

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

The ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 11 A.M., on Thursday, the 19th September, 1946.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Contracts for procurement of rice and paddy

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

*58. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When the contract with Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company, Limited for procurement and distribution of rice and paddy has terminated ?
- (b) What steps Government is taking to procure rice and paddy for the Province of Assam and outside ?
- (c) Whether they are contemplating to purchase paddy direct from the cultivators or through intermediaries ?
- (d) Whether Government contemplates to store paddy for export outside the Province ?
- (e) Whether Government has made an estimate of the quantity of paddy that is required to meet the necessities of the Province ?
- (f) The quantity of paddy Messrs. Steel Brothers handled and whether in the transactions with Messrs. Steel Brothers there was any profit or loss to the Government?
- (g) If so, the exact amount of profit or loss to the Government showing them separately for each year?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

58. (a)—On 30th June 1946.

(b)—Government have set up official agencies in both the Valleys of the Province for procuring rice and paddy for the Province of Assam and outside.

(c)—In both the manners indicated.

(d)—No, but for our own needs as a reserve,

(e)—Yes.

Year	Quantity handled
(f) & (g)—1942-43	96,285 maunds.
1943-44	8,04,692 „
1944-45	14,12,278 „
1945-46	7,97,121 „

The exact amount of profit or loss is not ascertainable in view of the fact that accounts for all food-stuffs are maintained under a single head and various items of expenditure common to various commodities cannot be split up or apportioned to each commodity. Nor has the cost of certain measures, e.g. construction of large reserve godowns, purchase of vehicles and other equipment, etc. yet been debited to the gross trading profits. The gross trading profits made in 1943-44 and 1944-45 are however stated below—

	Rs.	a	p.
1943-44	31,78,983	8	6
1944-45	21,11,719	7	7

For 1942-43, separate profit and loss account was not prepared and for 1945-46 it has not yet been prepared.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: With regard to (e), the reply is 'yes'. May I know, Sir, what is the quantity of paddy which is required to meet the necessities of the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, in reply to another question, copy of which has already been placed on the table of each hon. Member, it has been mentioned there. However, Sir, the figure is 18 lakh tons on the basis of three twentieth ton per head per annum.

†**Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY:** With regard to (b), may I know under what circumstances procurement of paddy by Government in the Surma Valley was stopped?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Because Government thought that there was not sufficient surplus for export.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: With regard to (b), have Government made any arrangements to store paddy for export outside?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No Sir, paddy stocks are meant for our internal purposes and not for export.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: What is the quantity of paddy which will have to be exported? May I know where this paddy is stored, or is it sent direct from the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At present our intention is not to export paddy; we are only exporting rice. The paddy stocked in the Government godowns is meant for our internal requirement.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: With regard to (c), may I know whether Government have purchased any paddy direct from the cultivators during the year 1945-46?

†Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want notice of this question, Sir. I was not the Minister of Supply at that time and it is difficult for me to say off-hand whether there was any direct purchase during 1945-46.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: May I know whether Messrs. Steel Brothers have been allowed to distribute rice and paddy to the Indian Tea Association?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, not on behalf of Government.

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA: Could Government procure any quantity of paddy in the Surma Valley?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We were not procuring at present.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Is it a fact that Messrs. Steel Brothers are acting as agents of the Indian Tea Association?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I do not understand how does this question arise, Sir?

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Is it a fact that certain mills have been allotted to the Indian Tea Association for supply of their rice?

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

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Who is making purchase for these mills?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government and mills both. When the mills fail, the Government supply as far as possible and practicable.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: What is the reason for allowing certain areas exclusively for Messrs. Steel Brothers?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No area has been exclusively allowed for Steel Brothers. So far as Government are concerned, Messrs. Steel Brothers are altogether out of the picture?

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA: May I know whether it was due to the very low price fixed by Government that the cultivators of Surma Valley were unwilling to sell their paddy to the Government agency?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I do not think so, because the Government's information is that, that area, specially the district of Sylhet, is a deficit area at present and therefore we are not going to purchase any paddy from that area for export. On the other hand we are exporting rice and paddy from the Assam Valley to meet the demands of the district of Sylhet.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: With regard to (c), do Government post Inspectors at the mills from which Steel Brothers get their supplies?

[19TH SEPT.]

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There is no question of mill in (c), Sir. But I can answer the question. Inspectors are not posted for all the time but at the time of despatch they generally supervise.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: May I know, Sir, when the Government came to know that the District of Sylhet is a deficit one this time?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has this question any relevancy?

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: It has relevancy, Sir. The question (b) was "What steps Government is taking to procure rice and paddy for the Province of Assam and outside?" and the Hon'ble Minister's reply was.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want to know how the question is relevant.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: I want to know.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member may want to know many facts, but does the question arise?

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Are Government aware that paddy has been seized in the houses of producers in the Habiganj Sub-division?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Here also how does that question arise?

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, paddy has been seized in course of procurement?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That might be a fact, but remedy may be sought by various other ways. At present we are concerned with Supplementary Questions.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, seizure is also a source of procurement. So, I want the information.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There ought to be Question in respect of seizure, then only the supplementary might arise.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Sir, may I intervene to say that the Government's reply is that there was no procurement of paddy in the District of Sylhet by seizing. Now the hon. Member is making a definite allegation about this and wants to know whether Government has any information that now paddy has been seized from cultivators by Government in the Habiganj Subdivision.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKJEREE: It is a news to me, Sir, and I can say that it is one of the rumours that has reached the ears of my hon. Friends.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Will Government take notice of this Question and make an enquiry whether paddy has been seized from the cultivators in the Habiganj Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If any definite allegation is made or specific instances are given to me I shall certainly make an enquiry and take necessary steps.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: From many houses of the Habiganj Subdivision paddy has been seized. I can supply the names if required, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If definite instances are given to me, I shall make an enquiry, as I have said just now.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether there has been any direct purchase by Government from the mills ? It relates to question (c), Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, Government purchase rice from mills.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister says that no Inspector is posted to receive the paddy in those mills on behalf of Government. May I know who purchases the paddy from the producers in those places on behalf of Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Whenever the mills fail, Government arrange to supply them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is, do the mills buy on behalf of Government also, and if so, who supervise that purchase ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The mill owners are the licensees of the Government. So, there is no supervision at the time of purchase. But there is supervision to see whether the price given to the cultivators are the minimum or not. As they are to supply Government at the controlled rate, Government do not mind if the price is more than the minimum

†**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Sir, may I know whether with that arrangement it is working satisfactorily ?

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

†**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Sir, is there any guarantee that the mill owners actually pay the cultivators the minimum price ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As I have already said, Sir, that in case of purchase by the mill owners it is observed that the cultivators get the minimum price. It is the duty of the Procuring Officer and the general public to see that the poor cultivators get the minimum price fixed for their paddy.

†**Srijut BELIRAM DAS**: Do Government want us to understand, Sir, that some Government officials remain present at the time of payment made to the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is not possible, Sir.

Condition of the Labour population in Tea Gardens of Assam

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

*59. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement lately issued by the Delegation of the All-India Women's Conference regarding the pitiable conditions of the labour population in the tea garden areas of Assam?

(b) Are Government aware that the condition of the labour population in Assam is far from satisfactory?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that the condition of the labour population in Assam requires immediate improvement?

(d) If so, do Government propose to introduce a Bill with a view to improve the condition of the labour population of Assam?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

59. (a)—No statement regarding the conditions of Tea garden labour seems to have been received by Government from the All-India Women's Conference or from the Delegation.

(b) & (c)—Government agree that the conditions under which the labour population work need revision.

(d)—The Government of India have already introduced the Minimum Wages Bill in the Central Legislature and when this Bill is passed into an Act this Government will take necessary steps to implement its provisions.

This Government have also decided to appoint an advisory committee composed of representatives of labour and employer including some labour welfare workers to consider the question of, and condition of the plantation labour.

†**Srijut BELIRAM DAS**: Sir, may I get some idea from Government about the lot of the tea garden labourers?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That question will be discussed in the proposed advisory committee.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Do Government propose to include some Members of this Hon'ble House in the proposed advisory committee?

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

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Are Government aware of the allegations about the poor labourers in the Press?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS**: There may be, Sir, but Government's attention has not been invited to that effect.

†**Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN** : In relation to (d), Sir, the question is "If so, do Government propose to introduce a Bill with a view to improve the condition of the labour population of Assam," and the answer is that Government propose to appoint an advisory committee to consider the question of, and condition of the plantation, labour, but nothing has been said in the answer whether Government has proposed to approve of the appeal in order to improve the lot of the labourers. My question is whether they will await the decision of the Government of India with regard to the Bill, or whether they themselves will bring in a Bill for the improvement of labour condition in Assam ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Government will take necessary steps to implement the provisions of that Bill. That is the answer.

†**Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN** : That is Central Government's Bill. Whether this Government will bring in a Bill, that is my question.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That will be considered in the proposed advisory committee.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on table)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now we come on to Unstarred Question No. 173.

Further Supplementaries on Unstarred Question No. 173 **

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Sir, in view of the importance of the Unstarred Question No. 173 and the principle involved therein I would request that a debate be allowed to-day after 4 p. m. on this.

†Speech not corrected

DEBT CONCILIATION BOARD, SYLHET

MAULAVI MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

**173. (a) Is it a fact that the Debt Conciliation Board at Sylhet has been reconstituted by the present Ministry before its term expired ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the qualification of the present Chairman and that of the outgoing Chairman of the said Board ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the names and addresses of the Members of the said Board with their respective qualifications ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the principle adopted by them in the matter of reconstitution of such Boards in Assam ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such Boards reconstituted by the present Ministry with the names and qualifications of the Chairmen and Members of such Boards separately ?

THE Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

173. (a)—Yes.

†**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: Has the Hon'ble Minister anything to say about this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The question put to me is sufficiently important and it shows that it requires a debate on the replies.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the point which the hon. Member likes to raise in the debate.

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: The other day at the end of the food debate, the Hon'ble Minister of Supply as well as some other Hon'ble Ministers including the Hon'ble Prime Minister appealed for co-operation from us. We have noticed Sir, that so far, deliberate injustice has been done by the present Ministry to the Muslim League Members in the Debt-Conciliation Boards. If co-operation is really and sincerely sought by Government, I would like to have a discussion as to how Government propose to have co-operation from us. If they are to seek our co-operation within the Legislature and wage war outside, I fail to understand what sort of co-operation they can expect from this side of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I give consent to the debate after 4 o'clock or after the business of the House, whichever is earlier.

†Speech not corrected.

(b)—A new Board with fewer members has been constituted for more efficient working and speedy disposal of all pending cases.

(c)—The outgoing Chairman is a B. L. The present Chairman is an *ex*-Member of Legislative Council and *ex*-Chairman of the Local Board.

(d)—(i) Babu Birendra Lal Das, *ex*-Chairman, Local Board (Chairman).

(ii) Maulavi Suleman Khan, B. A., Village Biswanath (Sylhet).

(iii) Maulavi Hakim Massaddar Ali, Post Office South Bhadeswar, Village Sheikpur, (Sylhet).

(e)—Those Boards were reconstituted for the continuance of which there were public demands, before which a large number of cases were pending, and which had shown most activity in the past.

(f)—Three Boards have been reconstituted as follows :—

(1) *Karimganj Board*.

(i) Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, *ex*-Minister (Chairman).

(ii) Maulavi Sajjad Ali Chaudhury, B. A., Village Batarasi, Karimganj (Member).

(iii) Babu Suresh Chandra Deb, Karimganj (Member).

(2) *Habiganj Board*.

(i) Babu Sibendra Chandra Biswas, *ex*-M. L. A. (Chairman).

(ii) Maulavi Muzaffar Hussain, Post Office Baniachong (Member).

(iii) Maulavi Muzaffar Uddin, Post Office Mirasi, Village Gata (Member).

(3) *North Sylhet Board*.

(i) Babu Birendra Lal Das, *ex*-Chairman, Local Board (Chairman).

(ii) Maulavi Suleman Khan, B. A., Village Biswanath (Member).

(iii) Maulavi Hakim Masadar Ali, Post Office South Bhadeswar, Village Sheikpur (Member).

Compensation for road widening in Tea Garden lands

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD asked :

174. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether compensation is still due to be paid in cases where tea garden land was taken for road widening ?
- (b) If so, how many cases are still outstanding in Sylhet District and the names of the gardens concerned ?
- (c) When Government propose to have these cases settled ?

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

174. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Twelve cases. The tea gardens concerned are—

- (1) Lacatorah Tea Estate, (2) Sylhet Tea Company, (3) Hamidnagar Tea Estate, (4) Momincherra Tea Estate, (5) Dhamai, (6) Shaphinjuri, (7) Pathini, (8) Sonakhira, (9) Chankhira, (10) Kalinagar, (11) Maniknagar Tea Estates, (12) Silva, (13) Debinagar, (14) Dilkush, (15) Pallakandi, (16) Shamshernagar, (17) Alinagar, (18) Baraura Tea Estates and (19) Rashidpur Tea Garden.

(c)—As early as possible.

Dispensary in the Sunamganj Subdivision

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

175. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the population and area of the Sunamganj Subdivision, thana by thana ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of—

- (i) Local Board dispensaries,
- (ii) Government dispensaries, and
- (iii) Government subsidised dispensaries in the said Subdivision ?

(c) Are Government aware that two thanas, viz., Tahirpur and Sulla of the said Subdivision are running without any dispensary or arrangement of medical aid ?

(d) Do Government propose to start at least one dispensary within the area of Tahirpur, Dharampassa and Sulla thanas at Government cost immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijiut RAMNATH DAS replied :

Thana	Population	Area
175. (a)—Dharampassa	82,729	161 Sq. miles.
Tahirpur	33,490	141 "
Sachna (Jamalganj)	27,512	173 "
Derai	81,526	158 "
Sunamganj	140,717	287 "
Chhatak	145,397	276 "
Jagannathpur	88,589	140 "
Sulla	37,937	100 "
Total	6,37,897	1,436 "

(b) (i)—There are eleven Local Board dispensaries and one hospital in the Sunamganj Subdivision.

(ii)—There is no Government dispensary in this Subdivision.

(iii)—There is one Government subsidised dispensary at Selbaras.

(c)—There is no Local Board dispensary under the Tahirpur or the Sulla thana except one Local Board subsidised dispensary at Sakteorkhola under the Tahirpur thana. Medical aid is given from dispensaries in the adjoining thanas.

(d)—The opening, or establishment of a dispensary in rural areas of a plains district is a responsibility of the Local Board concerned under rule 114 of the Local Self-Government Manual. Government are therefore not prepared to start any regular dispensary at Government cost within the area of these thanas.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Are Government aware that the subsidised dispensary of Selbaras is not working for the last three months?

***The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** I am not aware of that, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire?

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

***Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSIAN:** Are Government aware that the Local Boards are financially very much hard up and they cannot afford to open dispensaries anywhere though there are urgent needs for opening dispensaries?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a question of policy and the question is not allowed.

Corrupt practices among Government servants

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked:

176. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What steps, if any, are taken by Government to stop corrupt practices prevalent among the rank and file of the Government servants?

(b) Whether corruption has been checked as a result of the Government action?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take any further steps for putting a stop to corrupt practices?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

176. (a) (b) & (c)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Unstarred Question No. 109 by Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith during the current Session of the Assembly.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Are Government aware that corruption is notoriously rampant among the Staff of the Supply and the Textile Departments?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It might have been once, Sir, but I categorically deny the charge for the present time. Corruption is not rampant now.

*Speech not corrected.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Was it rampant before ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I cannot say definitely either way. There were very strong allegations against officers in the past.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Is it a fact that an officer, say of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Supply or Textile, with a scanty pay of Rs. 100 per month, lives as luxuriously as an officer of high rank ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is argumentative, that is not permissible.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that corruption in these two Departments has increased ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is anything but true. Sir. I challenge the statement, corruption cannot increase during the present regime. It is meeting its end.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister from what data or enquiry he bases his reply ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : From the report of public and confidential reports of the Police, Sir.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID** : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that corruption is still rampant ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is there, I am not denying that Sir, but I can definitely say that corruption is nearing its end. Deep rooted evil of the past is taking time to be eradicated.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID** : The Hon'ble Minister categorically denied it, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is in the decrease and also to a very great extent. We are going to see the end of it soon.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He denied the increase.

Waiting rooms in Chaparmukh-Silghat Railway and Senchua-Mairabari Railway stations

Maulavi AFAZUDDIN AHMED asked :

177. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to represent to the proper authorities the necessity for providing waiting rooms (ladies and gents) in the stations in Chaparmukh-Silghat Railway and Senchua-Mairabari Railway according to gradations ?

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

177.—Yes, this has been brought to the notice of the Railway Authorities.

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Has any reply been received from the Railway Authorities ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Not yet.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** When the matter was brought to the notice of the Railway Authorities ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Just after this question had been put.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to press this matter upon the Railway Authorities ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Yes, Sir.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** I think there is an omission in the admitted question regarding the Senchoa and Moirabari line ?

***The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** In the copy before me I find that there has been a drop. Anyway, the matter is receiving attention.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he has pressed the case of the Senchoa-Moirabari line ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** I cannot say that, because I have not read all the records.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has got the papers before him, and he may please ascertain it now.

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** (After looking at his file). That is correct, Sir, we have pressed the matter before the Railway Authorities.

Primary School Teachers

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

178. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any step has been taken by them since the last Session of the Assembly, for improving the lots of Primary School teachers ?

