

DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946

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given enect to :

(d) If not, do Government propose to circulate the curriculum now and appoint a committee with qualified official and non-official members having wide knowledge in Islamic languages to submit detailed report to the Government for their consideration ?

The Hon'ble Srijit GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

40. (a)—No.

(b)—It is to some extent true that there had been some criticisms regarding minor details of the newly introduced Madrassa curricula since its introduction. These criticisms have been mainly with regard to some of the books prescribed in the new curricula. But so far no formal representation in the matter has been received from the Muslim public.

(c)—As the curricula was prepared by experts on Madrassa Education, Government did not think it necessary to circulate it for eliciting public opinion. No enquiry was also made before the new curriculum was given effect to.

(d)—Government do not think that any useful purpose will be served by circulating the curricula now, but Government are prepared to consider the suggestions of the hon. Member with regard to the appointment of a small committee of experts in the Muslim Education to further revise the new Madrassa curricula in the light of the practical experience of their workings during the last one and a half year.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May we know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister when the proposed committee of experts will be formed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As soon as possible, Sir.

Head-Maulana, Title Course, Sylhet Madrassa

Moulana MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

*41. (a) Is it a fact that the post of the Head-Maulana in the Title Course Madrassa, Sylhet, is still vacant for want of an up-country Maulana of All-India reputation ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not giving chances to the qualified domiciled native candidates who educated themselves in the Government Title Course Madrassa of either Sylhet or Calcutta obtaining the highest degree in Islamic subjects ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state in how many cases of promotions together with the names of the teachers concerned the question of seniority was not considered while making Departmental promotion during the period from 1940-45 and the reason or reasons for doing so in each case ?

(d) Do Government propose to abandon such practices in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

41. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is not a fact that chances are not given to the qualified native candidates who are educated in the Government Title Course Madrassa. Maulana Md. Hussain, the Principal of the Madrassa, is a valuable production of the Calcutta Title Madrassa, and has been coaching in Title Madrassa, Sylhet.

(c)—In Government Madrassa, Sylhet, there are posts of the following categories :—

Assam Educational Service, Classes I and II.

Assam School Service, Class III only.

Assam Lower School Service (outside the graded services).

There has been no promotion from Class II to I during the period 1940-45 in the Madrassa. In other cases the question of Departmental promotion does not come in, *i.e.*, an officer of Assam School Service cannot expect a Departmental promotion to Assam Educational Service. Appointments in each of these grades are generally made by direct recruitment.

No teacher of the Government Madrassa in Class III of Assam School Service has been passed over in the matter of Departmental promotions to Class II, Assam School Service.

(d)—Does not arise

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether any attempt was made to fill up the vacancy ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Attempts are being made, Sir, to get qualified persons from outside the Province, but till now we have not been successful in the matter.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister please state who is officiating at present in the post of Head Maulana ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Maulana Tamizuddin is officiating in the post.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Has he got the requisite qualifications ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think he does possess the requisite qualifications, but our object was to get a more qualified person and for that purpose we wrote to Delhi, and we shall be glad if it is possible to get such a person.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Do Government propose to advertise this post in the "Urdu Dailies" of Calcutta and Delhi ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I shall bear that suggestion for consideration, Sir. But in the meanwhile I ought to tell the hon. Members that we shall have to manage with the existing staff, and till that appointment, we shall have to make temporary arrangements with the existing staff.

†**Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY**: The answer to (c) is— "There has been no promotion from Class II to I during the period 1940-45." May I know whether there is any promotion from Class III to II during this period ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply has already been given there, and there has been no supersession.

†**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who gave notice of Starred Question No.42 is absent to-day. This is an important Question and I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to enlighten the House by replying the Question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, the Hon'ble Prime Minister may please reply under rule 38 of the Assembly Rules.

Appointment of I. N. A. and war returned personnels in Government Service

‡**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of SIDLI** asked:

- *42. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) If any member of the I. N. A. has been appointed by the Provincial Government in Government Service ?
 - (b) If any person with war service has been appointed in Government Service ?
 - (c) Whether Government propose to consider the cases of the I. N. A. personnels equally with those of the other war returned candidates ?

†Speech not corrected.

‡The Question was replied to, under Assembly rule 38.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

42. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The whole subject is being considered by Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be please to give the same privilege to the I. N. A. men also as are being given to other war returned officers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : There is no disqualification for any class of officers for Government service.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Have Government decided to give special privileges in the matter of services to war returned officers that are not given to the I. N. A. men ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : What I was telling my hon. Friends was that no special privilege was given to any officers, and therefore that question does not arise.

Abolition of Zemindary System

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

*43. (a) Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and the United Provinces have lately decided to abolish the Zemindary System in their respective Provinces ?

(b) What steps, if any, the Government of Assam have taken towards abolition of Zemindary System from Assam also ?

(c) Do Government recognise that the Zemindary System is against the principle of real democracy ?

(d) Are Government aware that the incidence of taxation in the Zemindary areas is more harsh than in the Khas areas ?

(e) Do Government propose to take early steps to abolish the Zemindary System from Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI replied :

43. (a)—Government have no official information other than reports in the Press.

(b) and (e)—The matter is under consideration and preliminary enquiries have been instituted. Before, however, Zemindary interests can be acquired their extent must be ascertained, which means that a record of rights will have to be undertaken in the Permanently Settled Districts.

(c) and (d)—These are matters of opinion.

†**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** : Is the Zemindary System profitable to the people ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : It is a question of opinion, Sir.

†**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : Is it a fact that Government cannot interfere in the management of the Zemindary Estates ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Of course, as regards the management of the property of the Zemindars, Government cannot interfere under the law prevailing in the country.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : Do Government realise that if the Zemindary System is abolished, the income of Government will increase ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : It is also a matter which cannot be answered off-hand. Without elaborate calculation and investigation it is very difficult to answer.

†**Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** : Do Government propose to appoint a Commission to go into the question as was appointed in Bengal — the Flood Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : At present we do not contemplate the appointment of such a Commission, because the Commission appointed by the Government of Bengal submitted their report three years back but no step has yet been taken by the Bengal Government to abolish the Zemindary System even in one of their District.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Do Government think that the recommendations of the Flood Commission equally apply to this Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : It is very difficult to say. Some of the recommendations may be considered at the time the proposal for abolition of the Zemindary System in the Permanently Settled areas of this Province is taken up.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : Are Government prepared to appoint a Committee to enquire into the position of finance if the Zemindary System is abolished ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : No, not at present, because the entire constitutional aspect of the Province as well as of the Centre is in a fluid state and we want to see how things turn out. After that, it will be a matter for Government to see whether the appointment of a Commission is necessary in order to go into the question of abolition of the Zemindary System.

†**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA** : Will Government take the whole situation into their consideration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : That will depend on the circumstances prevailing in the country then.

†**Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY** : Is that the idea of Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Yes, that is the ultimate idea of Government.

†**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : Sir, the hon. Questioner wh gave notice of Starred Question No.44 is also absent ; may I be permitted to put the Question ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am prepared to allow the Hon'ble Minister to answer the Question though the Questioner is absent, but I cannot make it a precedent.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Sir, I think I can be permitted to answer the Question under rule 38 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, as it is a matter of public interest and the Hon'ble Chair can give the permission.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I quite see ; but the hon. Member who gave notice of the Question is absent and another hon. Member is speaking on his behalf. It is not known whether he has got the permission of the Questioner to put the Question.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Sir, the hon. Member has no right to request the Chair to permit him to put the Question without any written authority from the Questioner in that behalf. But, I think, he has got the right to request me to ask for your permission under rule 38 to reply to the Question even in the absence of the Questioner. (*Laug' ter*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have no objection to the Question being answered.

Railway Protective Police Force

‡**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli** asked :

*44. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Railway Armed Forces are still posted to guard the Railway lines and the Railway stations ?
- (b) Whether it is still necessary to guard the line and the stations ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the Government of Bengal have already withdrawn this force ?
- (d) If the replies to Questions (a) and (c) above are in the affirmative whether Government propose to withdraw this force ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

44. (a)—The Railway Protective Police Force is still in existence, at reduced strength, and is still disposed at convenient points along the Railway.

(b)—The force is not entirely devoted to protection of the Railway, but to the general maintenance of law and order.

(c)—Government have no information as to the practice or position in Bengal.

(d)—The future of this force is still under examination.

†Speech not corrected.

