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Proceedings of the Sixth Session of the First 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  
Saturday, the 25th March, 1939.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Communal trouble at Putijuri and appointment of special Police  
there

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

\*169. (a) Are Government aware that some Hindus, while engaged in  
*Kirtan* on the last Uttarayan Sankranti day, were severely beaten at Putijuri  
Bazar, by a large number of Muslims ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, himself,  
previous to such beating, found a large number of Muhammadans assembled  
at the Bazar armed with *lathis* and other weapons while going to Deopara ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer found Muham-  
madans in large batches in the way coming towards the bazar with deadly  
weapons while so going ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Subdivi-  
sional Officer, Habiganj, took any measure to prevent the disturbance ?

(e) If not, why not ?

\*170. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that immediately after the assault made  
upon the Hindus by the Muhammadans on the Uttarayan  
Sankranti day last at Putijuri Bazar, equal number of both  
Hindus and Muhammadans have been appointed special  
Police at Putijuri ?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that persons who were severely  
assaulted and wounded have also been appointed special  
constables ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that amongst the persons so appointed,  
there are several old and invalid Hindus of respectable posi-  
tion ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the Hindus  
who are old and were injured have been made special  
Police ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

169. (a) to (e)—A charge sheet has already been submitted against 4  
persons and the case is now *sub-judice* ; Government are, therefore, not pre-  
pared to give particulars at present.

**Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS** : Will Government be pleased to arrange for an impartial enquiry into the whole Putijuri affair ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Government had some enquiries made by the Subdivisional Officer, but if the House think that that enquiry was not satisfactory, Government may take that matter into their consideration.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

170. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—Some elderly but not invalid Hindus along with others have been made special constables to restore peace in the locality. It is reported that this system is producing satisfactory results.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** : Does the Hon'ble Premier admit that Government are not competent to decide anything which is *sub-judice* ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : There is no question of competency. We consider it undesirable.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** : Sir, the reply to question No. 169 has not been given, as the case is *sub-judice*. But in answering question No.170(a) as " Yes ", Government have committed the first part of the question, which runs " Whether it is a fact that immediately after the assault made upon the Hindus by the Muhammadans on the Uttarayan Sankranti day..... "

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : I may be allowed to submit that question No.169 refers to a certain case which is *sub-judice*, but for this reason Government cannot abdicate responsibility of maintaining law and order in a particular place when there is likelihood of a future breach of peace and order.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI** : Is the appointment of special constables a punitive measure ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : It is not really a punitive measure.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it not a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, also held a personal enquiry in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Yes, Sir.

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** : Did the Hon'ble Premier receive any telegram from me on that occasion ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : I believe I did.

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI** : Did the Hon'ble Premier observe the courtesy of replying to the telegram ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : The telegram was immediately sent to the Chief Secretary for action.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI** : Can Government appoint special constables when a case is *sub-judice* ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : The case and the appointment of special constables are absolutely two different things. One relates to some adjudication with regard to the guilt or otherwise of persons concerned in a particular matter. But the Government have also their duty to see to the maintenance of law and order, and in the exercise of that responsibility Government had to take action by appointment of special constables.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI** : But this has certainly a bearing on the case concerned.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : It has definitely no direct bearing on the case.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** But the appointment of special constables presupposes certain amount of guilt on persons concerned.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It does not. The appointment of special constables was made with a view to preserving future peace.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Sir, the point raised by my hon. friend Maulavi Mabarak Ali deserves some consideration. What he wanted to say is this that in reply to question No.169 it was mentioned by the Hon'ble Premier that the case was *sub-judice*, and therefore he would not reply. Now, question No. 170(a) runs to this effect: "Whether it is a fact that immediately after the assault made upon the Hindus by the Muhammadans on the.....". The reply to this question is "Yes", which presupposes that the occurrence took place as alleged in this question. That is a matter which is *sub-judice*, and it ought not to have been replied.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There are already cases started on the facts stated in the question. But the answer does not refer to these facts.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** There may be counter-cases too.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I beg to say in reply that this is not so. All that question No. 170(a) wants Government to say is with regard to the appointment of equal number of Hindus and Muhammadans as special constables.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Then my hon. friend ought to make it clear that he does not accept the first part of the question. A mere "Yes" in the reply will not suffice. The answer ought to repudiate the observation made in the question, and should make it clear that Government do not accept the allegation in the first part of the question.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** But it is a fact that certain persons have been made special constables.

*Re ex-garden labourers, and issue of domicile certificates*

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked:

\*171. Will Government be pleased to state whether the people known as *ex-garden* labourers who have resided in this country for more than twenty years and have adopted Assamese language and customs are required to take any certificates of domicile or otherwise for the purpose of stipends in Government schools or service or acquisition of lands?

\*172. Will Government be pleased to state the purposes for which a domicile certificate is issued and to what classes of people and on what conditions?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

171.—Government consider that if the *ex-garden* labourers have adopted the language of the Valley and have become assimilated with the indigenous people, they should be treated as natives, who are not required to produce domicile certificates.

**Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN:** May I take it that whoever adopts Assamese language will not be required to produce domicile certificates?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The question of language is not so much important in the matter of domicile certificates, on the rule as it stands now.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether the Congress principle makes any distinction between domiciled people, natives and foreigners?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** As the rule stands now, there is of course some distinction between natives and foreigners.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** As between domiciled and foreigners?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Domiciled people are supposed to acquire the rights and privileges of the native of the province, and so there must be some distinction between them and the foreigners.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** May I take it that people mentioned in my question are not required to take any certificate for the matter of acquisition of land?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

172.—The condition for the grant of domicile certificates is laid down in rule 307(2) of the Assam Executive Manual. These certificates are granted to non-natives of the province for the purpose of appointment to public services, for securing contracts, Excise shops, etc.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Does not domicile certificate entitle a man to acquire lands?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I do not think it is at all necessary.

#### Appointment of Lecturers in English in the Cotton College, Gauhati

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** asked:

\*173. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the two recent posts of lecturers in English for the Cotton College were advertised?

