oppose this Amendment I feel to have no option but to do so. I hope my hon. Friend will realise the difficulty in our Province at present and so will not press his Amendment.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Sir, in view of what the Hon'ble Premier has stated, I do not like to press my Amendment and beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment? (*Voices in the affirmative*).  
The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now the question is:  
“That clauses 24-31 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill.”  
The question was adopted.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** Sir, I beg to move that in item (ii) of clause 32, after the word “Provident” the words “or Insurance” shall be added.

I think, Sir, that Government will be pleased to accept this because when the provident fund system will be made available for the teachers there will be no difficulty to pay premium from that fund and thereby Government will not be loser in any way. Sir, this will be an alternative means for them for their pension. Because recently we heard from the Secretary of the Education Department during the course of discussion in a Conference that Government have found that Government gain by pension system than the Provident fund, as pensioners die early and cannot enjoy pensions for a long time. But in the case of provident funds they have to pay the teachers lump sums after their retirement. So, Sir, when the provident fund system will be provided, the Government shall be able to pay insurance premium for them direct from that fund. In view of what I have said, Sir, Government will find no difficulty to accept my Amendment.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :  
 "That in item (ii) of clause 32, after the word 'Provident' the words 'or Insurance' shall be added."

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** If the proposal in the Bill were in any way counter to the interests of the teachers or to the Amendment that has been put before the House, I would not have the necessity of taking the time of the House. But I feel a little difficulty in accepting the idea that Government should directly subscribe to the insurance policy for the teachers when they would get the benefit of the provident fund and could subscribe to an insurance policy from it themselves. The hon. Member does not perhaps realise the difficulty of Government in subscribing to a private policy where very many things or formalities will be necessary before a final contract is possible between an insurance company and the Government. However, Sir, we can have rules by which the insurer, for example, might be in a position to draw the provident fund money periodically so that he can pay the insurance money for his insurance policy. Therefore, Sir, I feel there is hardly any necessity for such a provision.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** This is an alternative suggestion, Sir.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** I do not see much benefit from insurance system independently because from the provident fund itself they will get a double benefit.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** Sir, I like that such wordings as I have brought in may be added.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** A teacher can have insurance very easily and in this connection I can repeat that, if it is necessary to frame rules by which he can draw money periodically from his provident fund for that purpose, we are ready to do this.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What does the hon. Member propose to do ?  
**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment ?  
 The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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

“That clauses 32 to 39, of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Amendment I wished to move is that in line 7 of clause 40, after the words “the provisions of this Act”, the following shall be added as a proviso :—

“Provided always that no such part of a subdivision shall be less than the area of a Police thana, but may include the whole area of more than one Police thana.”

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** This falls through, and the hon. Member need not move the Amendment.

The question is :

“That clause 40 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in line 3 of the proviso to clause 41, the words “by a religious organisation” shall be deleted, and in line 5 of the proviso of clause 41, after the words “of such guardian” the words “or where any kind of religious instruction is an obligatory subject of study” shall be added.

In clause 41 we find “In an area of compulsion, the guardian of every child resident in such area shall, subject to the provisions of sections 42 and 43 be bound to cause the child to attend a recognised primary school in such area ;

Provided always that no guardian shall be compelled to cause a child to attend a school which is managed or maintained by a religious organisation in the interests of any religion or religions sect which is not the religion or sect of such guardian.”

I want to delete the words “by a religious organisation”. The proviso would then read “Provided always that no guardian shall be compelled to cause a child to attend a school which is managed or maintained in the interests of any religion, etc.”. It should be left to the option of the guardian to withhold his children from going into schools which are managed or maintained in the interest of any religion or religious sect. Any such institution may or may not be managed by a religious organisation ; it may be managed by some other authority “in the interests of any religion etc.” and the guardians should not be compelled to send their children to such institutions. I hope Government will have no objection to accept my Amendment.

Regarding the second part of my Amendment, I want to add the words “or where any kind of religious instruction is an obligatory subject of study”. My contention is that the guardian should not be forced to send his children to an institution where any kind of religious instruction is an obligatory subject of study. Unless these exemptions are made many complicated questions of religion will crop up in this country where we have so many religions. I would therefore hope Government will find no difficulty in accepting my Amendments.

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

“(1) That in line 3 of the proviso to clause 41, the words ‘by a religious organisation’ shall be deleted.

(2) That in line 5 of the proviso to clause 41, after the words ‘of such guardian’ the words ‘or where any kind of religious instruction is an obligatory subject of study’ shall be added.”



**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of my hon. Friend's arguments in support of his Amendments I do not think that this will make much difference in the meaning beyond what the Bill's wordings convey. My hon. Friend proposes to omit the words "by a religious organisation". We thought that these words clarified the position better, but I shall have no objection to the deletion of these words.