(b) Are Government aware that many of the Local Boards in the Province do not make regular payments to the poorly paid Lower Primary School teachers ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take steps to do away with the dual control of the Board and the inspecting staff on the Lower Primary and Middle Schools for effective control and regular payments ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

178. (a)—Nothing has been done so far but the matter is under consideration of Government. Government hope that with the introduction of teachers training schools, it may be possible to raise the pay of the trained teachers. The

*Speech not corrected.

question of amalgamating their dearness allowance with pay is also under the serious consideration of Government.

(b)—Yes, complaints are received at times regarding irregular payments to Lower Primary teachers by Boards.

Complaints were received in the last year for irregular payments of the salaries of the Primary School teachers. On enquiry it was found that the Boards had been experiencing difficulties in making regular payment of the teachers' salaries as the post offices could not make satisfactory arrangements for regular remittance of the same by money order.

The Superintendents of Post Offices were then addressed to take steps in the matter. They replied that the branch postmasters reported that they began to issue these money orders as expeditiously as possible.

The Inspectors of Schools were also asked to take necessary action to avoid any unnecessary delay in the payment of salaries of Lower Primary teachers. No complaint has been received this year.

(c)—The question of control, etc., by the State has been included in the draft Bill for introduction of compulsory primary education in the Province and these difficulties will be met, if any, when the scheme is finally introduced.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : In reply to Question (b), it has been answered that the branch postmasters reported that they began to issue these money orders as expeditiously as possible. Now, the Local Boards have no connection with the branch post offices. So, how can they meet the situation so that the teachers can get their pay in time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think, with the concurrence of the Finance Department, some other device may be made possible, but the matter will be looked into and some settlement may be made.

*** Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** : Do Government propose to overcome the inconvenience by remitting the amount to some one central teacher who will distribute the pay to other teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : This is a matter which should be looked into more appropriately by the Local Boards, but Government are really desirous that the Local Board teachers should get their pay as expeditiously as possible.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Do not Government think to increase the pay of the teachers who are not trained but are experienced for many years ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The Government policy was discussed the other day and I do not like to say anything further. We propose not to put any disqualification for the experienced teachers for not receiving the training, but it is expected that all the teachers should get necessary training for the purpose of imparting the right type of education and drawing higher pay.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Do Government propose to ensure that the teachers get their salaries every month in time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is, Sir, a matter between the Local Board and the post office.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** May I know whether dearness allowance has already been amalgamated with the salaries of the teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir. The proposal was that it should be amalgamated but owing to the war condition it is staying.

***Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED:** As replied in (a), may I know from Government in what way they propose to raise the pay of the teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It has already been said that it is in the contemplation of Government that an increase of Rs.5 will be given to all the teachers who have received training, that is, they get Rs.25 to start with.

***Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED:** When do Government propose to introduce the scheme for increasing the pay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply will come within a few minutes in a subsequent Question.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In the reply (b), it is said that the money orders will be issued as expeditiously as possible. But the difficulty is that the post offices do not receive more than 20 or 25 money orders and there are 400 to 500 teachers of the Local Board. So, to transmit so many money orders they will take about 15 days. In the circumstances, will Government request the Superintendent of Post Offices to increase the number of clerks so that the money orders can be sent within 3 or 4 days ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I appreciate the difficulty that has been pointed out by the hon. Member. I myself have had some experience of the difficulties of the Local Boards. So, as I said just now, it will be better to revise the whole system of paying the teachers, and in this matter the Local Board, with the concurrence of the Finance Department of Government may evolve some rule by which the payment to the teachers can be made as expeditiously as possible.

Money spent by Government in 1945-46 on Education

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

179. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of money spent by Government in 1945-46 on Education in different branches in each of the Districts in the Province with total population of each such District ?

(b) Do Government propose to re-distribute the money from this year onward, keeping in view the population and backwardness of each District ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

179. (a)—The figures of expenditure on pay, allowances, contingencies, etc., of Government institutions and offices are maintained in this office and can be supplied District by District. But no such figures for expenditure on Grant-in-aid, Scholarship and expenditure of miscellaneous nature can be supplied as no such

records are maintained. Moreover actual amounts drawn from Treasuries of a particular District do not always represent the expenditure made for that District only, as institutions such as Colleges, Sanskrit College, Government Madrasa, Tibbya College, Normal Schools, etc., are not for the benefit of the people of the District only, in which they are situated, and the Scholarships granted to students of a District may be drawn in any other Districts or even outside the Province. Also administrative cost for Direction and a portion of Inspection cannot be allocated to any particular District.

(b)—Government always encourage establishment of new schools in areas where they are mostly needed in view of their population, backwardness and other relevant factors.

Recommendations of the Communication Board

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

180. (a) Will Government be pleased to state about the probable date when the recent recommendations of the Communication Board will be given effect to ?

(b) Do Government propose to complete the Two Years' Schemes so recommended within 31st March 1948 ?

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

180. (a)—Government propose to give effect to the recommendations of A. R. C. Board in the current financial year.

(b)—Two years' Schemes now renamed as 'Interim Projects' were to be spread over the years 1945-46 and 1946-47. No work could be done in 1945-46. But Government propose to complete the Schemes within March 1947 upto the work contemplated and funds available for each.

Posts of Mandals

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

181. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the minimum qualification required for a Mandal ?

(b) Are Government aware that up till now no academical qualification has been fixed for the posts of Mandals ?

(c) Do Government propose to fix some minimum academical qualification for these posts ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Mandals are the lowest paid Government servants in the Province ?

(e) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to improve the lot of the Mandals ?

(f) Is it a fact that the posts of Mandals being not transferable lead to corruption and highhandedness on the part of the Mandals towards the poor Ryots ?

(g) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to make the services of Mandals transferable ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

181. (a)—The qualifications are as laid down in rule 8 in the Assam Land Record Manual and these are:—

(1) he must be over 18 years of age and not above 25 years,

(2) he must hold a certificate from the proper authority showing that he has completed at least the lower primary stage of instruction, or hold a certificate from a Junior Madrasa,

(3) he must possess a certificate of the Assam Survey School or a certificate granted by the Director of Land Records under rule 13 of the Land Records Manual,

(4) he must not be in the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner physically or mentally unfit for the appointment.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise. It has been decided to raise the minimum educational qualification to Middle Vernacular or Middle English Standard.

(d)—No.

(e)—The revision of pay scales of Government servants is under consideration.

(f)—Mandals are transferable from one lot to another.

(g)—Does not arise.

Revision of pay and prospects of the Ministerial Officers

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

182. (a) Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister refer to his speech at page 231 of the Assembly Proceedings of the 19th March, 1946 wherein he said in reply to a Cut Motion moved by the Questioner that the revision of the scale of pay of the Lower Grade Services would be taken into sympathetic consideration and state what definite steps have since been taken by him in the matter ?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge aware that Government of Bengal have implemented the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee (1945), and pending completion of further enquiry into the matter, have sanctioned an interim increase of salary of Lower Grade Services with effect from 1st April 1946.

(c) Are Government aware that the cost of living in Assam is higher than that in the neighbouring districts of Bengal ?

183. (a) Do Government propose to appoint without delay a separate Committee to go into the question of revision of pay and prospects of the Ministerial officers in this Province and to revise the standard to work in the light of post-war changes ?

(b) Is it a fact that recently deputations of Ministerial officers in the districts waited on the Hon'ble Ministers, Home, Finance, and also on the Hon'ble Prime Minister and pressed for grant of immediate relief in the shape of increased pay and dearness allowances and also for appointment of a commission of enquiry ?

(c) Are Government aware of the feeling of Government servants that the additional relief at present given in the shape of dearness allowances, free ration, etc., is quite inadequate in comparison with the steady high level of prices of every day necessities of life prevailing for the last six years ?

(d) Is it a fact that the All Assam Ministerial Officers' Association has been pressing its demand for a living wage for the Ministerial officers of the Province and that the various branches of the Association have sent telegrams to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for coming to their rescue and saving them from starvation ?

1946]

QUESTIONS

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on these telegrams?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

182. (a) to (c) & 183. (a) to (e)—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the communiqué issued by this Government on 27th July 1946 (printed below) which shows the steps taken by Government in this connection. This Government have called for certain information from the Governments of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the United Provinces, and on receipt of this information the question will be reviewed further.

COMMUNIQUE

Government have recently received a number of representations from Government servants, principally from the Ministerial officers, praying for certain measures of relief, and containing requests in particular for the early appointment of a Pay Committee to revise scales of pay, for interim benefits until a decision on revised scales shall have been reached, for grant retrospectively of the present rates of dearness and war allowance with effect from the 1st July 1944, and for provision of housing accommodation in stations where this is not easily available.

Government appreciate the fact that the scales of pay in force for Government servants in 1939 are quite inadequate for present circumstances particularly in case of those officers who are in lower grade services and that as soon as prices can be supposed to be more or less stabilised, a general revision and resettlement of pay scales will have to be put into effect. That time has plainly not yet arrived, but in order to allay the apprehensions of Government servants that the temporary allowances and concessions now in force will not suddenly be abolished before the general revision or reduced without proper notice and that the lower grade services may be assured that their difficulties have not been over-looked, but are still under the anxious consideration of Government, it is considered desirable to announce the following measures which have already been approved.

(1) Government have decided to grant with retrospective effect from 1st July 1944 the present rates of dearness allowance and war allowance and a separate Notification is under issue. The cost of this measure in the current year will be about 11 lakhs and this will itself seriously tax the Exchequer.

(2) A senior officer is being placed on special duty to supervise the collection of statistics and material which will be required by any Pay Committee hereafter to be appointed for the revision of pay scales. Before actually appointing their own Committee the Assam Government wish to study the report of the Central Pay Commission with a view to adopting principles as nearly as possible in consonance with those to be adopted by the Central Government and other Provincial Governments.

(3) Government have already allotted a sum of one lakh 35 thousand rupees from the current year's budget for the purpose of building quarters for clerks in Kench's Trace, Shillong. They propose to make enquiries in other congested stations and to consider whether a larger building programme should be initiated, both in Shillong and elsewhere, for the purpose of providing clerks and others with quarters.

(4) They are satisfied that the various measures of temporary financial relief granted to the services during the War must continue for the present at the existing level, and declare their decision to make no change in these allowances during the current financial year. If at the expiry of this period it has not been found possible to introduce revised pay scales, so much of the existing allowances will be continued as to enable the Provincial Government Services to maintain an appropriate standard of living until revised pay scales have been introduced.

(5) The question of interim benefits is also under consideration and references have been made to other Provinces, but owing to their recent pre-occupation with emergency measures necessitated by the flood, Government are not yet in a position to announce any decision on this point. It will be recognised that any hurried all round increase would not merely cripple the Provincial finances but would result in a rise in prices which would leave all concerned in no better condition than now. Remedial action must be applied to actual needs.

A further announcement may be expected when replies to references have been received and the matter has been more fully considered.

SHILLONG :
The 27th July, 1946.

A. G. PATTON,
Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.

Opening of Demonstration Farms

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

184. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Demonstration Farms within the Province, run by the Agriculture Department together with a statement of their respective income and expenditure for the last five years ?

(b) Do Government propose to open model farms at suitable places over the Province, with training centres for agricultural education on a profit earning basis so as to encourage people to take up agriculture on scientific line ?

(c) Do Government propose to initiate a system of co-operative and collective farming on modern lines ?

(d) Is there any experimental farm for research work within the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

184. (a)—No Demonstration Farm is run by the Agriculture Department.

(b)—No such scheme is contemplated but Government intend to have vocational schools at central places and to demonstrate improved methods of cultivation in cultivators' fields

(c)—Not yet contemplated.

(d)—Yes.

(i)—Karinganj Experimental Farm—for selecting and evolving improved strains of paddy (Aus, Asra and Sail).

(ii)—The Deep Water Paddy Farm at Habiganj—for experimental and research work in Aman (deep water) paddy.

(iii)—Titabar Experimental Farm—for selecting and breeding improved strains of paddy (Aus and Sail).

(iv)—The Sugarcane Experimental Station at Jorhat. There is also a cattle section here for breeding improved acclimatised cattle.

(v)—The Citrus Fruit Research Station at Burnihat (partly financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research).

(vi)—Upper Shillong Experimental Station—for selection of improved types of potatoes and breeding of cattle with high milk yield.

(vii)—Khanapara Cattle Breeding Farm—here a special scheme for research in cattle nutrition, partly financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is under way.

(viii)—Sylhet Cattle Breeding Farm—for the production of improved acclimatised, dual purpose cattle.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Have Government selected places for starting vocational schools?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No such place has yet been selected.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: May I know whether any remarkable results have been obtained from the experimental farms?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Certainly, we have got remarkable results from the experimental farms. (*Laughter.*)

Abolition of Zamindary System

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

185. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the election manifesto of the All-India Congress Committee and the Sylhet District Congress Committee wherein the abolition of Zamindary system is one of the principal items?

(b) Do Government propose to fulfil this pledge given to the country?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have moved in the matter, and if so, how far?

(d) Are Government aware that there is demand for tenancy laws in the temporarily settled Zamindary areas, particularly in Cachar, similar to the laws prevailing in the permanently settled areas?

(e) If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

185. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter is engaging the anxious consideration of Government and they propose to set on foot certain preliminary investigations to that end.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Government are enquiring into the matter.

Revenue receipts and expenditure for Sylhet, Nowgong and Cachar Districts

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

186. Will Government be pleased to state the receipts under different revenue heads and expenditure for the Districts of Sylhet, Nowgong and Cachar for the years 1937-38, 1938-39 and 1944-45 (figures to be shown separately District by District)?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

186.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given in the Old Council to a similar question (No. 141) asked by Babu Gopendralal Das Chaudhury at the September Session of 1935 when the revenue and expenditure for Sylhet district was analysed. As it took four months to collect these figures,

the information now asked for would probably take two years to compile and would involve payment of special staff. Government do not at present see the urgency of incurring such expenditure.

Post of the Director of Public Instruction

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

187. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many incumbents have held the post of the Director of Public Instruction and for what period since the retirement of Mr. Small ?
- (b) Whether Government considered the utter uselessness of charging an officer with responsibilities of reviewing the entire field of education and work out reforms and asking him to do the same within a few months ?
- (c) What Government propose to do to ensure that the incumbent may hold the post for a sufficient length of time, say five years, to enable him to be really useful ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

187. (a)—1. Mr. S. C. Roy, I. E. S., from 1st May 1941 to 23rd May 1943.

2. Mr. Harsha Nath Sen, from 24th May 1943 to 14th April 1944.

3. Mr. A. Lais, from 15th April 1944.

(b)—The implication of the question has been understood by Government ; but this situation has been due mainly to the filling up of the post on the principle of seniority.

(c)—Government will consider whether any other principle of filling up the post would be necessary for administration of the Department.

Sylhet Sadar Provincial Dispensary

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

188. (a) Are Government aware that the Sylhet Sadar Provincial Dispensary is very ill-equipped for scientific treatment of diseases having no arrangement for X-Ray Examination and for detection of typhus in the blood ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state when was the Dispensary provincialised ?

(d) Are Government aware that this Dispensary is serving an area comprising of a population of about 4 millions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

188. (a)—Yes. In fact practically all hospitals in the Province with the exception of one at Dibrugarh are ill-equipped. Facilities are available in the Pasteur Institute at Shillong for Bacteriological examination and these are being availed of by the different hospitals in the Province as and when necessary.

(b)—This is due mainly to insufficient funds and lack of necessary trained personnel. Recently Government have sanctioned one X-Ray plant for the Civil Hospital at Sylhet from the stores of the 20th General Hospital of United States of America at Chabua. At present there is no X-Ray installation in the Sylhet Civil Hospital.

(c)—With effect from the 1st April 1934.

(d)—Yes.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: As regards (b), may I know who paid for the same?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Rupees 15,000 has been paid by one Bhattacharjee.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Which Bhattacharjee please?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: (*After a pause*) By one Rohini Bhattacharjee.

Buildings in the Shamshernagar Aerodrome

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked:

189. (a) Are Government aware that commodious buildings in the Shamshernagar Aerodrome are at present lying vacant and are going to be sold in auction?

(b) Do Government propose to take over these buildings and utilise them for some beneficial industrial projects under the Post-War Reconstruction scheme?

(c) If not, do Government propose to help any private enterprise to secure these buildings and also to help them to start a mill or a factory there?

(d) Are Government aware that no proper arrangement for guarding the said properties has been made and people are taking away the materials even by damaging the construction?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

189. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. These buildings were formerly considered by the Director of Agriculture, but later turned down.

(c)—Any lands and buildings not needed by Central or Provincial Government Departments are disposed of by the competent authorities, namely, the Government of India's Directorate of Lands and Hirings, direct to private parties; and the Provincial Government can do practically nothing to help private parties in this matter.

(d)—This does not concern the Government of Assam.

Projects under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked:

190. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Post-War Reconstruction be pleased to state whether any project under the Post-War Reconstruction scheme has been undertaken in the Province?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of projects already undertaken and the amounts spent under each such scheme up to May 1946?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

190. (a) and (b)—A few schemes have been finally sanctioned and these are:—

(1) *Agriculture*—

1. Buildings for the District and Scientific staff—Rs.5,32,788.

2. Establishment of an Experimental Farm in the Lower Assam Valley—Rs.1,70,800.

(2) *Veterinary*—

3. Training of 25 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons—Rs.27,500.

4. Training of 100 Veterinary Field Assistants—Rs.17,800.

(3) *Forests*—

- Regeneration of Reserved Forests in the Kachugaon Division—Rs.14,800.