(b) When were the appointments made and who have been appointed?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the candidates for these appointments and their respective qualifications?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

1938. 173. (a)—In the *Assam Gazette* of the 27th July, 1938 and 10th August

(b)—Mr. H. D. Momin and Maulavi Abu Sayid Ahmed were appointed on the 22nd November, 1938 and 12th December, 1938 respectively.

(c)—The qualifications of the selected candidates were as follows:—

Names	Qualifications
Mr. Howard Denison Momin ...	Passed Senior Cambridge School Certificate Examination with Honours and won the Duff scholarship of Calcutta University on the result of I. Sc. Examination. B. A.—with Honours in English and stood 9th in the list. M. A.—2nd class in English (Calcutta). Officiated as a Lecturer in English in Cotton College for a short period in September and October 1937, and as Sub-Inspector of Schools, Goalpara, for nearly 4 months.

Names	Qualifications
Maulavi Abu Sayid Ahmed	... B. A.—Honours in English (Dacca). M. A.—2nd class, 3rd in the list (Dacca). Served temporarily on various occasions in Murarichand College from July, 1937.

Government do not consider it desirable to discuss the qualifications of candidates who were not selected. The appointments were made on the basis of communal representation.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** As regards (c) above part of the question is answered while another part is not answered. We wanted to know the names of the candidates and their respective qualifications. Only qualifications have been discussed but not the names.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The reply is: Government do not consider it desirable to discuss the qualifications of candidates who were not selected.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The point of the hon. member is that names should be given.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** If the hon. member want, I may place a list on the table.

#### Transfer of the North Lakhimpur subdivision to the Darrang district

**Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA** asked :

\*174. (a) Are Government aware of the volume of opposition that has been raised against the suggestion of the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, for transfer of the North Lakhimpur subdivision to the Darrang district ?

(b) Do Government propose to effect any territorial redistribution of that sort against the wishes of the people of the subdivision concerned ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

174. (a)—Government received a resolution of a section of the North Lakhimpur public on the subject.

(b)—No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government.

#### Deprovincialisation of High Schools

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** asked :

\*175. (a) Do Government propose to deprovincialise the Government High English Schools or to provincialise the Aided High English Schools of the province in near future ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to improve the condition of the Aided High English School teachers by giving increased grants to those schools ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

175. (a)—The question of deprovincialisation of Government High Schools requires careful consideration, and Government intend to examine it closely. They are not prepared to embark on a policy of provincialising aided schools.

(b)—The question does not arise as regards deprovincialisation. The main reason why Government cannot provincialise Aided Schools is that this is obviously impracticable on financial grounds.

(c)—Government are anxious to improve the lot of such schools by increased grants-in-aid or otherwise, but this is necessarily limited to their resources.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** : The question is regarding Aided High School Teachers and not regarding schools.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Yes, Aided School teachers. It would mean the same thing, because the pay of the Aided High School teachers can only be raised by grant-in-aid.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : The answer is 'requires careful consideration'. May I enquire whether this is under the consideration at present ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Yes, Sir.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : The reply is "Government are anxious to improve the lot of such schools". May I enquire when this point will be taken up.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : As I said already, this is connected with deprovincialisation, and the determination of the question of deprovincialisation is to a large extent connected with the improvement of the lot of school teachers also.

### **Proposal for B.T. training in the Earle Law College, Gauhati**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** asked :

\*176. Will Government be pleased to state whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the article under the heading "বি, টি, ল, কলেজত হব লাগে" in the fourth page of "Deka Asom", dated Gauhati, the 17th of Paus, 1850 Sok, Monday ?

\*177. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of holding the B.T. training at the Earle Law College, Gauhati, instead of at Shillong in view of economy ?

\*178. Will Government be pleased to state the approximate saving that is likely to occur in transferring the B.T. training from Shillong to the Earle Law College, Gauhati ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

176.—Yes.

177.—Government have the matter under examination. As it appears now, the proposal do not seem to tend to economy.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** : I take it, Sir, it means economy from the point of view of Government finances ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : That is what is meant.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY** : Is it a fact that Government have already recognised the St. Edmund's College to train students for the B. T. class ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : Yes, Sir. At present St. Edmund's College is the College where Government teachers are sent for training.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Is Shillong the central place in the whole province?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That is apparent.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

178.—Does not arise.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

#### Primary Education in the Province

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked:

109. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to introduce free and compulsory primary education in the province gradually?

(b) If so, do Government propose to introduce it in some suitable Municipal areas on an experimental basis?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

109. (a)—This is of course the aim of Government. A reference is invited to the reply given to a similar question (starred question No.166) by Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A.

(b)—It is for the Municipal Boards to move such a proposal.

#### Hostels attached to the P. R. Government High School, Goalpara

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** asked:

110. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of boarders in the hostels attached to the P. R. Government High School, Goalpara, during the months of October, November and December 1938?

(b) The amount of seat-rent per head in the said hostels?

(c) The amount realised as seat-rent and credited for the months of October, November and December, 1938?

111. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any officer or officers get any allowance for supervision of these hostels?

(b) If so, who are they?

(c) On what basis, they get this allowance if on the basis of the number of boarders, will Government be pleased to state the sliding scales of allowances enjoyed by these officers?

112. Will Government be pleased to state the number of boarders in the said hostels shown in the requisite certificates for the months of October, November and December, 1938?

113. Is it a fact that as a measure of economy, the certifying officer, who is the Headmaster of the School, granted certificates for these months with lesser number of boys than were actually on the hostel-rolls and deprived some officers of their legitimate allowances?



114. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Headmaster of the said school attempted to obtain the approval of the Inspector of Schools of the Assam Valley Division to show some of the boarders as guests during the months of October, November and December, 1938 ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Headmaster's letter addressed to the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Division, on the subject ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

110. (a)—October 49 } Calculated on the 1st day of the month  
November 49 } according to the rules.  
December 50 }

(b)—Four annas per head. Monitors are exempt.

Rs. a.  
(c)—October 10 8  
November 11 0 including annas 4 arrear.  
December 10 12

111. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Hostel Superintendent and the Assistant Surgeon.

