

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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A. M., on
Wednesday, the 25th September 1946

P R E S E N T.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Persons serving in the Assam Regiment

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked :

263. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any inhabitants of the Surma Valley at present serving in the Assam Regiment ?

(b) If so, how many ?

(c) If not, why ?

(d) If the reply to question (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number of (i) Hindu soldiers, (ii) Muslim soldiers, (iii) Hindu Officers, (iv) Muslim Officers in that Regiment from the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, this Government can only furnish information as the agent of the Central Government in this matter. The information required is as follows :—

263. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The composition of the Assam Regiment is "Assamese 100 per cent. (other than Musalmans)". This precludes the enlistment of Sylhet Musalmans, the only main class not recruited. Experience has shown that this class is not likely to enlist in the Infantry but only in the R. I. N., the Mercantile Marine and the technical branches of the Army for which they show an aptitude.

Hindus from the same area do not present themselves for enlistment.

(d)—Does not arise.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : With regard to question 263(c), will Government consider the desirability of enlisting Sylhet Muslims in the Assam Regiment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : If the hon. Member read the latter part of the answer, he will find the explanation. It reads as follows "Experience has shown that this class is not likely to enlist in the Infantry but only in the R. I. N., the Mercantile Marine and the technical branches of the Army for which they show an aptitude".

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: On what is Government experience based ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government experience is based on observations for years.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there are many ex-Service men among the Surma Valley Muslims who will be too willing to join the Assam Regiment if chance is given to them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It may be so, Sir. But it is not within the knowledge of Government as yet.

Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Was any attempt made to enlist the Muhammadans from Sylhet in the past ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Of course, I cannot say, that Sir, but it is primarily the concern of the Central Government and this Government is only an agent of the Central Government in this matter.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Will the Government move the Central Government to include the Muslims of both the Valleys—Assam Valley and Surma Valley—in the Assam Regiment ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government will consider this question, Sir.

Divisional Forest Officers in the Province

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

264. Will Government be pleased to state how many Divisional Forest Officers are there in the Province and how many of them are Muslims ?

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

264.—There are 14 posts of Divisional Forest Officers in this Province, none of which is at present held by a Muslim.

Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

265. (a) Are Government aware that a Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industries exists in Assam ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason why a representative from the said Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industries was not included in the Advisory Committee constituted in relation to the utilisation of forest products while a representative from the Assam Chamber of Commerce has been included in the said Committee ?

(c) Do Government propose to include a representative from the Muslim Chamber of Commerce to the said Committee ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of members they propose to take in that Committee and what is the number of Muslims, Tribal and other interests there ?

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

265. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It was decided that inclusion of representatives of trade associations other than the Assam Chamber of Commerce should from time to time be determined by the Hon'ble Minister, Forests.

(c)—Government have since decided to co-opt the President of the Provincial Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

(d)—The total number of members to be taken in the Committee has not yet been finally decided. A list of members so far decided to be taken in the Committee is given below :—

Officials—

1. The Senior Conservator of Forests.
2. The Director of Industries.
3. The Forest Utilisation Officer.
4. The Forest Adviser (Tribal Areas).

Non-officials—

5. A representative of the Assam Chamber of Commerce (Mr. P. Das).
6. Shri Abala Kanta Gupta, M.L.A.—Surma Valley Hindu.
7. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A.—Assam Valley Hindu.
8. Srijut Beliram Das, M.L.A.—Assam Valley Hindu. (Reserved).
9. Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen, M.L.A.—Surma Valley Hindu.
10. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, M.L.A.—Assam Valley Hindu.
11. Srijut Motiram Bora, M.L.A.—Assam Valley Hindu.
12. Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, M.L.A.—Assam Valley Muslim.
13. Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan, M.L.A.—Surma Valley Muslim.
14. Mr. A. Whittaker, M.L.A.—European Planting.
15. Maulavi Mayeenud-Din Ahmed, M.L.A., President, Provincial Muslim Chamber of Commerce—Surma Valley Muslim representing the Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : With regard to the replies to Questions (c) and (d), may I know why the President of the Provincial Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industries has been given a character as representing only a particular Valley ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : This anomaly will be removed, Sir.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY : Will Government take one more Muslim representative from the Surma Valley, Sir ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : I cannot say that offhand, because Government will have to consider this case along with other applications that have already been received.

Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL : Do Government intend to run the department on a communal basis ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, Sir. No Department can be run on a communal basis.

Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL: Then what is the principle underlying the formation of the Advisory Board?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Just to give advice, Sir.

Rates of fares and freights per mile of Stage Carriages

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

266. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The rates of fares per mile of stage carriages for passengers?
- (b) The rates of freight on goods carried by passengers per mile?
- (c) Whether these rates are uniform or they vary from place to place?
- (d) Whether it is compulsory on the part of owners of these stage carriages to exhibit rates of fares and freight on the carriages?
- (e) Whether there is any remedy on the part of passengers when excessive charges are demanded?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

266.(a) and (b)—The maxima fares and freights are laid down in the Provincial Motor Transport Controller's Notification No.128/LL-F/44-45/3771, dated the 5th April 1945. Government are not in possession of the actual fares and freights charged on various routes.

(c)—They vary.

(d)—Yes, under Section 48(d)(iii) and the orders of the Transport Authorities.

(e)—Violation is punishable under Section 112 read with Section 59 (3)(c) of the Act.

Damage to crops by flood in Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

267. (a) Are Government aware that the entire winter crop of the portion of Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas bordering Hailhawar was damaged by flood last year?

(b) Are Government aware that due to flood this year also the seedlings of the Amon crop of these areas have been destroyed?

(c) If so, what arrangements have been made by Government to help the people of these areas?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

267. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No. This year's flood has damaged only the Sail seedlings in a few areas within these two Thanas.

(c)—Government have rendered necessary help to the affected people by giving gratuitous relief and distributing Sail seeds to the cultivators at concessional rates.

† The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: With regard to Question (b), is it not a fact, Sir, that a large portion of seedlings of Amon crop has also been destroyed in that part of the Subdivision?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, the Question was:—Are Government aware that due to flood this year also the seedlings of the Amon crop of these areas have been destroyed? And the answer is: No. According to Government information only the Sail seedlings in some areas within the Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas have been destroyed by this year's flood.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that Amon seedlings have also been destroyed by this year's flood?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, this is not the Government information, but if the hon. Member makes this observation from his personal knowledge then there is no harm in accepting his statement.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Will Government consider the desirability of opening a godown at Srimangal to stock rice and paddy as reserves?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government have rendered necessary help to the affected people by giving gratuitous relief and if it is necessary to open a godown at Srimangal, Government will certainly do so.

Maintenance of roads and tanks in the South Sylhet Subdivision

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked :

268. (a) Are Government aware that several roads and tanks made out of the "Test Relief Fund" in the South Sylhet Subdivision are not being looked after by anybody?

(b) Do Government propose to sanction sufficient money for the maintenance of these roads and tanks through their own Agency or through the Local Board?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

268. (a)—These works are reported to be in charge of the Local Board.

(b)—No.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Sir, the reply to Question (a) is:—“These works are reported to be in charge of the Local Board.”

May I know, Sir, what the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge meant by the word 'reported'?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, these works after execution were put in charge of the Local Board. This is the Government information.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Is it not a fact that these works are not looked after by the Local Board or anybody ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The Local Board has not got the proper fund to look after these works, Sir.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Is it not sheer waste of public money to invest it in this way ? Is it not desirable for Government to look after these works ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That is a matter of opinion, Sir. When this has been brought to the notice of Government, certainly steps will be taken in this matter.

Dredging of River Bharali

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

269. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have lately received any representation from the public to take up protective work to stop the erosion of the river Bharali in Tezpur Subdivision ?

(b) When they received this representation ?

(c) When they took up the work of survey ?

(d) When they took up the work of putting floating cages ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that the measures adopted by them have not been successful ?

(f) Whether Government propose to consider the suggestion of dredging the river half a mile up the Kaldarighat to check the flow of water towards the east bank ?

(g) Whether Government propose to move the Central Government for surveying the possibilities for irrigation and Hydro-electricity from the surplus waters of the rivers on the north banks of the Brahmaputra especially—(1) Bharali, (2) Barganj, (3) Buroi, (4) Dikrong, (5) Dhansiri, (6) Pagladia, (7) Bekee, (8) Manas, (9) Ai ?

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

269. (a)—A representation was received by the Government.

(b)—It was dated 24th August 1945.

(c)—Preliminary survey was carried out in September 1945 and November 1945 and detailed survey was started in April 1946.

(d)—In first week of June, 1946.

(e)—The measures adopted were experimental and on a small scale and were successful to a limited extent. The cost of full scale river-training on a river of this size would be out of all proportion to the object to be achieved and quite beyond the resources of this Province.

(f)—It is neither feasible nor advisable.

(g)—Utilisation of water power is under the consideration of the Government.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Do Government propose to take up full scale river training from the loan from the Government of India in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme? Will they take up this question in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme?

† * **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I am not in a position to reply to this question because it involves a question of policy.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister take note of it.

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** We have taken note of many things.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In view of its productive purpose will Government take note of this?

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** There are many more productive purposes.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Are we to understand that Government are not taking any notice of irrigation schemes?

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** They are taking notice certainly.

Assamese Village "Tarapur" in Cachar District

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

270. (a) Are Government aware that there is a big Assamese village called Tarapur in the Cachar District near Silchar town?

(b) Is it a fact that the people of the above village moved Government through various organisations for establishing schools for the spread of Assamese education among their children?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by Government for the spread of Assamese education among those people?

(d) Do Government propose to take early steps to establish Lower Primary, Middle Vernacular and High Schools among those people to be taught through Assamese medium?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

270. (a)—Only a portion of village Tarapur called Chutiapara is inhabited by about 60 Assamese families.

(b) and (c)—As a result of the representation by Assamese inhabitants the teaching of Assamese was introduced in the Chutiapara Lower Primary School by appointing a separate teacher for the Assamese.

The cost of the maintenance of the teacher is met out of the grants given to the Silchar Local Board for Primary Education.

(d)—There is a Primary School existing in the village as stated in answer to questions (b) and (c) above.

*Speech not corrected.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied to the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

The population and the number of school-going children do not warrant any other Assamese School of higher grade here.

Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Assam

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

271. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that (i) the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Assam, is the only research organisation in the Province and (ii) that it has since received international status ?
- (b) Whether they are aware that the works of the Assistants at the said Department are mostly of technical and literary nature with heavy responsibility ?
- (c) The existing scale of pay of the Assistants of this Department ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that in view of the low scale of pay the former First Assistant, Srijut Basudev Misra, B.L., who was serving in the Department since its inception, left the job ?
- (e) Whether the present First Assistant is getting only Rs. 70 a month with all his experience and 15 years of service ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that he is to draw this pay for another 17 years according to the present scale of pay ?
- (g) Whether Government have made any scheme for the development of this Department ?
- (h) If so, whether Government propose to revise the scale of pay of the Assistants of this Department ?
- (i) Whether Government have received any proposal from the Department for revision of the scale of pay of the Assistants of this Department ?
- (j) If so, what are these proposals ?
- (k) Whether Government propose to forthwith revise the scale of pay of the Assistants of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

271. (a)(i)—No, there is also the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti, and (ii)—Government have no information.

(b)—Government have no information. But it seems to be more or less clerical.

(c)—Rs. 40—1—50—2—70 for both Assistants.

(d)—Probably so.

(e)—Yes. Since 1st March 1942.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Yes.

(h) & (k)—Government have in view the question of the general revision of the scales of pay and their case will receive due consideration in due course.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—These are being considered by Government at present and proposals have been made for a new scheme subject to the vote of the House.

Money collected as premium in Colonisation area of Nowgong District**Maulavi AFAZUDDIN AHMED** asked :

272. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of money collected up to date as the premium in Colonisation area in the District of Nowgong?
- (b) The amount spent for the benefit of the people of that area.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

272. (a)—Rs. 6,94,492-8-0 up to August 1946.

(b)—Rs. 1,37,700-10-6 in addition to grants to Local Boards for roads, wells, tubes, etc., for the benefit of the area.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker Sir, in this connection I wish to draw your attention to Question No. 68 which was replied to by Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi. In No. 68 I had a similar question. I wanted to know what amount was spent in the Colonisation area out of the premium collected from the colonists. The answer was that Government was unable to collect the figures because it was not possible to collect them. The Hon'ble the Speaker might remember that there was a series of supplementary questions and the Hon'ble Minister said that it was not possible to collect the figures, although I suggested that accounts of expenditure are maintained in district offices where this information will be available. But the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister persisted in saying that the information was not possible to be collected as no accounts were maintained in the Districts. In this answer it is said that Rs. 1,37,700-10-6 have been spent. I want to know which of the answers is correct.

† * **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Both are correct. That shows how very sincere we are. This shows that we have persuaded the matter and have been successful now. Instead of thanking us, I am sorry to find that the hon. Member wishes to criticise us.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: The Hon'ble Minister, Finance had stated that it was not possible to gather the answer.

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** The Hon'ble Minister has made impossible possible.

Nationalisation of Industries**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

273. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have prepared a complete scheme for the nationalisation of big industries in the Province ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to place the same on the table ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to allow private and mixed (Government and Public, Government taking the controlling interest) enterprises to grow side by side with state-owned concerns so that the growth of industries may be speeded up with the ultimate aim of nationalisation of all ?

*Speech not corrected.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

273. (a), (b) & (c)—A copy of the second Communiqué on Industrial Policy recently issued by Government, which furnishes the information, has been placed on the table in reply to Starred Question No 52 asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua in this session of the Assembly.

Assistant Controller of Assam Provincial Motor Transport

Maulavi ASDUL HAI asked :

274. (a) Is it a fact that Government abolished the post of the Assistant Controller of Assam Provincial Motor Transport ?

(b) If so, why a new man again has been taken in the said post ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the name of the person so appointed together with his qualifications ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

274. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As a temporary measure, another officer has been appointed to a new post on a lower scale of pay to help the Provincial Motor Transport Controller (Mr. H. Hussain), who is doing the work of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller in addition to his duties as Director, Assam Transport. It was at first thought that the Provincial Motor Transport Controller would be able to manage the work without assistance, but it subsequently proved that this was not possible.

(c)—Srijut Surendra Nath Sarma, B.A.

Construction of concrete bridges in Assam

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

275. (a) Is it a fact that there are some concrete bridges existing in Assam and that some more are going to be constructed in near future ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have no suitable machineries of their own for driving the piles of reinforced concrete bridges ?

(c) Is it a fact that no contractors of the Province have any such machineries ?

(d) Is it a fact that for these difficulties contract for reinforced concrete bridges have generally to be given to outside contractors ?

(e) Do Government propose to purchase a few sets of such machineries with a view to supply the same on loan to the contractors of the Province ?

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

275. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

**Representation from All-Assam Ministerial Officers Association re
increase of their pay**

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

276. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any representation has lately been received from the All-Assam Ministerial Officers' Association praying for the increase of their pay in view of the rise in prices of the daily necessities of life ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

276. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under consideration.

Establishment of Telegraph Office for Baniyachong Village

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN asked :

277. (a) Are Government aware that about 40,000 people live in village Baniyachong of the District of Sylhet ?

(b) Are Government aware that the said village contains a High School, Registration Office, one Charitable Dispensary, one Emergency Hospital, a Police Station, one Inspection Bungalow and other public institutions ?

(c) Are Government aware that the said village Baniyachong enjoyed the privilege of a telegraph office for the last 50 years or more ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Baniyachong telegraph office has been withdrawn since April, 1944 ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken for the restoration of the telegraph office at Baniyachong ?

(f) Do Government propose to take such steps as to acquire a site for the telegraph office ?

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

277. (a)—Government are aware that Baniyachong is a populous village.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government are aware of the fact that there was a telegraph office at Baniyachong.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Postmaster-General who was moved in the matter is trying to arrange necessary accommodation for the office building and staff quarters.

(f)—The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, has been requested to acquire a suitable plot of land and arrange hired accommodation in the meantime.

* **Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN:** May I enquire, Sir, when was the Postmaster-General moved in this matter ?

† **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I cannot give the exact date. As a matter of fact I have also some interest in the matter. We moved the Postmaster-General long ago not only after receipt of this question, but before that.

Sati Pith at Faljore in Jaintia

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

278. (a) Are Government aware that Sati-Pith at Faljore in Jaintia is held in high respect by the Hindus and that a large number of Hindus is deterred from making pilgrimage there because the place is unapproachable ?

(b) Are Government aware that only adventurous pilgrims from distant parts of Bengal visit the place from Sylhet by boat during rains only *via* Kanairghat ?

(c) Are Government aware that the old Jaintia Raja's road meets Sylhet-Jaintia Motor Road at a point near Sari, connecting Faljore ?

(d) Do Government propose to examine a scheme for improving the Raja's road which is in disrepair, to meet the needs of millions of devout pilgrims and at the same time to earn 'Tourist Income' by levying road tolls ?

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

278. (a)—Yes. But the shrine is known as "Bamjangha Pith".

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

Railway connection with Maulvibazar Town

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

279. (a) Are Government aware that there was a proposal once to connect Maulvibazar with Railway from Srimangal and a rough alignment was made ?

(b) Do Government realise the necessity of connecting Maulvibazar with Railway ?

(c) Do Government propose to move the Central Government to take up that line immediately ?

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

279. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government consider that it will be convenient for the people of Maulvibazar.

(c)—This is the responsibility of the Central Government, but this Government will move the Railway Board in the matter?

* **Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY:** In view of the importance of the matter, will Government take immediate steps to move the Central Government in the matter.

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

*Speech not corrected.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied to the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Lease of a land lying between Muslim Graveyard and Idga, Sylhet

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

280. (a) Is it a fact that certain lands in the town of Sylhet lying between the Muslim graveyard and the Idga have lately been leased by auction ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state specifically the area, premium, and rent for each plot ?

(c) Was any portion of these lands recommended by the Deputy Commissioner to the Government for settlement before ?

(d) If so, what are the names of the parties and their terms ?

(e) Why were the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner turned down by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

280. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The information is as follows :—

Plots		Area			Premium
		B.	k.	ch.	
Plot No.1	...	0	1	0	Reserved for a passage.
„ No.2	...	1	14	8	Rs.3,000.
„ No.3	...	1	15	0	Rs.3,100.
„ No.4	...	1	15	0	Rs.4,000.
„ No.5	...	0	18	0	Rs. 600.
Rent has not yet been fixed.					

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, recommended two petitions of (1) Khan Bahadur Syed Nabib Ali, Additional District Magistrate and (2) Maulavi Abdul Muktadir, Extra Assistant Commissioner, on terms of revenue payable at Rs.5 per bigha and premium at Rs. 200 per bigha.

(e)—On the recommendation of the Commissioner of Divisions, Government considered it more desirable to have the lands divided into plots and sold in auction to the highest bidder. They have since offered to settle them at this price with the original owner from whom the land was first acquired?

* **Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY**: With regard to (e) is it not a fact, Sir, that under the provision of section 153 of the Land Acquisition Manual the original owner has to be first offered the land when particular land is de-requisitioned under the Local Land Acquisition Act.

† **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: I do not think it the only case because these lands were not requisitioned during the present War but it was requisitioned long before. In this case the land was offered to the original owner first. I do not know much about Land Acquisition Act to which the hon. Member is referring but it is quite evident that the land was offered to the original owner. So I cannot understand how this question arises. It might be that the question has been put just to examine the legal knowledge of some Hon'ble Ministers otherwise why the question has been put. If the Questioner shows that we are doing something contrary to the rules in that case, of course, the question arises.

*Speech not corrected.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied to the Supplementaries in absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

(g)—Government are not prepared to state the ground if shown, as the nature of recommendations made by the Assam Public Service Commission is treated as confidential and cannot be divulged.

(h)—Only because Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali is senior to Babu Prabhat Kusum Das and Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi and as the recommendations of the Assam Public Service Commission were not forthcoming, he was allowed to continue as a temporary measure.

(i)—The service books and the character rolls of both the officers wherein contain all facts for and against were duly sent to Assam Public Service Commission for examination and consideration.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—Yes.

(l)—Government do not consider it worth while to send them to Assam Public Service Commission after an appointment is already made with their consultation.

(m)—Yes.

(n) The departmental examination is conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission and the result was published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 20th February 1946. A copy of the Gazette Notification was duly sent to the Assam Public Service Commission for their information who submitted their nominations in April last.

(o)—Does not arise.

(p)—Does not arise.

Officers of the Excise Department

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

282. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any permanent post of Superintendent of Excise has recently been filled up by promotion from the rank of Inspectors ?

(b) If so, what is the name of that Inspector ?

(c) Is it a fact that in 1941 the Public Service Commission, Assam, nominated three Inspectors of Excise for permanent appointment as Superintendents of Excise ?

(d) If so, who are these Inspectors ?

(e) Is it a fact that two of these nominated Inspectors who were absorbed in permanent vacancies of Superintendents of Excise have now retired ?

(f) Was not the next vacancy due to be filled up by the 3rd nominated Inspector ?

(g) If so, will Government be pleased to state why that appointment was not given to this Inspector ?

(h) Is it a fact that this Officer was appointed to officiate against the vacancy since its creation for the District of Goalpara ?

(i) Is it a fact that the last Government as a matter of fact gave appointment to this Officer who was the 3rd candidate nominated by the Public Service Commission ?

(j) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the order of appointment by the previous Government was not given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

282. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Nominations and recommendations of the Assam Public Service Commission are treated as confidential and Government are not prepared to disclose them before the House.

(e)—Yes.

(f) and (g)—Age-old nomination of 1941 was held to be ineffective in 1946.

(h)—Yes on a temporary basis.

(i)—No.

(j)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether it was a fact that after this question was tabled, Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali, who was first superseded by Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi was again superseded by Babu Pravat Kusum Das ?

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know what are the grounds for this supersession for the second time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: When the question of substantive appointment arose the Public Service Commission did not recommend the name of Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: With regard to Questions (b) and (d), may I know from the Hon'ble Minister when the names of the three senior Excise Inspectors were sent to the Public Service Commission before the appointment ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Before we assumed office.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the fact that Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali passed the obligatory departmental examination, whether the Public Service Commission was informed about this fact before the final recommendation came to the Government ?

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, as regards Question No.28 (i)—whether all facts for and against both Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali and Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi were timely placed before the Public Service Commission—the answer is—the service books and the character rolls of both the officers wherein contain all facts for and against were duly sent to Assam Public Service Commission for examination and consideration. Will the Hon'ble Minister please reconcile the answer that he has just now stated that the Government did not send his name to the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already stated that all the connected papers were duly sent to the Public Service Commission.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to your notice the fact that the Hon'ble Minister is trying to evade replying to my question. I seek your protection.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: What is the question ?

* **Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY**: I am sorry the Hon'ble Minister has not followed me. My point was, according to rule before the land is put up for auction sale, it is offered to the original owner. I want to know whether the original owner was offered the land before it was put up for auction.

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: The land was not first offered to the original owner because Government was not in a position to fix any price. By putting it up to auction they have been able to know it. Therefore they have now offered to the original owner.

* **Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY**: In this case, it is Tilla land and no improvement has been made.

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: We have not made improvement. Time has made improvement.

* **Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY**: The Hon'ble Minister stated that this particular plot of land was put up to auction only for fixing its price.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are not concerned with this information.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: I would simply request the Hon'ble Minister to go through the petition submitted by the owner as far back as November 15, 1912 and to take the matter into consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In this connection I may mention that many of the plots which are sold near the railway lines are not given to the original owners but in this case Government took action to give the land back to the original owner and if the question of interest, etc., is calculated since the land was requisitioned, then nobody knows where we shall be landed.

Officers of the Excise Department

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked :

281. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—
- (a) The position in the gradation list of Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi who has been appointed as Superintendent of Excise by Government Notification No. MEX.71/45/109, dated 21st May 1946 ?
 - (b) The names of the senior officers of the Department who have been superseded by this appointment and the grounds of such supersession ?
 - (c) Whether there were serious allegations of dishonesty and corrupt practices against this officer in connection with the distribution of consumer goods and whether the Department was compelled to hold an enquiry about these allegations ?
 - (d) Whether there were also allegations against this officer of his dishonest connections with opium smugglers ?
 - (e) Whether Government consulted the Public Service Commission in making this appointment ?

*Speech not corrected.

- (f) If so, what are the names of Officers whose cases were sent to the Public Service Commission for consideration ?
- (g) The ground shown by Public Service Commission for such supersession ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that in consideration of both merit and seniority Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali was allowed to continue to officiate as Superintendent of Excise while Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi and Babu Pravat Kusum Das were reverted to the rank of Inspector of Excise only about a month before this appointment ?
- (i) Whether all facts for and against both Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali and Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi were timely placed before the Public Service Commission ?
- (j) If not, why not ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that all the Senior Inspectors of Excise submitted representations in this connection to Government ?
- (l) If so, were all those representations placed before the Public Service Commission for their consideration ?
- (m) Whether it is a fact that the said Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali, officiating Superintendent of Excise, Darrang, passed the Departmental Examination in Accounts within the prescribed time ?
- (n) If so, whether this fact was communicated to the Public Service Commission before they considered the cases of all the Inspectors of Excise for promotion to the post of Superintendent of Excise ?
- (o) If not, why not ?
- (p) Whether Government propose to send the whole case back to the Public Service Commission for reconsideration and postpone action on their previous recommendations ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

281. (a)—Fourth.

- (b)—(1) Maulavi Sherajudoullah.
 (2) „ Md. Aslam.
 (3) „ Syed Maqbul Ali.

Appointments and promotions are made in consultation with the Assam Public Service Commission. The nature of the recommendations of the Assam Public Service Commission is treated as confidential and cannot be divulged.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—The service book and character roll maintained by the Commissioner of Excise and submitted to Government do not indicate anything bad against him.

(e)—Yes.

- (f)—(1) Maulavi Sherajudoullah.
 (2) Maulavi Md. Aslam.
 (3) Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali.
 (4) Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi.
 (5) Babu Prabhat Kusum Das.
 (6) Srijut Basanta Kumar Bhuyan.
 (7) Srijut Pratul Chandra Chakravarty.
 (8) Srijut Lakshmidhar Barua.
 (9) Babu Rudra Prasad Nath.
 (10) Srijut Nabin Chandra Barua.
 (11) Maulavi Muhibul Hussain.
 (12) Maulavi Abdur Rakib.
 (13) Srijut Kanak Lal Pathok.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: That the name of Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali was not sent to the Public Service Commission, is admitted by the Hon'ble Minister in his reply to a supplementary question ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I already said that all necessary papers relating to Mr. Maqbul Ali and Mr. Medhi were duly sent to the Public Service Commission.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The Hon'ble Minister said that the name of Maulavi Maqbul Ali was not sent to the Public Service Commission before making the appointment.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I did not say that the name of Mr. Maqbul Ali was not sent to the Public Service Commission, but I said that his name was not recommended by the Public Service Commission while sending their nomination for the substantive post.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the character roll of Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali was sent to the Public Service Commission after the appointment of Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi and that was done after a protest from the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It is not a fact, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know whether the character rolls of Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi and Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali were not sent on the same date ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This sounds like cross-examination in the Law Court.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In the answer the Hon'ble Minister has said, 'duly sent'. As it is an important question may I know the meaning of 'duly' ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: 'Duly' means in proper time.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Question 282 may also be answered, Sir, as Questions 281 and 282 are on the same subject.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right, I call out Question No. 282 also.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Reply to (d) is—'Nominations and recommendations of the Assam Public Service Commission are treated as confidential and Government are not prepared to disclose them before the House'. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government considered the supersession of these 3 senior officers as justified ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: We do not consider that any injustice has been done to them, Sir.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Does not the Hon'ble Minister consider that it was palpable injustice to the three senior Inspectors who were superseded by the appointment of Baliram Medhi ?

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDURY: With regard to answer to (f) and (g), may I know the reason why the recommendation made in 1941 was held ineffective in this particular case ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS: It was very very old, Sir.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: May I know what are the reasons for such a change in 1946 with regard to this particular officer?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In between, lot of water has flown over the Brahmaputra and the Surma.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: With regard to Questions 281 (m) and (n) the reply is (m)—'Yes', and to (n)—'The departmental examination is conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission and the result was published in the Assam Gazette, dated the 20th February, 1946. A copy of the Gazette Notification was duly sent to the Assam Public Service Commission for their information who submitted their nominations in April last.'

Is it a fact that apart from the Gazette Notification, the Public Service Commission were not informed that Syed Maqbul Ali did pass the departmental examination and this fact should also be considered?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Certainly, the answer is very clear. The examination is being held by the Public Service Commission and the Gazette Notification publishing the result of the examination was communicated duly to the Public Service Commission. That is enough.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: With regard to (h), is it not a fact that this officer was considered fit and efficient to get the foregoing appointment in 1941?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The answer is self-contained; he was considered fit for appointment on a temporary basis.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: It is not a fact that he was one of the nominated persons in 1941?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It is a fact, but not for the Goalpara post.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by "Goalpara post"? The question was whether he was fit for promotion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: A new post has been created for the Goalpara District.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Was not that officer appointed to fill the vacancy which has now been permanently filled in by Srijut Bali Chandra Medhi?

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

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: What were the grounds for brushing aside the nomination of that Inspector?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid, we are arguing in a circle, and the questions are getting argumentative. Should I pass on to the next question?

(Voices: That is a great injustice to the Muslim officers)

Tea Garden Medical Officers and Medical aid to tea garden labourers

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

283. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any minimum qualification prescribed for a tea garden Medical Officer ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to take necessary steps in order to secure for the garden population at least the services of qualified medical men not below the rank of Licensed Medical Practitioners of recognised Medical Education Boards ?

(d) What steps Government contemplate to take in order to secure for the garden population the services of medical men having qualifications proposed to be recognised in the immediate future by the All-India Medical Council ?

284. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they give any medical aid to the tea garden labour population ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of granting adequate medical aid for welfare of the labour populations of the gardens ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

283. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c) and (d)—Government have already taken action and instructed the Indian Tea Association, Assam, to appoint only registered medical practitioners in the tea gardens in Assam which has been accepted by them. In tea gardens, only fully qualified Assistant Medical Officers are to be appointed when there are vacancies in future except in certain out-garden dispensaries where compounders with compounder's certificates will continue to be appointed if it is economically necessary.

284. (a)—No.

(b)—No. The employers are to provide this.

Superintendents and Inspectors of Excise

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

285. Will Government be pleased to state how many Superintendents and Inspectors of Excise are there in the Province and how many of them are Muslims, stating their number from each Valley ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

285.—9 and 34 ; 3 and 13 ; 1 and 4 from Assam Valley and 2 and 9 from Surma Valley.

Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

286. (a) Will Government be pleased to state on what ground or grounds they have all on a sudden abolished the Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board ?

(b) What was the number of the pending cases when the said Board was abolished ?

(c) Are Government aware that a lot of troubles has been created to the poor agriculturists of the Sunamganj Subdivision due to this sudden abolition of the Debt Conciliation Board ?

(d) Do Government propose to reconstitute the Sunamganj Debt Conciliation Board immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

286. (a)—The Board was abolished because it had outlived its usefulness but the effect is being closely watched so that no undue hardship is caused to the agriculturists. If hardship is caused Government will reconsider the question of reconstitution.

(b)—852.

(c)—No.

(d)—*Vide* (a) above.

Officers of the Excise Department

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

287. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the five first grade Inspectors of Excise in order of seniority in the latest gradation list maintained by the Excise Department ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what principle was adopted in appointing Srijut Bolichandra Medhi, Inspector of Excise, as Superintendent of Excise against a permanent vacancy ?