‡The question was replied to, under Assembly rule 38.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Is it not a fact that this Police Force was posted during the Congress Movement of 1942 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I don't know the exact date.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Is it not a fact that during the Congress Movement in 1942 Government had to post the Police Force to guard the Railway lines ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am not aware of that, Sir.

†**Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** May I inform the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that the Congress people created some disturbance in 1942 when the Government posted these Police Force to guard the Railway lines ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Thanks, Sir, I accept the information supplied.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Are Government aware that through the Bhairab Bazar section of the B. A. Railway it has been very difficult for the Surma Valley passengers to travel ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am not aware of it but I am prepared to take it from the hon. Member that it is so.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will Government please write to the Railway Company to take proper measures for the safety of the Surma Valley passengers travelling through the Bhairab Bazar section and also move the Railway Company to open a through traffic to Chandpur to avoid the disturbance ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Does this Question arise, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps the first portion of the Question arises as it involves the safety of the Surma Valley passengers and the hon. Member wants to know whether Government can approach the Railway Board to take measures for the safety of the passengers.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: But that portion is under the Bengal Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are concerned with the Assam portion. If it is a Bengal portion, then the question does not arise.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The portion is of course in Bengal but it relates to the safety of the Surma Valley passengers. They have to travel through that route and have no other alternative means for going to Calcutta and other places.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This Assembly is not concerned with the portion that falls within Bengal.

†Speech not corrected.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: But the object of the question is to move the proper authority for the safety of the Surma Valley passengers.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: If the portion does not fall within Assam, then the question does not arise.

†**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is it not the duty of Government to see to the safety of the people of Assam? Cannot Government approach the proper authority for the safety of the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The question does not relate to the Assam section, but it relates to the Bengal section. I am afraid, Sir, the question therefore does not arise and I can't give any assurance.

†**Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV:** Cannot Government make a request to the authority to see to the safety of the Surma Valley passengers?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That also does not arise and I cannot allow the question. Does the hon. Member mean to say that the Government of Assam should post Police guard with the passengers travelling from Assam? (*Laughter.*)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

(Further Supplementaries on ‡Unstarred Question No.61)

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that candidates Nos. 2 and 3 were appointed in recognition of their war services, as stated in the answer?

†Speech not corrected.

Controllers and Assistant Controllers of Procurement of Paddy and Rice

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked:

- ‡61. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether Government advertised for the posts of Controllers and Assistant Controllers of Procurement of Paddy and Rice?
 - If not, why not?
 - What are the names of persons who have been appointed as Controllers and Assistant Controllers of Procurement?
 - What are their qualifications and place of birth?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

61. (a)—No, as it was necessary to fill up the posts of Controllers immediately in order to give a start to the scheme. There was no post of Assistant Controllers.
- Does not arise.
 - 1. Srijut Dwijendra Nath Das.
2. Srijut Jibeswar Goswami.
3. Lt. Sarveswar Das.
 - All the three hail from Assam Valley. No. 1 is a graduate and was in the employ of Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company for over two years. No. 2 is an undergraduate and a permanent Upper Division Assistant of the Secretariat having been in the Civil Movement Plan as a Camp Commandant for over two years and No. 3 is an undergraduate and is a released officer of King's Commission.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The position is this Sir: They were selected by the Assam Public Service Commission. Whether the Commission considered war service as one of the qualifications or not, I cannot say.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Did the previous Government follow the principle of communal representation in the matter of similar appointments?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That cannot be answered off-hand. I do not think there was any such representation so far as a particular class of posts were concerned. It might be that the communal representation was followed in all the services as a whole but not in each particular class of posts or branches or Departments.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: It appears that candidate No. 1 is neither a Government employee nor a demobilised person. How did his case come in?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He had experience and we had taken advantage of his experience.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Who put his name?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Public Service Commission.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is the hon. Member not aware that the Public Service Commission advertised for the posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not for this particular purpose, Sir. I shall repeat what I said yesterday. For some similar posts in the Surma Valley, the Public Service Commission called for applications, and there were applications for the Controller's post also. Afterwards some officers were required for the Assam Valley also. As the matter was very urgent these men were appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission sent a list recommending certain names and Government selected these officers from their recommendation. Some applications were with the Public Service Commission.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: No. (1) was dismissed by the Steel Brothers and Company.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not aware of that fact, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge make an enquiry? If he is a dismissed officer he should not be appointed.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We have got nothing to do with this question, Sir, whether he was dismissed or not by a private concern. There might be various reasons.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: What is the harm?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The officer is doing well, so there is no need of such an enquiry.

Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, D.Sc., an Assistant Lecturer in Economics

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

62. (a) Are Government aware that Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, D.Sc., Pol. (Econ., Berlin) was an Assistant Lecturer in Economics from January 1940 up to October 1945 ?

(b) Are Government aware that during this long period of service he was not confirmed ?

(c) Who was responsible for his non-confirmation ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take against the Officer or Officers responsible for his non-confirmation ?

(e) Are Government aware that this non-confirmation caused him a great financial loss ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any rules and precedents in the Education Department according to which Officers of the Education Department are confirmed ?

(g) If so, what are they ?

(h) Why have not these rules and precedents been followed in this case ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether he earned any increment during the tenure of his service ?

(j) If so, whether he was allowed to draw those increments ?

(k) If not, why not ?

(l) Do Government propose to allow him to draw those increments ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

62. (a)—Yes, from 8th July 1940.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The officer was himself responsible due to his failure to look after his own interest by applying for confirmation.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Government are not aware of this, as he resigned without applying for confirmation.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—The rule is "A candidate appointed otherwise than on promotion shall be on probation for a period of two years. After completing two years' service he shall be confirmed in the service, provided that he has passed such departmental examinations as may have been or may hereafter be prescribed and has otherwise satisfied the Governor and his Minister that he is fit for confirmation....."

(h)—Ordinarily the question of confirmation of a particular officer of the Assam Education Service is taken up on the application of the officer concerned through the Principal of the College who has to report about his efficiency in work in consultation with the Head of the Department. In the present case the officer failed to submit any application for the purpose. The matter could have been decided at any time had he applied.

(i)—No.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to questions

(h) & (i) above.

(l)—Government do not propose to reopen the question.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: As regards (g), the rule is—'A candidate appointed otherwise than on promotion shall be on probation for a period of two years. After completing two years' service he shall be confirmed in the service, provided that he has passed such departmental examinations as may have been or may hereafter be prescribed and has otherwise satisfied the Governor and his Minister that he is fit for confirmation.....' According to this rule there is absolutely no provisions for submission of any application. How does the question of application come in at all ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The question as to whether a particular person does suffer from any disability in the meanwhile is a matter that is to be reported by that authority under which he works. From that point of view it is desirable that the report should be coming from the authority under whom the particular officer works before the confirmation is affected.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is there any necessity for the officer to make any application ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The hon. Member can very well understand that the machinery moves in a particular way and that is the usual way in which the machinery moves. I personally feel that the machinery should have moved at the initiative of the Head of Department. But it is also true that it is the usual practice that the person who is affected thereby generally applies for removal of any disqualification that appertains to and on examination of the same he is confirmed. In this particular case when Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury was over two years in service, this Government thought that possibly there was something wrong, otherwise confirmation would have been given effect to.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If it is the fault of the Departmental Head, is it fair that the officer should suffer ? It is rather unfair that the officer should suffer only on the ground that he had not applied for confirmation when the rule also does not provide for such application.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I quite agree that if there was no disqualification, it was not proper not to have confirmed him at the period of time fixed according to rules.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it not a fact that in numerous other cases confirmation was made without any application ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware. As far as I know the machinery is moved by application.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In view of the fact that a palpable injustice has been done to that officer will the Government be pleased to consider whether any relief can be granted to him at this stage ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: If there is no disqualification, I shall be prepared to consider what relief, if any, can be given on account of this delayed confirmation. The whole matter is rendered difficult by the resignation of the officer concerned.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** Will the Hon'ble Premier enlighten the House whether any recommendation did actually come for the confirmation of the officer ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** Is it not a fact that in 1943, Mr. Sen—the then Principal—enquired why the officer was not confirmed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am sorry, I am not aware of that.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** I could not follow the Hon'ble Premier when he said that when an injustice is done in a case like this the officer concerned comes forward with an application. May I know when this procedure was introduced in the Education Department ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I can not tell my hon. Friend at what time this procedure was adopted, but this has been more or less the way in which the machinery has been moved.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, will Government take it from me that when an officer makes too many representations it is resented by the Department ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It may be so, Sir, but then when it goes through the usual channel, that is the Head of the Department and as a matter of fact, it has got to go through the Head of the Department, it cannot be resented.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, when an officer satisfies all the requirements of confirmation he is automatically confirmed. He is not required to submit application. In this particular case did the Principal of the College or the Head of the Department reported that he was not fit for confirmation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: When the recommendation did not come from the Head of the Department the presumption is that there must have been something against him and the then Government at any rate possibly acted in such belief.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction and the Principal of the College knew that this officer contemplated resignation as he was not confirmed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I think, we need not pursue this question any further in the face of the statement made by me that the officer will be given compensation if any real injustice has been done to him and rules permit it, and that I will look into the matter.