- Construction of buildings for the married clerks of the Botanical Officer and Forest Utilisation Officer at Shillong—Rs.9,000.

- Establishment of a Dispensary at Deosiri in the Haltugaon Division—Rs.14,634.

- Purchase of a loco at Rs.42,000 for the Goalpara Tramway—Rs.42,000.

(4) *Public Health*—

- Creation of an Anti-Malaria Organisation—Rs.2,30,526.

- Creation of a Provincial Anti-Tuberculosis Organisation—Rs.63,841.

- Appointment of a Public Health Engineer with his staff—Rs.9,716.

(5) *Higher Studies abroad*—Rs.4,50,000.

In addition to these, Special staffs have been sanctioned for the following Departments for framing and initiating Post-War schemes—

1. Public Works Department.
2. Public Health Department.
3. Medical Department.
4. Industry and Co-operative.
5. Education.
6. Hydro-Electricity with Survey staff.
7. Miscellaneous (P.W.R.)

- (6) An Industrial Adviser has been appointed to advise Government in regard to Government's owning or participating in major industries.

Government have not yet received any report from the Heads of Departments as to what amount they spent up to May 1946 on the sanctioned schemes.

The reports have been called for.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In regard to Item (4), may I know from the Hon'ble Minister where this anti-malarial branch will be established?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Not yet decided, Sir, but it must be at a very suitable place.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir as regards item (5)—for Higher Studies abroad. May I know whether the candidates have been finally selected?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Some have been finally selected, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know their names ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** This I cannot say off-hand. In reply to some other questions it has already appeared.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the recommendations of the Government of Assam to the Government of India regarding some candidates were turned down ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Only one case. It was not turned down but sent for reconsideration. In that particular case there was only one applicant and the Government had no other alternative but to recommend that very candidate.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know the name of that particular candidate ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** He belongs to the Tribal Community. He is some Saikia.

Post-War Reconstruction Plan

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

191. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their Post-War Reconstruction Plan has been prepared ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it is final or subject to modifications and changes ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of their Post-War Plan prepared so far ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

191. (a), (b) and (c)—Government are engaged in revising the Third Draft of the Five-Year Plan prepared by their predecessors with a view to its enlargement.

Procurement and distribution of Textile goods

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

192. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of persons or companies who have recently been allowed the right of procurement and distribution of textile goods ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

192.—The names of the five Cloth Procuring Agents appointed are as follows :—

- (1) Messrs. Procure and Supply (Assam) Corporation Limited, Gauhati.
- (2) Messrs. Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society Limited, Calcutta.
- (3) Messrs. Textile Supply Company, Assam, Calcutta.
- (4) Messrs. Surma Valley Traders, Sylhet.
- (5) Messrs. Surma Valley Workers' Agency, Sylhet.

*Speech not corrected.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : We have got the names of the partners of Items 4 and 5. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister the names of the partners of Items (1), (2) and (3) also ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** In reply to another question the information is given. The reply is there and the hon. Member can find them from one of the Questions. Here the question has been replied to the point, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : In reply to another question only the names of partners of the Surma Valley Traders and the Surma Valley Workers' Agency have been given, but my question is, who are the partners of the companies under Item Nos. 1, 2 and 3 ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** The question is to know the names of the persons or companies who have recently been allowed the right of procurement and distribution of textile goods, and the names are given. There is nothing to hide, Sir. The main point is this that if I am given one minute's time, the hon. Member will see that in reply to some other question, everything he seeks is there, but here whatever is intended I have given.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : My question can be answered by way of a supplementary question.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** How can that be replied by way of supplementary question ?

***Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL :** In regard to Item Nos. (1), (2) and (3), may I know from the Government the names of the Directors of those companies ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I cannot say that.

***Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED :** May I know what percentage of the total provincial quotas have been allotted to each of the companies ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This question cannot be answered.

***Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL :** I want to know the names of the Directors of the companies under Items (1), (2) and (3) ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** That is a new question, Sir, but that is also answered in relation to another question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Along with Unstarred Question No. 192, I call out No. 197 standing in the name of Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza Choudhury.

Agencies for procurement of clothes

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY asked :

197. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the firms, and the names and addresses of persons constituting those firms which have been recently granted agencies for procurement of clothes from Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places, for the Surma Valley ?

(b) The names of tenderers with their respective rates and commission tendered by them for the procurement of the said clothes ?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

197. (a)—The Surma Valley Workers Agency, Sylhet and the Surma Valley Traders Limited, Sylhet. The following constitute the Surma Valley Workers Agency :—Messrs. Haripada Das, Dwipendra Chandra Choudhury, Subodh Ch. Dutt, Hemendra Nath Sen, Hrishikesh Chanda Choudhury and Sudhendra Kumar Das, all of Sylhet.

The Surma Valley Traders Limited started with the following :—Messrs. Abdul Wahid, Makaddas Ali Choudhury, Keranendu Syam, Dijendra Nath Deb and Ranadhir Kar.

(b)—A statement is placed on the Library table.

***Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY** : Regarding Question No. 197 (a), may I know from the Hon'ble Supply Minister when these companies or partners came into existence ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : In reply to Question 197 (a), the reply is—The Surma Valley Workers Agency, Sylhet and the Surma Valley Traders Limited, Sylhet. The following constitute the Surma Valley Workers Agency :—Messrs. Haripada Das, Dwipendra Chandra Chowdhury, Subodh Ch. Dutt, Hemendra Nath Sen, Hrishikesh Chanda Choudhury and Sudhendra Kumar Das, all of Sylhet.

The Surma Valley Traders, Limited, started with the following :—Messrs. Abdul Wahid, Makaddas Ali Choudhury, Keranendu Syam, Dijendra Nath Deb and Ranadhir Kar.

How does the question arise ?

***Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY** : When this partnership came into existence ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How can that arise ?

***Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY** : Whether any partner or shareholder had any previous experience in the business ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This question cannot be allowed.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHURY : With regard to 197 (a), may I know from the Government whether Babu Dijendra Nath Deb and Abdul Wahid are legal practitioners and as such they have no experience in the business ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That does not arise.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHURY : How many of these persons are genuine dealers ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Whether lawyers or railway workers, how can that arise ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : In regard to 197 (a)—the names of workers of the Surma Valley Workers Agency and the Surma Valley Traders, Limited, the word 'started' is used in the reply. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister who were the persons, if any, afterwards included ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Government have no information, whether there was any addition or alteration in regard to this.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Then why the word 'started' is used ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I suppose that will be for a literary society to discuss. That does not arise.

***Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN:** May I know from the Government whether they are aware of the fact that none of these gentlemen had any previous experience in dealing with this business ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I regret I cannot allow such a question, hon. Members ought to read the rules.

***Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN:** I am sorry, Sir.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** May I know whether before allotting the agency to this firm Government made any enquiry whether they were founded only to secure these agencies or they were from before ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That question is far fetched. The question was: Will Government be pleased to state the names of the firms and the names and addresses of persons constituting those firms, etc. These have been supplied.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** Addresses have not been given.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, addresses also have been given. They are all from Sylhet.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** The whole intention of the question is to locate these persons and to point out to the House that these were the people who had no experience in the line.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The question is whether they belong to the Sylhet District or Sylhet town ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sylhet town.

Mohongdijua Dispensary

Srijut KHORSING TERANG asked :—

193. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are aware that the Mohongdijua dispensary in the Mikir Hills is going without a Compounder for the past several years ?

(b) If so, whether they propose to post one Compounder there without any further delay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

193. (a)—Yes.

(b)—One Compounder for the dispensary has already been sanctioned.

Kala-azar and Leprosy havoc in the Mikir Hills

Srijut KHORSING TERANG asked :

194. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are aware of the recent havoc caused by *Kala-azar* and Leprosy in the Mikir Hills ?

*Speech not corrected.

- (b) Whether any survey of these diseases was undertaken there ?
 (c) The number of treatment centres and dispensaries with their localities now functioning there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

194. (a)—There has been no report of any havoc from *Kala-azar* or Leprosy in the Mikir Hills recently, but as in other parts of the Province there has been a recrudescence of *Kala-azar* in these Hills also. A large number of *Kala-Azar* and Leprosy cases were detected on a special survey of Singimari area in 1945 and a Public Health Department Dispensary has already been opened there.

(b)—Surveys are being regularly undertaken by the Medical Officers in-charge, Public Health Department Dispensaries and the cases detected are brought under treatment. Thirty-six *Kala-azar* and fifteen Leprosy cases were detected on a special survey recently undertaken in Dengaon area and there is a proposal to open a Public Health Department Dispensary at Dengaon.

(c)—Following Public Health Department Dispensaries are now functioning in the Mikir Hills:—

1. Kuturi.
2. Baithalangsoo.
3. Singimari (on the border of the Mikir Hills).
4. Molaship thar.
5. Dekheri.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : May I know with regard to reply to Question No. 194 (b), whether it is Dergaon or Dengaon ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS : It is Dhengaon.

Registration Office at Bahubal Police Station

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

195. (a) Are Government aware that there is urgent necessity for the establishment of a Registration Office at Bahubal Police Station in the Habiganj Subdivision ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of documents relating to Bahubal Police Station which were registered at the Habiganj Registration Office in 1945 and also of those belonging to Chunarughat Police Station registered in the Chunarughat Registration Office during the same period ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

195. (a)—As there was no move from the public within the last ten years for the establishment of a Sub-Registry Office at Bahubal, Government have no reason to think that there is any urgent necessity.

(b)—There were 1,013 documents registered in the Habiganj Sub-Registry Office from the Bahubal Police Station and 1,939 documents registered in the Chunarughat Sub-Registry Office during 1945.

Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

196. (a) Will Government be pleased to state by whom and with what objects the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society was organised and why the Government registered it ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Society was registered with the sole object of procuring the entire Provincial quota of textile goods ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the percentage of procurement of such goods by the Society has been all on a sudden reduced to 21·5 per cent. ?

(d) Are Government aware that by such a reduction in the quota they are making the Society loser to a great extent ?

(e) Are Government aware that on the strength of its registration with definite assurance of cent. per cent. procurement of cloth for Assam, individuals as well as Societies invested lakhs of rupees in share capital and deposited with the said Society ?

(f) If the replies to questions (d) and (e) be in the affirmative, are Government aware of the Civil liabilities involved in the matter on the part of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

196. (a)—The Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society was organised by its promoters and since it was a Co-operative Society, its registration by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was compulsory.

(b)—A copy of the bye-laws which deal with the objects of the Society is printed below. The Government never declared their intention to allow the Society to procure the entire Provincial quota and as a matter of fact since their inception the Society procured only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the quota till the resignation of M/s. H. K. Dada the principal procuring agents who procured $\frac{2}{3}$ of the quota. Only for two or three months pending the appointment of other Agents the Provincial Society was allowed to handle the full quota.

BYE-LAWS OF THE ASSAM PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVE TEXTILE SUPPLY SOCIETY, LIMITED, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 9 OF ACT II OF 1912

I—Preliminary

1. (i) This Society shall be called the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society, Limited and its registered address shall be Shillong, Post Office Shillong, Thana Shillong, District Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Its operations shall extend to the whole of the Province of Assam.

(ii) The first meeting of the members after registration shall have the same powers as are herein given to the annual general meeting.

II—Interpretations

2. In these bye-laws, unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context :—

(a) "Act" means the Co-operative Societies Act II of 1912.

(b) "Rules" means the rules framed by the Provincial Government under the Act and for the time being in force.

(c) The "Society" means the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society, Limited.

(d) "Orders" means all orders passed by the Central and the Provincial Governments under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, relating to the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control.

(e) "Cotton Cloth" and "Yarn" mean respectively any type of goods manufactured either wholly from cotton or partly from cotton and partly from any other material and containing not less than 10 per cent. of cotton by weight.

(f) "Dealer" means a person carrying on the business of importing, distributing, selling or storing for sale, cloth or yarn, whether or not in conjunction with any other business.

(g) "Licensed" means licensed under the Assam Cotton Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Licensing Order, 1943.

(h) "Registrar" means the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam.

(i) "Commissioner" means the Provincial Cloth and Yarn Commissioner appointed by the Government of Assam to discharge the duties assigned to such officer.

(j) "Dealers' Society" means a Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Wholesale Co-operative Society, registered under the Act.

III—Objects

3. The objects of the Society are to facilitate the operations of the Dealers' Societies and to help in promoting the economic interest of its members and more particularly—

(1) to procure and import cloth and yarn in bulk from the sources of production and to distribute the same among the various Dealers' Societies according to the requirements of each, subject to the quota allotted to each by the Commissioner ;

(2) to secure a steady flow of cloth and yarn and their equitable distribution through the Dealers' Societies ;

(3) to represent the grievances of the Dealers' Societies to the authorities and to guide and supervise their working ;

(4) to ascertain and seek redress of the grievances of the consumers of cloth and yarn in relation to the working of the Dealers' Societies ;

(5) to act as an information bureau for the Dealers' Societies in matters relating to the cloth and yarn trade with particular reference to the Orders ;

(6) to engender among its members sound business practices in conformity with Co-operative principles ;

(7) to promote the development of the handloom weaving industry in Assam with special reference to the supply of adequate quantities of yarn at reasonable prices and the provision of facilities for the marketing of handloom products ;

(8) to impart textile training to a few youths of the province by awarding scholarships tenable at weaving establishments, particularly mills and powerloom factories ;

(9) to make an attempt towards starting spinning and weaving mills in Assam as an ultimate objective ; and

(10) to do all such other acts as are incidental and conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

IV—Membership

4. The members of the Society shall consist of—

(i) the persons (hereinafter referred to as individual members) or Dealers' Societies (hereinafter referred to as society members) who subscribed to the application for registration, and

(ii) such individual or society members as shall from time to time be admitted under these bye-laws :

Provided that no person shall be a member of the Society who is not a native of, or domiciled or carrying on business in Assam, without the approval of the Registrar.

5. The number of members shall not exceed 100 without the sanction of the Registrar.

V (a)—Admission

6. (a) No person shall be admitted as an individual member unless an application supported by two individual members certifying that the applicant is known to them, is qualified to be a member according to the provisions of the Act, the Rules or the bye-laws and is honest and of good character, has been submitted by him and accepted by the Committee:

Provided that individual members in excess of 37, including those who subscribed to the application for registration, shall be admitted on the basis of two for each subdivision in the province on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, subject to the approval of the Registrar.

(b) Dealers' Societies wishing to become members shall apply to the Secretary and produce their certificates of registration.

7. Every individual member and, in the case of a society member, its duly authorised representative shall on admission sign his name or make his thumb impression on the register of members and pay Rs. 10 as admission fee. Every such member shall subscribe to at least one share and pay up the amount of share money necessary under the bye-laws. The individual member or society member, as the case may be, shall thereupon share in the rights, privileges and liabilities of the Society. The nominee, heir or legal representative of a deceased individual member shall, if admitted, be exempt from payment of the admission fee.

V (b)—Cessation

8. Membership shall be terminated by—

- (a) Death in the case of individual members, or
- (b) Cancellation of registration in the case of society members, or
- (c) Withdrawal or transfer of all shares held by the member subject to three months' notice to the Secretary, or
- (d) Expulsion under the bye-laws.

V (c)—Expulsion

9. When a member wilfully does any act in contravention of any of the provisions of the Orders or the Act or the Rules or these bye-laws or any act prejudicial to the interests of the Society, he may be expelled by a resolution of the General Meeting held for the purpose or by an order in writing passed by the Registrar.

V (d)—Adjustment of dues

10. Any money due on any account from the Society to a member or a past member or a person claiming through him may be set off against payment of any sum which such member may owe to the Society and the balance, if any, shall be paid to him after three months from the date of cessation of his membership.

VI—Liability

11. The liability of each member is limited to the nominal value of the share or shares held by him. No member shall be liable for any debt or obligation contracted by the Society after he ceased to be a member.

VII—Funds

12. Funds may be raised by means of—

- (a) shares,

- (b) advances, deposits and loans,
- (c) profit and reserve fund.

The acceptance of deposits and loans from non-members shall be subject to such restrictions as the Registrar may from time to time impose.

VIII—Share Capital

13. The share capital shall be composed of 1,500 shares of the nominal value of Rs. 1,000 each, subject to the minimum paid up share capital of Rs. 1,00,000. Of the nominal value of each share, Rs. 500 shall be paid up on admission and the balance shall stand over as reserve liability, to be called whether partly or wholly only when the Society goes into liquidation.

14. Individual members may subscribe to a maximum of 40 shares each and society members to a maximum of 5 shares each.

15. Subject to the provisions of bye-law 14, an individual member may transfer his share or shares after holding it or them for one year to another individual member, with the approval of the Managing Committee. The transfer will not be complete until the name of the transferee has been entered in the share transfer register.

16. A share certificate bearing a distinctive number shall be used for the share or shares subscribed to by each member.

IX—Advances, Deposits and Loans

17. (a) Advances may be received from society members or other consignees, if any, against goods indented for from time to time.

(b) Deposits and loans may be received from members at such rate of interest and up to such amount as may be determined by the Committee subject to the instructions of the General Meeting. Provided that Society may take loans from another Co-operative Society or from a Joint Stock Bank on the security of the goods to such extent as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of its business.

18. The funds of the Society, when not utilised in its business, shall be invested or deposited as required by Section 32 (1) (a), (b), (c) or (d) of the Act or in any other manner approved by the Registrar.

