

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 2 P. M. on Friday, the 20th September, 1946.

Present :

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Kala-azar Hospital in Golaghat Town

†Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

* 60. (a) Is it a fact that after the last visit of the Hon'ble Minister to the *Kala-azar Hospital* in the Golaghat Town various complicated cases of *Kala-azar* have been admitted into the Hospital ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no clinical laboratory attached to this Hospital ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to provide a clinical laboratory to facilitate treatment in complicated cases and thereby increase the efficiency of the Hospital ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

60. (a)—Nineteen complicated cases were admitted after the visit of Hon'ble Minister, Medical.

(b)—There is no clinical laboratory in the *Kala-azar Hospital*.

(c)—The clinic work is being done in the Civil Hospital. Steps have been taken to provide necessary equipment at the *Kala-azar Hospital* and a set of apparatus to test the quality of blood has been already provided.

Sunamganj Civil Hospital

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

* 61. (a) Are Government aware of the deplorable conditions of the Sunamganj Civil Hospital ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to refer to the inspection notes on the said Hospital recorded by two Inspectors General of Civil Hospitals, namely, Colonel Phipson and Colonel Anderson in 1939 and 1942 respectively, and state whether any improvement as suggested in the said reports has since been made to this Hospital ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what is the roughly estimated cost for improving the said Hospital on the line suggested by the said two Inspectors General of Civil Hospitals ?

†The question was put by Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah on authorisation.

(e) Are Government aware that for want of funds it was not possible for the Sunamganj Local Board to make any improvement to the said Hospital nor will it be possible for the Board to do so in the near future ?

(f) What immediate steps do Government propose to take to meet the needs of the Sunamganj Civil Hospital ?

(g) Considering the particular circumstances prevailing in the Sunamganj Subdivision do Government propose to provincialise this Hospital ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

61. (a)—Government are aware of the unsatisfactory conditions in many Local Board Hospitals including this.

(b)—Government will enquire how far the recommendations of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals have been implemented by the Local Board.

(c)—Does not arise

(d)—Government have no such estimated cost as it is a Local Board Hospital.

(e)—Government are aware that all Local Boards have inadequate funds for all the urgent needs, medical and otherwise.

(f)—There is no proposal before Government and no steps are proposed.

(g)—No. Government have not proposed to provincialise any Sub-divisional Hospitals at present.

Supply of paddy and rice to Bombay and Madras Governments

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

*62. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that the Government of Assam have promised to supply certain amount of paddy and rice to the Government of Madras ?

(b) If it is a fact that Government have also promised to supply some amount of paddy and rice to the Government of Bombay ?

(c) Whether Government have received any information from the Government of Madras and the Government of Bombay that the paddy supplied by the Government of Assam has reached the respective places ?

(d) The names of places from which paddy is being exported from Assam to the aforesaid provinces ?

(e) The names of places in Madras and Bombay where Assam paddy is booked ?

(f) Whether paddy from Assam is booked to the said places by train or by boat ?

(g) How much paddy has already been despatched from Assam in course of the last one year ?

(h) How much paddy has already been despatched to Bengal and by which route during the said period ?

†The question was put by Srijut Hareswar Das on authorisation.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

62. (a) & (b)—Under the amended Kharif plan for 1945-46, the following quotas of rice/paddy were fixed by the Government of India for supply to Madras and Bombay from Assam :—

	Madras		Bombay		Total
	Tons		Tons		Tons
Winter rice ...	12,443	...	20,000	...	32,443
Winter paddy ...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Aus rice/paddy ...	Nil	...	8,000	...	8,000
Total	12,443		28,000		40,443

(c)—Government have not received any information to the contrary.

(d)—No winter paddy was exported to these provinces. Aus paddy was exported from a number of places in the Assam Valley. The names of individual places are not available readily here

(e)—This Government despatched the rice/paddy to Chittagong. From there onwards despatching by sea is done by the Governments concerned and this Government have no information of ultimate destinations.

(f)—Both rail and steamer transport is utilised, but boats are not used.

(g)—Export since the 1st November 1945 upto date, *i.e.*, up to July 1946, amounts to 83,903 tons in terms of rice in which are included 12,967 tons to Madras and 12,960 to Bombay.

(h)—12,665 tons of rice and paddy in terms of rice by rail and river route from both Valleys.

Srijut HARESWAR DAS : With regard to (c), may I know to whom the railway receipts were sent ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : To the nominees of the provinces concerned.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY : Will Government be pleased to state the prices of different kinds of paddy which were charged on those provinces ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am not in a position to quote the prices off-hand, Sir, but certainly the maximum price was fixed by Government of India.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How does that question arise ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS : Have Government any information whether the consignments reached those provinces ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : As I have already said, Sir, Government did not hear anything to the contrary. Rice and paddy were booked to the Governments concerned, and it was their look-out to see whether

the consignments reached their destination. If the hon. Member has anything in particular in his mind, and if he puts a straight question, in that case I shall be able to give him a right reply and to the point too ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS : Is it not a fact that this paddy, which was meant for Madras and Bombay, was sent to foreign countries ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKEREE : I am not aware of this fact, Sir, but I can say this much that when the people of those provinces are on the verge of starvation, certainly the Governments of Bombay and Madras did not allow their quotas to be exported outside India after the stuff being consigned to them.

(Starred Question No. 63 Standing in the name of Mr. W. D. Rutherford was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner was absent.)

Distribution of Standard Cloth in Palasbari Town

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH asked :

64. (a) Is it fact that a very large quantity of standard cloth has been allotted to four firms of Palashbari to the exclusion of retailers who used to receive quota on all previous occasions without consulting the Liaison Committee of Gauhati ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for such hasty disposal?

(c) Is it a fact that the stock has not yet been offered to the public for sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

*64.(a)—No. A small stock of standard cloth was distributed amongst 4 tea gardens, 7 town dealers 4 Palashbari dealers and 2 Co-operative Stores and 13 other retailers. There was no Liaison Committee functioning at the time pending Government approval of its constitution.

(b)—In order to close down the standard cloth affairs finally and to wind up all accounts and returns.

(c)—No. The stock was offered for sale as usual.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

(Further Supplementaries on Unstarred Question No 198** Question No.199-20 were called out at the same time.

Per capita allotment of cloths 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 six 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 his is prevailing among the rural people ?

Distribution of clothes and yarns to Subdivisions

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

199. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of bales of cloth and yarn allotted to different Subdivisions of the Province during the last four months ?
- (b) The number of bales of cloth and yarn actually received by each Subdivision, month by month during the aforesaid period ?
- (c) The number of bales of cloth and yarn actually distributed in each Subdivision, month by month during the above period ?
- (d) The allotments of these commodities made for each Subdivision separately showing the percentage for urban and rural areas for the last 4 months ?

200. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any principle is followed in making allotment of the fine and coarse varieties of cloth for different Subdivisions ?
- (b) If so, what is that principle ?
- (c) The percentage of fine varieties of cloth allotted to each Subdivision during the last 4 months ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

199. (a)—Copies of Annexure I to the Directives on the distribution of cloth setting forth the monthly quotas of cloth for different Subdivisions and a list of allocation of yarn from January onwards are placed on the Library Table. These show the allocations to the different Subdivisions subject to the procurement of 5,000 bales of non-standard cloth and 1,365 bales of yarn per month.

(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 black-marketing and other mal-practices will be combated. The Government are also contemplating making reduction in the urban quota to give further relief to the rural people.

(b) & (c)—A statement showing the number of bales of cloth and yarn received and distributed in the different Subdivisions is placed on the Library Table.

(d)—Annexure I to the Directives of distribution also gives the quotas for urban and rural areas respectively. Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers have been instructed to adhere to them strictly. The figures of actual distribution have been called.

200. (a) & (b)—The proportion of fine cloth and coarse cloth to the Province is limited by the Government of India and the provincial share is distributed equitably in the same proportion as their quota to all Subdivisions.

(c)—The same proportion as the respective quotas, the actual figures have been called.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED : The answer to 198 (c) is "The Government are organizing Liaison and Vigilance Committees..... it is expected that distribution will be more regular and equitable.....". I also refer to 199 (d) where the reply is "Annexure I to the Directives of distribution also gives the quotas for urban and rural areas respectively. Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers have been instructed to adhere to them strictly.....".

If the local officers are to adhere to these Directives of Government *strictly*, how can the Liaison and Vigilance Committees make equitable distribution, so far as the quantity of cloth is concerned ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The present allotment has been made on a *per capita* basis, and Government think this to be equitable. If any particular Liaison or Vigilance Committee thinks that some particular group of persons should get less and others more and if it resolves in that way and puts up a new scheme before Government, certainly that will be considered. But Government have done their duty in fixing the quota on *per capita* basis. If anything is fixed on a *per capita* basis I think, Sir, Government are entitled to say that they are trying to distribute it equitably.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Sir, from the statement placed on the table it appears that during the last 6 months—from January to June—618 bales of cloth were received by Jorhat Subdivision. Of this only 160 bales had been distributed and the rest, *i.e.*, 458 bales, were not distributed. May I know, Sir, the reason for non-distribution of the major portion of them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Then it shows that the authority in charge did not distribute the entire quota and kept some portion in the stock. But our recent order, in this respect, was that some stock of cloth should be kept reserved for the purpose of distribution during *Id* and *Puja* festivals and after which if there is any stock it should be distributed. Instances of keeping undistributed some stock of cloth at some places have been brought to our notice and Government are taking step.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Sir, similar is the case with other places. In Gauhati during the said period of 6 months some 2,637 bales of cloth were received and out of them only 1,789 bales were distributed. So there remains 848 bales undistributed. There are more instances like this. Will the Hon'ble Minister please look into this carefully and instruct the officers in charge of those places to distribute the cloth before the ensuing *Puja* ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I have already stated, Sir, that for some particular purposes some stock should be kept reserved. Over and above that, whatever stock will remain will be distributed among the people of the localities.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Will the Hon'ble Minister please say what is the *per capita* consumption of cloth ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : There is no statistics on the basis of which I can reply to this question.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : Sir, may I know about the normal *per capita* consumption of cloth in the pre-war days.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Before the control the wholesalers bought cloth from Calcutta for the people of Assam. So Government have no information what was the normal *per capita* consumption at that time.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : Sir, on what basis this *per capita* allotment has been fixed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : On the basis of total allotment fixed by the Central Government for our Province.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY : Sir, are Government aware that Transport Companies in Assam put some restriction on booking bales of cloth because Government agents were not taking delivery from the stations to which they were booked ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : When this matter is brought to the notice of Government, steps are taken.