(c) Is it a fact that Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali was senior to Srijut Medhi both in length of service as well as in the date of confirmation by 18 days ?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali passed all the obligatory Departmental Examinations in time and while officiating as Superintendent of Excise, passed in Accounts within the statutory period of one year ?

(e) What were the grounds for which the said Syed Maqbul Ali was superseded by a junior officer ?

(f) Is it a fact that there were serious allegations against the aforesaid Srijut Bolichandra Medhi of his participation in blackmarketing and corrupt practices in the distribution of consumer goods, especially C. I. sheets ?

(g) Is it a fact that Srijut Bolichandra Medhi was suspected of being in league with opium smugglers ?

(h) Is it a fact that all relevant papers including the confidential reports were withheld by the Department from the Public Service Commission, when they were asked to make their recommendation regarding this appointment ?

(i) Is it a fact that these papers were supplied to the Commission long after they had made their recommendation ?

(j) Is it a fact that on receiving these papers, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission asked the Government of Assam not to give effect to their prior recommendation as the Commission wanted to revise their opinion in the light of circumstances revealed by these papers ?

(k) When did Government receive the aforesaid letter of the Chairman and when was this appointment published in the official Gazette ?

(l) What were the reasons for which the Government did not consent to agree to the request of the Chairman, Public Service Commission and what induced them to rush in for the Gazette Notification ?

(m) If the answer to question (h) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who was responsible for such suppression of facts to the Public Service Commission and what steps do Government propose to take against the officer at fault?

(n) Is it a fact that the records of service of Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali have been uniformly good?

(o) Is it a fact that while Srijut Bolichandra Medhi was reverted to the post of Inspector of Excise, Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali was retained as Superintendent of Excise in view of his seniority and superior merit?

(p) Do Government propose to redress the wrong done to Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali by appointing him in the substantive post of Superintendent of Excise in place of Srijut Bolichandra Medhi?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

287. (a)—Maulavi Md. Sherajudollah.

„ Md. Aslam.

„ Syed Maqbul Ali.

Srijut Bolichandra Medhi.

Babu Probhat Kusum Das.

(b)—Efficiency and seniority.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Promotion by selection to the permanent service in the Assam Excise Service from the Assam Subordinate Excise Service is made in consultation with the Assam Public Service Commission.

(f)—Government have no such report relating to corrupt practices.

(g)—The character roll maintained by the Excise Commissioner and submitted to Government does not indicate anything of that sort of allegation.

(h)—No paper wanted by Public Service Commission was withheld by Government.

(i)—It is not a fact.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k) and (l)—Do not arise.

(m)—Does not arise.

(n)—Government reserve their opinion and are not prepared to discuss on the merit or otherwise of a particular officer on the floor of the Assembly.

(o)—Only because Maulavi Syed Maqbul Ali is senior to Srijut Bolichandra Medhi and as the nomination of the Assam Public Service Commission was not forthcoming, the former was allowed to continue on a temporary measure.

(p)—No. Government do not think that any wrong has been done to this officer.

Posts of Subdivisional Accountants

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

288. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the posts of Subdivisional Accountants in the Surma Valley are in the Upper Division and those in the Assam Valley are in Lower Division?

(b) Whether the Subdivisional Accountants in both the Valleys get the same training and do the same nature of work with the same responsibility?

- (c) If the answers to questions Nos.288 (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to raise the posts of Sub-divisional Accountants to Upper Division posts in the Assam Valley also ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

288. (a)—This is generally so in view of the fact that the number of Upper Division posts in the Surma Valley is higher than that in the Assam Valley.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter is already engaging the attention of Government.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** : With regard to (b), do Government realise that the work and responsibility of the Subdivisional Accountants of Assam Valley are equal to those of the Surma Valley ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sir, the question was "whether the Subdivisional Accountants in both the Valleys get the same training and do the same nature of work with the same responsibility", the answer is pure, simple and unalloyed "Yes".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is it the question of the hon. Member that the pay is not the same in both the Valleys ?

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : In the Surma Valley they are in the Upper Division and in the Assam Valley they are in the Lower Division.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If the answer to (c) is read along with this, the position will be quite clear, Sir.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : With regard to (a), may I know whether all the posts of Subdivisional Accountants in the Surma Valley are in the Upper Division and those in the Assam Valley are in the Lower Division ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The answer is there that "this is generally so in view of the fact that the number of Upper Division posts in the Surma Valley is higher than that in the Assam Valley."

Then, the answer to (b) is "Yes", and to (c) the answer is "The matter is already engaging the attention of Government".

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : But the answer is not clear whether all the posts in the Surma Valley are in the Upper Division.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is not so material for our present purpose. The question was "If the answers to Questions Nos.288(a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, do Government propose to raise the posts of Subdivisional Accountants to Upper Division posts in the Assam Valley also," the reply is "The matter is already engaging the attention of Government."

*Speech not corrected.

†The Hon'ble Mr. Ba dyanath Mookerjee replied to the supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Supply of cloth in South Sylhet Subdivision

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

289. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reason of non-supply of the full quota of cloth in the South Sylhet Subdivision ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Tea Gardens in that Subdivision got their full quota of 18 per cent. of the supply while only a partial supply was made to the people of the subdivision ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to make good the irregular supply of cloth for the said Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

289. (a)—Due to rejections of unsaleable utility cloth by the Agents and partial default in purchase during November and December 1945 every centre got less than the allotted quota for the next 2 or 3 months and the shortage was province-wise.

(b)—The Tea Gardens got 18 per cent. of the receipts of South Sylhet and not of the allotted quota.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Steps are being taken to prevent such occurrences but circumstances over which the Provincial Government have no control are in the way for the last 3 months.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: With regard to (a) it is stated in the answer that the shortage was province-wise. Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that this was not so, because in the South Sylhet Subdivision we received as many as 2000 and odd bales less than our usual quota ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not going to accept the statement of the hon. Member, Sir.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: In reply to (b), it is stated "The tea gardens got 18 per cent. of the receipts of South Sylhet and not of the allotted quota". Will the Hon'ble Minister accept the statement that the tea gardens received their full quota of 18 per cent. but others received less ? The Government interfered and compelled the Subdivisional authorities to give full quota to the tea gardens. Was it not unfair on the part of Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:: It is not at all unfair on the part of Government, but it is most unfair on the part of the hon. Member to make a statement like this. The answer has not been given arbitrarily by any ingenuous brain here, but is based on information received from the Subdivision concerned. We have not framed the answer according to our sweet will. If the hon. Member challenge it, let him come with a written statement and I shall make an enquiry as to the truthfulness of the statement made by the Subdivisional Officer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the percentage of cloth allotted for the tea gardens ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Eighteen per cent. of the total quota for the Subdivision, Sir. The tea gardens got 18 per cent. of the receipts.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: But we received less than half of our usual quota in the Subdivision. My point is that Government should do justice to all classes of population, and it was just and proper to give less to everybody. But the Provincial Government sent one of the Special Officers there to compel the local authorities to give full quota to the tea gardens leaving only less than half for the entire Subdivision.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it the hon. Member's question that the non-tea garden people got less per cent. per capita than the tea garden people?

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Yes, Sir, that is the point.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDAYNATH MOOKERJEE: That is not correct, Sir. My answer is quite clear. As far as I know 200 bales is the quota for that Subdivision; if 200 bales are received 36 bales will go to the tea gardens. Now, the contention of the hon. Questioner was that when 100 bales were received the tea gardens were given 36 bales on the basis of the allotted quota. But my answer to this is: "No"; they were given 18 bales because full quota was not received and only half quota was received and so 18 per cent. of the quota received was given to them.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: But the fact is otherwise, Sir. I can say that the total receipt was 625 bales.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What was the allotted quota?

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Two hundred twenty-five bales per month and for six months our quota was 1,350 bales but we received 625 bales, that is less than 50 per cent. and out of this, 21 per cent. of the total receipt and not 18 per cent., was given to the tea gardens.

***Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH:** And it was through the intervention of the Provincial Government?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the Government's information is otherwise; they will probably look into it. Has the Hon'ble Minister to add anything?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, I cannot go beyond the information that I have got at my disposal.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Minister propose to enquire into the matter with the figures given now?

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

Number of Public Health Dispensaries in Sylhet District

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked:

290. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Public Health Dispensaries working in each Subdivision of the District of Sylhet?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for abolishing the Public Health Dispensaries at Dharampassa, Madhyanagar, Charnarchar and Patheria in the Sunamganj Subdivision?

*Speech not corrected.

(c) What arrangements have the Government made for anti-Malarial relief in the localities from which the said Dispensaries were abolished ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

290. (a)—North Sylhet Subdivision	...	3 Public Health Department dispensaries.
Sunamganj Subdivision	...	6 Public Health Department dispensaries.
Karimganj Subdivision	...	2 Public Health Department dispensaries.
Habiganj Subdivision	...	6 Public Health Department dispensaries.
South Sylhet Subdivision	...	4 Public Health Department dispensaries.
		21 Public Health Department dispensaries.

(b)—These dispensaries were closed owing to a considerable reduction in the number of *Kala-azar* cases in these areas. The few cases remaining under treatment at the time of closure of the dispensaries were transferred to the nearest dispensaries.

(c)—Anti-malarial drugs are distributed through the Public Health staff when and where necessary apart from treatment at Public Health and Local Board dispensaries. In addition, malaria treatment centres are opened whenever there is high incidence of malaria.

Agents appointed for supplying cloth and yarn for the Surma Valley

Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHRY asked :

291. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any agent or agents have been appointed for supplying cloth and yarn for the Surma Valley ?
- (b) If so, whether any tenders were invited before making such appointments ?
- (c) If so, who were the tenderers and what were their quotations ?
- (d) What principles were adopted in selecting the agents ?
- (e) Whether there was any agency or company amongst these appointed agents and, if so, what are the names of partners of such agency or company, with dates of floating the same ?
- (f) Whether there are any *bona fide* dealer or dealers in cloth in the Company ?
- (g) If any, who are they ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

291. (a)—Yes. Messrs. Surma Valley Workers Agency and Messrs. Surma Valley Traders Limited for cloth and Messrs. Lunkaran Sohanlal for yarn.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 197(b) asked by Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza Choudhury, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

(d)—The principle adopted was to encourage in and to give opportunity for business to the people of the Province, as far as practicable, consistent with efficiency in procurement and distribution.

(e)—The Surma Valley Workers' Agency is a partnership consisting of—

- Messrs. (1) Haripada Das,
 (2) Dwipendra Chandra Choudhuri,
 (3) Subodh Chandra Dutt,
 (4) Hemendra Nath Sen,
 (5) Hrishikesh Chanda Choudhuri,
 (6) Sudhendra Kumar Das,

of Sylhet. The date of formation of the company is not known.

The Messrs. Surma Valley Traders started as a partnership and have later on converted it into a limited company. The names of the original partners are—

- (1) Maulavi Abdul Wahid, B.L.,
 (2) Maulavi Makaddas Ali Chaudhuri,
 (3) Babu Kironendu Syam, B.L.,
 (4) Babu Digindra Nath Deb,
 (5) Babu Ranadhir Kar, M.A.

The date of formation of the company is not known.

(f) & (g)—Babu Haripada Das of Surma Valley Workers' Agency was the sole agent of Basanti Cotton Mills and Shri Durga Cotton Mills. The rest of the partners are associated with various business undertakings. Partners Nos. 2 and 5 of the Surma Valley Traders are *bona fide* cloth dealers of long standing.

Superintendents of Consumers' Co-operative Societies

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH asked :

292. (a) Is it a fact that 2 posts of Superintendents of Consumers' Co-operative Societies were created in 1944 without any power being delegated to them ?

(b) Is it a fact that these two posts were filled up by two junior officers superseding the claims of 4 senior officers, *viz.*, Srijut Birendra Mohan Das, late Upendra Nath Gohain, Maulavi A. Zahir and Babu Subodh Chandra Roy ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any complaint to the effect that one of them was related to the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the other had no experience ?

(d) Is it a fact that another officer Srijut N. Barkakoti was officiating as Superintendent for more than 13 months ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies recommended Srijut Barkakoti for appointment to the post of Superintendent unconditionally and that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge in the last Government called for a report ?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any report was submitted in this connection ?

(g) Is it a fact that Maulavi A. Zahir, Auditor of Co-operative Societies, Shillong, was allowed to officiate as Superintendent of Consumers' Co-operative Stores, Assam Valley Division ?

(h) If so, how many senior officers have been superseded by him ?

(i) Is it a fact that Babu Subodh Chandra Roy, Auditor of Co-operative Societies, has been recommended for the post of Chief Auditor of Co-operative Societies in supersession of the claims of his senior officers ?

(j) Do Government propose to enquire into these anomalies and do justice to the legitimate claims of the officers concerned?

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

292. (a)—Yes. No special power was given to the Superintendents of Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

(b)—Yes. Two junior officers were appointed as Superintendents of Consumers' Co-operative Societies on account of their special suitability for the kind of work required of a Superintendent of Consumers' Co-operative Societies, their appointment was intended neither to involve supersession of any Inspectors senior to them nor to confer upon them any prior right of promotion to any higher post in the general line in future.

(c)—No such complaint had been received from the general public.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—It is not a fact that Srijut Barkakoti was appointed unconditionally. He was appointed to this post temporarily when Maulavi J. Quader who is senior to him was not available. The then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Co-operative Department called for a report from this Department on a reference made by Srijut N. Barkakoti.

(f)—It was not thought necessary to submit a report in view of the condition noted above and the matter was not pursued further.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—There was no supersession when this officiating arrangement was made. Srijut Birendra Mohan Das was superseded by Maulavi Abdur Zahir as long ago as in 1942 when the latter was appointed to officiate as Auditor of Co-operative Societies, Assam.

(i)—Yes, Babu Subodh Chandra Roy was considered to be the best man for the post.

(j)—Each case will be considered on its own merit.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORA : With regard to (j), Sir, have these cases been taken up for consideration?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sir, the reply is that each case will be considered on its own merits. Does the hon. Questioner want to know if we have taken this up or not?

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORA : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, Sir, Government is taking necessary action.

Jagadishpur Forest Office

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED asked :

293. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The income derived by Government from Jagadishpur Forest Office as royalty in the year 1945-46?

***The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** replied to the supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

- (b) The amount received therefrom in the said year as royalty from fuel wood, bamboo and thatch ?
- (c) The amount of fees received from these in issuing (i) yearly permits, (ii) half yearly permits and (iii) daily permits in the said year ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of money received from each village under this Forest Office in the said year ?

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

293. (a)—Rs. 24,479 4-0.

(b)—Fuel wood ... Rs. 5,071-2-0.
 Bamboo ... Rs. 15,712-13-0.
 Thatch ... Rs. 1,390-9-0.

(c)—(i) Home consumption permits produced Rs. 351.

(ii) Trade permits produced Rs. 2,146-2-0 from firewood, Rs. 50-12-0 from bamboos and Rs. 1,313-9-0 from thatch. These figures do not of course include permits issued by Mahaldars who took leave from the Department.

(iii) There were no daily permits.

(d)—It is not possible for the existing staff to prepare a statement showing the amount of money received from each village under this Forest Office during the year 1945-46, in which as many as 54,277 permits were issued to different persons of different localities situated both inside and outside the district.

Shal Plantation near Chhatian Railway Station

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED asked :

294. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of cost incurred by Government for the Shal plantation near Chhatian Railway Station in the year 1945-46 ?
- (b) The amount of money spent on account of labour for the said Shal plantation in the same year ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that no cash payment was made to any labourer and that those who worked as labourers worked without getting any cash remuneration ?

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

294. (a)—Rs. 165.

(b)—Rs. 165.

(c)—No.

Manager of the Lakshmansree Court of Wards Estate

Maulavi MD. MAFIZ CHOWDHURY asked :

295. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Govinda Chandra Choudhury, Pleader, Sunamganj, was appointed Manager of the Lakshmansree Court of Wards Estate in the Sunamganj Subdivision, after assumption of charge of the said estate by the Court of Wards ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the date of his joining the said post and the date up to which he held the same ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Babu Govinda Chandra Choudhury was removed from his aforesaid post by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The date on which he was removed ?

(ii) What were the charges, if any, against him ?

(iii) Whether he appealed to the Commissioner of Divisions, against Deputy Commissioner's order of removal ?

(iv) If so, what was the result of his appeal ?

(v) and if the appeal was rejected by the Commissioner whether he appealed against the orders of the Commissioner ?

(vi) If so, what orders, if any, did Government pass on the orders of the Commissioner and what was the date of such Government orders ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

295. (a)—Yes.

(b)—He was appointed to the post in July 1940 and held the same upto 4th August 1942.

(c)—Yes.

(d) (i)—4th August 1942.

(ii)—The charges against him are mentioned in the Statement shown below.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION
No. 295(d) (ii)**

(1) Disobedience of various orders passed from time to time by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, such as :—

(a) Orders regarding deposit of his (Manager's) security.

(b) Orders regarding pushing on collection.

(c) Orders regarding submission of day to day diary of work, specially about going out for collection.

(2) Spending estate money and incurring liabilities without authority under the following amongst other items :—

(a) Expenditure for general purposes from Alampur appeal deposit.

(b) Expenditure of Rs. 350 for repairs of dwelling houses and giving contract thereof.

(c) Entertainment of temporary establishment and payment of their remuneration.

(3) Proved inefficient owing to :—

(a) Lack of executive habits.

(b) Neutral inaptitude to control subordinates and get work from them.

(c) Failure to realize the balance of the cost of Alampur appeal from the Darpatnidars as directed by the Deputy Commissioner for meeting the expenses of the High Court cases.

(d) Failure to collect dues.

(4) Increase of liabilities of the estate whimsically utterly disregarding the order of the Deputy Commissioner, knowing full well that the estate had no means to pay them.

(5) Failure to report correctly from time to time the true conditions of the estate fund.

(iii)—Yes.

(iv)—It was dismissed.

(v)—Yes.

(vi)—Summarily rejected on the 4th April 1944.

Agencies for purchase and distribution of quota of cloth for Assam

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRI asked :

296. (a) Are Government aware that the people of Assam are very much hard hit due to the scanty supply of cloth ?

(b) Are Government aware that in many places the dead bodies of the Muslims could not be buried for days together for want of Coffin cloth ?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to provide sufficient cloth for the people of Assam ?

297. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Government Agents or agencies lately appointed for the purchase and distribution of the quota of cloth for Assam ?

(b) The names of those Agents or agencies with the names of their partners and addresses ?

(c) What were the main considerations in accepting the tenders of those Agents or agencies ?

(d) Whether the present Agents or agencies are *bona fide* dealers in cloth while the selections were made ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

296. (a)—Yes, this is mainly due to the allotment of a limited quota of mill cloth by the Government of India.

(b)—Government have no such information. Necessary instructions have been issued to the local officers since the beginning of cloth control to see that 'Coffin' cloth is made available for dead bodies.

(c)—Government is trying to increase the quota.

297. (a)—They are five in number.

(b)—1. Messrs. Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society (Calcutta). This is a registered Co-operative Society with membership in all Districts and Subdivisions in Assam falling in two categories:— (i) Individual members drawn from all communities, and (ii) Society members consisting of 19 Subdivisional Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Co-operative Wholesale Societies.

2. Messrs. Textile Supply Company, Assam, Gauhati. This is a registered Joint Stock Company consisting of the following members:—

1. Mr. Rameswarlal Ajitsaria,
2. „ Chandmall Sarawgi,
3. „ Bhawarlal Karwa,
4. „ Kishanlal Kala Sarawgi,
5. „ Rai Rameswarlal Saharia Bahadur, M.L.C.,
6. „ Mirzamull Agarwall,
7. „ Dwarkanath Himatsinka,
8. „ Ganpat Rai Dhanuka, and
9. „ Debidutt Sanganerla.

3. Messrs. Procure and Supply (Assam) Corporation Limited, Gauhati. This is a registered Joint Stock Company of shareholders and is managed by a Board of Directors.

4. Messrs. Surma Valley Workers' Agency, Sylhet This is a Partnership Firm consisting of the following partners :—

Mr. Haripada Das,
 „ Dwipendra Chandra Choudhury,
 „ Subodh Chandra Dutt,
 „ Hemendra Nath Sen,
 „ Hrishikesh Chanda Choudhury, and
 „ Sudhendra Kumar Das.

5. Messrs. Surma Valley Traders, Sylhet. A limited Company consisting of the following members :—

Maulavi Abdul Wahid, B.L.
 „ Makaddas Ali Choudhury.
 Babu Kironendu Syam, B.L.
 „ Digendra Nath Deb, Muktear, and
 „ Ranadhir Kar.

(c)—The main consideration was to encourage in and to give opportunity for business to the people of the Province as far as practicable consistent with efficiency in procurement and distribution.

(d)—These are registered companies of share-holders and as such, it is not imperative that every one of the share-holders should be cloth merchants.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: With regard to question 297(b), Sir, the question is "The names of those agents or agencies with the names of their partners and addresses" and item 3 of the reply to (b)3, is Messrs. Procure and Supply (Assam) Corporation Limited, Gauhati. Who are the partners, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, this is a registered Joint Stock Company of shareholders and is managed by a Board of Directors.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: What are the names of partners, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That can be obtained from the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the question is that in some other cases the names are given

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Because they are available.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: But the Hon'ble Minister has given the names of the other companies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Because those companies were formed long before.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Sir, what stands in the way of giving the names of No.3?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, if the hon. Member wants, he can easily get it or I can supply him.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, the question is that in some cases the Hon'ble Minister has given the names but why in this case he does not give the names ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The answer is—some were old companies.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, that cannot be a plea for Government not to furnish the information. Government should have given this information also.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case, Sir, my answer will be that the hon. Member can have the names from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Assam.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Sir, that is not the way to give reply.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, that is the right reply. I have already said that if the hon. Member wants the names I shall supply. So far as Nos. 4 and 5 are concerned, the names are available on the body of the petition, and as regards other two, they are old concerns and we have the names in our file and regarding the other the information is not with the Government.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Sir, in that case the reply would have been that information is not available.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, I have already said that.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, the reluctance to supply the names raises a presumption that the Government is unwilling to disclose them.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, this Government is willing to disclose the information at their disposal.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, is it not a fact that the shareholders often change in a public limited company?

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Sir, may we know the names of the Board of Directors of that company, at least?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, I cannot say that off-hand. If the hon. Member wants it, I can give him later.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is a private limited company or a general limited company?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, available information has been given here and beyond that I have no other information. This is a registered Joint Stock Company of share-holders and is managed by a Board of Directors.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, with regard to No. 5, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister when this company—Messrs. Surma Valley Traders, Sylhet—was founded?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I cannot say the exact date, Sir, but it is of recent origin.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE : May I take it, Sir, that it was formed just on the eve of the distribution of agencies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, whether it was formed just on the eve or a few days or a few months before I cannot say but in any case it was formed during this year.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : Sir, may I know that No.2—Messrs. Textile Supply Company—belong to one community, that is the mercantile community of Marwar.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is apparently so.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI : If that is so, Sir, I am coming to Question and Answer to (c). The question was "What were the main considerations in accepting the tenders of those Agents or agencies ?" The answer is "The main consideration was to encourage in and to give opportunity for business to the people of the Province as far as practicable..." Whether this has been followed in this case ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is quite evident, Sir. Some hon. Members of the Opposition enquired and charged Government as to why the previous two companies were given the whole quota and why this was not distributed ? Now this has been done as far as possible. On the other hand, Government do not like to kick these people out. As a matter of fact, they are doing their business in the Province for a long time.

Public Works Department and Local Board Ferries in the Golaghat Subdivision

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

298. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) To whom and at what amounts the Public Works Department and Local Board Ferries in the Golaghat Subdivision were sold out in auction for the last three years ?
- (b) Whether any higher bid was rejected in any case by the Presiding Officer ?
- (c) If so, the grounds for rejection of the same ?
- (d) Whether any instruction was issued to the officers concerned not to settle ferries with persons suspected of smuggling opium ?
- (e) If not, do Government propose to issue instructions to this effect that no ferries be settled with persons suspected of smuggling opium ?
- (f) Are Government aware that these ferries are auctioned at high prices by suspected smugglers or by their relations to freely carry on their nefarious trade ?

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

298. (a)—A Statement containing the required information is shown below

Statement showing the sale of Ferries of Golaghat Subdivision for the years 1946-47, 1945-46 and 1944-45
(PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FERRIES)

Serial No.	1946-47			1945-46		1944-4		Remarks
	Name of Ferry	Name of River across which the ferry plies	Class	Name of lessee	Price	Name of lessee	Price	
1	Numaligarh toll bridge.	Dhansiri ..	..	Ainol Hoque ..	Rs. 14,500	Joyram Dutta ..	Rs. 8,500	
1	Borpathar ..	Dhansiri ..	Minor ..	Gauri Shanker Singh.	3,300	Nilakanta Sarma resold to Badri Narayan Singh.	2,500 400	
2	Gelabil and Desoisuti.	Gelabil ..	..	Golap Chandra Pujari.	1,100	Dipchand Das ..	755	
3	Chakalaghat ..	Gelabil ..	..	Gangadhar Bhattacharjee.	1,175	Nabin Chandra Dole.	760	
4	Dessoinullah ..	Dessoinullah ..	..	Gangadhar Bhattacharjee.	325	Deoram ..	360	
5	Letekujan ..	Dhansiri ..	..	Balwanta Singh	1,500	..	..

Statement showing the sale of Ferries of Golaghat Subdivision for the years 1946-47, 1945-46 and 1944-45

(LOCAL BOARD FERRIES)

Serial No.	1946-47			1945-46			1944-45		Remarks
	Name of Ferries	Name of River	Class	Present lessee	Price	Name of lessee	Price	Name of lessee	
1	Geronga ..	Dhansiri ..	3rd Class..	Umaram Bora ..	Rs. 420	Dandeswar Saikia	Rs. 625	Jainath Sarna ..	Rs. 305
2	Shikerighat ..	Brahmaputra ..	1st Class ..	P. K. Dutia ..	2,800	Gauri Sanker Sing	2,020	Babu Sohoni ..	1,800
3	Chungighat ..	Kakodonga ..	3rd Class..	Numal Chandra Bora.	30	Rashiduddin ..	25	Mubiram Bora ..	45
4	Mohuraalighat ..	Gelabeel ..	Ditto ..	Moniram Miri ..	540	Rajkumari Mohini Aided.	400	Rajkumari Mohini Aided.	200
5	Mohbondha Ali ..	Kakodonga ..	Ditto ..	Sarbeswar Bar-patra Gohain.	10	Manager, Changsua Tea Estate.	30	Manager, Changsua Tea Estate.	25
6	Thuramukh ..	Dhansiri ..	Ditto ..	Nandeswar Bora.	80	Nandeswar Bora..	105	Sarut Chandra	130
7	Rungagora ..	Gelabeel ..	Ditto ..	Bhodeswar Gogoi	750	Horiprasad Sing..	600	Saikia Golap Chandra Bora.	460
8	Kalioni ..	Kalioni ..	Ditto ..	Purna Chandra Das.	15	Purna Chandra Das.	55	Purna Chandra Das.	60
9	Sobansiri ..	Sobansiri ..	1st Class..	Golap Chandra Puzari.	240	Golap Chandra Puzari.	150	Lasmi Malar ..	280
10	Neperpetty ..	Dhansiri ..	3rd Class..	Dinarum Gogoi..	360	Kopildeo Sing ..	240	Dinarum Gogoi..	100
11	Bohikhowa ..	Kakodonga ..	Ditto ..	Padmeswar Bar-chetia.	55	Manager, Changsua Tea Estate.	30	Manager, Changsua Tea Estate.	25
12	Geelabeel ..	Gelabeel ..	Ditto ..	Jonaram Bora ..	720	Golap Chandra Puzari.	1,265	Dipon Sing ..	1,000
13	Jamuguri ..	Jamuguri ..	Ditto ..	Mohendra Nath Kwar.	10	Nandeswar Bora	20	Moheswar Datta	10
14	Bholukaguri ..	Brahmaputra..	1st Class ..	Fatik Chandra Bora.	460	Soraj Narayan Singh.	430	Soraj Narayan Sing.	500
15	Badlipar ..	Gelabeel ..	Ditto ..	Keshab Chandra Bora.	55	Bapung Miri ..	60	Keshab Chandra Miri.	25

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Government have no information.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Will Government take it from me that majority of the ferries have been settled with suspected smugglers?

†***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, I shall be obliged if the hon. Questioner supply me with a list of the suspected smugglers giving grounds for such suspicion so that Government may be able to take necessary steps in the matter.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Government can have that list supplied by their department concerned.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I shall then take advantage of my Hon'ble Colleague, the Excise Minister, and ask him to supply me a list, if there be any.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether they will set aside the settlement of ferries if they get the names supplied by their department?

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

Use of short weights by shopkeepers and hawkers in Dhubri town

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

299. (a) Is it a fact that a certain M. L. A. of Dhubri sometime either in April or in May 1946 submitted a petition to the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara regarding the fact that some shop-keepers and hawkers in the town of Dhubri were using short weights and that steps be taken against the persons concerned?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner sent the petition to the Superintendent of Police, Goalpara, at Dhubri to take necessary action in the matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of Police has taken any steps on that petition?

(d) If so, what is the result of action, if any, taken by the said Superintendent of Police?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

299. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—The matter was enquired into by the Police, but as no particular shop-keeper was specifically mentioned in the petition and as nothing was brought to light as a result of the enquiry, no further action could be taken.

*Speech not corrected

†The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee replied to the supplementaries in absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that the Assam Weights and Measures Bill was passed by the last Assembly? May I know what has happened to that Bill?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** I do not know how the hon. Questioner can say that the Bill was passed. The Bill was not passed and we are contemplating to bring in such a Bill.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Do Government propose to bring in a similar Bill before this House for regulating the standard of weights and measures throughout the Province?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** The matter is under the consideration of Government, Sir.

Posts of Deputy Superintendents of Police

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

300. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of permanent and temporary appointments in the rank of Superintendents of Police in the Province of Assam (the numbers should be shown separately) ?

(b) Is it a fact that according to service conditions 25 per cent. of the posts of the Superintendents of Police should be filled in by promotion from the rank of the Deputy Superintendents of Police ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many of these listed appointments in the rank of Superintendents of Police have fallen vacant and since when ?

(d) Whether all of these appointments have yet been filled in permanently ?

(e) If the answer to question (d) above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reason thereof ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether any discrimination is made by the Government between the Assistant Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police in view of Rule 24 of the Assam Police Manual ?

(g) If not, will Government be pleased to state if the Government have in view any cases of supersession in the future, in the 25 per cent. quota of the service by these promotions, considering the length of service as the disqualification in any individual case ?

(h) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

300. (a)—Twelve permanent and four temporary, including posts of Additional Superintendents and the Assistant to the Inspector General of Police.

(b)—20 per cent. of the superior posts in the I. P. are to be filled by promotion from the Provincial Police Service, *i.e.*, 3 out of 15 posts (including the Inspector General of Police, the Deputy Inspector General and selection grade Superintendent).

(c)—Three, since the retirement of Khan Bahadur R. Ahmed Mr. B. B. Gupta and Mr. G. P. Barua on 22nd October 1939, 1st April 1940 and 24th April 1943 respectively.

(d)—None of these vacancies have yet been filled up permanently.