X—General Meeting

19. The supreme authority of the Society shall be vested in the General Meeting, which shall be held every year within two months after the completion of the statutory audit at such place and time as the Managing Committee may appoint in a summons issued through the Secretary.

20. The Chairman of the Society shall preside over the deliberations of the General Meeting and in his absence the Vice-Chairman and in the absence of both of them, one of the members present shall be elected to preside. All matters discussed shall be decided by a majority of votes unless a special majority is required by the Rules or the bye-laws. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own votes as provided hereinafter in bye-law 21, in case of an equality of votes on both sides. Provided that if the Chairman is a person appointed under bye-law 30, who is not a member of the Society, he shall have only a casting vote.

21. All members of the Society may attend the General Meeting. The members present at a General Meeting shall have as many votes as the number of shares they hold, subject to a maximum of 20 votes. A Society member shall be represented by a duly authorised proxy from among its members, who shall bring with him his credentials in the prescribed form.

22. The functions of the Annual General meeting are—

(a) to elect the Managing Committee, hereinafter called the Board of Directors including the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary, for the ensuing year or till their successors are duly elected, in conformity with the provisions of these bye-laws ;

(b) to consider and adopt schemes on lines suggested from time to time by Government for the purpose of procuring, importing, distributing and controlling cloth and yarn ;

(c) to consider the annual statements and balance sheets certified by the Government Auditor and his report and inspection notes of officers of the Co-operative and Textile Departments duly authorised in this behalf or of the Collector ;

(d) to appoint an internal auditor or auditors for checking the accounts of the Society during the ensuing year and to receive from the outgoing Board of Directors a report reviewing the work of the year and to sanction the distribution of profits subject to approval of the Registrar ;

(e) to fix the maximum up to which the Board of Directors may raise funds by advances, deposits and loans ;

(f) to consider any communication or audit recommendation bearing on the general working of the Society that may have been received from any executive officer of the Departments of Textiles and Co-operative Societies.

23. A special General Meeting may be summoned by the Chairman or the Secretary or the majority of the Board of Directors or on a requisition from the Registrar or the Commissioner or some person duly authorised by either of them for the purpose or on a requisition made in writing by not less than 20 members or 1/5th of the total number of members, whichever is less. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call such a meeting when thus required to do so.

24. In the case of an Annual General Meeting fifteen days' notice and in the case of a special General Meeting seven days' notice shall be given. The Notice shall specify the date, hour and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted.

25. With the permission of two-thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting, any member may bring forward a proposal not mentioned in the notice convening the meeting, provided that such proposal does not relate to the expulsion of a member or the alteration of a bye-law.

26. One-fifth of the total number of members or twenty, whichever is less, shall form the quorum at a general meeting unless otherwise required by the Rules or the bye-laws. If there be no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for 3 days and the adjourned Meeting shall be held at the same time and place without any further notice, where the business of the original Meeting shall be transacted whether there is a quorum or not.

XI—Managing Committee or Board of Directors

27. (a) The Board of Directors shall consist of not more than 9 members, including the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary, who shall individually be called the Directors and shall be elected at a General Meeting.

(b) An individual member wishing to be elected as Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Secretary at a General Meeting (other than the first General Meeting after registration) shall submit to the Secretary at least 7 days before the date fixed for such meeting a nomination paper, specifying the office he seeks and duly proposed and seconded by two individual members and signed by himself.

28. Not more than 7 of the Directors, including the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary, shall be elected from amongst the individual members, and two, being either the Chairman or the Secretaries of the societies concerned, shall be elected from amongst the society members, one representing either Valley. Provided that not more than 5 Directors from amongst the individual

1946]

members shall be elected until at least 25 individual members have joined. Provided also that the election of Directors from amongst the Society members shall be deferred until at least ten society members have been admitted. The Directors shall hold office for a year or until their successors are appointed in the aforesaid manner. Provided that the first Board of Directors shall hold office until their successors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting immediately following the close of the financial year 1945-46. In the case of a temporary vacancy of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Secretary, the Directors shall elect one of their own body as Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Secretary as the case may be. The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary shall be given such remuneration as the Board of Directors may fix subject to confirmation by the General Meeting.

29. The Directors may also elect one of themselves or may appoint any other person to be Deputy Secretary and fix his remuneration. His duties shall be to help the Secretary in all possible ways and to do such other work as may be specially allotted to him.

30. Notwithstanding anything said in bye-laws 28 and 29, the Registrar may appoint any person, whether a member or not, to be Chairman. The remuneration if any, to be paid to such person shall be fixed by the Registrar and shall be a charge on the funds of the Society.

31. The entire executive authority of the Society is vested in the Board of Directors subject to the bye-laws and instructions of the General Meeting.

32. Four of the Directors shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Board. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and in his absence, some other member of the Board may be elected to preside over the meeting. Each Director shall have only one vote. Provided that in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman or the President shall have a casting vote in addition to his own vote. The Chairman will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Chairman and the Secretary to convene meetings of the Board of Directors at least once in two months.

33. The Proceedings of the Board shall be recorded by the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary in a minute book with the names of the members present and shall be signed by the Chairman or the President of the meeting.

34. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be—

(a) to observe in all their transactions the provisions of the orders, the Act, the Rules and these bye-laws;

(b) to maintain true and accurate accounts of all money received and expended and all stocks imported and distributed;

(c) to keep true accounts of the assets and liabilities of the Society;

(d) to prepare and lay before the Annual General Meeting a profit and loss account and a balance sheet;

(e) to examine the accounts, sanction contingent expenditure and supervise the maintenance of the prescribed registers;

(f) to consider inspection notes of the Officers of the Co-operative and Textile Departments and of the Collector and also the audit reports of the Auditor and to take necessary action thereon;

(g) to admit new members;

(h) to summon the General Meeting in accordance with bye-law 19;

(i) to contract loans subject to any restrictions imposed by the General Meeting;

(j) to decide the terms, the period and the rates of interest of deposits and to arrange for repayment of deposits;

(k) to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees, subject to the limitations imposed in these bye-laws, and to deal with complaints by or against them;

(l) to authorise any member or Officer or employee of the Society or any other person to institute, conduct, defend, compromise, refer to arbitration or abandon legal proceedings by or against the Society or the Board or the Officers or employees concerning the affairs of the Society ;

(m) to acquire on behalf of the Society shares in the other Co-operative Societies ;

(n) to exercise such prudence and diligence in their conduct of the affairs of the Society as an ordinary business man would exercise in the conduct of his business; and

(o) to make rules consistent with these bye-laws for the conduct of ordinary routine matters.

All business discussed or decided at a meeting of the Board shall be recorded in a proceedings book, which shall be signed by the Chairman or the President and wherein the names of all the members present shall be written. The Board may appoint from amongst its members a sub-committee or sub-committees to carry on any of its function.

35. The Board shall make rules for its own guidance in regard to the following matters—

- (a) procedure at its meeting ;
- (b) hours of business of the Society ;
- (c) distribution of duties among the members of the Board
- (d) custody of books, accounts and documents of the Society ;
- (e) receipt, disbursement and custody of money and goods ;
- (f) preparation of annual budgets within the month of March ;
- (g) appointment, promotion, punishment and dismissal of paid employees of the Society ;
- (h) arrangements for efficient conduct of the business of the Society ;
- (i) purchasing, taking on lease or otherwise acquiring buildings or lands for the business of the Society, and
- (j) transaction of all other business incidental to the management of the Society.

36. The Board of Directors may authorise the Secretary or any of its other members to execute any document of obligation on behalf of the Society, in favour of a person not a member. The Chairman or the Secretary or any other employee of the Society authorised by the Board for the purpose may grant receipts for all money paid to the Society. Share certificates shall be signed by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary jointly. The Society shall sue or be sued in the name of the Chairman.

37. For the purpose of endorsing or transferring promissory notes, debentures, securities and documents of title to goods standing in the name of or held by the Society or of drawing, accepting and endorsing bills or of signing deposit receipts and all other receipts and documents connected with the business of the Society, the signature of the Secretary or any officer or employee of the Society duly authorised to act for him or the Chairman shall be valid.

XII—Secretary

38. The powers and the duties of the Secretary shall be as follows :—

- (a) to maintain correctly and up-to-date the registers and papers of the Society ;
- (b) to prepare all receipts, vouchers and documents required by the Rules and these bye-laws and called for by the Board ;
- (c) to keep the deal of the Society and to sign on its behalf and to conduct its correspondence ;

(d) to issue notices for and attend General Meetings and meetings of the Board and record proceedings of such meetings and have them duly signed, and
 (e) to prepare annual statements and to certify copies of entries in books under section 26 of the Act.

39. The Society shall maintain the following registers and papers—

- (a) a register of members ;
- (b) a cash book ;
- (c) an import and distribution register ;
- (d) a quota register ;
- (e) a register of dealers with whom the Society has transactions ;
- (f) a stock register ;
- (g) a ledger of advances ;
- (h) a ledger of deposits and borrowings ;
- (i) a receipts book ;
- (j) a commission register ;
- (k) a general register ;
- (l) a minutes book ; and
- (m) any other registers and forms which may be prescribed by the Registrar from time to time.

XIII—Business (Procurement and Transaction)

40. Without prejudice to any of these bye-laws the Society shall mainly carry on the business of procuring cloth and yarn from the sources of production and important trade centres in India and abroad and of transporting the same to different centres in Assam on the basis of the quota allotted to each by the Commissioner, or by an officer authorised by him in this behalf.

41. The Society shall procure and transport cloth and yarn in accordance with arrangements made or instructions issued by the Commissioner from time to time.

42. Handloom and other cotton, silk and woollen goods which do not come under the Orders may also be procured and transported by the Society.

43. The Society shall get such commission for procuring and transporting the goods as may be fixed by the Provincial Government by general or special orders and such commission shall be recoverable by deduction from advances made by the consignees against their respective indents for goods.

44. The Board may appoint the necessary staff, whether or not from among the members, for the efficient conduct of its business and fix their remuneration and other terms of employment.

45. All transactions of the Society with the society members and other consignees, if any, shall be for cash only.

XIV—Distribution of profits

46. At the close of every working year the Society, the net profits shall be divided as follows and in the order given :—

- (1) 25 per cent. shall go to the reserve fund ;
- (2) a dividend on the paid up portion of the shares subscribed to by each member may be paid at such rate as the Registrar may approve of ;
- (3) an amount not exceeding 15 per cent. may be granted to office-bearers and employees as a bonus ;
- (4) the balance, if any, shall be credited to a Building Fund or such other purpose connected with the improvement of the Society or furtherance of its objects as may be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

XV—Audit of Accounts

47. The accounts of the Society shall be audited once at least in every year by the regular staff of the Registrar or by a Government certified auditor approved by the Registrar. The accounts and records shall be maintained in the forms prescribed by the Registrar with such additions as the Board of Directors think necessary.

XVI—Amendment of Bye-laws

48. Subject to the Rules, the bye-laws can be amended by majority of members present at a General Meeting of which not less than 15 days' notice has been given and at which not less than 2/3rds of the members are present. The amendment will take effect after being registered under section 11 (3) of the Act.

XVII—Disputes

49. All disputes regarding these bye-laws or touching the business of the Society between the members or past members or person claiming through a member or past member or between a member or past member or persons so claiming and the Society or the Managing Committee or any employee of the society shall be referred to the Registrar as provided in the Rules.

XVIII—Liquidation

50. The Society shall be liquidated only by an order of the Registrar under section 39 of the Act. In case there be any surplus after meeting all liabilities of the Society and the cost of liquidation and repaying the share capital, the amount shall be utilised for the attainment of the object mentioned under bye-law 3 (9).

XIX—Miscellaneous

51. All matters not specially provided for in these bye-laws shall be decided in accordance with the Act and Rules.

52. The financial year of the Society shall be from the first April to 31st March.

SHILLONG :

The 25th November 1944.

M. H. HUSSAIN,

Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The Government have no information.

(e)—No such assurance was given as replied in (b) above and as such shareholders and investors are presumed to have acted in their own interest.

(f)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : From the answer to (a) it is understood that the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society enjoyed the benefit of the whole quota of the province for at least two months and that it had acquired experience. What necessity the Government had to curtail their quota by this time ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : They could not manage the finance.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : What is the percentage allotted to other agencies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the question, Sir, I could not follow ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: By what percentage was it reduced ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Just before they were allowed to procure to the extent of 50 per cent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Next question ?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: The reply is very long, Sir,

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The rule regarding supplementaries to unstarred question is that the hon. Member desiring to put a question should at once stand up. These questions and answers have long been placed on the table. It was on the 13th.

Per capita allotment of clothes for six months

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED asked :

198. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of clothes allotted *per capita* for every 6 months ?

(b) Is it a fact that urban people has been allotted 15 yards *per capita* for every 6 months and rural people only 5 yards *per capita* for the same period ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the principle on which they have made this distinction between rural and urban people ?

(d) Are Government aware that a feeling of strong resentment and discontent for this is prevailing among the rural people ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what step or steps they intend to take to remove the grievances of the rural people in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

198. (a)—The overall *per capita* allotment to the Province is 11 yards per head per annum or 5½ yards for six months including yarn and Standard cloth. But this has been subjected to a temporary cut of 10 per cent. from 1st June 1946.

(b)—The urban ration for adults per head is 15 yards for six months where rationing has been introduced.

(c)—The principle is generally accepted as one of higher consumption by urban people.

(d)—No. The complaints which reach Government from time to time are more due to irregular supply and distribution than the basis of calculation.

(e)—The Government are organizing Liaison and Vigilance Committees through the assistance of which it is expected that distribution will be more regular and equitable and blackmarketing and other mal-practices will be combatted. The Government are also contemplating making reduction in the urban quota to give further relief to the rural people.

[19TH SEPT.]

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED : As regards (b) the question is where rationing has been introduced. Is it not a fact that rationing has been introduced in all the Municipal areas ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, by this time. There was a time when it was not so. At this stage one pertinent point which I like to mention is that the quota has been decreased from 30 yards to 20 yards in the urban areas.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED : As regards (b)—second part of the question—whether it is a fact that rural people get only 10 yards *per capita* ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : That is a fact, Sir.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED : With regards to (d) the reply is : 'No'. The complaints which reach Government from time to time are more due to irregular supply and distribution than the basis of calculation. That means that more complaints are due to irregular supply, but there are complaints of inequitable distribution. What I mean to say is that the answer should be 'yes'.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : My point is that so far as (d) is concerned, the question is : Are Government aware that a feeling of strong resentment and discontent for this is prevailing among the rural people? So far as 'discontent' is concerned, my answer is 'no', because generally we receive complaints on the ground of irregular supply and inequitable distribution. But at the same time it is a fact that there is a complaint that people in the urban areas are getting 30 yards whereas people in the rural areas are getting only 10 yards. Therefore we have already reduced the quota from 30 to 20 yards. The effect will be given from 1st October.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order the time is up. We pass on to the next item. If there is any supplementary question, this question will stand over till to-morrow.

Statement *re* publication of distorted facts in certain Newspapers

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you take up the next item of business of the House, I will seek your permission to make a statement on a matter which relates to the privilege of the House. Sir, the discussion on the food debate which took place during the last few days is fresh in the memory of every one in this House but a misleading, not merely misleading but mischievous, and distorted version of this episode has found place in some Calcutta newspapers. I will like to place before the House those statements so that the House can decide for itself whether the papers have given a true narrative of the events that took place in the House.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I request the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition one thing? He may just mention the names and dates of the papers. What I propose to do is to consider the matter on some other day. We have now some urgent matter—Demands for Grants—which cannot be put off.

1919/46

1946.]

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

1425

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If the learned Chair will please take it up on some other day, I will be quite satisfied, Sir. The reason I bring it up to-day is that it appeared in yesterday's paper and if I come with this on another day, the House may say that I did not put proper weight on the matter of distortion. As regards the names and dates of the papers, Sir, I am referring to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Dak Edition of 18th September and the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 1st Aswin or 18th September.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: These papers reached Shillong yesterday?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, I can hand over the papers, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall be obliged.

(The papers were then handed over.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition knows that on the days on which Supplementary Demands are taken up we cannot do any other business.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If the Hon'ble Speaker will give us permission to refer to this matter on another day, I will not object to postponement of this discussion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, please refer to this matter on some other day.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I want to make a submission, Sir. To-day, we have Grants Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. If Supplementary Demand No. 9, i.e., "Education" is taken last of all, then we may get some more time to discuss that subject. There are some vital matters under Education and so I crave your indulgence that this particular matter may be discussed last.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The suggestion is that we start with Medical, then Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries and then Education coming last, keeping the time allotted in respect of each item the same. If the Government have no objection, I will not object. It all depends upon the Government as these are all Government business.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know, Sir, what is the difficulty on the part of my hon. Friend.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The object of hon. Mr. Bari is this, that the other subjects may not take the allotted time. He perhaps feels that many of the Cut Motions which have been tabled are out of order and so he wants to have more time for Education. Now, if we start with Education, I do not know how we stand. In this matter, I shall have to go by the wishes of the Government because it is Government business.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As a matter of fact, Sir, we always try to accommodate the Opposition in these matters. By putting the Demands we actually invite criticisms and if the Opposition think it proper they may even censure. Without creating this as a precedent, because this was accepted as a working arrangement in consultation with the Opposition, I have no objection to any allotment of business. The Hon'ble Speaker knows the rules regarding the Supplementary Demands.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Government do not oppose, I have no objection. But let this be clearly stated that the hon. Members should not in future cite this as a precedent. We shall re-allot the time and let the hon. Members know. The re-allotted time-table is like this:—

No.10.—Medical upto 12-30.