Posts created during War Emergency by the previous Government

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

201. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number and names of various posts created in different Departments during the War Emergency by the previous Government ?
- (b) Which of these posts have been retrenched by the present Government since it came into power ?
- (c) The number and names of any other posts that have been abolished by the present Government ?
- (d) The number and names of new posts created by the present Government or proposed to be created by them ?

The Hon'ble Srijit BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

201. (a)-(d)—The number of permanent posts in 1939-40 was 15,672 and the number of permanent and temporary posts in 1946-47 is about 27,500. Government are not prepared to undertake the labour which the compilation of information required by the hon. Member would involve.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, with reference to (a) and (b) my question was "The number and names of various posts that were retrenched by the present Government since it came into power", and the Hon'ble Minister has refused to give the information on the plea that the Government are not prepared to undertake the labour which the compilation of information would involve. Sir, this is an important matter and in this the hon. Members of this House and people outside are vitally interested. So I do not see the justification for the Hon'ble Minister to refuse to furnish the information required on the floor of this House, though he has already given the number of posts that were created. The Hon'ble Minister on the floor of this House made a statement in the Budget speech that many unnecessary posts were created and maintained by the previous Government. Therefore this House is entitled to know from the Government which were the unnecessary posts created and maintained by the previous Government that have been retrenched by Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, my hon. Friend has not understood the difficulty in this case. Had it been the case of higher posts then it would have been easier to calculate. But all these posts consist of the posts of chaprasis, peons etc. So Government have no materials ready to give the information because statistics in that connection shall have to be collected from all over Assam. My Friend has already referred to the Budget speech. Immediately after we came into office I issued a circular to all the Departments to inform us what posts could be retained and what could not be. Correspondence in this connection is still going on. The figures that were furnished then by various Departments are also not available in the Secretariat now.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, my question was which of the newly created posts have been retrenched by the present Government since their assumption of office and we do not find the answer to that question.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Some of the posts of Additional District Magistrates, Additional Superintendents of Police which were temporarily created have been abolished.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: My another question was what were the number and names of new posts created by the present Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: This is a very big question. In case of small or petty posts it is difficult to answer, but in case of posts of high salary like Rs.200 and upward the figures could have been collected.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: The Hon'ble Minister has given the figure of 27,500 as the total number of posts that are in existence, but the number of posts that have been retrenched by the present Government must be lesser. So the labour would have been also lesser in compiling the figure.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister how many higher posts have been retrenched by the present Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I have no figures at present. If required by the hon. Member the figure for higher posts will be collected.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: The Hon'ble Minister has mentioned that some posts of Additional District Magistrates and Additional Superintendents of Police have been abolished. May I know how many of them have been abolished?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Exact number of such posts is not with me now.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Sir, may we get the number of those officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I will supply him with the figure if he writes to me.

As the question was not clear, Sir, it was not possible to get all the figures.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, as regards (c) and (d), I think, the Hon'ble Minister can reply to these two questions?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: We have not been able to collect the figures. I have issued instructions to the Departments concerned. Had it been confined to higher officers or a particular officer, then it would have been easier to reply.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, the reply is only to (c). Was it not possible for the Government to reply to both (c) and (d)? The number of posts created must not be very large?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The number of posts created are very large including store-keepers, etc. It will take a very long time to compile the figures from all the places concerned.

Land under Tea Cultivation in Assam

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked:

202. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the actual area of land under tea cultivation in Assam?

(b) How much of that land is being held by the Europeans?

(c) What is the average yield of tea per year per acre of land under tea cultivation?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the cost per acre of tea grown in Assam?

(e) What is the net annual profit of tea grown per acre of such land?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

202. (a)—16,97,030 Acres	} Figures for 1944. Recent figures not available.
(b)—14,08,740 Acres	...	...	...
(c)—668 Lbs....	...	...	...
(d) & (e)—No information.				

***Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA:** Is 16,97,030 acres, the entire area under actual tea cultivation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : That is a Government information, Sir. That is replied. The question is, 'will Government be pleased to state the actual area of land under tea cultivation in Assam' ? The reply is as the hon. Member has stated.

***Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA :** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the actual area does not exceed 4,500 acres ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : If that is so, I must ascertain the figures whether the figures supplied to us are correct.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : The answer to (d) and (e) is 'No information'. May we know what steps Government has taken or is taking for obtaining the information ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Steps have been taken to enquire from quarters from where it was expected, but they could not supply the information.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : May I know what attempts have been made ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : I have replied Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : I think I can give an idea about this, Sir. It varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 per acre at least.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : You have got the figures, but your Colleague has not got it. (*Laughter.*)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It is not Government information, I am speaking from my personal knowledge.

***Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN :** Is it the pre-war cost ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Yes. During the war no new plantation was allowed except under certain circumstances.

***Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE :** What is the Government income from land under actual tea cultivation in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : That is a new question, and without notice I cannot answer this question, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Was it not possible on the part of the Government to get the information of income from the Agricultural Income-tax Office ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : No, the Agricultural Income-tax office will not be able to give any idea about these figures. Land revenue assessed is quite different from agricultural income-tax.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** If the income receipts could have been obtained from the Income-tax Office then it could have been found out by multiplication and addition.

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is impossible.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : The whole idea which my hon. Friend lost sight of is that there are various kinds of tenure and some are assessed at ordinary rates, some are fee simple grant, some assessed at concessional rates. It is very difficult to calculate the amount of revenue realised by the different tea estates unless specific questions are put and information is collected from the districts.

Newspaper caption re "Defalcation of Money. Allegations against the Officer of the Publicity Department"

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH asked :

203. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the new-item published in the "Assam Tribune" of 24th May 1946, under heading "Defalcation of money Allegations against Officer of the Publicity Department" ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the name and designation of the officer concerned and the amount involved ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken against the officer concerned ?

204. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published in the "Daily Assamiya" of the 23rd May 1946, under caption "প্ৰচাৰ বিভাগ আৰু জননীয়া" (i.e., Publicity Department and the Assamese) where the Communal and Valley ratio in the permanent establishment of the Publicity Department has been shown with the names of the incumbents ?

(b) Is it a fact that notwithstanding Government orders for maintaining the ratio of different Communities in Public Services the authorities of this Department have disregarded them by making appointments without any proportion ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a complete list of the Publicity Department employees with their names and designations showing them separately under permanent and temporary appointments Valley by Valley with their educational qualifications and the nature of service, i. e., Upper Division, Lower Division, etc., in the case of clerks ?

205. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when Mr. T. Rigby took over charge as the Director of Publicity ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what other posts were held by him on the date of assuming charge of office of Director of Publicity ?

(c) What are the special reasons for allowing him to take over charge of so many posts in addition to his own duties ?

(d) What are the various amounts of pay and allowances drawn by him in his different capacities ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the conditions under which Mr. Rigby has been employed by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

203. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government do not consider it to be desirable to discuss the matter while the allegations are under departmental proceedings.

(c)—The case has been referred, on the advice of the Public Service Commission, to departmental proceedings.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Has the Public Service Commission been invested with any judicial power ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I think my hon. Friend knows that in case of any departmental action proposed to be taken against any gazetted officer, reference has got to be made to the Public Service Commission.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Will Government please state whether the officers involved are still in their respective posts ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir. There is only one case, and the question of his being there or otherwise has been decided on the gravity of the charge that has been proposed to be made out against him.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Defalcation of Government money is a case of high criminality. What was the reason for referring it to the Public Service Commission ? Is it not a judicial matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Whether it is a case of high criminality, as has been called by my hon. Friend, or not that has got to be seen. There is no case of high criminality in this case, in my opinion.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: When a man defalcates public money, it is a case of high criminality. Why this matter was not referred to the Criminal Court instead of referring it to the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Because it involves the conduct of a gazetted officer.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: May we take it from the Government that any case of criminality against gazetted officers is beyond the jurisdiction of Criminal Court ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It does not necessarily mean that. He cannot be tried in the Court because it was an allegation. The main thing is that the hon. Member has misunderstood. As to whether there is allegation, the reply is 'yes', and whether the case is one of high criminality, as my Friend wants to make out, is something not in the jurisdiction of the Government to decide. In consideration of the facts of the case, Government thought it best to refer the matter to the Public Service Commission, for advice as to what steps Government should take in this matter.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: But proceedings have been completed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The departmental proceedings are still going on.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: How long will it take ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say that.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Are all the cases against gazetted officers sent to the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not say that, Sir. If the police makes a case against an officer they can ask for sanction of the Government to prosecute.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: It is not a question of Government sanction when there is allegation that some Government money has been defalcated.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot reply that question. It has been replied that there is an allegation and it has been enquired into, and the best thing in the circumstances for the Government thought proper to do was to consult the Public Service Commission ; and action has been taken accordingly.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Do Government ensure that the deparmental proceedings will not be unduly influenced by the officer who is still in the post ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have got to rely on the officer conducting the proceedings, Sir. Otherwise we can as well say that we do not rely on the Judges who conduct trials.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

204. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An endeavour has always been made to follow the communal ratio, but this was particularly difficult during the war on account of the lack of applicants from communities which are under-represented. In the event of the re-organization of the Department, it is hoped to restore the proportions.

(c)—A list is given below.

List of the Temporary Staff of the Assam Publicity Department

Name of incumbent	Qualification	Surma Valley and Hill Districts	Assam Valley	Remarks
Officers (3)				
1. Assistant Director of Publicity, S. C. Dutta.	M. A. ...	... 1	...	...
2. Regional Publicity Organiser, I. P. Chawdhury.	M. A., B. T., B. L. ...	...	1	...
3. Assistant Regional Publicity Organiser, A. A. M. Tarapder.	I. A. ...	... 1	...	...
Upper Division Assistant (1)				
1. Binoy Bhusan Das	... I. Sc. ...	... 1	...	...

*Speech not corrected.

Name of incumbent	Qualification	Surma Valley and Hill Districts	Assam Valley	Remarks
Lower Division Assistants (4)				
1. Bishnuram Keot	... I. A. ...	... 1	...	...
2. Mithila Dutta	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
3. S. Hussain Choudhury	... I. A. ...	... 1	...	...
4. H. C. Jyrwa	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...

Sub-Grade Assistants (3)

1. Gulam Rabbani	... Matriculate	... 1	...	Vice Mithila Dutta promoted.
2. Rashendra Kumar Das	...	... 1	...	...
3. T. O. Nongrum	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...