Bengal Civil Pioneer Corps and Garo Porter Corps

Mr. MANIRAM MARAK asked :

63. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The exact number of Garos who joined the Bengal Civil Pioneer Corps and lost their lives while on active service ?

- (b) Whether compensations have been paid to the families of all those persons who died on active service ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether Government have received any information to the effect that the families of the deceased labourers who joined the Garo Porter Corps and lost their lives while on active service, are in great distress ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps for giving annual pension and relief to these families without further delay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

63. (a) to (e)—These Corps were entertained by the Government of India, and this Government have therefore no detailed information on the subject matter of the questions. Enquiries are however being made of the appropriate authorities.

***Mr. MANIRAM MARAK :** May I know, Sir, when the information is received from the Government of India, will the Provincial Government then issue the information to the Questioner ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** I could not follow the Question, Sir.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** The reply is, Sir, "Enquiries are however being made of the appropriate authorities". His Question is that the result of the enquiry may be communicated to him.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Very well, Sir.

Babu Jatindra Nath Das, the permanent Sheristadar of the Sadar Munsif's 1st Court, Sylhet

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED asked :

64. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) For how long Babu Jatindra Nath Das, the permanent Sheristadar of the Sadar Munsif's 1st Court, Sylhet has been serving at the same station ?
 - (b) The date on which he first joined his appointment at the Sylhet Sadar station ?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that he has been at the same station for or over nine years ?
 - (d) Whether Government are aware that under Rule 1007 of the High Court's Civil Rule and Orders, Volume I, a Ministerial Officer cannot remain at the same station for more than five years and that he is liable to be transferred to other station after he has served at the same station for a period exceeding five years ?

- (e) Why the District Judge of Sylhet is not transferring this officer to some other station ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that no other Sheristadars of the Munsif's Court in the District of Sylhet have been staying at the same station for such a long period ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to transfer this officer immediately from the Sadar station to some other outlying station in the interest of public service ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

64. (a)—Since 6th November 1937.

(b)—6th November 1937.

(c)—No.

(d)—The rule referred to says that a Ministerial Officer should not continue in the *same post* for more than five years. There is no rule prohibiting a Ministerial Officer being at the same station for more than five years.

(e)—The rule leaves the matter to the discretion of the District Judge. The District Judge considers it expedient to retain him at Sadar at present as he is required to officiate from time to time in leave vacancies in higher posts.

(f)—No.

(g)—No. Government prefer to leave the matter to the discretion of the District Judge.

Improvement of roads in Nowgong District

Maulavi AFAZUDDIN AHMED asked :

65. Will Government be pleased to state what precaution is taken by Government for the improvement of the following roads for all weather motor communication, *viz* :—

(i) Nowgong to Lonka Road,

(ii) Juria old Road,

(iii) Sonai to Saidoria Road,

(iv) Laokhowa to Silghat,

(v) Nowgong to Bhuragaon *via* Dhing, and

(vi) Nowgong to Jagiroad.

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

65.—The roads in question have been recommended by the Assam Road Communications Board for inclusion in the Road Improvement Programme which will be taken up in the near future.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the road mentioned in 65 (iii) Sonai to Saidoria Road, is not included in the programme ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I think, Sir, the hon. Member is correct, and there is something wrong in the reply to Question No. 65. The reply is that the roads in question have been recommended by the Assam

Road Communication Board for inclusion in the improvement programme which will be taken up in the near future. The reply should have been "with the exception of two roads No. (i) and No. (iii)".

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: But as this is an important road, will the Hon'ble Minister take steps to include it in the Post-War Programme ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: If there is any representation, Sir, the matter will be placed before the Road Communication Board.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that this road was recommended by the District Authorities for inclusion?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: If that has been done, Sir, the Communication Board must have considered that and they must have rejected it.

Government and Private Libraries

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

66. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many libraries in the Province are owned by Government and how many are run by private enterprise with Government aid, giving the names of the Libraries and the amount of aid received by each ?
- (b) What are the principles involved in giving Government aid to the Libraries ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to encourage establishment of Libraries in rural areas by giving Government aid ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

66. (a)—Barring the Government College Libraries the only Library run by Government is the Government Public Library at Shillong.

The Kamakhya Library at the Kamakhya Hills receives annual recurring grant of Rs.100 and the Anipandit Sanskrit Library (in the Karimganj Sub-division) receives a monthly grant of Rs.15 from Government through Assam Sanskrit Board.

(b)—There is no definite policy in giving grants to public Libraries (the above two cases are exceptional ones).

(c)—In connection with Mass Literacy Campaign Government are already organising village and circulating libraries.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: With regard to (b) the reply is "There is no definite policy in giving grants to public Libraries". My question is if any fit cases of public libraries are reported to Government, are they prepared to make any grant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Beyond the little help that we are giving towards organising village and circulating libraries of the Mass Literacy Campaign, Government have not any fixed head of expenditure as grants to the libraries ; but Government are considering whether such an item of expenditure will not be desirable and should not provide such fund for the purpose in the next year's Budget.

Aided and non-aided Middle English Schools in the Golaghat Subdivision

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

67. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The names of all the Middle English Schools in the Golaghat Subdivision both aided and non-aided ?
 - The names of those Schools which receive (i) recurring, (ii) recurring and non-recurring and (iii) only non-recurring grants ?
 - Whether in consideration of the fact that the Subdivision being most backward educationally, do Government propose to sanction grants-in-aid at the earliest opportunity to those schools which do not receive any such grant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

67. (a) & (b)—A statement is laid on the Library table.
(c)—Yes, if and when funds will be forthcoming for such purposes.

***Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Sir, is it a fact that the recent Education Conference made a resolution that English should be discouraged ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not exactly remember, Sir, the details of the conference and all the recommendations made. All that was recommended was that English should not form part of the training of the Basic Schools.

***Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Sir, is it not a fact that the Basic School has no English in its curriculum ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think, Sir, that may be a fact.

Realisation of premium on settlement of land

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

68. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Since when the system of realising premium on settlement of land has been in force ?
 - What is the total amount realised from premium in different Districts of the Province since its introduction ?
 - Whether it is a fact that at the time of introducing the premium system it was announced by the Government that the amount so realised will be spent for development of communications, water-supply and education in the newly settled areas ?
 - If so, what amount has been spent for aforesaid purposes (to be shown separately under each head in each district) ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

68. (a)—Realisation of premium in connection with colonisation schemes is in force from the year 1928 in the district of Nowgong and from the year 1930 in the district of Darrang.

(b)—The information has been called for. Information available shows that the total amount collected in Nowgong only since 1928 is nearly 7 lakhs.