No.11.—Public Health must close by 1 P. M.

No.12.—Agriculture by 2-20 P. M.

No.13.—Veterinary by 2-30 P. M.

No.14.—Industries by 2-40 P. M. and then Education No.9.

Now, we take up Supplementary Demand No.10.—Medical.

Supplementary Demand No.10 (38.—Medical)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 25,569 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	15,10,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	
B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—	
(a) Ordinary Dispensaries—	Rs.
Pay of officers... ..	1,250
Pay of establishment	455
Allowances and honoraria	470
Contingencies	2,010
(b) Travelling Dispensaries	2,374
(c) Leper hospitals	210
C.—Grants for medical purposes	15,500
G.—Works—Original works	3,300
Grand total	25,569

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.25,569 be granted to the Hon'ble Minister in charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment

during the year ending on the 31st of March 1947 for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'."

There are four Cut Motions* tabled under this head. I am sorry to have to declare that none of these are in order. Therefore, I will put the question.....

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Cannot the hon. Members speak on the Motion, Sir?

There is a Motion before the House and I think every Member has got the right to speak on the Original Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. Members can speak on the items included in the Supplementary Demand.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: From our side, Sir, no one will speak. We want to save time for "Education."

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

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.25,569 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st of March 1947 for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

*Cut Motions—

1. Maulavi Md. ABDULLAH to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,250 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head—(a)—Ordinary Dispensaries—Pay of officers, at page 4 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,569 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the proposed starting of Medical Colleges at Dibrugarh and Sylhet.)

2. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,250 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head—(a)—Ordinary Dispensaries—Pay of officers, at page 4 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,569 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the improvement of the Sunamganj Civil Hospital.)

3. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.25,569 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 4 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,569 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about proposed Medical Colleges at Dibrugarh and Sylhet.)

4. Muntazul Muhaddisin Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.25,569 under Supplementary Demand No.10, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 4 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1 i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,569 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To establish a Dispensary at Ghamaria in the Karimganj Subdivision.)

Supplementary Demand No.11

(39—Public Health)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS: On the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.23,199 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health."

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	18,62,100
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	
A.—Public Health Establishment—	
(a) Superintendence and other establishment—	
Pay of Officers	1,400
Pay of Establishment	6,566
Allowances and honoraria	2,588
Contingencies	100
Total	10,654
C.—Epidemic Diseases—	
(a) Malaria	2,140
(b) Other Epidemics	280
B.—Grants for Public Health purposes	5,250
F.—Works—Public Health—	
Original Works	4,875
Grand total	23,199

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.23,199 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year, ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health'."

There are four Cut Motions* under this demand of which No. 4 standing in the name of hon. Maulavi Muh ammad Abdullah is in order.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: No. 1 is in order, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But that relates to a question of big policy.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Provision has been made for certain Public Health Officers and their pay has been mentioned in the explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was thinking that this was a question of big policy and the precedent is that questions of policy are not allowed to be discussed by means of these Cut Motions. Any way, if the hon Members want to discuss this question, I have no objection.

Maulavi NURUL HUSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 10,654 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major Head—39—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

*Cut Motions—

1. Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 10,654 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub head—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of increasing the pay of the Public Health Staff.)

2. Dr. EMRAN HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 10,654 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—(a) Superintendence and other Establishment (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion for re-organising the Public Health Department.)

3. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 10,654 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the withdrawal of Public Health Dispensaries for Dharampasa Patharia, Madyanagar and Chanarchag in Sunamganj.)

4. Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 2,140 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant.)

Sir, by this Cut Motion I beg leave to draw the attention of the House to the scale of pay provided for the Sub-Assistant Surgeons under the Public Health Department. Formerly the scale was Rs. 75—150 ; now it is proposed to be raised to Rs. 100—200. I do not personally see why there should be any distinction in the emoluments of those who were appointed before and those who are proposed to be appointed now. It is not proper that Government should from time to time change the scale of pay and prospects of their employees. Now, Sir, the Public Health Sub-Assistant Surgeons have got to take great risks, they are to go to the epidemic areas infected with cholera, small-pox and other things, and their life is in danger. But that applies to the existing Sub-Assistant Surgeons as well as to the Sub-Assistant Surgeons going to be appointed now, and the pay and prospects of the old and new officers should be the same.

Then, Sir, there are some Rural Health Inspectors, whose scale of pay is Rs. 40—75. Their duties have now increased, they are to give inoculation, they are to go to the epidemic areas, and as such they take as much risk to their life as the Sub-Assistant Surgeons. So there is absolutely no justification for giving them such a meagre salary. It is necessary in the interest of public service that the pay and prospects of these officers should be increased; otherwise, as we know, ill-paid servants do not work satisfactorily or efficiently. It is therefore necessary that the pay and prospects of both Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Rural Health Inspectors should be increased. With these words, I commend my Cut Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 10,654 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment (total), at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1”.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words in support of this Cut Motion. Some four years back the Public Health Department was re-organised.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps I should request the hon. Member not to speak on the general policy, but to confine himself to the particular grant.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I will confine my remarks to that, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Mover discussed the general policy.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: At that time a skeleton programme was placed before the House, and there was no scheme about the pay and prospects of the Public Health Officers. Sir, the hon. Members are also aware that from the very beginning a preferential treatment is being meted out to the officers of the Medical Department and there is no sufficient encouragement to the medical men to join the Public Health Department. My submission is that once this Department is re-organised and separated from the Medical Department, sufficient funds ought to be placed at the disposal of the Public Health Department, and the pay and prospect of these officers should be increased. The Government of the day should realise that this is a very important nation-building department and the prosperity of the villages will depend a good deal on it. With these few words, I support the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion that the pay of the Sub Assistant Surgeons of the Public Health Department and the Rural Health Inspectors should be raised. But, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Mover to our communique dated the 27th July 1946 in which we have said that we would be considering the revision of the scales of pay not only for the officers of this Department but also of most of the departments where such revision is considered necessary.

Secondly, Sir, my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, has said that in the year 1944 this Department was separated from the Medical Department, and the whole scheme at that time was a skeleton, and he says that it is still a skeleton. But I cannot agree with him. Since 1944 there has been some increase and we are contemplating to increase the activities of the Department in various ways under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme. I think it is known to the hon. Member, and to-day in reply to a question it was stated by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Post-War Reconstruction, that we have contemplated to start Anti-Malaria scheme and Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic Scheme, Nutrition, Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes and also we have decided to appoint one Public Health Engineer. So, Sir, it is clear that we are not trying to keep the Department in the same level as it was in the year 1944. We have been trying to develop this Department as far as practicable. But at the same time I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House that the recommendations of the Bhole Committee were different, as in the Report there is a recommendation to amalgamate the two Departments of Medical and Public Health. In order to consider this recommendation of the Bhole Committee along with other recommendations of it, the Central Government has decided to summon a conference which will be sitting by the 10th, 11th and 12th of October at Delhi. But, Sir, I do not know what shape will be given of it by the discussion in the conference, but I can assure the House that Assam will follow uniformly with other provinces. As I have said, Sir, the scheme of pay of the Public Health Officers will be considered along with the pay of officers of other Departments. So I hope the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion will be pleased to withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, in view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion No. 2 standing in the name of hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury and Cut Motion No. 3 standing in the name of hon. Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed are strictly not in order.. So I propose to ask hon. Maulavi Abdullah to move his *Cut Motion No. 4. This seeks to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant. Every hon. Member can speak on it.

A Voice: The hon. Member is now absent from the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion then falls through. Then I put the question.

*4. Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 2,140 under Supplementary Demand No. 11, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 23,199 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grant.)

The question is :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 3,199 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head ‘39.—Public Health’.”

The question was adopted

Supplementary Demand No. 12

(40.—Agriculture)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 63,732 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head “40.—Agriculture”.

				Rs.
i.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	...	26,08,100
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for :—				
B.—Superintendence—				
Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	3,612
Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	1,665
Total	...	...	...	5,277
D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—				
(i) Scheme for the improvement of hill cotton	...	...	...	5,721
(j) Scheme for research on pulses in Assam	...	...	...	5,082
E.—Subordinate and Expert Staff—				
(b) Economic Botanist	...	...	...	1,588
J.—Other Charges—				
(a) Seed Depots	...	...	...	8,126
(c) Breeding operations	...	...	...	348
(f) Contributions	...	...	...	500
F.—Agricultural Education—				
(a) For training of students in the Agricultural College, etc.	...	...	...	3,990
K.—Works—Original Works	...	...	...	33,100
Grand total	...	...	...	63,732

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 63,732 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

Under this Grant we have as many as *four Cut Motions and we will take up the first Cut Motion standing in the name of hon. Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan. In this connection I may remind the hon. Members that probably all other Members in whose names the Cut Motions stand can take part in the discussion, but it will be confined to those items which are enumerated in the list of new schemes.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 63,732 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be refused.

Sir, my proposal is to refuse the whole grant altogether as we find that the Agricultural Department under the Government is practically doing no work. The system of agriculture already prevailing in our country remains the same as it was before. The agriculturists do not find any sort of improvement in the system of agriculture. Sir, Government is maintaining so many highly paid officers like the Director, Deputy Directors, Economic Botanists and other officers, but we do not feel that these officers are practically doing anything for the benefit of the agriculturists. The only persons who are really doing some service to the cultivators are the Demonstrators and Kamdars. We find that these subordinate officers of the Department go to the fields and give some advice to the cultivators and distribute seeds. So far as the highly salaried officers are concerned, they do not think it necessary to visit the paddy fields and they think it beneath their dignity to speak to the cultivators. They sometimes visit only some of those places where they can go by motor. Sir, it is high time, having regard to the fact that 95 per cent. of people of this Province are

*1. Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN to move :—

That the total provision of Rs. 63,732 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be refused.

2. Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 1,665 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—B.—Superintendence, Sub-head—Allowances and Honoraria, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 63,732 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about introduction of mileage system of travelling allowance to the Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars.)

3. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 5,277 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—B.—Superintendence (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 63,732 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To urge Government for establishing an Agricultural Institute at Sylhet.)

4. Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 10,803 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research (total), at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 63,732 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the new grant.)

cultivators and agriculturists, that Government should do all that lies in their power to improve the lot of the cultivators and to improve the condition of agriculture.

Now, as regards the maintenance of some farms, as we have one at Nagura, it appears that they are of no use to us. We do not understand what the officers are doing there. I do not see what purpose will be served by this unless Government are anxious to help the cultivators and make it their duty to see that all the officers of the Department do really go to the agriculturists, consult them and visit the paddy fields and offer practical suggestions. To me the best course appears to be to appoint a committee of some expert cultivators and officers of the Agriculture Department in every subdivision for devising ways and means for improving the condition of agriculture.

Sir, so far as Habiganj subdivision is concerned, we find that practically very little has been done in this respect. It appears to me that Government should look into the matter very seriously and try to find out means how the condition of the cultivators and growing of more paddy can be improved.

The work of irrigation and putting up of bunds should be undertaken on a large scale. My subdivision has been badly neglected, so far as these works are concerned. I for myself, do not find any utility for maintaining the existing top heavy staff. I do not feel justified in giving my consent to the huge expenditure that Government seek to incur for this Department. I request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Agriculture to pay his serious attention as to how things can be improved. I think, the Hon'ble Minister of Education should sometimes go to the localities, gather the cultivators, speak to them and know their grievances and difficulties so that he may get first-hand knowledge and adopt means for the improvement of their lot.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 63,732 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demands, be refused".

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion that has been moved by my Friend, Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan. Sir, my Friend has made it abundantly clear how in a sense of frustration he has come forward with the Cut Motion for this total refusal of the supplementary grant. He has also made clear that the Agriculture Department is not functioning as it should have. The new items of expenditure for which the Supplementary Demand is sought to be brought before the House are not worth our consideration, excepting some new schemes.

Sir, my submission is that the Agriculture Department ought to be re-organised on a broader outlook and with a bolder vision. This is a department which can give necessary relief to our cultivators. But as it stands at present, it has got no touch with the soil. In some places we have got Inspectors and Demonstrators, but I do not know whether they have got any actual liaison with our masses. As a matter of fact, the Department lacks a sense of a reality. My humble request to the Hon'ble Minister would be that public co-operation and public sympathy should be sought so that they may interest themselves in this Department and may utilise the new schemes and the services of the Demonstrators to their benefit.

As regards the three new schemes I would like to speak a few words. Sir, the first scheme that has been included, by way of Supplementary Demand, is a

1946]

scheme for research of pulses in Assam. In the explanatory note the Hon'ble Minister has made it clear that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research recommended that this scheme should be undertaken as early as possible by the Provincial Governments. The Government of Assam has been too late in the field. At one time the Imperial Council agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the total cost, but at the present moment they are agreeable to bear not more than 30 per cent. Still it is better that at last the Government of Assam has advanced to implement this scheme.

As regards the cotton scheme, I am not sure how far it will be successful in the soils of Assam. As a matter of fact, the Cotton Committee recommended to the Government of Bengal as well as the Government of Assam that they should experiment on Comilla cotton. But so far my information goes, the cotton that is available from the Garo Hills is a bad mixture and it is not fit for ginning purposes. So, if the Government be not earnest to cultivate a new type of plantation for rearing Comilla cotton, I do not know, with indigenous production, how far this scheme will be successful.

Finally, Sir, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to launch some big schemes on a wider scale which can be really beneficial to the agriculturists and the masses. In that case we will accord our whole hearted co-operation and support to him.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to speak a few words. Under Agriculture, J.—Other Charges, (a) Seed Depôts, we find that there are six seed farms working in the Province. One of them is at Govindpur, under Sunamganj Subdivision. Sir, I have been living at Sunamganj for the last 8 years, and Govindpur is at a distance of 7 miles from the head-quarters station at Sunamganj. But I did never see any working as to farming or keeping of seeds at Govindpur. Sir, new provision for four farms is going to be made. Sunamganj is badly in need of a seed farm at present. In the remarks it is said that the greatest needs are those of North Lakhimpur, Goalpara, Garo Hills and South Sylhet. I think the greatest of needs is of Sunamganj at present.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Can the hon. Member enlighten the House how he can refuse the Grant for not starting a Seed Farm at Sunamganj ?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : My intention is that if no provision is made for Sunamganj, I shall refuse the grant. (*Laughter*).

My intention of supporting the Cut Motion is to draw the attention of Government to start a seed farm at Sunamganj. A scheme is only given in the list, but actually there is no action. So, my object to support the Cut Motion is to draw the attention of the Government to make it a real farm. With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the hon. Member—Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed for offering their valuable suggestions, for improving the Agriculture Department. We have seen how the Agriculture Department have been run by an administrator like the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition. We found there were other Hon'ble Ministers also in charge of the Department but still we found many defects and blemishes in it. I have taken up the charge of the portfolio for the last six months only. Any how, it has been admitted that the Agriculture Department is being carried on in a way—rather much below the standard that is expected by the hon. Members and the Government as well. But attempts are being made to raise the

condition of the Department to an appreciable standard. The present Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about introduction of mileage system of travelling allowance to the Agricultural Demonstrators and Kamdars.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No. The Cut Motion is for the total refusal of the Demand.

The Hon'ble Minister is to argue why the Demand should not be refused.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, various new schemes are being attempted to bring about an all round improvement in the Department. For the purpose of popularising the Department attempts are also being made and the Agriculture Officers have been instructed to contact the cultivators as much as possible. Experimental farms have been established here and there to carry on experiments and research work and new types of paddy are being evolved. There are also other methods by which attempts are being made to improve the Department. I assure the hon. Members that Government will take into their serious consideration the suggestions made by them. I for myself would ask the hon. Members to instruct the cultivators to contact Government farms of the locality and receive instructions on improved methods of cultivation. With this assurance, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Cut Motion.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, on the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The other hon. Member, Maulavi Md. Abdullah, in whose name Cut Motion No. 4 stands is absent. So, I put the original question.

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 63,732 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head 40.—Agriculture."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 13

(41.—VETERINARY)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that an additional sum of Rs. 43,696 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly—

Rs.

2,85,400

II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for:—

B.—Subordinate Establishment—

Pay of officers	...	...	...	1,170
Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	7,760
Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	5,500
Contingencies	...	...	...	11,266

F.—Works—Original works	...	...	...	Total	25,696
				...	18,000

Grand total. 43,696

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 43,696 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

There are five *Cut Motions against the Demand. To me it appears that none of them is in order. Will hon. Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan please move his Cut Motion ?

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Let No. 2 be moved, Sir. I don't like to move mine.

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs 25,696 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—41—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

*Cut Motions—

1. Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN to move :—

That the provision of Rs.1,170 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment, Sub-head—Pay of Officers, at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion for raising the pay of the Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeons).

2. Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 25,696 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the pay and prospects of the Officers under the Department).

3. Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE to move :—

That the provision of Rs.25,696 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of starting a Veterinary Dispensary at Chunari, Lakhipur Police Station in Goalpara Subdivision).

4. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move :—

That the provision of Rs.25,696 under Supplementary Demand No.13, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of starting two more Veterinary Dispensaries in Sunamganj—one being at Dharampassa.)

5. Mamtazul Muhaddisin Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN to move :—

That the provision of Rs.25,696 under Supplementary Demand No.13, Major head 41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,696 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion to establish a Veterinary Hospital at Ratabari in Karimganj Sub-division.)