(e)—The Secretary of State has been unwilling to promote any officer substantively until he is satisfied that this will involve no anomaly in respect of comparative seniority between these officers and Assistant Superintendents of Police of similar length of service.

(f)—None

(g)—Promotions are made on considerations of both seniority and merit by order of the Secretary of State, and on the recommendations of the Federal Public Service Commission.

(h)—Does not arise.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: With regard to Question No.(b), may I know how many posts have been filled up permanently?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** None of these posts have yet been filled up permanently.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: May I know, Sir, how many posts have been filled up temporarily?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** Practically all the posts have been filled up temporarily.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: May I know, Sir, who are the incumbents of these temporary posts?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** I think, I remember the name of the holder of one of these temporary posts and he is Mr.Barua.

Immigrant area in Lowkhowa Mouza

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH SAMADDAR asked:

301. Are Government aware—

(a) That the immigrant area in the Lowkhowa Mauza suffers from flood three or four times every year?

(b) That in the aforesaid area Ahu and Sali crops are devastated by flood every year?

(c) That an embankment from Lowkhowa Bazar to Silghat through Bhurbandha would be an effective check on the flood and its ravages?

(d) That the embankment would, in addition to checking the flood facilitate communication and would shorten the distance from Nowgong to Silghat by about 32 to 24 miles?

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

301. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—The matter is under investigation.

Dibrugarh Steamer Ghat

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked:

302. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department be pleased to state what action the Government have taken or contemplate to take to remove the Dibrugarh Steamer Ghat further downstream with a view to check erosion?

* Speech not corrected.

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

302.—In February 1946 it was proposed to shift the Steamerghat and the first proposal was to raise and improve the Aithan Bogibil road. But as the road is to be acquired by the Bengal and Assam Railway for retiring their line along this road, it could not be taken up.

The alternative proposal of running a parallel diversion road close to the existing track through Behia-Chetiagaon has to be abandoned owing to the difficulty of acquiring land through homestead grounds.

To avoid this difficulty of land acquisition, it was proposed to open an entirely new feeder road from 27½ mile 5th furlong of Assam Trunk Road leading to the site of the proposed steamerghat near the Dibrumukh Military Stores. But this had to be abandoned owing to objections from the public as land acquisition was involved.

The fourth proposal was to extend the Steamerghat Road through Naga-khelia village down to Nichughat but in view of the cost involved which is Rs. 50,100, Government do not propose to proceed with the work during the current year.

Puthimari River in Kamrup District

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

303. Are Government aware—

- (a) That the bed of the river Puthimari in the Kamrup District has been silted up and its main current has joined the Baralia river for about last 2 or 3 years ?
- (b) That during the rainy season the Baralia river thus increased in volume is systematically submerging a large number of villages of Pandury, Paschimbarbhog, Uperbarbhog and some other mauzas and is causing immense loss to cultivation and other damages to villagers ?
- (c) That the river Noona getting obstructed by the Baralia at the place where it meets the latter—is doing similar damages to numerous villages of Pubanbhog, Barigog and some other mauzas ?
- (d) That unless this obstruction to the main current of the Puthimari caused by the silting up of its bed be not removed, these rivers will continue to do immense harm to the said villages ?

304. Do Government purpose to depute some able Engineers to study the situation, to submit an early report regarding the extent of the damages caused and to suggest effective means to suppress the said mischief ?

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

303.—(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

304.—The matter is under careful consideration of the Government and a scheme to divert the river Puthimari to its old course is under investigation. The Embankment and Drainage Department has already carried out preliminary surveys and will take up detailed surveys early next winter to enable them to draw up a proper scheme.

Berry-White Medical School**Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED** asked :

305. (a) Is it a fact that whenever any candidate appearing in the Final Medical Examination from the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, becomes unsuccessful in any three subjects, he is to appear in all the five subjects in the next term ?

(b) Are Government aware that this procedure is causing much hardship to the unsuccessful candidates ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to amend the rules so that the students may appear only in those subjects in which they get plucked ?

306. (a) Will Government be pleased to state who is the present Examiner of Surgery in the Medical Examination ?

(b) Is he a Surgeon or a Specialist in Surgery ?

(c) Is it a fact that the present Examiner in Surgery has got an L.O. degree and formerly was an Examiner in Midwifery ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

305. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—No. As with the establishment of the Medical College, the Licentiate course will be abolished, Government do not propose to consider at present any amendment of the existing rules.

306. (a)—Dr. J. C. Das, M.B. (Cal.), L.M. (Dub.), was appointed as Examiner in Surgery for 1946.

(b)—The Assam Medical Examination Board considered that Dr. J. C. Das had the requisite qualification to be an Examiner in Surgery and as such he was appointed to take the Examination in Surgery.

(c)—The present Examiner in Surgery has not got the L.O. degree. It is true that formerly he was an Examiner in Midwifery.

Surma Valley Liaison Committees**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

307. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Members in the Liaison Committees in the Surma Valley, Subdivision by Subdivision and community by community ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the population figures of each of the Subdivisions in the Surma Valley, community by community ?

(c) Is it a fact that representatives of business-men have not been taken in the Liaison Committees ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take one representative from the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and one from the General merchants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

307. (a) The members of the Liaison Committees have not been selected on community basis, but on the political and vocational basis. The hon. Member may kindly see the notifications Nos. SD.586/46/76, SD.586/46/103 & 104, copies of which are placed on the Library table.

(b)—A statement showing the population of Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled castes has been prepared and placed on the Library table.

(c)—No, the representatives of the business-men have been taken in the Liaison Committees.

(d)—Does not arise.

Purchase and export of rice and paddy

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

308. (a) Are Government aware that husked rice is being exported by some unauthorised persons from the District of Goalpara mixed up with "Khud" and "Kura" ?

(b) Do Government propose to make an enquiry about it ?

(c) Are Government aware that paddy is being exported through the Brahmaputra by boat ?

(d) Do Government propose to take any step to stop such export ?

309. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total quantity of paddy and rice purchased by Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company from the millers and non-millers of Assam Valley Districts during the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 (figures to be shown separately for each year under each item) ?

(b) Whether Government have received complaints to the effect that Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company have deducted a huge amount of money from the bills for the supply of rice and paddy and paid less to the sellers with the plea that sellers have supplied rotten rice and paddy ?

(c) If so, what quantity of rice and paddy were thus rejected and money deducted from the sellers' bills (figures to be shown separately for each item) ?

(d) The procedure of booking and accepting rice and paddy from the sellers at different stations and places by Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company ?

(e) Whether Government are aware of the names of the Agents called Sirkars who used to accept rice and paddy from the sellers after necessary selection according to their choice ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

308. (a)—No such report has hitherto reached Government.

(b)—Government would be grateful for more detailed information on the basis of which an enquiry could be made.

(c)—This is unlikely, but Government have had no specific report to this effect.

(d)—Government have recently strengthened the Rice Control Staff and are also re-organising it. Government are willing to consider any other concrete measure suggested to them.

309. (a)—The information is not available.

(b)—Samples are drawn at time of loading of wagons and if the subsequent analysis shows admixture of inferior variety or other departure from specifications, a deduction can be made from the suppliers' bills. In several cases such deductions were made.

(c)—No deductions are made on rice and paddy rejected and not taken delivery of.

(d)—The sellers were, under terms of their contract, to load wagons at their cost, *i.e.*, the purchases were made usually on a free-on-rail basis. In case of some consignees, acceptance was subject to inspection by Inspectors of such consignees, *e.g.*, Bengal-Assam Railway, Bengal, United Provinces, Bihar, Mysore, Bombay, Madras, etc. In other cases, *e.g.*, Indian Tea Association, Steamer Companies and other consumers, this inspection was carried out by Inspectors of the Government Agents.

(e)—Government know that Inspectors of the Government Agents are called "Sirkars", but they are not aware of the names of the individuals concerned.

Teak plantation in Government Forest Reserves in the Surma Valley

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD asked :

310. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total acreage planted under Teak on Government Forest Reserves in the Surma Valley ?
- (b) The year the first experimental planting was carried out and its location ?
- (c) Whether the Forest Department considers the general progress in the growth of the trees satisfactory ?
- (d) The names of the different Forest Reserves in the Surma Valley where Teak has been planted ?

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

310. (a)—1,872·1 acres.

(b)—In 1919 at the Inner line reserve (Cachar).

(c)—Yes.

(d)—In Cachar—Inner line, Sonai, Katakhal, Barak and Lower Jiri Reserves. In Sylhet—Longai, Badsahitilla, Singla, Tilbhum, Raghunandan, Tarap, West Bhanugach, Rajkandi, Harargaj, Patharia, Barshijhura and Bhattara Reserves.

Foodstuff wholesalerships in Jorhat Town

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

311. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if one wholesaler can deal in stocks meant both for urban and rural areas ?

(b) Are Government aware that two Government foodstuff wholesalerships in Jorhat town deal in stocks meant both for urban and rural areas ?

(c) Is it a fact that a notice recently circulated by the Supply Superintendent, Sibsagar District, inviting applications for the appointment of a separate wholesaler for rural area, comprising Sarigaon, Katoni, Soraibahi, Goramur Mauzas, etc., of Jorhat Subdivision was subsequently withdrawn ?

(d) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

311. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—It was a mistake caused by a misunderstanding of the Deputy Commissioner's order. It was withdrawn when the mistake was discovered.

Conviction of Wholesaler of Dhing Town

Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE asked :

312. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Chunilal Aswal, a merchant of Dhing town in the District of Nowgong, and a Government appointed Wholesaler in Kerosene and other controlled commodities was lately convicted for black-marketing in Kerosene and that this conviction was upheld by the High Court in appeal preferred by the said Chunilal Aswal ?

(b) Is it a fact that in consequence of his conviction, his wholesalership was cancelled by the Deputy Commissioner ?

(c) Is it a fact that on an appeal filed with the Government the wholesalership has been restored to him ?

(d) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

312. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. The appeal preferred was rejected by the Director of Supply.

(d)—Does not arise.

Allegations against the Additional District Magistrate of Sylhet

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

313. (a) Is it a fact that an enquiry under orders of Government was held by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, regarding certain allegations made against Maulavi Syed Nabib Ali when he was Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the enquiry report submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, in that connection ?

(c) What action, if any, has been taken by Government in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

313. (a)—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to Unstarred Questions No. 259(a)—(d) asked by Shri Abala Kanta Gupta, M.L.A., at this Session. The enquiry was ordered by the Commissioner.

(b) and (c)—Government will consider these matters on receipt of the original petition on which the enquiry was held, and for which they have called for.

Re: Maulavi Nasib Ali Mazumdar, retired Extra Assistant Commissioner

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

314. (a) When was Maulavi Nasib Ali Mazumdar, retired Extra Assistant Commissioner discharged ?

(b) Whether he was discharged before the termination of his contract period ?

(c) Whether any temporary Extra Assistant Commissioner or Sub-Deputy Collector has been discharged ?

(d) If not, why this discrimination was made in respect of this Officer ?

(e) Whether Government has come to any decision in respect of other temporary Officers, viz., Additional Deputy Commissioners, Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

314. (a)—On the 28th March 1946.

(b)—Yes, because on it being indicated that Government must have the right, should the exigency of the public service so require, to transfer this Officer to another station, he was not prepared to accept this condition and did not join.

(c)—Yes. three other re-employed Extra Assistant Commissioners were discharged.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Yes, in all cases the employment has been restricted to the period up to 31st December 1946, in anticipation that by then recruitment will be completed.

Dhubri Local Board

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

315. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government have recently received any representation from the people of Dhubri Subdivision in regard to the mismanagement of the affairs of the Dhubri Local Board ?

(b) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

315. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter was referred to the Deputy Commissioner, and a full report is being awaited.

Distribution of Annual Repair Works by the Dhubri Local Board

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

316. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether certain contracts for annual repair works for 1945-46 were distributed by the Dhubri Local Board to contractors at a rate much higher than the rates submitted by them in their tenders for these works ?

- ✓ (b) Whether these works were distributed by the Chairman without consulting the Board ?
- (c) Whether the Chairman farmed out certain pounds for 1945-46 without putting them up for sale in the public auction for the purpose ?
317. If the answers to Questions 316 (a) to 316 (c) above be in the affirmative what action Government propose to take for the loss of money, which the Board had to suffer on this account ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

316. (a)—Government are informed that tenders were called for and that contracts for annual repairs were made at uniform rates prevailing at the time in Dhubri Subdivision.

(b)—Contracts up to Rs. 500 were distributed by Chairman on his own authority as empowered by rule. Other contracts were also distributed by Chairman in anticipation of the Board's sanction in January 1946 and subsequently approved by the Board.

(c)—No.

317.—Does not arise.

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA : With regard to Question No. 316(a), the reply given by the Government does not seem to be at all consistent. Will the Hon'ble Minister please give a proper reply to this question ? Am I to presume from the reply that the Board acted in the manner indicated in the question ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : It is not quite clear, Sir, but the information is that contracts were given at uniform rates prevailing at the time in Dhubri Subdivision.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, that was not the question. The question was that certain contractors submitted certain tenders for annual repair works and the point is whether they were entrusted with the work at rates higher than what they tendered for.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : I will look into this matter, Sir.

Upper Division Posts in the Secretariat and Heads of Departments

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

318. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of posts in the Upper Division in the Secretariat and under various Heads of Departments in Shillong ?
- (b) The number of such posts held by the Muslims and other minorities, Valley by Valley ?
- (c) The percentage of such posts to which the Muslims and other minorities are entitled ?
- (d) The number of permanent posts in various grades other than the Upper Division in the Secretariat and under different Heads of Departments in Shillong ?
- (e) The number of such posts held by the Muslims and other minorities (to be shown Valley by Valley) ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to give preference to the temporary incumbents now serving in various Departments in the Secretariat and under the various Heads of Departments, Shillong in filling up permanent appointments ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied.

318.—The information asked for is given below :—

(a)—Number of posts in the Upper Division (Permanent posts have only been shown).

Assam Secretariat including Public Works Department Secretariat	Office of—									
	Director of Public Instruction	Inspector General of Police	Inspector General of Civil Hospitals	Conservator of Forests	Director of Agriculture	Director of Land Records	Director of Public Health	Director of Industries	Excise Commis- sioner	Legal Remem- brancer
64	9	8	7	4	4	3	6	5	4	1

(b)—Number held by Muslims and other minorities.

Muslims										
Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley
6	19	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1

Other minorities

4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
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(c)—The appointment to the Upper Division is made by promotion from the Lower Division according to seniority and merit and not on communal consideration.

175	40	22	31	14	15	9	13	17	11	7
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(d)—

Muslims

Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley
13	25	5	10	..	1	2	3	2	4	1

Other minorities

13	20	3	6	1	6	..	2	..	4	1
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(f)—The question of permanent appointment in respect of temporary hands is under consideration.

Enforcement Branch of the Police Department**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

319. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of officers in the newly created Enforcement Branch of the Police Department (to be shown grade by grade)?
- (b) The number of Muslims, Hindus, Scheduled castes and others in this Branch and in each grade?
- (c) The duties and functions of this Branch?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

319. (a)—The hon. Member presumably refers to the Anti-Corruption Branch, as there is no special Enforcement Branch in the Police Department.

(b)—The information required is :—

	Muslims	Hindus	Scheduled Castes	Others
Superintendent ...	...	1	...	...
Deputy Superintendent ...	...	1	...	...
Inspectors ...	1	1	...	...
Sub-Inspectors ...	1	1	...	...
Assistant Sub-Inspectors ...	1	...	1	...
Constables ...	1	5	...	...
Total	14			

(c)—The duty of this new Special Branch is to combat and detect corruption in the official services.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH : With regard to answers to question (b), it seems that almost all the officers are non-Muslims. Is it the intention of Government to take only non-Muslims in this Department?**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : Appointments were made from the members of the different cadres of the Police Service and only those officers who were available for this special work were taken in. There was no question of communal representation in the constitution of the Anti-Corruption squad.**Political Movement of 1942****Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY** asked :

320. Will Government be pleased to state with reference to the Political Movement of 1942—

- (1) The number of arrests made in different Districts of the Province?
- (2) The number of persons taken as security prisoners in different Districts of the Province?
- (3) The number of convictions and period of conviction in each case, capital punishment, transportation or life sentence, etc., passed?
- (4) The number of persons detained after the expiry of their term of the imprisonment and the period of detention in each case?
- (5) The number of persons arrested and released from Thana lock-up?
- (6) The number of persons killed and injured by firing?
- (7) The number of persons dead during detention?
- (8) The Hospital reports of the dead and injured?
- (9) Whether any photo of the dead and injured was taken in the Hospital?
- (10) The total amount of collective fines levied and the actual amount collected?

- (11) The reason for levying such fines ?
- (12) The total cash collection of such fines ?
- (13) The total collection of such fines by attachment and sale ?
- (14) The total number of buildings and damaged property made good by such fines and the actual expenditure incurred for re-building burnt houses and the repairing of damaged property ?
- (15) The number of guns seized in the Province ?
- (16) The number of guns confiscated ?
- (17) The number of such seized guns returned together with date of return in each case ?
- (18) The number of cycles (I) seized and (II) confiscated ?
- (19) Whether any of these cycles afterwards were returned to the owners ?
- (20) If so, how many and when ?
- (21) The number of such cycles and guns sold and the amount of sale proceeds given to the owners ?
- (22) The number of times firing was made (to be shown District by District) ?
- (23) The total amount of fines imposed by Court ?
- (24) The total amount of such fines paid in cash and the amount to be realised by attachment and sale (to be shown separately in each case) ?
- (25) The names of places where military help was requisitioned to combat the Movement ?
- (26) What was (i) the nationality of those military personnel, (ii) their number and (iii) to which battalions they belong ?
- (27) The number of special civil and armed police requisitioned in different places to suppress the Movement ?
- (28) The names of places where concentration camps were located together with the number of (i) Civil, (ii) Armed, and (iii) Military police kept there ?
- (29) The names of places where villagers were made special constables ?
- (30) What duties were assigned to them ?
- (31) Whether there were :—
 - (i) Instances where it was necessary to force people to work for Government during the Movement ?
 - (ii) If so, where ?
 - (iii) For how many hours in a day and for how many days in a month the people were forced to work ?
 - (iv) Was any remuneration given to the people for doing such work ?
- (32) The names of institutions or Associations which were declared illegal and the period for which they remained unlawful ?
- (33) (i) Whether there was any occasion to promulgate Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code ?
 - (ii) If so, where and on what dates ?
- (34) (i) Whether there was any occasion to promulgate curfew-orders ?
 - (ii) If so, where and on what dates ?
- (35) (i) Whether there were instances where prohibitive orders on the holding of meetings and processions had to be issued ?
 - (ii) If so, where and on what dates ?
- (36) (i) Whether there were any occasion to promulgate Ordinances, Emergency and special Laws and Orders ?

- (ii) If so, what are they ?
 (iii) Where and on what dates such promulgation had to be applied ?
 (37) (i) Whether there were instances when the publication of Newspapers and Books had to be stopped under Government Orders ?
 (ii)—If so, where and on what dates ?

321. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of places which were declared as prohibited areas with-
 in 1939-44 for military purpose or otherwise together with dates
 on which each of them were declared so ?
 (b) The name of places where such orders are still in force ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

320. (1)—The following are figures of arrests made up to 31st December 1943 :—

Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	816
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	285
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	524
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	955
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	479
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	...	9
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	448
						<hr/> 3,531

(2)—The numbers detained as security prisoners from 1st January 1944 onwards are—

Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	90
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	50
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	15
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	5
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	22
						<hr/> 203

(3)—The numbers convicted upto 31st December 1943 are—

Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	502
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	177
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	285
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	343
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	102
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	250
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	11
						<hr/> 1,679

Four death sentences were passed, of which one was confirmed. None were sentenced to transportation for life. Information regarding the periods of conviction in each case is not available, but the maximum sentence imposed in any one case was 10 years rigorous imprisonment.

(4)—From 1st January 1944 onwards, 22 persons were detained after expiry of terms of imprisonment. The periods of their detention are given below :—

Period of detention

One from 6th September 1943 to	29th April 1945
„ 1st April 1944	„ 14th September 1945
„ 25th October 1943	„ 28th April 1945
„ 17th November 1943	„ 24th April 1945
„ 5th October 1943	„ 18th May 1945
„ 1st October 1943	„ 10th September 1945
„ 5th October 1943	„ 18th May 1945
„ 5th May 1943	„ 18th May 1945
„ 5th May 1943	„ 14th November 1944
„ 14th August 1943	„ 18th May 1945
„ 17th September 1943	„ 10th February 1945
„ 17th September 1943	„ 29th August 1944
„ 12th July 1943	„ 14th November 1944
„ 12th July 1943	„ 3rd May 1945
„ 25th October 1943	„ 24th April 1945
„ 25th October 1943	„ 18th May 1945
„ 18th September 1943	„ 28th April 1945
„ 7th March 1944	„ 8th June 1945
„ 29th May 1943	„ 23rd February 1945
„ 10th December 1943	„ 24th May 1945
„ 1st January 1944	„ 21st May 1945
„ 20th April 1943	„ 18th December 1944

(5)—The information is not available.

(6)—Twenty-two were killed and 36 injured.

(7)—Nil.

(8)—The reports are not available.

(9)—Government have no information.

(10)—Rs.4,24,661 imposed, Rs.2,94,727-3-3 realised of which Rs.22,025-8-0 was refunded.

(11)—Government deemed it necessary to enforce the principle of collective responsibility for the safety of public property, which is a part of the law of the land, in face of an unprecedented series of acts of sabotage and arson.

(12)—Rs.2,94,727-3-3, less Rs.22,025-8-0 refunded.

(13)—Government are not at present aware of the amount so collected in the Districts of Sylhet and Lakhimpur. The amounts collected in the remaining Districts, except Cachar where no collective fines were imposed, are—

					Rs.	a.	p.
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	40	8	0
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	28,950	15	9
Darrang	...	...	...	...	Nil.		
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	Nil.		
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	483	2	0
					<hr/>		
					29,474	9	9

(14)—A sum of Rs.47,876-7-0 was paid to Government officials and outsiders as compensation for loss of property destroyed. Of this sum, Rs.27,625 was paid for the destruction of about 49 houses and personal effects therein. In addition, a sum of Rs.13,367 was refunded from collective fines realised for the reconstruction of the High Schools at Kaliabor, Puranigudam and Bebejia which were destroyed by burning. Government have no information regarding the actual expenditure incurred for rebuilding burnt houses or repairing damaged property.

(15)—The numbers seized in the various Districts are shown below :—

Nowgong	...	...	...	...	1,026
Darrang	...	...	...	...	81
Cachar	...	...	...	...	1
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	9
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	39
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	1,052
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	93
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	35
					<hr/>
					2,336

(16)—The numbers confiscated in the Districts concerned are given below :—

Darrang	...	...	...	...	6
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	1
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	4
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/>
					15

Government have directed Deputy Commissioners to return all guns which were confiscated on political grounds and to restore all licenses cancelled on similar grounds.

(17)—The dates of return are not known. The numbers returned in each District are—

Nowgong	...	...	...	...	1,016
Darrang	...	...	...	...	75
Cachar	...	...	...	...	1
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	9
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	24
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	1,051
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	56
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	29
					<hr/>
					2,261

In the Sylhet District, 1 gun seized was destroyed as unserviceable and 35 which were requisitioned for use of the Police have been ordered to be returned to owners. In Sibsagar District, 6 guns were destroyed as unserviceable and 5 were sent to the army as also 10 guns seized in the Nowgong District and 2 in the Lakhimpur District. All guns seized and sent to the Army are being replaced by the latter.

(18)—The position in the Sylhet and Lakhimpur Districts is not known. The position in respect of the remaining Districts is shown below :—

Number of cycles seized		Number of cycles confiscated			
Sibsagar	80	...	...	...	15
Nowgong	9	...	...	...	3
Darrang	1	...	...	...	...
Kamrup	Nil	...	...	...	...
Cachar	Nil	...	...	...	...
Goalpara	Nil	...	...	...	...
	90				18

(19)—Yes.

(20)—The dates of return are not known. Six cycles were returned in Nowgong, one in the Darrang District and 27 in Sibsagar District.

(21)—The position in the Sylhet and Lakhimpur Districts is not known. In Sibsagar District, 17 cycles were sold and the sale proceeds of Rs.240 for 5 cycles were given to owners. In the Nowgong District, 2 cycles were sold and the sale proceeds credited to Government, and one cycle was sold for Rs.97 which was given to the owner.

As regards guns sold, in Sibsagar 3 were sold 2 of which were sold for Rs.65 which was given to the owners of the guns. In Lakhimpur District, 4 guns were sold for Rs.105 of which Rs.75 realized for 2 guns were given to the owners. Government have directed all Deputy Commissioners to return guns which were confiscated on political grounds and in the case of such guns which were sold, to offer the sale proceeds to the owners, or if objection is raised on the score of inadequacy of the sale proceeds offered, to give the owners another gun if available.

(22)—	Nowgong	...	...	...	5 times
	Darrang	...	...	...	Twice
	Lakhimpur	...	...	...	Once
	Kamrup	...	...	...	Once
	Goalpara	...	...	...	Once

(23) and (24)—Government have not completed these statistics.

(25)—The only occasion on which military assistance was requisitioned by Government was at a comparatively early stage in the outbreak, when it was found imperative to reinforce the civil arm in Nowgong District.

(26)—Government are not in a position to give particulars about military establishment, which are a concern of the Central Government.

(27)—The purport of the question is not clear. All Deputy Commissioners were empowered to appoint Special Constables when occasion arose.

(28)—None.

(29) and (30)—The position in the Sylhet and Lakhimpur Districts is not known. No Special Constables were appointed in the Darrang and Cachar Districts, and as regards the Nowgong, Goalpara, Sibsagar and Kamrup Districts,

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to them

1

2

UNDER NOWGONG DISTRICT

the information is furnished below :—

1. Panigaon	...	...	...	...
2. Hujgaon	...	...	...	...
3. Bhakatgaon	...	...	...	...
4. Naramari	...	...	...	...
5. Gedarbari	...	...	...	...
6. Nonai Kumargaon	...	...	...	...
7. Jamuguri	...	...	...	...
8. Morikolong	...	...	...	...
9. Sialekhowa	...	...	...	...
10. Katonigaon	...	...	...	...
11. Bar-Pathari	...	...	...	...
12. Bor-Pathari-Sutargaon	...	...	...	...
13. Borbheti	...	...	...	...
14. Soulmari	...	...	...	...
15. Dakhin Gomothagaon	...	...	...	...
16. Chungmara	...	...	...	...
17. Rangloo	...	...	...	...
18. Muamari	...	...	...	...
19. Itapara Majar Ati	...	...	...	...
20. Mudaioni	...	...	...	...
21. Badalgaon	...	...	...	...
22. Nonai Teliagaon	...	...	...	...
23. Dimoruguri	...	...	...	...
24. Nonai Sutargaon	...	...	...	...

To guard Railway line, Telegraph line, Bridges, etc., of the Assam Trunk Road, Government buildings and other Government and Public properties.

UNDER ROHA POLICE STATION

1. Amchoi	...	...	...	...
2. Barapujia	...	...	...	...
3. Bhakatgaon	...	...	...	...
4. Banunbori	...	...	...	...
5. Bounagaon	...	...	...	...
6. Borbhogia	...	...	...	...
7. Chaparmukh	...	...	...	...
8. Singgaon	...	...	...	...
9. Charaibahi	...	...	...	...
10. Dhemajigaon	...	...	...	...
11. Guimari	...	...	...	...
12. Setali	...	...	...	...
13. Jaluguri	...	...	...	...
14. Kujarbori	...	...	...	...
15. Kumargaon	...	...	...	...
16. Kashdhor-Kumargaon	...	...	...	...
17. Majgaon	...	...	...	...
18. Meteka	...	...	...	...
19. Mikirgaon	...	...	...	...
20. Pachim Salmara...	...	...	...	...

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to them

	1				2
21. Narikoli	To guard Railway line, Telegraph line, Bridges, etc., of the Assam Trunk Road, Government buildings and other Government and public properties.
22. Roha Chouki	
23. Roha town	
24. Bagari guri	
25. Namgaon	
26. Digholi Ati	
27. Lawfulabori	
28. Mahadeosal	
29. Pub-Salmora	
30. Saragaon	
31. Kotonguri	
32. Baruabali	
33. Kakatigaon	
34. Guimari	
35. Boriagaon	
36. Bogolajan	
37. Bahakabari	
38. Gormari	
39. Bhatigaon	
40. Atigaon	
41. Rupohitoli	
42. Khaigor	
43. Kamarjan	
44. Kamargaon	
45. Saobori	
46. Bamuniagaon	
47. Kuari Ati	
48. Topakuchi	
49. Baruakhat	
50. Katonigoan	
51. Saraligaon	
52. Khaplangkuchi	
53. Jarabori	
54. Kahibari	
55. Lungamukh	
56. Hariamukh	
57. Dehing Satra	

UNDER JAMUNAMUKH POLICE STATION

1. Lanka	}
2. Islam Basti	...	...	...	...
3. Panjabi Basti	...	...	...	...
4. Bhalukmari	...	...	...	...
5. Itagaon	...	...	...	...
6. Panchali	...	...	...	...
7. Sankarbasti	...	...	...	...
8. Hojai Town	...	...	...	...
9. Mozaborbasti	...	...	...	...
10. Borbasti	...	...	...	...
11. Pub Dhani Nagar	...	...	...	...

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to them

	1	2
12. Telibasti	...	To guard Railway line, telegraph line, Bridges, etc., of the Assam Trunk Road, Government Buildings and other Government and public properties.
13. Fakirbasti	...	
14. Paglabasti	...	
15. Adaipar	...	
16. Kumrakata	...	
17. Kurkutbasti	...	
18. Sikaribasti	...	
19. Borhola Mikirgaon	...	
20. Wadapur	...	
21. Alinagar	...	
22. Golaghotiabasti	...	
23. Singari	...	
24. Matikhoia	...	
25. Bidyanagar	...	
26. Jamunamukh	...	
27. Kumargaon	...	
28. Muslimpatty	...	
29. Amtola	...	
30. Nogyapam	...	
31. Jamunaguri	...	
32. Chikamari	...	
33. Rohdhola	...	
34. Buribasti	...	
35. Baliramgaon	...	
36. Kathkatiagaon	...	
37. Borjan	...	
38. Kapilikan	...	
39. Majari	...	
40. Karkatibasti	...	
41. Kandulimari	...	
42. Behelaguri (I)	...	
43. Behelaguri (II)	...	
44. Behelaguri (III)	...	
45. Dhekura	...	
46. Dhekura (II)	...	
47. Patiapam	...	
48. Badu Ati	...	
49. Kampur	...	
50. Kampur Natun bazar	...	
51. Dekabor Patiagaon	...	
52. Pachanijar	...	
53. Bholbholiagaon	...	
54. Paraligguri Atigaon	...	
55. Kampur Atigaon	...	
56. Niz Kampur	...	
57. Dalgaoon	...	
58. Darangigaon	...	
59. Maguriati	...	
60. Goalguri Majgaon	...	