(c) & (d)—No, Government promised to spend a substantive proportion of the amount so realised on development of communications, water-supply, etc., in the colonisation areas. Recently Budget provision has been made to the extent of about Rs. 30,000 per annum. Information on all heads from all districts cannot be collected within the time available.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Sir, the Question was whether it is a fact that at the time of introducing the premium system it was announced by the Government that the amount so realised will be spent for development of communications, water supply and education in the newly settled areas. The answer is "No. Government promised to spend a substantive proportion of the amount so realised". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to read out the statement which the Government made at the time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, that publication is not yet available.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Sir, is it not a fact that the reply was taken from that statement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : This reply must have been taken from that statement. Colonisation scheme was started as far back as in 1928.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : May I know from where he gathered that reply. May I ask him to read out that statement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, that statement is not here.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the statement on some other day ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : If that be available, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, does the Hon'ble Minister admit that he has drafted the reply from that statement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Yes, Sir, it must have been drafted from that statement.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : With regard to (b), Sir, may I know what amount of these 7 lakhs has been spent in Nowgong ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It is very difficult to give the exact figure for such a long period.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that a statement of expenditure is always maintained in the District offices and that it is not at all difficult to gather this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, the information was called for but they could not supply as it extends over a period of 18 years.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, certain expenditure of Public money is incurred how can the District authority say that it is not possible to give it, is no account of such expenditure maintained ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, it is going on for the last 18 years. So, all these figures may not be available in the District and also it is very difficult to procure these details from the records.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: With regard to (c) and (d), it has been said that recently budget provision has been made to the extent of about Rs. 30,000 per annum. Is this amount meant for the whole Province or for Nowgong alone, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: No, Sir, it is for the whole of Assam. In this connection I may enlighten the Members that the contribution from all these heads are made to the various Local Boards and these areas derive benefits through the Local Boards.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** May I know whether Rs. 30,000 which has been budgeted is out of the premium collected or it is a general contribution by Government earmarked for development of the newly-settled area ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: No income is earmarked for anything. As a matter of fact money is distributed among the different heads according to the necessities of circumstances.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** I want to know what amount has been contributed by Government towards development of communications and other things in the newly settled area ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHUNRAM MEDHI: A road passes through the colonisation area and other areas, and the construction of that road benefits the colonisation area as well as other areas, and it is very difficult to apportion the amount spent for the colonisation area. The whole income goes to the general revenues, and the amounts are allotted for improvement of communications, water-supply, etc., in the colonisation area according to the exigencies of circumstances.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the Colonisation Officer maintains a budget ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Yes, when he is given instruction to spend a certain amount, he, like all officers, immediately carries out that instruction.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID**: The Hon'ble Minister admits that the answer has been drafted from the announcement made by Government as regards spending substantial amount for communications, water-supply, etc. Where is the difficulty to place that announcement before the House? He says "if it is available".

(No reply.)

Eradication of Water Hyacinth

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

69. (a) Are Government aware that water hyacinth has proved itself a dangerous pest in the Province and is doing immense harm to cultivation and fisheries?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any law to combat this evil?

(c) If so, how and to what effect it is being exercised?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take some effective steps to exterminate this pest?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

69. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Water Hyacinth Act, 1926 (Assam Act III of 1926).

(c)—It is to be worked by the Local Bodies. But so far there have been few results.

(d)—The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: With regard to (c), will the Government be pleased to let us know what kind of efforts were made to check this water hyacinth pest?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That seems to be a new question, Sir. I have already stated that the Act is to be worked by the Local Bodies.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The reply is "so far there have been few results". So there must have been some efforts made either by the Local Bodies or by the Government; that being so, may we know what were the results of those efforts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This does not arise, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In view of the fact that the Local Bodies have failed to eradicate water hyacinth, will Government take it in their own hands?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The answer to (d) may be referred to by the hon. Member.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Will Government please give special grants to the Local Bodies for eradicating water hyacinth?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : I submit, Sir, these questions should not be asked. Whether a special grant is to be made to a Local Body, is a question of a policy, and no question should be asked to get a declaration of a future policy. It is not permissible to obtain any assurance for a policy from Government by means of a question.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY :** Is it not a fact that the Water Hyacinth Act of 1926 is defective and no effective measures can be taken under it? If so, do Government propose to amend the Act?

(No reply.)

Present Deputy Director of Supply Accounts

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

70. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Who is the present Deputy Director of Supply Accounts, Assam?
- (b) What is his emolument?
- (c) How many retired Government Officers are in the employment of the Supply Accounts Department?
- (d) The names of such Officers with their emoluments?
- (e) Whether Government have observed the general rule of not allowing more salary than what the Officers were drawing at the time of their retirement?
- (f) If not, why not?

71. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that an inquiry in connection with some irregularities in accounts has lately been instituted against the Deputy Director of Supply Accounts?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to furnish details of the inquiry for the information of the House?
- (c) The amount of loss involved for which the officer is responsible?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

70. (a)—Mr. J. K. Dutta Roy.

(b)—Rupees 680 and War Allowance Rs. 174-12-0.

(c)—Two.

(d)—Mr. J. K. Dutta Roy, Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) and Rai Sahib K. M. De, Accounts Officer. The emolument of former has been given in reply to Question No. (b). The emolument of latter is Rs. 600 and War Allowance of Rs. 178-13-0.

(e)—No.

(f)—Government are not precluded from fixing the pay of any one to more than that drawn at the time of retirement. Where such relaxation is allowed, Government do so after full consideration of the duties and responsibilities attached to the post.

71. (a)—Certain irregularities have been brought to the Government's notice and the question of setting up an enquiry into this officer's conduct is under consideration.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Lower Primary Scholarships

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

72. Are Government aware—

(a) That a strong suspicion is being entertained by the public that in most Centres, Lower Primary Scholarships for boys and girls are secured in numerous cases by jobbery and undesirable methods depriving thereby meritorious and deserving boys and girls of their due rewards ?

(b) That the public are strongly of opinion that unfair means are generally practised in awarding marks in oral examination ?

73. If the reply to the above Question be in the affirmative, do Government propose to allay the suspicion by employing the following or other suitable measures :—

(i) excluding oral examination marks in awarding scholarships or employing a body of three examiners in conducting oral examinations for the purpose ?

(ii) getting examination papers set and examined by responsible persons residing in districts other than that in which the examination Centre is situated ? and

(iii) requiring the examiners to submit two sets of lists of marks obtained by the examinees, one to the Deputy Inspector of Schools and the other to the Chairman of the Local Board concerned ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

72. (a) & (b)—Government have no information on the subject and a report has been called for.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard (a), may we know from whom has the report been called for ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : From the officers concerned, apparently the Deputy Inspectors.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do we understand that all the Deputy Inspectors of the Province have been asked for report ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : A general order has been issued and I expect that must have gone to all of them.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Have Government called for a report from the Director of Public Instruction also ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The answer is already there. A report has been called for, and whatever action is to be taken, will be taken after the report is received.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Will Government send copies of this report to all the hon. Members of the House ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I do not think it is necessary to trouble hon. Members with this report. If the matter gets such dimensions, surely the House will know.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied.

73. (i), (ii) & (iii)—Government have no information on the subject and a report has been called for.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The reply to Question No.73 (i), (ii) and (iii) is that "Government have no information on the subject and a report has been called for". This Question contains certain suggestion only and there is, therefore, no necessity for securing information and report—however will Government be pleased to take these suggestions into their consideration while taking action on the report sought for ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member please indicate under what rule he can give suggestions to Government by way of Questions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But the reply is already there, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I made these suggestions and sought informations whether Government will take them into their consideration. So, the question is relevant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: What action Government will take, will depend on what report we receive.

Suits disposed of by the Sadar Munsif and second Munsif of Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

74. Will Government be pleased to state--

- The number of suits (money suits and title suits to be shown separately) disposed of by the Sadar Munsif and the Second Munsif of Gauhati respectively in the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 ?
- The number of those suits (out of the above number) disposed of on compromise ?
- Whether it is a fact that the number of suits does not justify the employment of two Munsifs at Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

74. (a) & (b)—The information is given in the statement below. It also shows the work done by the Additional Munsif of Gauhati at Dhubri, as he is the Additional Munsif of both Gauhati and Dhubri.

Name of Court	Year	Number of days devoted	Disposals			
			Money suits		Title suits	
			Total No.	On compromise	Total No.	On compromise
Sadar Munsif, Gauhati.	1943	230	833	101	168	37
	1944	244	251	292	182	54
	1945	225	597	96	174	62
Additional Munsif at Gauhati.	1943	98	61	14	37	7
	1944	84	38	15	17	4
	1945	68	17	11	33	7
Additional Munsif at Dhubri.	1943	137	34	3	64	7
	1944	51	7	..	4	1
	1945	139	24	4	31	7

(c)—No, there are roughly one and one half (and not two) Munsifs at Gauhati. The Munsifs have to deal with, in addition to the above figures, a large number of Rent suits (some of them contested) as also S. C. C. Suits and Miscellaneous cases.

The additional Munsif's figures may appear small at first sight. This is explained by the two following facts:—

(1) The additional Munsif is employed only part time at Gauhati and works at Dhubri for the rest of the year, and

(2) He gets by transfer only ready suits most of which are contested. The great bulk of the uncontested suits remain in the file of the Munsif, Dhubri and are disposed of in that file.

