

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 11 A.M. on Monday, the 25th March, 1946.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re-organisation of the Assam Educational Service

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA asked :

*14. Will Government be pleased to refer to their Resolution published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 6th February 1946, re-organising the Assam Educational Service with revised grades of pay and adding five "Special Posts" to that cadre on higher pay and state—

- (a) The reason for creating these "Special Posts" and the principles and method of recruiting persons to those posts ?
- (b) The reason for the enhanced scale of pay fixed for the Director of Public Instruction in this new Scheme ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

14. (a)—There have been three special posts in the Assam Educational Service. The last Ministry decided that the post of Inspectors should also be considered special in view of their importance and responsibility, and have increased the special posts from three to five. The posts will be filled by suitable Officers of Class I according to seniority and merit.

(b)—No enhanced pay has been granted. The scale was created in 1942 for Officers of the Assam Educational Service holding this post.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Have Government improved the conditions of lower grade teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I would like the hon. Member to be more explicit in reference to what he means by lower grade teachers.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : The question is to improve the condition of the Assam Educational Service-men. Now, there are also school teachers and other teachers ; without improving their conditions, how the Government is going to improve the conditions of those who are highly salaried ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : In the first place, the reply is that this was the policy of the last Government and I should have been glad to reply to the hon. Member if he would have been more explicit because there are secondary school teachers, primary school teachers and there are other teachers also in other services.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Will Government please see to improve the conditions of other school teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The question is in reference to Educational Service but my Friend probably means to improve the School Service.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May we know whether Government intends to give effect to the Resolution that was published in the *Assam Gazette* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is under the consideration of Government.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Is dearness allowance also included in this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I don't think dearness allowance is included in this.

Temporary posts in the Assam Civil Service

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR asked :

†*15. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of temporary posts in the Assam Civil Service with a tabular statement of additional work to justify the continuance of the said posts for the year preceding the creation of the said posts and that of the year 1945 ?
- (b) Whether the Commissioner even in his inspection made a comparative study of the said figures ?
- (c) The work at present done by the holders of additional listed posts ?
- (d) The names of the present incumbents of these additional listed posts and their present officiating pay and their substantive grade pay ?
- (e) At whose initiative these additional listed posts were created and the reasons for their creations ?
- (f) Whether Government ever tried to retrench any such posts ?
- (g) Whether such work could not be done by senior and experienced officers of the Assam Civil Service especially empowered ?
- (h) Whether the Government propose to call for a report from all District Officers and the Commissioner on the points raised in the above Questions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

15. (a)—The total number of temporary posts is at present thirty. The majority of these posts were intended to meet the expansion of ordinary work pending resumption of regular recruitment and fixation of the future cadre. A list is given of the principal items of additional war-time work, but this is not capable of reduction to a statistical table, and the volume and intensity of such work varies from time to time and from district to district :

Operation of war-time control orders.

Price control.

Procurement.

Rationing and distribution of imported foodstuffs and consumers' goods.

Distribution of Standard Cloth, and operation of textile controls.

Recruitment.

Civil-military relations and aid to the Armed Forces, e.g., for local purchases.

Welfare of soldiers.

Assistance to evacuees.

†The Question was put by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury on authorisation as the Questioner was absent.

Requisitioning and de-requisitioning.

Salvage.

Rates and Wages Boards.

Special campaigns, e.g., Grow-More-Food, Savings.

Colonization and land settlement.

Security of communications.

Workmen's compensation in relation to large new labour forces.

Kerosene rationing.

(b)—Yes, he has frequently inspected Deputy Commissioner's "War Branches", and commented on the great volume and variety of work entailed.

(c)—The hon. Member presumably alludes to the officers who as yet have not been appointed to listed posts, but hold temporary posts on the time-scale of the Indian Civil Service. All but two are discharging part of the duties of Deputy Commissioners and so relieving the latter of part of their increased work and responsibility. One is engaged on a special enquiry on the Sales Tax and holds the post of Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Income-tax, and one has been re-employed for a short period as Excise Commissioner.

(d)—The information is laid on the table.

(e)—The purpose of the posts of Additional Deputy Commissioner was to relieve the Deputy Commissioners of part of a burden which had become impossible for one man to fulfil. The need was pressed by the Commissioner and also by Secretaries in the Departments, who found that due attention could not be secured for the requirements of their business.

(f)—Yes, on several occasions temporary posts of Additional Deputy Commissioner were left unfilled for a time.

(g)—The question will be examined by this Government.

(h)—The suggestion will be borne in mind. The Government have all questions relating to the Assam Civil Service and the character of the posts under consideration.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May we know, Sir, why these additional allowances are paid to them? Do not their substantive pays sufficiently compensate them even for their additional service?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: They are allowed to draw the minimum pay of the office, and the minimum pay of the office of the Deputy Commissioner is Rs.1,275.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government propose to discontinue this practice of paying additional allowances?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter is under the consideration of Government, Sir, and Government is already proceeding with their reduction, as far as possible.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government propose to give effect to it during the course of this year?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Effect is being given even now, I hope.

†Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: In what manner is effect being given, Sir? The Hon'ble Prime Minister said that they are drawing the lowest scales of the posts they are holding. Have they revised the scales of pay of those posts?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The policy at present proposed to be followed is to reduce the number of Additional Magistrates in the districts where possible. Hon. Members have seen from the reply given that there is considerable work to be done in reference to control work which is existing in so many ways. The immediate policy of the Government shall be to do away

with the Additional Magistrates as far as possible in lighter districts, and if the experiment proves successful—and we hope it will—it will be gradually extended to other districts also.

†Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: What about the retention of the Additional Superintendents of Police?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That Question does not arise.

†Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: What the Hon'ble Prime Minister said, Sir, is that he is considering retrenchment, not the revision of the scales of pay to which the Question refers.

†Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will Government continue the principle of re-employing pension holders? If so, why?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The general policy of Government is not to re-employ them as far as possible. But in some Departments where it may not be possible to have officers, Government may have to make exceptions.

†Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is there any such case at present?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Well Sir, that I cannot say now; but we understand that in the Forest and the Public Works Departments we are short of officers, and as we have to incur large expenditure in connection with the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme and the reports of the Departments concerned are that we are decidedly short of experienced hands in these Departments, the matter may have to be considered.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Departments of Supply, Publicity and Textile

Professor NIBARAN CHANDRA LASKAR asked:

66. Do Government propose to manage the Departments of Supply, Publicity and Textile with the help of the existing staff in the Assam Junior and Senior Civil Services?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

66.—The question of strength of officers in the Supply Department is under review by Government in the light of circumstances now existing or likely to arise in the near future.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Question was 'Do Government propose to manage the Departments of Supply, Publicity and Textile with the help of the existing staff in the Assam Junior and Senior Civil Services'. The reply has been thus—'The question of strength of officers in the Supply Department is under review by Government in the light of circumstances now existing or likely to arise in the near future'.

Do Government include the Department of Publicity under Supply Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I could not follow the Question, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member please repeat his Question?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the answer also refers to Publicity Department that it is managed by the Supply Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot follow the hon. Member, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question is not clear to the Hon'ble Minister. Will the hon. Member please elaborate his Question?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The point that has been raised by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury is do Government propose to manage the Department of Textile, etc., with the help of the existing staff in the Assam Junior and Senior Civil Services, and whether the Departments, mentioned in the Question could be managed by our Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors? There is no reply, whatsoever, to that.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: By the existing staff it was not clear whether he meant strength or the cadre. May I know what was the real intention of the Questioner?

To be fair I must say that as the question was not very clear there was some loop-hole in the answer as well. If the hon. Questioner means whether the present strength is sufficient to manage the Department, in that case, I may say that, it is under the consideration of Government and if the intention of the hon. Questioner is whether this class of officers will manage the Department, in that case, I may say that it is also under the consideration of Government.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The Question was whether the Supply Department, the Publicity Department and the Textile Department could be managed with the help of the existing staff of the Assam Junior and Senior Services? There has been no reply to that.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: There is no ambiguity in the Question, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already replied, Sir, that this is under the consideration of Government so far as the Supply and the Textile Departments are concerned. About the Publicity Department I cannot reply.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Hon'ble Minister is evading the reply. The point is—according to the phraseology of the Question—whether Government propose to manage the Departments of Supply, Publicity and Textile with the existing staff of the Assam Junior and Senior Civil Services, that is, by the Sub-Deputy Collectors and the Extra Assistant Commissioners. No answer is given to that. The reply given is: "The question of strength of officers of the Supply Department is under review by Government in the light of the circumstances now existing." But there is no reply whatsoever, whether these departments could be managed by the existing cadre of our Extra Assistant Commissioners and the Sub-Deputy Collectors.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have made that clear, Sir. This is also under the consideration of Government.

Report of Rice Syndicate Enquiry Committee

Professor NIBARAN CHANDRA LASKAR asked:

67. Do Government propose to allay the public anxiety by publishing the Rice Syndicate Enquiry Committee's Report without any further delay?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

67.—Government do not propose to publish the report as it is still under their consideration and the question of publication will depend on what steps Government take on the report.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The answer is ambiguous, Sir. It says "Government do not propose to publish the report as it is still under their consideration." This is the one part of the answer. The second part says—"the question of publication will depend on what steps Government take on the report." The first part shows definitely that it will not be published. And the second part shows that it may be published, but the publication depends on some factors. Will the Hon'ble Minister reconcile it?

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is quite reconcilable, Sir. It all depends on the action which Government will take and it is already under the consideration of the Government and Government decided that for the benefit of the public the reports should not be published at present. They are not going to publish it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Any more supplementary Questions?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it the intention of the Hon'ble Minister that Government do not propose to publish the report at present?

*The Hon'ble Mr BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Exactly so.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The answer does not say so.

Post of Assistant Inspectors of Schools

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked:

68 (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state the minimum qualification required for holding the post of an Assistant Inspector of Schools?

(b) Whether it is a fact that there are officers in that service whose qualifications are below the minimum required?

(c) If so, do Government propose to replace them by taking properly qualified persons immediately?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

68. (a)—No definite qualification is laid down for the post of Assistant Inspector of Schools.

(b)—No. The present incumbents were selected by the Assam Public Service Commission.

(c)—Does not arise.

*Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Sir, may I know whether the qualifications of the Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Schools have been accepted by Government as Matriculation *plus* Normal third year?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, generally.

*Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: My Question is: has there been any departure from the accepted principle?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: To my knowledge there has been no departure. I am afraid, Sir, the hon. Member is mistaking Sub-Inspector of Schools for Assistant Inspector of Schools. Generally, these posts are filled up from the cadre of Deputy Inspector of Schools with past experience.

Plains Tribal Sub-Inspector of Schools

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI asked:

69. (a) Is it a fact that a certain Plains Tribal M.L.A., submitted a representation to the Government regarding the appointment of two Plains Tribal candidates as Sub-Inspector of Schools?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them on that representation?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

69. (a)—A representation submitted by the hon. Questioner himself recommending four Plains Tribal candidates for appointment to the post of Sub-Inspector of Schools which fell vacant on account of the resignation of Mr. Samson Singh Engti, was only received.

(b)—Action is being taken for the appointment of a Plains Tribal Sub-Inspector of Schools as soon as possible.

* Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: Sir, two posts of Sub-Inspector of Schools have fallen vacant owing to the promotions of Mr. B. Cachari and Mr. S. Deori. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister from what community these two posts would be filled up ?

*The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not been able to follow exactly what the hon. Questioner means. From the reply it can be seen that action is being taken for the appointment of a Plains Tribal Sub-Inspector of Schools as soon as possible.

Post of a Lecturer in Civics and Economics

Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA asked :

70. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Assam Public Service Commission invited applications by a Notification, dated the 14th September 1944, for the temporary post of a Lecturer in Civics and Economics ?

(b) Is it a fact that Srijut Khetradhar Barbarua, M.A., was an applicant for the post and possessed all the qualifications given in the Notification ?

(c) If so, what prevented the Government from giving him the post and what led the Commission to publish a 2nd and amended notification again on the 12th October, 1944 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

70. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Srijut Khetradhar Barbarua was called for an interview. He did not appear and was not recommended by the Public Service Commission.

A second and amended notice was published in order to rectify the omission of the word "Muslim", which had occurred through oversight as Muslims were also an under-represented community.

Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA: Is the Government sure that Mr. Barbarua received notice calling for the interview ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Of course, that is not known to me. I cannot give any off-hand reply to this Question.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Does the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education Department realise that the last three lines of the reply to Question 70 (c) are uncalled for ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not follow the hon. Member, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: It is quite all right, Sir, I beg to withdraw my supplementary Question.

Number of Muslim and non-Muslim officers in the Assam Civil, Assam Junior Civil and Assam Education Services

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

71. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in tabular form the total number of Muslim and non-Muslim officers in (i) the Assam Civil Service, (ii) the Assam Junior Civil Service and (iii) the Assam Education Service, district by district with population of each such community in each district ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

71.—A Statement is shown below.

District	Population	Assam Civil Service		Assam Junior Civil Service		Assam Education Service				
		Post held—		Posts held—		Posts held—				
		Permanent	Temporary	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total
CACHAR										
Muslim	226,829	3	1	4	3	2	5	1	..	1
Non-Muslim	256,962	3	..	3	3	..	3	..	..	..
SYLHET										
Muslim	1,885,115	17	4	21	20	3	23	20	1	21
Non-Muslim	1,034,215	14	6	20	15	5	20	22	..	22
KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS										
Muslim	1,505	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Muslim	117,160	5	..	5	4	3	7	1	..	1
LUSHAI HILLS										
Muslim	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Muslim	152,685	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
NAGA HILLS										
Muslim	531	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Muslim	189,110	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
GARO HILLS										
Muslim	10,398	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Muslim	213,171	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
GOALPARA										
Muslim	468,734	1	1	2	3	..	3	2	..	2
Non-Muslim	537,644	4	..	4	5	..	5	2	..	2

Barlikha-Patharkandi Road

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

72. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to improve the Barlikha-Patharkandi Road to facilitate transport of forest produce ?

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

72.—Not at present.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, is there any possibility of improving the Barlikha-Patharkandi Road in the near future ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I cannot say about the time when we shall be able to do this, but at present there is no such scheme. However, we shall see what we can do in future.

Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI : Do Government realise that this is a very important road as agricultural products are being transported through this road ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The question whether the road is important or not important will be enquired into.

Number, etc., of superior posts in the Weaving Department

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

73. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Industries be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of superior posts starting from the Weaving Superintendent down to the Weaving Assistant in the Weaving Department with the name, caste and creed of each of the incumbents in those posts ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that recently one second Superintendent of Weaving has been appointed ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that this officer has not got the requisite qualification as advertised in the *Assam Gazette* ?

(d) Whether it is also a fact that in the *Gazette* it was mentioned that none need apply who had not got the qualifications as mentioned in the advertisement ?

(e) If so, why this officer has been appointed ?

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

73. (a)—The information is as follows :—

Nature of Posts	Name	Caste
2 Weaving Superintendents	1. Babu Rash Behari Das ..	Surma Valley Hindu.
	2. Srijut Dhajendranarayan Medhi ..	Assam Valley Schedule.
1 Industrial Officer. Publicity	Maulavi Abu Syed Md. Sultan ..	Surma Valley Muslim.
2 Marketing Officers ..	1. Durganath Bordoloi	Assam Valley Hindu.
	2. Not yet filled up.	
5 Marketing Organisers ..	1. Maulavi Forman Ali Barbhuyan ..	Surma Valley Muslim.
	2. Srijut Nabin Chandra Deuka ..	Assam Valley Hindu.
	3. Srijut Mukta Chand Singha ..	Surma Valley Hindu.
	4. Maulavi Mahibuddin Ahmed ..	Assam Valley Muslim.
	5. Babu Ramesh Chandra Chowdhury.	Surma Valley Hindu.
5 Weaving Assistants ..	1. Srijut Nilakanta Dutta ..	Assam Valley Hindu.
	2. Srijut Narendranath Goswami ..	Assam Valley Hindu.
	3. Srijut Gargaram Kalita ..	Assam Valley Hindu.
	4. Srijut Surendra Chandra Dhar ..	Surma Valley Hindu.
	5. Maulavi Mosman Ali ..	Surma Valley Muslim.
2 Inspectors Co-operative Weaving Societies.	1. Maulavi Gola Rasul Laskar ..	Surma Valley Muslim.
	2. Srijut Prabhat Chandra Das ..	Assam Valley Hindu.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—He holds a diploma in Technology (Associate with the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore).

(d)—Yes.

(e)—He was appointed on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission because according to the Commission he possesses the requisite qualification.

Re: Disposal of the Session's business by 2nd April, 1946

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we proceed to the next item of business of the Assembly, may I make a suggestion for the co-operation of Government and also of yourself to endeavour to finish the business of the House by the 2nd April and thus save two days. The programme for the last two days, Sir, if I may say so, is very formal and not likely to take a long time and if we could finish on the 2nd it will mean that the Members would be able to leave on the 3rd which is a recess day instead of being detained here till the 5th.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: So far as Government is concerned, I think Government business will be over before the 31st March, but there is an important Motion of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury regarding the food situation in the Province and it will not be possible to take it up before 30th March or 2nd April. After finishing that business on that day the House may be prorogued on the 2nd April.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But there is Government business on the 2nd April.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: It is very formal indeed, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I hope it will be possible to finish the business by the 2nd.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now then what is the position?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The position is that we shall be able to finish Government business on the 2nd. If it cannot be finished within the scheduled time on the 2nd, it may entail just half-an-hour's sitting beyond the scheduled time on that day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. Members will be agreeable to sit a little longer on the 2nd of April by an hour, if necessary, so that we may finish the business on that date. If that is agreed upon it will not be necessary to carry on till the 4th.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The 2nd of April is a Government day and unless the Leader of the House agrees to have private business after the Government business is finished, we of this side of the House cannot agree. My hon. Friend says that Government business on the 2nd April is very formal and could be finished within half-an-hour and if the rest of the time can be devoted to non-official business, we can possibly agree to this suggestion, for we may have to move certain Motions on that day.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Is there any Motion on the 1st of April which is a Monday?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes. I find from the time-table that the 30th of March is a Saturday, and is for Private Business and on the 1st of April (Monday) we have got Government business as well as a Motion. So the Motions may come on the 30th March.

Then again, I think that although it is said that the business on the 2nd of April is more or less formal it all depends upon the hon. Members, because on formal Motions even debates can be and sometimes are carried on for

dilatory purpose. Our experience the other day was that we had to sit till 6 p. m.; so we had better wait till the 2nd and see how matters shape. I think, hon. Members will extend their co-operation towards finishing the business on the 2nd.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If possible on the 2nd after Government business is finished, private Members business may be taken up.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already said, Sir, that Government business can be carried on and finished on the 2nd April. With the co-operation of the House, it can be done expeditiously, but otherwise the whole day may be taken. In that case the hon. Leader of the Opposition shall have to forego item No. 7 of the programme.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is, if time permits.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We can have no objection to carry on private Member's business after Government business is finished.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Thank you, Sir.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No. 3.

(8.—PROVINCIAL EXCISE)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,77,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "8.—Provincial Excise".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,77,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '8.—Provincial Excise'."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have here half an hour from the Question hour and for this grant we have fifteen minutes allotted. How does the hon. Leader of the Opposition propose to distribute this half an hour? Under grant No. 17 we have got 66 Cut Motions and the time allotted is one hour. Under Agriculture we have got 22 Cut Motions. Under Grant No. 12.—Jails and Convict Settlement—there are 3 Cut Motions. Under Grant No. 25.—Civil Works—we have got 15 Cut Motions. Should we allot this half an hour to Education. (*Voices—Yes.*) I find under this grant, Cut Motion No. three is an omnibus one. Do we take up No. 3?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Yes, Sir. I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 4,77,600 under grant No. 3, Major head—8—Provincial Excise, at page 34 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, that is the amount of the whole grant Rs. 4,77,600 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise a discussion about the Excise policy of the Government.

Sir, the Excise Budget has been the heaviest for the last few years. Our total expenditure under this head in the current year—is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 3,78,000. But for the next financial year we have provided Rs. 5,72,000. Sir, from the Budget Memorandum and also from the Explanatory Notes, I do not find sufficient justification for this heavy increase of our expenditure. Of course, the strength of our district establishment has been increased and a big sum has also been provided for giving dearness allowance and honoraria to our officers. But these factors also do not account for the heavy rise in expenditure.

Coming to the policy itself I will take up first the question of prohibition. This question has been the burning topic for all these years. Under Provincial Autonomy when Government began functioning, this question attracted our

attention. The Government then wanted to deal with the menace of drug habit on a sliding scale. In the year 1939 when the Congress-Coalition Ministry was functioning they adopted the policy of total prohibition. A big sum was spent on propaganda and for dealing with the addicts. But, Sir, in the year 1946 we find that the same habit of opium smoking prevails throughout the Province. The scheme of total prohibition has totally failed. We lend our whole-hearted co-operation in eradicating this menace of opium habit. But the process in which they wanted to achieve this object has not been satisfactory and could not lead to success. Sir, during the last two years when a great number of labour population had to be imported from outside, opium habit got an additional impetus. These people mostly addicted to this habit spread corruption amongst the indigenous population. At the present moment we find that smuggling is going on, on a very large scale. Though we have raised the expenditure by a lakh of rupees, still we are not finding ourselves equal to the task of checking smuggling. Sir, I do feel that our supervision should be more strict and more vigorous.

As regards country spirit, first of all, I am reminded of the Assam Distillery. In the past years the Assam Distillery has proved to be a spoilt child. In the year 1942 when this distillery was established and Government agreed to lose lakhs of rupees, not by way of sub-vention but by way of profit, we thought that in the near future the distillery will be able to meet our needs. But at the present day this distillery has not been able to meet our demand. Even now we have to rely on Bihar for our supply. Sir, of late the Government of Bihar has imposed a cess on the export of country spirit and this has increased our burden. My submission is that utmost stress must be laid on the Assam Distillery, either they must work to meet our needs or vacate. Sir, during the war period they did not indulge themselves in meeting the needs of the Province, rather they were after profiteering and in fermenting country-made foreign liquor. I think, Sir, stricter supervision is also necessary in this direction.

As regards the consumption of hemp in the Province, in the current year, the duty on this drug has been reduced and also the retail price lowered. This will encourage greater number of persons taking to this drug which is not at all healthy for the human beings. Sir, the step taken by Government may bring an additional income, but certainly it will not contribute to the health of the people of the Province.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs. 4,77,600 under Grant No. 3, Major head—8.—Provincial Excise, at page 34 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,77,600 do stand reduced by Rs. 100 "

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Cut *Motion standing in my name on which I want to say something in support of the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. My Motion intends to raise a discussion about the consumption of hemp in the Province.

Sir, at page 16 of the Memorandum on the Budget Estimates of the Government of Assam for the year 1946-47, we find a note to the effect that "The increase both in the revised and the Budget is due to anticipated

*Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 38,290 under Grant No. 3, Major head—8.—Provincial Excise, Minor head—A.—Superintendence (total), at page 35 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,77,600 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the consumption of hemp in the Province.)

increase in consumption as a result of a reduction in the retail price and duty on ganja from 1st July 1945." It appears, Sir, that the duty on ganja which is being imported into Assam has been reduced and the retail price also has been reduced, which goes to show that the price of ganja has been considerably reduced. It is well-known that ganja is imported from outside and such a reduction in duty will surely encourage consumption of ganja in the Province and the Government anticipate in their Budget Estimates a higher income on hemp and other drugs as a result of the reduction in the duty. It is well-known, Sir, that persons who take large quantities of ganja, are led to insanity. Do Government propose, Sir, that by reducing the duty on ganja they should increase the number of insane people in the Province? Sir, we, the Muslims want that the consumption of ganja and other intoxicating drugs should be put a stop to at once. By reduction of duty and the retail price of ganja and other drugs the Government may have an increased income but the money so raised will be tainted money and no civilised Government can indulge in such income. I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that this consumption of ganja and other drugs should be stopped forthwith; and with these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr Speaker, Sir the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion has drawn my attention to the fact that the Government have added to the expenditure in the administrative side of the Department. Sir, this has to be done in order to achieve the cherished object of the prohibition scheme. The prohibition scheme was started by the Congress-Coalition Cabinet and at that time there was co-operation from the public. But, Sir, unfortunately co-operation of the public gradually disappeared and due to the abnormal condition of war and the influx of foreigners of various nationalities, smuggling of opium increased. In order to check this increase of opium smuggling and to achieve the cherished object of prohibition scheme, Government had to add to the expenditure in the item of administration, as in the opinion of Government, no sacrifice can be considered as too great considering the baneful effect of opium eating habit. My Friend has said that the prohibition scheme has not yet achieved the object. This is true. This is so, because of the lack of co-operation from the public, because of the abnormal circumstances of war and because of the influx of foreigners of various nationalities which led to increased smuggling of opium. But, Sir, war is over and Government is going to have more energetic drive with public co-operation against smuggling and to remove the opium eating habit of the people of Assam.

*Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: What about the taking of ganja habit, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, one hon. Member has referred to habit of ganja smoking. We have not yet decided what to do with this.

*Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, whether it is bad or good?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, we will examine the suggestion of the hon. Member and after proper examination we will take our line of action but before examination I cannot commit anything. With this assurance, Sir, I hope the hon. Mover will kindly withdraw his Motion.

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

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: After hearing the Hon'ble Minister I do not like to press my Motion, Sir.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am now putting the main Demand. The question is:—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,77,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head ‘8.—Provincial Excise’.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.17.

(37.—EDUCATION OTHER THAN EUROPEAN)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.59,93,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head “37.—Education other than European”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.59,93,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head 37.—Education other than European’.”

There are 66 Cut Motions and we have hardly 85 minutes.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: One and half hour, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, we have already encroached 5 minutes.

I think I should call upon hon. Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith to move Motion No.65 which seeks to raise a discussion about the educational policy of Government. Time permitting, as many hon. Members as are willing to take part in the discussion will be able to do so. Otherwise if individual Members want to move their Motions separately there will be no time.

*Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I want to move my Cut Motion No. 4, to raise a discussion about the unwarranted expulsion of three Muslim students of the Brindaban College.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member can raise that point in course of his speech and the Hon'ble Minister can reply.

I would now call upon Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith to move his Motion.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 59,93,900 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,93,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100. This has been moved, Sir, to raise a discussion about the educational policy of the Government.

There are two more Motions in my name, one is to raise a discussion for introducing free and compulsory primary education, and the other to increase the pay of Lower Primary School teachers. I will try to discuss all these points.

Sir, the present educational policy of the Government is defective in itself. The Government is paying more money for higher education than for primary education. To me, Sir, and I think to all right-thinking men, it is apparent that Government should give more attention and spend more money for primary education than for secondary or higher education. Conditions prevailing in the primary stage of education of this Province is alarming and ludicrous. In the Primary Schools we entrust the education of our children to teachers, whose initial pay is only Rs. 12 per mensem. We pay Rs.25 or Rs.30 for a household servant and even to a Chaprashi in a Government office, but we pay Rs.12 to

* Speech not corrected.

a teacher who is entrusted with the sacred duty of educating our children, the future citizens of the Province. Sir, the last Assembly in the November session of 1944 passed a Motion fixing Rs 40 as the minimum pay of the Lower Primary School teachers, but for reasons best known to the Education Department that Motion has not been given effect to. The Lower Primary School teachers, I am told, are paid a dearness allowance raising their pay up to Rs.20. I do not know what will be the fate of these poor and ill-paid Lower Primary teachers now, when the question of dearness allowance may be reviewed considering the present situation. Sir, I think the first thing that should receive the best consideration of the present Government is the primary education in this Province. Sir, I think it is imperative to introduce free and compulsory primary education in the Province. We, the inhabitants of the Province, won't grudge even to pay an education cess if the Government is really not in a position to provide necessary funds for this purpose. What we want is proper education for our children. Sir, Rs.40 per mensem is not at all sufficient for a well-trained Lower Primary School teacher when we consider the pay and status of Lower Primary School teachers in other free countries. But to start with, I think we may accept Rs. 40 as the minimum pay of Lower Primary School teachers. Along with this increase of pay there should be a scale of pay for them. Also necessary arrangement should be made for training of these teachers so that we may get the best type of teachers. The whole system needs reorganisation. I urge upon the Government to introduce free and compulsory primary education in the Province, without further delay. As for higher education, Sir, I think it is desirable and in the best interest of the people of the Province to utilise resources of Government first for primary education than for secondary and higher education which to a certain extent may be left to private enterprise. We are told—of course this is a rumour—that the Government is going to establish the Assam University at Gauhati. Incidentally I may mention that we want the establishment of a University in Assam. But at present without making necessary arrangement for primary education we think it will be a luxury to establish a University in the Province. Moreover the question of site of the University is a puzzling and vexatious question for all of us. Before finally deciding about the site of the University I hope Government will take into consideration about the impartial report of Mr. Cunningham, *ex-Director of Public Instruction, Assam*, and also the opinion of the Surma Valley public regarding the site of the University.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved.

“That the total provision of Rs. 59,93,900 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,93,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in no other country in the world the people are so illiterate as in India. Only 7 per cent. of the population, I speak subject to correction, know just how to read and write. The British Government during their rule of 150 years could not remove illiteracy. This is no credit for them. It is no good to accuse the British Government for their appalling indifference towards primary education. The Reforms came in 1937 and since then the Government have remained, with short intervals, in the hands of the Indians. Have the popular Government shown any gesture for introducing compulsory primary education and thus improve the lot of the poor masses? The peasantry forms the backbone of the country, but alas! what is their position? Ill-fed and ill-clad, as they are, there is none to look after them. The whole country is eager to attain independence. But pray, do you want to achieve and maintain independence with a set of

illiterate and famished people who do not even understand the meaning of independence. If the Government are really sincere in their profession of doing good to the poor villagers, let them introduce free compulsory primary education at once.

Sir, in this connection I think the grievances of the poor Lower Primary school teachers are too well-known to the Government. This matter has been sufficiently discussed in the House. I would urge upon the Government to take up their cause and raise their pay to Rs. 40 per month, as decided by the House in November 1944.

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

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present world is a world of competition and so the progress in education of the country must get first consideration if that nation is to take part in world competition. We expected to get something new, something extraordinary in the hands of the present Government, I mean the Congress Government, who claim to be very popular with regard to their sympathy towards the mass people of the country. But unfortunately we are simply disappointed to see our so-called popular Government allotting the same figure for education in the present Budget, as the previous Governments did for the previous years. No additional provision has been made for the spread of primary education, no attempt has been made to improve the deplorable economic position of our Lower Primary school teachers. Nothing has been done to raise the status of the ever neglected teaching staff of the aided Secondary Schools.

Sir, spread of education is a crying demand of our Province. But our Government do not seem to be very earnest in encouraging mass education. The poor Primary School teachers who have been entrusted to give shape to the life of our children are finding it difficult to maintain themselves with the poor salary they get. The last Assembly, as my hon. Friend, Dewan Abdul Basith has mentioned, realising the woeful plight of the poor teachers, unanimously adopted a Motion on the floor of this House in 1944 to raise the pay of the Lower Primary school teachers to Rs. 40 per month. Sir, is it not the duty of the present Government to respect the unanimous opinion of the last Assembly specially when many of the supporters of the said Motion, are fortunate enough to be the Members of the present Cabinet? I urge upon the Government to do something immediately to improve the condition of the Lower Primary school teachers.

Sir, now I take up the cause of the teachers of Government and Local Board aided Secondary Schools. They are the worst sufferers in the whole Education Department with the same qualifications and same training. The teachers of Government High Schools get a far greater amount of salary with privileges of pension, etc., than the teachers of the aided High schools? Are the Government school teachers expected to give better training to our children for the greater pay and facilities they get? I do not think so. In my opinion the teachers of the aided schools must be equally treated with those of Government schools. May I hope that in order to do away with this unequal treatment Government will see their way in the near future either to provincialise all the schools of the Province or de-provincialise them so that all the teachers of equal qualifications may be equally treated and given equal footing and status.

Sir, the Mass Literacy Campaign, in my opinion, has proved to be a total failure. The Campaign was started on the 11th September 1941. I think Government have not been able to train as many adults throughout the whole Province to sign their own names as the thousands of rupees they have spent for the purpose, for the last 4 years. For better utilisation of Government money, Sir,

I propose that the Mass Literacy Campaign should be discontinued forthwith and the entire amount allotted to this item be spent for taking up more Primary Schools all over the Province.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I omit to mention here, in this House, some immediate need of my own Subdivision. Sunamganj is the most backward subdivision in the Province so much so that my constituency consisting of 4 thanas out of the 8 in the subdivision has not got a single High School. There are only 2 Middle English Schools and three Junior Madrasas in an area of about 1,000 square miles. The conditions of these institutions are also very tottering owing to want of funds. May I appeal to the Hon'ble Education Minister to take interest in the welfare of the people of my constituency and provide greater amount of grant-in-aid to the schools of this constituency?

Sir, the Muslim students of the Sunamganj Government High School find it very difficult to live in the town for want of adequate accommodation in the Muslim hostel. I request the Government to take immediate steps to extend the hostel building for adequate accommodation of the Muslim students.

Last of all, Sir, I may point out that owing to bad communication as well as a vast area of the subdivision, covering 1,453 square miles it is very difficult for three Sub-Inspectors of Schools, to properly supervise and inspect all the Primary Schools of the subdivision. This question was several times brought to the notice of the Department and also discussed on the floor of this House. I may once again request the Hon'ble Education Minister to appoint another Sub-Inspector for my subdivision so that all the Primary Schools may be properly supervised in future. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a discussion about the expulsion of three Muslim students of the Brindaban College, Habiganj with a sad heart. Sad firstly because the brilliant careers of three of the Muslim students have been ruined, secondly because the management of the College which is so dear to us and the leadership outside have gone bankrupt and thirdly because the Congress Ministry headed by the Hon'ble and respected Mr Bardoloi and joined by no less respected Mr. Basanta Kumar Das has been callous and indifferent to what has happened in the College. Sir, on the 4th February, 1946 a meeting of the College Union was held in order to give farewell to the 2nd and 4th year students of the Brindaban College. In that meeting a protest was raised by the Muslim students saying that unless the question of spending money from the Union fund for a theatrical performance that was to be staged along with the Saraswati Puja was not dropped they would not take part in that farewell meeting. The reply came from the Hindu students that they were not going to stage that theatrical performance on account of the Saraswati Puja but it will be done in honour of the farewell of the 2nd and the 4th year students. The Muslim students agreed to that and said that the theatrical performance should not be staged during the Pujas but it may be done after a week. Then altercation between the boys took place and from words they came to blows. There was a complete melee for sometime. After a while the Muslim and Hindu boys separated and they began throwing brickbats to one another. The litigant public on hearing the row thronged from the nearabout Criminal and Civil courts. The Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Police Officer also hurried to the place of occurrence and after some time with difficulty could bring the situation under control. In that melee, Sir, while brickbats were thrown, the report is that some of the Hindu girl students who attended the meeting received minor injuries. It was quite natural that feelings would be roused as the girls were seen with bruises.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to one thing ? The facts which my hon. Friend, Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury, is placing before the House are really *sub judice*. He has made a reference to me and I shall have to say what I know. But I feel that it is necessary now for me to draw your attention, Sir, that all these facts are really *sub judice*. Some persons have been hauled up on the facts which he has stated and if they are to be discussed, I submit, Sir, that would be asking the House to pre-judge facts and to impede the course of justice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Member will not mention matters which are *sub judice*.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : My information is that an enquiry is going on. It is not a judicial enquiry. So the matter is not *sub-judice*.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : It is a judicial enquiry, Sir. It has been held in this House before that facts under police investigation are to be considered *sub judice* as on the result of the investigation judicial action can be taken. If the police files a final Report the party against whom the Report will be filed will have the right to ask for a judicial enquiry before a court and if the police files a charge sheet the facts come before the court at the instance of the police. So in either view the facts are *sub judice*. I think there is a precedent of this House and also a precedent of the Indian Legislative Assembly to that effect.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Even if it be so, as stated by Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Das, my complaint is against the decision of the Governing Body and I think it is not the subject matter of police enquiry.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Please confine to that.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : In that tense atmosphere, Sir, the Governing Body of the college sat. The Vice-Principal who presided over the meeting of the College Union submitted an *ex parte* report to the Governing Body throwing all the blames on the Muslim students. The Governing Body found that it was very difficult to punish all the Muslim boys. They devised a strange means and selected three names for punishment. The Muslims representatives in the said Governing Body consisted of two members one being hon. Khan Sahib Nurul Hossain. He was present, but as his nephew was one of the culprits he like a gentleman kept silent and did not take much part in the deliberations. Another Muslim member, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, perhaps could do no better as another of the culprits came from the same quarters from which he comes. The Subdivisional Officer who presided over the meeting, bearing a Muslim name, had to fight against complexes and tactfully allowed the feelings to have upper hands. The result was that the two boys were given punishment provided under the rules with expulsion for life and another boy was rusticated for 32 days.