(c)—The rules are in Section 32, Part (ii) of the Education Department Rules and Orders.

112.— October 49  
November 49  
December 49

113.—Not for October and November but for December.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** The question was with regard to the certificate granted by the Certifying Officer of the number of boys actually on the hostel rolls. The second part has not been answered, *viz.*, that some Officers have been deprived of their legitimate allowances.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I should think that the answer implies what the hon. member wants to know, namely, that this was true in respect of December.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I know the amount—by how much that particular officer was deprived ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It is four annas for each student per month.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Is it calculated per head or on a sliding scale ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** According to the rule in section 32.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Premier kindly refer to the rule ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The rule is :

“Except in the case of Government hostels at Sylhet and Gauhati where whole-time Medical Officers will continue to be employed, medical officers will be severally placed in charge of medical attendance and inspection in all the Government Hostels at each station irrespective of the department

involved and will be paid a monthly allowance during term time only on the following scale :—

No. of boarders in all hostels in his charge				Allowances p. m.
				Rs.
From 200 to 299	...	...	...	40
100 to 199	...	...	...	35
50 to 99	...	...	...	20
25 to 49	...	...	...	10
below 25	...	...	...	5 "

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** So it was cut down by Rs.10.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, it is Rs.5.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Was it really a measure of economy for the boy, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It was just to give relief to a boy who was so poor that he could not pay the hostel charge and was kept as a guest.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** In reply to question No.114(a) it clearly says "The Headmaster asked the Inspector of Schools to allow him to show one boy, who was admitted to the hostel in November, as a guest". If he was admitted in November how could he be shown as a guest in December ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** He was also a guest in December and the permission was asked in November.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Then the answer has been framed erroneously that he was admitted to the hostel in November ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As a guest.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** If that was so, the comma, after the word boy, would not signify like that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The meaning is quite plain. However, the Hon'ble the Premier will please explain the construction of the sentence. (Laughter).

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The construction can be in the way in which it is put. It is clear that the boy was admitted as a guest in November, and that in December also he was a guest.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** So the number would not vary ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** The answer to question 112 is, in October 49, in November 49, and in December 49, but the answer to question No.114(a) is in October 49, in November 49, in December 50. So it is evident that the boy was admitted in November.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The answer is very clear. The number is shown 49 in November ; that shows that he was admitted as a guest, and when the boy ceased to be a guest the number would become 50.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I take it that it was only to deprive the Assistant Surgeon from getting his full allowance that the Headmaster adopted this course ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am afraid the hon. member is not in order in including this question here. It would seem that the Medical Officer was already getting his allowance for 49 boys, and the boy, as has been stated, was much too poor and had to be kept as a guest.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Which is greater, Sir, 4 annas in November to the boy who became a regular hosteller all the same in December, or Rs.5 to the Medical Officer ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Whatever it may be my reply is there. The facts are before us.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I know whether the Headmaster himself would lose any part of his allowance on account of the so-called favour to the boy?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That does not affect the case at all. That question does not arise.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** My Speaker, Sir, my point is only to show that the Headmaster as one of the supervising officers would not lose anything but by his course of action the Assistant Surgeon has lost some amount.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** He does not lose anything, but Medical Officer would have got a little more if the number had been 50.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** So this was the means adopted to cut down the allowance of the Assistant Surgeon?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I have nothing more to add.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

114. (a)—The Headmaster asked the Inspector of Schools to allow him to show one boy, who was admitted to the hostel in November, as a guest.

(b)—Government see no reason for placing the letter on the table.

#### **Holiday on account of the Foundation-Day of the Calcutta University**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked:

115. (a) Is it a fact that the 24th of January of each year is to be observed as a holiday in High Schools and Colleges under the Calcutta University on account of the Foundation-Day of the said University?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any extra holiday has been sanctioned for this purpose or *Puza* or summer vacation or any other Hindu holiday has been curtailed by one day in so far as the High Schools and Colleges of this Province are concerned?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to state whether this holiday has been given by curtailing one Muhammadan holiday?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

115. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The summer vacation will be curtailed by one day.

(c)—Does not arise.

#### **Leases granted for Cement Manufacturing and Coal Mining**

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** asked:

116. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of settlements for cement manufacturing and coal mining they have granted in the Province during the last two years ?
- (b) The names of the parties showing area and terms of rent and period of lease and any premium, if realised, in connection with these settlements ?
- (c) Whether any special protection has been given to the parties ?
- (d) If so, what special rent has been mentioned in the contract for that ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

116. (a)—One only.

(b), (c) and (d)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to the starred question No.28(a) of Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta, M.L.A., at the current Session of the Assembly.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Is it a fact that Government are going to grant another license for the manufacture of cement ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: Yes, Sir. The lease has not yet been signed, but certain conditions have been accepted by both the parties and the Company, which is going to take this lease has deposited the money.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Sir, may I know the name of the Company ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: The Associated Cement Company.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: So far as the revenue and premium are concerned has this lease been granted on the same basis or conditions as the former one or is there any difference ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: There is a difference as regards the royalty and revenue involved.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea about the difference ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: In the case of the lease which was granted to the Assam-Bengal Cement Company no premium was taken, but the Associated Cement Company have promised and deposited Rs.50,000 on account of the premium. Secondly, in the case of the former, lessee will have to give us royalty at the rate of Rs.2 per hundred maunds of lime stone, whereas in the latter case we shall get Rs.2-8 per hundred maunds. Thirdly, the minimum dead-rent in the case of the latter from the 2nd year will be Rs.32,000, while in the case of the former lessee, it is about Rs.11,000. These are the chief differences between the two leases.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Is it a fact that some special protection was given to the Company which had already been given a lease ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: In the case of the Assam-Bengal Cement Company a protection monopoly for a period of five years has been given in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, while in the case of the latter lease no such protection has been given.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: May we know what amount the Government will get from the Company for giving that protection ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** For giving that protection it was arranged that the Government would get Rs.28,000 for five years from 1940, but when the lease was signed by me I had the amount increased by another Rs.7,000 per year, or Rs.35,000 in all.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Are Government prepared to give the same sort of protection to the Associated Cement Company?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** No, Sir, a monopoly in this trade will be detrimental to the interests of the public, and, therefore, we have decided not to give any such monopoly to the new Company.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** May I know whether this lease was given after taking into consideration the *Akhins* of the *Nokmas*, I mean the areas leased to the Company?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** I do not understand the question of the hon. member.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** I mean, *Akhins* belong to *Nokmas*, and I want to know whether settlement of the lease was made after taking that into consideration?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** The matter was discussed with the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** How can the Deputy Commissioner know where these *Akhins* are, he has never been to that locality?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Let me explain the position, Sir. The position is this that whatever compensation is to be made to the *Nokmas* on account of lands which will be taken in, will be made payable to them by the Company concerned.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** My point is this, that the Deputy Commissioner has never been to that area; he has not seen these areas, and he does not know which are the areas and which *Akhin* belongs to which *Nokma*, so how can he be an authority on this point?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, before the lease was given, the opinion of the local officers was invited and, as far as I remember, the local officers had also invited objections from such people who may have any grievance for giving this lease and they were satisfied that the objections, which were taken were not reasonable. But, if it is the point of Mr. Marak that the Deputy Commissioner had not enquired into the case of the *Nokmas*, I shall make an enquiry and I shall see that proper compensation is given to these people concerned.