Northbrook gate of Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

75. Are Government aware —

- (a) That the Northbrook gate at the Sukreswar ghat at Gauhati is a magnificent structure of great architectural value ?
- (b) That this structure with a series of steps leading to the river Brahmaputra, is rendering good service as a bathing ghat and as a shelter to hundreds of bathers every day ?
- (c) That for want of repair this structure is now lying in a dilapidated condition over-grown with various plants and trees ?

76. (a) Will Government be pleased to state who is responsible for its protection ?

(b) Do Government propose to undertake the responsibility of preserving this structure and to see that immediate steps are taken for its repair ?

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

75. (a)—Government are aware that there is a structure called Northbrook gate at Gauhati. The question of its magnificence and architectural value is a matter of opinion.

(b)—Government have no precise information.

(c)—A masonry structure is liable to deteriorate unless repaired periodically.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to take it from me that the gate is in a dilapidated condition ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I accept the statement, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will the Government be pleased to make arrangements for its repair and save it from destruction ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The fact is that this gate is not in the books of the Public Works Department. We are making enquiries who is responsible for the repair of this gate.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Is there any necessity for maintaining this gate at all ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That will be replied by the hon. Questioner, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member was asking whether there is any utility in perpetuating a symbol of our slavery.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The name can be removed but the utility of the structure should be allowed to continue, I believe. I am not at all in favour of the name, but I want to know whether the useful structure will be preserved.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Who constructed the gate ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I cannot say, Sir. I shall have to call for a report and see the old records before I can reply this question.

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

76. (a)&(b)—Government are making enquiries.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Who is responsible for its upkeep and repair ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That I have already answered, Sir. We are making enquiries as to who is responsible.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: This question was sent before the July Session and should I not expect a reply by this time ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, we have already stated that we are making enquiries. The Question, I think, was sent to the Deputy Commissioner. We have not heard anything from the Deputy Commissioner.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Is it not a fact, Sir, that no such relics can be maintained at Government expense unless it has got some historical or architectural value ?

(No reply.)

Classical teachers in High English Schools

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

77. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that some times ago the Education Department followed a principle of appointing suitable matriculates holding high Sanskrit titles as classical teachers in High English Schools ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that of late the Department has abandoned that principle and has adopted a new principle of appointing only graduates with requisite qualifications in Sanskrit as Sanskrit teachers in High English Schools in Class III of the Assam School Service ?

78. (a) If the reply to the above Questions be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state (i) the reasons for this departure and (ii) the qualifications in Sanskrit which are required of such graduate candidates ?

(b) Do Government propose to reconsider the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

77. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes—when graduates with Sanskrit or Arabic or Persian qualifications are available.

78. (a) (i)—The reasons for the departure are that better qualified candidates are now available.

(ii)—Sanskrit Title Examination pass or Hons. in Sanskrit.

(b)—The matter is under consideration.

Srijit GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nowadays Sanskrit is taught through the medium of vernaculars and not through the medium of English in High English Schools?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I could not follow the implication of this question, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it not a fact that nowadays Sanskrit is taught through the medium of vernaculars and not through the medium of English?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It may be so, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: That being so, do Government recognise that a Matriculate with high Sanskrit qualification will be able to teach Sanskrit as efficiently as an ordinary Graduate with pass in Sanskrit.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It may be so, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: With regard to Question 78(b), are not Government aware that this policy of appointing Graduates in place of Sanskrit Title holders will discourage the study of Sanskrit?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It may be so, Sir. It is a matter of opinion.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government recognise that if the present policy is allowed to be pursued, brilliant Tol-scholars will be debarred from seeking Government jobs in the Education Department? Therefore, will Government be pleased to consider this question seriously, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply is already there, Sir. The matter is under consideration. It does not relate to Sanskrit education only; it applies to Islamic education also.

Sualkuchi and Sarthebari Industrial villages in Assam

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked:

79. (a) Are Government aware that Sualkuchi and Sarthebari are the two industrial villages in the whole of Assam?

(b) Are Government aware that both of these villages have no line of communication specially by land?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps immediately to connect these two villages with the outside world by land?

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

79. (a)—This may be so.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government will consider the proposal.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state when Government is expected to arrive at a decision, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It is not possible to say when the decision will be arrived at, because it will take some time to settle the question whether this road should not be constructed by the Local Board.

Eradication of Water-Hyacinth

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

80. (a) Are Government aware that the growth of water-hyacinth in Beels and creeks of rivers has assumed such a dangerous proportion that it is causing serious damages to crops as well as fisheries in the Province ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take to eradicate this pest ?

(c) Are Government aware that Water-Hyacinth Act, 1926 has so far failed to solve the problem ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

80. (a)—Yes

(b)—Under the Water-Hyacinth Act, 1926.

(c)—For lack of effective action by the Local Bodies.

Acknowledgment of letters and petitions submitted to Government

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH asked :

81. (a) Is it a fact that large number of letters and other representations submitted to Government in different Departments remain unacknowledged or unanswered ?

(b) Do not courtesy demand such acknowledgment or reply as the case may be ?

(c) Do Government propose to issue necessary direction to the different Departments on this behalf ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

81. (a)-(c)—Government regret to learn that this is common. The standing orders require that acknowledgments should be sent, and Government will be prepared to call the attention of all offices to the fact.

Gauhati and Sylhet Women's Colleges

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

82. Whether Government propose to deprovincialise the Gauhati Women's College and the Sylhet Women's College in view of strong public opinion against provincialisation of those Colleges ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

82.—The hon. Member is referred to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 37 (a) and (b) asked by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri during the July Session of the Assembly.

Financial conditions of Local Boards

Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHURY asked :

83. (a) Are Government aware of the bad financial conditions of almost all the Local Boards in Assam ?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to high prices of materials, medicines and other commodities it has been difficult for Local Boards to keep their roads in proper repairs and to run other institutions efficiently ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what financial aid, if any, is being extended by Government to the Local Boards to stabilize their finances ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

83. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The Boards are being assisted with recurring and non-recurring grants for different objects from time to time as financial resources permit.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the non-recurring grants of the Local Boards are the same as they were before the war and that only the recurring grant has been increased to meet additional commitments ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** : Demands are being made to increase the recurring and non-recurring grants to Local Bodies so that they might be able to tide over the present difficulties on account of post-war condition.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, the Question was—'Will Government be pleased to state what financial aid, if any, is being extended by Government to the Local Boards to stabilize their finances' and the reply given by Government is : 'The Boards are being assisted with recurring and non-recurring grants for different objects from time to time as financial resources permit.' But is it not a fact that non-recurring grant has not been increased though only the recurring grant has been increased and am I to take it that Government have evaded to reply to the Question ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** : The reply is already there, Sir.

Hostels attached to the Maulvibazar Government High School

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

84. Will Government be pleased to state why no amount for the construction of the dilapidated and deserted buildings of both the hostels attached to the Maulvibazar Government High School, has yet been sanctioned ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

84.—Action is being taken for thorough repairs to the damaged buildings of the hostels.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the buildings of the Maulvibazar Government High School Hostels are so much damaged that no useful purpose would be served by repairing the buildings ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir. During my last visit to Maulvibazar I found the building in a very dilapidated condition and it is doubtful whether repairs would effectively make it fit for the purpose for which it is meant. It may be, Sir, that Government shall have to construct a new building in its place with the available materials from the old building. The matter is under consideration of Government.

Prospective license for a gold mine in Assam

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

85. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report published in the *Hindustan Standard* of 13th June 1946, that the final stage has been reached for granting a prospective license for a gold mine in Assam ?

(b) Is the report correct ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what are the particulars about the final stage ?

(d) If not, have Government issued any contradiction ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

85. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No. They did not consider it necessary.

Compulsory primary education in rural areas

Mr. P. M. SARWAN asked :

86. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to introduce compulsory primary education in rural areas ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

86. (a), (b) & (c)—The matter is receiving the consideration of Government.

Arrest of certain persons from Mangaldai

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Maulavi Abdul Hye, M.L.A., sent a telegram to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Jail on the 15th June, 1946 alleging that certain persons arrested from Mangaldai were mercilessly beaten before they were released on bail ?

- (b) What steps the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge was pleased to take on the receipt of this telegram ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

87. (a)—No such telegram was received by Government.
(b)—Does not arise.