Technical Establishment**Welding Engineer (2)**

1. P. C. Roy	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
2. S. J. Scott	...	...	...	Anglo-Indian.

Driver (2)

1. Walter	...	... 1	...	...
2. Santa Bahadur	...	...	...	Nepali

Menials

1. Chandra Muni Das	Communal representation is not required to be maintained in the case of menials.
2. Singla Singh	...	...	...
3. Habibullah	...	...	...
4. Jogendra Ch. Dutta	...	...	...
5. Upendra Chandra Das	...	...	...
6. Md. Hafiz	...	...	...
7. Matilal Jyoshie	...	...	...
8. Reni Pahari Jyoshie	...	...	...

List of the Permanent Staff in the Assam Publicity Department

Name of incumbent	Qualification	Surma Valley and Hill Districts	Assam Valley	Remarks
Officer (1)				
Assistant Publicity Officer, S. C. Dutta.	M. A.	... 1	...	...

Name of incumbent	Qualification	Surma Valley and Hill Districts	Assam Valley	Remarks
Editor (1)				
(Maulavi F. Rahman)	...	...	...	...
K. N. Bhuyan	... B. A.	...	1	...
	... M. A.	...	1	Vice Maulavi F. Rahman deputed to the Army.
Clerical Establishment—				
Upper Division Assistants (2)				
Aminul Haque Choudhury	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
Makhonlal Choudhury	... B. A.	... 1	...	...
Lower Division Assistants (5)				
1. Miss L. Swer	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
2. Umesh Chandra Das	... I. A.	... ..	1	...
3. Syed G. Ali	... I. A.	... 1	...	...
4. Debendra Kumar Ghosh	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
5. Izahar Hussain	... "	... ..	1	Previously settled at Gauhati.
Translators (2)				
1. Bharat Chandra Pathak	... B. A. (Honours)	... ..	1	...
2. Radhesh Chandra Das	... "	... 1	...	...
Distributor (1)				
Rijied Sing	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
Sub-Grade Assistant (1)				
Mithila Nath Dutta	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
Typists (2)				
1. Felix Lyngdoh	... Matriculate	... 1	...	...
2. H. T. Pariat	... Under Matric	... 1	...	...
Duftry (2)				
1. Arif Ullah	... ..	... 1	...	...
2. Rashendra Kumar Das	... ..	... 1	...	...
Chapراسى (2)				
1. Giridran Chandra Nag	... ..	... 1	...	...
2. Bahadur Singh	... ..	... ..	... Nepali.	...

205. (a)—Mr. Rigby took over charge as Director of Publicity on the 8th June 1946 in addition to his other duties.

(b)—Special Officer, Planning and Development Department. He also held the post of Deputy Director, Resettlement and Employment purely temporarily pending the arrival of Captain H. Rahman who took over charge of the office on the 9th June 1946.

(c)—Owing to the difficulty of finding any other officer at short notice who could take charge further, as it had been decided that Publicity should come under the control of the Planning and Development Department, it was considered that it would be in the interests of economy and of administrative convenience to appoint Mr. Rigby, who was Special Officer, Planning and Development Department, as Director of Publicity.

(d)—Mr. Rigby is receiving, provisionally, pay and allowances on the basis of his former emoluments as a Military Officer as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Pay	950	0	0
I. A. allowance.	100	0	0
Lodging „	100	0	0
Marriage „	90	0	0
Corps Pay	200	0	0
War Allowance	166	4	0
Total	1,606	4	0

(e)—Mr. Rigby's present appointment is on a provisional basis. It is proposed to offer him a contract, the terms and conditions of which are at present under consideration.

Office of the Provincial Transport Controller

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

206. (a) Is it a fact that the Office of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Assam, is proposed to be abolished shortly ?

(b) If so, how many employees are going to be affected by the Government decision to abolish the said Department ?

(c) What measures do Government propose to adopt to re-employ the people who are going to be thrown out of employment suddenly ?

(d) With a view to relieving the unemployed, do Government propose to intimate all the Government Departments to the effect that in case of any vacancy or vacancies in those Departments preference should be given to those qualified persons now served with notices of discharge ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

206. (a)—No final decision has yet been arrived at regarding the abolition of the office.

(b) to (d)—Do not arise.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Will Government please let us know how much more time will be required to arrive at a decision whether they will abolish or retain the office of the Provincial Transport Controller ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It does not lie in the hands of the Provincial Government. It is mostly in the hands of the Central Government. If motor vehicles and motor parts remain controlled, in that case the office will continue, and if the control is withdrawn then the office will be abolished. We have not yet been informed by the Central Government on this point. So, we are carrying on, but the work is decreasing.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that half of the expenditure is borne by the Central Government ?

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

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID**: Do Government think that time has arrived when the office should be abolished?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not yet, Sir.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID**: Does it entirely depend on the Provincial Government to say whether it should be abolished?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The motor vehicles and motor parts are controlled and decontrolled by the Central Government. We cannot say anything in the matter. It is a Central subject. But our opinions are asked for occasionally in some matters.

Damages done by *Kerketus* (Squirrels) to the Garden Products

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

207. (a) Are Government aware that of late, *Kerketus* (Squirrels) are extensively damaging betel-nuts, cocoanuts and other garden products in various parts of the Kamrup district and thereby causing great loss to the growers?

(b) With a view to protect the villagers from the ravages of these creatures do Government propose to (i) supply guns in adequate numbers together with necessary ammunitions to villagers willing and undertaking to kill *Kerketus*, (ii) and declare rewards for killing these creatures under suitable conditions?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

207. (a)—Government have had no previous information that such predations have increased latterly.

(b)—Cultivators in need of weapons for protection of crops should apply to the District Magistrate. A shot gun is not however a suitable method of dealing with such small animals, particularly when ammunition is in short supply.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, will Government be pleased to take it from me that the ravages by *kerketuas* are alarmingly increasing?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: It may be so, Sir. We do not know the state of things sitting at Shillong. But Government are ready to accept the statement of the hon. Member.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do Government propose to take some steps to suppress the depredation?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I shall be highly obliged if any hon. Member gives me suggestions—not necessarily on the floor of the House. And I shall see if such suggestions can be carried out.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I have given some suggestions in my question itself and one of them is that Government should declare some rewards for killing these creatures under suitable terms.

*Speech not corrected.

†The questions (Supplementaries) were replied by Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There should not be any point of *abhiman* (অভিমান). If Government express inability to accept a particular suggestion of the hon. Member, there is no harm in his giving another suggestion. Government express inability to accept the suggestion given by the hon. Member in his question. If there be any other suggestion, Government will consider.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The second part of my question (b) is whether Government would declare rewards for killing these creatures under suitable terms?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has replied that ammunition is running short.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, my question is whether Government propose to declare some rewards for killing these creatures even by some indigenous methods?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the question of hon. Srijut Gauri-Kanta Talukdar has been fully answered.

***Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** It is a question whether the indigenous instruments such as ধেনুক বা *Dhenukar* will be sufficient to kill the *kerketuas*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps the poor *Kerketus* had had their due share from the Assembly. (*Laughter*).

***Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Are Government aware that the ravages of the *Kerketus* are not confined to Kamrup alone? Much ravages have been caused to our Subdivision as well, I mean Jorhat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let us pass on to question No. 208.

Construction of a bridge over Myntang River

Mr. LARSING KHYRIEM asked:

208. (a) Are Government aware that Myntang River in between Mynso and Shilliong-Myntang has no bridge over it?

(b) Are Government aware that this Myntang River separates the Pnar from the Mikirs (Bhoi)?

(c) Are Government aware that the Local people have to construct bamboo bridge across the River and that it is generally washed away by flood twice or thrice a year during the rains?

(d) Are Government aware that whenever the said bridge is carried away, the Mikirs (Bhoi) and the people of Shilliong-Myntang *elaka* are cut off from the rest of the Subdivision?

(e) Are Government aware that this is one of the highways in the Subdivision?

(f) Do Government propose to sanction necessary sum for immediate construction of a bridge across the said Myntang River?

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

208. (a) to (f)—The proposal for a bridge over Myntang is under consideration of the Government.

***Mr LARSING KHYRIEM** : Are Government aware that the construction of the bridge over Myntang is of imperative necessity ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : The reply is that it is under consideration of Government. Therefore, Government thought it necessary to construct the bridge.

Grounds of the Digboi Labour Union

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

209. (a) Are Government aware that the grounds of the Digboi Labour Union are now under the occupation of a certain person without authority ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary action to restore possession of the land to the Labour Union ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

209. (a)—Government learn on enquiry that the premises formerly occupied by the Assam Oil Company Labour Union at Digboi are in occupation of Srijut B. K. Das, who claims to hold on lease from the Union.

(b)—Government appear to have no *locus standi* for interference in the matter.

Total amount of Paddy produced in the Province

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

210. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total quantity of paddy both Aus and Sali produced in the Province in the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46 ?

(b) The quantity of paddy both Aus and Sali exported from the Province to different Provinces of India in the year 1944-45 and 1945-46 ?

(c) The estimate if any, of the total needs of paddy for consumption for the Province in a year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

210. (a)—In tons in terms of rice	In ton in terms of rice		Total
	Aus	Sali	
1942-43	2,94,216	12,41,743	15,35,959
1943-44	3,24,830	17,00,475	20,25,305
1944-45	3,51,298	12,73,155	16,24,453
1945-46	3,92,544	15,14,180	19,06,724

* Speech not corrected.

†The question (Supplementary) was answered by Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

(b)—Exports in 1944-45 of Sali rice were as shown below—

To	(i) Defence service	...	...	78,030	tons.
	(ii) Bengal	...	...	13,000	"
	(iii) Bihar	...	...	2,052	"
	(iv) United Provinces	...	...	972	"
Total				94,054	tons.

There was no export of Sali paddy nor of Aus rice or paddy.

Exports in 1945-46 are shown in the statement appended below—

Type of rice/paddy	Recipient Administration	Quantity supplied up to 6th July 1946 in terms of rice		
Winter (Amon & Sali)	Bengal	...	...	12,665
	Bihar	...	...	11,971
	Madras	...	...	12,967
	Bombay	...	...	11,354
	Mysore	...	...	11,638
	Defence Services	...	...	9,959
Total				70,548 tons.

Balance of 1944-45 Kharif plan supplied in 1945-46—

Winter rice/paddy	Bihar and United Provinces	...	5,548
	Defence Services	...	4,526
Aus rice/paddy	Bihar	2,791 paddy	= 1,675
Grand total			82,297 tons.
Aus rice/paddy	Bombay	...	1,606 tons.

Mainly rice was supplied ; only small parts of the exports of Amon/Sali to Bengal and of Aus to Bihar and Bombay were of paddy.