#### Re conduct of Government servants

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

117. Is it a fact that besides the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, the Congress Government of Assam have issued a notification that the Government servants should not take part in politics?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

117.—The Coalition Government of Assam have issued a circular, a copy of which laid on the table, to make the position clear to all Government servants.

## GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

HOME DEPARTMENT—APPOINTMENT BRANCH

Letter No. Apptt.-2108/6865-920-H.

FROM

H. G. DENNEHY, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,  
Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,

TO

The Commissioners of Divisions, all District and Subdivisional Officers, all Heads of Departments, including the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, the Examiner, Local Accounts, the Chief Electrical and Factory Inspector, the Chief Inspector of Boilers, the District Judges, Sylhet and Gauhati, the Member, Assam Revenue Tribunal, the Secretary, Assam Public Service Commission, the Secretary, Legislative Assembly, the Superintendent, Assam Government Press, Shillong, the Joint Secretary, Home Department, Secretary to Legislative Department,  
Government in the Public Works Department,  
Revenue and Finance Departments,  
Education and Local Self-Government  
Departments,  
and the Deputy Secretary, Education.

*Shillong, the 12th October, 1938.***SUBJECT :—Participation in party politics by Government servants.**

SIR,

A number of allegations to the effect that Government servants have been actively participating in politics and even canvassing members of the Legislature to side with one party or another have recently come unofficially to the notice of Hon'ble Ministers. This is distinctly against the Government Servants' Conduct Rules. While Government servants, like other citizens, are entitled to hold political views of their own and to vote accordingly at the time of elections, they are precluded from participating in political activities of any kind, and canvassing members of the Legislature would be a very flagrant breach of this rule. The Government of Assam do not propose to take notice of these many allegations but they expect that officers will so conduct themselves in future as to give no occasion for such allegations to be made.

I am to request that this may be communicated to all officers under your control.

Your obedient servant,

H. G. DENNEHY,  
*Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam.*

**Srijut PURNA CHANRDA SARMA:** Are the Executive of this Government competent to issue a circular like this to the Legislative Assembly Department ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I do not think there is any bar because there are Government servants also in the Legislative Assembly Department.

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR:** Are Government aware that in spite of this circular certain Government servants are still actively participating in party politics ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Government are not aware of that. If facts of that kind are brought to the notice of the Government they will certainly enquire into them.

### Supersession of the Sylhet Municipality

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

118. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The date of decision of the Cabinet meeting, that the Sylhet Municipality should be superseded ?
  - The date of notification in the *Extraordinary Gazette*, publishing the order of supersession ?
  - The time when the order of supersession was communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and how the order was communicated ?
  - When the Board was actually superseded ?
119. Will Government be pleased to state—
- How the Cabinet decision, if any, arrived at, on the 7th February about the supersession of the Sylhet Municipality was made public so that the authorities of the *Jugashakti Patrika*, had the opportunity to know it ?
  - Who is responsible for the disclosure of this Cabinet secret ?
120. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table—
- The amount of debts of the Sylhet Municipality serially year by year from the year 1927 to 1937-38 and at the date of supersession ?
  - The amount of ferry compensatory grant given to the Sylhet Municipality in the years 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 and the current year respectively ?
  - If out of the compensatory grant of the years 1937-38, 1938-39, Rs.14,000 has been withheld in 2 years ?
  - If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason for so doing ?
121. Will Government be pleased to state—
- If the Sylhet Municipality had a number of correspondence over this matter with Government ?
  - If so, what was the reply of the Government in this respect ?
122. Will Government be pleased to state whether in the Budget of 1938-39 the Sylhet Municipality made any provision for the clearance of their liabilities ?
123. Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of collection in the year 1936-37, 1937-38 and at what percentage the Sylhet Municipality budgeted the collection of its rates for this year, *i.e.*, 1938-39 ?
124. Will Government be pleased to state the number of demand notices and distress warrants issued in the months of January and February up to the date of supersession for the realisation of its rates ?

125. Is it a fact that the Commissioner, Surma Valley, was satisfied after the assurance given by the Chairman that he would be able to make 90 per cent. collection this year, and informed the Chairman on the 1st week of February about the approval of the Budget through the Deputy Commissioner ?

126. Will Government be pleased to state if the Chairman, Sylhet Municipality, had addressed an open letter to the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, only a few months ago, stating the financial position of the Board and is it a fact that this letter was published in the "Sylhet Chronicle" ?

127. Will Government be pleased to state if the Sylhet Municipality was superseded on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, or the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, and whether the Municipality was asked to show cause why it should not be superseded ?

128. (a) Is it a fact that the explanation to the audit report is to be sent by the Board to the authorities concerned, within 90 days from the date of its receipt ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sylhet Municipal Board sent the explanation to the audit report to the proper authorities within 90 days from the date of receipt of the audit note of the current year ?