The matter did not end at that. *Ejahars* from both sides have been lodged with the Police and the boys who should have the highest regard for truth are now compelled to act as fathers of lies.....

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Sir, the facts are inter-mixed and so the decision of the Governing Body should not be discussed on the floor of this House. The facts on which the decision of the Governing Body is based are also to be investigated into by a court of justice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Member knows the principle and procedure followed in this House in this respect very well and I request him to confine his remarks to matters which are not *sub judice*.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : But I wish to ask the hon. Member through you to tell the House if he knows what the other version of the occurrence is that has been supplied by the Subdivisional Officer who is a Muslim officer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member may go on please.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Now, Sir, let us see how far the punishment meted out to the boys are justified under the circumstances, even taking for the sake of argument, that the Muslim boys had done some excesses. Was there any moral turpitude for which the highest penalty provided under rules should be applied ? For some excesses should the life of these three boys be allowed to be ruined ? Should they not be allowed to lead an honorable life in the society and be good and useful citizens ?

Secondly, Sir, admitting that all the Muslim boys combined and wanted not to allow the Union money to be spent over a theatrical performance in connection with the Puja ; admitting that they demanded a decision on that point at a meeting called for a different purpose over which the Vice-Principal of the College presided. If the Vice-Principal had used a little tact a little fore sight, I think, Sir, he could have averted the incident by calling the boys outside and sending them to the Principal or referring the matter to an arbitrator. In my opinion, Sir, the Vice-Principal has failed in his duty miserably.

Thirdly, Sir, even going to the root of the matter.....

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Was not the Vice-Principal in the meeting himself ?

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : He may be present ; but to my information, none of the Professors were assaulted. (At this time there were interruptions from the Government Benches). You will have your say in time. Please wait and let me finish my say. (Voices : Address the Speaker, please.) I am not giving way, Sir. Then, if we go deep down and if we see things at the root the trouble arose out of two ideologies, namely, Pakistan and Hindustan, undivided or divided India. In that sitting too, the boys, both Hindu and Muslim, were victims of a roused feeling, or I may say, a circumstance, not of their own creation and over which they had no control. So, the punishment given to the boys is unwarranted and unjustified as the decision was not taken in a sober mood.

Now, Sir, I have stated before the House the reasons for which I consider the punishment given to the boys to be unwarranted in any view of the incident. As the three Muslim boys were punished the Congress Government of Hon'ble Mr. Bardoloi could conveniently sleep over it without making any enquiry into the matter. I have nothing to say against Assam Valley Ministers. Their indifference is somewhat excusable. But the case of Surma Valley Ministers is different especially Hon'ble Mr. Mukerjee who has a big landed property at Habiganj, could not make time to go there and see things for himself. He, I am sure, will go at the time of rent realisation.

As for Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Matlib Mazumdar and other Surma Valley Ministers and his two other Colleagues, hon. Maulavi Abdur Rashid and hon. Maulavi Md. Ibrahim Chatuli all of them I know fought the election on Jamiat ticket of course helped by Congress money and its support. They I think on that account have not lost all their sympathy for their co-religionists especially the Muslim boys.

With these few words, Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and his Colleagues to see that the wrong done to these three unfortunate boys is rectified.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of information, Sir. The incident took place on the 4th February 1946, when the hon. Member himself was continuing as a Minister. May we know whether he found any time to go over there personally?

*Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Most probably on the 31st, January—I do not remember exactly—we resigned and we were asked by His Excellency to carry on. So, we had no time to go there. (*Lughter.*)

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Now, Sir, I am really surprised that my hon Friend, Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri, thought it necessary to bring this matter up for discussion on the floor of this House. As is now very clear, the incident, which has given rise to this complaint, took place when he was one of the Members of the Council of Ministers in this Province. That Council of Ministers resigned their office some days after this occurrence and if really he felt that there was something done wrongly by anybody at Habiganj in connection with this matter he ought to have taken it up then.

*Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: By way of personal explanation, Sir. The probability was that the Hon'ble Prime Minister would take over charge of the new Ministry from the 1st of February, 1946. We submitted our resignation on the 31st January.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Now, Sir, with regard to the question as to how the occurrence took place, I may tell the hon. House that on the day on which the occurrence took place at Habiganj, I was at Sylhet. A telegram came to us to the effect that a regrettable occurrence like that happened at Habiganj. On the following morning we rang up the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain whether he got any information about that. He informed us that he had got information and that he was deputing the Superintendent of Police to the place of occurrence at once. He further informed us that he himself would be proceeding to Habiganj and as a matter of fact he went there. The report that we have got from the Subdivisional Officer goes to show that what was done by the Muslim students was in pursuance of a pre-meditated arrangement.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Was this a pre-meditated arrangement, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, that is the report of the Subdivisional Officer, who is a Muslim gentleman.

The claim of the Muslim students was that no Union Fund should be employed in giving farewell to the 2nd year and the 4th year students. When the meeting was being held in the College premises and was being presided over by the Vice-Principal some Muslim students in order to press that claim went to the place of the meeting and asked them to stop the meeting on the ground that the College Union Fund was being spent for the purpose. The Vice-Principal explained to them that no money of the Union Fund would be spent for that purpose; he assured them that if any money was spent for that purpose he would see that the money was refunded. But they were not satisfied with that assurance from the Vice Principal and forthwith they began to beat the students and other persons present. Even a Professor was also beaten. They gave a signal and when that signal was given some villagers also came into the scene and began to beat the students and threw brick-bats and as a result of which even some lady students were injured. In no time a huge number of some 500 to 800 people gathered together and demolished the structure that was built for the Swaraswati Puja and several persons were injured. That is the story, Sir, which was supplied by the Subdivisional Officer at Habiganj.

Sir, at the very outset I tried to draw attention of the House to the fact that such a matter should not be allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House.

We do not know whether the report of the Subdivisional Officer is true or the information that has been given now is true. Having regard to that I think it would have been proper for my hon. Friend not to bring up this matter before the House at this stage.

Then, Sir, as regards the expulsion of the students, I do not know why this matter should be discussed here. They have got their right to take up this matter with the University and the University will certainly deal with this matter; they will judge whether the Governing Body was justified or not in expelling the students. When they have got their remedy there I do not know why this matter has been brought up here to be discussed by the hon. Members.

Sir, I do not like to place before the House full facts now, but I have only said so much as to show that Government have got a different version of the whole incident in question, the consideration of which will soon come up before a Court of Law.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really sorry to observe that since the assumption of office the Congress Party is emulating the bureaucracy so far as their mentality is concerned. Our youths might have done something under the spur of emotion, but.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. Member is going to speak on this subject, I think, I would better request him not to be very lengthy, because time is very limited. The hon. Members have heard both sides of the story and we have got other very important matters coming under this head to be discussed and I would request him not to take much time of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I think, Sir, the hon. Member who is speaking now was once a Minister in-charge of Education in this Province and I would like to know what advice he would give to the students with regard to this matter of expulsion.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I am just coming to that. I will be very brief, Sir.

I am sorry to find that my hon. Friend has suggested that the students should go to the University. But, Sir, have not the Government some control over our aided schools? Certainly we have and certainly we can see that the lives of these boys are not spoilt. It was said that my hon. Friend on my left was contending as a member of the Council of Minister when the occurrence took place. But the matter was then before the School Committee and certainly the hon. Members opposite would like to give some opportunity to the School Committee to decide the matter. I think, Sir, my hon. Friend is quite right in bringing the matter before this House.

As regards education, Sir, I do not think we have a clear cut policy to direct the activities of Government. How far Government is primarily responsible for imparting education? Is it up to the primary stage, is it up to the secondary stage or is it up to the collegiate stage? Knowing as I do full well that the resources of the Government are not unlimited, how far can we undertake responsibility so far as imparting of education is concerned. I am afraid, Sir, vocal section of the public have taken the lion's share of the educational grants leaving the masses of the villages unacquainted with the three R's. Certainly the facilities that we have given to our boys to receive higher education so that they might be well stationed in life have not been granted to the poor masses.

So far back as 1925, Sir, a Bill for Compulsory Primary Education was passed but it was not given effect to. We find the Government is charged for not having done all that they could have done for secondary education and that they have not done all that they could to provide facilities for collegiate education. Yet Primary School teachers all the time have been allowed to remain where they are. I know certain Local Boards during the whole period of the War did not give even one rupee increment to these teachers. They were continuing with their minimum salary of Rs. 12. Their scale of pay

has not improved even after the passing of a Motion in this Hon'ble House. They enter on Rs. 12 and they rot on Rs. 12; I cannot but admire the zeal and earnestness with which during this strain of these war years the Primary School teachers continued to render services at a salary of Rs. 12; but that cannot make us blind to do our duties to these people. A Motion in this very House was passed providing a minimum salary of Rs. 40 for the Primary School teachers. Why pass this Motion, Sir, if you allow them to remain where they are? Justice demands that we should for a period become blind to the demand for secondary education and collegiate education so that we might concentrate our attention to the task of expanding primary education and put it on a better footing.

One hon. Member mentioned about the Mass Literacy Campaign: A lot of money was spent for it. He said that the object was to spread primary education. But, Sir, it has nothing to do with the expansion of primary education — it has reference only to the prevention of wastage. Sir, I think the money that is being spent for the Mass Literacy Scheme for the prevention of wastage might have been very well spent by giving aid to many Primary Schools which are not receiving aid. Should we not see that every village gets a Primary School and before we have made provision for a Primary School within the reach of every village and have provided facilities for the poor man's boys to go to the Primary Schools, what right have we got in spending money for higher education? If you think that the Government has got sufficient funds for all the departments of Education, help all branches. Otherwise, in justice, I would appeal to the House to allow the hon. Ministers to concentrate attention to the primary education and in providing facilities for every villager's boys to be acquainted with the three R's. If you go in other directions you do a great injustice to a class of people who have not only been exploited by the foreign exploiters but by the exploiters of our country. I would, therefore, appeal to the House and particularly to the hon. Ministers in the Treasury Benches to make it impossible to divert money to any quarter other than providing facilities for primary education so that the poor man's son may have a chance to learn the three R's. Your ambitious schemes for bringing about a new standard in the country will fail unless you educate the masses. Your cherished hope for democracy functioning properly when you get full power in your hands will be frustrated unless you succeed in educating the people whom you have come to serve. Are you not here for the benefit of the poor people? When I make this appeal to the House I make it in the interests of justice and the future of democracy. You should concentrate your attention so that the future electorate may be educated. With these few words I beg to resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I find that hon. Mr. B. K. Sarwan tabled Cut Motion No. 58*. If he wants to speak I propose to give him a chance.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J SARWAN: I have another Cut Motion No. †63. May I speak on both?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, please.

* 58. Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN to move:

That the provision of Rs. 1,90,410 under Grant No. 17, Major head — 37—Education, Minor head — S.— Scholarships (total), at page 93 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,93,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To draw the attention of Government of their failure to provide scholarships to the children belonging to tea garden labour population).

† 63. Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN to move:

That the total provision of Rs. 59,93,900 under Grant No. 17, Major head — 37.— Education, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100. i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,93,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To draw the attention of the Government of their failure to provide free compulsory primary education to the masses.)