Supply of Gazette

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

88. (a) Are Government aware that the Gazettes supplied from the Government Press are sent in unstitched condition ?
(b) Are Government aware that this causes great inconvenience ?
(c) Do Government propose to remove this inconvenience ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

88. (a)—Yes.
(b)—Government regret the inconvenience but this is due to a shortage of stitching material, which despite the efforts of the Superintendent of the Press to procure it, is still not forthcoming in the market.
(c)—As soon as supplies of material permit.

Hostels of the Maulvibazar Government High School

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked :

89. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education aware that both the Hindu and the Muslim Hostels of the Maulvibazar Government High School are unfit for human habitation ?
(b) What steps have been taken by Government to improve the conditions of these hostels ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

89. (a)—Yes.
(b)—Action is being taken for thorough repairs to the damaged buildings.

Staff of Supply Department

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MOZUMDAR asked :

90. (a) Are Government aware that with the decontrol of commodities the work of Supply Department has decreased ?
(b) Do Government propose to retrench the existing staff ?
(c) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

90. (a)—No commodity has yet been decontrolled.
(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Report of the Shome Committee

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

91. (a) Have Government considered the report of the Shome Committee ?
 (b) If not, what are the reasons for the delay ?
 (c) What action do Government propose to take regarding affairs disclosed by the Committee ?
92. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have held any enquiry to scrutinise the doings of Mr. Jamini Kumar Dutta Roy in the Supply and Procurement Department ?
 (b) If so, what are the findings of the enquiring officer ?
 (c) What action do Government propose to take on these findings ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

91. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—At present Government is proceeding with an audit and one criminal case lodged by a private person against the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate has been taken up by the Government and investigation is proceeding.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : With regard to Question 91(c), are Government aware that dues of private persons amounting to lakhs of rupees are still outstanding to the Syndicates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : We have received some complaints, Sir, to this effect.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Are Government going to institute cases independently of themselves ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, accounts are being audited and it will all depend on the advice of the Legal Adviser. But I can assure the House that Government will do all that is necessary keeping in view the fact that hon. Members were very much agitated before and even now they are so over this matter.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : May I know, Sir, whether the accounts of both the Syndicates are being audited or of one Syndicate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Accounts of both the Syndicates would be audited.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Do Government propose to clear these outstanding dues of private persons ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : No, Sir, that we cannot do.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

92. (a)—Certain irregularities committed by this Officer have been brought to the notice of Government and Government are instituting an enquiry.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Does not arise at this stage.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, the remaining Questions will be taken up tomorrow.

Result of Elections to the Assam Road Communications Board and the Assam Co-operative Development Board

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I am to announce the result of election of Members, to (1) the Assam Road Communications Board and (2) the Assam Co-operative Development Board. Maulavi Abdur Rasheed, M. L. A., having secured the highest number of votes, is hereby declared elected to the Road Communications Board. So far as the Assam Co-operative Development Board is concerned, hon. Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan, M. L. A., being the only candidate, is hereby declared elected to the said Board.

Motion re Food situation in the Province

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We will now resume the debate on the Motion regarding food situation in the Province that has stood over since yesterday. I think the hon. Members will agree with me that we should be able to finish the debate today.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir. This Group is as you know, in sympathy with the reasons which prompted the Mover to bring forward this Motion. You will perhaps forgive me if I take up a few moments of the time of the House in dealing with specific allegations which have been made by my Friend, Mr. H. N. Sarma, concerning the Indian Tea Association Organisation, which is responsible for the distribution of foodstuffs to more than 10 per cent. of the population of this Province. This, therefore, is a matter of general interest to the House.

I am grateful to Mr. Sarma for bringing this matter up and I recognise that he was prompted entirely by the most sincere motives. His allegations, moreover, are directed against one only of our Supply Correspondents, and he recognises the good work which the Organisation has done as a whole. The allegations are under three heads—

(1) That the Supply Correspondent was frightened that he might incur personal loss.

(2) That the Supply Correspondent differentiated between European and Indian Managers.

(3) That the Supply Correspondent treated the Indian Manager abruptly and discourteously.

In reply to the question of incurring loss on personal account, no Supply Correspondent is permitted to operate on personal account. He operates on behalf of the Circle as a whole. He is not paid for his work and makes no profit and no loss.

As regards differentiation between European and Indian Managers, Supply Correspondents have strict instructions to treat European and Indian Gardens, member Gardens and non-member Gardens all on an equal footing. I would, however, point out that when a Supply Correspondent obtains supplies in bulk, the market may easily drop between the time when Shaw Wallace and Company purchased or when he purchased locally, and the time when he can actually effect distribution. In such cases the Supply Correspondent has strict instructions that any loss incurred should fall equally on all Gardens of which he is in charge.

I have informed the House as to the instructions which have been issued ; we freely admit that it is not altogether impossible that in an individual case these instructions may not have been followed.

The matter has already been referred to Mr. Henniker Heaton, the Secretary of the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association, who is in Shillong and he has assured me that he will ask for an immediate enquiry to be made into the allegations by the Chairman of the Circle concerned, and that the report obtained as a result will be made available to the hon. Member who brought up this matter. In the case of the allegations being substantiated, the necessary action will be taken to ensure that this does not occur again and the Garden be indemnified for any loss incurred. In the case of it being established that a misunderstanding has occurred, as indeed we must all hope may be the case, the air will have been cleared and the hon. Member will have been assured that the Indian Tea Association has the interests of its Indian and European members equally at heart.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in reply to the statement made by Mr. Morley just now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, I cannot allow as the Assembly Rules do not permit this.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak a few words and to make a few observations on the present debate; and for his I crave the indulgence of this Hon'ble House. It is very easy to criticise the Government and many of my hon. Friends in the Opposition have criticised a lot about the food and cloth policy of the present Government. I want to make it clear to the House that we need review the whole position regarding the supply of food and other essential commodities of life. It will, I think, be wise on our part or it will be interesting to us all if we know the facts which have been laid before the Food and Agricultural Organisation Conference at Copenhagen by Sir J. P. Srivastava reported in daily papers during this month. He said that India was a deficit country in the matter of cereal resources to the extent of 6 million tons per year and 90 million tons per year in other foodstuffs. Sir, this being the situation we have to look beyond the limits of India for food, the most vital necessity of our life. On the top of this, Sir, some provincial adjustments are to be made in the matter of food and other daily necessities. I can tell you, Sir, that Bombay and Madras count for a deficit of 2/3rd of cereal food and the rest of India including the States count for 1/3rd over all deficit. In such a predicament it is very difficult that the Ministry can overnight arrange all matters and give food and other necessities to the needy people to the satisfaction of all. They have been taking all the necessary steps to improve the position as far as practicable. I quite agree with the Hon'ble Minister of Supply who said yesterday that the recent postal strike, the threatened railway strike and the communal riots in Calcutta and Bombay have greatly hindered the progress of food and other supplies to this country. Sir, that is why I say it is very easy to criticise the Government, but it is very difficult to perform the duties under these difficulties. Some of my hon. Friends have criticised the Government regarding the Vigilance Committees. My hon. Friend, Maulavi Ziaosh Shams, whom I do not see in his seat now, told the House that the Secretary has to be nominated by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee. But may I tell him, Sir, that if he reads the instructions which have been issued by the Government he will find that it is not so. The Secretary of the Liaison Committee should be elected by the members of the Committee. So, I think, fundamentally he made a mistake. Anyway, Sir, these Vigilance Committees are, after all, creations of this House. As a matter of fact, we are all very keen about having these Vigilance Committees and Liaison Committees; and when these have come to

stay, it is for us to work out so that food and supplies of cloth, yarn, etc., are distributed to the villages by the Vigilance and Liaison Committees concerned properly and efficiently. And if there is any difficulty about some Chairmen or the personnel of the committee, it is for the Liaison Committees to report to Government. In the instructions issued by Government it is clear that when any difference occurs between the Liaison Committees and the Chairmen, whether he be the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-Divisional Officer, the whole matter might be reported to Government and Government will take necessary steps.