Sir, by this Cut Motion, I want to raise a discussion about the pay and prospects of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons as well as Veterinary Field Assistants as provided in the Supplementary Budget. This provision is too inadequate in comparison with the service they render for the benefit of the general public. Their area of work is generally extensive. They are to cover 20 to 30 miles daily to attend to the calls of distant villages and they are to work hard in discharging their duties. The pay of the Assistant Surgeons is not satisfactory, particularly, the Veterinary Field Assistants who get a very small amount of pay. It is evident that these Field Assistants cannot meet their monthly expenditure with the small amount they get, not to speak of helping their families. These Field Assistants serve a very useful purpose in looking after the cattle of the Agriculturists which are very valuable properties of the poor agriculturists.

Sir, in all fairness they should be given a better pay to meet their demands. So, I request the Government to increase their pay and remove their long felt grievances.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 25,696 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—B.—Subordinate Establishment (total), at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 43,696 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Honble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for rather lending me this help at the time when I most need it. Since my taking over of this Department I have been thinking over this matter of improving the pay and prospects of the officers of this Department which seems to be very disquieting. I had discussions about this with the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and, Sir, during my tour when this matter was also brought up to me by the officers of the Department I advised them just to strengthen their cause by forming themselves into an association like their brethren of other services. Probably, due to this instruction there was a move among the officers of this Department and I received a notice that a deputation would be waiting on myself and the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The date for this was fixed to be the 18th instant, and yesterday both my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Minister and myself heard the deputation of the officers of this Department about raising their pay and prospects. Sir, it is in the contemplation of the Government to revise the scales of pay of other Departments as well, but that might take some time. There may be delay in doing that, and, Sir, if one considers the pay of a Veterinary Surgeon he is naturally urged to take up this matter into serious consideration that the Veterinary Surgeon starts with a pay of Rs. 55 per mensem—to me it seems rather very very difficult for an officer of the kind to maintain an establishment with this pay in the mofussil. The prospect of private practice is also not favourable in all places. Of course, where there are tea gardens a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon could get something but where there are no favourable circumstances their income is rather very much limited. So, considering all these we urged upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to take up the matter, and, Sir, I am glad to inform the House that it has been almost decided that as an interim relief it will be considered whether the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons can be given the pay of a Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeon which starts at Rs. 75 per mensem. The matter has been left for consideration and formal proposals will be brought up to the Hon'ble Finance

Minister and my Department will do that. Again, I assure the hon. Member that I am aware of the handicaps and difficulties under which the officers of this Department have been labouring and I am trying in every possible way to improve their conditions.

With these words, Sir, I would request, the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

Any other Member wants to move any other Cut Motion?

(After a pause)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main Supplementary Demand as a question.

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 43,696 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head "41—Veterinary."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 14

(43—INDUSTRIES)

The Honble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 66,945 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	3,51,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	
B.—Industrial Education—	
(c) Other Industrial Education—	
Allowances, etc.	405
C.—Sericulture—	
(a) Sericulture proper	12,740
D.—Works—Original works	53,800
Grand total	66,945

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 66,945 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the

year ending 31st March, 1947, for the administration of the head '43.—Industries'."

There is no Cut Motion under this, but if any hon. Member wants to take part he may do so.

Maulavi MAYEEN-UD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on this Motion. In my last Budget speech, I pointed it out to the Government that this is one of those important Departments through which the condition of the people of Assam in general could be improved and had made some definite suggestions. But here I find that the provisions which have been made for this Department is too inadequate to carry out any of the improvements suggested by me during the last Budget Session.

Sir, if we want to improve the condition of the people, the industries are to be given due importance. Now, in Assam there are enough of scopes for materialisation of various industrial schemes. Here, I find that four stipends have been provided for students for textile training in Bombay, Cawnpur and Ahemdabad and the amount of money allotted to each is Rs. 15 per mensem only. To my mind, this is too inadequate to enable the deserving students to have training there. I would like to stress that for the suitable and proper training which is essentially necessary for this particular textile branch, the value of the stipends should be increased from Rs. 15 to Rs. 75.

With regard to C.—Sericulture, Sir, I would like to say that it is stated in the explanation that the rural population of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills has not got any cottage industry among them. They are mainly agriculturists. As mulberry trees grow wild near about Jowai it will be very helpful for the mass people if this profitable industry of silk rearing and reeling be introduced among them. The climatic conditions, altitude, etc., will allow.....

(Here the clock struck 1 P.M.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want to know whether the hon. Member will take long. In that case, I shall adjourn now.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: I have some suggestions to make, Sir, I shall continue after 2 P.M.

Adjournment

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

(After lunch)

Condolence, on the death of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy

Maulavi MUDABBI'R HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you take up the scheduled business, with my very sad heart I am to draw your attention to the fact that Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy is no more in this world. To-day just now I have heard that his sad demise has been announced by radio. He was the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University for some time and held various responsible positions both in India and abroad and in order to show respect to the memory of this illustrious son of India who is no more, if you permit, Sir, the House may be adjourned for a few minutes in honour and a Resolution of condolence may be moved from the Chair and communicated to the members of the bereaved family.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know, Sir, whether we would have the adjournment of the House for the condolence Resolution which has been moved by my Friend, Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain. But, Sir, I do recognise that a great man has passed away and I want to associate myself with the sentiments he has expressed. So far as the adjournment of the House is concerned, Sir, I leave that matter entirely with you in view of the fact that on previous occasions as far as I remember we have not done so. But I leave it entirely with the Hon'ble the Speaker to decide how we should dispose of the business and if necessary to grant the adjournment sought for.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may inform the Hon'ble the Leader of the House that we have received the news that yesterday both the Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council were adjourned in honour of the deceased. I hope, Sir, a Resolution may be moved and a copy of the resolution may be sent to the bereaved family and the House may be adjourned, say, for 10 minutes.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not personally acquainted with the gentlemen but, I think, this side of the House will associate itself with the remarks of condolence. Regarding the adjournment of the House, I too suggest that that might be left to your discretion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Can I adjourn the House? (Voices:-only for 10 minutes).

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, we have saved sufficient time from the Demands.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am asking about the rules.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is nothing provided in the rules. It is in the discretion of the Chair.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member a Resolution in writing?

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: It may be moved from the Chair, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: By the time the Resolution is drafted I want to inform the House that the Opposition will please make up their mind as to which of the cut motions are sought to be moved. There are many Cut Motions and the last 15 minutes I propose to give to hon. Mr. A. C. Tunstall and the remainder will be available for other Cut Motions. I should like to request the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition to let me have it on the resumption of the House at 2-30 P.M.

Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL: Thank you, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I associate myself with all that has been said in respect of our illustrious countryman, who is no more to-day and I move this condolence Resolution which I hope will be accepted by all standing.

(All the hon. Members then rose in their seats).

"This House do now adjourn for 20 minutes for expressing its deep sense of condolence at the sad and untimely death of Colonel Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, a worthy son of India.

A copy of this Motion be sent to the bereaved family."

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

(After adjournment)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Hon. Maulavi Mayeenud-Din Ahmed may now proceed with his speech which he could not finish before lunch.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already pointed it out, that the training Institute in Bombay is the best of its kind and as such the value of the stipend would be too inadequate to meet all the expenses that would be required in Bombay. In view of the importance of the subject, Sir, I, not only suggest that the value of the stipends should be raised but the number of such stipends should be increased to at least ten.

Sir, I was telling about the mulberry silk industry. It is proposed in this scheme to start a small sericultural farm near Jowai. Sir, my idea is that establishment of such farms practically do no service for which they are started. We have personally seen such farms and I hold that they are of no use to the people for which they are meant. So, I suggest, Sir, that some students who are really keen and interested in the industry should be selected and sent up for the training for which scholarships should be awarded : and after they have received the necessary training they should be encouraged to take to this industry as their profession. Sir, the sericultural farm which is proposed to be started at Mangaldai for the benefit of the Jogi community there falls also on the same line. So, only deserving and willing students should be selected and trained and adequate number of scholarships should be awarded for the purpose. The experimental farm started at Titabar is doing practically no service to the people and is not bringing any benefit for which it was meant. I hope, Government will give their due and careful consideration for the improvement of this Department in the light of the suggestions made above. With these words, Sir, I request Government again to pay due attention to all this important Department.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has taken interest in this Department, and I am very thankful for all the suggestions that he has given. All his suggestions no doubt will receive due consideration of Government. In regard to the scholarships, Sir, the hon. Member wants Government to increase their number and I shall be glad indeed to increase the number as soon as our finances permit. Of course for our present financial reasons we had to limit the number. The next point on which the hon. Member spoke was about the sending of students to Titabar and other places for getting training in sericultural industry. The suggestion he has given is a good one no doubt. But at the same time I may point out that the people for whom these farms are started must see right before them how mulberry trees are planted, worms are reared and how the other things connected therewith are dealt with. Unless demonstrations on the above lines are given in the midst of the trainees they would not be able to follow or learn. For these reasons the farms are maintained. From the people of Mangaldai there was demand that there should be a sericultural farm so that those people can take to this industry. So a farm has to be started there. I do not think, in view of what I have stated, that the maintenance of such farms can be said to be unnecessary. Rather it is a great boon to the people who want to take to such business, and in these farms alone those people can learn this industry. I shall be glad if we can start more such farms at other places other than Titabar and Mangaldai whenever funds permit. There has been a proposal for increasing the number of students. In this respect I may say that as our farms are not big enough we could not admit more students than what we are doing now. Many people came forward for admission, but we could not provide them with it. But, Sir, I shall take note of the suggestion given by the hon. Member and shall try to do as best as we can, under our limited finances.

Under the Post-War Development Plan we have some schemes for the development of the sericultural industry. If our schemes are approved by the authorities,

they will give immense benefit to our people. We plan to give demonstration of this industry in every Subdivision to encourage cottage industry everywhere.
This is all I have to say, Sir.

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

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 66,945 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '43.—Industries'."

The question was adopted.

Now we come to Supplementary Demand No. 9.

Supplementary Demand No. 9

(37—Education)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 4,54,622 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European.)"

I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs.	59,93,900
---	-----	-----	-----------

II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—
University Education—

A. Government Arts Colleges—

					Rs.
1. Pay of officers	...	...	...	...	6,025
2. Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	...	2,525
3. Contingencies	...	...	...	...	600

B. Direct grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges—

1. Recurring grants	26,400
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Secondary Education—

E. Government Secondary Schools— (a) Secondary Schools for boys—

2. Pay of establishment	...	...	...	...	11,085
4. Contingencies	...	...	...	...	5,075

(b) Secondary Schools for girls—

2. Pay of establishment	...	...	...	...	1,800
3. Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	...	90
4. Contingencies	...	...	...	...	2,200

F. Direct grants to Non-Government secondary schools—

Non-recurring	48,800	} 1,04,570
Recurring	55,770	

	Rs.
G. Grants to local bodies for secondary schools—	33,000
H. Works original (secondary)—	65,481
Primary education—	
I. Government primary schools—	
1. Pay of establishment	480
J. Grants to local bodies for primary education—	75,600
K. Direct grants to Non-Government primary schools—	25,000
Special Education—	
M. Government Special Schools—	
(a) Normal or training schools	7,800
(b) Institution for higher Sanskrit learning—	
2. Pay of establishment	420
3. Allowances and honoraria	210
4. Contingencies	225
(c) Engineering school	1,526
(d) Sylhet Madrasa—	
2. Pay of establishment	1,370
N. Direct grants to Non-Government special schools	26,725
O. Grants to local bodies for special education	5,540
General charges—	
R. Inspection—	
1. Pay of officers	1,575
2. Pay of establishment	9,640
3. Allowances and honoraria	3,860
4. Contingencies	1,720
S. Scholarships—	9,240
T. Miscellaneous—	
(d) Other miscellaneous charges	24,840
Grand total	4,54,622

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 4,54,622 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "37—Education (other than European)".

Under this head we have as many as 31 Cut Motions. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has submitted a list of Cut Motions, which his Party propose to move and these are Nos. 2, 6, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Of this list I find that No. 6 is doubtful as to whether it is admissible or not. That will, however, be decided when it comes up. Now I shall ask hon. Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan to move Cut Motion No. 2.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 26,400 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head-B.—Direct grants to non-Government Arts Colleges Detailed head,—1—Recurring grants, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my object in raising this discussion is to increase the grant of the Brindaban College at Habiganj. I find, Sir, that some of the colleges in different places, such as, Gurucharan College at Silchar and the Madan Mohan College at

Sunamganj which sprang up only recently are getting more grants. It appears to me, Sir, that the case of Brindaban College, Habiganj has been badly ignored. This is the only sub-divisional College in Habiganj. It has been giving education to a great number of students both in the B.A. and I.A. classes and the results, so far achieved, have been highly satisfactory. So, it seems there is no reason why other colleges should have preference over this college so far as grant is concerned. I find, Sir, that at present the Gurucharan College is getting Rs.500. It has been further proposed to give an additional grant of Rs.200. The Sunamganj College which was started very recently has been proposed to be given a grant of Rs.600. The Madan Mohan College which is of recent origin is getting Rs.400 and it has been proposed to give an additional grant of Rs.200. The Brindaban College at Habiganj is getting at present Rs.300 and this year it has been proposed to give Rs.200 more. It will not be too much to say that the Habiganj College is getting step-motherly treatment in the hands of the Government. So, I request the Government to give at least Rs.400 more to this college. It is, Rs.200 as proposed and Rs.200 more, i.e., Rs.400 so that the grant of Habiganj College may be raised to Rs.700.

With these words, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the affairs of Habiganj College and I hope Government will be pleased to increase the grant for the Habiganj College to Rs.700 this year. With these few words I beg to commend my Cut Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.26,400 under Supplementary Demand No.9, Major head - 37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head-B.—Direct grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges, Detailed head—1.—Recurring grants, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re.1".

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker Sir, I take my stand to support the Cut Motion just moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan. I also gave notice of a similar Motion, though it was much wider in scope. My hon. Friend, just now stated that the Habiganj Brindaban College is not getting a fair deal in the hand of the Hon'ble Education Minister. The position of the College, Sir, is this. The present roll strength of students is about 225. Out of these students, 25 are enjoying half free studentships or full free studentships. So they can realise fees from 200 students and are getting a fee of Rs.7 monthly from every student. The average amount of income from fees comes to about Rs.1,400 and as is proposed in the Budget, with an additional amount of Rs.500 the monthly income of the college comes to Rs.1,900. But in the expenditure side the college has to meet a demand of Rs.2,500 monthly, in meeting the pay of Professors and the establishment. Moreover, Sir, this college has got honours classes in Economics and English and several students have secured honours. In the proposed Budget proposal, at page 21, we find that some colleges have been given some preferential consideration on the ground that Commerce class has been opened or Science class has been opened. But the Habiganj College which is the oldest private college in the Province ought to have received some consideration at the hands of Government. But in the list it is found that the Habiganj College has been relegated to the lowest position.

Sir, the college authorities have constructed a college building and spent Rs. 45,000 of which they had to borrow Rs. 20,000. So, they are indebted to the

extent of Rs.20,000. Sir, my Cut Motion is intended to raise a discussion about the inadequacy of the grants-in-aid to this college and to try whether Government can give a grant of Rs. 20,000 to this college as building grant. We are not going to grudge the grants to other colleges but the comparison is intended to show that the Habiganj College is not getting a fair deal in the hands of the Government. The college is running with a deficit Budget. In view of this the college authority has every reason to expect that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education will see his way to increase the grant to this college and give a lump sum non-recurring building grant to Habiganj college. With these few words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion of Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr Speaker, Sir, I can have nothing but sympathy for the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion. But I expected at least a fairer deal at his hand than what he and his supporters have chosen to give me. It will be seen, Sir, that grants are given under certain principles. The hon. Mover of the Cut Motion and his supporter said that the Brindaban College is an old College, but I think there are older Colleges than it, as for example, the Jorhat College. It will be found that I have not been more partial in giving grant to the Jorhat College than to the Habiganj College. But I made some exception in the case of three colleges—two in the Surma Valley and one in the Assam Valley, and that was done on certain principle. The Education Department was proposing to open Commerce classes in the Government colleges also, but in the meantime, such Commerce classes were already opened in the Madan Mohan College as well as the B. Borooah College. Therefore, the money proposed for the Government colleges was divided between these two colleges and thereby giving the students much better opportunity than what would have been possible in the Government colleges. In these colleges, Sir, arrangement has been made for teaching in night hours. It is for these reasons that these colleges have been given additional grants more than to any other college.