(c) Was the Local Examiner consulted before supersession as to whether he received any audit reply from the Sylhet Municipality on or before the 3rd February ?

(d) Is it a fact that the audit reply reached the Local Examiner before the 3rd February and the allegations made against the Municipality in the Notification, that it did not send the audit reply within time, is baseless ?

129. Is it a fact that the financial position of the Sylhet Municipality was making a marked improvement in the year 1938-39 ?

130. (a) Is it a fact that the Sylhet Municipality is never getting any recurring general purpose grant, whereas other Municipalities, *viz.*, Shillong, Silchar, Gauhati, Jorhat, etc., are getting recurring general purposes grant of huge amount ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the amount of general purposes grant received by the following Municipalities, namely Shillong, Gauhati, Silchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar and the municipalities of 4 other subdivisions of the Sylhet district in the year 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the total road length of the above named Municipalities in the year 1936-37 and 1937-38 ?

131. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the liabilities of the Gauhati Municipality in the year 1936-37 and the present liabilities of the said Board ?

(b) Is it a fact that on account of financial difficulties in the year 1936-37, the employees of the Gauhati Municipality did not regularly receive their monthly salaries ?

(c) Is it a fact that for a series of years Gauhati Municipality failed to collect its rates regularly ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state who was the Chairman of the Gauhati Municipality in the years 1936-37, 1937-38 and 1938-39 ?

132. (a) Is it a fact that the Sylhet Municipality made correspondence with many Calcutta Companies for getting a scheme of water-works extension, prepared by an expert ?



(b) Is it a fact that the Municipality managed to have a scheme prepared by the expert Mr. Bartholomew through Messrs. Worthington Simpson and Company of Calcutta at an expense of Rs. 1,000?

(c) Is it a fact that the Sylhet Municipality invited petitions from the public by notification for ascertaining the amount of premium likely to be received by the Board?

(d) Is it a fact that the Sylhet Municipality submitted a scheme for the extension of the water-works to the Government and that it is under the consideration of Government now?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied.

118. (a)—The 7th February, 1939.

(b)—The 10th February, 1939.

(c)—By telegram on the 10th February, 1939 just after publication of Government resolution.

(d)—On the 10th February, 1939.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** With regard to (c) above may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what was the urgency of sending the information by telegram?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Because it was mentioned in the notification that supersession was to take place from that date, so the charge must be taken from the very day of supersession.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN-MD. CHAUDHURY:** Could not Government wait for the end of the financial year?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** No, Sir.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** What was the special reason for not waiting for only a few days?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** The matter was pending for many years and there was no utility for waiting any further.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I shall call out the other questions because I find supplementaries would be more appropriate there. (Questions, from 119 to 132 were called out).

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied:

119. (a)—Government have no information. Possibly it was an intelligent anticipation.

(b)—Government are not aware that there was any disclosure.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** The answer is "Possibly it was an intelligent anticipation". Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain what he means by "intelligent anticipation"?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** It is sufficiently clear, Sir.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Am I to take it that they got the information before it was published in the Gazette?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I have already replied that Government are not aware of that.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** How could they anticipate that such and such will be the decision of the Cabinet?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should know that newspaper editors are very shrewd.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Before the Cabinet decides anything should it be published in the newspapers? Does it not go seriously against the prestige of the Cabinet?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I do not understand what he means by 'before'. It is clear that the Cabinet decision was taken a few days ago. I do not think it goes against the prestige of the Cabinet if such information is published after the decision of the Cabinet.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Things occur frequently like this and may I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether it does not tell upon the prestige of the Cabinet ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** That is a question of opinion, Sir.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Is it a fact that this kind of news was published in the paper in the past and it was found incorrect ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Yes, Sir.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Is it a fact that one of the members of this Assembly who was a candidate for the Chairmanship of Sylhet Municipality has got connection with the *Juga-shakti Patrika* ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I am not aware of that.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I expect that Government would be more strict that no such information leaks out in future ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied :

120. (a)—The audit notes prior to 1931-32 have been destroyed. From then on the total liabilities including outstanding Government loan were given in the audit notes as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
On 31st March 1932 ... ..	97,551	15	2
On 30th September 1933 ... ..	1,08,097	0	5
On 31st March 1934 ... ..	98,542	5	2
On 31st July 1935 ... ..	89,539	3	0
On 31st March 1936 ... ..	1,04,393	1	0
On 31st March 1937 ... ..	94,568	0	0
On 31st March 1938 ... ..	85,705	0	0

The Examiner, who has been asked to make a special audit, will report in due course the liabilities at time of supersession.

	Rs.
(b)—1934-35 ... ..	12,000
1935-36 ... ..	12,000
1936-37 ... ..	12,000
1937-38 ... ..	5,000
1938-39 ... ..	5,000

(c)—No. The Board still receives the estimated value of the ferries. The ferry income naturally fell heavily with the opening of the Keane Bridge, but no question of a compensatory grant can arise with respect to ferry income which does not accrue.

(d)—Does not arise.

121. (a)—No. The only letter from the Board traceable is the Chairman's letter of the 2nd August, 1938. The Commissioner was instructed on the 26th January, 1937 that with the opening of the bridge the Board would have no claim to compensation for loss of ferry income. The Board Commissioner reported in July, 1937 that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman verbally asked for a grant of Rs.25,000 on the ground that the bridge brought in such a big sum to Government. Government sanctioned on 25th September, 1937 a grant of Rs.5,000 on account of the existing town ferries.

(b)—No reply was given to the Chairman's letter of the 2nd August, which had not been submitted through the proper channel as required by rule.

122.—Yes: so Government understand. Neither the district officer nor the Examiner considered that the estimate, in any degree, represented probabilities.

123.—1936-37 ... 63 per cent. of total demand.

1937-38 ... 72 per cent. of total demand.

In 1938-39 the Board apparently budgeted to recover 79 per cent. of the demand including over Rs.8,000 which was considered irrecoverable.

124.—Four hundred and four demand notices and 47 distress warrants.