The next point, Sir, is that the Hon'ble Minister asked suggestions from the House whether the No. 8 lot of Standard Cloth should be distributed or in lieu of that yarn should be distributed to the villagers. In my opinion, Sir, when there is a scarcity of cloth, I think immediate succour should be given by distributing the handy No. 8 lot of Standard Cloth to the villagers. Regarding yarn, of course we get our quotas and if possible those should be increased. I should say that our villagers generally prefer No. 10 to 20 counts of yarn so that they can weave them in hand-loom with hand spun yarns when inevitable and make use of cloths immediately. The villagers, I think, do not like finer qualities of yarn. These are the two suggestions I would like to make regarding the No. 8 lot of Standard Cloth and yarn.

Another point has been raised by the same hon. Member. He cried hoarse that food supply might be tackled very well if we open our Professional Grazing Reserves. Sir, this argument has become nauseating in this House. We have told from this side, and the Hon'ble Minister clearly stated that there are no lands available on the basis of economic holdings even for the indigenous people for their future generation and those of the protective immigrants even if the Professional Grazing Reserves are thrown open.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may inform the hon. Member that I do not propose to allow the food debate to give opportunity for raising extraneous matters.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: I raised the point as a reply to my Friend who stated that grazing lands should be thrown open so that we can have more paddy and send to other Provinces.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Member not to dilate upon that point, but to come to points relevant to the present subject matter of debate.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Yes, Sir, I will finish soon. The question is that this matter should not be brought again and again by the hon. Members of the Opposition to throw open the Professional Grazing Reserves.

Now, I want to lay stress on the removal of black-marketing and corruption. We find that the Vigilance Committees are now working in all the subdivisions and in all the districts. In my sub-division members of Liaison and Vigilance Committees have detected lots of cases and reported them to the Police, but we generally find that the Police is not keen in co-operating with us and with the general public. I therefore suggest that instructions should be issued that where such cases are detected by the members of the Vigilance Committees, prompt actions should be taken by the Police otherwise the whole effect of black-marketing is lost. As a matter of fact I find that one case has been pending at Golaghat since April or May last in connection with a big haulage of about 10 bundles of black-marketed cloth detected by one of our friends, Shri Baikunth Singh Burma, in very precarious circumstances. At any rate, Sir, when we

have got Vigilance and Liaison Committees it is not for our Members to cry hoarse and, I think, it will be better that we should all jointly and diligently work. As a matter of fact, Liaison Committees are formed of representatives from different organisations, such as, the Chairmen of the Local Boards, Chairmen of the Municipal Boards, Secretaries of the Muslim League and the Jamiat-ulema and such other representatives including the hon. Members of the Legislature. So, Sir, if we work sincerely, I think, corruption will be a thing of the past.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that I have got to interrupt the proceedings of the House once again. I have consulted the Assembly Rules and I find that under Rule 44(2) of the Assembly Rules, I can possibly say something on a point of personal explanation.

Sir, I have listened with great interest to the speech given by my hon. Friend, Mr. Morley. I feel I should.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the point the hon. Member wants to explain, please ?

Srijut HARENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, the point is, my Friend, Mr. Morley, has based his speech on the assumption that I have made an allegation against the Indian Tea Association which, however, was far from my mind. I made it absolutely clear in my speech yesterday that it was only Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company and one Mr. Thompson who were concerned in the matter. I have nothing to say against the Indian Tea Association. I, on the other hand, fully appreciate the work done by the Indian Tea Association and the help they rendered to the Tea Industry, both to the Indian and the European Section of it. I would like to put it on record that the Indian Section of the Tea Industry fully appreciates the work the Indian Tea Association had done during the war time—helping the gardens in all matters whether such gardens are members or not of that Association.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard with patience the Hon'ble Minister of Supply for over one hour yesterday. I believe he is sincere in his appeal for co-operation and constructive suggestions. But how does he forget that in a party Government one man's sincerity counts nothing, specially when that party has a brute majority behind it? Even if he is full of good intentions he has to move according to the dictates of the party he belongs to; and although the Muslims had no confidence in that party, they had some larking hopes of some justice being done to them. But from all that has already taken place that hope has gone and gone for ever and the Muslims are now confirmed in their belief that they can never expect anything from this Hindu Congress Government, be it a Provincial or Central one.

As regards constructive suggestions I would refer the Hon'ble Minister to the constructive suggestions he himself had made on food debate as far back as March 1943, from the Opposition benches. May I ask him a simple question, 'what prevented him to supplement his own constructive suggestions now as an Hon'ble Minister of Supply of the present Government?'

He moved the following Motion:

“Taking the food situation into consideration this Assembly is of opinion that in order to effectively tackle the present food situation and to improve the economic condition of the Province the Government do take the following measures amongst others at once :—

(1) To open registers in villages immediately throughout the Province with a view to record (a) the name of each cultivator, (b) the area of his land under paddy cultivation, (c) total quantity of crop when harvested, (d) number of

members of dependents in the family of each cultivator below and above 12 years of age separately.

(2) To prevent export from the Province before knowing the actual surplus, if any, and to allow inter-district export of food grains within the Province.

(3) To pursue vigorous anti-hoarding drive.

(4) To prevent profiteering by all possible severest means.

(5) The Grow More Food Campaign be properly handled by an expert and qualified officer.

(6) To set up Regional Food Advisory Boards throughout the Province to regulate the production, supply and price.

(7) To introduce ration cards throughout the Province.

(8) To make adequate arrangements for supplies of all kinds of essential food-stuffs and other necessities of life."

May I ask him, Sir, whether as Hon'ble Minister, he is able now to implement his suggestions which he made when he was in the Opposition? Of course, I have my own suggestions to make and I can assure the Hon'ble Minister of Supply that if my suggestions are carried out, he will not only be relieved of all blames and abuses, but the country at large will be relieved of the troubles arising out of non-supply of food-stuff. I shall conclude my speech with my suggestions, Sir. I heard with attention the preliminary explanations given by the Hon'ble Minister of Supply yesterday in his one hour and fifteen minutes speech, but I am afraid, I cannot accept the explanations advanced by him. I shall touch only on the important items like rice and paddy, salt, sugar, *Dal*, mustard oil and cloth.

As regards rice and paddy, our complaint is that the price fixed by the Government is not an economic price inasmuch as the Government did not take the cost of production and the price of other commodities of daily life of the producers into consideration while fixing the price; and as the case always is, the minimum price has become the maximum, driving the cultivators to take the help of black marketeers. This gave encouragement to the smugglers and consequently a huge quantity of rice and paddy has been smuggled out of Assam rendering the surplus areas in the Sylhet district into deficit ones. My information is that even the Government licensees purchased rice and paddy at black market price and on the pretext of exporting them to the neighbouring subdivision in the district, smuggled them into Bengal; for instance, most of the rice and paddy booked from Kulaura and Shamshernagar in the South Sylhet subdivision to Mantala and Taliapar stations in Habiganj for the consumption of the people of Habiganj have gone into Bengal. The Hon'ble Minister of Supply has said that the price of rice and paddy has been fixed by the Central Government and so they have no hand. But in dealing with the question of supply of *Dal*, the Hon'ble Minister said that even the dealers in the United Provinces were dictating terms to this Government. Why then, this Government failed to dictate the price of rice and paddy to the Government that stands in need of our rice and paddy? Adulteration has been introduced in rice also. Rotten rice mixed up with good one is sold in the market.

Salt.—The ban on salt has been lifted by the Bengal Government. Why then this Government failed to lift the ban on salt? It is already in the market and is available at a price less than the control price and my information is that in many cases the retail dealers are finding it difficult to dispose of the salt supplied by the Government as its price is higher than that available at the market. Why then this farce of a ban on this commodity?

Sugar.—In the matter of supply of sugar, this Government which is so loud in its propaganda that it stands for the people, has failed to supply sugar to the villagers. Not only that they have failed to get the quota allotted to the subdivisions. In this connection, I can point out to the Hon'ble Minister of Supply that the sugar allotted for the Id in the South Sylhet subdivision did not reach the people even after 15 days of the Id.

Dal.—This commodity has become a black-market commodity altogether. This Hon'ble House is not prepared to accept the explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister in this regard. What justification can there be for the failure of the Government to supply *dal* in Shillong, the seat of the Government ?

Mustard Oil.—The Government have also hopelessly failed to supply mustard oil to the people of Assam.

Cloth.—The cry for supply of cloth is so great that it needs no further comment. It is not with regard to the increase of the quota that the people are complaining, Sir, but about the non-supply of the quota allotted to each subdivision. I can inform the Hon'ble Minister of Supply that the quota allotted to the South Sylhet subdivision is 225 bales per month and what is the supply ? In January 1946 we got only 53 bales, February 87 bales, March 44 bales, April 98 bales, May 135 bales and June 190 bales.