Mr. BENODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of tabling my Cut Motion is to urge upon Government the necessity of educating the masses by introducing free compulsory primary education which was passed in this House. It is a pitiable thing to see illiteracy everywhere in this Province, particularly among the tea garden labourers and the *ex*-tea garden labourers. The vast majority of the people in this Province are altogether illiterate and they are in the dark and uncivilised condition. Do the hon. Members wish that they should always remain in their illiteracy and uncivilised condition? I think no one in this House is so selfish and indifferent. We should bring these unfortunate and miserable people to the school of our thought and let them be at home with us. It is meaningless for the uncultured and uncivilised man to be in equal partnership with the cultured and the civilised people in every respect and we are trying to make India an independent and self-governing country. So my submission is that before taking up big educational projects and schemes—for High Schools and Colleges or even University for Assam we should spend enough money to have free compulsory primary education in this Province and thereby we can remove the illiteracy and ignorance from this country. In the present Budget for Education no such thing has been provided.

Now, Sir, with regard to the Cut Motion that I have tabled for scholarship I may say that by awarding scholarships we can help educating the poor people. There are vast number of poor children of the labourers who should be helped with scholarships for prosecuting their studies. By encouraging them in this way we can remove the illiteracy and ignorance from our country. It has been my custom in the past to submit lists of names of deserving poor children of the labourers to the Education Minister who had been kind enough to grant them scholarships for prosecuting their studies, but still there are so many poor children remaining who, if scholarships awarded will be able to prosecute their studies. It will, Sir, really be doing good to these unfortunate poor children of the tea garden and *ex*-tea garden labourers.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion of my Friend.

Maulavi MD. IDRIS ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to speak a few words on the very hard lot of the Primary School teachers. Sir, these Primary School teachers have always been recognised as the backbone of the whole community. Sir, along with other hon. Members I also emphatically demand the Motion that was passed on the floor of this House should be given immediate effect without further delay to raise the pay of the Primary School teachers to a minimum standard of Rs.40 per men *sem*. This will remove a long felt grievance. By helping the teachers, we are helping ourselves to build a healthy nation. Surely this will be our best contribution to Post-War Reconstruction and the money spent for the purpose will be usefully utilised.

I understand, Sir, that the Government is going to send 25 students abroad for higher education. This is no doubt a happy augury for the Province of Assam. I would, in this connection like to draw the attention of the Minister in charge that the cases of the Muslim, Scheduled castes and the Tribal candidates may not be ignored. With a view to encourage the said communities, their cases should be favourably considered in time of selecting candidates. They should be given their legitimate share in this respect and thus prove that the present Ministry is a popular one.

Sir, it is a known fact that the Muslim community is still left behind in education and particularly the female sex. With a prolonged struggle of fore-sighted gentlemen of our community we are going to enter at the threshold of female education.

Sir, a Middle English Girls Madrasa has been started at Azimganj in the Karimganj Subdivision a few years back but for want of funds it is facing much

difficulties. I would therefore urge upon the Government to encourage the said institution with a grant-in-aid as soon as possible.

Sir, the condition of Churkhai and Kurarbazar Middle English schools are also very deplorable for want of funds. I request the Government to kindly increase the grant-in-aid to these institutions.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully support the ideas of the hon. Mover of the Motion, Dewan Abdul Basith, and the hon. Deputy Leader of our Party, regarding Primary Education and the pay of the Primary School teachers. Sir, I only like to add this much that the present Ministry and in particular the Hon'ble Prime Minister will not come forward with the handy argument of paucity of funds this time. In this connection, Sir, I may mention that if the poor Province of Assam can afford to manage provincialising two women's colleges only to look to the interest of a handful of top people, *i.e.*, with a student strength of probably 150, if funds be available for starting a Medical College which will provide for only a very few students of the Provinces then the mass people in the street will not be satisfied with the answer that there is no money to improve the lot of the Primary School teachers and to make primary education free and compulsory.

Then, Sir, I tabled 2 Cut Motions to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to some local needs in the Madhabpur and Lakhai Thanas. This Lakhai Police Station is a pretty big Thana, Sir, from which place the hon. Mr. Suresh Chandra Biswas also comes. There was not a single High School in that Thana and recently people of the locality have started a high School at Lakhai. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to help this institution with sufficient funds.

Then, Sir, I in this connection want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister to another High School which has been started at Chaumani within Madhabpur. So long, Sir, in Kasimnagar and Mantala Parganas there was no High School and the people were suffering for want of one such institution. If, Sir, the Government give a liberal grant to this school, a long felt want of that locality will be removed.

In the third place, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to the Kalikapur Middle English Madrassa. This institution also has been struggling hard for its existence and is not in a good pecuniary condition at present. I request the Hon'ble Education Minister to give a liberal grant to this institution.

In the next place, I urge upon the Hon'ble Education Minister that all Secondary Schools, mainly High Schools, Middle English Schools and the Middle Vernacular Schools and Madrassas within Police Stations Madhabpur and Lakhai are carrying on their weary existence with great difficulty because of these hard days. I would strongly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister that along with other institutions he will try to help these institutions with a liberal grant so that their burden may be lightened to some extent. In this connection I request the Hon'ble Minister to give some building grant to Itakhola Madrassa.

With these few words, I support the Motion moved by my friend Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

After lunch

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, some more time may kindly be given for discussion on this vital question. We are even ready to sit beyond the fixed hour.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I want just 5 minutes, Sir, to speak on this matter.

Without trenching upon communal feeling or trespassing into matters which are *sub judice* I will revert to the unfortunate incident of the Habiganj College with a very good motive. Unfortunately the previous speakers did not advert to the feeling that is prevailing in that College. The Muslim students of the College numbering about 60 have gone on strike from the date on which the order of the Governing Body was promulgated. Sir, this state of affairs is not healthy. It is not fair to the educational institution itself and is not fair to the two communities, for the students of to-day are the citizens of to-morrow. If there be harmonious feeling, co-operation and affectionate collaboration between the students of the two communities, there is hope that the future citizens will also learn to work in harmony between the two communities. Conceding, but without admitting, that the Muslim students were at fault, should they be given the severest punishment of rustication forever? That is the special plea which I want to make to my Hon'ble Friend, the Prime Minister who is also the Education Minister of this Province. I hope, Sir, he will take personal interest in the matter and look through the records and see whether he could bring in a revision of the judgment that has been passed by the Governing Body of the College.

My Friend, Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, put a question to my Friend, Maulavi Abdul Hamid as to what the latter would do had this incident happened during his time as the Education Minister? Sir, I am sorry that he is not here now to hear the answer to that point. I may tell that during my tenure of office as Education Minister some 16 years ago, *i.e.*, during the years 1924-29, a similar case happened, but I intervened and instead of sending the student to ruin by stopping his educational career, I ordered him to leave the college and seek admission in some other college outside the Province. A similar case arose recently at the Gauhati Law College in which case the Governing Body had ordered the rustication of a student. Though not as Education Minister but as Prime Minister, I had to intervene and asked the Governing Body to reconsider the matter and whether the prestige of the Governing Body and the good feeling between the Hindu and Muslim students could not be maintained by giving the student concerned the chance of taking transfer certificate so that he could continue his study in some other college. This was done and a serious consequence averted by the Gauhati Law College. My special request to my Friend, Mr. Bardoloi, would be that he would kindly call for records and intervene in the order of the Governing Body of the Brindaban College. Though it is a private College, it is aided by Government; if I remember aright, Sir, it gets a grant of Rs.300 per month. The Government has a whiphand upon the College. If he asks that in order to restore good feelings between the two parties, in order that harmonious relationship between the Hindus and the Muslims may prevail again, whether those students whom the Governing Body wants to rusticate, should be asked to take transfer to some other college in some other Province or in Assam. Unless my Friend, the Leader of the House, takes speedy action, those three students who have been under order of rustication, are going to lose one year, as two of them are to appear in the ensuing Degree examination in April this year. Sir, if my suggestion is accepted this will surely relieve the tense feeling that has prevailed there and it will not only be good to the College itself but to the Province as well. Habiganj is notorious for tension of feelings between the Hindus and the Muslims. The Muslims are overwhelmingly larger in population, if I remember

aright—about 66 per cent. of the total population, and I do not want that this incident of the College started by the student of either community should be allowed to be a rancour and spread to the whole subdivision. What have we not done as regards students when they commit excesses? I need not delve into past occurrences. Only recently, while the students, both the Hindus and the Moslims, committed excesses by breaking law and order when they wanted to violate some orders of the Government of Bengal, leaders of public opinion, the Congress and the League, *i.e.*, Hindus and Muslims were called upon to look into the matter and they supported the students and wanted redress from the authorities. Let us also apply the same medicine. If both the Hindu and the Muslim students have committed some excesses by throwing brickbats upon one another, they should apologise to each other and restore mutual feeling of love and affection (*Loud applause*).

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I take up other questions, in the nature of reply to Cut Motions as the Education Minister of the Government, I desire most heartily to respond to the generous appeal that has been made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition in reference to the Cut Motion on the Brindaban College incident. Nobody feels the necessity of harmonious relationship between all sections of the student community as I do (*Hear, hear*). If we believe that some excesses were committed, it is to be found out whether they were done on the ground of different ideology or on the ground of communal difference. We find students arraying against one another. Whenever occasions arose for me to speak to the students I addressed them as a whole and never as a sectional body. I feel, Sir, that unless all students come together and hold before them the ideal of harmonious working between them, on the basis of doing common good to all, irrespective of communities, I see darkness before me for the future. It is on account of this reason, Sir, that I always feel so bitter when I find the students arraying against one another, irrespective of whether they do so on the ground of political difference or communal difference. I have borne in mind the suggestion that has been put forward by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. In reply to one of the hon. Members of the Opposition also who spoke privately to me on this subject, I told him, Sir, and I feel even now as a matter of fact, that I do not feel my position quite clear how I should come in between the College authorities and the University. I have little power of interference with the working of the Governing Body of this particular institution. We give only grants to the institution. I personally feel that by giving this grant I am not given the power of interference in the internal affairs to the same extent as I am given in case of Government institutions. After all, we believe, certain degree of autonomy must be given to the Governing Body of the institution in reference to their governance. But after hearing the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the standpoint from which he wants us to view the whole case, I am prepared to see if I can persuade the Governing Body to revise the step taken by them, in a different way. I quite agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition that for the act of excesses done in the heat of the moment only, the Governing Body of the institution may be asked to see whether the careers of these students could not be saved from being spoiled for good. I give the assurance to the Leader of the Opposition. I shall try to give effect to the suggestions that have been put forward by him before me and shall try to deal with the matter in such a way as will result in creation of better atmosphere and better feeling among the communities and so far as the boys are concerned, I shall see that their future careers may not be spoiled.

Sir, coming to the many questions and to the many criticisms that have been offered in the Cut Motions, I wish, Sir, I were one of those conjurers with a hat or a magician with a wand to be able to bring all the money that would be necessary for the fulfilment of the many schemes and of the many aspirations about which the hon. Members of the Opposition have made reference. We have got to admit that we run under the limitations of finance in every direction and I am absolutely certain that that aspect of the situation is recognised by the Leaders on the other side, as I believe, they are equally recognised by the Members of the Government to-day. We do indeed wish the best of things for education and best of funds for education for the simple reason that the whole future of this country depends on the education of our young men. Therefore it is natural that I should feel as strongly about the limitation of our financial condition. I want the hon. Members to realise this great limitation and to approach the objects of their Cut Motions with this broad fact. With this background under which we have to work we can proceed to consider the best way in which we can all sit together to work.

Well, there have been some criticisms on the opposite side to the effect that this Budget does not disclose anything new, any ideal or anything good. I could easily ward off that criticism by saying that the Budget was that of the Opposition. But I would not like to apportion the blame only on the Opposition merely for the fact that the Budget itself is their creation. As I said we all realise the limitation of finances; and I feel that if there has been any failure of fulfilment of the many ideals which some of the hon. Members of this House have made in reference to primary, secondary and college education it has been due to it. I would not like therefore to be blamed as much as I do not like to blame the Opposition for this failure.