As regards the Sunamganj College, that is the newest venture college in science as a private institution. Therefore, the grant that was given to this college was three times as much as what was given to any other college, that is to say, Rs. 600 a month. This may be regarded as a preferential treatment but it has been done with the expressed idea of encouraging science teaching by private body and with the specific object that in the newer changes that are coming to this Province as to India, we require more training in science than possibly in arts. I do sympathise with the hon. Mover as well as his supporter, but as I said, our Budget estimates are cut and dried now. I am afraid, there is no money either for recurring or non-recurring grant during the present year. I shall however bear the suggestions of my hon. Friends in mind and try to see whether in the next year some money can be provided with a view to meet their wishes for the improvement of the Habiganj College. In view of what I have said, I hope, Sir, the Mover of the Motion will be well advised to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Education Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, comes Cut Motion No. 6. How this is relevant, I do not understand.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir of course, there is no direct connection of this grant with the Hamidabad Institution but as we are being allowed to ventilate our grievances, I wish to raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of increasing the Government grant to this institution as it indirectly concerns us.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right. The hon. Member may ventilate his grievance.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 26,400 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head—B.—Direct grants to non-Government Arts Colleges, Detailed head—1.—Recurring grants, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of increasing the Government grant to the only Islamic Intermediate College in the Province at Hamidabad in Dhubri Subdivision.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It would suffice if the hon. Mover's Cut Motion had been discussed with the Cut Motion No. 4. That would have minimised the time of the House. This procedure was adopted in the previous sessions of the Assembly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Strictly speaking, that will not do.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It is for economy's sake.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Sir, for the information of the House, I can say that this year they have achieved cent. per cent. result and cent. per cent. of the students came out successful in the final examination.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: On a point of information, Sir. What was the number?

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: The number is two and out of this two both passed.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Will the hon. Member please say what is the total number of students of that College?

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: This is a college for Islamic Education. There are, Sir, institutions where we are getting High Madrassa education in the Province and after passing high Madrassa examination if any of the students desires to go for higher Islamic studies, it is quite natural for him to go into an Islamic Intermediate college. As there is no other such institution in the Province and, Sir, taking into account the increase in the number of High Madrassas Government should provide such an institution with increased grant so that those students who come out successful from the High Madrassas will go and take admission.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: He has already avoided to answer my question, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Probably, patience will be rewarded.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Now, Sir, this is a new adventure and the hon. Members will be pleased to hear that the existing strength of the College is about 18 students to my belief.

(Voice—Less than 20.)

There are many other colleges of secular education having lesser number of students. The Nalbari Sanskrit College has on its enrolment not more than 18 and still the college is getting grant.

This Islamic College has been started by one man's effort and endeavour and if the Government do not take up the College, at least they should increase the grant. Otherwise, it shall have to be closed down and thereby deprive those students who desire to take higher education in Islamic studies.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to consider whether they should increase the grant of the said College or not. Now, Sir, it may be said that it is situated in a out of the way place, but the Government has acknowledged that Hamidabad is gradually coming into prominence, educationally, politically, socially and economically. I refer to page 56 of the list of new schemes wherein they have provided for a sum for the improvement of Hamidabad. Government have stated therein that the place is very important and it being situated on the road 2 miles north of Faki ganj, plays an important part in the educational, social, religious, economic and political life of Dhubri South bank. I want to add here a word, that in educational matters this place has added importance not only of Dhubri but of the whole Province as here is situated the only Intermediate Islamic College.

So, Sir, I hope the Government will realise the importance and also the necessity for increasing the grant. Herein one more point can be mentioned regarding the difficulties which the students are undergoing in studying in this College. Recently, the Government of Assam have created the Assam Muhammadan Board of Education without making any provision to hold the examination of the students of the Hamidabad Intermediate Islamic College and as a result the authorities of the Hamidabad College had to write to the Dacca Board of Muhammadan Education, but the Dacca Board of Muhammadan Education stated that as the Government of Assam had withdrawn its grant which it gave to the Board before the creation of the Assam Board they were unable to hold Intermediate examination for this College. And, Sir, after a great deal of correspondence with the Dacca Board they later on agreed. Now, the Government of Assam will please either direct the Assam Muhammadan Education Board to make provision for holding the examination for this Islamic College or give some contribution to the Dacca Board of Muhammadan Education to allow students from our Islamic Intermediate College to appear in the final examination.

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

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

"That the provision of Rs. 26,400 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, Major head.—37—Education, Minor head—University Education, Sub-head—B.—Direct grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges, Detailed head—1.—Recurring grants at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, most of the hon. Members are not aware of the scheme which necessitates this College. Therefore, I intervene in this debate. There were thousands of religious institutions for Madrassa education not only in Bengal but also in Assam where nothing but religious books were taught. Progressive opinions

in the country wanted to give a leaven of secular knowledge and a curriculum was evolved for these Madrassas, with the result that the Dacca University introduced a separate branch for Islamic Studies and provision was made for teaching religious subjects along with secular subjects and that branch is called the Islamic Studies Series. Hon. Members may see now and then certain graduates after his B. A. writes Islamic Studies, that means that he has learnt not only secular subjects but he is well-versed with the religious lore of the Muslims as well. This scheme was introduced some 30 years ago in the Dacca University course in order to meet the demand of the Muslim public and in order to give an outlet for higher studies to those who wanted to prosecute the Arabic Religious course along with secular subject. In order to provide for the scheme, high Madrassas were introduced in both Bengal and Assam. In High Madrassas three-fourths of the course consist of religious books and one-fourth of the normal subjects of Matriculation class. The Dacca University has recognised that the final of High Madrassa course is the Matriculation standard. And it is left to a student passing the High Madrassa standard to get admitted into the Arabic Intermediate College, or into the normal College.

As has been stated by my hon. Friend, an esteemed Member of the late Assembly, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, started this college out of his own funds. As it is situated in a rural locality, it could not attract many students. But arrangements have been made for free board and lodging with the villagers; gradually students are coming. It consists of two classes and there are about 18 students. As time goes on the number is expected to increase. I understand that there is only this High Madrassa throughout the Province.

I congratulate my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Hai that he has brought this to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier who holds the Education portfolio. I hope, if he has no money this year, he will consider the case of this unique institution in the Province for a grant both recurring and non-recurring, next year.

The Hon'ble Srijiit GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of what the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion has said, I would like to take the credit of maintaining the grant so long instead of removing it altogether. It might be known, Sir, that although the duty of prescribing curricula for the High Madrassa was with the Dacca Board, the Government of Assam, after having taken the responsibility of prescribing this curricula, have not undertaken the responsibility of having the curricula for the college course. The duty to have this college for recognition as an intermediate college must rest with such authorities as are in a position to give that recognition.

Now, Sir, the question raised by our Department was that when this College had not been able to secure that recognition from the Dacca University, the amount should be discontinued. But when the question of the discontinuance of the grant was raised on account of the fact of this non-recognition, I sent an urgent request to the Dacca University to recognise this institution. That recognition has not yet come and we are placed in rather an awkward situation in the sense that it being a college and the grant being one under the head 'College', the grant on technical grounds cannot stand. Question has been raised about the number of students. It can even be overlooked; but how I am to overlook the other question I do not know. Unless we have a new head in the Budget in order to help this institution particularly, grant as it is cannot stand. I quite recognise the desirability felt by some friends of higher education consisting of religious education combined with secular education although I am one of those who would make education as general as possible, but that I take as my personal opinion and not as the opinion of the Government. Government is still maintaining this old attitude and I suppose it will maintain it till we can

[19TH SEPT.]

agree among ourselves to give up the idea of the necessity of maintaining the kind of education that is now given, viz., *tol* education and Madrassa education.

So my one difficulty I have explained to you viz the difficulty that if the Institution is to have a grant under the Head 'College education' it must be a College.

In view of the technical difficulty that has arisen, I hope the hon. Leader of the Opposition and my hon. Friend the Mover of the Cut Motion will give us time to consider this matter. At present we are maintaining the grant in the expectation that the Dacca University may yet recognise this as a college. If this is not done, I hope, the hon. Leader of the Opposition will give us time to consider this matter and see if the grant can be maintained in some other shape.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: An hon. Member wanted to know the present strength of the college.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have no definite information. It was 7 when I took up the matter. I do not know what strength is there now.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I interrupt the Hon'ble Premier? The hon. Mover has stated that the number is 18.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That might be correct. In view of what I have said, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Hearing the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion. At the same time, I should like to say that the Hon'ble Premier may consult our Leader as to under what head this grant may continue.

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

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

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.48,800 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—Secondary Education, Sub-head—F.—Direct grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Detailed head—Non-recurring, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i. e. the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion my object is to draw the attention of Government to the Baniachong Loknath Ratanmani High School. Sir, I think, I can speak without any fear of contradiction that this is the oldest non-Government High School in the Province. It has been in existence for about 50 years and rendering a great help in the matter of imparting secondary education in Baniachong and its neighbourhood. Baniachong is the biggest village in India, Sir, with a population of 40,000. The roll strength of the school is 350. (A voice: only). One of my Friends is saying "only". I would however like to draw his attention to the fact that on account of the Malaria epidemic that broke out in 1942 about 13 to 14 thousand people died and a number of students also died. The number of students has fallen on account of that.

We have got two big buildings, the existence of which are due to the munificence of the estates Nos. 5 and 6 of which the Hon'ble the Supply Minister is a major shareholder. Sir, I happen to be a member of the Managing Committee of this school for the last few years. There has been great difficulty in accommodating the students and the result is that two sections have to be huddled together in the same room with the result that the education suffers. You can easily imagine, Sir, how can two sections be accommodated in the same room and taught by two teachers. Unless and until the accommodation is increased it will not be possible for the school to carry on with its work satisfactorily. Extension of the building is badly required. In the last Managing Committee meeting I was there. We considered the matter in detail and it was found that about Rs. 8,000 will be necessary for the extension of the building. Sir, this paltry sum is not much for the Government of Assam and I hope the Hon'ble Education Minister will be pleased to take this matter into consideration and a non-recurring grant will be made.

Sir, so far as the importance of this school is concerned, I may tell the hon. House that not only the students of Baniachong but also students from the different parts of the district and also from Mymensing and Tippera come to the houses of their relations to get their education there. If it is enquired into, Sir, it will be found that many gentlemen now holding high position in life got their education in this school. Some of you might know the name of Babu Shama Charan De who founded the school at great personal sacrifice but subsequently the estate Nos. 5 and 6 came to the help of the school and provided two pucca buildings.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I remind the hon. Member that the Brindaban College and the Baniachong School are taking up the entire time and no other Member will get any chance.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: I am finishing, Sir. I shall request the Hon'ble Education Minister to look into the matter and be pleased to grant a non-recurring grant for the extension of this school building.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 48,800 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Secondary Education, Sub-head—F.—Direct grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools, Detailed head Non-recurring, at page 3 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 4,54,622 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if my hon. Friend's demand was the only one which the Government had to satisfy, I would have found no difficulty to meet all that he has asked for. But it should be remembered that there are 186 aided schools in this Province and what the Government have been able to provide is only a sum of Rs. 25,000 for all the schools put together. It may be, there may be one or two lucky schools than the rest; but it is absolutely clear that it will not be possible to render all the help the schools want. I have heard the hon. Member and the grievances he has made out. I can only tell him that I shall look into them and see what relief can be given to meet the many difficulties he had made mention of. I hope, Sir, in view of the apparent difficulty my hon. Friend will be pleased to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: In view of the assurance given, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But no assurance has been given. He said that all the schools rank in the same level.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Yes, Sir, he has given some assurance that he will look into the matter.

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

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

Mr. A.C. TUNSTALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs 4,54,622 under Supplementary Demand No.9, at page 3-4 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.4,54,622 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I am bringing this Cut Motion because I feel that there is very great need for an adequate conception of the urgency for trained teachers. In the past, primary education has not yielded very satisfactory results. Less than 25% complete the course and the census returns for illiteracy prove that many of those who complete the course lapse into illiteracy within a few years. There are many reasons for this colossal wastage.

One of the greatest defects in Indian Education in all stages is that it tends to create a bias against all forms of manual work. This did not very much matter when most of the students belonged to the non-cultivating classes. It fitted well with their traditional associations and it has undoubtedly been of great benefit to India. It has done more than anything else to lead the people along the road to self-Government.

Now that goal is about to be obtained, there is urgent need for a thorough reorganisation of educational methods. The introduction of adult franchise is the avowed intention of all the major political parties, and the masses of India must be educated so that they may carry out their new duties with wisdom and knowledge.

So far the political leadership of India has been provided by the non-cultivating classes, and the labouring classes and lower castes generally have produced few leaders of note. The education of the masses of India is essential so that they may produce and select a succession of leaders of their own.

The early association of school education with the higher castes has linked all education in India with non-manual occupations and it is well known that attendance at school tends to produce a distaste for all forms of manual work. A mere extension of the present system to include the masses of India, 90 per cent. of whom must of necessity earn their food by the sweat of their brows, would in all probability do more harm than good.

Vocational training has been acclaimed as a panacea for all educational ills but it is futile to expect young children to benefit directly from vocational training. It is therefore necessary to rely on the teacher to prevent the building up of a bias against manual work in the minds of children in the primary stages. If, however, the teacher is himself biased against manual work it is difficult to see how he can avoid passing on that bias to his pupils—for "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he".

There are certain fundamentals which a child requires to learn and the curriculum of the primary teaching cannot differ very much from that already accepted. But the outlook of the teacher greatly influences that of the pupil whatever curriculum is laid down. It is therefore of the utmost importance to select the right kind of persons for this work.

As almost all the personnel available have already acquired the bias against manual work it will take time to build up the new outlook so essential to sound progress. The sooner we set about it the quicker we may expect results.

First of all we have to secure the material of which it is possible to make the kind of teachers we require. At first sight we seem to be in a vicious circle—until we get the material we cannot make the teachers and until we have the teachers we cannot prepare the material. So great will be the demand for teachers that it would be worth while to consider the introduction of special compulsory courses in all high schools and colleges, designed to build up the practical outlook. Here again the question of required staff arises but I believe it could be done with a minimum of training personnel by standing camps which all the students in a district would attend for one month each year, class by class, in succession. If the camps were run on the patrol system a comparatively small number of specially trained instructors could deal with all the students in a district. The corporate life in the camps would of itself help greatly in building up a sense of civic responsibility and national unity.

Having built up the right kind of outlook it would still be necessary for the teachers to learn the technique of teaching. Teachers, like doctors, require to be trained before they can be expected to do their work efficiently. I have been in close touch with the training of teachers for many years and believe that, unless the outlook of the young pupil teachers has already been built up on the lines suggested a course of three years' duration is the very minimum required.

At present we have facilities for producing only about one hundred fully trained teachers per annum. That does not include those teachers who are trained for comparatively short period and they cannot be classified as really trained teachers. But we produce in all, I understand, less than 100 fully trained normal school passed teachers. Now, there are over 24 lakhs of children between the ages of six and fourteen. Assuming 30 pupils to be the maximum number per teacher, 80,000 teachers will be necessary. Not less than 800 years would be required to produce them at the present rate. That is, assuming they all continued to function throughout the 800 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the need for the development of a new outlook in education is so urgent that I am sure that none of the hon. Members should object to Government making use of any existing institution likely to be helpful in this matter. A great many people have very little idea of what is meant by the Wardha system, or of Basic Education. They assume that it is some sort of political ramp. This is not at all a surprising assumption but it is nevertheless untrue. Basic Education is education closely associated with some form of handicraft. The child is taught his reading, writing and arithmetic, etc. etc., through using them in connection with manual work. In the Wardha system the manual work is more or less limited to weaving but the principle is the same—learning by doing—a basic principle of all education. I do not hold any special brief for Wardha or any other centre of education, but I think that people do not quite understand what is the significance of this particular system of education. There is nothing wrong in it politically. It has nothing to do with politics. It is however obvious that only a very few of the 80,000 men required can be trained at Wardha or anywhere else outside the Province and hundreds of training schools for teachers will have to be established before the education of the masses is anything more than a gesture.

At present I believe a total sum of Rs. 65,000 and odd has been provided for teacher's training. This is a very small sum, when we take into consideration the number of schools necessary for the training of these 80,000 teachers. For these 80,000 teachers about 200 schools will be necessary. I hope that all parties will combine to see that adequate provision is made for these. It is a common saying

that "those who can do and those who can't teach" We want the best men we can get—for the sake of the future of our children. We don't want the type of man who is a failure in everything else. To make teaching an honourable profession we must make provision for increasing the pay and prospects of the teachers. In this country, as in many others, a man's worth is often assessed by the salary he draws. It should not be but that is how it usually works out. The emoluments of the teaching personnel should at any rate be raised to level comparable with that of other Government departments.

Now I do not want to take up the time of the House by speaking any longer. In conclusion I would remind the hon. Members that education is not merely book learning. It must help us to answer three questions—

Is it right or wrong ?

Is it true or false ?

Is it beautiful or ugly ?

It must also provide us with the knowledge and skill to carry out the actions which the above judgments demand.

A great teacher once said, "A little child shall lead them". Perhaps the little children for whose future I earnestly plead will guide this great country to the unity we all so much desire. Government has a very grave responsibility in this matter and I trust that all parties will work together wisely so that generations yet unborn will bless our work.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs. 4,54,622 under Supplementary Demand No. 9, at pages 3-4 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs. 100, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 4,54,622 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am thankful for the statement made by Mr. Tunstall and for bringing to the pointed attention of the House to the urgent necessity of having good and trained teachers to teach our rising young generation of boys and girls. In this Cut Motion the hon. Member could also have spoken on the necessity of having trained teachers for the secondary schools, but to it he made no particular reference.