Names of places where villagers were made special constables
during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to
them:

1	2
61. Christian ...	
62. Nambar Bilash paria basti ...	
63. Nambar Lalunggaon ...	
64. Upor Bor Lalunggaon ...	
65. Kochua ...	
66. Haldi Khati ...	
67. Kandapara ...	
68. Ghayotia ...	
69. Kampuri Basti ...	
70. Alitangoni Basti ...	
71. Jurirpar ...	
72. Amerigaon ...	
73. Ghilani ...	
74. Biringatoli ...	
75. Charialhagi ...	
76. Dhakhinpat ...	
77. Bhakotgaon ...	
78. Ozagaon ...	
79. Khimarugaon ...	
80. Daparagaon ...	
81. Parakhua ...	
82. Daboka bazar ...	
83. Hatikhali ...	
84. Ambari ...	
85. Pubjaroni ...	
86. Hailakandi Seat ...	
87. Borkhali Seat ...	
88. Hatibondha ...	
89. Uttar Rowarpar ...	
90. Udmari ...	
91. Dakhin Rewarpar ...	
92. Karaiguri ...	
93. Kacharipara ...	
94. Mikirpara ...	
95. Pachim jarani No.I ...	
96. Ditto No.II ...	
97. Namati ...	
98. Gachtola ...	
99. Dabaka Pathar ...	
100. Mobarak Basti ...	
101. Katahpur ...	
102. Sadaragaon ...	
103. Teajuri ...	
104. Nilbagan ...	
105. Satarpar ...	
106. Methigaon ...	
107. Sandanpur ...	
108. Uttar Dibrupar ...	
109. Borpokhuri ...	
110. Sibpar I ...	
111. Sibpar II ...	

To guard Railway lines,
telegraph lines, Bridges,
etc., Roads, Gov-
ernment and
public properties.

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to them

1

2

112. Brindabanpar ...	...	...	...	...
113. Tarapar ...	...	...	...	...
114. Pedumpukhuri II ...	...	...	...	...
115. Karajargaon ...	...	...	...	...
116. Bandar Mella ...	...	...	...	...
117. Garukata Gaon ...	...	...	...	...
118. Parakhowa Hatkhola ...	...	...	...	...

UNDER SAMAGURI POLICE STATION

1. Sonai bali ...	...	...	...	...
2. Kadamguri ...	...	...	...	...
3. Kanuamari ...	...	...	...	...
4. Padumani ...	...	...	...	...
5. Teliagaon ...	...	...	...	...
6. Borchongjar ...	...	...	...	...
7. Barbari ...	...	...	...	...
8. Gatanga ...	...	...	...	...
9. Puranigudam ...	...	...	...	...
10. Hiragaon ...	...	...	...	...
11. Panikhowachok ...	...	...	...	...
12. Chalchali Birahichok ...	...	...	...	...
13. Sutargaon ...	...	...	...	...
14. Bherbhari ...	...	...	...	...
15. Chalchali ...	...	...	...	...
16. Potani ...	...	...	...	...

To guard Railway lines, telegraph lines, Bridges, etc., Roads, Government and public properties.

UNDER RUPAHIHAT POLICE STATION

1. Ownagaon
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Ditto.

UNDER DHING POLICE STATION

1. Dhing Proper ...	...	...	...	...
2. Athgaon ...	...	...	...	...
3. Balisatra ...	...	...	...	...
4. Doomdomia ...	...	...	...	...
5. Rajabari ...	...	...	...	...
6. Kachakhati ...	...	...	...	...
7. Salaguri ...	...	...	...	...
8. Auniatisatra ...	...	...	...	...

Ditto.

UNDER KALIABAR POLICE STATION

1. Jakhalabandha ...	...	...	...	...
2. Silghat ...	...	...	...	...
3. Deorisilabandha ...	...	...	...	...
4. Senchoa ...	...	...	...	...
5. Dhekial ...	...	...	...	...
6. Katori ...	...	...	...	...

Ditto.

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances The duties assigned to them:

1

2

UNDER KALIABAR POLICE STATION—*concl'd.*

7. Miribheti	} To guard Railway lines, Telegraph lines, Bridges, etc. Government and public properties.
8. Rangalu	...	...	...	...
9. Missa	...	...	...	...
10. Panigaon	...	...	...	...
11. Nangaon	...	...	...	...
12. Natundhuga	...	...	...	...
13. Kuoritol	...	...	...	...
14. Moriagaon	...	...	...	...
15. Kamakkhyagaon	...	...	...	...
16. Amguri	...	...	...	...
17. Kuthari	...	...	...	...
18. Bagari	...	...	...	...
19. Gomothagaon	...	...	...	...
20. Deosur	...	...	...	...
21. Fulaguri	...	...	...	...
22. Sikani	...	...	...	...
23. Borhola	...	...	...	...
24. Sonarigaon	...	...	...	...
25. Bamuni	...	...	...	...
26. Jaokata	...	...	...	...
27. Dalpukhuri	...	...	...	...

UNDER MORIGAON POLICE STATION

1. Sidhabari	} Ditto.
2. Rajagaon	...	...	...	...
3. Kahibari	...	...	...	...
4. Doloichuba	...	...	...	...
5. Gasbari	...	...	...	...
6. Sonarigaon	...	...	...	...
7. Naokata	...	...	...	...
8. Jagigaon	...	...	...	...
9. Bhakatagaon	...	...	...	...

KAMRUP DISTRICT

UNDER POLASBARI POLICE STATION

1. Polasbari bazar	} To guard the Railway lines, Government and public property, etc., and to prevent sabotage.
2. Majirgaon	...	...	...	...
3. Rampur	...	...	...	...

UNDER CHAYGAON POLICE STATION

1. Alogjan	} Ditto.
2. Behdia	...	...	...	...
3. Kaimari	...	...	...	...
4. Dhekanbari	...	...	...	...

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances

The duties assigned to them

1

2

UNDER BOKO POLICE STATION

1. Dakapara	} To guard the Railway lines, Government and public property, etc. and to prevent sabotage.
2. Kendaguri	...	...	...	...
3. Tepsia	...	...	...	...
4. Si gra	...	...	...	...
5. Bandapara	...	...	...	...
6. Sakali	...	...	...	...

UNDER NALBARI POLICE STATION

1. Kalag	} Ditto.
2. Kakaya	...	...	...	...
3. Bangaon	...	...	...	...
4. Baruaddi	...	...	...	...
5. Bihampur	...	...	...	...
6. Billeswar	...	...	...	...
7. Chamata	...	...	...	...
8. Nadal	...	...	...	...
9. Belsor	...	...	...	...
10. Rupiabathan	...	...	...	...
11. Khata Rupiabathan	...	...	...	...
12. Amuad	...	...	...	...
13. Piplibari	...	...	...	...

UNDER BARAMA POLICE STATION

1. Tihu Bazar	} Ditto.
2. Mathurapur	...	...	...	...
3. Dokhonia Bishnupur	...	...	...	...

UNDER PATACHARKUCHI POLICE STATION

1. Pathala	} Ditto.
2. Muguria	...	...	...	...
3. Barbakra	...	...	...	...
4. Sarupeta	...	...	...	...
5. Bongalipara	...	...	...	...

UNDER SORBHOG POLICE STATION

1. Rampur	} Ditto.
2. Kahitama	

UNDER RANGIA POLICE STATION

Places under Rangia Police Station are not known

Ditto.

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances.

The duties assigned to them.

1

2

GOALPARA DISTRICT

1. Dhubri Town ...

Not reported by Deputy Commissioner.

SIBSAGAR DISTRICT

JORHAT POLICE STATION

Sector No. I

1. Pakimu, ihabi	Charaibahi Mauza. (Sec-
2. Hazarigaon	tor No. I from mile post
3. Bamchuk	496 to 484, Jorhat Railway
4. Naosalia	Station to the Kakodonga
5. Sonarigaon	river).
6. Senchowra	...
7. Kamalabaria	...
8. Ataliagaon	...
9. Chekonidhara	...

To guard the Railway and Telegraph lines, etc.

Sector No. II

10. Chutiakahi	Charaibahi mauza (from
11. Rangaihabhi	mile post No. 492 to 490).
12. Chaudangaon II	...
13. Borbhetachapori	...
14. Chaudang No. II.	Ditto
15. Ajanbamangaon	Khangia mauza (from
16. Charingia	mile post 492 to 490.)
17. Goriahabhi	...
Barsokota	...
18. Kulhear Boria	...
19. Cheliagaon	...

Ditto.

Sector No III

FROM MILE POST 490 TO 488

- 20. Bariagaon
- 21. Tekalagaon
- 22. Dohatiagaon
- 23. Sonarigaon
- 24. Bahekgao
- 25. Kacharigaon

Khangia mauza. ...

To guard the Railway and Telegraph lines, etc.

- 26. Bamungaon
- 27. Gohaingaon
- 28. Kumargaon
- 29. Uttarhati Chungi
- 30. Dakhinhatichungi
- 31. Kohargaon

Charaibahi (Mauza).

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances.

The duties assigned to them.

1

2

Sector No. III—concl'd.

32. Puranimati.....Thengal Mauza.

33. Mohbond grant

No. 135 and 174

34. Bhalukmara grant

No. 1 and 2.

} Sector No. IV from mile
post No. 488 to 484.
Khangia mauza.

To guard the Rail-
way and telegraph
lines, etc.

35. Kachamaripathar ...

Ditto

36. Daijan grant ...

37. Doloijan habi ...

38. Dholajanhabi ...

39. Ghatuating grant ...

40. Lataiting grant ...

41. Gatanga grant ...

42. Chengelirant ...

43. Rangajan grant ...

} Thengai Mauza.

Ditto.

44. Duliagaon ...

45. Nakoribamungaon ...

46. Rajatia ...

47. Rajahauli ...

48. Naoboisa ...

49. Domgaon ...

} Hazari Mauza Bengal
and Assam Railways
from mile of Rail-
way posts 497 to 506.

Ditto.

50. Patiagaon ...

51. Fakalapathar ...

52. Natun Gohaingaon ...

53. Kumarbheti ...

54. Puranigohaingaon ...

55. Dainigaon ...

56. Makarikhuti ...

57. Kumargaon ...

58. Major Chapori ...

} Hazari Mauza.

Ditto.

59. Gohaintekela ...

60. Bamungaon No. 2 ...

61. Chengeligaon ...

62. Kola Khowagaon ...

63. Bamungaon No.1 ...

64. Gazpuria ...

65. Sonarigaon ...

66. Charigaon ...

67. Mautgaon ...

68. Hukimora ...

69. Dahikhor ...

70. Duliagaon ...

71. Kalianipathar ...

} Charigaon Mauza

Ditto.

Names of places where villagers were made special constables during the August 1942 disturbances.

The duties assigned to them.

1

2

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 72. Domgaon | } | Charigaon Mauza. |
| 73. Kumargaon | | |
| 74. Bamongaon | | |
| 75. Dubarini Pathar ... | | Mauza Baligaon. |
| 76. Sorbaibandha ... | | Mauza Sarucharai. |

TEOK POLICE STATION

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| 1. Komargaon | ... | ... | ... | } | To guard the Railway and Telegraph lines etc. |
| 2. Chowdanggaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 3. Tengabali | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 4. Cooligaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 5. Haloapathar | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 6. Domgaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 7. Duliagaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 8. Rahinggaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 9. Gamru Tea Estate | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 10. Lumpuriagaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 11. Borgoyangaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 12. Gossainpathar | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 13. Morangaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 14. Abhopuriagaon... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 15. Dohotiagaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 16. Gharfaliagaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 17. Majkuligaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 18. Burakuligaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 19. Dihingiagaon | ... | ... | ... | | |

TITABAR POLICE STATION

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 1. Elengi Village | ... | ... | ... | } | Ditto. |
| 2. Tanti „ | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 3. Handiqui „ | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 4. Gariacheleng | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 5. Kachari „ | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 6. Bebejia „ | ... | ... | ... | | |

AMGURI POLICE STATION

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 1. Bhuyangaon | ... | ... | ... | } | Ditto. |
| 2. Kohikaragaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 3. Bhuyahat | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 4. Hatimuria | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 5. Abhoypuria | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 6. Chankarigaon | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 7. Ghorphalia | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 8. Lali Mauza | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 9. Simulugiri | ... | ... | ... | | |

(31).—So far as Government are aware, the answer is nil.

(32)—The information is given below :—

Names of Institution or Association	Date of declaration	Date of withdrawal of declaration
1. All-India Congress Committee	9th August 1942	... 30th June 1945.
2. Assam Provincial Congress Committee.	Ditto	... 31st May 1945.
3. The Nowgong District Congress Committee.	28th August 1942	... Ditto.
4. The Gauhati District Congress Committee.	21st October 1942	... Ditto.
5. The Barpeta District Congress Committee.	Ditto	... Ditto.
6. The Goalpara District Congress Committee.	Ditto	... Ditto.
7. The Darrang District Congress Committee.	29th September 1942	Ditto.
8. The Cachar District Congress Committee.	4th September 1942	... Ditto.
9. The Sylhet District Congress Committee.	Ditto	... Ditto.
10. The Sibsagar District Congress Committee.	17th September 1942	Ditto.
11. The Lakhimpur District Congress Committee.	Ditto	... Ditto.
12. All Santi Senas in the District of Nowgong.	29th August 1942	... ..
13. All Santi Senas in the Districts of Darrang, Kamrup and Goalpara.	3rd September 1942	... ..
14. All Santi Senas in the District of Lakhimpur.	17th September 1942	..
15. The Rangia Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri) location—Rangia and Murara, Kamrup District.	27th October 1942	... ..
16. The Dwarkuchi Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri), location—Dwarkuchi and its vicinity, Kamrup District.	Ditto	... ..
17. The Kaya Santi Raksha Sangha (in Poschim), location—Kaya village, Kamrup District.	Ditto	... ..
18. The Hengdol Pitambor Hat Bozali Santi Raksha Sangha (in Pub Borigog), location—Hengdol and Pitambor Hat Bozali, Kamrup District.	Ditto	... ..
19. The Dotara and Bongaon Santi Raksha Sangha (in Pub Borigog), location—Dotara Bongaon, Kamrup District.	...	...

Names of Institution or Association	Date of declaration	Date of withdrawal of declaration.
20. The Kanita Santi Raksha Sangha (in Pub Borigog), location—Kanita, Kamrup District.	27th October 1942.	
21. The Jayantipur Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri), location—Pitambor Hat Bozali and Jayntipur, Kamrup.	Ditto	...
22. The Barkhala Santi Raksha Sangha (in Poschim Borigog), location—Borkhola, Kamrup District.	Ditto	...
23. The Tarani Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri), location—Tarani, Kamrup District.	Ditto	...
24. The Tusibari Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri), location—Tulsibari, Kamrup District.	Ditto	...
25. The Mahtoli Tulsibari Santi Raksha Sangha (in Panduri), location—Mahtoli Tulsibari, Kamrup District.	Ditto	...
26. The Radical Institute or the All-Assam Progressive Youth's League at Gauhati, and its Branch named the Assam Peasant and Labour Party.	6th March 1943	... 13th March 1946.

(33) (i)—Yes.

(ii)—Tezpur on 17th September 1942, and Sibsagar on 16th September 1942. Also in Nowgong town and Barpeta town, but the dates are not known. The position in the Sylhet and Lakhimpur Districts is not known.

(34) (i)—Yes.

(ii)—Within the limits of Tezpur Municipality for about 2½ months from 21st September 1942 to 3rd November 1942, also in North Lakhimpur town from 10th September 1942. The position in the Sylhet District is not known.

(35) (i)—Yes.

(ii) In Nowgong District from 3rd November 1942, Sibsagar District for 6 months from 15th February 1945 and Darrang District for 3 months from 20th February 1943. In addition prohibitive orders which were imposed prior to the disturbances were in existence in the following areas:—

Cachar District from	...	27th July 1940
Sylhet " "	...	28th May 1940.
Kamrup " "	...	1st July 1942.
Dibrugarh Subdivision from	...	28th September 1939
North Lakhimpur Subdivision from	...	3rd September 1942.
Lakhimpur Frontier Tract from	...	14th December 1942.

(36) (i) (iii)—The Government of Assam promulgated no Ordinance or special laws. The Special Criminal Courts Ordinance, 1942 and the Penalties

Enhancement Ordinance, 1942, were applied throughout the Province on 21st May 1942. Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932, was brought into force on 9th July 1942 in all plains Districts.

(37) (i) (ii)—Two publications were proscribed, *viz.* :—

(1) Booklet in Bengali entitled “Juddha Sankata Congresser Nirdeśh” published by Babu Binode Behari Chakrabarti, Secretary, Sylhet District Congress Publicity Committee. Proscribed on 5th September 1942.

(2) Booklet in Assamese entitled “Paradhinatar Pratikar” published by Abhijan Publishing Association, Gauhati. Proscribed on 13th November 1942.

The proscription orders have since been cancelled.

321. (a)—The information is given below :—

Names of places and areas declared protected	Date of declaration
1. Digboi Oilfields	5th September 1939.
2. The Saloni Landing Ground	19th October 1942.
3. The Saloni (Tezpur) Airfield	11th December 1942.
4. The area round Manipur Road Railway Station including Lahorijan Station.	23rd December 1942. 5th March 1943.
5. The Happy Valley Protected Area	21st December 1942.
6. The Chabua Aerodrome	14th May 1943.
7. The Balijan Landing Strip	14th May 1943.
8. Dinjan Aerodrome	14th May 1943.
9. Mohanbari Aerodrome	14th May 1943.
10. Mokalbari and Nagahooli Landing Grounds...	14th May 1943.
11. The Steamerghat Protected Area, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur	25th June 1943.
12. Misamari Airfield	30th October 1942.
13. Bar-Hapjan (Doom Dooma) Landing Ground	30th October 1942.
14. Sorbhog Airfield.	30th October 1942.
15. Kumbhirgram Airfield	30th October 1942.
16. Narayanpur Airfield	30th October 1942.
17. Rajyeswarpur Airfield	30th October 1942.
18. Amingoan Steamerghat area	23rd December 1942.
19. Pandu Steamerghat area	30th October 1942.
20. The premises of the telephone exchange of the Assam Oil Company at Digboi	15th January 1942.
21. The premises of the Government telephone exchange, Tinsukia	15th January 1942.
22. The Assam Oil Company's Refinery at Digboi.	15th January 1942.
23. The Power House of the Assam Oil Company at Digboi.	15th January 1942.
24. The Installation of the Assam Oil Company, Tinsukia.	15th January 1942.
25. Bridge over the Dehing River (on Bengal and Assam Railway).	24th September 1942.
26. Bridge over the Dehing River (on the Dibru- Sadiya Railway).	24th September 1942.

Name of places and areas declared protected	Date of declaration
27. The Power House of the Shillong Hydro Electric Company.	8th December 1942.
28. Any land belonging to the Railway Administration in Assam.	3rd September 1942.
29. The portion of the Lakhimpur District lying between the Burhi Dihing River and the Inner Line.	11th November 1943.
30. The premises of the Burma Oil Company's petrol installation near the Railway Station at Dhubri.	15th January 1944.
31. The Margherita Protected Area	5th February 1944.
32. The Rowriya Aerodrome	10th May 1944.
33. The China National Aviation Corporation Protected Area.	18th May 1944.
34. The Saloni (Tezpur) Airfield	10th August 1944.
35. The Missamari Airfield	9th August 1944.
36. The Dergaon Protected Area	23rd December 1944.
37. The Goraimari Protected Area	23rd December 1944.

(b)—The names are given below :—

NAMES OF PLACES STILL PROTECTED

1. The Happy Valley Protected Area.
2. The Chabua Aerodrome.
3. Dinjan Aerodrome.
4. Mohanbari Aerodrome.
5. Kumbhirgram Airfield.
6. The Dergaon Protected Area.

1941 Census Report

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

322. (a) Are Government aware that the 1941 Census Report was not available for sale from the Government publication sale office or from any recognised agent for sale from January last ?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire of the Government of India if necessary, what this shortage of stock was due to ; and whether in particular it was due to a certain political association buying up all available copies ?

(c) To allay public discontent in Assam, do Government propose to ask, if necessary, the Government of India why 1941 Census Report was prepared only on basis of religion and not on both language and religion ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

322. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This was due to the number of copies printed being reduced because of paper shortage. Government have no information as to the latter suggestion. The report is being reprinted.

(c)—Since owing to the administrative and financial complications created by the war tabulation had to be restricted, the Government of India intimated that the tabulation to be carried out for All-India purposes would be designed to bring out broad factors of community distribution. Provincial Governments were left, if they so desired, to tabulate in further detail for their own purposes and at their own cost.

Commercial Carrying Company Limited, and the United Motor Transport Company Limited, Workers Union

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

323. (a) Are Government aware that a "Union" known as the Commercial Carrying Company Limited and the United Motor Transport Company Limited Workers Union exists at Shillong ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have lately received any representation from the said "Union" praying for the redress of the grievances of the Members of that Union ?

(c) Are Government aware that the authorities of the above Companies are not paying any heed to the demands of the Union ?

(d) Is it a fact that there is no provision for provident fund nor any regular scale of pay for the employees of these Companies ?

(e) Is it a fact that there is no rule regulating the appointment, promotion and leave of the employees of these Companies ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Traffic Inspectors of the said Companies have to travel a minimum of 60 miles per day without any allowance ?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no weekly holiday for the said Inspectors nor for the other employees of the Companies ?

(h) Are Government aware that the employees of some sections of these Companies such as Delivery Section, Running Section, Store Section, etc., have to work for over 10 hours a day ?

(i) If so, do Government propose to enquire into the matter and take immediate steps to redress the legitimate grievances of the employees of the Companies ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

323 (a) —Yes, there is a registered Union known as "The Commercial Carrying Company Limited, and the United Motor Transport Company Limited, Workers' Union" with its head office at Shillong.

(b)—The Company received a memorandum on 17th June 1946 from the said Union praying for the redress of certain grievances of the members of the Union. Government saw a copy of the memorandum.

(c)—The Company and the Union have since come to an understanding on all questions outstanding between them.

(d)—According to this understanding the Company has undertaken to institute a contributory provident fund with effect from 1st September 1946, and a revised pay code by the end of September.

(e)—The Company has also undertaken to introduce service rules on the model of the Government service rules, with a view to bringing leave and other amenities into line with those obtaining generally in Government departments.

(f)—Yes, 60 miles minimum. They are not paid any allowance as their duty is only to inspect traffic. But after return from the line they get more than 18 hours' rest during which they are not required to perform any work.

(g)—A Weekly holiday is granted to the general office staff and workshop operators. Employees in other departments work less hours on such holidays. The Inspectors do not get the weekly holiday in view of the long rest they enjoy after each trip they perform.

(h)—Delivery Section, Running Section and Store Section remain open as shown below :—

1. *Delivery Section*.—From 10 hours in the morning till arrival of last vehicle in the evening.

2. *Running Section*.—From 7 hours in the morning till arrival of last vehicle in the evening.

3. *Store Section*.—From 8 hours in the morning till 19 hours in the evening. Attendance of individual employees is, however, so arranged that no employee is required to work for more than 8 hours a day.

(i)—Does not arise.

Nationalization of Industries

Mr. P. M. SARWAN asked :

324. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have any plan or scheme for nationalization of industries ?

(b) If so, what it is ?

(c) Whether Government have recently made any statement regarding their scheme of nationalization of industries ?

(d) Whether Government have any contemplation for nationalizing lands, or industries relating to Tea, mineral oils or coal ?

(e) If so, what is their immediate plan for the nationalization of lands ?

(f) If not, why not ?

(g) Whether there is any truth in the rumour that Government propose to nationalize non-existent industries ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

324. (a), (b), (c), (d) & (g)—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the industrial policy of the Government announced in their second Communiqué dated the 26th August 1946, a copy of which has been placed on the table in connection with a reply to Starred Question No. 52 (a)—(e) asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua in this Session of the Assembly.

(e) & (f)—As regards lands, if by nationalization is meant the abolition of the permanent settlement, this is the ultimate object in view, but before it can be achieved it will be necessary to prepare a record of rights in those districts which are permanently settled, and preliminary enquiries in this connection have been set on foot.

Post of Assistant Deputy Director of Industries

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

325. (a) Is it a fact that the present holder of the post of Assistant Deputy Director of Industries was promoted to this post at a time when he had only about two months more to serve before retirement ?

(b) What is the intention of such promotions ?

(c) What useful work the officer has done during this short period ?

(d) Whether it is the intention of Government to patronise the officer by giving him additional average pay to count towards his pension and giving him rank ?

(e) Do Government propose to devise some other means to help him without injuring public administration ?

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

325. (a)—There is no such post.

(b) to (e)—Do not arise.

Uniform rates of fares on Motor Services in the Province

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

326. Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to implement their recent Gazette Notification fixing new and uniform rates of fares on the Motor Services at 2½ and 3 pice per mile in this Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

326.—No final decision has yet been arrived at in the matter pending examination of the various objections received to this Notification which published the proposed rates for criticism. A decision is expected by the end of September.

Motor Vehicles plying on the Gauhati-Goalpara Road

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

327. (a) Are Government aware that a terrible congestion and overloading are now going on, on the Motor Vehicles on the Gauhati-Goalpara Road at the connivance of the Police ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take on the matter ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary action on it ?

328. (a) In view of the great inconvenience and hardship of the public due to the private ownership of the Motor Vehicles plying on the Gauhati-Goalpara Road, do Government propose to introduce a monopoly service like the Gauhati-Shillong service on this Gauhati-Goalpara line ?

(b) Are Government aware that monopoly system gives good revenue to Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

327. (a)—Seventeen cases of overloading have been detected by the Police and sent up for trial in the course of this year. The congestion has been due to petrol shortage, resulting in the restriction of trips.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

328. (a) — Government do not at present contemplate the introduction of a monopoly service on the Gauhati-Goalpara line.

(b)—A monopoly may yield more revenue to Government but it could hardly be considered equitable to throw out of business a large number of persons who earn their livelihood from such business and are entirely dependent upon it.

Sub-Registry Offices at Rajnagar and Kamalganj

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH asked :

329. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Registration Department be pleased to state when and under what circumstances the Sub-Registry offices at Rajnagar and Kamalganj were abolished ?

(b) Are Government aware that the general public are experiencing great inconveniences as a result of the abolition of these two offices ?

(c) Do Government propose to re-open these offices ?

(d) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

329. (a)—The Sub-Registry office at Rajnagar proved, after some years of its opening, to be a losing concern. The Sub-Registry office at Kamalganj also promised well at the beginning but after some years of its starting its neighbouring office at Srimangal began to show tendencies towards deficit. The offices were consequently abolished with effect from the 1st March 1933 and 1st August 1932 respectively as a measure of economy.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—Government is considering to open Sub-Registry Offices on commission basis wherever such an experiment is justified.

Sunamganj Government High School

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

330. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Babu Satish Chandra Chakravarty was attacked and injured a few years ago while he was the Headmaster of the Sunamganj Government High School ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that immediately after this occurrence he was transferred to the Assam Valley ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that he has been transferred again to the Sunamganj Government High School ?

(d) If so, why ?

(e) When he is due to retire ?

- (f) What amount has he drawn as travelling allowance as a result of his recent transfer ?
- (g) Who are the persons appointed in the consequent chain of vacancies in the Assam Valley ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that Babu Girija Bhusan Bhattacharjee, a Headmaster now in the Assam Valley, is also going to be transferred shortly to the Surma Valley ?
- (i) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

330. (a)—Yes, in 1939.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—In the interest of the public service.

(e)—On 24th August 1946.

(f)—About Rs. 300.

(g)—Srijut Golap Chandra Barua was appointed in the vacancy. The permanent appointment of an Assistant Headmaster in his place is still under consideration.

(h) & (i)—The matter has not been finally decided.

Subdivisional Officers-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage Subdivisions

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

331. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The name with respective home District and qualification of the Subdivisional Officers-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage Subdivisions ?
- (b) Whether they are permanent ?
- (c) If not, why they have been promoted to Subdivisional Officer's rank in supersession of other senior and permanent officers of the Department ?
- (d) The qualification of the Subdivisional Officer-in-charge of the Embankment and Drainage Subdivision at Sylhet ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Gauge Reader appointed by the Subdivisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage at Nalbari is a minor ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that this Gauge Reader is paid in the name of 'Khoka' ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that his actual name is Premangshu Chakravarty and that he is a nephew of the Subdivisional Officer himself ?

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

331. (a)—

Name	Qualification	Home District
1. Mr. P. Sarma, Temporary Engineer.	B. E. ...	Nowgong.
2. Mr. D. N. Dutta, Assistant Engineer.	B. E. ...	Domiciled in Goalpara.
3. Babu Birendra Ch. Das, Temporary Overseer.	B. Sc. passed M. E. from Victoria Jubilee College, Bombay, and completed 2nd year Mining Engineering Course in Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.	Sylhet.
4. Babu Monoranjan Chakravarty, Temporary Overseer.	Passed Upper Subordinate, Dacca.	Bengal.

(b)—Except Mr. D. N. Dutta, B. E., Assistant Engineer, all are temporary.

(c)—As a temporary measure because of their experience in the Embankment and Drainage work.

(d)—Presumably the hon. Member refers to Subdivisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage Subdivision at Karimganj. He is a B.Sc. of the Calcutta University, completed second year Mining Engineering Course in Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, and passed Mechanical Engineering Examination from Victoria Jubilee College, Bombay.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—Present gauge reader is Khalasi Khoka Deb Sarma.

(g)—The matter is under investigation.

Head Clerk of Nalbari and Barpeta Public Works Department Subdivisions

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

332. (a) Is it a fact that Srijut Mahiram Talukdar, B.A., and Maulavi Abdur Rahman, present Head Clerk of Nalbari and Barpeta Public Works Department Subdivisions respectively were appointed and confirmed on the same date and that the former has been made junior to the latter in spite of the fact that increment of the former falls due 15 days earlier than the latter ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state on what basis this seniority has been fixed ?

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

332. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The vacancy against which Maulavi Abdur Rahman was confirmed occurred earlier than that against which Srijut Mahiram Talukdar was confirmed. The confirmation of the former was made in the earlier vacancy with due regard to the principle of communal representation and he was made senior.

Transfer of Mr. Rajmohan Nath, Executive Engineer

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

333. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, received a letter dated the 18th March 1946 from Mr. Harinarayan Barua, M.L.A., and signed by Mr. Chanoo Kheria, M.L.A., with regard to the transfer of Mr. Rajmohan Nath, Executive Engineer ?
- (b) Where was Mr. Rajmohan Nath at the time the letter was received and where is he now ?
- (c) Whether the letter signed by Mr. Chanoo Kheria demanded the transfer of Mr. Rajmohan Nath from Jorhat ?
- (d) Whether the said letter was forwarded to the Chief Engineer for enquiry and report before any action was taken on that letter ?
- (e) Whether any enquiry was made and, if so, what was the result of such enquiry ?
- (f) Whether the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department, received a letter dated the 17th April 1946 from Mr. Chanoo Kheria saying that he was not the author of that letter and that his signature must have been forged ?
- (g) If so, whether any enquiry was made as to who was the person responsible for addressing that letter to the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department ?
- (h) Whether any deputation waited upon the Hon'ble Minister as mentioned in the letter of Mr. Chanoo Kheria of the 18th March 1946 ?
- (i) If so, who are the members of the Deputation and who was the Leader ?

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

333. (a)—The letter contained the name Chanoo Kheria as the signatory, and at the top it has the words "from Mr. Harinarayan Barua."

(b)—Then at Jorhat and now at Sylhet.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The matter was dropped as Mr. Chanoo Kheria, M.L.A., had intimated that his signature was forged.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No.

(h)—No formal deputation waited on him, but some persons met him.

(i)—The question does not arise.

Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School**Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED** asked :

334. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of students in the roll of the Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School as it stood on the 1st April of the last three years ?
- (b) What arrangement has been made for the Play-ground of the School for out-door games ?
- (c) What is the present hostel arrangement for Muslim students there ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the school is held in two shifts for want of accommodation ?
- (e) How many rooms the school actually has and how many more it requires for running the classes in one shift ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the institution is at present under-staffed by two hands ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that both the teachers and the taught have to experience great troubles and inconvenience for want of requisite number of furniture in the School ?
- (h) If the answers to questions (d), (e), (f) & (g) are in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take immediately to do away with these grievances ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

334. (a)—Enrolment on 1st May—

1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	509
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	568
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	622

As the School Session begins from 1st April and new admission closes on 30th April the correct enrolment of a school is ascertained by the enrolment as it stands on 1st May of every year.

(b)—Games are played in the existing Play-ground during the dry season.

(c)—There is a Moslem Hostel attached to the School for Moslem boys.

(d)—Yes. Only for the lower 4 classes.

(e)—The school has thirteen rooms and four additional rooms are required.

(f)—The school was under-staffed by one English Master which has since been provided. There is need for a Second Sanskrit teacher in the school and the question for this appointment is under consideration.

(g)—Government have no information.

(h)—The grievances will receive due consideration of Government.

Agricultural loans to cultivators

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR asked :

335. Are Government aware—

(a) That the provisions of the present rules of issuing Agricultural loans on the joint responsibility of five persons have made these loans most unpopular ?

(b) That most of the cultivators are reluctant to take advantage of such loans owing to the demand for joint responsibility ?

(c) That the amounts lent being small, such loans can be issued to suitable individuals on personal responsibility ?

336. Do Government propose to alter the existing rules so as to enable the Revenue Officers to issue such loans to individual cultivators as personal liability ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

335. (a)—No.

(b)—No. Instructions have however been issued that when such loans are small, the borrowing groups should be constituted in the smallest number possible—preferably two in each group—admissible under the rules.

(c)—This is admissible under the present rules when the relief officer is satisfied that the borrower is able to repay and there is no risk of loss.

336.—Does not arise.

Officers of the Excise Department

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

337. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what actions have been taken to redress the grievances of the Excise Officers of the Province, as ventilated in the resolutions adopted by them in a meeting at Shillong in April last ?

(b) If the reply to question (a) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to give an idea as to the date by which such action will be taken ?

(c) Are Government aware that the Excise Officers throughout this Province are discontented and the efficiency of their services is deteriorating speedily ?

(d) Do Government contemplate to revise the scale of pay and status of the Officers of the Excise Department at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

337. (a)—The resolutions are under examination.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—Government proposed to take up the question of revision of scales of pay of various services including excise service as announced in the Communiqué, dated the 27th July 1946.

Civil Porter Corps, Assam

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED asked :

338. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state—

- (a) Whether they recruited porters from Sylhet in the Civil Porter Corps, Assam in 1944 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the pay and death compensation of many Sylheti Porters still remain unpaid ?
- (c) If so, what is the number of such Porters and the total amount of money that still remains unpaid ?
- (d) Do Government propose to take necessary action so that the Porters may get their dues and death compensation without any further delay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

338 (a) — The Central Government recruited porters from Sylhet in 1944.

(b) — Yes.

(c) — As the matter is still under correspondence with the local officers concerned, the exact number of such cases and the amount involved thereon cannot be stated. The approximate number of outstanding claims for pay is 75 and that for death compensation 5.

(d) — The authority concerned has intimated that necessary action is being taken to settle the outstanding claims as early as possible.

Forest Department

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

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

- (a) The reasons for high price of timber ?
- (b) The steps, if any, taken to improve the forest produces in the Province ?
- (c) The steps, if any, taken for eradication of corruption from the Department ?
- (d) The reasons for re-employment of retired officers in the Department and also the reasons for multiplying administrative posts at the top ?
- (e) Forest revenue of the Province prior to the addition of such administrative posts and after it ?

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

339. (a)—The price of timber is high partly on account of the general increase in prices of commodities, and partly because until recently a large proportion of supplies was required by Government for the Defence and allied services, and the ordinary market was starved.

(*o*)—The steps taken are manifold. The main proposals, which are already partly in process of implementation, are contained in the reconstruction plan, and are stated below :—

- (1) Revision of Working plans.
- (2) Extension of Reserved Forests particularly in the Hills, and
- (3) Regeneration of Reserved Forests.

(*c*)—As the hon. Member is doubtless aware, the Subordinate Forest services were recently re-organized, and the Forest Regulation was amended: both these steps were expected to have a beneficial effect in relation to opportunity or incentive for corrupt practices. The Department will share with others in co-operating with the general measures contemplated for combating corruption.

(*d*)—Both during and since the end of the war the departmental services could not be expended rapidly enough by trained new recruits to deal with the greatly increased operations of the department. It has therefore been necessary to re-employ some retired officers. The reference to multiplying administrative posts at the top is not understood. Two posts of Conservator exist in the cadre, and one of these which had been in abeyance for some years was revived in 1940. No other administrative posts has been created, though Government is at present considering the question of creating an administrative post on account of the Public Works Roads development schemes.

(*e*)—The revenue of 1938-39 was Rs.16,69,298 and that of 1944-45 Rs.83,54,124.

Persons from Assam Valley Division serving in various Assam Services

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

340. Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons of the Assam Valley Division serving at present in the permanent cadre of the—

- (i) Assam Educational Service.
- (ii) Assam Civil Service.
- (iii) Assam Junior Civil Service.
- (iv) Assam Forest Service.
- (v) Assam Excise Service.
- (vi) Assam Police Service.
- (vii) Assam Engineering Service.
- (viii) Assam Medical Service.

Subdivision by Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

340.—A Statement is given below :—

Name of Subdivisions	Assam Educational Service	Assam Civil Service	Assam Junior Civil Service	Assam Forest Service	Assam Excise Service	Assam Police Service	Assam Engineering Service		Assam Medical Service	Assam Public Health Service (Senior)
							Class I	Class II		
1. Dhubri .. ..	..	4	1	2	..	..	..	2	3	..
2. Goalpara .. ..	..	1	7	..	1	..	..	2	..	..
3. Barpeta	5	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
4. Gauhati	21	8	10	4	2	..	..	..	2	..
5. Tezpur .. ..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
6. Mangaldai .. ..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Nowgong	3	4	10	1	1	1	..	..	1	..
8. Jorhat	8	10	9	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
9. Sibsagar	4	3	5	..	1	3	..	1	2	..
10. Golaghat	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
11. Dibrugarh	3	5	4	1	..	2	..	..	..	1
12. North Lakhimpur ..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
13. Tura .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Barpeta-Pattacharkuchi Bus Service

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

341. (a) Are Government aware of the inconvenience experienced by the people of Barpeta Subdivision due to the closure of the Barpeta-Pattacharkuchi Bus Service ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to open the same immediately ?

342. (a) Are Government aware of the congestion of Passengers in the Barpeta-Barpeta-Road Bus Service line ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to increase the number of Buses in the said line by allowing fresh permits for Stage Carriages and public carriers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

341. (a)—Yes. The route was closed because there is parallel rail communication and during petrol rationing it was essential to curtail routes.

(b)—The matter is one for the Transport authority to deal with. It will be brought to their notice.

342. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The view of the Transport authority is that there are sufficient vehicles, and that what is wanted is more frequent trips which will be allowed when the petrol rationing position permits.

Construction of Model Villages and Travelling Dispensaries in Golaghat Subdivision

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

343. (a) Is it a fact that sometimes back Government declared Golaghat to be the most unhealthy place in Assam ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to make the place healthy ?

(c) Is it a fact that there was a Government proposal to construct some model villages in the said subdivision ?

(d) Do Government propose to provide at an early date some travelling dispensaries and some model villages in the subdivision in their Post-War plan due to its unhealthy condition ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

343. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—There is no provision for travelling dispensaries or model villages at present in this subdivision.

Spread of Naga Sores in Golaghat Subdivision

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

344. (a) Are Government aware that Naga sores are now spreading in the Golaghat Subdivision in an epidemic form ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of such cases treated in different Hospitals and Centres of the subdivision since April last ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to stop the spread of this disease ?

(d) Do Government propose to move the Central Government to depute a Naga sore specialist for doing research work at Golaghat ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

344. (a)—Yes.

(b)—160 cases were detected up to 11th July 1946. They are being treated by the Public Health Department staff.

(c)—A Research Officer of the Indian Research Fund Association is already working in the Pasteur Institute, Shillong upon Naga sore. He visited Golaghat and gave instructions to the Doctors regarding treatment, etc. Extra doctors have also been sanctioned to cope with the increased number of cases reported as well as other diseases.

(d)—As stated in the answer to (c) Government have already obtained a specialist for Naga sore.

Misappropriation of Government Money

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

345. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that misappropriation of Government money amounting to several thousands of rupees has been made by the present officiating Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, Assam ?
- (b) If so, what is the name of the Officer who is responsible for such misappropriation ?
- (c) What is the actual amount of money involved ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the money misappropriated was kept by the Officer in his own account in the Bank ?
- (e) What action Government propose to take against the Officer at fault ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

345. (a)—No.

(b), (c), (d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Function of the Vigilance Committee

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

346. (a) Is it a fact that the main function of the Vigilance Committees is to see that the cloth and other controlled commodities reach the villagers at the controlled prices ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that such works could be done by the village Panchayat better than these committees ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

346. (a)—Yes, it is one of the main functions of the Vigilance Committees.

(b)—Government expect better work from the Vigilance Committees.

Number of Manipuries in Government Service

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

347. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Manipuries in the Assam Civil Service on permanent basis as well as the number of Manipuri Gazetted Officers in various Departments (to be shown separately) ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to reserve some posts for Manipuries in Government Service on the basis of their population in the Province as has been done in the case of the Ahoms ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

347. (a)—One (temporary) in the Assam Civil Service and one in the Assam Junior Civil Service. There are no Manipuri Gazetted Officers in any other Department.

(b)—Government are averse to the further extension of the process of splitting up communities into exiguous details.

Vacancies in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

348. (a) Is it a fact that vacancies in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara were filled up by new candidates disregarding the claims of the qualified A.R.P. Candidates ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments made during this year including General, Supply and Procurement at Dhubri ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

348. (a)—No.

(b)—43.

General ...	...	...	...	...	2
Procurement ...	...	...	...	...	12
Rice Control ...	...	...	...	...	27
Supply ...	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...					43

Starting of Cotton Mills in the Province

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

349. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of applications made by different Companies, Firms, and individuals for permit to start Cotton Mills in Assam ?

(b) The number of Muslim applicants ?

(c) The number of outsiders including Marwaries ?

(d) How many of them get the permits both from the Central and Provincial Governments ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

349. (a)—Firms and Companies 12. Individuals 3.

(b)—No application from any individual Muslim candidate has been received. The number of Muslims who have joined in the firms and companies started for the purpose is not known.

(c)—7.

(d)—One from the Central Government. The Provincial Government are not authorised to issue any permits.

As regards Government's policy towards the Cotton Textile Industry, the attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Second Communiqué of the 26th August 1946 issued by Government announcing their industrial policy, a copy of which has been placed on the table in connection with a reply to Starred Question No.52(a)—(c) asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at this Session of the Assembly.

Revenue derived from indigenous liquor

Mr. P. M. SARWAN asked :

350. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If they have any plan to curtail the consumption of indigenous liquor ?
- (b) The amount of revenue derived from the sale of indigenous liquor ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the larger part of the said excise revenue is derived from the consumption of liquor by Tea estate labourers ?
- (d) Why Government is not spending any money derived from the said excise revenue in educating the children of Tea garden labour population so that they may learn to abhor the drink evil ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to curtail the consumption of liquor by stopping the sale of the same to the Tea cooly castes on Sundays ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to set up a Provincial Committee to draw up a scheme for the curtailment of consumption of liquor by the Tea estate labour population ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

350. (a)—Government have adopted a policy to minimise the present number of excise liquor shops in Assam.

(b)—In the year 1945-46 the total revenue from country spirit stood at Rs. 37,90,985.

(c)—Detailed information required by the hon. Member cannot be given as the Tea garden labourers take liquor from excise shops other than lessee-manager shops opened for them. It can however be roughly estimated that the Tea garden population consumed a major portion of liquor.

(d)—It is difficult to work out a proportionate share of revenue derived from liquor consumed by different sections of population. Also it is contrary to financial principles to ear-mark the receipts from any item of Provincial revenues for specific purposes. The evil of intoxicant can be usefully impressed by educational institutions set up in the Tea garden areas and by a temperance movement which generally spring up from the people affected. Government will always encourage such a movement if organised.

(e)—Under rule 320 of the Assam Excise Manual there are already restrictions on sales on Sundays.

(f)—Government do not consider that any scheme aiming at a sectional prohibition only is desirable and will be of any material help to the Tea garden population.

Construction of a Public Motor Stand near the Barpeta Road Station

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

351. (a) Is it a fact that a plot of land has long been kept set apart by Government near the Barpeta Road Station as the site for a public motor stand ?

(b) Is it a fact that the land is still lying unimproved and unused ?

(c) Are Government aware that for want of suitable stand a good number of buses plying thereto are kept huddled up together on the small road leading to and from the Railway Station in front of the tea stalls much to the disadvantages of the travelling public and other vehicular traffic ?

(d) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to remove the want of a motor stand and get the site improved in the next winter ?

352. (a) Are Government aware that the diversion portion of the Barpeta Chafakhamar Road which passes by the front of the Public Works Department Staging Hut at Barpeta Road from the Bazar area to the station is in a dilapidated condition being full of ruts and depressions and making it difficult for vehicular traffic including buses to ply particularly in rainy days ?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to improve the condition of the same ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR replied :

351. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—The matter is still under consideration.

352 (a)—Government is enquiring into the matter.

(b)—Yes, if it needs improvement.

Amount lapsed for non-execution of works in Barpeta Public Works Department Subdivision

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

353. (a) Will Government be pleased to state, year by year the amount lapsed for non-execution of works in the Barpeta Public Works Department Subdivision for the last ten years ?

(b) What are the reasons for such lapses ?

(c) Is it a fact that the apathy and inaction of the Subdivisional Officers in the Barpeta Subdivision are the reasons for such lapses ?

(d) Do Government propose to take necessary action against those Officers who are responsible for such lapses ?

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

353. (a)—A statement is given below.

(b)—Reasons are stated in the Remarks Column of the above Statement.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Statement showing the lapse of expenditure during the last ten years in Barpeta Subdivision under the head 50.—
Civil Works—Provincial "Original Works" and "Repairs"

NORTH KAMRUP DIVISION

	BUILDINGS						COMMUNICATION						Remarks
	Original Works			Repairs			Original Works			Repairs			
	Rs.	Rs.	Lapse	Rs.	Rs.	Lapse	Rs.	Rs.	Lapse	Rs.	Rs.	Lapse	
1936-37 ..	588	585	3	4,715	4,651	64	38,069	38,201	..	62,449	62,545	..	Lapses are small.
1937-38 ..	2,038	2,038	..	5,172	5,645	..	2,076	2,079	..	65,002	66,134	..	No lapse.
1938-39 ..	910	870	40	6,842	6,909	..	5,702	5,702	..	78,942	78,620	322	Lapses are petty due to saving from different works.
1939-40 ..	132	132	..	5,771	5,703	68	9,309	9,125	184	85,215	84,890	325	Lapses are petty due to saving from different works.
1940-41 ..	2,085	2,087	..	5,887	5,889	..	4,364	4,878	..	84,332	83,984	348	Petty lapses under Repair Communication only.
1941-42 ..	2,718	2,535	183	8,815	8,931	..	7,478	5,826	1,652	1,03,799	1,03,186	613	The military project of construction of Aerodrome at Sorbhog was under operation during the year which might have drawn the attention of all contractors who engaged their labour force to that work at higher wages. This might be the reason that Public Works Department works suffered.
													Other lapses are petty due to saving for different works.

Lapse under O.W. Communication is petty lapse under Repair Communication is due to the fact that during the year the cost of labour and materials rose so high that the contractors who tendered at low rate could not complete the works due to scarcity of labour who took to other jobs at high wages.

Petty lapses under all Heads. The lapses are under O.W. buildings are due to petty savings for different works.

Lapses under Repair Buildings and O.W. communication are petty. Lapse under Repair communication is due to transport difficulty of gravel within the Subdivision. The Assam Transport had to arrange for carriage but when asked for they informed their inability to undertake the work in Barpeta Subdivision at the last moment and the carriage had to be arranged with local contractors. Having undertaken the work at the last moment they as could not complete the carriage. Moreover due to constant rain during the last part of March 1946, the progress of carriage work hampered and hence the amount is lapsed.

1942-43 ..	3,373	5,443	..	6,828	7,152	..	3,201	3,138	63	1,45,746	1,40,033	5,713	
1943-44 ..	13,253	13,226	27	6,668	6,618	50	2,353	2,349	4	1,71,985	1,71,655	330	
1944-45 ..	4,642	4,394	248	11,435	12,243	..	12,845	16,261	..	1,43,999	1,53,221	..	
1945-46 ..	712	712	..	10,443	10,170	273	37,000	36,481	519	1,75,645	1,68,811	6,834	

Present Provincial Motor Transport Controller**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY** asked :

354. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the salary of the present Provincial Motor Transport Controller ?

(b) What was the salary drawn by this Officer before he was put in charge of this office ?

(c) What is the qualification and length of service of this Officer and what was his former designation ?

(d) Is it a fact that this Officer is also partly responsible for the management of the Assam Transport Organisation ?

355. (a) Will Government be pleased to state at what stage the Assam Transport enquiry is lying at present ?

(b) What action do Government propose to take on the report of the said enquiry ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

354. (a) & (b)—He now draws Rs. 1,500, the second stage in the scale of Director, Assam Transport. Hitherto he has not drawn any additional pay for acting in addition to his duties of Director as Provincial Motor Transport Controller since 1st May 1946 when he was so appointed.

(c)—It is not clear to what designation the hon. Member refers. He was appointed to the Assam Police Service on 15th June 1930 and is a Bachelor of Arts.

(d)—As Director, he is responsible for the management of the Assam Transport Organisation.

355. (a)—Part I concerning the future of the Organisation has been received and is under consideration. Part II concerning the past has not yet been received.

(b)—Government are not yet in a position to formulate decisions.

Foreign stipends granted by Government for various trainings**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

356. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Foreign stipends recently granted by the Government of Assam for various trainings, and how many of them have gone to the Surma Valley and how many to the Muslims ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

356.—27 and 12 Surma Valley, 9 Muslims.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

357. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the strength of the staff of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat ?

(b) Are Government aware that there has been serious shortage of teachers in the said school ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state how long the said school has been without the adequate number of teachers ?

(d) Are Government aware that due to this shortage of staff the students have been suffering much ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if they have lately received any list of grievances of the students of the said school from any of the students ?

(f) If so, when and what are they ?

(g) What steps have Government taken to remove the grievances of the students ?

(h) Is it a fact that for the last three years the students have been obliged to study in the said institute without machinery, materials, laboratory and hostel accommodation ?

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

357. (a)—9 non-Ministerial.
1 Ministerial.

(b)—There was some shortage.

(c)—Only two lecturers were short during the period from 16th July, 1946 to 28th August, 1946.

(d)—The theoretical classes, suffered to some extent during this period.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—A petition, dated the 1st August, 1946 was received on the 5th August, 1946. The grievances were :—

(i) more lecturers should be appointed.

(ii) Necessary tools and machinery should be provided.

(iii) Laboratory should be provided.

(iv) Hostel accommodation for both Hindus and Muslims should be provided.

(g)—With regard to (i) and (iv) the grievances have been redressed by appointment of two lecturers from outside and accommodation of boys in the original hostels now released by the Army.

As regards (ii) and (iii) the Army has been reminded to return the tools and machinery taken over by them. The department is on the move to purchase war surplus tools and machinery worth nearly one and a half lac for the school. The Laboratory will be reinstalled as soon as the equipment are received back from the Army.

(h)—No. But due to requisition of some of the tools and equipment and buildings of the school by the Army and non-availability of these tools in the market, adequate tools and equipment and accommodation, could not be provided.

Scheme for the Development of Co-operative Movement

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOUDRY asked :

358. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the steps, if any, they have taken for the Development of the Co-operative movement ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government are contemplating retrenchment in this Department ?

(c) Are Government aware that this is one of the most important Departments for the improvement of the condition of the masses ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the steps if any, they are going to take to afford facilities for marketing of the agricultural produce ?

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

358. (a)—Government propose to take up the following Post-War Reconstruction Schemes for development of the Co-operative movement :—

1. Co-operative Training Institute.
2. Co-operative Settlement of Fisheries and Marketing of Fish.
3. Co-operative Marketing of Agricultural Produce.
4. Co-operative Collective Farming.
5. Co-operative Housing and Building Societies.
6. Consumers' Co-operative Stores.
7. Rural Reconstruction through Co-operative Multipurpose Units.
8. Reconstruction of the Co-operative credit movement on new lines.

Out of these the following will be taken up as interim schemes and will be implemented immediately :—

1. Co-operative Training Institute.
2. Co-operative Marketing of Agricultural Produce.
3. Co-operative Farming.
4. Co-operative Marketing of Fish.

(b)—Not at present.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—A Scheme has been proposed to be taken up for the purpose, as mentioned in the reply to question (a) above.

Solution of the unemployment problem

Srijut SANTOSH KUMAR BARUA asked :

359. (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the problem of unemployment amongst the educated youths of the Province is growing distressfully acute day by day ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to initiate necessary measures for relieving this unemployment ?

(c) Do Government propose to prepare a census of educated unemployed youths of the Province so that suitable employments with training, if necessary, can be given to them under the Government Scheme ?

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

359. (a)—Government have no official information in the matter. They however admit that with the disappearance of the war time opportunities for employment in different occupations, release of the military personnel and retrenchments in different Government Departments, the problem of unemployment must grow acute.

(b)—Government have always in view the question of relieving unemployment and expect that with the implementation of the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes, there will be much relief.

(c)—The offices of the Employment Exchange set up in the Province are taking necessary action for registering the names of the war service candidates and for giving them employments. The term war service is so broad that it may come to exclude very few candidates for employments. To avoid duplication work, Government do not propose to undertake a census of the kind referred to.

Government and Local Board Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Province

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

360. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of all Government and Local Board hospitals and dispensaries in the Province, District by District ?
- (b) On what basis their location has been fixed ?
- (c) At what distances apart are these hospitals and dispensaries located ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

360. (a)—A statement showing the names of all Government and Local Board hospitals and dispensaries (except those in the Excluded and State areas) District by District is placed on the Library table.

(b)—The hospitals and dispensaries were established from time to time according to the local requirements for medical aid and other contributory factors such as population, unhealthiness of the locality, etc.

(c)—Distances vary from 5 to 20 miles.

Muslim Hostel attached to the Habiganj Government High School

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN asked :

361. (a) Is it a fact that the authorities of the Habiganj Government High School have lately submitted a representation for construction of quarters of the Superintendent of the Muslim Hostel attached to the School ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have been taken in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

361. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Public Works Department has been asked to prepare the necessary plan and estimate for the work.

Government High School Muslim Hostel at Sylhet

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

362. (a) Is it a fact that the Government High School Muslim Hostel at Sylhet is situated near the Motor Stand and the market place ?

(b) Do Government propose to remove the said hostel to a better site ?

(c) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

362. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. We pass on to the next item. Maulavi Md. Roufque may continue his speech.

EXTENSION OF MEMBERS' HOSTELS

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY:** Before you ask Maulavi Md. Roufque to continue his speech, I beg to point out that in connection with the Supplementary Question put by me regarding the extension of Hostel building you were kind enough to inform me that a statement would be made.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The position is that the House Committee recommended construction of a new building with 45 seats just on the side of the new Hostel. Then after this when this fact was known there was adverse public criticism against this proposal. Newspapers from both the Valleys began commenting that hon. Members were starting with erection of a house for their temporary sojourn at a cost of rupees three lakhs while urgent matters for people's welfare were not attended to. Hon'ble Members must have seen comments in papers of both the Valleys as well as in the Shillong Times. Some fifteen or sixteen days before the sitting of the Assembly I wrote to the Chief Engineer—till then no beginning of construction was made—to postpone beginning of the building pending for the consideration of the House Committee. Then I wrote to the Hon'ble Finance Minister as well to the same effect. Then I placed the matter for further consideration of the House Committee. The House Committee the other day came to the conclusion that the construction may be deferred to a future date. The considerations which moved the House Committee were these: Practically Members remained here only for 35 or 36 days in the year. For the present on account of the high price of building materials and labour the construction would be expensive. The price of building materials is likely to come down within a reasonable period. The House Committee felt that the cost would be less by about 33 per cent. in a year's time or so. The second consideration which they had in mind is that the housing problem is getting easier in Shillong. Another thing that was in their mind was that probably other more useful and popular work may be undertaken with the amount which would be spent presently in this project. They requested Government to make reasonable arrangements for accommodating the Members. As regards other items recommended by the House Committee Government will be approached. The House Committee recommended that Government may be approached for telephone and radio in the Hostels as these are necessities and not luxuries of these days.

Maulavi MD. NAZMUL HAQUE: May I submit, Sir, that some of my Questions are remaining unanswered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got the admitted copies of those Questions?

Maulavi MD. NAZMUL HAQUE: Yes, Sir, here are they. (Hands over.)

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the matter on which you have been pleased to make a statement the House would very well recollect that during the last session there was a Cut Motion moved in order to bring to the notice of Government the inconvenience of Members on account of want of accommodation in the Hostels. In connection with that Motion I gave certain assurances and then the House Committee decided

that Government should undertake at once to construct some more buildings as extension of the existing buildings for Hostels. On the basis of that decision of the House Committee a Resolution was passed by this House at the instance of the hon. Deputy Speaker insisting that by 31st July the construction of the building should be completed, if possible. If it was not possible to complete the construction of the building Government should undertake to hire houses for the accommodation of Members. It was with great difficulty that we could arrange to have some houses for the accommodation of Members in connection with this session when it met in July last. For these months from July last Government had to keep these houses and pay rents. If the decision of the House is to be altered I submit that the decision of the House Committee is not sufficient. Government must know definitely the wishes of the House. On the statement that the Chair has been pleased to make I take it that the House generally agrees that the construction of the buildings as extension of the Hostel buildings should be postponed.

Then it has been said, Sir, that it is becoming easier to get houses on hire here ; but I think, Sir, it is not yet so. I do not know how the Government will be able to make arrangement for the accommodation of the Members in another session. I foresee that it may be difficult. I take it, Sir, if the House accedes to the decision of the House Committee then Government's responsibility is lightened. In future it may not be possible always for Government to provide houses for the accommodation of Members although Government may try their best. It has been said that there has been public criticism in the Press but if the inconveniences from which the hon. Members suffer for want of sufficient accommodation here were known to the Press, I think, there would not be this criticism. It is our duty to satisfy our critics that it is real needs that prompt Government to adopt certain lines of action. I place these facts before the House and I submit, if the House agrees that the construction of the building should be postponed it will certainly be done

***Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY :** What I wanted to say was that the verdict of the House was so definite that steps should have been taken as early as possible to construct the buildings. I do not know how by a subsequent decision of the House Committee that verdict can be vitiated. We the Members who reside in Hostels are aggrieved that Government do not make sufficient arrangement for our convenience even in the Hostels. In view of the statement just now made that the additional buildings will not be requisitioned in future, the hon. Members will find it extremely difficult to live in Shillong. As regards paper propaganda I am also of the opinion that so much importance should not be given to this propaganda. I hold that immediate steps should be taken to construct these buildings.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : I may add also that as a matter of fact constructions were undertaken in the sense that contractors were selected and that these contractors collected materials ; but as you desired, Sir, to stop the construction the contractors had to be informed that the works should stop. The contractors will have to be paid for the materials they collected.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : I wish to speak in this connection, Sir. For want of accommodation in the Hostels I have been compelled to remain outside and I have complained to the Secretary that for staying outside we have been put to various inconveniences. As a matter of fact, I have not been able to attend the Assembly Session before 11-30 always, only because we

*Speech not corrected.

cannot get water supply for bath and other things in time in the places where we have been putting up. Sir, I agree with Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury that a Resolution cancelling the previous one should be adopted not to give authority to the Resolution passed by the ~~House~~ Committee.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I am one of the Members of the House Committee, I want to make the position clear as to what led us to reach the decision we made. We understood that the Hon'ble Speaker before the meeting of the House Committee saw some adverse criticisms in the newspapers and so communicated his desire to postpone the erection of those buildings and accordingly the matter of construction of these buildings were put off to a later date. Now, in the House Committee we have been given to understand that the price of raw materials will come down considerably and if we wait for a year there will be a saving to the Government coffers by about one lakh of rupees, but from what I heard from the Hon'ble Minister of Legislative Department we think that we shall be thus leading our Members to further hardship as the Government is not taking the responsibility for providing quarters in the next Session. In view of that matter, the House has got a right to consider the matter afresh and as the construction of the buildings might be delayed for an indefinite period we should discuss the matter again. In this connection, I may suggest that during the period when the Houses are not in Session these Hostels might be rented out for temporary residence of Government officers on duty or to other officers who are finding difficulty in getting houses on the definite understanding that they shall have to vacate when the Houses are in Session. The rents realised from them for their occupation would add some income to the Government. In that way Government will earn some money and at the same time Members also might not have to suffer inconveniences. In Shillong, Sir, everybody knows the way in which we are lugged together in the hostel rooms and which reminds me of our school days. Perhaps, in school hostels we had more accommodious rooms. (*Hear, hear*). So, the difficulties which we are undergoing may not be appreciated by the people outside. So in view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Legislative Department, we think, there is sufficient ground to review the question afresh and revise the decision which was adopted at the House Committee.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: As a Member of the House Committee, I think, it is my duty to explain the reason which led us to arrive at the decision. We were under the impression that the Government would make temporary arrangements for the hon. Members as was done, this time but after hearing the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Legislative Department, I think, we will be doing injustice to our fellow Members in delaying the construction of the new Hostels. So, I submit that the whole situation must be reviewed in the light of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is not the intention of the Government not to try their best to procure hired houses for the hon. Members; but the difficulty is there and the hon. Members have already appreciated the difficulty. This is a matter which is known better to the hon. Members of the House. Government wanted to spend three lakhs in the project of accommodating hon. Members over which the business of the House is now interrupted. On the other hand it is pointed out that the buildings proposed are not necessary now. It is out of this consideration that we have placed the facts before the House. The hon. Members should rest assured that the Government will make every effort to find out accommodation for them but it may be that these

might not be convenient, or even accommodation to all may not be available in them. I do not know how the hon. Members liked the existing arrangements and it is for the hon. Members of the House to decide what course of action, Government should take.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course, I have already repeated the considerations which led me to put up the matter before the House Committee. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Legislative has stated that arrangements were being made to construct the new buildings, but I do not see how. To the best of my knowledge and information which I gathered from the Superintending Engineer, Mr. Baruah, I was not late even by 5 days after the contracts were given and I do not know how the Hon'ble Minister says that the contractors had to purchase materials for the buildings and for which Government shall have to pay compensation. The fact remains and I still maintain my standpoint, but I shall have to act upon the wishes of the hon. Members. The hon. Members who have come as representatives with the votes of the public should consider whether they should spend three lakhs just now for the construction of the proposed buildings. The buildings were proposed to be done at a time when the condition of accommodation for Members was very bad and the Earle Sanitarium had to be requisitioned and at that time one Hon'ble Minister was very eloquent about the building used by the Assam Industries to be requisitioned for this purpose which was not done. I do not see why the Earle Sanitarium may not be made available. It can be requisitioned 7 days before the Session commences.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: I have been staying in the Earle Sanitarium and there I have been put to enormous difficulties.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Members may decide what action should be taken. This Government is supposed to be a popular Government and I thought it would respond to public opinion. Therefore, I thought it would be desirable for me to postpone the matter. I will allow any such Motion to be moved as will conform to the sense of the House.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: After what I have heard from the Hon'ble the Speaker, I should say that if by waiting for a year there is a saving of one lakh of rupees it is worth while to wait.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLLOI: But that is a fact, Sir, which cannot be overlooked. Sir, we are prepared to go by the wishes of the House in this matter. So far as Government are concerned, they will be glad to save the money and divert it to other purposes, but it is for the hon. Members to say.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: It is not our wish that we should have houses for us at a cost of three lakhs of rupees. We want some permanent accommodation but at a lesser cost. That is our position, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Sir, the correct procedure would be to place the decision of the House Committee before the House in order to get their approval. The hon. Deputy Speaker may move the Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLLOI: Something tangible was done ; some materials had already been purchased by Government.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When was the contract given ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sometime ago. Some materials were brought to the site, and some more were being brought. All these have been taken over by Government

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It was probably after the letter was received.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: We could have completed the house before March next, because the contractors are there, they were collecting materials and it would not have been difficult for them to complete the house before the next Session.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Could not a lower estimate be made for an inferior type of building ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall take up this matter after Lunch and I expect the hon. Deputy Speaker will come up with a Motion as suggested by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Legislative portfolio.

The Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Maulavi Md. Roufique will please continue his speech.

Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day I left unfinished what I wanted to say about the constitution of the Provincial Board. All that we have been given to know in the Bill is that it shall consist of two Members from the Assam Legislative Assembly and one Member from the Assam Legislative Council. Here also there is absolutely no guarantee that any real representative of the Muslims will be elected, because the method of election has not been prescribed—whether it will be by majority votes or by single transferable votes. If it is by majority votes, I should say, God help the Muslims. We were not a little surprised when we heard from the hon. Mr. Sayidur Rahman the other day, who was congratulated by the Hon'ble Premier as having conceived and prepared the draft Bill while he was the Education Minister, that he made a definite provision in the draft Bill fixing the representation of the Muslims. But curiously enough this portion of the provision has been deliberately omitted from the present Bill. This omission as revealed now goes only to justify the stand which the Muslim Members of this House have taken with regard to the Bill, this deliberate omission of a provision in which we are vitally interested goes to deepen our misgivings and fears about the real intention of the Bill.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the Chair and the hon. the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

This is not a question of detail but principle is involved in it. I think, the Hon'ble Premier owes it to the House to say why this provision was omitted and why the fixing of Muslim representation in the draft Bill was not acceptable to them, knowing full well that it was a definite and unequivocal demand of the Muslims to have Muslim representation in the Board fixed by the Statute. In this vital matter of composition of the Board we cannot agree to leave it to be prescribed by rules.

There is another dangerous feature of the Bill, and that is, the omission to define what is Primary education. Before we can agree to compulsion of our children to go to the school, we have a legitimate right to know from the author

of the Bill what is the kind of education that our children should be compelled to receive. The air is thick with rumour that moves are already afloat that the Congress Government is bent on introducing the Wardha system of education in the primary schools. May I know from the Hon'ble Premier—is he going to do this against the wishes of the Muslims? Is he going to force the Muslims to accept a scheme which they cannot conscientiously accept? Is he going to compel the Muslim boys to undergo a process of Hinduisation? Is he going to compel the Muslims to sacrifice our children at the altar of that mad experiment to create one Nation out of the two Nations that inhabit this vast land of India? If not, it is up to the author of the Bill to define what is primary education and what is the Basic Curriculum that will be followed in primary schools. Without knowing beforehand what is the Basic Curriculum and what are the kinds of subjects that will be taught in the primary school it will be impossible for us to agree to leave it to be prescribed later on by rules. Because, we are interested to know whether there will be subjects in the curriculum suited to the special need of the Muslim boys. To obviate the possibility of a loophole for future controversy to creep into it, it is also essential that primary schools should also be defined so that we may know whether a *moktab*, a *tol* or a weaving school will be brought under the scheme of compulsory primary education. Let me touch for a moment the age or compulsion, as given in the Bill *i.e.* age between six years and fourteen years; and the period is an admixture of Sargent and Wardha scheme, six being taken from the Sargent and fourteen being adopted from the Wardha scheme. The age six to fourteen for compulsion is certainly an astounding proposition. In the eyes of law, majority is attained at fourteen and it is a well-known fact that in spite of the existence of the Sarda Act, many of our girls are wives and mothers at this age and sometimes mothers of suckling babies. The tragedy of dragging a wife and a mother to a school under compulsion can be better imagined than described.

Our grievances regarding the constitution of the Subdivisional Boards are the same as that we have regarding that of the Provincial Board.

There is another objectionable feature of the Bill which is that the Local Boards which are now in the control of primary education will be deprived of this control by this Bill but nevertheless will be liable under this Bill to pay a substantial portion of its income to the School Board Fund but the tax-payers' representatives in the Board have been totally denied any voice in the control and management of the Board. This is to say the least is against all democratic principle.

May I suggest to the Hon'ble Premier that the Bill should fix the number of Muslim and Non-Muslim members on the basis of population and the Local Boards may be advantageously utilised as an electorate in electing members of the Boards, the Muslim members electing the Muslim quota and the non-Muslims electing their quota of representatives. The Board so constituted will be a representative body instead of an official body as envisaged in the Bill.

The Bill is defective both in principle and details which calls for rectification. In conclusion, I respectfully ask the Hon'ble Premier for whom we have very great regard—can the Muslim section of this House welcome this as an acceptable piece of legislation with such vital defects both in principle and details? But nevertheless I would appeal to him in spite of many shocks and shabby treatment we have received in the hands of this Government because we have still great regard and confidence in his sense of justice, fairness and fair-play and above all in his spirit of accommodation—we would expect him to allay our fears and doubts which we have about the real intention of the Bill on the floor of the House to make it possible for us to lend our support to the Bill; otherwise it will be our clear duty to support the Motion for circulation moved in the House.

Srijut MOHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: Madam, Deputy Speaker, much has been said in the course of this debate on the Primary Education Bill by the hon. Members opposite. Names of Wardha and Gandhi have been dragged into, in almost all cases, most unnecessarily. We are here concerned with the Primary Education Bill as it is — the object and reasons of this Bill have been given in nut-shell as advancement and control of primary education in the Province and to form a Central Organisation to tackle this tremendous task. The Bill aims at to remove the slur of illiteracy from the Province, by introduction of free compulsory primary education. Nowhere in the Bill we find that any particular system of education will be introduced. Therefore, the arguments advanced by my hon. Friends are mostly based on imaginary misapprehensions.

Communalism has also been introduced in the course of this debate. Communalism specially in the holy domain of education has been decried by all educationists of eminence. To maintain the sanctity and efficiency in education we should always stress on merit and not on communal label. Even communalism having any place in the sphere of education also what provision is there in the Bill that has denied this right? I fail to see though I have searched for it in between the lines of the Bill. I am bold enough to say that the Bill is most innocuous in this behalf.

I admit that the Bill is not complete in itself—the Kindergarten, Montessori or Nursery Schools for children of pre-school age have been left out of any consideration from this Bill. I quite appreciate that for financial reason it has not been possible to provide these measures here and now but hope that the responsibility of State in this respect should be steadily kept in view and necessary provision in this direction should be made as soon as practicable, and in the meantime properly constituted private institutions should be encouraged to organise such schools.

While we realise that for financial reasons compulsion cannot at present be enforced beyond a limited area, I am of opinion that for the full attainment of the objective of primary education the ultimate aim should be the full course of the compulsory education for boys and girls in all places and localities and this should never be lost sight of.

When so much has been said about Wardha System of education, let me explain to my Friends by one word only what this system is. It is educating children through purposeful creative activities leading on to productive work. In short the whole system of Basic education or Wardha system of education is to make life useful and purposeful. If this be the aim of the system then what is there to be afraid of? And in spite of it if any body is afraid of this he must be suffering from some pre-judged view without going even superficially into the subject.

With these words, Madam, I register my whole-hearted support to this Bill.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Madam, Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Amendment of my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Hamid for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. Madam, no one is against making primary education compulsory but when it is going to be done by certain legislation, as representatives of the public we have got our duty to see whether the proposed legislation will be suitable for all parties concerned without any distinction of caste or creed. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill it has been said that as now there is a Legislature with representatives from the public the control of primary education should be taken over from the Local Board by the Government. If this is the principle then, Madam, we fail to find in the body of the Bill any provision stating whereby the Government is going to form the two

Boards—one the Provincial Board and the other the Subdivisional Board either by election or nomination. In connection with both the Boards it has not been made clear whether the members will be taken by election or by nomination. Simply it has been mentioned thereunder that a prescribed number of members will be taken in excepting some officials and they have named only the officials. Madam, when it is the desire of the Government that compulsory education should be introduced in the Province for the benefit of the people those people should have been given a chance to have their say over the matter of selecting their members to the Board of Primary Education—whether the people will approve the method of election or nomination, the people should be given a chance. So, Madam, the Amendment which has been moved by my hon. Friend is a reasonable one. Next, Madam, in other provisions also what do we find? At pages 4 and 5 under the head—Receipts and Expenditure—it is stated, *vide* clause 13(3) as follows:—

“No expenditure shall be incurred from the Provincial Primary Education Fund except for the purposes of this Act and unless such expenditure has been provided for either by provision in a budget approved by the Provincial Government or by re-appropriation in the prescribed manner”.

And in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill it has been said that ‘a centralised organisation is essential for tackling this tremendous task’. Now, if the Government desire to centralise this subject then why in respect of expenditure they are not going to lay the budget of the Provincial Primary Education Board before this House as they do in the case of the Public Works Department. Instead of doing that a provision has been made to the effect that the Provincial Board shall submit its budget like the budgets of present Local Boards before the Government for approval. Now, at the time of taking over the control from the local bodies they say that the local bodies are not efficient enough and they have no funds. On the same grounds, Madam, what is the harm in giving the same control to the Legislature for budgeting this expenditure. I think Government should take the opinion of the people whether they will approve of the idea of submitting the budget of the Provincial Primary Education Board to the Government for its approval or the whole budget should be placed before the House as it is done in the case of the Public Works Department budget.

At page 6, clause 20 runs thus:—

“After this Act comes into force in a particular area, the Provincial Government shall appoint the Chairman of every School Board in that area for the first two terms of such Board”.

Here also what do we find? The Government is going to retain the power of appointing the Chairman. But nowadays the order of the day is Party Government and we find, Madam, that the present Ministry in many cases are undoing the acts done by the previous Ministry and we have every doubt that the same thing will happen in this case also if the nomination system remains. We know, Madam, that the other day there was a long discussion over the matter of nomination of members to the Debt Conciliation Boards. The members who were appointed by the then Government have been substituted by some new members by the present Government. So, Madam, it will be better if Government does not retain the power of nominating the Chairman of the Board. Not only the Government have kept power of nominating the Chairman but they have also kept the power of nominating some members. In our opinion, Madam, now that Party Government has come into vogue this should be entirely given to the Legislature.

Then by clause 23, which runs as follows:—"The Provincial Government may of its own motion or on the recommendation of the Provincial or the School Board remove any member or the Chairman....." and by clause 28 Government have also retained the power whereby they can rescind the whole or part of a resolution that may be passed in a Provincial Primary Board or the School Board. In this respect also, Madam, I think the people should be given a chance to express their opinion.

Next, I come to clause 50 at page 12 wherein it has been provided that "the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, impose an education tax in any area of compulsion".

Madam, from this it appears that the poor people will be made to pay tax but they will not be allowed to ventilate their grievances. Further, no provision has been made to exempt those persons from payment of the tax who would have no interest in the provisions of this Bill. There may be some who are childless but according to the provisions of this Bill whether they are childless or not they will be made to pay the tax. Madam, I would request the Government to apply the same principle of remission of tax as was applied by them in the remission of collective fines.

Now, Madam, in clause 51 they have made provisions for making rules. In the rules they have made some provisions which should be in the body of the Bill. For instance, fixing the age limit of the child, this should be in the body of the Bill and the people should have a say because there are some sections of people who disapprove the idea of allowing a girl of fourteen years to come out in the open. People should be given a chance in having their say with regard to the age of their wards to be fixed. The Bill has left out very cleverly the item regarding curricula and syllabus of the Course. Madam, Assam is not consisted of one homogeneous group. So, the curricula which should be adopted for primary schools will have to be approved by the different groups or sections of the people and they should be consulted before the Bill comes into an Act. People should be given a chance to say whether they approve of the curricula and syllabus or not. Taking all these views what I find, Madam, is that the Bill is not a comprehensive one. The present Ministry the other day on the same ground rejected another very wholesome Bill of Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh-Shams, namely, the Pure Food Bill because it was not comprehensive. This Bill also is not comprehensive and it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. But the Government took it to be a dilatory method. They think, we want to shelve the Bill. There is no question of shelving the Bill because there is the date 31st January 1947 by which opinion should be collected. We fully support that there should be compulsory primary education but what we differ from is the principle underlying it. It is for this reason that we on this side of the House support that the Bill should go to the public for opinion.

Now, Madam, I hope the Government who preach that they are really for the public should prove so. There may be a suggestion that let us first accept the principle of referring the Bill to a Select Committee but in the meantime let it go to the public for opinion. If this is adopted, I simply say that Government will impose upon the public to accept the scheme without giving a chance to have their say whether they are in favour of such a defective Bill.

With these few words, I support the Amendment of my Friend hon. Maulavi Abdul Hamid.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA :** Madam, really I had no mind to take part in this discussion and as such I shall not speak much. Much has been said against this Bill specially mentioning the secular aspect of education that the Bill proposes to impart. Madam, modern state is a secular institution and as such the education that the modern state proposes to impart should be secular. Religious teachings should be entrusted with the parents and guardians of the children. Moreover there is one glaring difficulty in the introduction of religious teachings in institutions. That is, the tendency of the instruction will lead to communal cleavage. Madam, I will not take more time. I simply conclude by referring to a concrete example. We have an Intermediate College at Hamidabad; this college imparts religious education. Now what about this college? Government are spending money on account of this college but there is no student in the first year class. In the total there are five students in the whole college.

***Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED :** That is not primary education.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA :** There is no training, there is no hostel and there are no quarters for the teachers. The place where the college is situated is not suitable. These are the facts which I have learned from Mr. Siddique, the Principal of the College. He has informed Government of this fact. I think when we are discussing about many aspects of the secular education the Hon'ble Prime Minister will kindly enlighten this House on these points. With these few words, I support the Motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.

(After lunch)

(The Hon'ble the Speaker occupied the Chair)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I would like to request the Hon'ble Speaker that we should go on with the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I may say to hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, that in the stress and strain of the pressing business I was unable to make the statement I wanted to. Shall I make it now or shall I proceed with the Bill as requested by the Hon'ble Premier?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : As you like, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I know the number of Members who wants to take part in the debate? Please let me have the names of hon. Members.

(The names were submitted.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I call upon hon. Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan to speak.

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: One moment. This morning the Chief Secretary wanted to know from me and to communicate to him whether the Assembly will finish its business today and in the expectation that it will be able to finish its business, I communicated to him accordingly. I hope, the hon. Members should be willing to finish the business today, and I hope the hon. Members will co-operate with me in this regard.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I make a submission, Sir? The Hon'ble Minister in-charge, Post-War Reconstruction shall have to make a statement to day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He will read the Statement.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Will there be any discussion, Sir, on this?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We will have nothing for discussion at the fag end of the day.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: We also realise that it is the fag end of the Session, but as this is an important subject we would like to have a discussion; if not in this Session it may be left over for the next Session.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister say whether there can be a debate on this in the next Session?

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

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Sir, it is the foremost duty of the Government to impart primary education to the people, and it is well that the present Government have brought up a Bill for the introduction of Compulsory Primary Education in Assam. We had such a Primary Education Act of 1926 which had the same object in view. Long 20 years elapsed since its enactment but it remained a dead letter for all practical purposes. I do not know what will be the fate of the present Bill whether it is a genuine effort on the part of the present Government to introduce primary education, or it is simply a propaganda to catch public imagination. When we look into the appalling illiteracy of the people we are filled with disappointment and dismay. I say, subject to correction, that only 8 per cent. of the population knows somehow to read and write their names. India is very backward in education. Assam is a benighted province and as such Compulsory Primary Education should be introduced in Assam. But the present Bill has been so framed that it cannot be accepted *in toto* and it requires careful scrutiny and examination. Reading through clauses 4, 17 and 51, we find that the Government want to centralise all powers in their own hands and keep the people entirely in the dark about the actual working of the Bill and the nature of education to be introduced. Sir, it is indispensably necessary that we should accept Compulsory Primary Education, but before we do so we should know what it is. So far as the Muslims are concerned, it is our duty to put forth our view points before Government when they are thinking of introducing Compulsory Primary Education. Muslim students gather in larger number in Muktabas than Lower Primary Schools. The very name 'Muktab' has some fascination for them, and therefore it is necessary that provisions should be made for religious education at the primary stage. The way the twig is bent, the tree is inclined. Unless we can give some religious education to our children in their early

life, it becomes difficult to give them such education when they grow up and thus they are deprived of religious knowledge which is essential for Muslims, and this defect exists in the present system of education also. Therefore, we request the Government that statutory provision for religious education should be made in the Bill.

Clause 4 provides for the constitution of the Provincial Board. The Director of Public Instruction will be the President or Chairman of the Board, two Members from the Assembly and one from the Council will be its Members. What will be the total number and how they will be recruited, there is no mention in the Bill. It is necessary also that we should know as to how the interest of the Muslims will be safeguarded, under this Board. It may be said that Muslims will be appointed members in the Board, but there is no provision in the Bill. Muslims, if appointed will be appointed generally from the Jamiat-ul-Ulema people with whom we do not see eye to eye and from their subservient and helpless position under the Congress they cannot do justice to the Muslim cause. Government should therefore state definitely that provision should be made that the Muslim members of the Board should be appointed by single transferable votes from the Muslim League Members of the Assembly.

Now, as regards the Subdivisional Board, it has been simply stated that the Deputy Inspector of Schools will be the *ex-officio* Secretary and the senior Sub-Inspector will be a member and the Chairman will be appointed by the Government. Everything else will be prescribed by rules. Sir, this is very objectionable that the Chairman shall be appointed for the first 2 terms *i.e.*, for 10 years. Sir, as representatives of the people we cannot subscribe to the principle of nomination or appointment especially in the case of the Chairman. I hope Government will see their way to accept that the Chairman should be elected by the representatives of the people either by the Members of this House or by the members of the Local Boards. Any way, Sir, we do not want any nomination or appointment. As hon. Mr. Abdul Hai said that so far as appointment is concerned, we have got a bitter taste of it with regard to the appointment of members in the Debt Conciliation Boards. We found, Sir, that the appointments were very unsatisfactory and one-sided. Therefore, we say that Government should make a statutory provision as to the number of members to the School Boards and the Provincial Board and how they should be recruited. At the same time, the interests of minority communities, such as Muslims, Scheduled castes and the Tribals, should be safeguarded.

Then, Sir, clause 51 provides rule-making powers. It is very sad to see that all powers in this matter also have been reserved for the Government. So far as rules are concerned, the difficulty lies in the fact that Members of this House will not have any say in the matter. Therefore we want that so much power should not be given to Government to prescribe the syllabus, curricula and other matters. We want that before we go to accept the scheme of primary education, as envisaged, in the present Bill, we should be given a clear idea regarding these matters. So far as age is concerned, 6 to 14 is not also acceptable to us. The age-limit of 6 to 11 years appears to us quite reasonable. Certainly a course up to 14 years is rather lengthy. This will not be suitable for many of the boys. There is another thing, Sir, we do not know what really will be taught; we have got an apprehension that the Sargent or Wardha method is going to be introduced. So far as the Sargent scheme is concerned, we are told that manual labour, such as spinning, weaving, carpentry and other manual acts will be the main subjects for teaching. This, Sir, we cannot agree to. Certainly there is a class of people whose children should become fitters, carpenters and weavers; but there is a large number of people who will like to give cultural education to their children, so that they might go to the Bar, Medicine, Engineering and other studies. It will

not be good for the country to compel all people to learn spinning, gardening and such other things. This deserves serious consideration of Government before this Bill is put into operation.

In clause 50 there is a provision for levying an education tax ; and has been laid down that every head of the family should be liable to pay an annual tax of Rs.2 to Rs.25. It is not indicated on what principle this tax will be levied. Now, if all the people of the Province are to be taxed, it is only fair and equitable that they should be given a hearing and they should have a say in the matter. Certainly it cannot be denied that for this useful measure some sort of tax should be levied ; we do not object to that, but we should like to know the method and extent of taxation. To begin with Rs.2 appears to be too much. I think, it should begin with Re.1, and that will be enough to meet the requirements of the purpose.

There is another thing, Sir. Clause 30 says that all the buildings which were provided by the Local Board will vest in the School Board as soon as the Bill comes into operation. I am doubtful whether this Government is really competent to make this law ; perhaps there will be some legal difficulty on the way. This Government is not perhaps competent to enact any expropriatory legislation without the consent of the Viceroy. Then, again, if the Local Boards are to be deprived of their property it is only fair that they should be compensated for this.

Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said the other day that it will not be possible for Government with their limited resources to take up all the places at once. We do not know on what consideration the areas of compulsion will be selected. With your permission, Sir, I would like to put the case of Habiganj Local Board, which twice accepted a scheme for introduction of compulsory primary education at Baniyachong and sent it up to Government. But it was twice turned down by Government on the plea of lack of funds. Now that the Government is going to introduce the scheme, I would appeal to Government to include Baniyachong, which is a village of 40,000 people living within a compact area of 6 sq. miles. I think a fair trial should be given to this place as soon as this law comes into force.

With these few observations, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment of my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Hamid that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We have as many as seven more hon. Members from the Opposition to speak and four from Government Benches. Under the rules there is no time-limit for speeches on Bills. Therefore I do hope that hon. Members will themselves impose voluntary restriction in respect of taking the time of the House. The Hon'ble Prime Minister should have reasonably sufficient time to reply to all the points raised. Twenty minutes have already passed and we have got another 100 minutes, and there are 11 Members. That means about 9 minutes are available per head and the Hon'ble Prime Minister will surely require three-quarters of an hour to reply to all these criticisms.

So, I will firstly request the Party Leaders to see if it is possible to cut down the number of Members who want to speak and secondly I will urge upon the hon. Members not to repeat and not to discuss the matters of detail at this time. I will now call upon Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said on this Bill, and it is being criticised mainly from the stand-point that there is no special provision for the Muslims or that there is no provision by which the Muslim interests will be safeguarded and neither there is any provision for imparting any religious education. But may I point out to the hon. Members sitting

opposite that in a primary standard is there any scope for religious studies ? I do not know what do they mean by "religious education". If by the term "religion" they mean life beyond death, the idea of God and Soul and all these things, then by the term "religious education", they mean theological lectures and theological discourses. But the main idea of education is to teach everyone, every student a sense of discipline, a sense of duty, a sense of civic duty and a sense of humanity. That is what is to be taught to the students and that is what has got to begin with from the boyhood of a student. There cannot be any clear idea of religion, any clear idea of God at that stage. If there is to be any religious studies that should not begin from the primary stage. From my personal experience I may say that whatever religious things I have learnt it was not from the books of the primary schools but from other stories, from other things that I heard from my friends and relatives. Even if there is no lesson taught to the students about God in the primary schools, will there not be sufficient time, will there not be enough scope for giving them these ideas at a later stage ? Sir, even assuming that there were and there are such lessons about God, such lessons on religion, with all these lessons how many of us at this age of our life think of God or of religion—I question about myself ? And also I question how many of us do so ? To me there cannot be any greater religion than duty. If we develop that sense, if by a system of education every boy will be able to develop this sense of duty, a sense of humanity, then we shall be doing the greatest service to our children. Therefore, I do not see any reason how the question of special interest comes in. Muslim students are students as the Hindu or the Tribal students are. The same principle should underlie in the matter of education of all communities be he a Muslim, be he a Hindu or be he a Tribal or to whatever community he belongs to. Judging it from that stand-point I do not understand how can we differ ? How can we come to a loggerhead on an essential Bill like this, the urgent need for which not only this Government but the previous Government also felt ? It is not necessary to go into the details of the Bill at present. These things will be dealt with by the Select Committee. But if it is said that Muslim interests are not safeguarded I do not understand what the hon. Members sitting opposite mean by Muslim interest. There can be no question of Muslim or Hindu interest. It is the question of driving out illiteracy, and to bring about mass education. If that is solved, we shall be doing a great service. In that sense, Sir, and viewing it from that stand-point I lend my whole-hearted support to this Bill and I hope the hon. Members sitting opposite instead of trying to delay matter by circulating the Bill to elicit public opinion, will agree to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. I do not propose to say any further. Sir, there is no question of any community's interest being involved, there is no question of any religious education, there will be enough scope to learn religion. If there is any God, He is great and will take care of Himself. Let us not talk much about it, let us do our duty to our country.....

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, has the hon. Member any doubt about the existence of God ?

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Sir, I have not given even a day's thought to the question of existence or non-existence of God ; but my point is that there can be no greater thing than duty. Sir, there are persons who have not attended any school. Even assuming that religious education is being imparted in primary schools, then is it a fact that those who had no schooling does not know anything about religion ? I take it, Sir, that those peasants who have not got any schooling they are more religious than any one of us who have had long schooling and who have read a great many books on theology. But that is not the question, Sir. The question is how to tackle the problem of

illiteracy. If we have done that, we shall be doing a real duty towards our country. The hon. Members sitting opposite are thinking in the terms of their own community but what steps they have taken to drive illiteracy from the students of their own community? What anxious thoughts have been given to that? Sir, as I understand from the arguments advanced, this Bill is being criticised because the Congress Government has brought it forward (Voices from the Opposition benches:—No, No). They doubt whether the Provincial Board will have sufficient number of Muslims. But that question cannot arise at this stage. They are doubting whether there will be Muslim religious education. They have dragged Wardha System of Education and Mahatma Gandhi's name. The hon. Members sitting opposite, are complaining that the Wardha System of education is Godless education as the hon. Maulavi Sayidur Rahman said that it is absolutely Godless education. May I remind him that Mahatma Gandhi.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Maulavi Sayidur Rahman did not say so.

Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH: Then I am sorry, Sir, but some other Member from the Opposition said that. But should I remind my Friends that Mahatma Gandhi is the greatest believer in God. An attempt was made to bring in the "Wardha system" of Education. That name has become prevalent by common consent and is used as Wardha system but it is the Basic system of education.

We in our student days heard so much of vocational education and now the same thing has been done and attempts have been made here to give effect to that vocational education. Of course it may be said that it is only an experiment; but after all it is this experiment which will lead us where we should be. Now, this system of education will not only give opportunity to our boys to develop their sense of humanity but also make them dutiful to their works. That system of education has been sponsored by one of the greatest educationists, I mean Dr. Zakir Hussain. And I am not an educationist myself and therefore I am not going to judge it from that standard. But from the general standard from which my hon. Friends in the opposite benches are attacking this Bill, I do not see any reason why this Bill should be opposed merely on the ground that communal question will not be fully considered or that the Muslim community will not have enough opportunity to develop their own religion or culture. I may assure my Friends that they have no cause for fear on that score, rather they will get enough opportunity in this Bill to develop their own culture and religion if they are only true persons to understand religion as such.

With these few words, Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Bill, and I request the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his Amendment for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion which will only delay the matter instead of expediting it.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly agree with the Amendment of my Friend Maulavi Abdul Hamid for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. The introduction of a Bill such as one that has now been brought up by Government has been long over due. The general backwardness of India, especially Assam in many important respects has long been painfully recognised by all right thinking people. The progress, development and advance of a country in all different directions—social, political, economic and spiritual—are indissolubly bound up with the education of the masses. On this there can be no two opinions. To appreciate a thing is to know

of it, one cannot know unless one learns it and unless provisions are made and scope given for learning. The masses remain illiterate and hence ignorant. Illiteracy and poverty are twin sisters. In fact, they are interchangeable terms and mean one and the same thing. The grinding poverty of Indians is a proverbial thing. An illiterate person is always confined in a vicious circle; the demands of the stomach must be adequately satisfied at all cost, by any means fair or foul. If a person is illiterate he does not possess the requisite qualifications; he does not get a job. He is unemployed because unemployable. Unemployment is the same thing as poverty and the terrible conditions in which a poor person has got to lead his or her miserable life are only too clear to need any narration here. Poverty thus comes to mean the same thing as illiteracy. Hence no progress in any direction can be expected from a country whose people are illiterate.

The Hon'ble Premier cited figures in connection with some countries where mass education has brought about useful results. As one who was connected with the Education Department for some years and as one who is convinced that we can never rise in the estimate of other people of the world unless we can claim to have made the general masses conscious of their own conditions, of their birth rights, and sacred duties, I feel tempted to quote figures to show what some other countries have done in this vital respect. There are millions of people in the country who know nothing of the three R's and to whom the rudiments of knowledge have so far been denied. With the exception of a few scientists of world-wide fame and intellectual reputation, some of whom again have passed away, India has practically no place in the world of science. If Lord Mecauly, who was mainly responsible for the introduction of western scientific education in India were to come back to life again he would be terribly disappointed to see the very little progress we have so far made in this very important direction. John Stewart Mill, the Political Philosopher of England also held the opinion that universal education must precede universal franchise. Some 15 years back whereas 92 per cent. of the people in the United Kingdom, 95 per cent. in Japan, 96 per cent. in France, 97 per cent. in the United States of America and 98 per cent. in Canada were literates, the percentage in India was only 8. In India 92 persons out of every hundred could not read or write. Above the age of 5 there were over 260 millions who were absolutely illiterate. This was the position of India, some 15 years ago.

The introduction of a Bill like this will be meaningless unless an enormous sum is spent for imparting education. We are surprised to see how much other countries spent on education of their people and how little this country spends on the education of the masses here. The contrast is owefully depressing. Some 15 years back the United States of America spent per head of the school going population Rs. 265 and India spent Rs. 22-8-0. The United States of America spent Rs. 65 per head of the entire population whereas India spent Re. 1 only.

In view of the general illiteracy of the masses the Bill is highly welcome. But there is nothing under the sun but has its evil side. The Bill is not free from certain defects and short comings. Now, I must refer to section 50 of the proposed Bill which imposes tax on poor people. India is proverbially poor. It was only in 1934 that the Reserve Bank of India told us that rural indebtedness of India was Rs. 1,410 crores. Therefore people of the areas where compulsory primary education is going to be introduced would certainly be surprised to find themselves in a position when they would have to pay some thing from their meagre resources. Section 50 says:—“(1) The Provincial Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, impose an education tax in any area of compulsion.

(2) Every head of a family in an area of compulsion in which such education tax has been imposed shall be liable to pay annually an education tax of not less than two rupees and not more than twenty-five rupees, according to the prescribed scale ;”

So, Sir, as soon as this Bill will be enacted into an Act there will be a cry from the people from those areas where compulsory primary education is going to be introduced against any taxation sought to be imposed upon them.