Sir, I now take the question of primary education. That is a subject on which most of the Members have spoken; and some of them have been rather extremists in certain views while others have been more reasonable in their remarks. Sir, the present Budget for primary education if it might be scrutinised properly, will show that it allots about 20 lakhs of rupees for primary education—it might be a little more, about 21 lakhs that is to say, we nearly spend on it one-third of the present grant on Education. I personally feel that to educate a crore of people, sixty lakhs cannot be sufficient expenditure. It would work out at about ten annas per head in the average. But even with the limited finance at our disposal on primary education, we have yet to see that reasonable advance is made. My own opinion about primary education, Sir, is that we must have free compulsory primary education; but as our funds are now limited we should act in such a manner by which we can arrange the preparatory stages till with the availability of funds we can work it. We may adopt a scheme with that end in view. My thanks are due to the last Government that they appointed a Special Officer. He has in the mean while drafted a Bill. It has surely not acquired that stage when a Bill can be passed into Act. The outlook of that Bill is to take out the administration of primary education altogether from the hands of the local bodies and to place it in the hands of bodies which will not only act at the centre but shall also have committees functioning in all the sub-divisions. The object of that committee will be to remove the uneven distribution that now prevails in the location of primary schools, to have a survey made with a view to have more schools so that the ideal, which the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition refers, to have one school for every village, is made possible for achievement. The object of these committees will also be to fix the minimum pay of teachers and many other important things which will be preliminary before any compulsion can be instituted.

Now it can easily be seen that this will take a little time, and the Bill provides that the preliminary steps should be taken within a period of 5 to 10 years before actual compulsion may be applied. Meanwhile the object of the Bill is to improve primary education as far as possible. Sir, we also propose to take some steps as early as possible, even in the existing conditions. The steps that we have in contemplation at present, are to have more training schools for teachers than we have already done and to take some schools in backward areas. Many Friends of the House, particularly those who had anything to do with the Mass Literacy Campaign, may know that a large number of boys who go to primary schools lapse into illiteracy. A calculation was made by the late Inspector of Schools, Srijut S. C. Goswami, by which it was sought to prove that if all the boys that read in primary schools could be taken as literates, we would have to-day 25 per cent literacy instead of having 10. In other words this large percentage of boys who had grown into manhood had lapsed into illiteracy in the meanwhile. Two reasons can be assigned for this state of things. In the first place the education that is given is not always in consonance with the requirements of the society. But the principal reason is—about which nobody has any doubt—the inefficiency of the teachers. If the teachers cannot instil into the growing minds an intelligent interest of the things they see around them, the education that is given is bound to be useless; and that is actually the state of things in our primary education to-day. Therefore our first important duty in this connection should be, in my opinion, to have properly trained teachers. Therefore, the first thing that this Government should do with its limited funds is to have as many centres of training with properly qualified trainers, so that the teachers put in charge of the primary schools may be properly qualified to take up the function for which they are meant.

Now, in that connection, Sir, the question of pay of the teachers arises. We are being asked to give effect to the Motion which was passed in November, 1944 seeking to give Rs. 40 a month to the primary school teachers. But with the limited funds at our disposal at the present moment, we think, Sir, that we may only be able to give these teachers a pay upto Rs. 30 and then raise it higher, if funds of the Province increase. We will take up the question when the examination of the financial position is made clear. But even the pay of Rs. 30 a month must depend on proper qualification of the teachers. I want to assure the hon. Members of the House as well as those poor Pandits in the villages that we shall do our best to see what pay and prospects we can offer them so that they can function as useful members of the society imparting education to our boys and trying to develop them to their manhood.

Then, Sir, much has been said about secondary education and suggestions are, more or less, in the shape of more grants to High Schools and more grants to Middle English Schools. I have borne those suggestions in my mind and if funds permit, we shall try to implement their desires as far as possible. All the hon. Members suggest improvement of these schools.

One big question however is involved in this question, I mean, the management of the aided schools. In the meantime, I think, I have received not less than 200 telegrams asking us to deprovincialise schools and some have suggested even colleges. That I consider to be a very big question. I do not like to take much time of the hon. Members in discussing such a subject. It is a very difficult subject, because along with deprovincialisation of schools and colleges the question of pay and prospects of the present staff come into consideration; and if we take that into consideration it may be that we may not have much saving for the purpose of distributing it among the various aided school teachers for their benefit. But this subject, as all others I beg to submit, Sir, will receive the serious consideration of the Government.

Then, Sir, something was said about university and college education. I do not propose to take, as I said, much time over this subject and I might agree that primary education should receive precedence, but it would be wrong to say that primary education alone will solve the problem of our country. Every hon. Member of this House, I am sure, will feel the necessity of true leadership to-day than at any time. Sir, most of those who are conversant with the sort of administration that we are having do always feel the necessity of improving the Government activities and along with it the personnel engaged in them. If you just see from that point of view, Sir, I think there cannot be no other opinion than that we should have the proper kind of university education which will make our youths fit to take charge of all activities that the country has got to undertake for its development and progress. I cannot agree entirely with the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he says that till we have not been able to solve satisfactorily the question of primary education, we should not think of any other kind of education.

Some references have been made about a proposal to establish a University at Gauhati. As regards this I should say that we have not decided anything at the present moment. This is not an immediate problem for the Government at present. But I would like to tell the Hon. House that if there are ventures which can have enough resources to have an ideal institution in the nature of a University it will surely be the duty of the Government to help such ventures with such means as Government can provide. Thus, if any body of persons can establish and develop a centre of learning I mean learning which would facilitate higher training in science, higher training in other spheres of education such as we require for the advancement of the Province and creation of real leadership I feel it would be the duty of any enlightened Government to help these ventures. That is all I have to submit before the House at present.

Sir, I have given assurance in the manner that I possibly can and have also indicated the lines on which we propose to take action. I hope the House will be satisfied and the hon. Mover of the Motion will be satisfied with what I have said and be pleased to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi DEWAN ABDUL BASITH: Sir, nothing has been said in clear words about my demand to consider the desirability of locating the University at Sylhet in response to the wishes of the people of the Surma Valley. I want to know from the Hon'ble Premier about it.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: What I have got to say I have already said and I do not know how to assure the hon. Member any further.

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

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: I want a reply from the Hon'ble Premier whether he means that no University scheme will be taken up by the Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already said if there be any private venture to take up the cause of education in the manner I have indicated to the House, Government will surely help such ventures. But Government out of its own accord are not thinking instituting any University in Assam at the present moment and I would not like to have a replica of the Calcutta University in our Province.

Maulavi MUNA WAR ALI: Does this principle hold good for Sylhet also?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Surely, Sir, I have enunciated a general principle. I do not see any reason why it will not hold good for Sylhet also.

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg, Sir, to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am now putting the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,93,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head '37.—Education other than European'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT NO. 20
(40.—AGRICULTURE)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

Under this head there are as many as 22 Cut Motions and the time allotted is $\frac{3}{4}$ th of an hour and out of which we have lost sometime. Now which Motion is to be taken up?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: We will take up, Sir, Cut Motions Nos. 2 and 21.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I would call upon Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan to move his Cut Motion No. 21.

Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 26,08,100 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My intention of moving this Cut Motion, Sir, is to raise a discussion about the Agricultural policy of the Government.

Sir, in support of the Motion which I have just moved I would like to say a few words. Our Province with fertile land, suitable climate and sufficient rainfall has got enough scope for agricultural improvement on proper lines. The bulk of our population comes from the agriculturist class who are proud of their profession and are willing to work hard to improve their lot. But, Sir, our people are, with all these in our favour, lagging behind time and they are lacking in improved methods of agriculture. Why? Can there be any satisfactory explanation to this Sir? This question has often come to my mind and the conclusion I have arrived at is lack of enthusiasm and sympathy on the part of Government and its officers. I am afraid, the Department has not taken any trouble of sending their officers to the villages to contact the masses and teach them the improved methods and modern agriculture. The high officials have confined themselves to visiting towns and those who are posted at the District or Subdivisional headquarters tour occasionally into those places which are connected with motor or rail. Sir, if we want our agriculture to improve on modern lines then we should educate our masses through schools, cinemas and lantern lectures and prepare them to take to modern agriculture in preference to the primitive methods with which they are so very familiar. Besides these there are several other things to be considered. We should take steps to improve the breed and condition of our cattles and import into our country modern and scientific agricultural implements such as tractors, ploughs, etc. and also arrange supply of

scientific manures in sufficient quantities to the cultivators in all seasons and at all places. Irrigation is also another very great and important thing which is very essential during the hot months and in the winter season. This can best be done by digging canals and by supply of portable irrigation pumps to our cultivators. In short, Sir, our aims should be to replace primitive methods by modern scientific ways in order to produce more crop in small areas and save time for other purposes.

Sir, if the suggestion which is given in my humble way is accepted it will not only save time and yield more crop from a bigha of land with less effort than from three bighas of land in the ordinary course and that at the same time will also save a lot of labour for other works such as factory works, etc. for which we have to recruit people from outside the Province. I hope, Government will examine my suggestion and see if they can do something in the interests of our cultivators. (*Applause.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 26,08,100 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40—Agriculture at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100"

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also got a Cut Motion† in my name. I would like to speak a few words on the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan. Sir, the purpose of my Cut Motion is to fix a bottom price for our agricultural produces—specially for paddy and rice. This matter was also discussed in connection with other departments and yet I have brought this Cut Motion. The reason is this that the hon. Finance Minister, while he delivered his Budget speech, said that he was willing to fix a bottom price of paddy and rice. But as there is a maximum price fixed, there will be inconvenience and obstruction, but he did not mention what was the obstruction. I hope, Government will make it clear what obstruction stands in the way of fixing up a bottom price which will be more useful to the agriculturists. If there is any trouble, Government should try to remove that, and, I hope, they will succeed in surmounting this trouble. With these words I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Sir, Cut Motion No. 14* stands in my name and by this I want to draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in charge of Agriculture to the miserable plight of the agriculturists of some villages—namely—Muriank, Satauk, Laknauk, Tegaria, Mashadia, Dharampur and Ganipur within the police station of Lakhai. The position is this, the agriculturists of these villages have got extensive paddy fields and jute fields. These villages are situated just at the bottom of the Raghunandan Hill. At the time of rains, that is, when rain starts from the month of *Chaitra* upwards to *Jaistha* rain water in all the paddy fields as well as flood-water coming from the Raghunandan Hill all accumulates on the field and makes this field a vast sea of water and

†Maulavi ABDUL HAI to move:—

That the total provision of Rs. 26,08,100 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about fixing a bottom price for all agriculture produces specially paddy and rice).

*Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 2,575 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(a)—Deep water paddy farm, Habiganj, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about improving the agricultural fields of villages—Muriank, Satauk, Laknauk, Tegaria, Mashadia, Dharampur, Ganipur by providing proper drainage of water.)

the only passage of water has been silted up. They need suitable drainage and the only channel being silted up water accumulates there. Therefore the agriculturists cannot grow their crop and, if grown, it is washed away. So I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to see his way to have better irrigation project for drawing the water of this vast Muriank field so that the agriculturists, who are suffering for the last few years from the total destruction of their crop may get some relief. With these few words, Sir, I again draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to look to this matter.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture is one of the most fundamental things to the common man for earning his livelihood. In this Province an Agriculture Department has been in existence but agriculturists have not yet been helped by this Department. They should be helped in growing more food and for cultivating in a better way. We should see that Government experimental farms, cattle breeding farms and agricultural farms are opened, but they should be utilised for the best interests of the poor agriculturists. The Department should teach the poor cultivators to cultivate in a better way and grow more food and look more to the interests of the poor agriculturists and not merely to creating posts and jobs for others. Government should dig out more canals for cultivation of land where there is scarcity of water and thereby help the poor agriculturists. I wish the Government should earmark some good amount of money to help the poor agriculturists with agricultural loans. I think, I have said a little but I hope Government will help the poor agriculturists more and more.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.

Mumtazul Muhaddisin Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also a Cut Motion* (No. 2) in my name.

My intention is to raise a discussion about the depredation by wild elephants to paddy in the western side of Saraspur Hill.

In recent years crops of a vast tract of land from Badarpur up to Lushai Hills are being spoilt by wild elephants. The people applied to the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, but to no effect. I know it for certain that in one village only about 20 to 25 *hals* of paddy has been spoilt by these wild elephants last year. Such is the condition on every village there. If preventive measures are not taken at once, many of the paddy fields of that area will become waste lands in the near future and the villagers will face a very serious situation.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan for the acceptance of the House.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, there is a Cut Motion† standing in my name. It seeks to raise a discussion about starting an Agricultural Institute at Sylhet. Sir, like many other institutions, such as, Medical, Engineering and others, there is a great need for an Agricultural College in Assam. It is a crying need which has not yet been fulfilled. For various reasons it is the desire of the people of the Surma Valley that the

*Mumtazul Muhaddisin Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN to move:

That the provision of Rs. 14,400 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—Agriculture—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *ie.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

†Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY to move:

That the provision of Rs. 14,400 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—Agriculture—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *ie.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 26,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion for starting an Agricultural Institute at Sylhet.)