(c)—Taking 3/20 tons to be the normal requirement per head per annum the total requirement of rice for consumption is 18,00,000 tons in a year based on population of 1, 20,00,000 heads. The actual consumption in practice works out to be much less. A part of the requirements is met by 'Boro' rice, while in some areas of Assam considerable quantities of maize are grown and consumed in place of staple food grain.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Is it a fact that all these figures are based on the annual forecast of the Agriculture Department ?

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Is it not a fact that forecasts are only guess work ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Forecast does not remain so for all time to come as our guide, we get actuals also in time.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Are these figures all reliable ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is very difficult to say. The other day I replied in detail that reliable data are not available, but as far as possible they represent the position. Personally speaking, I have got my doubt about them.

Tura-Dalu and Dalu-Baghmara Road

Mr. MANIRAM MARAK asked :

211. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The expenditure incurred annually for maintenance of Tura to Dalu and Dalu to Baghmara road, ever since the road was first opened ?

(b) If the Bajengdoba to Tura road is proposed to be constructed with Post-War Reconstruction Fund ?

(c) If so, when ?

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

211. (a)—It is not possible to state the annual expenditure incurred for maintenance of the road ever since it was first opened more than a century back. The annual expenditure on maintenance for the last 10 years is, however, given below :—

Tura-Dalu Road

							Rs.
1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,610
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,562
1937-38	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,122
1938-39	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,206
1939-40	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,522
1940-41	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,657
1941-42	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,397
1943-44	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,182
1944-45	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,118
1945-46	...	...	...	...	...	...	42,601

Dalu-Baghmara Road

							Rs.
1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,988
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,044
1937-38	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,733
1938-39	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,723
1939-40	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,739
1940-41	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,929
1941-42	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,207
1942-43	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,788
1943-44	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,271
1944-45	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,304
1945-46	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,640

(b)---Yes.

(c)---The work is likely to be started during 1946-47.

Paddy exported to Bihar

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

212. Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) If it is a fact that a large purchase of paddy has lately been made for the Government of Bihar at Hojai in the district of Nowgong ?
- (b) If so, under whose authority these purchases have been made and what is the total quantity of paddy purchased up to date and exported to Bihar ?
- (c) What are the names of the agents through whom these purchases have been made ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied.

212. (a)—No.

(b)—No authority has been given to purchase paddy on account of Bihar Government and no paddy purchases have been exported to Bihar up-to-date.

(c)—Does not arise.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister about the source of information of his replies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government machinery, Sir.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that it is a fact that officers from Bihar have purchased paddy in Hojai and as a matter of fact I myself have seen them stationed at the Hojai Dak Bungalow. Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly pursue his enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When an hon. Member is making the statement, I do not like to say anything against it. I shall take note of it with the hope that when an officer is sent for enquiry in the matter, the hon. Member will give him full co-operation and assistance to find out the truth or falsity of his statement. If the statement is found to be true, the officer who supplied the information will be properly dealt with and necessary action will also be taken against the officers of the Bihar Government. But I would like to have the complaint in writing.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY**: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any outsiders were previously allowed to purchase rice and paddy there ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly, Sir, but at present there is no such agency. Formerly, the Steel Brothers made purchases but afterwards Government took up the procurement themselves. Therefore, the question of outsiders coming to purchase does not hold good both for rice and paddy.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY**: Thanks.

Rè Grow-More-Food Campaign**Mr. P. M. SARWAN** asked :

213. Will Government be pleased to state—
- What steps are being taken by Government to grow more food in the Province ?
 - How much paddy seed was allotted last time to Sibsagar District for growing more food ?
 - How much of the said paddy seed was actually distributed ?
 - What happened to the paddy that was not distributed ?
 - Whether Government are aware that big land-owners in the Province by charging exorbitant rates of rent in money or in kind, are preventing the growing of more food ?
 - What steps do Government propose to take to prevent exorbitant rates of rent being charged by land-owners ?
 - Whether Government propose to make available all low-lying grazing reserves for the cultivation of paddy by landless people so that more food may be grown by the landless people ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

213. (a)—The following steps are being taken by the Government to grow more food in the Province :—

1. Seeds Distribution Scheme. To encourage the people to extend the area under rice, pulse, etc., by bringing fallow and waste land under cultivation as far as possible and to use improved seeds for increasing total yield of different crops.
2. Manure Distribution Scheme. To increase the yield of crops by applying manures.
3. Horticultural Development Scheme. To increase the fruit production in Assam by bringing new available area under cultivation to meet the demand from the nutritional point of view.
- 4 Agricultural Training Scheme. To train moderately educated youngmen of the Province for utilizing their services for the improvement of Agriculture on Scientific line.
- 5 (i) Minor Irrigation Projects and (ii) Power pump Irrigation Scheme. The development of irrigation is one of the main factors to increase the production of the food crops by utilizing waste land and growing a 2nd crop in the land meant for winter crops and to save the people from the famine due to drought and other causes. This scheme has helped to a great extent in increasing the area under Boro paddy.
6. Aus paddy seeds multiplication Scheme. For the supply of pure and improved Ahu paddy seeds of high yielding varieties to the needy cultivators at a cost of production price or at the prevailing market price for improvement of Ahu crop as well as for bringing more area under Ahu.

7. Transport Scheme. Truck For speedy delivery of seeds and manure, etc., from one place to another where no easy transport is possible.
8. Poultry multiplication Scheme. To increase the number of poultry population in Assam in order to meet the demand of the Province from nutritional point of view.
9. Cattle Rehabilitation Scheme. To increase the number of improved cattle and to increase the milk production for supply in urban areas. The improved stock which is reared at the Government farms, will be distributed to cattle breeders of the Province.
10. (i) Dairy Development Scheme. For livestock multiplication and increasing production of milk in rural areas and for the arrangement of better supply of pure milk to the people of the Province from the nutritional point of view.
- (ii) Milk & Milk Survey Scheme. To estimate the object of milk supply by collecting reliable data and to find out the exact out-put of milk supply from the milk producing areas and to find out their potentialities.
- (iii) Oilcake and Salt distribution scheme (for cattle food). Feeding of oilcake is more or less unknown to the individual milk producers in Assam, but lately due to the demand for milk the feeding has been taken up by some of them where an apparent increase in milk out-put has been found. But due to difficulty in obtaining supplies, lack of organisation and comparatively high price demanded, it is not possible for the producers of milk to use it as freely as they would like to. Similarly salt is needed for the cattle in Assam and it is also difficult to obtain the necessary quantities at present due to control of food-stuffs.
11. Temporary staff Scheme. Technical staff with experience in different subjects and with experienced office assistants, is essential to run the schemes efficiently.

Total cost of the above schemes was estimated at Rs. 32,00,000 for the year 1945-46.

			Md.	Sr.	C.
(b)—Seed paddies allotted under Grow More Food, 1945-46			6,646	20	8
(c)—Seed paddies actually distributed	...	...	6,408	7	8
(d)—Shortage, etc., during distribution	...	...	236	1	0
Sold at reduced rate	...	...	2	12	0
		Total...	6,646	20	8
(e)—No.					
(f)—Does not arise.					
(g)—No.					

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In reply to (a), item No.1 Seeds Distribution Scheme, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Seed Distribution Scheme has totally failed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is not a fact, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: As regards item 2, may I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister, what actions were taken as regards distribution of manure to rural areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Manure that is distributed is mainly oil cake which is being distributed by the officers of the Department. That is the practice.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know whether it is distributed or sold ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is sold.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister what manure it is that he refers to ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He said oil cakes.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: As regards item 5 (a)—Minor Irrigation Project—is it a fact that the Power Pump and the Irrigation Schemes have been stopped from the year 1945-46 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No, these have not been stopped.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I make this allegation knowing it well that these have been actually stopped. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, why should I not ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: As regards item 6—Aus paddy seeds multiplication Scheme—in the explanation he has said, 'for the supply of pure and improved Ahu paddy seeds of high yielding varieties to the needy cultivators at a cost of production price'. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, where this paddy seeds multiplication scheme is worked out ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is the hon. Member just trying to keep up his legal practice of cross-examining ? Does he think that the Hon'ble Minister is in the witness box ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, I want to get facts from him.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This system is going on for some time past.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The question was regarding Grow-More-Food Campaign and in the answer about poultry multiplication scheme, cattle rehabilitation scheme, dairy development scheme, milk and other schemes are mentioned. Do I understand that those schemes are included in the Grow-More-Food Campaign Scheme?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Surely; poultry, milk, etc., form part of our food and they are palatable food.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Was it not the intention of the previous Government to grow more staple food while they inaugurated the Grow-More-Food-Campaign?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: "More food" was supposed to grow on the Publicity Loud speaker only.

Mr. J. S. R. TELFER: Are the Government aware that the prices of foodstuffs for livestock have risen very rapidly in Shillong during the last few weeks? The price of Oats has risen from Rs.16 to 23 and the price of Bran, which previously was Rs.7-8-0 has risen to Rs 13 and in the last 3 days to Rs.18?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: For such a question I want notice, Sir.

Mr. J. S. R. TELFER: This can be elucidated in the Policebazar. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Whether this state of affairs is prevailing in Shillong or not that I cannot reply to without enquiring into it.

Mr. J. S. R. TELFER: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that it is a fact?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: In the answer at item 3—Horticultural Development Scheme, it is stated 'to increase the fruit production in Assam by bringing new available area under cultivation to meet the demand from the nutritional point of view'. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any waste land has been brought under cultivation for this fruit cultivation?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Under private agency, Sir, waste lands are made fit for cultivation by irrigation work.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: How Government is encouraging that, Sir, may I know?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government officers are appointed for working out irrigation projects.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I am not enquiring about irrigation projects. I want to know how Government is encouraging fruit production.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: For instance citrus fruit cultivation is carried near Nongpoh. A large area has been brought under cultivation.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Is it under the Government or any private agency?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is under the Government.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Has any area ever been allotted to private agencies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That I can not answer off-hand.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Has any new fruit cultural station been started at Nongpoh? The Hon'ble Minister has referred to citrus fruit growing station near Burnihat.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, a new start has been made near Jorhat.

Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE: The reply is—"Steps have been taken to increase the number of poultry population in Assam". What poultry has got to do with the Grow-More-Food-Campaign.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: We have started this year three poultry stations, one in Gauhati, one in Dibrugarh, one in Silchar. Sites have been selected in some of these places, the actual working has begun.

Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE: How is it connected with the Grow More-Food-Campaign? What is the connection, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: 'Grow-More-Food' is one of the main items of our food. Staple food is poultry. There is no denying this fact.