Regarding the other part of his Amendment, I do not see the necessity of any further addition. It should be quite enough if we provide that a guardian should not be compelled to send his ward to a school "which is managed or maintained in the interests of any religion or religious sect which is not the religion or sect of such guardian". The proposed addition of the words "or where any kind of religious instruction is an obligatory subject of study" is entirely unnecessary. I shall therefore agree to the first part of his Amendment, in view of what he has said, *i.e.*, the omission of the words "by a religious organisation", but I would request him to withdraw the second part of his Amendment, which, it appears to me, seeks to further define an institution which is maintained in the interests of any religion or religious sect.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I put the question in respect of Amendment No. (1).

The question is:

"That in line 3 of the proviso of clause 41, the words 'by a religious organisation' shall be deleted."

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. Member propose to do with his other Amendment?

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

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

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

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

"That clause 41 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 42, I am therefore putting this clause as a question.

The question is:

"That clause 42 of the Bill, stands part of the Bill"

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now, clause 43, Moulana Ibrahim Ali to move.

**Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL:** May I read, Sir, the Amendment on behalf of Moulana Ibrahim Ali?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that after sub-clause (iv) at the end of clause 43, the following shall be added as sub-clause (v)—

"(v) the child is a Muslim girl over eleven years of age".

**Moulana IBRAHIM ALI:** (Spoke in Urdu).  
(English narration of his Urdu speech).

**Moulana IBRAHIM ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. From the Islamic point of view the importance of my Amendment is very great. Firstly, it gives the girls who are about to attain maturity, choice to observe *parda* which is enjoined by Islam. Secondly, it shows that Government are not interfering with freedom of religion in any way. Further the Amendment does not interfere with any other religion. It is also open to the Muslim girls of age to arrange for their education consistently with their religion. It is rather strange that education of girls is being imparted separately when they are minors but when they are of age they are to get it under the system of co-education. The utility of this policy is very doubtful as on the one hand it will make the Muslim girls neglectful of *parda* and on the other bad traits as to moral character may be imbibed. It is needless to quote instances. I have every hope that the hon. House will support me. It may be argued that *parda* is not fully observed by the Muslim community but law is one thing and practice is another. Government should always enforce law. I hope free India will have facilities for all shades of beliefs.

With this, Sir, I beg to commend my Amendment to the acceptance of this hon. House.

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

“That after sub-clause (iv) at end of the clause 43, the following shall be added as sub-clause (v)—

‘(v) the child is a Muslim girl over eleven years of age.’”

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I shall speak a few words on the wordings of the Amendment just for the purpose of incorporation in the Bill in the proper form. There is a full stop after sub-clause (iv). I think it should be a “semi colon” and the word “or” should be added.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If the Hon'ble Minister accepts the Amendment, I shall put the question.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I may make a further suggestion to the hon. Mover. He says that there are religious injunctions. If the Hon'ble Speaker will allow me to speak in Hindi, I can explain to the hon. Mover.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** (Spoke in Hindi)—

*(A gist of the speech in English is given below)*

I do not find any difficulty in accepting the Amendment moved by the hon. Mover. But I would like the hon. Mover to consider a further Amendment to his Amendment and to see if it would not be an improvement on the Amendment that he has proposed. His Amendment is only to add a clause exempting Muslim girls beyond 11 years of age from being compelled to read in a school. I think, however, that the hon. Mover may not have any objection in enforcing compulsion to girls students of the above age to go to schools which are in charge of female teachers, are exclusively for girls only and are within reasonable distance of the houses of these girls. If such an Amendment is proposed, I think, Sir, the

object of the Mover will be better served and the stigma that Government desires to exclude from the operation of compulsion a section of children will not be there.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I also speak a few words in Urdu?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED:** (Spoke in Urdu).

*(A gist of the speech in English is given below)*

I quite appreciate the view of the Hon'ble Minister of Education on the education of Muslim girls over 11 years of age. But as the Amendment moved by the hon. Mover is not practically a bar to the education of Muslim girls I cannot support the Amendment of the Hon'ble Minister of Education to the main Amendment for the following reasons, Sir.

That the Amendment of the hon. Mover implies only exemption from compulsory attendance to schools of Muslim girls above 11 years of age. This is not practically a bar to those who will be able to manage to send their daughters to schools managed as the Hon'ble Minister of Education has suggested, I mean, schools in charge of female teachers and are within reasonable distance.

To enforce compulsion to major girls to attend schools is sure to cause hardship to a notable section of the poor people who has to depend to a considerable extent upon the assistance of their major daughters in respect of their domestic affairs. Besides, many poor muslims will not be able to afford necessary robes for observance of *parda* by their daughters or wards outside the room.