Agricultural College should be started at Akbarpur Agricultural Farm in the Karimganj Subdivision. The need for such a college in Assam is obvious because Assam is an agricultural Province—95 per cent. of whose population are living on agriculture. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Agriculture who is also a man from the Surma Valley that he should see his way to have the college started in the District of Sylhet. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.

Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Agriculture Department is divided into 4 sections—one of which is Irrigation and Embankment. In this Department they are entitled to spend Rs.4,000 but out of this Rs.4,000, Rs.2,000 is to come from the local peasants. We all know, Sir, the condition of the poor masses that they are not in a position to spare so much money to improve the condition of their land and besides there are party feelings in almost all the places. So, I urge upon the Government that they will take up the whole project themselves and spend the whole sum from the Government fund so that the poor people will not be troubled with the question of contribution.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.

Mr. G. KYDD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope I shall be forgiven for again trespassing upon the valuable time of this House and for again bringing up the subject of elephants and the damage they are doing to the crops of cultivators in many areas in Assam. Sir, the situation is however so serious that I feel I must again bring it to the notice of Government. I felt from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's reply to me the other day that he did not realise the seriousness of the situation, and was also under the impression that I was suggesting the extermination of all elephants in Assam. This, Sir, is not the case. What I was suggesting was *kheda* operation plus the shooting of one or two of the leaders of the herds doing the damage. If elephants are not on the increase (and it is my opinion they are) then they have certainly changed their feeding ground. This, I feel, is the result of the activities of the last few years of the Army in the Hills along the Burma Border, and it is my opinion that if my suggestion of *kheda* operations plus the shooting of a few of the herd leaders are accepted, then I think, the raiders will go back to their original haunts in the big jungle and so the cultivators will get relief from their depredations.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the hon. Members who have tabled these Cut Motions. I have examined them and am fully convinced that they have been brought with the best of motives to suggest ways and means for the improvement of the Department of Agriculture at a time when food problem is agitating the whole of India. I assure the hon. Members that in administering the Department I will remember the Cut Motions as so many sign posts so that I may achieve the end which is aimed at by the hon. Members. Assam is a self-sufficient Province no doubt so far as cultivation of paddy is concerned but as regards the production of other necessary articles of food it is lagging behind. On account of increase of population and deterioration of land the old methods of cultivation and agricultural economy have been found too deficient to meet our demands and attempts are being made both in the Centre and here to revolutionise the whole system of cultivation to suit our increased needs and requirements. Sir, many important agricultural schemes have been included in the Post-War Reconstruction Plan and it is hoped that they will be implemented along with other schemes of this Government.....

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May we know, Sir, what are the schemes?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There are several schemes, Sir, one relates to establishment of an Agricultural Institution,

one Agricultural school, one for increasing the staff and so on. These are some of the schemes.

Manlavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge the place where these institutions are going to be located?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I will let the hon. Member know. Regarding the depredations by elephant, it has been mentioned by two hon. Members—one from the European Group and the other from the Muslim Group. Sir, I have myself experience of these depredations carried on by wild elephants and only the other day about 6 miles south of Hailakandi a cow-herd boy was killed by an elephant near the bungalow of a Manager of a tea garden. Only a year before, I myself was about to be mauled by a tusker and I suppose this must have been the condition all over the Province where the places abound in jungles. Sir, attempts are being made to scare away these elephants but they have not been successful because during day time they go into the interior of the jungle and probably because paddy is rather very tasteful to them they come out during night and it has been found in many places that homesteads have been razed to the ground by wild elephants. It has also been found that previously these wild elephants could be scared away by lighting fire, but nowadays they are not afraid of fire. One of the hon. Members suggested that some of them could be shot down so that others might go into the interior of the jungles. But that comes within the purview of the Forest Department. Of course, when this has come to the notice of the Government certainly some measures to safeguard people from these depredations must be found out, and I expect that very soon steps will be taken to protect the localities where these elephants are found.

Regarding the Cut Motion about some villages where water accumulates in a large quantity, I want to inform the hon. Member that the Agriculture Department is concerned with schemes which fall within Rs.4,000 (of course that is a convention), and those exceeding Rs.4,000 are taken up by the Public Works Department Embankment and Drainage Section. So, if some villages are habitually brought under water, the hon. Members would do well to approach the Public Works Department and, I think, speedy action will be taken. Another hon. Member has stated that the custom of the Irrigation Department is that half the money is provided by the Agriculture Department and half should be provided by the cultivators themselves. This custom prevails for the last few years, and in some places I have seen that this system is working well. But I agree that there may be places where cultivators will not be able to collect half the amount which they are asked to subscribe and consequently these people will suffer. I shall try to revise the rule, Sir, so that people of those localities may also get the benefit.

Then, Sir, regarding fixation of a bottom price for paddy, there was some discussion in connection with a Cut Motion tabled under the Supply Grant. The position is this, Sir: this Government is considering the question of fixing a bottom price. The Government of India wanted to impose on this Government that the maximum price of paddy be fixed at Rs. 4-8-0. This Government thinks that this will adversely affect the cultivators. This Government has not sent any reply to the Government of India, as the question of fixing a bottom price is still under the consideration of the Local Government.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Fixation of maximum and bottom prices does not come under this Department, Sir. It is under the Supply Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, but the point was raised by one hon. Member.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: In order to effect improvements in the Agriculture Department, several schemes are in contemplation, *viz.*, irrigation small project and research schemes, schemes for enquiry and research for improvement of grazing areas, scheme for horticultural development, poultry development, dairy development, etc. Provision has also been made for the establishment of three Agricultural schools at Jorhat, Gauhati and Sylhet. This will be undertaken as soon as the final sanction from the Government of India comes.

Then, Sir, in order to implement the Grow-More-Food Campaign, the following schemes are being operated, *viz.*, the seed distribution scheme (paddy, mustard and other seeds used by the cultivators), manure scheme, horticultural scheme, agricultural training scheme, minor irrigation scheme, poultry multiplication scheme, cattle rehabilitation scheme, market survey scheme, oil cake scheme, dairy supply scheme and many other schemes. These schemes are being taken under the Grow-More-Food Campaign. Sir, the Agriculture Department is contemplating to do all it can for the improvement of agriculture and the condition of the cultivators and I assure the hon. Members that so far as lies in my power I will try to implement all the schemes to the fullest advantage of the cultivators and for the success of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. I give further assurance to the hon. Members that I will carefully consider all the matters raised in the discussions by the Cut Motions.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: On a point of information, Sir, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the burning question of dealing with the depredations of wild elephants is to be left to the indefinite period of time associated with the Post-War Reconstruction schemes?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, this question does not come under the Agriculture Department, but comes under the Forest Department.

Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not said anything whether he is going to introduce the new method of agriculture into the Province, nor has he stated whether he is going to send the officers to villages to educate the masses with the help of cinema on the improved methods of agriculture.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said that he will do all he can for the improvement of agriculture and the condition of the cultivators.

Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Is it an assurance from you, Sir, or from the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I cannot give any assurance. I have just quoted the words used by the Hon'ble Minister.

Maulavi Md. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister that he would try to fulfil my suggestions, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.26,08,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.12

(28.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.)

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not

exceeding Rs.12,30,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,30,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Half an hour has been allotted to this Grant. There are 3 Cut Motions. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury may move one of his Motions.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.11,100 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A —District Jails, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Superintendents' allowances, at page 68 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,30,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

By this Motion I want to raise a discussion about the operation of the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act.

In reply to a question the other day the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge stated that during the last 5 years the average of prisoners that was released under this Act was one per year. Sir, my submission is that the rate of releasing prisoners for their good conduct has been too slow, rather it has been at snail's pace. Thus the good intention of this Act has been nullified. I, therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to take steps so that in fit cases more compassion can be shown and deserving prisoners may be set free prematurely. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.11,100 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Superintendents' allowances, at page 68 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,30,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech of the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion, as I find, is divided into two parts. Firstly, he wants to criticise this Government because the whole object of the Act has been nullified by the slow progress. For this part of his appeal, I think, I am not answerable. But so far as the other part of his speech is concerned I may say, Sir, that this Government will look into the matter very carefully and will see that the object of the Act is not frustrated. Sir, I can assure the hon. Mover that this Government, while considering the provision of the Act seriously, will certainly try to give relief to the deserving prisoners.

It has been referred to in his speech about the reply to a question put a few days ago on the floor of this House. On that day also I tried to make one point clear that though the Act was passed in 1938 the rules were framed very late, *i.e.*, some time in 1943. But some action was taken according to the provision of section 5 of the Act.

Sir, in view of my assurance that this Government will see that the object of the Act is not frustrated the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion will see his way to withdraw the Motion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion, but will wait to see what the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge does in regard to the Act.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As the other two Cut Motions are not going to be moved, I am putting the question.

The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,30,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head ‘ 28.—Jails and Convict Settlements’ .”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.25.

(50.—CIVIL WORKS—EXCLUDING TOOLS AND PLANT AND ESTABLISHMENT)

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.59,11,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head “ 50.—Civil Works—Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.59,11,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head ‘ 50.—Civil Works—Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment’ .”

We have 15 Cut Motions under this Demand and time at our disposal is about 40 minutes. There is no omnibus Motion. Hon. Mr. E. S. Kaye may move his Cut Motion No.13.*

Mr. R. A. PALMER : That will not be moved, Sir. No.14** which stands in the name of Mr. J. C. Horwood will also not be moved.

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 5,26,917 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a).—Buildings (total), at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Cut Motion I want to draw the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity of constructing the Jagannathpur-Rashidpur Road. It is probably known to the Government that the poor people of this locality are suffering very much for want of communications. Practically in this locality there is no road and I urge upon the Government to take up this road and include the same in their Post-War Reconstruction Schemes and to start the work immediately.

*Mr. E. S. KAYE to move :

That the total provision of Rs.59,11,200 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise the Government for the delay in starting the 73-lakh Road Improvement Programme.)

**Mr. J. C. HORWOOD to move :

That the total provision of Rs.59,11,200 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To draw attention to the failure of Government to maintain that portion of the North Trunk Road and the feeder road to North Gauhati which lies in the District of Kamrup in as good and Lakhimpur.)

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 5,26,917 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a).—Buildings (total), at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Karimganj Local Board roads are concerned, as it is known to the hon Members of this House that owing to reckless and heavy driving of the motor lorries of the Military individuals, the condition of the roads has become very miserable.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I want to know, Sir, what the hon. Member is speaking about.

Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI: I am just speaking about the whole Province, particularly I want more money for the Karimganj Subdivision.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would only say that the road about which hon. Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza Choudhury has spoken was included in the Road Board Programme by the last Government and this Government will consider the question and will take some time to consider it when the Road Board has been formed.

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

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY: In view of what has been stated by the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 5,26,917 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a).—Buildings, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, by this Cut Motion I want to draw the attention of the Government to the most unsatisfactory state of communication within the Biswanath thana in the District of Sylhet. In this locality there is no road and the poor people of this locality are experiencing much inconvenience for want of such a road. May I request the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department to look into this matter and take early steps for the construction of a road from Biswanath to Lamakazi. If this road is constructed, the length of which will not be more than six miles thereby facilitate the communication in the three Subdivisions, namely, Sylhet Sadar, Sunamganj and Maulvibazar. In this view of the matter I very strongly urge upon the Government to take up this Biswanath-Lamakazi Project at once and remove the long felt grievances of the public of that locality.

Further I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Transport that the Sylhet-Biswanath Motor Service was closed in the year 1942 on the plea of patrol rationing. It is a public demand that the line should be reopened forthwith and to remove the public difficulties. With these few words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 5,26,917 under Grant No. 25 Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings (total), at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I don't find this road in the Road Board Programme that was framed by the previous Government. But this matter will be taken into consideration by this Government.