Football Match between the Police and the Dibrugarh George Institution

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked:

214. (a) Are Government aware that there was a clash recently between the Police and school students at a football competition between the Dibrugarh Police and the George Institution teams?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of outsiders in trying to intervene received injuries as a result of assault by some members of the Dibrugarh Reserve Police?

(c) What action, if any, Government have taken in the matter?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry, judicial or otherwise, has been held into the matter?

(e) If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what is the finding of such enquiry?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether there has been public representation alleging high-handedness on the part of some junior police officers during the incident?

(g) What action do Government propose to take to bring into justice those who have exceeded their legitimate rights?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

214.—(a) Yes.

(b)—Some of the outsiders who interfered sustained injury.

(c)—The Deputy Commissioner arranged to hold an enquiry. The matter, however, was referred to the Home Minister on his visit to Dibrugarh, who, after discussing the position with the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and local gentlemen interested in bringing about an amicable settlement, directed the Superintendent of Police to hold an enquiry and take necessary action.

(d)—The Superintendent of Police considered that no useful purpose would be served by an enquiry held by himself in view of a resolution subsequently passed by the sporting association which clearly indicated that his findings would not be treated as final and requested the Deputy Commissioner to deal with the matter.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Government have accepted the view of the Deputy Commissioner that an enquiry so long after the date in a matter which is of a sporting character would not be likely to achieve the purpose of fostering good feeling since there were evidently faults on both sides and that the incident is best forgotten.

Publicity Department and its activities

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

215. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of—

(i) Radio Sets, (ii) Loud Speakers, (iii) Propaganda Van and Vehicles, (iv) Camera and Film Projects and (v) Interlinking Table Telephones, etc., obtained for the Publicity Department at the cost of public money?

(b) How many of these Radio Sets were distributed and to whom?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of (i) Government Officers, (ii) private individuals and (iii) clubs, etc., to whom such Radio Sets were given and who are in possession of them even now?

(d) What are the reasons for distribution of these Radio Sets to Government Officers and Private individuals?

(e) Whether these Radio Sets were taken back as soon as the Field Publicity Organisation was closed?

(f) What use is being made of the vans and vehicles after the closing of the Field Publicity Department?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

215. (a)—(i)—Nine Radio Sets were purchased by this Department. Hundred and four Lease Lend sets were received free from Central Government.

(ii)—Forty nine Loudspeaker sets.

(iii)— Nine Cinema Vans. 6 Vehicles

(iv)— Nine 35 mm. Projectors.

Eight 16 mm.

Three Cameras.

(v)—Fifteen Loudspeaking Telephones.

(b)—Fifty-five Radio Sets were distributed amongst the Publicity Officer in-charge of Information Bureaux, other Officers of this Department and private persons.

(c) (i)—Twenty sets were supplied to 20 Publicity Officers in-charge of Information Bureau. Twenty sets were placed in 20 Information Bureau offices for dissemination of news to the public. Five sets were kept for five district Mobile Units. One set was supplied to the Assistant Director of Publicity. Two sets were supplied to the two Regional Publicity Organisers. Two sets were supplied to the two Assistant Regional Publicity Organisers. One set was supplied to the Lady Publicity Officer. Two sets were supplied to the two Provincial Wireless Electricians.

(ii)—One set to Dr. Ahmed, Tangla, Mangaldai. One set to Mr. Gilfellow, Upper Shillong. One set to Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman, Laban. One set to Dr. Bor, Assam Relief Measures, Dimapur. One set was in the charge of the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills. One set was in the charge of the Political Officer, Margherita (Ledo Bazar). One set to Mr. Lange, Professor, Jowai Training School, Jowai. One set was in the charge of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Kanaighat, Sylhet. One set was in the charge of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Gowainghat, Sylhet. One set was in the charge of the Publicity Officer, Silchar and installed at Lakhipur near Silchar. One set was in the charge of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

(iii)—One set at Panichokua Club (Jorhat). Sixty-five sets in all. Radio sets are still in the possession of:—

(1) Mr. S. C. Dutta, Assistant Director of Publicity,

(2) Mr. I. P. Choudhury, Regional Publicity Organiser,

(3) Mr. A. A. M. Tarapder, Assistant Regional Publicity Organiser,

(4) Two Provincial Wireless Electricians,

(5) Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman (He has been asked to return the set) and

(6) Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet. (He has been asked to return the set).

Others have returned the sets owing to the demobilisation of the Field Publicity Organisation.

(d)—The reasons for the issue of Radio Sets to the Officers of the Department were to enable them (1) to keep in touch with up-to-date news, (2) to write daily bulletins, (3) to watch radio programmes and observe reception condition.

Private individuals to whom Radio Sets were issued were instructed to use them as community receivers for the benefit of the public.

(e)—Yes, all the radio sets have been taken back except the ones mentioned in (c) (iii) above.

(f)—One van is being used as a staff car, and another has been lent to the Boiler Department. Pending final decision as to the reorganisation of the Publicity Department, the remaining vehicles are being kept in the garages of the Department.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: How long the Department was active with these radio sets?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It might have been working since 1943.

Assam Communications Board

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked:

216. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the proceedings of the meetings of the Assam Communications Board held in June last?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the allotment to each Valley of the quota of the Central Government grant for improvement of communications in Assam under their Post-war plan?

(c) Whether Government have included the Sunamganj-Dharampassa road in their Post-war plan?

(d) If not, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that this road was recommended to be included in the Post-war plan at a Conference of the Chairmen of Local Boards in the District of Sylhet, convened by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, in 1943-44?

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

216. (a)—A copy is laid on the library table.

(b)—No allotment has yet been made because the detailed estimates for roads selected by the A. R. C. Board are not yet ready.

(c)—The road is covered partly by road No. 3 and partly by No. 6 at page 25 of the proceedings of A. R. C. Board.

(d)—The whole length of the route could not be taken up within the amount at the disposal of the Government

(e)—Yes.

Co-operative Credit and Non-credit Societies in the Province

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

217. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of co-operative credit and non-credit societies in the Surma and Assam Valleys?

(b) How many of them are (i) solvent, (ii) in debt and (iii) under liquidation?

(c) The causes of deterioration of the Co-operative Movement in Assam?

(d) What steps they are taking to give a fillip to the Movement?

(e) Whether they are aware that liquidation proceedings by attachment and sale of lands against the members who paid up their dues to the societies are most harassing to them?

*Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

- (f) Whether Government are aware that the principle of unlimited liability in rural societies is taken advantage of by shrewd members by *benami* transfers and shift the burden to honest and simple members of the village societies ?

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

217. (a)—Assam Valley Credit Societies 630 on 31st December 1945.

Non-credit 1,222 on 31st December 1945.

Surma Valley Credit Societies 699 on 31st December 1945.

Non-credit 838 on 31st December 1945.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills Credit Societies 19 on 31st December 1945.

Non-credit 14 on 31st December 1945.

(b)—(i) & (ii) It is difficult to give exact number of societies, solvent or in debt without a detailed enquiry which involves a considerable amount of time. It may be stated that financial condition of most of the credit societies is not satisfactory. Non-credit societies such as Consumers, Industrial and Textile societies are working on their share capital. (iii) There are 287 and 179 societies under liquidation in Assam Valley and Surma Valley respectively.

(c)—The depression before the war adversely affected the economic condition of people and they could not recover their position during the war. Although the price of agricultural produce rose, the people had to spend proportionately higher for cloth, Kerosene, Sugar and other commodities. Money-lenders Act also adversely affected recovery of dues from the members of the societies. The departmental staff could not pay sufficient attention to the recovery of dues as their attention was diverted to the organisation and successful running of the Consumers Co-operative Societies for which there was a large demand.

(d)—The Department is now concentrating its attention for consolidation of societies by organisation of Central Wholesale Stores which will deal in controlled and non-controlled commodities and take up marketing of agricultural produce.

(e)—As members are jointly and severally liable, non-debtor members are sometimes proceeded against to meet the outstanding dues to the creditors when it is found impossible to meet these demands by recovery of dues from debtor members.

(f) Yes, there is a tendency towards such *benami* transactions. But departmental officers take necessary steps when cases are brought to their notice.

Compensation for use of requisitioned guns

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

218. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that compensation for the use of requisitioned guns has been paid in the Assam Valley ?

*Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

- (b) If so, why compensations have not yet been paid in the case of the Surma Valley ?
- (c) On what basis the compensations have been calculated ?
- (d) Whether it is on the basis of price ?
- (e) Who calculated the price ?
- (f) Whether any expert was consulted on the matter ?
- (g) If so, who was that expert ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to pay up the compensations in the case of Surma Valley without further delay ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

218.(a) — Compensation was paid only in Goalpara and Darrang and for certain guns taken in 1944 in Lakhimpur:

(b) — Government have decided to return all guns and replace them so far as possible, and in the light of this decision do not propose to pay compensation unless a special case is made out.

(c) — Generally at Rs. 2 per mensem.

(d) — No.

(e) — The Deputy Commissioner in consultation with the Superintendent of Police.

(f) — Not as a rule.

(g) — Does not arise.

(h) — For the reason already given Government do not propose to pay compensation.

Re-Scarcity of fish in the Province

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR asked :

219. (a) Are Government aware of the scarcity of fish and the gradual deterioration in matter of fish supply in the Province ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme to improve the position ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government propose to lease out the reserved fisheries which are sanctuaries for the breeding of fish ?

(d) Are Government aware of the public feeling that such a step will ruin the fish brood notwithstanding any safeguard provided in the proposed lease ?

(e) Do Government intend to take expert opinion for improving the fish brood in each locality ?

(f) If so, when ?

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

219. (a) — Government consider that the supply is inadequate.

(b) — Yes, a scheme for this purpose is under contemplation of the Government.

(c) — Yes.

*Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

(d)—Government have no such information. They propose to restrict fishing to nets with not less than 4" mesh and to sanction a special staff to see that the conditions of the lease are properly observed.

(e)—Yes, and for this purpose two students have been sent for training in fishery.

(f)—As soon as these students come back and as soon as the fishery scheme can be implemented.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: With regard to (e), may I know who are the men deputed for the training?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I can't give the information off-hand, but I can supply the information afterwards.

Village Co-operative Banks in the Golaghat Subdivision

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

220. (a) Are Government aware that many village Co-operative Banks in the Golaghat Subdivision have recently gone into liquidation?

(b) Are Government aware that as a consequence of such liquidations the movable and immovable properties of the poor villagers have been sold in auction in accordance with the provisions contained in the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps to amend the provisions of the aforesaid Act early?

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

220. (a)—No societies in the Golaghat Subdivision have been sent into liquidation after 1943.

(b)—Ordinarily the provisions of the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act will be applicable to societies that go into liquidation.