125.—Government understand that on the Chairman's assurance that the collections would amount to a high percentage of the demand, the Commissioner asked him to send up the revised Budget through the Deputy Commissioner. This does not imply that the Commissioner was, or could be, satisfied as to what the actual realizations would be.

126.—Yes.

127.—The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner have for a number of years constantly represented that no improvement could be secured in Sylhet town unless the Board were superseded. The Board was not asked to show cause on this occasion, since it was realized that to do so would merely furnish opportunity for the procrastination and manœuvring that have been regular features of this Board's conduct. Moreover, in anticipation that action to call for cause would be taken, the Board had been asked to furnish their replies to the audit note within one month from the 21st November, 1938. The Board on the 1st December promised to do their best to comply with this direction, but represented that three months from the receipt of the audit note would not expire until the 3rd February, 1939. Government accordingly waited until the 3rd February, when there was still no sign of a reply from the Board; and they judged it futile to treat this Board any longer as deserving opportunity to reform. It is now found that the Chairman's replies to the audit note were approved *en bloc* by the Board on the 13th December, 1938, but were not sent out from the Board's office until 30th January, 1939.

128. (a)—Within three months of the receipt, under the ordinary rule.

(b)—No. The replies were received in the Examiner's office on the 3rd February. The note was admitted by the Chairman to have been received in the Board's office on the 3rd November, 1938.

(c)—The Examiner was in Shillong in the first week of February and informed Government that no replies had been received by the 2nd February, the last day of the three months.

(d)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question (c) above.

129.—This is the subject of examination by the auditor.

130. (a)—The Sylhet Municipal Board receives no general purposes grant.

(b)—The grants received by the Boards mentioned are—

	1936-37			1937-38		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Shillong	10,710	0	0	10,710	0	0
Gauhati	7,004	11	6	7,004	11	6
Silchar	4,087	10	0	4,087	10	0
Jorhat	4,087	10	0	4,087	10	0
Dibrugarh	6,536	7	0	6,536	7	0
Sibsagar	5,545	0	0	5,545	0	0
Habiganj	1,611	13	0	1,611	13	0
Maulvibazar	1,777	8	0	1,777	8	0
Karimganj	2,853	13	0	2,853	13	0
Sunamganj	1,616	5	0	1,616	5	0

(c)—The following are the details though they appear irrelevant—

	1936-37	1937-38
Shillong ... ..	26.42	27.76
Silchar ... ..	13.54	13.54
Gauhati ... ..	23.06	23.06
Jorhat ... ..	15.00	15.00
Sylhet ... ..	23.13	23.13
Dibrugarh ... ..	19.17	19.17
Sibsagar ... ..	17.03	16.64
Karimganj ... ..	9.80	9.80
Sunamganj ... ..	6.08	6.08
Habiganj ... ..	7.35	7.35
Maulvibazar ... ..	7.54	7.54

131. (a)—The total liability on 31st March, 1937 was reported by the Examiner to be Rs.1,14,817, including Rs.15,010 for the balance of Government loan and Rs.71,117 for instalments payable in the future on account of water works extension and road oiling, which the Board are financing from revenue. The Board's actual unpaid debts on 31st March, 1938 were reported by the Commissioner to be Rs. 17,624 against the balance of Rs.11,129. Government have at present no further information.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have had to criticise the Gauhati Board for inadequate collections.

(d)—The present Hon'ble Prime Minister, prior to his assumption of office.

132. (a)—Yes, so Government understand.

(b)—Government have seen a preliminary note prepared by this firm.

(c)—Yes, as appears from Newspaper reports.

(d)—No scheme has yet reached Government.

### Appointments in the Assam Medical Junior Service

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

133. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of posts in the Assam Medical Junior Service ?
- (b) How many of these posts are held by Muslims ?
- (c) How many posts they are entitled to ?
- (d) What is the number of posts held by the Surma Valley Muslims and how many posts they are entitled to, on the basis of population ?
- (e) How many of them are held by the Assam Valley Muslims and how many posts they are entitled to ?
- (f) How many appointments have been made in this service, since the Public Service Commission came into existence ?
- (g) How many of these posts have gone to the Muslims (Figures to be given separately for each Valley) ?
- (h) Is it a fact that two Assam Valley Muslims have been appointed recently in the said Service ?
- (i) Whether the Assam Valley Muslims are over-represented in this Service ?
- (j) If so, why the claims of the Surma Valley Muslims were not taken into consideration ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

133.(a)—Two-hundred and one including three temporary posts.

(b)—Twenty-nine.

(c)—Sixty-two

(d) & (e)—Seven posts are held by the Surma Valley Muslims and 22 by the Assam Valley Muslims. There is no separate percentage fixed for them. Muslims of the province are treated as one unit for the purpose.

(f)—Twelve.

(g)—Seven. Assam Valley—5. Surma Valley—2.

(h)—No. Only one Assam Valley Muslim was appointed recently.

(i) & (j)—Do not arise in view of the reply to (d) and (e) above.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether recently several appointments have been made in this Department ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Not several, only three.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know to what community do the candidates who have been appointed belong ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : One from the Muhammadan community, one from the scheduled castes and one from the caste Hindu.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know why, before giving proper share to the Muslims, people from other communities were recruited ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : There are other under-represented communities also.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : But I find from the reply that Muslims are entitled to 62 posts whereas only half or less than that have been held by them ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Gradually they are getting their proportion, Sir.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know whether there is any dearth of suitable Muslim candidates ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Not now.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Am I to take it from the Hon'ble Minister that he would make it a point in future to fill up the vacancies by Muhammadans ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Government have to consider the case of other under-represented communities also along with the Muhammadans.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it a fact that now-a-days these posts go to the tribal section ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : That is not a fact.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it not a fact that in the advertisements we generally find that preference will be given to the tribal and scheduled caste people ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : If they are under-represented then preference is given to them along with others.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I take it from the Hon'ble Minister that Muhammadans are also under-represented ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** : Where Muhammadans are under-represented they are also given preference along with other communities.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : Have Government made any comparative statement of the deficiencies of the under-represented communities ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Sir, the question is only with regard to Muhammadans and not with regard to others.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** The reply of Hon'ble Minister was that Muhammadans are given preference where they are under-represented and there are other under-represented communities and therefore the posts have gone to them. So my question is whether Government have made any comparative statement of the greatest deficiencies from amongst the under-represented communities.