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

Maulavi DEWAN TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may say that this same painful process of begging leave of the House for withdrawal of Motion is vicious and, therefore, can it be expected that the hon. Members and Hon'ble Ministers will take it into consideration? If it is permissible the replies from the Hon'ble Ministers also will be that, the matter will be taken into consideration.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Perhaps the hon. Members want the expression of many holy words from the Hon'ble Ministers, therefore, they take to the new process as many times as they can.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, Hon'ble Minister may reply after all the Motions have been moved. I think that would be a better procedure. The Motions may be moved one by one and the Hon'ble Minister concerned may reply to all Motions at a time. That was being done in the past.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Member may move his Motion.

Maulavi MD. MAFIZ CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to move that the provision of Rs. 80,000 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b).—Communications—Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise a discussion about the urgent need of constructing a road from Jagannathpur to Govindaganj thus connecting it with the Chattak-Govindaganj Road in the Sylhet District. Sir, it is well known to all the hon. Members of this House that Sunamganj is notorious for its bad communication. There is no road worth the name and people of this locality are suffering badly from bad communication. If this road is constructed, it will connect four or five big markets, *i. e.*, Jagannathpur, Rasulpur, Dwarâ Bazar and Govindaganj, and thereby it will also connect Pagla-Sunamganj Road and I urge upon Government to take it into their serious consideration.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 80,000 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b).—Communications—Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Cut Motion that has been moved by my Friend, Maulavi Md. Mafiz Chowdhury. Sir, these two thanas—Chhatak and Jagannathganj—are very populous and also big centres of trade. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to see that this project be included in the Post-War Programme and action taken accordingly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister will please reply.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, I have no personal knowledge of this locality. But from the files I found that this proposal about

making this road from Jagannathpur to Biswanath had not been considered by the Government of the past, because it is in the low-lying area always affected by floods. High embankments are required for this road.....

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : This is a separate road, Sir. This is Govindaganj-Jagannathpur-Chhatak Road.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : There is no proposal just now for that road, and if we are to make that road now it will cost a large amount of money and, with the limited fund at our disposal now, it is to be considered whether it will be advisable to divert the money to this road at the expense of the other roads. But in view of the present circumstances, it seems almost impossible for me to make any promise about this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister does not give any assurance. What does the hon. Mover propose to do.

Maulavi MD. MAFIZ CHOWDHURY : This is not a low-lying place, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. At this stage no further arguments can be permitted. Hon'ble Minister is not pleased to give any assurance whatsoever, and what does the hon. Mover want to do ?

Maulavi MD. MAFIZ CHOWDHURY : I do not press my Cut Motion, Sir.

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

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 80,000 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b).—Communications—Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My intention in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the urgent need of constructing a bridge at Mathiura over the canal dug out by the Drainage Department. The Embankment and Drainage Department has dug out a canal for draining out water from a beel and this canal passes through the Mathiura school and the Mathiura village ; but now the Embankment and Drainage Department refuses to construct a bridge over the canal and this has inconvenienced the students who daily come to the school. My submission is, when the Embankment and Drainage Department forms a part of the Civil Works Department, this Department should come forward to construct a bridge at this spot.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 80,000 under Grant No. 25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications—Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The question that has been raised by hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri will be considered by Government.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Thank you. Sir, with the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I withdraw my motion.

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

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

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs. 80,000 under Grant No. 25, Major head. 50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b).—Communications—Detailed head—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of improving the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road by constructing the bridges and making it motorable throughout the year.

Sir, this road has had a variegated history behind it. I see many of us are not here who used to amuse very much at my late appearance to attend the Council and Assembly Sessions. It is my good luck that the very Communication Minister is one of those. Of course, we have a second within this House in the personality of the Advocate General of Assam, but he is not a Member. Those hon. Members used to take delight in my late coming and I had the usual excuse of telling them what a strenuous effort I had to put forth in coming to Shillong; all because there was practically no means of communication for me. I waited and waited and waited for a chance of a steamer to get to Chattack and if fortunately one came, I had to take a boat there for Sylhet which took me more than 30 hours. I hope, my Hon'ble Friend Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy knows all about this road as he is at the helm of affairs of the Communication Department. The other day I put a query to him if he came across a document in the file which was the result of deliberations after a personal inspection by as many as three Hon'ble Ministers accompanied by the Chief Engineer of this Province. That document contains their unanimous verdict—that was in the month of April of 1944 — that this road should be forthwith taken up in spite of war difficulties, that all the bridges should be constructed cement concrete, barring the two big Bridges—those over the Surma and the Mahashing. I hope, Sir, it might have been possible for the Hon'ble Minister to find and see that document by this time. It is not surprising very much that several Hon'ble Ministers, past and present, did not find their way to visit the damned Sunamganj on account of her terribly bad communication. Now, there is the road with as many as 22 bamboo bridges and the passengers have to get down no less than 22 times. This is a cold weather track even to this day. I started agitating about this road since 1921 when I entered the late Council. Then it was in November, 1936 when this cold-weather road had the good fortune to allow motor passengers for the first time and it is 1946, and it has remained a cold-weather road even to this day. Sir, Sunamganj is proverbially backward almost in all respects, and most of it is because her means of communication is practically nil. And her backwardness will be perpetuated unless and until immediate steps are taken to improve this road and make it an all-weather road by providing cement concrete bridges. This is a matter of urgent and imperative necessity and I trust that the Hon'ble Minister in-charge will be good enough to think it his first duty to remove this difficulty immediately.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.80,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A—Original Works, Sub-head—*b*()—Communications, Detailed head—Ordinary Roads, at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.59,11,200 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to lend my support to the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali.

Sir, Sunamganj is really very backward in the matter of her communication by land, water or even air. The saying goes that even radio news are received late at Sunamganj (*laughter*). From this the House will well imagine how Sunamganj is suffering for want of good communication. At times during the year Sunamganj is thoroughly cut off because there remains no communication worth the name, neither boat, steamer or road communication. That season is coming and, I am afraid, Government officials and public will suffer a lot if the present road connecting Sunamganj with Sylhet is not properly constructed and made motorable throughout the year.

With these few words, Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support the same Motion before the House. Sunamganj is really very backward in respect of communication and I do not know why in the Post-War Reconstruction it would not be possible at least to bridge the small khals leaving out the big ones, which might be served by *mar* boats. This road ought to be made motorable throughout the year, for actually earthwork has already been done.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Does this road pass by the side of hon. Member's house, Sir?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Well, Sir, my house is just two miles off from the town of Sylhet and from that place the motor station is about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile though the Deputy Commissioner has reported that from the motor station my house is only two miles. I am all right without further work on the road.

Sir, so far as expenditure on roads is concerned, Sunamganj has received the least amount and nobody can deny that. It has been said that the road cannot be completed before 1950-51 but I do not see any reason why before that period the road cannot be improved. As I have said before and I am repeating the same again that the small bridges might be constructed now leaving the bigger ones to be served by *mar* boats for the present. If that is done, Sir, the road can be made motorable throughout the year.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion before the House.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to say a few words in support of the Cut Motion before the House. Sir, I had occasion to be away on urgent business for two days recently and returned yesterday. My return journey from Juri took me 22 hours.

Sir, on an earlier occasion in this session of the Assembly I put a question regarding the collapse of the Shari bridge. I was then told that it was due to earthquake damage. Well, the bridge is still being repaired and a temporary

bridge has been erected and been in use for some months but it could not be crossed owing to very heavy rains which have fallen in the Surma Valley. The flood water came up over the level of the temporary bridge and there was no other proper means at all for crossing the river. I was held up for about 4 or 5 hours before a *mar* boat could be obtained and in that *mar* boat there was only one gallon of petrol to do the crossing for a large convoy of buses and private cars coming down from Shillong. I was fortunate in being able to cross from the south side to the north side but I do not know what happened to the convoy crossing from the other side.

So, Sir, I would impress upon Government the urgent need to instruct the Public Works Department to provide adequate means so that passengers in buses and private cars can cross the Shari river without any further inconvenience.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion before the House.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Munawwar Ali. Sir, this is the only road in the Subdivision, worth the name. This road alone connects Sunamganj with the outside world. This has got almost 22 gaps in it. Well, Sir, if it is difficult to bridge all these gaps all at once, or in one year it may be taken 3, 4, 5 or 8 at a time in one year. On the other hand, if these small gaps are bridged, for the big gaps *mar* boat may serve the purpose. A letter posted at Sylhet will be received at Sunamganj on the third day. This is the condition we are living in. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to take this Sylhet-Sunamganj Road into his first consideration and do all that he can.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have heard all the speeches and the request of my hon. Friend opposite—Maulavi Munawwar Ali. I have myself gone over this road, and I have full sympathy with the hon. Member. I need not read all the recommendations of the three Hon'ble Ministers. Difficulties are many. This road needs 22 bridges and two of them must be big bridges over the Mahasing and over the Surma. Now, in order to construct these bridges, according to the estimates, it would cost nearly 20 lakhs.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On a point of information, Sir, when was that estimate made? I think, the estimate was for 14 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: This estimate, I think, is also before the War, Sir. On a rough basis it was estimated that the bridges will cost anything between 10 to 20 lakhs and under the present circumstances the cost will be at least 50 per cent. more. There are 22 water ways excluding Surma and Mahasing rivers which require to be bridged. Many of these bridges will be sufficiently long and cannot be economically done with reinforced concrete and girders will be required. It is considered that such materials in sufficient quantity in two years will not be available. There is little prospect that the bridges will be completed before 1950-51. The difficulties also now are that we have to take up road programme everywhere throughout the whole Province and we have very few men who can take up this work. Moreover, it is difficult at the present time to get girders and to push the work so quickly as the hon. Members have requested Government, but I should think that they must be very well satisfied if the whole road can be bridged within 1950-51. What I want to say is that we shall try to do all that we can do. That is all that I can say at present.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The Hon'ble Minister has confused the whole thing. On this half the amount will be required.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have only given the estimate given by our experts. I am only stating what the Engineers has said — I mean the Chief Engineer.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : That would cost 80 per cent. less.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : If this amount will not be required and if it is found that the cost will be less than 20 lakhs Government will be very glad. We shall do what we can under the circumstances.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The Hon'ble Minister was pre-occupied with the note supplied by the Public Works Department. From every side of the House, a suggestion was made that the Hon'ble Minister should feel no difficulty in bridging this road because the two big rivers—the Surma and the Mahasing need not be bridged at the present time. Suggestions were made that these two big bridges will take away 50 per cent. of the total estimate and according to another 80 per cent. Let us take the mean, and put the expenditure on these two big bridges at 60 per cent. of the total estimate. Even Heaven shed tears for the poor condition of Sunamganj, therefore, it is always full of water. Providence also came to the rescue of Sunamganj. My hon. Friend, Mr. Rutherford, brought the question of Sari bridge, which has no connection with the Sunamganj road. Therefore, we request Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy to have pity upon the denizens of Sunamganj. He is in the border-line of Sunamganj having his ancestral house at Shella, and, therefore, he should see that at a small cost leaving the bridging of Mahasingh and Surma to a future date, the rest may be taken up soon so that this one Subdivision which is still unconnected by road service with headquarters be connected in his time.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That suggestion, Sir, will no doubt be taken into consideration. That was in my mind when I said that Government will do its best.

Regarding Sari bridge, Sir, I am very glad that the hon. Member has brought this to my notice. We shall see that the inconvenience be removed and the Sari bridge be completed as quickly as possible. I have got word from the Department that they intend to finish it before the rains, that is, before the monsoon sets in if possible.

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

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : On the assurance of Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, Minister of God, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, I am afraid, such observations are not permissible. I should like to ask the hon. Members, particularly the senior Members in this House, not to indulge in such remarks. The Chair has every right to seek co-operation from the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of this House and its debates at a high level. Need I point out that when the hon. Members show courtesy to each other they only honour themselves.

Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am now putting the main question :

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,11,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head ‘50.—Civil Works—Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment.’”

The question was adopted.

Announcement of the result of election of Members to the Bengal and Assam Railway and Tezpur-Balipara Railway Local Advisory Committees.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have now to announce the results of elections held on the 23rd March, 1946 to the various Railway Local Advisory Committees. The following hon. Members have been elected:—

- (1) Bengal and Assam Railway—A. B. Zone—Babu Suresh Chandra Biswas.
- (2) Bengal and Assam Railway—E. B. Zone—Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma.
- (3) Tezpur-Balipara Railway—Srijut Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A. M., on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1946.

Shillong:
The 14th May 1946.

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