Sir, in view of the fact that much time has been taken by my predecessors I do not like to waste one single minute of the valuable time of the hon. Members who will follow me. But I should be failing in my duty if I don't point out by way of laying every stress and emphasis on the important defects and short-comings of this Bill. The entire Bill is summed up in clause 2 (6) to be read with clause 51 together with its numerous sub-clauses from (a) to (z) and clause 2 (7). In clause 2 (6) "Prescribe" and "Prescribed" mean respectively "prescribe" and "prescribed" by any rule made by the Provincial Government under section 51. As regards clause 51 I am not reading from (a) to (z). The general grievance that has been voiced on the floor of this House by the Members of the Party to which I have the honour to belong is that enough representation has not been given to the Muslims and other minorities. The quantum of representation of the Muslim and other minorities is anything but satisfactory. It must be provided in the Act that one of the two elected Members of the Assembly under clauses 4 and 6 ought to be a Muslim representative of the masses. Since the life in all its entirety of the future citizens very much depends upon the education he or she may have received at the time when life just begins, in another words at the most impressionable stage of the child, some provision must be made for the imparting of religious education in the primary schools contemplated in the Act. It is very important so far as we Muslims are concerned. I would therefore urge upon the Government the absolute necessity of providing religious education in such schools. (If religion means anything it is love, equality, fraternity and brotherhood.)

Sir, the hon. Member who has just preceded me said that we are bringing communalism into this Bill. According to him religion is a thing that concerns God and this word he never came across while he was a boy in the *pathshala* school. That is certainly surprising. Even in the progressive countries like Germany and England where people are getting more and more irreligious day by day, the churches are still full of people. If the hon. Member thinks that Islam teaches us to fight against non-Muslims, if it enjoins on us to hate others who are not adherents of the faith which we profess, he is welcome to express his views on the matter. It appears that he does not quite appreciate our religion because he has never cared to understand it. Let me tell the hon. Member that a Muslim is one who accepts Islam as his or her religion and Islam means peace. The definition of Islam is perfect submission and complete resignation to the will of God. In military language it is unconditional surrender to the will of God. Islam preaches love, equality and fraternity and as such we Muslims have every reason to be proud of it. That is the reason why we who have come here as representatives of the masses whose interests we claim to represent are so much concerned about the inclusion of religious education in the Bill.

I have some more criticisms to make and comment: to offer but since enough has been said by my predecessors and since we are going into the Select Committee I shall have to conclude here. With these words, I wholeheartedly support the Amendment brought by Maulavi Abdul Hamid for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. (Applause).

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to say that we are not opposed to the principle of Primary Education but we differ in the approach that has been made by the present Government to such an important piece of legislation as this. The Muslims cannot and will not lend their support to any legislation whereby they cannot be sure of maintaining their culture, tradition, civilisation and religion,

which are so distinctly separate from those of the Hindus, in whose hands reigns of Government of Assam at present rest. It is only because of this attitude on the part of our Hindu Friends that we make our separate demands in every sphere. I for myself believe that Muslims should have their education absolutely separated from those of the general one.

The Government should also consider whether this Province is prepared to take up such a step at this stage. These are revolutionary days and the Ministry should think hundred times before they take such a decisive step in an important matter like education.

Sir, much has been said on this point by all those who spoke before me, so I need not dilate upon the same here. I will confine my criticism only to two clauses of the Bill. They are clauses 50 and 51 and, shall try to prove from these two clauses alone, how this so-called people's Government have far excelled all the previous legislations in centralising all powers in their own hands. It has put to shame the much maligned bureaucratic Government.

By clause 50, the Government propose to reserve the right of imposing education tax in any area of compulsion. Every one of the Members of this hon. House will agree with me that even a bureaucratic Government would not have dared to include such a sweeping provision in any legislation. Sir, I maintain that legislation in taxation is the inherent right of this House and it is the representatives of the people who should decide what should be the amount to be raised by taxation from a particular class of people and what should be the rate of such taxation. But being intoxicated with power these mouthpiece of the Congress, the self-imposed custodians of the poor people of Assam, are going to take away that very right of this august House for which it exists. Further, the amount of tax mentioned in this clause varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 25. Such a provision, I dare say, cannot be found in the history of any legislation in the world. I fail to understand the reason for such a jump from Rs. 2 to Rs. 25. Sir, we are not opposed to education taxation but we cannot support such a provision whereby the Government would be invested with the arbitrary powers by which the poor people will be so directly and vitally affected. This provision will virtually drive the poor people at the mercy of the Government as no provision has been made indicating the method to be adopted in fixing the amount to be levied on a particular section or sections of the people. Muslims are proverbially poor and I can boldly assert that to the bulk of the Muslims in villages who find it difficult to pay even the choukidary tax, even payment of Rs. 2 annually would be a great hardship. The present Government being a party Government divorced from the Muslims public opinion, we can reasonably apprehend that this party politics will be introduced in the matter of exemption, etc., as is being done by this Government at present in other matters. So, considering all this I hold, Sir, that provision of such a clause will not only deprive the House of its inherent rights but will drive Many to the tender mercy of a Few.

Coming to clause 51, we find, Sir, that all powers from fixing the limit of age for a child to the fixing of scale of education tax have been centralised in the hands of the Government leaving nothing with this august House to say or do. If we scrutinize clause 51 we find everything including curricula, duration, standard, syllabus and everything that is necessary including the election of the Chairman have been centralised in the hands of the Government. I do not propose to take much time of this August House in criticising all these items. I would assert that the provisions are really very stringent and drastic and so it will be better for Government to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion. It is evident from all that I have said with regard to these two clauses only that the Bill

is full of glaring defects which need thorough scrutiny and this can only be done by public criticism. I, therefore, support the Amendment moved by our hon. Deputy Leader Maulavi Abdul Hamid for circulation of the Bill to elicit public opinion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Hon. Maulavi Muhammad Abdullah.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to record my sincere protest for referring the Bill to a Select Committee instead of circulation for eliciting public opinion. I read the whole Bill and read it with patience but in the end, I have come to a decision that this Bill is intentionally prepared to wipe away the Muslim culture from Education. The Party in power should know that the Muslim Nation have separate culture, education and religion of their own.

I am fully convinced that drastic reforms in the field of Primary Education are long overdue and the people of the Province are eagerly waiting for a legislation of the kind. The Congress Government is very loud in saying that they stand for the people and it is the Government of the people, for the people and by the people. The very contents of the Bill, will, I am sure, drag any sane man to an age of obscurity. A patient study of the Bill will surely convince any person enjoying a little commonsense that he is hovering over a maize land and that he is running after a mirage.

Sir, first of all in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated to set up an organisation, largely non-official in character, with ample powers for ridding the Province completely of the shame and shadow of illiteracy. This organisation will control the Primary Education of the country. The idea is noble, the wordings are sweet and melodious. But from the manner in which it is proposed to constitute the Provincial Board, I for myself entertain great doubt that there is dearth of sincerity and honesty. The non-official representation will not be upto the expectation. The Congress Government have already stabbed us from behind, the wounds are still gaping and bleeding and they cannot be healed up by sweet words and good phrases. We have seen the Congress Government eating back their own words in reconstituting the Debt Conciliation Boards. The example is still vivid and clear before our eyes. They have placed some henchmen and show-boys of the Congress, from our midst, to serve their purpose. It is no wonder if the Congress Government repeat the same sad tale in constituting the Provincial Board, which will play with the future destiny of 10 millions of people of the Province. The Congress Government is appealing to the Members of this side to extend their hands of co-operation but they do not give them the chance to do so. It is natural, it is obvious, that we, as minority in the House, are always ready to co-operate, but the Congress Government should give us the chance.

The very formation, Sir, of the Provincial Board is vague and meaningless. It does not state the number of non-official members. It should have stated in the Bill, how Government intend to constitute the Board, what will be the non-official proportion and in what manner non-official members will be selected. Government in order to avoid all this may say that these details will be covered by the rules, but, Sir, that will not allay public misgivings. The whole thing is at the discretion of the Government. It is surely a polite invitation to the Muslims by the so-called popular Government to submit like a pet lamb. But I should ask the Congress Government to take the timely warning that Muslims by religion are ready to suffer but never to submit. (*Hear, hear*).

Similarly, the same spirit breathes in the constitution of School Board in the Subdivision. There is no knowing whether non-official representation will be as effective as desirable. Further more, the provision of making Chairman of the School Board for the first two terms clearly shows that Government are reluctant to delegate power to a body which is not wholly official. Details of the School Board should have been shown in the Bill instead of in the rules.

Secondly, Sir, in the matter of introducing Compulsory Primary Education in the Province, the Bill is no improvement upon the 1926 Act. It is also a permissive sort of Legislation leaving it to the sweet-will of the Government to introduce compulsion in any area or areas where they like. It should have been a statutory provision binding the Government to some time schedule, for introduction of Primary Education throughout the Province. Then again, Sir, to extend the age of compulsion to fourteen (6—14) in the present circumstances belies lamentable lack of appreciation of actual conditions. There is nothing to grudge, if one doubts the genuineness of the Government's desire of introducing Compulsory Primary Education in the Province, while all other Provincial Governments are trying the baffling problem of making Primary Education compulsory. It foreshadows a grim picture before me.

Thirdly, Sir, the power the Bill is intended to bestow on the Government is really staggering. It appears that if this Bill is passed into law and given effect to, Government will have sweeping powers over the School Boards, which will generally control and manage Primary Education in the different subdivisions, though there is a Provincial Board in between the Government in the new order of things, and can take actions against the action of the School Board. Nay, even supersede these Boards without the recommendation of the Provincial Board. This idea is really revolutionary. In these days of democracy there should be some check. Provision should have, therefore, been made in the Bill, so that the Government might not take any action without the consent of the Provincial Board. Without this provision the Provincial Government will introduce a fascist regime in the field of Primary Education.

Fourthly, Sir, the Bill is completely silent about minority representation in the several bodies which will control Primary Education. Without statutory provision for this, the question of representation of different communities and interest will be left entirely at the discretion of the Government. In the present order of things it is not unnatural to have grave doubts about adequate representation of minorities. I for myself is not prepared to sign a blank cheque.

Lastly, Sir, before this Bill is referred to the Select Committee, this hon. House should be given the chance to understand clearly what is the nature of the Education that is going to be imparted. Nothing is stated in the Bill.

Sir, this Section of the House, which I belong to, has great doubt as to the intention of the Government as to the nature of education they mean to provide for the Province. Sir, the question of re-organising the Education System as a Post-War Scheme has been taken up by this Government as elsewhere; we would not have raised our voice in protest if it followed the path chalked out in the Sargent's Plan. We doubt, that this Provincial Government under cover of Sargent Plan intends to introduce on a very large scale the Gandhian ideal in the field of education. The following will substantiate my statement.

Some time ago this Provincial Government convened an Educational Conference to decide on its Post-War Educational policy, and who were the Educational Experts therein and who were invited from outside? Sir, this Government could not find in the whole of India Educational Experts other than Mr. Arianakam and Mrs. Asha Devi—who are working out the Wardha Scheme in the Hindusthani Talimi Shagaha at Wardha.

Then, Sir, as a consequence of the Conference the Government deputed some teachers of the Province for training in the basic system of education. But where? Though some Provincial Governments have established training institutions to train teachers in the basic system as outlined in the Sargent Scheme, these officers have been deputed to two privately managed institutions which have not

been recognised as yet by the Central Government. But our officers had to go there, why? To learn the Gandhian type of teaching through craft work? Then, again, the raising of the age-limit of compulsion to 14 is another point which lends support to the view that we are ripe for the Wardha type of education.

Lastly, I will ask my three Muslim Friends of the Government Benches, who are, I am sorry, absent now, and who are in the words of Hon'ble Mr. Bishnuram Medhi, of more religious bent of mind, to see for themselves whether they are, being more religious minded, going to convert themselves to the Gandhian thought and religion.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Amendment for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Madam, I am inclined to take that the Assam Primary Education Bill is the most pet and favourite child of the Hon'ble Education Minister. It was not less so, as has been said by the present Education Minister, with the ex-Education Minister. As a matter of fact, Madam, a popular legislation like this is a very favourite child of all the Education Ministers at least in Indian provinces. But, Madam, what we find in our family life? In a family due to excessive affection and indulgence from the father many a child goes astray and becomes for all practical purposes lost to the family and the society. So, Madam, I must say that the excessive love of power on the part of Government as adumbrated in the Bill has made this Education Bill a spoilt child of the father and as such, alas, this very important Bill has been subjected to scathing criticisms by the hon. Members of this House. But, Madam, in this connection we must not lose sight of one very important factor, i. e., the time factor. This Bill has appeared in this House at a very inopportune moment. What is that inopportune moment I shall state later.

It is with considerable hesitation that I decided to speak a few words on this Bill. Considering the present temper of the major political parties I was really entertaining grave doubts whether we are in a mood to take things in their true perspective. I was also doubting whether the majority party now carrying on with the Government are in a mood to take the Opposition into their confidence and whether they were going to give due weight to the views and criticisms of the Opposition with a good grace. But, Madam, if I have decided to speak, in spite of my earlier hesitation and indecision, it is because I am an optimist, and I believe in the ultimate righteousness, nobility and sublimity of human character. And I do hope that the thick clouds which have darkened our political horizon will soon disappear and a silver lining in the shape of a message of hope and aspiration will soon reappear in the horizon, and we shall be able to see things in their true perspective.

Now, Madam, as has been made very clear by Members belonging to this side, that every Member of this House has got a very soft corner for a Primary Education Bill, though they may not support this very Bill. All the Members speaking from this side of the House have tried to make it abundantly clear and to bring home to the Government that this side entertains a very serious doubt that by the provisions of this Bill, the culture, the education and the ideal of this Party are going to be submerged in those of the majority opinion of our Friends opposite. This is a very serious, and a genuine misapprehension in the minds of the Members. They also think that wide powers reserved in the hands of Government may be fully utilised to break their morale and to give a death blow to their ideals and aspirations. Let us hope that this will not be so.

Now, Madam, if we are in the midst of this mutual suspicion, misapprehension and misunderstanding, I think, we should not give way to despair and despondency. It will also not be useful to mince matters or to avoid and evade those issues. It will not serve any useful purpose if we side-track or bypass the issues of to-day. My idea is that if we all sincerely make an attempt to remove those misapprehensions and if we are inspired with a spirit of mutual understanding and appreciation, in a spirit of mutual accommodation and adjustment, then only the present atmosphere of misapprehension may disappear. My hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Roufque has already said that this party still entertain high hopes and has got sufficient respect for the Education Minister, who is the Premier of this Province. And I do expect, Sir, that the Hon'ble Education Minister will rise to the occasion and try to understand the real grievances and real misapprehensions of the Muslim community with a spirit of good-will and tolerance and he will accommodate all constructive criticisms and remove all these misapprehensions. If he can do this, I am sure, Madam, he will be rendering a valuable service not only to his party but to all people of the Province. Here need I mention that once we have got the changed angle of vision, if we are determined to understand each other, and to accommodate each other, the present calamity will soon disappear. Here are some worthy sons of this Province who devoted the best part of their lives to improve not only the Primary Education but all other education of this benighted Province of Assam. If you want to take advantage of their knowledge and experience I think, that help and co-operation will not be lacking from this side.

In this connection, I want to remind my Friends of one statement made only the other day on a similar Motion while discussed in the Bengal Legislative Assembly by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. I think all the hon. Members have read that. In one portion of the speech he said, "my Muslim friends who are well organised to-day under the Muslim League must realise that if Bengal is to be really peaceful that can only be done with the willing co-operation of the two great communities and I will make this appeal to the Muslim friends that a settlement has got to be made between the Hindus and Muslims." Then again he said "We have got to come to some settlement and that settlement will not come by one community trying to dominate over another. We must devise a plan of action which will enable the vast majority of Hindus and Muslims to live peacefully."

I think, these 2 portions as said in the Bengal Legislative Assembly apply equally in this House, in the matter of administration of this Province with all force and I shall expect that my Friends sitting on the Government Benches will try not to dominate the minorities and not to strengthen their misgivings by this mis-handling but they will, with a spirit of accommodation and with a spirit of good-will try to accommodate in the Select Committee the misgivings of the minorities. Then, I will finish with a passing remark to the remarks of my Hon'ble Friend Mr. Mookerjee which he made the other day. I do not know whether sarcastically or seriously but he said that the Members of this side see a ghost in every bush. If my Hon'ble Friend without understanding the word or idea of 'Pakistan' is haunted by the Pakistan ghost may I know whether he will allow the same right to the members to have their view when the question of Wardha Scheme, Vidyamandir Scheme and other things come? With these words, I resume my seat.

***Maulavi MD. IRIS ALI:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, the Assam Primary Education Bill is of such vital interest that its provision further requires elucidation and I have taken my stand to-day to elucidate a few points, which have scarcely been touched by hon. speakers that preceded me.

**Speech not corrected.*

There can be no two opinions that the Bill is of a revolutionary nature, and it shall have very far-reaching implication in the field of education. The Government of Assam has taken all steps to rush through the Bill and even the help of His Excellency was sought for, for an extension of the Session though it meant immense hardship to the hon. Members. But we fail to understand the cause of rushing through the Bill. Let us take it for granted that the Bill is referred to a Select Committee, as proposed. Let us also for a moment concede that the Bill is passed in both the Houses in the next Session. Will Primary Education be introduced in the selected areas within the course of the next 2 or 3 years? Ask any realist with any sense of the difficulties ahead and he will shake his head and say "that depends". The Bill is conveniently silent over the matter. But as a matter of fact it shall have to depend on various factors. Whatever step be taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it will take a good deal of time to introduce compulsion in the matter of Primary Education, even in selected areas. In the circumstances there can be no justification for this hurry in which we are referring the Bill to a Select Committee. Before any system of Compulsory Primary Education can be introduced in the Province, a great deal of preliminaries shall have to be undertaken. A good many difficulties shall have to be solved. And this means tremendous work. Without these preliminaries it is not possible that the Bill will act like a magic wand and remove the blot of illiteracy from the Province.

I should be excused if I indulge a little in arithmetic. At present we have got 7,310 primary schools throughout the Province, with 9,465 teachers. In order to bring it into line with the education of the child it must be located to his home. If we provide one school for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ of square miles, we shall require 6,200 additional schools and 21,000 additional teachers. Many of the existing schools shall have to be readjusted. A good deal of dispute regarding the localities will surely arise, as was the case with Bengal, and a regular Arbitration Board shall have to be established in each subdivision for settling these disputes. So, in all, about 10,000 schools shall have to be constructed and equipped with necessary furniture and materials. Apart from equipment, the construction of the school houses alone will entail a non-recurring expenditure of about Rs.50 lacs. Then again before we can introduce compulsion, we must start at least 16 training schools in the Province. We can well imagine the time and money, these preliminaries will involve. So what is the justification of this rushing through with the Bill. Is it not imperative that we ascertain public opinion before we pass this important Bill.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Speaker occupied the Chair).

Sir, I do not propose to take much time of the House at this fag end of the Session. I will finish by drawing a comparative study of the schools under the Local Boards in the present and the schools under the proposed Boards in the future. In the Local Boards 90 per cent. of the members are elected, whereas in the proposed School Board 90 per cent. will be nominated. In the Local Boards 90 per cent. of the members live in the rural areas and have intimate touch with the schools in the interior. In the School Board 90 per cent. of the members shall live in the town and shall have no touch with the school in rural areas. In the Local Boards the Chairman is elected. In the School Board it will be nominated. Perhaps the Sub-Divisional Officer will be the *ex-officio* Chairman. In this case it is likely that there will be corruption and black marketing. The appointments may be sold to the highest bidders.

The Sub-Divisional Officer has neither the time nor the mentality to bother about the spread of Primary Education. So, as usual, his head clerk shall become the *de facto* Chairman and dictate terms to the school teachers.

I submit, Sir, that is surely not a happy picture and the present Government is not taking us to a heaven by this piece of legislation. With these few words, I support the Motion moved by hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hamid.

Maulavi MD. ABDUL LATIF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of mass education in India is so important and urgent that, it cannot be delayed any further and the need for the introduction of this Primary Education Bill in Assam is a long felt one and I agree that the attempt of introducing this Bill will add much to the progress of the Nation as also it is useful for political and social development of the country.

Now, Sir, to drive illiteracy we have various problems before us to solve and the most important one is the financial one. To cope with the financial problem the Government has proposed levying a tax and I do not know how far the masses will be ready to pay this.

Sir, since the passing of the Primary Education Acts in various provinces in India between 1918 to 1926, some of them have the satisfactory results and it is an essential truth that it would take long years to get satisfactory results. At first it will be necessary to make the children accustomed to attend schools regularly, next, whether the poor masses will be able to send their children bearing a burden of the proposed taxation at the same time.

Sir, it is seen that in many of the Western and Eastern countries it took a long period to have adequate enrolment in such primary schools and in my humble opinion the system of compulsory part time instructions should be adopted in our Province especially in villages so that non-attendance or irregular attendance due to economic reasons may be less and less. Similarly, the school hours and holidays should be so arranged as to enable the children of the cultivators to help their parents during harvest times.

Next, I submit, Sir, that a scheme of sound but cheap Elementary Education is required and in this connection I like to suggest that provision for religious studies to Muslim boys should be made as has been done in Bengal. I am of opinion that the vast Muslim population will resent any sort of education which does not make any provision for the religious studies for their children. In this connection I like to say that there are a great number of Muktabs in the rural areas where religious teachings are given to Muslim boys but nothing has been said of these Muktabs as to whether these Muktabs will be maintained by the Primary Board or not when compulsory primary education is introduced.

Coming to clause 17—Chapter IV of the Bill—I beg to submit, Sir, that no mention has been made as to how many members should constitute the School Board and how many of them will be elected and how many of them to be nominated. I should add here that provisions should be made in this clause for an adequate representation of all the backward Muslims and Scheduled castes and Tribals.

It has been provided in sub-clause (1) of clause 20 that the Chairman of School Board shall be appointed for the first two terms but to my mind this is a negation of the public right to elect the School Board Chairman and I would suggest that provisions for electing the Chairman should be made.

Sir, in sub-clause (3) of clause 24 it has been laid down that the School Board shall make appointments, transfer, etc., of primary school teachers and attendance officers. May we know who are those attendance officers and what will be their duties and functions?

25/9/46

Sir, the last point I like to mention is that Primary Education should not be unduly long. Our aim is to bring the children of masses to school and give them Primary Education and I think a short primary course of 4 years between the age of 6 to 11 years would achieve the desired results. This will also save some expenditure. Sir, I find that the taxation for Primary Education to be imposed upon the masses will hit the poor masses very much, and in my opinion the poor and those unable to pay chowkidari taxes should be exempted from the payment of such a tax.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon.

The Hon'ble Srijat GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must oppose the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's Motion for circulation of this Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon. Sir, I have more reasons than one for this course of action. If the object is really to obtain public opinion, we shall have enough time and opportunity of getting that before the sitting of the Select Committee. The Bill has already been before the public for the last six weeks and by the time the Select Committee sits we shall have another three months' time. In the meantime, if any public opinion is expressed, the Select Committee will surely be able to take account of that.

In the meantime the little criticisms that appeared in the Press about this Bill has been uniformly in favour of it and surely, till now at any rate, I have received no opinion which is against the Bill. The result of this Motion will only be to make delay more delayed; and in the best interest of the country, I hope, it will be agreed, that unless the entire object of the Motion is to delay it altogether, it will not be the best way of meeting the object which the Opposition is seeking to obtain.

Then, Sir, let has been said about the present Government being the author of this Bill. Much criticism has been levelled against me that I am bringing in the shape of this Bill a fascist measure before the House, a measure which gives the go-by to all democratic ideals, and that we as a Government are trying to implant upon the country a system of education which has not received the fullest support of all sections of the people. Well, Sir, the least that I can say about this point is that I am only acting as the foster-father of this Bill. The real father is sitting in the Opposition Bench, my hon. Friend, Maulvi Sayidur Rahman. The Bill was under his direction drafted and the whole structure was there. I have just stepped myself into his shoes. Excepting one single clause about which I will make a reference later, I can tell the hon. Members that all that I did was to send the Bill to the Legal Remembrancer to put it into a legal shape. I have nurtured it but surely not fathered it. I know something about the Muhammadan law. The Muhammadan law acknowledges fatherhood but the denial of fatherhood is never found in its principles. I may be excused for this digression. It has been worked out by an expert appointed by the last Government—Mr. Solomon Chaudhury. The Bill as you find is his work. With the assistance of the Legal Remembrancer we have given only a shape to the Bill. But, nevertheless, I take the credit for the same, the credit of which is to be given to hon. Member in the Opposition. In spite of the criticism, I would say that the Bill has been a correct Bill with the only perspective of service to the people. I have no doubt that it will serve the purpose of real primary education for the people.

There were some criticisms about religion forming part of education; I shall come to that later on. I hope, I shall be able to dispel from the minds of my hon. Friends the suspicion which they now entertain. But the one important point in which the Bill has been attacked—and I have been attacked also as being the author of the Bill—is that Government has usurped all powers in

respect of this Bill. I just deny the charge. I say, Sir, that that charge cannot be entertained at all. On the otherhand, what Government have done is to divest itself of all powers and have left the whole thing to be operated according to the provisions of the Bill, instead of by executive orders. Many things are proposed to be done by rules about which the Bill makes specific reference. Those who have experience of running local bodies know that there are certain statutory rules and bye-laws for the guidance of those bodies. In this Bill also there will be statutory rules just such as we have in the Local Boards and in the Municipalities. Hon. Members further know that Government have very few occasions to interfere in the administration of these local bodies. Similarly, these rules will only make these bodies—the Provincial and Subdivisional Boards—more autonomous and independent of Government.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Whether these rules will be placed before the House?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I expect that as they are statutory rules they will be placed before the House.

Now, Sir, the Rules on which stress was laid by the Opposition as being offensive are as follows:— (1) The first is in reference to the fixation of age limit for a child. This is provided in sub-clause (3) of clause 2. Some hon. Members have found fault for the power retained for rule making in this behalf. Now, I do not know why this objection could be raised at all. It will be seen that "Primary Education" in the definitions has been defined to be "education between the age of 6 and age of 14". It is quite possible that the Provincial Board and the School Boards, which might think that this age should be varied at some time, and that limit to be fixed for compulsion should also vary, say between 6 and 11 years. Now a legislative Act would not allow of such variations excepting through an Amendment of the Bill itself, which would take long time. On the other hand, if this is done by alteration in the rules, much economy in time and labour would be possible. Rules may be changed according to circumstances by an expert body of Government, whereas provisions of the Act can be changed by a circuitous legislative process.

(2) The second target of attack in the rules is the syllabus and course of instructions to be imparted in primary schools, and a host of criticisms has been hurled from the Opposition. Some hon. Member suggested that we should first fix what the "primary education" is before we impart that education. But I want to question these hon. Members—Is primary education to remain stationary and fixed according to the definition in the Act, so that the same syllabus and course of instruction will always remain the same? To me, however, primary education must vary according to the capacity of the State to bear the responsibility, its people's outlook towards what primary education should stand for, and what educationists will consider to be the best curricula through which it should be imparted. Primary education must therefore be a variable proposition according to the changing circumstances of society.

Now, for example, to-day what is the nature of primary education? We may possibly roughly define it as an education in three R's covering a period of 3 to 5 years. These are the standards we have for primary education to-day. But can't we envisage that instead of having 5 standards we shall have 8 years of courses of study with boys and girls reading up to their 14th year? And can it not be assumed that the primary course of education should cover all branches of knowledge including craft and fine arts, so that a village boy or girl should

know everything to make him fit to bear the responsibilities of citizenship in every possible way? Therefore, it is conceivable that according to times and demands of changing circumstances, the primary education should vary. Could you provide for such changes by a section in an Act or by alteration in rules? I am sure my Friends in the opposite will admit the latter to be a better course.

(3) The third point of attack in reference to rule is in respect of number of members of the Provincial Board and the argument is that the number should have been fixed in the Bill and the proportion of Muslims stated. But I do not know how much the hon. Members would have liked to discuss the claims of various communities to have representations in these bodies on the floor of the House. To me it would mean an ugly sight, when without giving importance to the nature of service that would be required of such Members, we should be wrangling over the number of representation of respective communities. To me this should be left to be dealt with by the rules, which would surely take into consideration these matters.

So, Sir, I must emphatically submit that the misunderstanding of the hon. Members of the Opposition has been based mainly on mistaken reading of the provisions of the Bill. The hon. Members have assumed something, Sir, and the result has been misunderstanding. If the whole thing is understood in its proper perspective the suspicion of the hon. Members in regard to the nature, character and implication of this Bill would disappear.

Now, Sir, some controversy was raised regarding the introduction of the Wardha Scheme of Education. One of my Friends from opposite said that this Scheme is Godless and one from this side said that it is not necessary to bring God in that stage of education. According to the latter understanding of God is theology and theology is understanding of God and therefore it is not necessary to trouble ourselves with God. But religion, Sir, is a matter of faith and is inherent in man, if it is anything at all. I am myself a believer and no Kafr. I therefore highly value the place of religion in education, although it may not be a denominational religion. I could tell you, Sir, that Wardha System of Education which some called Godless is essentially based on the fundamentals of all religions and that what this system of education has as one of its ultimate aim is the belief in God and toleration of all religions. If there is anything which any religion should aim at, I would most humbly plead for the Wardha Scheme of Education—for it is exactly that which Wardha system aims at. Wardha system fundamentally teaches that every man is the son of God; that every man, whatever caste, creed or community he belongs to, is equal to anybody else in the eye of God. I tried to study Islam and if I have learnt anything about it, it is that Islam teaches this great fact.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Does the Wardha System teach to learn that every man is the son of God?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not mean in the physical sense. I mean the creation of God. But, probably, it means the same thing, the Christians call man son of God. Do not take me amiss when I may be using a wrong word according to you. But the whole idea of the Wardha Scheme is not discussion of precepts of any religion, but following the fundamentals of all. It does not say Muslim religion is good by argument but it teaches to translate the Islamic ideals of brotherhood into some fundamental action in actual life. In the residential arrangements in the schools, students of all communities and religions are made to live together to have a common life in best terms of equality and fraternity—and all this, while they are preparing themselves for a life of higher standard of living, working with the hand and the head

at the same time. I cannot therefore agree when my Friends say that the system taught in Wardha is Godless. It is based on fundamental principle of belief in God and equality of man. But all this was not what I was trying to put before the House, but I was only compelled to do so on account of the arguments of the hon. Members of the Opposition.

Now, Sir, regarding such a system of education, I do not know why there should have been opposition at all. After all, this is a system which was very carefully recommended after examination by an Advisory Board of Education brought under the aegis of the Government of India and where my Friend sitting opposite, Maulavi Sayidur Rahman and all the Muslim Educationists of India were present, while accepting this Wardha System of Education as a sound system of Basic Education. According to that Body if any primary education was to be adopted at all, it should be adopted in consonance with the ideals of that system. And here are some of these recommendations. I do not like to take much time of the House, but, nevertheless, I would like to put before the House some of the recommendations of that learned Body.