Now, from the point of view of Islam it is an incumbent duty of every Muslim to give at his earliest convenience his daughter or daughters in marriage when they have attained majority.

In view of all these, Sir, I strongly support the Amendment of the hon. Mover and at the same time urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Education not to press his Amendment to the Amendment of the hon. Mover.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then I put the question. Obviously, they do not want to go into all these complications, but they want to leave the matter open.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDALOI:** (Spoke in Hindi)—English translation is given below).

I have not the slightest objection to accepting the Amendment of the hon. Mover.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I then put the question.

The question is:

“That after item (iv) at the end of clause 43, the following shall be added as item (v)—  
“(v) the child is a Muslim girl over eleven years of age.”

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** It is not so, rather it would be like this ;  
“That the “fulstop” at the end of item (iv) of clause 43 shall be substituted by a “semi colon” and the word “or” shall be added thereafter and the following shall be added as item (v)—  
“(v) the child is a Muslim girl over eleven years of age”.

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

That the 'full stop' at the end of item (iv) of clause 43 shall be substituted by a 'semi colon' and the word 'or' shall be added thereafter and the following shall be added as item (v) :—

'the child is a Muslim girl over eleven years of age'.

The question was adopted.

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

"That clause 43 of the Bill, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As there are no Amendments to clauses 44 to 47 both inclusive, I am putting them as a question.

The question is :

"That clauses 44 to 47 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill."

The question was adopted.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in line 5 of sub-clause (2) of clause 43, after the words "such scale as may be prescribed", the words "with the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature" shall be added.

Sir, I am moving this Amendment as a matter of principle. Only under dictators are the public expected to submit to taxation by Government notification. I feel very strongly that the exact amount of any tax should be subject to the previous approval of the Legislature. In the Select Committee the original wording of "Rs. 2 to Rs. 25" was considered to be too vague but no decision was reached and the matter was held over for further consideration. I do not know whether Government have reached any conclusion on this important matter. It is recognised that this tax will not cover the whole cost of the compulsory primary education but I fully agree that direct taxation of the heads of households for this specific object is a thoroughly sound principle. It will do much more to stimulate active interest in the schools than any less direct taxation is likely to do. It also helps to establish the principle of paying for benefits received.

I am, however, very much against the introduction of a sliding scale of taxation. It is, of course, a temptation to tax the rich more heavily so that the poor may benefit but I fear that a sliding scale would operate to the detriment of the salaried employee—the bhadralog—most of whom have much more difficulty in making ends meet than the ordinary villager.

One hon. Member wanted me to explain the above statement. A 'bhadralog' has to send his sons and daughters to High Schools for their education and he has to wear better clothes and generally keep up a higher standard of living. In consequence the salaried employee of the 'bhadralog' class has got little left out of his income at the end of the month. A villager is concerned with little more than the satisfaction of his physical needs.

There are a few rich shop-keepers but the percentage of these is so small that the larger amount that may be obtained from them is likely to make very little difference to the total. After considering the matter very carefully it seems to me that a much better result is likely to accrue from the levy of a flat rate of (say) eight annas or even less per month from all heads of households. The amount should be such that all can pay. After all, half a day's work at Re. 1 is not beyond the capacity of any villager, especially when it is remembered that most of them sit idle for at least 100 days per annum. Two seers of rice per month would cover the amount suggested and there are few villagers who

could not spare their amount without hardship. Those who cannot do so, of course, could be exempted.

Now, in this connection I would consider one thing. According to the 1931 Census, Sir, in Nalbari Thana there were 337 villages and 32,739 houses. The total population was 1,66,617.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Which place?

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Nalbari Thana in Kamrup District, Sir.

On a flat rate of eight annas per month, the money raised by the education tax would be Rs. 1,80,000. The number of children of primary school age, roughly one-tenth of the population, were about 16,000. Thus the local tax would raise about Rs. 11 per child per annum. If a sliding scale is adopted, it would be necessary for some one to assess the tax on not less than 30,000 households in one thana alone. Who would do the assessment? The School Board obviously could not do it, and where can Government get sufficient numbers of assessing officers of the type required without incurring expenditure far in excess of the extra money likely to be obtained? Additional expense would also be necessary in deciding appeals. The only portion of the population that would present no difficulty would be salaried employees—less than 1 per cent. of the householders. The remaining 99 per cent. would be required to be considered one by one. I feel sure that the sliding scale is quite unworkable and from the administrative point of view it is essential to have a flat rate such that all can pay. It should be fixed now.

According to the Annual Report on Public Instruction in Assam 1940-41, the total cost per scholar in primary schools is Rs. 4-0-6 and in middle schools Rs. 11-5-0. Assuming that the pay and standard of teachers will be higher we can assume that the higher figure is nearer the probable cost. This would be almost covered by a flat rate of eight annas per household.