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

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** May I know which community has got the largest deficiency or under-representation ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** At present I cannot give the accurate figure. Soon after the appointment of the Public Service Commission, 12 appointments have been made and out of this number, 7 have gone to the Muhammadans.

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBSIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI :** May I know whether caste Hindus are under-represented ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Yes, the Assam Valley caste Hindus are under-represented.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** Is it not a fact that each of the communities, the tribal, the schedule, the Muhammadan, hold separate units in the matter of service ?

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

#### Royalty on petroleum and coal

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

134. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state on what basis, royalty on petroleum is realised from the Assam Oil Company, Limited, by the Government of Assam ?

135. Is it a fact that according to the terms of the lease granted to the Assam Oil Company, Limited, annas 8 per 40 gallons is the minimum rate of assessment of royalty on natural petroleum ?

136.(a) Is it a fact that the above estimated rate may be changed by the Local Government from time to time ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether during the last 25 years, the minimum assessment was increased ?

(c) If not, why not ?

137. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state—

(a) Whether in Burma, natural petroleum extracted from underneath the private persons' land are purchased by the manufacturers of oil products ?

(b) If so, what is the value paid by the manufacturers to the owners of the land per every 40 gallons of natural petroleum ?

(c) Whether in order to correctly assess royalty on natural petroleum extracted from the oil fields in Burma, the oil is first stored in tanks kept by Government for check, the oil is then first allowed to be taken by the Company, and then first

(d) Whether the Burma Government realise royalty on natural gas ?

(e) What are the highest rates of royalty on natural gas there ?

138. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether Assam Oil Company, Limited, use coal or natural gas for running the boilers and engines and pumps, etc., at the oil fields at Digboi ?

139. Will Government be pleased to state whether under the terms of the lease, the Company is liable to pay royalty for natural gas thus used ?

140.(a) Is it a fact that a meeting of the Land Revenue Committee held in July 1938 submitted a note suggesting possible increase of royalty on natural petroleum and coal ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state whether any investigation was held in the light of the note submitted by the said Committee.

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the result of such investigation into the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

134.—Speaking roughly the basis is either the well head value or the quantity of petroleum.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** : Am I to take it that the assessment made on *ad valorem* basis ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : Yes, Sir, at present.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

135.—As the question is being examined, Government regret that they are not in a position to reply to this question.

136.(a), (b) & (c)—Governments' powers on this matter are being examined.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** : Are not the rules regarding powers of Government in this matter clearly laid down in the Mineral Concession Manual ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : Sir, as this matter is just now under the consideration of the Government, I would request the hon. member, who puts this question, not to embarrass the position of the Government till we have come to a decision.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

137.(a) to (e)—Government will make enquiries.

138.—Government understand that the Company uses natural gas for the extraction of natural petroleum only.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** : Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state from whom the information was obtained ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : The information obtained from the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, was to the effect that the natural gas was only utilised for the purpose of extracting oil. But since it has been brought to our notice that this is utilised for other purposes, Government have taken up an enquiry.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** replied :

139.—Under the terms of 2 of the leases royalty is payable for natural gas.

140.(a)—The Committee suggested increase of royalty on natural petroleum and not on coal.

(b)—Yes.

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

#### **Relief to the Political sufferers of Assam**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

141.(a) Will the Hon'ble the Premier be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to give relief to the Political sufferers of Assam who were connected with Congress movement ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Premier be pleased to state if persons resigning Government posts in response to the call of the country in 1921 and subsequently devoting themselves to Congress work under the Congress Organisation and suffering penury are regarded as Political sufferers ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

141.(a) & (b)—The questions appear to assume matter of opinion inasmuch as "Political sufferers" would seem to include persons who have been made to suffer by actions of Government, as well as those who have accepted suffering voluntarily. Government have taken steps to give relief to the formers, but in respect of the latter, Government have not been presented with any case for its decision.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: With regard to (a), above in view of the answer that "the questions appear to assume matter of opinion as "Political Officers" would seem to include persons who have been made to suffer by actions of Government, as well as those who have accepted suffering voluntarily". May I know whether the nine persons that have been just

*CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
DEBATES, VOLUME I, NO.10, DATED THE 25TH  
AND 27TH MARCH, 1939.*

*Correction Slip No.1*

At page 755, after the expression

**"The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir "**  
and before the expression

**"The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: His case does not arise at all "**  
insert the following :—

**"Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister consider the case of Babu Jyotish Chandra Das, late a Lecturer of the Murarichand College ? "**

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



the approximate minimum capital and recurring expenditure in raising the Berry-White Medical School of Dibrugarh excluding the existing land and buildings, Hospital buildings and other assets, to the status of a Medical College ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

142.—Government have been studying the question, but it is difficult to make the estimate required at present. There is first the administrative problem—how the clinical material in the attached hospital could be raised to such a standard as would enable the College to obtain recognition from the Indian Medical Council. At present Government do not see how, even if the hospital were enlarged to the necessary extent, it would be possible to fill the beds, particularly for midwifery teaching, and it is therefore impossible to estimate the expenditure on the hospital, but this would be very great.

The question, however, refers only to the school itself. It has first to be determined how many students would be annually admitted, and this depends on the policy to be adopted after considering the report of the conference on medical school Education. Assuming an entry of 40, Government roughly estimate, on the basis of a similar institution elsewhere, that the additional capital cost of school buildings alone would be at least a lakh, and the additional recurring cost at least one and a quarter lakhs per annum. The capital cost would probably be greatly exceeded if a detailed scheme were prepared, when all the present pending schemes of the Medical School, e.g., the provision of a water-supply, would be added.