(c)—No.

Requisition of Guns for Military purposes

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

221. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of guns requisitioned for military purposes from the civilians of Golaghat Subdivision during the last war?

(b) Are Government aware that many guns so requisitioned have been damaged and since returned without due repairs or compensations to the owners?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them for the repair of the damaged guns or for giving adequate compensations to the owners?

(d) Are Government aware that some of the requisitioned guns have not yet been returned to the owners?

†Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to furnish the names of the persons of Golaghat Subdivision whose guns have not yet been returned?

(f) If the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps for the immediate return of those guns or for replacing the lost guns with new ones?

† **The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

221. (a)—84.

(b) & (c)—Some guns were returned damaged from the Army. Government's policy is to return guns to the previous owners or furnish an acceptable substitute and this is being carried out as guns become available.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—1. Mr. Padmanath Kakoti.

2. Mr. Mahananda Barua.

3. Maulvi Abdur Rahman.

4. Mr. M. N. Barua.

5. Mr. R. N. Barua.

6. Mr. P. D. Gupta.

(f)—As already stated, Government are already doing what is suggested.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: With regard to (b) the question has not been properly replied. The question was: 'Are Government aware that many guns so requisitioned have been damaged and since returned without due repairs or compensations to the owners?' The reply is: 'Some guns have been returned damaged from the Army. Government's policy is to return guns to the previous owners or furnish an acceptable substitute and this is being carried out as guns become available.'

I do not consider this to be an adequate reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the defect?

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Will Government take it from me that the name of one person, Lakshmikanta Barua whose gun has not been returned, has not been mentioned here in the list. I know it definitely.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot challenge it, but that was my information. I must make an enquiry into this matter.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any gun has been returned in the Surma Valley to its original owner?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot reply to that question off-hand.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Have the Government orders been communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The order is for all the places when it concerns a policy.

† Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: May I know whether this order was communicated to subordinate officials?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, I think so.

Maulvibazar Public Works Department Division

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

222. (a) Is it a fact that the Muslim clerks of the Maulvibazar Division were prevented by the Executive Engineer from saying their prayer during office hours?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said order of the Executive Engineer and all relative correspondence in the matter including demi-official letters?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if any letter from the Secretary, South Sylhet Muslim League, making certain allegations against the Executive Engineer of the Maulvibazar Division was received in or about March 1945?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

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

222. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to unstarred questions Nos. 114(a) and (b) and 115(a), (b) and (c) asked by Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith, M.L.A., in this Session of the Assembly.

Expenditure for construction of roads and buildings under Public Works Department

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

223. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) The total expenditure incurred by Government regarding construction of roads and buildings under Public Works Department last year (to be shown district by district)?

(b) How many (i) local and (ii) outside contractors were engaged for these works showing the community to which each of them belongs?

(c) Whether communal representation was taken into consideration in distributing the said contracts?

(d) Whether it is a fact that there are Government instructions for engaging local contractors in preference to outsiders?

(e) If so, whether Government propose to take steps against those officers who engaged outsiders in preference to local ones?

(f) Whether Government propose to issue a fresh order to the District Officers under Public Works Department and Forest Department to engage local contractors in future for the Post-War Reconstruction Works?

†Questions were answered by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

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

223. (a)—As per statement given below :—

Statement showing expenditure incurred on construction of buildings and roads—Original Works—under Public Works Department during the year 1945-46

Serial No.	Divisional Officer	Buildings	Roads	Remarks
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	Lakhimpur Division (Lakhimpur District).	5,26,603	32,31,854	
2	Jorhat Division (Sibsagar District) ...	4,70,498	9,49,532	
3	Nowgong Division (Nowgong District)	18,084	17,47,676	
4	Western Assam Division (Goalpara District).	63,457	14,30,799	
5	Lower Assam Division (Kamrup District).	2,45,386	13,06,458	
6	North Kamrup Division (Kamrup District).	1,04,135	4,74,805	
7	Central Assam Division (Darrang District).	4,09,466	4,30,429	
8	Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division ...	3,85,774	18,76,304	
9	Sylhet Division ...	3,84,641	8,77,857	
10	Maulvibazar Division (Sylhet District)	3,33,835	23,29,176	
11	Cachar Division ...	1,59,883	6,46,758	
12	Garo Hills ...	21,986	2,05,600	
13	Lushai Hills ...	19,555	2,15,862	
14	Naga Hills ...	12,965	85,794	
15	Sadiya Frontier Tract ...	42,007	3,33,653	
16	Balipara Frontier Tract ...	15,211	60,813	
17	Tirap Frontier Tract ...	13,722	28,271	
18	Kohima ...	15,873	76,334	

(b)—The collection of this information would take a great deal of time. It is doubtful if the labour involved would be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved

(c)—Contracts were placed by tender.

(d)—Yes.

†Questions were answered on this day by the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the absence of the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

(e)—When Government Orders are wilfully disobeyed it is customary to take departmental action.

(f)—As standing orders already exist fresh orders are not necessary.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: With regard to (b), I did not get the answer. May I know the names of the contractors, particularly, foreign contractors who have taken so much money from the Province of Assam?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My reply is: It is doubtful if the labour involved would be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. If it is desired by the House that this information is to be furnished at any cost, then certainly it will be given. There cannot be any difficulty to understand the principle or the policy of the Government. If Government is to spend considerable time and money, in that case, certainly Government will collect the information.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: May I know whether Government have any information that outsiders were engaged as contractor?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is not the policy of the present Government. People of the soil get preference in all matters.

Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN: Perhaps the Jamiyat-ul-Ulema people will get preference.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly not. That is not in the mind of this Government. Their mind is quite open; they think of all communities equally and they think more of the minority communities.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: The point is whether outside contractors were appointed.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not all of them were outsiders.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Whether communal representation was maintained?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is not the reply quite conclusive?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Schools run by tea garden authorities

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA asked:

224. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of schools at present run by the tea garden authorities for the tea garden Labour boys and girls in the Province?
- (b) The total number of boys and girls at present reading in these schools?

- (c) How many students (both boys and girls) appeared in the Lower Primary Examination and how many of them came out successful from the very beginning since those schools were started?
- (d) Whether Government are taking any step for the education of the children of Tea Garden labourers?
- (e) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

224. (a)—About 130 schools of which 56 is "C" Class and 74 "B" Class.

The B Class schools receive a direct grant of Rs. 10 a month each for maintenance from Government which is supplemented by funds from respective garden authorities to run these institutions.

(b)—4,300 approximately.

(c)—This information is not available at present.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Does not arise.

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA : Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to appoint Government officers to inspect these garden schools as these are going on without inspection?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : These schools are already in the jurisdiction of the Government Inspectors.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order, the question will stand over.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to correct a statement that I made in reply to a supplementary question under Unstarred Question No. 203. I stated that the amount involved was 3 or 4 rupees. I have since looked into the file and found that the amount involved was two months' pay of a chaprasi and the amount, therefore, will not be more than Rs. 32 to 34. The main question was whether there was misappropriation at all.

Complaint *re* non-receipt of replies to certain questions

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : On a question of privilege, Sir. I submitted some questions before the 26th August but I find that no reply has come yet.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : To what subject or in other words to what portfolio those questions relate?

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Regarding Home, Education and Agriculture, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Were the questions admitted?

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Yes, Sir, they were admitted. The questions were submitted before the 26th August and a letter was sent to me from the Assembly Department on the 6th September saying that the questions were admitted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Some other hon. Members also had complained about not receiving answers to their questions although they were submitted in July Session. I think, it is the desire of the House that Government should try to expedite replies to questions.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I point out one thing, Sir. Unless Government are supplying the replies how is it that the full question hour is being utilised every day. This is however for the first time that the Hon'ble Speaker can utilise the full question hour every day. From the answers it is quite evident that we are giving replies to the questions which we can reply at the earliest possible opportunity though in some cases we say that the information is not yet available. There is already a volume of questions replied and we are trying to collect information with regard to the rest.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got a copy of the admitted questions with him now?

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Sir, the date of submission of the questions is 24th August and the date of the letter of the Assembly Department admitting the questions is 6th September. It may be that the Assembly Department has sent the questions to the Administrative Department concerned and the Administrative Department in their turn has sent them to the district authorities for collection of information.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, in June last, I submitted some starred questions regarding eviction policy but unfortunately those questions have not yet come up; nor do I see any chance of their coming up. All these were Starred Questions and the Starred Questions being very few the argument of Mr. Mookerjee does not apply in this case.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There are two more days, Sir, and the reply may come in during those days. Even yesterday we sent replies.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am sorry, I could not really follow what the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party meant when he said "It is for the first time that the full question hour has been utilised every day." It is not the point whether the full one hour is utilised or whether time is available for putting Supplementary Questions on Unstarred Questions. The main question is that when questions are admitted, it is considered that they are more or less of public interest and of public importance and it should be the whole-hearted effort of the Government to reply to them, and, if the Unstarred Questions are too many, there will, of course, be no time for putting Supplementary Questions on them but the answers will be there for the information of the hon. Members as they will be put on the table of the hon. Members. But when answers to

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Questions put are not at all available, the hon. Members of the House are deprived of the information sought for. Therefore, whether the full question hour has been utilised or not is not of as much importance as the fact of receiving the answers to questions put. In this particular case, while no definite fault is attached to anybody it is clear that things move very slowly with Government and perhaps efforts should be made by somebody to minimise delay. I find, the first question is somewhat important and refers to a matter of public importance. The Assembly Secretary's letter to Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta is:—

“Sir, in continuation of my letter No. so and so, dated the 26th August 1946, I am directed to inform you that the Questions have been admitted in the revised form as shown in the annexure”.

These Questions were admitted on or before the 26th and sent to the Administrative Department on or about the 6th September. I can assure the hon. Members that the Questions are not delayed in the Assembly Department. Perhaps the Department concerned got the Questions on the same day or the next day. The Secretary's letter is dated the 6th September. The very first Question of Babu Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta is:—

“Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to issue a statement regarding the happenings in the town of Sylhet from the 16th August 1946,” and so on.