For reasons given above I do not think a flat rate of eight annas per month is excessive. This could be collected by the authorities of the schools concerned at little extra expense to Government.

I would like to emphasize that if the areas of compulsion coincide with areas of intensive rural development, there should be plenty of ways by which even the poorest household could earn the extra money required. I would like to see even those who could afford to pay in cash using some of their spare time to earn the money required for this and other taxes that may be imposed directly for nation-building work. They would be setting an example to their less intelligent neighbours. Anything that helps to get rid of the 'Ma-Bap' idea—that helps to make the common people more self-respecting and self-reliant—is worth while.

I feel that the amount of tax should be subject to the approval of the Legislature rather than leaving it to be prescribed by a notification by Government. I think this important matter should come up before the House.

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

"That in line 5 of sub-clause (2) of clause 48, after the words 'such scale as may be prescribed', the words 'with the previous approval of the Provincial Legislature' shall be added."

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not anticipate this Amendment from hon. Mr. Tunstall, who raised this question in the Select Committee as to whether we should immediately fix up certain

scales of taxation which we might possibly put before the House. It was, however, decided — and he did not disagree — that it should be left to the Government to consider the whole question and to take action according to the necessity of the situation. I would have no objection to agree to his proposal and shall not find any difficulty in agreeing to his proposal, if, in the mean time, we cannot finish the preliminaries of the work that is before us — rules have to be made—scales of taxation have to be worked out. (It must be done by an expert person.) If during this period we have another sitting of the Legislature, I shall be glad to put these before the Legislature. But he will agree with me that if we hold up action simply because we have not been able to have a sitting of the Legislature, the matter should not be held up. It is only in consideration of that fact that we made it clear in the Select Committee that the Rules and whatever action the Government will propose to take will be put up before the Legislature when the Legislature may take that into consideration. It is not quite possible that we shall be able to enforce compulsion so soon or all at once, and in the meantime this matter shall have to be worked out. I think, Sir, that the hon. Member should not be so insistent on his Amendment. If it does not mean holding up of our work, he will get an opportunity of discussing the levy that is proposed. Of all groups in the Assembly, Mr. Tunstall's group should not have any difficulty in agreeing to the mode of taxation we may have. After all we are a popular Government and we shall have to think seriously when we shall moot any taxation proposal, so that it may not be unpopular. I am sure, the share that will fall to his group will bear no comparison in point of hardship that may be caused to the ordinary cultivator.

In view of this I would request Mr. Tunstall to withdraw his Amendment. If the Legislature sits in the meanwhile and the rules are ready, they will be put before the House and he shall have every opportunity of discussing them. I cannot expect that we shall finish so soon; but I would point out to the hon. Mover of the Amendment, that if we can expedite the matter, we should not be holding up any action for want of a formal sanction for which we shall have to come to the Legislature.

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully appreciate the Hon'ble Minister's arguments on this subject. I do not think it would be possible even now to fix a rate, which could be done later, for the people who wish to have compulsory primary education in their areas. I think it would help a good deal in this matter to have it fixed at annas eight. That would enable work to proceed. Later on if they wish to increase or decrease it, then the matter might be brought up before the House. That seems to be reasonable, and the House will have an opportunity of saying whether such taxation is good or bad. Any way the House should be given an opportunity before the tax is collected.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. Mover propose to do with the Amendment?

**Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

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

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
“ That clause 48 of the Bill stands part of the Bill ”.  
The question was adopted.

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

“ That clauses 49 and 50 of the Bill stand part of the Bill ”.  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :  
“ That the Schedule to the Bill stands part of the Bill. ”  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :  
“ That clause 1 of the Bill 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 GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946, be passed.

I have very little to add in this final stage. The Bill was fully discussed and the whole position was placed before the hon. Members and I hope the Bill can now be passed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved :  
“ That the Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946, be passed ”.

*(After a pause).*

I put the question. The question is :  
“ That the Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946, be passed. ”  
The question was adopted.

*(Claps from the Government Benches)*

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Before we come to the end of the business of the day, I want to mention about two things. The first point is that those hon. Members, who speak in Urdu or Hindusthani, will please give either a translation or a gist of their speeches in English because, the hon. Members know, that we have no Reporter for reporting the Hindusthani or Urdu speeches. The other point is that there is to be held an election to the Public Accounts Committee on the floor of the House to-day.

### Election to the Public Accounts Committee

*(The Election then proceeded)*

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order. Have all the hon. Members got ballot papers ? I take it that everybody has got ballot paper. I hope hon. Members will expedite putting in their paper in the ballot boxes.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now may I take it that every hon. Member has put the ballot paper in the ballot boxes ? *(Replies in the affirmative came from all sides.)*

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Saturday, the 29th March, 1947.

SHILLONG :  
The 11th March 1947

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