The recommendation of the First Committee on Basic Education contained in the Report is as follows:—“(1) The Scheme of ‘basic’ education should first be introduced in rural areas. (2) The age range for compulsion should be six to fourteen years, but children can be admitted to the ‘basic’ school at the age of five. (3) Diversion of students from the ‘basic’ school to other kinds of schools should be allowed after the 5th class or about the age of eleven *plus*. (4) The medium of instruction should be mother tongue of pupils. (5) A common language for India is desirable. This should be Hindusthani with both the Urdu and Hindi scripts. Option should be given to children to choose the script and provision should be made for teaching them in that script. Every teacher should know both scripts, *viz.*, Urdu and Hindi. Some members of the Committee suggest that the adoption of Roman script might prove a solution to the language difficulty and greatly minimise the work of both scholar and teacher. (6) The Wardha Scheme of basic education is in full agreement with the recommendations made in the Wood-Abbott Report so far as the principle of learning by doing is concerned. This activity should be of many kinds in the lower classes and later should lead to a basic craft, the produce from which should be saleable and the proceeds applied to the upkeep of the school. (7) Certain elements of cultural subjects, which cannot be correlated with the basic craft, must be taught independently. (8) The training of teachers should be reorganised and their status raised. (9) No teacher should receive less than Rs.20 per mensem. (10) Efforts should be made to recruit more women teachers and to persuade girls of good education to take up teaching. (11) Basic school should be started when suitable trained teachers are available. (12) The curriculum will need revision in the light of experience.”

[A voice:—That is why, Sir, we propose to have a set of rules instead of a provision of the Act for the purpose.]

“(13) English should not be introduced as an optional subject in basic schools. (14) The State should provide facilities as at present for every community to give religious teaching, when so desired but not at the cost of the State.” And here is one point about which I shall speak later on.

“(15) Pupils wishing to join other schools at the end of the 5th class (age eleven *plus*) should also be granted a leaving certificate. (16) Promotion from class to class will be determined by the school, though the results of the internal examinations should be subject to supervisor’s inspection.”

These are the recommendations, Sir. As a matter of fact, primary education has been understood to be nothing else but basic education in the sense that the three R’s do not actually meet the requirements of a society that is trying to be self-dependent, a society that is trying to develop true citizenship amongst the people.

Therefore, Sir, there is nothing wrong with the Wardha System. But the Bill itself does not advocate any kind of education in particular ; it does not say that it will adopt any particular system of education. Those who think that they are quite happy with the learning of the three R's only, the School Board of that particular area can be satisfied with it, while other areas may introduce basic schools. But as a matter of fact, with the funds at our disposal it will not be possible to introduce the Basic Scheme of Wardha on a very large scale on account of the fact that it will be impossible to provide so many schools and make payment to the teachers, etc., on terms envisaged in that Scheme. Therefore, Sir, where is that apprehension and why is that apprehension ? The Bill does not say that we are going to introduce any particular type of education. It is more or less left to the educational experts who will form the Governing Body for the execution of the whole Act and they may maintain any or all the system. Why should there be any apprehension in this connection I have not been able to understand in spite of all the criticisms levelled against Government on account of the introduction of this Bill.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words in respect of religion. The matter was sufficiently discussed the other day in our Educational Conference. My hon. Friend, Maulavi Sayidur Rahman and two other Members of the Opposition, who were invited to the Conference were present in the Conference which was convened to consider the Government of India's Scheme for Basic Education in this Province. In this connection, I want to pause and speak a few words in regard to a certain Motion which my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury tabled, but which I could not allow to be discussed for want of time. I could not conveniently consent to the discussion as (1) we have not yet spent any money from the Provincial Exchequer and (2) the time at our disposal was too short to effectively deal with such an important matter. I can assure the House that the chance for a debate will be given in the next sitting of the Assembly. Now, when the question has been raised, I think, I should speak a few words in regard to the recommendations which were adopted by that Conference. I should inform the House that Basic Education as the best form of education was accepted by this Conference ; but our Muslim League Friends on the Conference who were—hon. Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, Maulavi Abul Kashem and Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed—raised certain objection regarding non-provision of religious education for the Muslims in the education proposed in the Conference. After discussing those objections, however, the recommendation of the Conference was that religious education, but not of a denominational character, in other words, religious observance without rituals and other ceremonials could be imparted. But we went a step further in the Conference ; it was decided that it was possible actually to accommodate the religious communities in the observance of their prayers and daily *namaj* if not their rites and rituals. The curricula of studies could be so arranged by which some time in the morning, noon and evening could be set apart for prayers and *namaj*. If that was so, where is the difficulty of our Muslim boys joining this system of Education ? There would be no difficulty in the observance of religious hours of prayer, and there we expect, we shall have holidays for observance of other religious rites. So, Sir, Basic Education can be made perfectly consistent with observance of daily prayers by the Muslims. Therefore, Sir, if in spite of all this, the hon. Members opposite level any criticism against this Bill saying that it is going to introduce a Godless system of education, I would consider that they are only fighting against a shadow, they are only fighting against the phantom which they create, but not the Government which is trying to introduce the best type of education. I am very grateful to many hon. Members who have made special appeal to me, and I do want to assure them that I am as much a believer in religion as any of them are ; I am as anxious that Muslims should have the right and the opportunity to follow their religious ways consistent with

the nature of teaching that we propose to introduce. But I want to say, in spite of the same, that the Bill in itself does not want any particular type of education to be imposed ; it does not say that the Wardha System of Education should be adopted, although there cannot be any doubt that that is the best system of education for children, a system of education which ought to be adopted for the improvement of the country as a whole,—education through work, education for cleanliness, education for better understanding of civic rights with all the outlook of equality and fraternity. I would plead for this outlook and for this better system of education. Don't call it Wardha System of Education, if you like ; call it anything you like, but go for a real type of education. I would try to introduce that kind and that system of education as soon as possible ; but even then not at the cost of religious disabilities to any community. Therefore, such School Boards as would not adopt it may go on as now if they so like ; but for those who want it, it must be given.

Sir, I would like to add one word in relation to removal of a clause for which I am responsible. I refer to the provision which was in the draft Bill when the hon. Maulavi Sayidur Rahman left his Office ; it was to effect that of the two Members elected by the Assam Legislative Assembly—one should be a Muslim. It is true that I had caused it to be deleted, and the reason is not far to seek. If I say a Muslim has to be elected, I have got to name Tribals, the Scheduled castes, also. But only two members are provided. But that does not mean that the representation of the Muslims in that Board will be none. I did not want to bring these discussions in the Assembly at this stage, and that is why I dropped that provision. Otherwise, Sir, the Bill remains what it was excepting the changes in drafting by the Special Officer, Mr. Solomon Chaudhury and the Legal Remembrancer who was vetting the Bill all the while.

I do not propose to enter into minute details of the Bill, which have been subject to criticisms, but I think, these all come under general observations that I have made. I do not want to impose hair-splitting discussion on all the provisions of the Bill, but I would say, Sir, that the above represent the outlook which we have brought towards this Bill. I do not know with what outlook the last Government brought the Bill. I would therefore most earnestly request my Friends opposite to seriously reconsider their attitude towards the Motion of circulation. I would in the circumstances, however, request the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his Motion. It will mean simply delay to no purpose.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, I would like to hear from the Hon'ble Prime Minister something about the provision made for taxing by notification. This means taking away the prerogative of this House to be consulted in the matter of taxation.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : That is one thing, Sir, which I wanted to speak about but I did not. I should have told the hon. Members of the House that we have had actually some big work done by the last Government. The whole Province was surveyed and actually the number of schools in each subdivision and each thana that was necessary to enforce compulsion was done in the meanwhile. On the basis of this survey this figure of Rs. 2 to Rs. 25 was arrived at. It may be said that the Government has been left with too much of latitude in the matter of taxation, but as you can see from the picture of the Bill all these will be done by an Advisory Body, namely, the Provincial Board which must also get information from the School Boards before they can come to advise Government on matters of taxation. And if some latitude has been left, it does not mean that this tax will be imposed by Government at

their sweet will. After all, the Rules have not yet been framed and the Provincial Board itself has not been formed. I have already stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Provincial Board will be composed more or less of a non-official body excepting the educational experts who may be both official and non-official. On the whole it shall be a non-official body just as the Local Boards or the Municipalities are. Certain criticisms have been levelled that Government have retained certain autocratic powers to it ; but that is not a fact. Whatever action Government takes, it will be done on the advice of a non-official body. In how many instances the Government interfere with affairs of the Municipalities and Local Boards ? Is it not confined to the cases of gross mismanagement or misappropriation ? But these are all exceptional measures in which Government has got to interfere in consideration of the utility of public fund which is meant for the good of the people. If the object of the Act is not carried on by the persons to whom the execution is left, then Government will have to consider the necessity of interference. But these are exceptional circumstances, as I said. Therefore, the question of keeping much power with the Government is not actually the true picture of the Bill.

As regards the Rules, they will be placed before the House after they are framed and criticisms will be invited on them. These will be placed in the House just in the same way as the rules and orders made for the Local Bodies are placed for information and suggestion of the House. So there is no apprehension whatsoever of misuse of powers, unless that apprehension is created by you. I have already said you may believe in two nations, you may believe that I belong to one nation and you belong to another and thereby think that there is a barrier between you and me ; but I believe in a common nationality. I believe you are made of the same flesh and blood as I am made of. You are born in the same atmosphere as I am and that I live in the same conditions as you do. So I cannot think that you are in any way different from me. You may take me otherwise but I think of you as one of me. It is from that point of view that I suggested to you to look to the whole subject. Bring that perspective into the picture and to give us the opportunity of working out this measure and serve all.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, as there is enough time before the next Session of the Assembly meet and as the Hon'ble Prime Minister is willing to consult public opinion, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion for circulating the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Prime Minister said that there will be enough time for having public opinion and the Select Committee might consider them. Am I correct ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : There will be enough time for the public to give opinion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You said that there will be about 3 months' time in which the public may give opinion ; that is not the same thing as circulating for public opinion.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : The Hon'ble Prime Minister will consult public opinion in the mean time, I think.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I will put the question. The question is :
 "That the Assam Primary Education Bill, 1946, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members :—

- (1) Maulavi Sayidur Rahman,
- (2) Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury,
- (3) Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury,
- (4) Mr. A. C. Tunstall,
- (5) Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar,
- (6) Srijut Chanoo Kheria,
- (7) Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma,
- (8) Babu Bidyapati Singha,
- (9) The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdur Rasheed,
- (10) Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua,
- (11) The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education—*Chairman*.

(Five Members to form a quorum and Report of the Select Committee to be submitted before 31st January 1947.)"

The question was adopted.

Motion Re : Postponement of the construction of the Members Hostels

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the recommendation of the House Committee that the construction of the new hostel building might be postponed for the time being until the prices of materials and labour come down and that during the interval temporary accommodation for the Members be provided by Government during sessions be adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the recommendation of the House Committee that the construction of the new hostel building might be postponed for the time being until the prices of materials and labour come down and that during the interval temporary accommodation for the Members be provided by Government during sessions be adopted".

(after a pause)

Then I will put the question.

The question is :

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the recommendation of the House Committee that the construction of the new hostel building might be postponed for the time being until the prices of materials and labour come down and that during the interval temporary accommodation for the Members be provided by Government during sessions be adopted".

The question was adopted.

Motion Re : Continuance of Control of Drugs' etc.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The next Motion is item No. 3 on the agenda paper and I would call upon Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee to move his Motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the fact that the Orders mentioned in the Schedule below which were passed by the Central Government under sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, are going to lapse on the 30th September 1946 and that drugs and other commodities covered by these Orders are still in short supply in the Province and are likely to remain so for some time to come, this House considers it necessary that control of prices and distribution

of such drugs and commodities should continue for one year at least from the 1st October 1946, and requests that Government do take immediate steps for making provisions for the continuance of such control ;

This House further considers that there should be a uniform policy all over India in respect of the necessary legislation as also the enforcement thereof and that it is desirable therefore that such control of prices and distribution should be regulated all over India by an Act or Acts of the Central Legislature ;

This House accordingly resolves that the Central Government be requested under section 103 of the Government of India Act, 1935, to get the necessary legislation enacted by the Central Legislature.

SCHEDULE

- (1) The Drugs Control Order, 1945,
- (2) The Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945,
- (3) The Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945,
- (4) Aluminium Utensil Control Order, 1945, and
- (5) The Non-Ferrous Metal Control Order, 1945.

Sir, the Motion is self-explanatory. The Central Government was under the impression that so far as the present schedule was concerned, namely, the Drugs Control Order, 1945, the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, the Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945, Aluminium Utensil Control Order, 1945 and the Non-Ferrous Metal Control Order, 1945, control will not be required but from experience it has been gathered that we are still short of supply so far as these commodities which are covered by this Control Order are concerned. It has been placed before the Central Government by the interested manufacturers who are very eager that the control should be lifted and on the other hand the Central Government has been approached by some provinces as well that this control order should remain in force. Of course this is a provincial matter and we can legislate according to our requirement. But, Sir, if this is not based on an All-India basis then practically the legislation that will be passed by this Legislature will be of no avail. Therefore, I think that under section 103 of the Government of India Act, 1935 we are authorised to request the Central Government to enact such a legislation and I hope the hon. House will agree to this Motion being adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope that every hon. Member has got a copy of to-day's agenda on his table and I will just put the Motion :

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"In view of the fact that the Orders mentioned in the Schedule below which were passed by the Central Government under sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, are going to lapse on the 30th September 1946 and that drugs and other commodities covered by these Orders are still in short supply in the Province and are likely to remain so for some time to come, this House considers it necessary that control of prices and distribution of such drugs and commodities should continue for one year at least from the 1st October 1946, and requests that Government do take immediate steps for making provisions for the continuance of such control ;

This House further considers that there should be a uniform policy all over India in respect of the necessary legislation as also the enforcement thereof and that it is desirable therefore that such control of prices and distribution should be regulated all over India by an Act or Acts of the Central Legislature ;

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- (4) Aluminium Utensil Control Order, 1945, and
- (5) The Non-Ferrous Metal Control Order, 1945."

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is another instance how our Government is working. The Control Order is to expire on the 30th September next and the Government have come forward with a Motion like this at this fag end of the period. Before the recommendation reaches the Government of India, perhaps the Control Order will expire. Sir, if this Motion is not sent to the Government of India it will do no harm, it will only disclose the ludicrous nature of the working of the Government. Sir, instead of the great labour and pain which the present Hon'ble the Supply Minister is taking in efficient discharging of the work of the Supply Department certainly his demonstration does not go to his credit. I would rather say that such a demonstration should not go to the Government of India at all. We met here on the 9th September and perhaps this ought to have been the first Motion before the House so that it might go to the Government of India in time. But the present Supply Minister did not consider it so. Sir, by passing this belated Motion and sending such a belated recommendation to the Government of India it certainly does not raise the dignity of the House nor does it raise ourselves in the estimation of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had conceived but it was a wrong conception. He conceived but produced nothing. Sir, it is really surprising that the hon. Member who used to adorn the Chair which you are adorning to-day should put forward such a senseless point on the floor of this House. If it is the desire of this House that there is no necessity for such a legislation then it is upto the hon. House either to accept it or to reject it. But, Sir, to put blame and invariably out of place and to conceive always wrongly, illogically untimely and irregularly, I think, should not be practised for all time to come. Sir, especially in the case of the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition such a thing is really regrettable.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are parting to-day. Let us part gracefully.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My difficulty is this that my Friends are labouring under some pain. If there be any pain it is on the other side. There is no pain on this side. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is labouring under pain, Sir.

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

The question is:

"In view of the fact that the Orders mentioned in the Schedule below which were passed by the Central Government under sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, are going to lapse on the 30th September 1946 and that drugs and other commodities covered by these Orders are still in short supply in the Province and are likely to remain so for some time to come, this House considers it necessary that control of prices and distribution

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of such drugs and commodities should continue for one year at least from the 1st October 1946, and requests that Government do take immediate steps for making provisions for the continuance of such control ;

This House further considers that there should be a uniform policy all over India in respect of the necessary legislation as also the enforcement thereof and that it is desirable therefore that such control of prices and distribution should be regulated all over India by an Act or Acts of the Central Legislature ;

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- (4) Aluminium Utensil Control Order, 1945, and
- (5) The Non-Ferrous Metal Control Order, 1945."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now*item No 4 on the Agenda.

Statement re : the Post-War Development Schemes

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I wish to acquaint the House, with the progress made up-to-date, in Post-War planning and development. It will be recalled that my Hon'ble Colleague, the Finance Minister, referred to this subject in his Budget Speech and mentioned two things. He first spoke of the Five-Year Plan prepared by our predecessors and stated that we were re-examining it. Secondly, he spoke of certain urgent preparatory schemes, which were intended to put into execution immediately. I will now tell the House what has been done since, in both these spheres.

Our predecessors approved of a draft—Five-Year Plan which proposed an expenditure of a little over 26 crores of rupees distributed among various subjects as follows :—

Subject of Development				Capital	Expenditure (five years recurring.)
				Rs.	Rs.
Agriculture	...	...	..	71,20,000	71,25,400
Veterinary	...	...	...	20,72,940	10,18,665
Forests	...	...	...	41,70,000	9,80,800
Communications (Roads)	...	...	...	5,00,00,000	32,00,000
Public Health	...	...	...	12,42,500	33,85,600
Medical	...	...	...	63,60,000	52,50,000
Industrialisation	...	...	...	47,45,750	28,00,000
Co-operative	...	...	...	1,70,08,000	41,84,172
Education	...	...	...	48,87,000	60,57,900

*4. The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee to make a statement regarding the Post-War Development Schemes.

1820 STATEMENT RE: 'THE POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT' [25TH SEPT.
SCHEMES

Subject of Development	Capital	Expenditure (five years recurring)
	Rs.	Rs.
Publicity and Rural Welfare ...	60,91,800	19,30,000
Rural and Urban Water Supply and Urban Drainage and Sewerage	5,88,61,333	nil
Buildings ...	1,57,56,021	5,50,000
Hydro-Electric Development ...	5,00,00,000	nil
Total	22,83,15,344	3,64,82,537
Grand Total	26,47,97,881	

This draft is known as the Third Draft. We have examined this draft as carefully as the brief time at our disposal allowed. The time was brief, because soon after we took Office, the then Government of India laid down a programme according to which provincial plans had to be in their hands by September, as they wished to examine and finalise them in time for the formal commencement of their implementation from 1st April, 1947. However, such examination as we have been able to make has shown that while we are in general agreement with it as far as it goes, it does not, according to our way of thinking go far enough in certain directions. We accordingly propose to enlarge it by the addition of certain further schemes costing about 15½ crores, thus raising the total expenditure to about 42 crores. Some of these schemes relate to subjects to which our predecessors did not address themselves, while others are enlargements of schemes propounded by them. I will read out a key statement of our proposed plan, which will, it is hoped, shortly issue in the form of a Fourth Draft.

Subjects	Cost.
	Rs.
Agriculture ...	2,92,45,400
Veterinary ...	30,91,605
Forests ...	1,50,800
Communications ...	5,32,00,000
Public Health ...	46,28,100
Medical ...	1,16,10,000
Industrialisation ...	8,25,45,750
Co operative ...	2,11,92,172
Education ...	5,09,44,900
Publicity and Rural Welfare ...	1,80,21,800
Rural and Urban Water Supply and Urban Drainage and Sewerage.	5,88,61,333
Buildings ...	1,63,06,021
Hydro-Electric Development ...	5,00,00,000
Fisheries ...	50,00,000
Irrigation and Embankment ...	1,00,00,000
Total	41,97,97,881

The extent of our agreement with our predecessors will, I am confident, be a source of all round satisfaction; nor need the extent of our disagreement with them cause surprise. While there are certain universally acknowledged objectives of economic planning which constitute common ground between them and us, there is a difference in the relative emphasis which they and we put upon the various objectives. I need not explain this difference of emphasis which is obvious from the amounts allocated to various subjects by our predecessors and by us. The House will like to know something about the financial feasibility of our proposed plan. The Government of India originally indicated the probability of a grant of about 8½ crores or about 11½ crores being made to Assam according as they decided ultimately to distribute among provinces half or two-thirds of a total expected surplus of five hundred crores by the end of the first Post-War quinquennium. This was, however, purely on a population basis. The Government of India further indicated that provinces which were in deficit or in which development had been retarded owing to inability to raise revenue or other special conditions would be given special consideration. They promised still further consideration to provinces which had suffered during the war through having been in operational areas. Accordingly, as a result of representations in this behalf, they subsequently promised to make a grant to Assam on the higher of the two levels I have just mentioned, no matter whether they made grants to advanced provinces on the higher or the lower level. This meant that Assam could expect 11½ crores as the Central grant. In addition to this the Government of India promised assistance in repairing actual war damage and also undertook to finance the repairing and construction of national highways. Outside the overall grant thus expected for the Provincial Five-Year Plan, there are certain grants which the Government of India are making or have promised to make for a variety of schemes in which they have joined hands with Provincial Governments. Our predecessors' plan was based on the sum total of these expectations, with the addition of some money from provincial surpluses, while the balance was to be found by means of loans to finance productive, that is to say, self-financing, schemes. The Government of India in an analysis of the Third Draft expressed the opinion that it was financially feasible, but drew attention to the absence of an adequate number of productive schemes as also to inadequate allocations to certain subjects, such as Agriculture and Education. In May last there was held a Conference of Provincial Planning and Development Ministers under the Chairmanship of the then Member for Planning and Development. At this Conference it was indicated that there was a proposal to adopt the Australian System of distributing Central grants for development, which takes into account not only the population of the recipient regions but also such other factors as general economic backwardness, natural resources and prospects, geographical size and special potentialities. The Government of India proposed to send an officer to Australia for studying this system. Though they advised provinces to proceed in the meantime on the basis of the grants already indicated they thought that it would not be unreasonable for backward provinces to be guided by the expectation of further grants in the light of the Australian System. In this connection I may inform the House that the Hon'ble Leader of the House and myself, who attended this Conference on behalf of Assam received certain very encouraging promises of assistance from the then Planning and Development Member, Sir Akbar Hydari. It was mainly these factors which inspired us in undertaking an enlargement of our predecessors' plan. Besides these factors, and to a certain extent independently of them, the enlargement is due to our deciding to undertake a large number of additional productive schemes—schemes which will not only finance themselves but also bring in some surplus income. Particularly worthy of mention among such schemes are a number of state owned industrial enterprises which this Government have decided to undertake and certain

industrial ventures in which they propose to join hands with private entrepreneurs. I am sure that hon. Members have seen our communiqué dated the 26th August, 1946 on the subject. This is not the occasion for discussing the merits of the policy we have announced in that communiqué; but I may tell the House that, if we can implement that policy we can reasonably hope to finance our proposed plan of 42 crores given, of course, the grant promised by the Centre. On the subject of financing these big industrial schemes, I may take this opportunity of allaying any fears that are possibly being entertained by any hon. Members. The Government of India have more than once promised to make available to us loans at rates cheaper than the market rates for these schemes.

Some hon. Members will possibly be wondering whether we can lay much store by these promises of assistance by the Government of India when the future of that Government is itself uncertain. They perhaps fear that before the much-talked of plans are put through the administrative set-up in the country, which makes this kind of planning possible, may cease to be.

The event alone will prove whether these doubts and fears are justified or not; but it seems to me that the facts from which they arise constitute the very reason why we should push ahead with our plan with the utmost vigour. The future being uncertain, let us take full advantage of the certain present. Let us put our best foot foremost while the going is good. It may be that the momentum created by the efforts of the present will continue and carry us forward in the future to the desired end. There is no denying the fact that, apart from the uncertainties of the future, the difficulties of the present are great—and of these difficulties, I am sure, the hon. Members of the Opposition are as much aware as we are. Planning is a task new to us and our administrative machinery is inadequate to meet its requirements. We have no experts to envisage its problems in all their bearings and to devise means for solving them. Our problems themselves are not fully known, since we have conducted no social and economic surveys worth the name. Even for the problems that we have set to ourselves we do not have the necessary administrative and technical personnel. It is not possible to bring the personnel into existence in a short time either by recruitment or by training. Then there are the immense difficulties, bottlenecks and delays created by world conditions as they affect India and our Province, as for example, the impossibility of obtaining capital goods from abroad and even the necessary materials inside the country according to requirements. Added to these are the disturbed political and social conditions prevailing in the country.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, we are determined to go ahead with the implementation of our plan, and in the fulfilment of this task we ask for and count upon the unanimous support of the House. It is a sacred trust of which all of us are custodians on behalf of future generations and if we do our duty in the present we can rest assured that the future will look after itself. Taking the financial aspect of the matter, for example, what justification is there for fearing that, if the assistance we expect from the Central Government, the windfall we are looking forward to, is not fully forthcoming, we shall not be able to implement a plan of the modest dimensions of 42 crores—modest—in the light of the achievements of countries which have successful planning on a large scale to their credit. After all, the resources from which the Central Government will make funds available belong to the country, to the provinces within their respective territories. If the powers of tapping these resources at any time cease to belong to the Central Government, they will devolve upon the provinces and will be reassuring knowledge that our resources are plentiful. It is up to us to tap them and if we do so in a conscientious measure a plan of the order of 42 crores should be easily achievable.

As an earnest of our determination, I may mention the urgent preparatory measures which we are already undertaking—and this brings me to the second matter with which I propose to deal. As I have already indicated, the official date for the commencement of the Five-Year Plan is the 1st April, 1947. Meanwhile it was found necessary to put into execution a number of preparatory schemes designed to bring into existence the large technical and administrative personnel, institutions, buildings, machinery, materials, etc. that will be required for the Five-Year Plan. It was also necessary to adopt some measures to make the transition from war time conditions to peace time conditions as smooth as possible, particularly with an eye on the huge unemployment expected in consequence of the cessation of the unprecedentedly large war-time economic activities. We have accordingly taken up a large number of schemes, some selected from the Five Year Plan and other prepared *ad hoc* and designed to bridge the gap between the erstwhile unplanned economy and the future planned economy. As these schemes have to be put into execution before the official commencement of the Five-Year Plan, they are referred to as "Interim Schemes". An interim plan of the order of 3 crores was prepared for Assam and most of the schemes included in it were approved by the Government of India. Those of them which were financially unproductive were to be financed from advance grants out of the overall Central grant for the Five-Year Plan, while those of them which were productive were to be financed from loans to be made by the Central Government. The financial and technical scrutiny and formal sanction of the schemes has however not yet been completed. This is a process which it would be very risky to short circuit since these interim schemes will prepare the ground for the Five-Year Plan which in its turn will be only the first stage of a long and let us hope interminable process of planned economic development. It has, therefore, been possible to give financial sanction only to a few of the proposed interim schemes. I will read out the names of these schemes with the amounts proposed to be spent on each. These are as follows:—

<i>Names of Schemes</i>	<i>Amount sanctioned</i>
	Rs.
Agriculture:—(a) Buildings for the District and Scientific Staff.	5,32,788
(b) Establishment of an Experimental Farm in the Lower Assam Valley.	1,70,800
Veterinary:—(a) Training of 25 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.	27,500
(b) Training of 100 Veterinary Field Assistants.	17,800
Forests:—(a) Regeneration of Reserve Forests in the Kachugaon Division.	14,800
(b) Construction of buildings for the married clerks of the Botanical Officer and Forest Utilisation Officer at Shillong.	9,000
(c) Establishment of a Dispensary at Deosiri in the Haltugaon Division.	14,634
(d) Purchase of a loco at Rs.42,000 for the Goalpara Tramway.	42,000

<i>Names of Schemes</i>	<i>Amount sanctioned</i>
	Rs.
Public Health :—(a) Creation of an Anti-Malaria Organisation.	2,30,526
(b) Creation of a Povincial Anti-Tuberculosis Organisation.	63,841
(c) Appointment of a Public Health Engineer with his staff.	9,716
Higher studies abroad	4,50,000

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

- (1) Public Works Department.
- (2) Public Health Department.
- (3) Medical Department.
- (4) Industry and Co-operative.
- (5) Education.
- (6) Hydro-Electricity with survey staff.
- (7) Miscellaneons (Post-War Reconstruction).
- (8) An Industrial Adviser has been appointed to advise Government in regard to Government's owning or participating in major industries.

These schemes are at various stages of active implementation. Some more schemes are in the final stages of formal sanction. It is hoped that most of these two categories of schemes will have been put on the ground by the 1st April, 1947. Those of them that are not completed will continue and merge in the first year part of the Five-Year Plan, that is to say, in the schemes for 1947-48 which are at present being selected for being sent to the Government of India.

Government have been and are proceeding with the sanctioning of interim schemes in anticipation of the vote of the House because the schemes are of an extremely urgent character. As they have had to be approved in principle by administrative departments concerned, then approved in principle by the Government of India and then set forth in detail in order to be finally sanctioned by Government, it has not been possible to present them to the House in the shape of a Budget. It was hoped to present at this Session Supplementary Demands in respect of those of the schemes that have so far been sanctioned but on further consideration Government have decided that they should present a full Supplementary Budget when the whole picture is clearer and individual schemes can be shown in their proper perspective. They hope that it will be possible to do so by the end of the year.

***Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE :** Sir, there is no use in the Hon'ble Minister reading out this long statement containing such figures. The Hon'ble Minister's purpose would have been better served if a copy were supplied to all the hon. Members of this House.

*Speech not corrected.

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The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As the statement has been read out, it will be published in the Gazette, and the hon. Member can study it at home.

***Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :** It would have been more convenient if a copy of the statement was laid on the table of each hon. Member during the earlier part of the Session and an opportunity given to the House to discuss the statement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, that would have been more convenient.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, even two-day ago I did not think that I would read out a statement. I thought I would deliver my speech *extempore*. I had no idea of reading this statement. But day before yesterday when I realised that time available would be very short for any such discussion I had this statement prepared with the intention that I may, within the short time available, place the facts before the hon. Members as fully as possible. It is well known to all Sir, that generally a written statement takes shorter time than *extempore* speech especially when a very large number of figures are to be mentioned.

***Maulavi ABDUL HAMID :** Sir, it is my misfortune to refer again to the Hon'ble Supply Minister. If the Hon'ble Supply Minister did not want the hon. Members of this House to play the part of Radio-listeners he should not have come with this statement at this fag end of the day. Certainly the Hon'ble Supply Minister could have made that statement earlier in the Session, so that the hon. Members might have got the opportunity to act like rational beings and might have given him good advice. But this is doing very little justice to the hon. Members of this House. Moreover, Sir, the Hon'ble Supply Minister should not have come with this numerous figures. We do not possess very great memory (he is a youngman and may carry all these figures in his head), but we being older people cannot do so. The Hon'ble Minister has gone into small details which were not necessary. Sir, these things should not be tolerated by this House and under different circumstances he would have at once brought to book.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, it reminds me of a Sanskrit saying.

*Speech not corrected.

Sir, no body asked for this statement, but I volunteered to make a statement. I am not responsible for coming with this statement at the fag end of the day. The hon. Members took two days for a simple Bill ; they could have finished it by 1 p.m. today and we could have utilised these three hours for this purpose. If the mind is diseased nothing can be done by Government Members ; expert and specialised medical men are needed for this purpose. Nothing is good to a diseased mind

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are coming to the close of the Session's business. I accord my sincere and hearty thanks to all the hon. Members for the excellent co-operation that has been accorded for the disposal of a rather heavy agenda for the Session. I can also assure the hon. Members that the Privileges Committee have already given directions and what lies in my power will be used to see that the hon. Members are not so hard-pressed for time for discussion on a matter. Anyway what the hon. Members opposite have said will be borne in mind by Government.

Prorogation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, thanking you again I have to read out His Excellency's order of prorogation, which is this :

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Henry Foley Knight, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting on the 25th September 1946.

SHILLONG :
The 25th September 1946.

H. F. KNIGHT,
Governor of Assam."

The Assembly was then prorogued.

SHILLONG :
The 21st December 1946.

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