So, how can the Government expect the people to rest content ? The real grievance of the people is not for the increase of supply but against the Government for their failure to supply the quota allotted for Assam. The explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister of Supply is not the real cause. The real cause of the failure of the Government is the policy adopted by them in this regard.

Coming to the policy of the Government, I would like to say that their policy of replacing race horses by asses for horse race is responsible for all this. If Saadulla Government had created one Syndicate, the so-called popular Government is guilty of creating as many Syndicates and Agencies as there are members in the Government benches.

In each of the subdivisions, Agencies and Syndicates have been created for the supply of controlled commodities and *** although in the advertisement calling for the tenders for those supplies, the Government wanted experienced dealers, their standing in business with the income-tax that they pay, yet in the distribution of the contracts and licenses we find that those requisite qualifications have been thrown to the wind and the persons who never dealt in these lines have been given the contracts and licenses.

With regard to supply of cloth, the Government have created two Syndicates for the Surma Valley and three for the Assam Valley *** and from all these, the Muslims have been deliberately deprived of their legitimate shares ; and although the matter has been represented to the Government by the Secretary, Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Assam, the only representative Organisation of the Muslim businessmen of Assam, the Government have paid no heed to such representation. In 99 cases out of 100 the Government agents and contractors have failed to supply the commodities for their inexperience in the line ; and my information is that a contract for 50 thousand dozens of umbrellas have been given to a newly-created company.

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In concluding my speech I am going to make a suggestion. In the matter of appointment also favouritism has taken place of efficiency. The Supply Department has been divided into two branches and a number of posts has been created for the friends and relations of some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly depriving the Muslims from their due and legitimate share and rendering the Department a top heavy one. I understand, Sir, that Government have decided to recall all the officers of the Education Department now serving in the Supply Department and why? Is it not because most of them are Muslims and Government want to replace them by their own henchmen? Government may say that the Education Department wants them. But, Sir, where was the Department when these appointments were made? May I ask? It is known to every one which way the wind is blowing. Such being the case there is no wonder that the policy of the so-called popular Government should fail and fail hopelessly.

In conclusion, I would suggest that in view of the serious discontentment prevailing in the countryside, with regard to both non-supply of foodstuff and the distribution of licences and contracts and other patronages in the Supply Department the Government should appoint a Committee consisting of the Members of all the Parties in the Legislature to enquire into all these. If this is not done, the Muslims of Assam who have no confidence in the present Hindu Congress Government will be confirmed in their belief; and will also reasonably believe that similar kinds of jobbery and partisan spirit will be shown by the present Central Congress Interim Government headed by Panditji; and that the salvation of the people of this sub-continent would lie not in Akhand-Hindustan but in the establishment of Pakistan.

With these words I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

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Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Supply Minister at the very outset declared that the criticisms that were being levelled against him were due to ignorance. I thought that during his long speech he would give us such explanation and reasons that shall justify the statement that the Members of the Assembly are ignorant and therefore their criticism.....

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Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: One word, Sir, as regards this matter. Perhaps the Hon'ble Ministers have seen that the Sylhet papers, mostly Congress papers, brought forward similar charges against the Government but we do not know what steps have been taken against those papers.

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Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: After all the light we, the ignorant Members, have received from the wise Judicial Minister I still remain unconvinced, and do assert that a mess of the whole supply has been made by the Supply Minister. The fault is laid at the door of the Government of India, but when other Ministers succeeded in getting their allotment, why should he not succeed? Why should you go to Rajputana for mustard oil? Could you not arrange supply from nearest available place? This is due to dilatory and inefficient conduct in making arrangement between this Government and the Government of India. Sir, I don't want to be very lengthy, but I ask the Supply Minister could he not send his men to Rajputana seven days earlier? If he did, he could have got mustard oil at Rs.32 per maund, but when his men went there the price went upto Rs. 37 per maund and when his agent reached the Punjab, market prices went upto Rs.45 per

maund. This is due either to the inefficiency of the Department or inexperience of his agents.

Then, regarding ground nut oil, Sir, the quota was lying in the hands of Madras merchants. No one from Assam went there to make the purchases. Somehow mysteriously all the ground nut oil disappeared and the efficient Supply Minister could not even trace through what channel the quota of ground nut oil passed on to Assam, perhaps for adulteration. We have heard discussion the other day that adulteration should be stopped, and for that purpose we should undertake legislation. But what sort of foodstuffs the Supply Minister is giving to the people of Assam? All are adulterated—there is not 5% of mustard oil in the stuff supplied as mustard oil and the stuff is thoroughly rotten. He should therefore be hauled up first for the offence of adulteration.

Then, Sir, the quantity of pulses that we are getting in Assam do not meet the needs of our people. It cannot be said that pulses are not available because the Assam Government failed to take their full quota of 30,000 tons they were allotted only 12 or 13 thousand tons which amount was raised later to 15,000 tons. The fault is entirely yours. When the Government of India saw that you could manage with 15,000 tons they thought that we did not need more. The fault is entirely yours for which rich and poor are suffering.

Now, regarding cloth and yarn, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Supply Minister to the allegations made by some of the dealers that they have found higher prices stamped on cloth of inferior quality. The Hon'ble Supply Minister should see whether any bungling is going on at the source. Sir, I support the allegation made in this House that the Supply Agency created by the Hon'ble Supply Minister is not working efficiently. I repeat the charge that actual dealers, who have got experience in large scale indent of cloth, have been kept out and it was patronage which is responsible for introducing novices in the field. Consideration of position, character and antecedents do not justify that these people should be entrusted with the task of bringing in Assam's quota of cloth. In the past also the people of Assam had to suffer because the full quota of cloth was not imported by the agents of the Assam Government. I think, Sir, unless the Supply Agency improves, similar things will happen again and Assam's people will be made to suffer. In these matters, where the public are vitally concerned, the supply agencies should have been given to people who are capable of performing this duty, people who are in the line and who have got both finance and experience. I do make the allegation that all these factors were not taken into consideration in creating supply agencies. The people who had no connection whatsoever with the cloth trade nor has any means were engaged for the purpose. It might be said that wild allegations have been made. But there are a considerable section of the public who are indulging in such talk and on examination it will be found that they have plausible ground for talking in that manner.

Some people who were never in the business line and who were quite new in the field had been able to procure business for themselves due to some relationship with certain persons in power. Sir, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Supply Minister not to go in for patronage in this vital matter of supply if he wants to maintain the health of the people—if he wants that the people should be decently fed and clothed.

As regards sugar, Sir, I do not see any reason why there should be so much dearth of sugar now. When protection was granted to sugar industry a large number of factories were established in India. Impetus of tariff protection carried the Industry to a position where it became very difficult for them to sell their output. In the International Sugar Conference, India did not receive any

export quota ; war might have induced more persons to establish sugar factories. At the present moment there ought to be enough supply of sugar for the requirements of the people of India as military people have largely left India. I think, Sir, that unless we proceed in a business-like manner—unless we proceed promptly, Government will not be able to get sufficient supply for our people either from the Government of India or from the markets of supply. The Government of India treated our Province very apathetically in the past and unless the Government of Assam proceed more vigorously and efficiently they will continue to be Cinderella of the Provinces of India.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How many Members from the Opposition will take part in this debate ? I suppose we have to finish this debate this afternoon.

(Some hon. Members from the Government Benches said that about 5 Members from their side would take part in the debate. Several Members from the Opposition Benches also stood up.)

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Let it be continued till the 16th, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then what about the Private Members' Bills ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : If the hon. Members are so keen for this debate then they will have to forego discussion of their Bills, Sir.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : There is only one Bill left out, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, there are two Bills, *viz.*, the Assam Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill and the Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill of 1946.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : The Assam Shop Assistants' Relief Bill, 1946 will not take much time, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But I have got a hirt that it will take some time.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KU AR DAS : There are precedents, Sir, in the previous Assembly of the House sitting up to 6 P.M., or 6-30 P. M., in order to finish Food Debate.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then what is the suggestion ?
(A voice from the Government Benches—we may adjourn to-day.)

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Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Saturday, the 14th September, 1946.

SHILLONG

A. K. BARUA,

The 13th November 1946.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.