So, perhaps Sylhet is not far off and probably the Government machinery might have moved a little quicker and the answer could have been made ready. There are two days more and let us all live in hope.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : With your permission, Sir, may I make one submission ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Let us take that chapter as closed.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, if the hon. Members do not get replies, they might say so in the House and the Government might give some reply ; otherwise, it will be considered that the Government has been discourteous to the House.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : We can do so only when the Questions are mentioned. In this particular case, Sir, the time when the questions were sent cannot be earlier than the 6th September. The Questions were sent to the Assembly Department on the 26th. The Administrative Department could not have got the Questions before the 6th September because it is only after they were admitted by the Assembly Department that they were sent to Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is not strictly correct. Of course, in this particular case we do not know on which date exactly the Administrative Department got the Questions, but the acknowledgment might have gone later. The Questions are despatched quickly. But in any case, Shillong and Sylhet are very well-connected by phone and wire. Even by correspondence in such a grave matter of public importance the answers could have been obtained and supplied if the Government were alert.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: In reply to the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition I may say, Sir, that the suggestion he made has already been accepted. In regard to certain Questions, materials are available and as regards the remaining Questions I have said that I have called for information.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: These are only very few of the complaints about non-receipt of answers. I have to-day forwarded some papers to the Hon'ble Minister-in charge of Local Self-Government and others. There are very many complaints.

I now pass on to the next item of business.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 15 (47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

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. 14,894 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 "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	Rs. 1,62,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	
F.—Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts ...	14,894
For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.	

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 14,894 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 '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. The Motion is in order, and the hon. Member may move it.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 14,894 under Supplementary Demand No. 15, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—F.—Preservation and Translation of ancient manuscripts, 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. 14,894 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies. Sir, at the very outset I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the original demand under this head. Sir, from the Budget estimates that were presented before the House and passed in March of this year, the hon. Members will find that the estimate for the year 1946-47 under this sub-head F was only Rs. 4,446. The corresponding figures for the year 1945-46 was only Rs. 3,812. Sir, the actuals for the year 1944-45 was Rs. 3,450. But, Sir, this year Government have come forward with a supplementary demand for Rs. 14,894. I submit that this is a very big leap and demands some sort of explanation from the Hon'ble Minister. Sir, the explanatory note appended only clouds the whole issue. From it we find that a new item has been added which was not at all

unforeseen at the time of framing the original Budget. Then, again, if we compare the pay of establishment under this sub-head F, it will be found that the Budget Estimate for the year 1946-47 was only Rs.1,816, but this time it is something like Rs.10,000. This is something extraordinary which has never been done in any legislature under a supplementary demand. Sir, my shrewd suspicion is that this unusual step has been taken to make provision for a certain officer. Sir, I really feel reluctant to indulge in personal recriminations, but, to do justice to the House I must say that this particular officer has proved to be a spoiled child of the Government of Assam. In the past I have seen him as Special Officer of the University Bill; I have seen him as Special Officer for Primary Education also. Then, again, Sir, during the war he was appointed as Publicity Officer for Military Technical Recruiting Scheme, and during all these years he was allowed to draw fat salaries much in excess of his usual pay. Now, as this officer is due to retire very shortly, the Government of Assam have very conveniently created a new post for him.

From the explanatory note the hon. Members will find that he has been provided with a monthly salary of Rs.800; then, again, a special pay of Rs.150 has been provided for him, and another sum of about Rs.200 has been provided for as his war allowance. May we know, Sir, what is the justification for these provisions? It is really curious that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge considers that the public exchequer of Assam is somebody's personal property and may be played within any way he likes. Sir, apart from the pay and prospects of this officer, in another item we find that a thesis named "Anglo-Assamese Relations" of the same gentleman is going to be published at a cost of Rs.3,660. We do not know what is that thesis. Was it submitted to any Board of Examiners under any University, or has it been recognised by any University? My information is that this thesis is still in the course of preparation, but yet the Government of Assam have thought it fit to provide a big sum for its publication. Sir, this gentleman had the advantage of getting some more of his publications printed at the cost of the Government of Assam. I have seen those volumes and they do very little credit to the Government of Assam.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: On a point of information, Sir. Has not this officer done excellent work in the Historical and Antiquarian studies?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In reply to the hon. Member, who interrupted me, I may say that he has been connected with this Department and for this he is getting an allowance. But now the Government of Assam just on the eve of his retirement are going to provide him with a new post.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: My point is that his works were much appreciated in and outside Assam.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I have got no information, but I can boldly say that these have not been appreciated by any body excepting some of his friends and admirers in Assam.

Finally, Sir, I would submit that this is a very curious thing and it should not have been brought in by way of a supplementary demand. In order to bring these facts to the notice of the hon. Members I have brought this Cut Motion, and I hope, Sir, my Cut Motion will find acceptance with the hon. Members of this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs 14,894 under Supplementary Demand No.15, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head.—F.—Preservation

and Translation of ancient manuscripts, 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. 14,894 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know Dr. Bhuyan did some antiquarian work and some of them are really of value. In spite of this, Sir, I do not find any justification for providing such a big sum for this work in the manner Government propose to spend. Out of the grant of Rs. 14,894 Dr. Bhuyan is to get as much as Rs.10,000 including Rs.3,600 provided for publication of his thesis. The details shown in the estimate are Rs. 6,650 as pay with special allowance *plus* Rs. 300 as travelling allowance, and Rs.3,660 as the cost for the publication of the thesis. It is not known whether the thesis of “Anglo-Assamese Relations” by Dr. Bhuyan was examined by any expert before it was decided to be published at Government expense. I personally agree with my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury that there is hardly any justification to publish the thesis at Government expense unless it is declared to be of extraordinary value, as some of his earlier publications did not deserve the compliment of publication by Government. Sir, personally I do not object to making provision for expansion of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, as I think there is still some room for doing that work. But there is no justification to spend such a sum of money after an individual for doing the work. This sum can be put to better use. If Dr. Bhuyan retains his zeal and earnestness for such work he would, I am sure, readily agree to do the work without remuneration or with remuneration much lesser than the amount actually provided.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although this grant was moved by the Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das who is in charge of this Department, the subject was dealt with by me in his absence and so I would like to reply to the Cut Motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Sir, the present Government is not to be credited with the creation of this schedule. It was there in the last Budget of the last Government, and this Government had to accept it as a measure of urgency if any decision was to have been taken on that behalf. It was found that the last Government considered all aspects of the schedule carefully, and I am only defending this schedule.

The hon. Member may know that a Government Department known as the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies is already there and this Department is doing very useful work for the preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts. But its activities have not been confined merely to preservation and translation. Dr. Bhuyan, it would be admitted by any one who has studied his activities closely, is an expert in the modern development of ancient studies, and is a person who is known both inside and outside Assam. His research particularly on the history of Assam during the epoch-making periods of Ahom and Moghul rule has been contributory to the building up of not only the history but also of expanding the historical studies of Assam. Not only that, he has also got many important books translated into Assamese ; and one about which I should make special reference is the translation from Persian by the late lamented friend Dr. Mabitul Islam Borah of the Dacca University of a remarkable history. Through these collective efforts much floodlight has been thrown on history in regard to Assam's relationship with other states of India during the Moghul period. Dr. Bhuyan's contribution by his translation and original works,—whatever the hon. Mover may say—has really been sufficient and indeed in some cases remarkable for the development of Assam's history.

Though there has been some criticism about Dr. Bhuyan on the floor of this House in his absence, it is sufficient for me to say that he is considered to be a very learned man and one of those who had done research work for the building up of the history of Ahom and Moghul periods of Assam and of Indian history, as a whole. I really appreciate the criticism of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he says that his pay has been shown to be double than the amount of Rs. 3,660 proposed as expenditure for publication of the thesis. There is some justification in that criticism. But I may point out that the pay Dr. Bhuyan draws in the Education Department has got to be shown in the estimate, if his service is at all to be obtained. In view of this I do not think the criticism holds good. As far as I know, Sir, this gentleman has not a long time to serve in the Education Department and it is quite possible that after his retirement he might continue to do work in this Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies in which case the expenditure which is now proposed will be very much less; he would not be able to draw more than his present pay with his pension and remuneration.

So, Sir, in view of what I have said I do hope that the schedule will be supported by every Member of this House, and I request my Friend hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury to withdraw his Cut Motion.

I shall remember the suggestion made by the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in respect of the other matter.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: On a point of information, Sir. Under item i), special pay Rs. 150 and under sub-head (3), war allowance of Dr. Bhuyan. Rs. 1,164, for 7 months, *i. e.*, 192 per month. Why this is so? Why this Officer is being provided with double benefit?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: These were the ways of calculating things. We do not think that we have made the calculations now, but this was the way in which things were calculated.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: After the publication of Dr. Bhuyan's thesis whose property will it be?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It will become the property of the Department.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on hearing the Hon'ble Prime 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 the question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 14,894 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 '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'."

The question was adopted.

Now we come to Grant No. 16.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.16

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

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I, beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 6,89,631 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 "50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... Rs. 59,11,200

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

A—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—

	Rs.
Land Revenue	16,500
Forest	26,278
Registration	24,484
General Administration	55,000
Jails	46,230
Police	70,333
Education other than European	19,320
Medical	6,284
Civil Works	1,24,334
Total ...	3,88,813

(b) Communications—

1. Ordinary roads	1,75,071
2. Post-War Planning	8,747
Total ...	1,83,818

D.—Grants-in-aid for communications—

Grants to Municipal and Local Boards, etc. ... Total 1,17,000

Grand total ... 6,89,631

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

*The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy being absent the Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee moved the Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 6,89,631 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 '50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment).'"

There are †14 Cut Motions under this Demand. I find that Nos. 1 and 2 are not in order. No. 3 stands in the name of Maulavi Abdul Hai

†Motions:—

1. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 19,320 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings, Detailed head—Education other than European, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of providing fund for constructing an additional building for Sunamganj Government High School.)

2. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,24,334 under Supplementary Demand No. 16 Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings, Detailed head—Civil Works, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of constructing a Circuit House at Sunamganj.)

3. Maulavi ABDUL HAI to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 3,88,813 under Supplementary Demand No. 16., Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings (total), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about employment of public funds in re-constructing the Sarbhog Thana Building which was burned down by miscreants. The punitive tax realised from the locality should be used for the purpose.)

4. Maulavi ABDUL HAI to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 3,88,813 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings (total), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about employment of Public funds to reconstruct the Inspection Bungalow at Sarbhog which was burnt by miscreants. The punitive tax realised from the locality should be used).

5. Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary roads, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgency of constructing the Sultanganj Bazar Road in North Sylhet Subdivision.)

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,88,813 under Supplementary Demand No.16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings (total), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I move this Cut Motion to raise a discussion about employment of public funds in re-constructing the Sarbhog Thana Building which was burned down by miscreants. The punitive tax realised from the locality should be used for the purpose.