Nobody realises the importance of his remarks more than I do and I am glad to say that after two decades the Government for the first time is launching a plan for expenditure of Rs. 88,000 for training of teachers of our primary schools. I quite agree with Mr. Tunstall when he says that illiteracy mainly in the villages is due not merely to want of good teachers but also due to the nature of education that is imparted to the children. I also support him in what he says, namely, that from the very childhood, in the system of education, we should be able to give them training to develop a strong mind and strong limbs in order to make them fit for doing all kinds of work in life. This scheme, Sir, was discussed with the experts of our Education Department and considered in all its perspectives and only then this grant was provided for. It will be seen from the estimates, Sir, that we now propose to start 6 more training centres for teachers over and above those we formerly had, i. e., 2 male training schools—one at Jorhat and one at Silchar, and 2 girls training schools—one at Silchar and one at Nowgong. This increased training schools are expected to turn out 200 per cent. more trained teachers than we used to have before. I can speak for the information of the hon. Members that at present we do not get in a year more than 100 male and female teachers trained for primary standard in all but now

we expect to have another 200 of them. I do not know what is the exact number of untrained teachers that we have in service both under the Local Boards and the Government, but it is I suppose in the neighbourhood of 10,000; but with all that we have now in all we cannot have more than 500 teachers. I do not think we have yet decided whether the course of training will be 6 months or a year. I think, at present, it is a year; mostly but only in some cases it could be 6 months. But it is expected that normally we may have only 300 trained teachers coming out from these training schools in a year. As I said before the task before us is really immense, but I consider that we should make some beginning somewhere, and here is actually the beginning. I personally think that we should increase the training centres very much in number—very much more than at present. I feel that every subdivision ought to have a training centre for primary teachers. (*Voices : Hear, hear.*)

Now, regarding the nature of training that we propose to give to the teachers is another matter which is very worthy of consideration. I must speak to a sense of dismay that the present curricula for the teachers' training schools are not exactly what they should be. We should be able to bring into the minds of the teachers who are going to take charge of the boys that one of the best ways of imparting education to the growing minds is through some manual work.

I found that certain Cut Motions were tabled by several hon. Friends on the opposite regarding the Wardha Scheme of training. I would have been very much glad to discuss the matter. As a matter of fact I have no bias in favour of any particular kind of system on account only of its name. What is in my mind is basic system of education, which only means that education should be imparted through some manual work—some work of the hands in which boys feel interested. As soon as a boy or a girl can move about he or she runs after seeing all around. It is a natural instinct, and by imposing some books and books alone we actually throttle the life of a child. I do not like to take up the time of the House by these discussions, but I feel that a true system of education must give some manual work, and some intelligence, and all that a boy sees around him, and if possible, also give him training in crafts or in arts which his surroundings require in order to enable him to lead a life of useful citizen in the society. I wanted to provide a small sum of money in that head for the basic school teachers in each centre, but I am sorry to inform the House that we could not get such trained teachers. It was not a plea, Sir, of introducing basic education, but all that was meant for that allotment was that we might get some trained teachers, who would be able to give such vocational training to the boys, but unfortunately we have not been able to get such teachers. The result is that the scheme will remain unfulfilled, and possibly to the dis-satisfaction of many on the opposite side. I do not know, but from the trend of Cut Motions put, I felt that the Opposition did not like the idea that was behind the basic education. I may be wrong, and I am subject to correction in this.

So, Sir, what I am going to say is that we have made a humble beginning; we realise the necessity of training the teachers in a particular line. It is quite true that we have not been able to give that attention to the preparation of curriculum that is necessary, but I hope it will be possible for Government to evolve some kind of good curriculum by which this may be possible.

While I thank hon. Mr. Tunstall for putting the Cut Motion before the House, I suppose, I can reasonably expect that he will withdraw his Cut Motion giving us a chance of doing what we can, in the line suggested before the House.

Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL : With great pleasure I beg to ask leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier.

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

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we conclude the Cut Motions under this grant, may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Motion No.13 ? By this Cut Motion Sir, the Mover wanted to raise a discussion about the removal of Babu Jamini Kanta Roy, B. A., Assistant Head Master, Deraï High School. This gentleman was imprisoned during the Congress movement in August, 1942. For this account the School Committee was directed by the authorities to remove him, and accordingly he was removed. May I hope that the Hon'ble Prime Minister will please take necessary steps so that for this political offence the particular teacher may not be victimised ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the grievance was brought to my notice some 20 or 21 days ago by some representatives of some students organisation. I have taken up the matter and called for an enquiry by the Director of Public Instruction as to the actual state of affairs. I am very pleased to hear the circumstances from the hon. Member, and I can assure him that I am moving in the matter and I will do what is proper in the circumstances.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now I am putting the main Demand as a question.
 The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.4,54,622 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head '37.—Education (other than European)".

The question was adopted.

Discussions on Unstarred Question No.173 under Assembly Rule 40

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, we shall begin the debate. I propose to divide the half of an hour in equal moiety ; 15 minutes for the hon. Mover opening and supporting and 15 minutes for the Government Member to reply.

Hon. Maulavi Mayeenud-Din Ahmed Chowdry is to open the debate.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purpose of asking these Questions before this House was to obtain a definite answer from the Government regarding the policy they have adopted in the matter of reorganisation of the Debt Conciliation Boards in the Surma Valley in particular. Sir, in reply to my Unstarred Question No.173(e) regarding the principle adopted by Government in the matter of reconstitution of the Debt Conciliation Board, Government answered—"Those Boards were reconstituted for the continuance of which there were public demands, before which a large number of cases were pending, and which had shown most activity in the past". Sir, the Sylhet Debt Conciliation Board was reconstituted before its term expired. From the answers it is clear that this Board was carrying on with its work most efficiently and the Government by their answers have exposed themselves when they say that they have reconstituted the Board for more efficient discharge of their functions. Sir, in fact, the motive for the reconstitution of these Boards was nothing but to drive out those Muslim members who belonged to the Muslim League Organisation,

because we find that none of the old Muslim members has been taken in in any of the present Boards. In the places of two Muslim members of the Sylhet Board, two muslims who belong to the Jamiat-ul-Ulema have been taken, one of whom has been taken only because he fought the Muslim League candidate at the last election.

Sir coming to the Habiganj Board, it will be found that this Board has been reconstituted with three members, the Chairman of which, so far as my information goes, is an invalid man and even the Congress people of that place represented the matter to the Government and urged the Government for the removal of the Chairman. So, Sir, it will appear clearly from the Questions and Answers that the present Government have decided to reconstitute these Boards with no other motive than to patronise their own henchmen, supporters and show-boys.

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister appealed for co-operation of the Muslim League at the last Budget Session as well as in this Session on the floor of this hon. House and at the same time his Government are driving out the members belonging to the Muslim League Organisation from these Boards with a view to patronise their own henchmen. Such being the case, Sir, I fail to understand how they can expect the co-operation from the Muslim League under the existing circumstances. It appears that they are appealing for co-operation within the Legislature and waging war against the Muslim League outside. If the Hon'ble Ministers are really sincere and true in their utterances for co-operation of the Muslim League, they should by their action prove so. We have come here not to fight with any body, but to represent the cases of the people and to do good to them. If Government are not going to do anything for the people whom we represent, we have no other alternative but to oppose the Government. With these words, Sir, I hold the Government responsible for creating a bad feeling between themselves and the Opposition by their own actions.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words on this subject. From the Answers to Question No.173, it will be found that three Debt Conciliation Boards have been reconstituted viz., the Sylhet, Habiganj and Karimganj Boards. But unfortunately the Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board before which about 900 cases were pending has been altogether abolished. I do not understand the reason why the Sunamganj Board received such a differential treatment. I represented the case to the Hon'ble Minister-in charge during the last March Session of the Assembly and received an assurance that within two months he would call for a report from the Subdivisional Officer and that if so many cases were really pending before the Board, he would reconstitute it. But I am sorry to say that no action had been taken in the matter.

Now, as regards the constitution of the Habiganj Board, it has been constituted no doubt, but it is not functioning at all. It has already been stated on the floor of this House that the Chairman of this Board—an honourable gentleman who was also at one time a Member of this hon. House, is too ill to act as Chairman, and the two members are almost illiterate and one can hardly sign his name in English. In the circumstances, how is it possible for the Board to function properly? This fact was represented to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge by the Congress Committee of Habiganj but I think no action was taken in it. The President of the Habiganj District Congress Committee happens to be a Member of this House. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge could easily ascertain these facts from him.

As regards the Karimganj Board, the grievance is same in respect of the appointment of the Muslim members. The other day the Hon'ble Minister-in-

charge in answer to a question said, he did not know what particular party these honourable gentlemen belonged to. It is curious that all of them were either defeated candidates or workers of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema.

Sir, the most salutary principle in reconstituting the Boards ought to have been the selection of the best men irrespective of party colour. The members of the Debt Conciliation Boards must enjoy the confidence of the public as they are called upon to conciliate and not to pass a verdict in a dispute. I doubt very much if the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge actually meant business when he reconstituted these Boards. As regards the Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board, I draw his special attention and say that no more time should be lost in reconstituting the Board.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that he reconstituted the Boards with men of extraordinary merit and calibre for swift work. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali has been appointed Chairman of the Karimganj Board in place of Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Chaudhury, B.L., M. L. C.

(There was some noise outside the Assembly Chamber).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. Probably, the hon. House would like this nuisance to be removed from the precincts of the Chamber.
(Voices : We are being disturbed).

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : This should not be allowed during the Assembly hours.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : I would leave to the hon. Members and the Hon'ble Finance Minister who know both to judge between the two gentlemen as regards extra-ordinary capacity. Babu Birendra Lal Das is the Chairman of the North Sylhet Debt Conciliation Board and about his extraordinary calibre the Hon'ble Finance Minister knows and so also many other hon. Members, and, perhaps, the Hon'ble the Deputy Leader of the Government Benches will be able to say better about this. In the Karimganj

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : On a point of information, Sir. Was he not made an Honorary Magistrate by the last Ministry ?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, we know very well the qualifications of the Honorary Magistrates. One gentleman who possesses extraordinary qualifications no doubt has been put in the Karimganj Board, I mean, Maulavi Sajjad Ali Chaudhury, B.A. I do not know how he could get the degree of B. A., he has not seen University Education and he is not, so far as my information goes, even a Matriculate.

As regards two Members of the North Sylhet Debt Conciliation Board which has been reconstituted, I would like to mention that Maulavi Suleiman Khan has been rewarded because he was set up as a candidate at the last election against hon. Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza Choudhury. He got this reward because he was induced to resign his job in the Government Madrasa to stand in the Assembly election in which he was badly defeated. He undoubtedly deserved the reward. Again, Maulavi Masaddar Ali who helped the Parliamentary Secretary of the Hon'ble Premier in the last election has been put in the Board. Can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary deny it ?

Sir, in all these three Boards reconstituted not one Muslim League member has been nominated, and yet in season and out of season the Government ask for co-operation from us. Are we in the future to proceed in this manner ? Should

not there be continuity in Government actions? Is there any justification whatsoever for dissolving the Boards before the term expired to put men of inferior qualifications as Chairmen and members of Boards? Has the Hon'ble Minister in-charge any justification to state on the floor of this House that these specimen of humanity are men of an extraordinary calibre and thus to cast slur on the learned profession to which I and many of the hon. Members of this House belong? (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, there should be some sort of continuity. A pledge was given by Government that the Debt Conciliation Boards should continue for certain years. The Boards were constituted by the past Government. This Government should respect it. I would with equal vehemence oppose the actions of a subsequent Government to undo or alter the acts of this Government. Without any very special and extraordinary reason this should not be done.

This along with the manner the supply agencies have been created, does not justify that this Government is out to seek for the co-operation of the Opposition.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Here also the supply business.
(At this stage Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith took his stand.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am afraid the time of the Opposition is over. The Opposition is allowed half the time.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH : The Hon'ble Minister in-charge may have 10 minutes and I will be able to finish in 5 minutes if it is given to me, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : No, Sir, I want more time; 10 minutes won't do. In 10 minutes I will not be able to give detailed information to the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Perhaps, the Chief whip of the Congress Party will like to take part?

***Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA :** Sir, the Debt Conciliation Act was meant for giving relief to the poor people and this is why the Debt Conciliation Boards were set up in different Subdivisions of the District of Sylhet. But callously enough in the previous Boards the memberships were such that any stress of imagination cannot find that these members were meant to give relief to the poor but instead of that, on the other hand, they were meant to give relief to the money-lenders and Zemindars, and as a result it was seen that in almost all the cases the members were coming from that class of money-lenders and landlords. (*Voice—Never*). Look at the names in the list and you will find either the members belonged to the privileged or landlord classes of the society or money-lenders. As has been said by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about one Chairman, of course, I am not going to compare one with the other, suffice it to say that in Karimganj there were serious allegations about the muddle in the Board's administration when Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Chaudhury was the Chairman. I do not want to say anything about Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud

Ali, but I want to say that serious charges were levelled against the previous members. Cases were standing before the Board for more than two years, records were missing, accounts and bills were missing and it is the Chairman against whom such allegations were made for the state of things prevailing there. It was absolutely necessary to change the members and this is why the members have been changed with persons who are mostly akin or alike to the interests of the poor peasants and debtors. It is not so much for the party to which they belong but as they understand the lot of the poor debtors better. That is the principle which had been followed and not to keep some members against whom there were serious allegations of bad practices and corruption. This is the reason, Sir, why the members had to be changed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : It seems he is contradicting the statement given in reply to question under consideration by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will explain because I did not like, in answering a question, to bring before the House all these nasty things. We do not like to wash dirty linens in public. But when one hon. Member praises some old members and Chairmen of Debt Conciliation Boards and when comparison has been made with the present Chairman of a certain Debt Conciliation Board, we have no alternative but to explain things to the hon. House.

I will begin by replying to the point raised by the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He says that the last Chairman of the Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board was a man of very extraordinary merit and that he should not have been substituted by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, who was an *ex*-Minister. I can, for the information of the House, inform that this *ex*-Chairman, Maulavi Abdul Mayeed Chaudhury, B.L., M.L.C., is not only a pleader, but that during his time there were serious allegations of corrupt practices that the Board had taken recourse to. Records were missing, account books were missing and it will surprise the House that timely deposit of money, under the rule, was not made, for which the Chairman was responsible for depositing it in the treasury. That will amount, I think, to temporary criminal misappropriation under the technical provisions of the law. Allegations were made that the whole Board consisted of Zemindars and on enquiry I was satisfied. I will give the names—Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Karim Chaudhury; then another merchant, Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Chaudhury—he is also a landlord; and another landlord and merchant Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen. They had interest adverse to that of the poorer classes of the people. Police enquiry was going on and continued for years. Under such state of things Government had no alternative but to reconstitute the Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board. This was reconstituted on the expiry of the term of the Board.

***Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY :** Abdul Khaleque was replaced but he had no share in the Zemindary, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Of course, he might not have any share in the Zemindary, but he was connected with the Board against which a police enquiry was going on. Records of the Board were stolen and many other things happened. So I did not like to keep any of those persons specially those who had no feeling towards the poorer classes of the people. This is why this Board was reconstituted by three new persons. The number was decreased to make the Board more efficient.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The Hon'ble Minister says that the previous Board had no connection with the people. Are the new members known to the Hon'ble Minister in charge personally ? He should not, as one of the members of the Treasury Bench, make irresponsible statement and repeat that the previous Board was not of the people and therefore they had been removed. The Hon'ble Minister has no personal knowledge of the previous members.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : As regards what Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri has said regarding the reconstitution of the Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board, I had called for a report. After I received the reports from the Subdivisional Officer and the Munsif not recommending constitution of the Board, I have been receiving telegrams and representations. I will make further enquiry into this matter regarding constitution of this Board. I have taken time only because of the reports of the officials who say that the reconstitution of the Debt Conciliation Board at Sunamganj is not necessary.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : If the Hon'ble Minister asks the opinion of any Munsif, he will give the same opinion.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : If the hon. Friend had read the report he would have been convinced. These are matters which we have considered before constituting a Board. If large number of cases are re-instituted in the Civil Court after the dissolution of the Debt Conciliation Board, I shall consider the desirability of reconstituting the Board. I am making enquiries if large number of cases pending in the Debt Conciliation Board have been instituted in the Civil Court or not ; if I am satisfied the urgency of the reconstitution of the Board I will have the Board reconstituted.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Because of the destruction of crops in Sunamganj there will be less cases.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Our idea was not to bring in Party politics in reconstituting the Debt Conciliation Boards.

(At this time there was a great uproar in the House.)

If the hon. Members want to shout I have no objection and I would sit down to allow them to do so.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : This side would not have shouted unless the Hon'ble Minister provoked them.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : If they get easily provoked what can be done.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : I cannot help exciteable temper. I got information from the official quarters and other different quarters ; all these names were scrutinised and the Board was constituted with the minimum

number of three persons so that it might be efficient. As a matter of fact no question of Party politics was taken into consideration and man with religious bent of mind was given preference because the Jamiat-ul-Ulema people are more religiously bent.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : How does the Hon'ble Minister dare to make this statement that Jamiat-ul-Ulema people are more religious ? I would challenge him to make the statement outside the House.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : I really do not mean it. In selecting the personnel of the Boards, out of the names of people that I got, I considered who were religiously bent and who were likely to feel for the poorer classes of people. After taking all these facts into consideration I selected the personnel of the Debt Conciliation Boards.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is not a person entitled to hold his own opinion ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : I had to select from the names that I got—from the reports received from official quarters as well as other quarters. I did not consider it sufficiently good ground to reject a name simply because the person belonged to Jamiat-ul-Ulema Party. As a matter of fact, if the hon. House believe me, at the time of selection, I never compared whether one belonged to the Jamiat or to the Muslim League Party or to any other party.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. I think we are at the close of the time. Under the rules there is no provision for a division. The discussion is to continue only for half an hour. That is the standing rule. I now adjourn the House.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Friday, the 20th September, 1946.

SHILLONG :
The 30th November 1946.

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