Sir, at the outset, I like to make it clear to the hon. Members of the House that we, the Muslim League Members, are not opposed and unsympathetic towards those persons who really fought for the independence of the country in a constitutional manner. But we cannot support the deeds of those miscreants who for their own gains and to satisfy their own whims and caprices, and to come to lime-light, did mischief to their own countrymen and to their own people, i.e., those miscreants who burned down public institutions like schools, colleges, thanas, buildings, inspections bungalows, etc., and who demolished the bridges and sabotaged railway lines whereby caused deaths of our own countrymen and made our own people to suffer.

6. Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion on the necessity of ear-marking grants to Dhubri Local Board for taking up projects in Mankachar thana where there is no road of the Board.)

7. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at Page 7 of the List of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of constructing a road from Sachna to Dhar-rampassa in the Sunamganj Subdivision.)

8. Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No.16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 7 of the List of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the necessity of constructing the Haripur-Teliganj Bazar Road.)

9. Moulana Md. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No.16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the extension of Bhanga-Marjat-Kandi Road up to Anipur-Manacherra Road near Kalinagar in Karimganj via Kuchilagul, Mamadpur, Singna, Gararband and Dalu and it should be taken into first priority list of the five years plan of Post-War Scheme.)

Sir, now we find that in 1942 this movement gained ground. The then Government realised that this was not the proper way for achievement of ones independence and that these acts were done by some interested persons and that was why the then Government imposed some collective fines on those areas where the miscreants caused havoc to the public property with the knowledge of the people of that locality. (A voice : That was unjust). Sir, we consider that if these people are not punished or some fines are not realised from them then perhaps the Government shall have to punish the whole Province for no fault of their own by spending money from Government coffers for re-building these institutions that were demolished and damaged. That was why, Sir, a collective fine was imposed in certain areas by the then Government.

But now, Sir, we find that the present Congress Government is now going to withdraw those fines. Suggestions are afloat that Government should go from door to door and refund the money to the persons who did the mischief to the country. (Interruptions) Sir, if any body wants to put any Question to me I will be prepared to reply to it after I finish my speech, provided that you allow me to do so.

10. Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion for earmarking money for making the road motorable from Goalpara to Lakhimpur.)

11. Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,75,071 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary Roads at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the urgent necessity of constructing the Purkayasta Bazar-Chandergaon Road in the North Sylhet Subdivision.)

12. Mr. J. S. R. TELFER to move:—

That the total provision of Rs. 6,89,631 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plant and Establishment), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To request Government to replace the bridge over the Dalu River in North Cachar, Barkhola Thana, washed away by flood in May, 1943.)

13. Mr. J. S. R. TELFER to move:—

That the total provision of Rs. 6,89,631 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plant and Establishment), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To draw the attention of Government to the closing of the Katakhal Railway Bridge, now used by Road traffic, by the Railway authorities on 21st August 1946 without notice or intimation because of defective planking.)

14. Moulana Md. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN to move:—

That the total provision of Rs. 6,89,631 under Supplementary Demand No. 16, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To raise a discussion about the enlargement of small culverts in the Bengal-Assam Railway line between Badarpurghat and Karimganj to stop the over night flood at that area.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. Members will remember that this is the last date for Supplementary Demands for Grants. Under the rule at 4 P.M. sharp I have to put guillotine to all the Demands.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There are no other Motions to-day, Sir, this is the only one.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have got only 20 minutes.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: I am taking 2 Cut Motions together, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: They cannot be taken up together.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: The discussion is the same, Sir.

Now, Sir, do the Government really consider that by burning houses, schools and colleges and destroying the thanas, they can achieve independence? If that is so, perhaps we could by this time have achieved independence of India by burning of schools, colleges and clubs and perhaps the Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council would not have taken oath of allegiance to the British Imperialism (*Hear, hear*). But unfortunately, Sir, this is not the proper method and that is why we find it difficult to spend a big sum of Rs.17,127 for the construction of (1) a thana at Sorbhog and (2) an Inspection Bungalow at Sorbhog. We know that Assam is a poor Province. Can we have the luxury of spending Rs.17,127 without any valid reason? Therefore, Sir, I bring in this discussion. I hope the hon. Members of this House will give their due consideration to the question whether they will be justified in giving this grant.

At the same time, Sir, the Congress Government should have taken the consent of this House before they adopted the policy of remitting the collective fines by way of compensating the miscreants. Have they not deprived us of our privilege? I hope the Congress Government as well as other Members of this House will consider whether this grant should be allowed or not. To me the Government have forfeited the right of asking this House now to allow this grant for this sort of expenditure. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.3,88,813 under Supplementary Demand No.16, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(a)—Buildings (total), at page 7 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.6,89,631 do stand reduced by Re.1".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister may reply, if there is none to speak on the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was really surprised to hear my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Cut Motion. It reminds me of a Bengali saying "ধান ভানতে শিবের গীত" (*Dhan vante Shiber git*). I don't see the relevancy of the Cut Motion. My hon. Friend is a lawyer. He always pleads for justice before the Court. He has forgotten that here he has not

appeared on brief for any particular person or persons to plead a case before the Hon'ble Speaker. Sir, whatever the present Government are doing, they are doing it for the sake of justice. The hon. Member had the audacity to say—Maulavi Abdul Hai: Is the word "audacity" Parliamentary, Sir?) that these persons from whom the collective fines were realised were all miscreants and now they are going to be rewarded. I would like him that he makes a public statement like this if he has the courage in him. I challenge him to make such a statement publicly.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: I take that challenge.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I appreciate that the hon. Member has taken courage to take the challenge at least on the floor of the House. I can well understand him if he makes such a statement outside the House. I shall watch his courage with interest though I know that he has not got that courage.

Sir, the policy of the Government is that when a thing is done, it is done not with a punitive spirit. Most probably it was in the mind of the then Government that unless the people were collectively fined and threatened, they would not get their co-operation. It was an indirect way of stopping the mischief. That might have been the intention of the then Government. We are not in a position to say whether the previous Government have done that in that spirit. But I can certainly say that they were not definite that the fines that were realised at that time were really from the guilty persons. It was due to the activity of one, two or three people and the entire population of the locality were victimised. It was most probably the policy of the then Government to create fear in the mind of the people that the collective fines were imposed so that they might join with the Government and the activities of the miscreants were stopped. So, the people who were not real culprits were fined; it is justice and equity which demand that the fines realised from them should be refunded. But whether the amount of punitive fines of a locality are to be refunded or utilised in some other way for the good of the locality, is still under consideration of Government. But I can boldly say that those who were fined were not all guilty.

Now, Sir, whenever any opportunity is given or whenever any opportunity arises, there are some Members who take the advantage of every single opportunity to discredit the Congress Organisation. Sir, I think, your ears are full of this kind of false allegations that these people are worthless, that they are doing injustice, but, Sir, there is one silver lining in the cloud as the Leader of the Opposition does not speak in that strain. It is only some irresponsible Members only who speak at random.

***Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN:** Why the Hon'ble Minister is afraid of that? He is only a recent convert. (*Laughter*).

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am sorry that my Friend is remarking that I am a recent convert. May I know since when my Friend has been converted? Was it from the beginning of his life? He is also a recent convert. (*Laughter*). The Leader of the Opposition is well aware of the activities against him. One or two years before or later, it does not matter. Of course, I do not mind as I feel myself guilty and I have got the courage to admit

that yes, I was late in joining the Congress formally. I should have joined this Organisation before and for not doing so I plead guilty. I hope my hon. Friend will have nothing more to say now. It is better late than never.

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY :** Is there any time fixed for the the Hon'ble Minister, Sir ?

(A Voice—No.)

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am glad, Sir, that I have been able to make my speech interesting to the Opposition. Really I fail to understand why some new hon. Friends do not try to follow the footsteps of their Leader who is expected to be as such, not only by his Group but by many others who do not belong to that Organisation. I desire that my hon. Friends opposite will be sensible to follow the lead given by their Leader, and they should instead of displaying gallary play put forward constructive suggestions which will be really beneficial.

Sir, in conclusion, I should say that at the very outset, if I would have drawn your attention that this was not the right place for moving this Motion, it would have been better but when you allowed it I did not raise the point. I can only say that this Government cannot accept the position as taken by my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Cut Motion, because the Government think that the money realised as collective fine should be refunded and the Government building—the thana—will be constructed in the usual course as it is done always from the public fund.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Motion. I hope after hearing what I have said, my hon. Friend will take leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : In giving reply the Hon'ble Minister misunderstood me. I did not say that all the people were miscreants but, I said that there were some miscreants and some people of the locality or localities concerned who helped in concealing the real miscreants and that is why, I said that those miscreants who were responsible should be punished.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Has the hon. Member got any right to reply, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No; it is a personal explanation. What does the hon. Member propose to do?

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : The Hon'ble Minister did not give way when he was speaking.

Srijut LAKHIDHAR BORA : How can he speak on a personal explanation?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When the Hon'ble Minister was replying he put some Questions, therefore the point of personal explanation can be allowed.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : As regards what I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister, I am not at all convinced, but of course looking at the strength of my Party I am not going to press the Motion. (Laughter).

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

*Speech not corrected.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We have got only four minutes left. I shall require some time to put the Motion. I propose to put the Question.

The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 6,89,631 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 50—Civil Works (excluding Tools, Plant and Establishment.)"

The question was adopted.

Supplementary Demand No. 17

(50—Civil Works—Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges)

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 69,141 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 "50—Civil Works Tools and Plant and Establishment charges".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs. 4,57,800

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

A.—Direction charges—

(a) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department—

					Rs.
Pay of Officers	...	...	...	...	5,886
Pay of Establishment		...	...	...	1,036
Allowances	...	...	...	...	1,225
Total					8,147

B.—Charges for construction—

Pay of Officers	...	...	...	...	27,640
Pay of Establishment		...	...	...	33,354
Total					60,994
Grand total					69,141

For details please see the list of new schemes enclosed.

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. Nichols Roy** being absent the **Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** moved the Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.69,141 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. '50—Civil Works—Tools and Plant and Establishment charges'."

There is no Cut Motion under it. I put the question.

The question is :

That an additional sum of Rs. 69,141 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 '50.—Civil Works—Tools and Plant and Establishment charges'."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.18

(57.--Miscellaneous)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 16,688 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 " 57.—Miscellaneous."

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs. 32,45,700

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

K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—

Rs.

2. Expenditure on issue of free rations to Government servants 16,688

This represents cost of free rations to the proposed staff in connection with the reorganisation of the Police Forces detailed on the list of new schemes enclosed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 16,688 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 '57-Miscellaneous'."

There is no Cut Motion, and the time is also up. So I put the question straightaway.

The question is :

" That an additional sum of Rs. 16,688 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 '57-Miscellaneous'."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Saturday, the 21st September, 1946.

Shillong :

The 6th December, 1946.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.