#### **Purchase of Khaki Khaddar uniforms for police**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

143. (a) Are Government aware that the Bihar and Orissa Governments have ordered purchase of Khaki Khaddar uniforms for Police ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble the Premier be pleased to state if he would order purchase of Khaki Khaddar for the Police of Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

143. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—The proposal will be considered. It is the policy of Government to support and encourage cottage industries.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Will Government issue a circular to all departments to invest only in *khaddar* wherever cloth may be required ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The greatest difficulty about acceptance of the proposal made by my hon. friend Mr. Chanda is the difficulty of output of *khaddar* and the availability of suitable quality of *khaddar* required at present. But it will be seen from the reply that the policy of the Government is to support and encourage cottage industries which necessarily includes *khaddar* industry.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I know from the Minister of Industries whether *khaddar* has been included in the programme of cottage industries in his planning ?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** It is known to all that it has been included.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Did Government consult the *Vidya Asram* which manufactures *khaddar* on a large scale whether they would be able to meet the needs of the province?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Only the other day there was a sort of conference in which the *Vidya Asram* representative was invited and I think they had to come to certain conclusions which will be under the examination of Government. Not only it may be possible to have enquiries made, but as a matter of fact the representative of the *Vidya Asram* was co-opted in the Committee.

**Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI:** I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Industries whether khaki *khaddar* is a fast colour product?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** By the phrase "Cottage Industry", may I presume that the cottage industries of the province is meant?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, principally so.

**Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI:** May I know if the Hon'ble Premier holds the same opinion as the *ex-Chief Minister* Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla that *khaddar* dress does not look smart?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It is a matter of opinion. On the other hand I think that khaki *khaddar* cap looks smarter.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Are we to understand from the reply that if sufficient quantity and proper quality is available, the Hon'ble Premier will order *khaddar*?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Definitely, Sir.

**Resolution re the presentation of the Budget of the Dibrugarh Local Board before its Finance Committee**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked:

144. (a) With reference to reply to question No. 1230 of the last Winter Session (1938) of the Assembly (page 1155), will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the enquiry promised was made?

(b) If so, with what result?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** replied:

144. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The report has not yet been received.

**Motor Service on the Sylhet-Shillong Road**

**Srijut JADAV PRASAD CHALIHA** asked:

145. Will Government be pleased to state when the permits for plying passenger and goods lorries on the Sylhet-Shillong Road are due to expire?

146. (a) Do Government propose to introduce an arrangement for running of the motor service on this Road similar to that at present prevailing on the Shillong-Gauhati-Pandu Road?

(b) If not, do Government propose to continue the existing procedure, after the present permits expire ?

147. Do Government propose to bring about, as far as possible, similar traffic conditions and system of operation on both of these two important Roads ?

148. (a) Do Government propose to decide early, the procedure to be followed on this Road (Shillong-Sylhet) after the present permits expire, and call for tenders accordingly through public notices to be published in the *Assam Gazette* and other important local newspapers at least six clear months before the existing permits are due to terminate ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they will publish, in such notices, all important terms and conditions in detail, governing the fresh permits to be issued as was done at the time of calling tenders for the Shillong-Pandu service ?

149. Will Government be pleased to state whether the allocation of the permits will be completed within two months from the date of calling for tenders or four months before the existing permits expire whichever is earlier ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

145.—31st December 1939.

146 to 149.—Government have not yet taken up the matter. The suggestions will be borne in the mind when the question is considered.

**Enquiry whether the use of the words "hounds" and "mad dog" in respect of certain members a speech is Parliamentary or not**

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Before you take up the next item, Sir, may I know whether it is Parliamentary to use the word "hounds" in respect of certain members of this House and also the words "mad dog" ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Unless all these expressions are used actually in the House, I am not competent to give a ruling.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Yesterday some hon. members used these expressions...

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yesterday, the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair and if the expressions had been used he should have given his ruling. Those rulings are binding.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Are we to understand that those rulings are binding on us ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When the question of the use of word mention by the hon. Member arises before me I shall then be in a position to say whether the use of the word is Parliamentary or not. As far as yesterday's proceedings are concerned, if the Hon'ble the Deputy Speaker gave a ruling that ruling is binding in the House and unless and until the very circumstances under which the word mentioned by the hon. member occur again before me the hon. member cannot expect a ruling from me for the simple reason that I am not permitted to sit in judgment over the decision of the Hon'ble the Deputy Speaker and give a decision as a revisional authority.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Is this the position, Sir, that each fact should be judged according to its own particular merit ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, on its own merits, just when it occurs.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** The hon. Deputy Speaker did not give any ruling yesterday regarding the word 'hound'.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But the hon. member will have to wait ; and if such a word is used when I am in the Chair in any debate, then I will certainly give a ruling.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Will you kindly ask the Hon'ble Premier whether the word was used ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The word 'hound' may under given circumstances be considered harmless. That would depend on the context with reference to which it is used and the sense it is meant to convey.

Now we pass on to the next item.

#### **Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1938-39**

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1938-39. The purposes, for which these supplementary grants are required have been fully explained in the explanatory notes given after each of those items of expenditure and I need not take the time of the House in repeating them.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I want to know, Sir whether a list of the Supplementary Statement has been placed before the Council as well, because under the Government of India Act such a statement should be placed.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I think that was done. If in these cases it has not been done, it will be placed when the Council meets again.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** That will be irregular and probably illegal. According to the Government of India Act this statement has to be placed in both the Houses of Legislature.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think the previous Government did not do that.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It was done, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The provision is only that the statement should be placed before both the Houses. I have seen that it is done even after the Budget is disposed of by the Legislative Assembly.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** In this connection I may point out that the list of supplementary expenditure, which was placed on the table of this House during the last session was also placed in the Council but only when the Council was in session this month. The list which is now placed here will also be placed in the Upper House when the Council meets again.

#### **Consideration of Appropriation Accounts, 1937-38 and Audit Report for 1938 together with Finance Accounts, 1937-38 and Audit Report 1938**

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, I now beg to move that the Appropriation Accounts 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 together with the Financial Accounts for 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 be taken into consideration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved :

“ That the Appropriation Accounts 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 together with the Finance Accounts 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 be taken into consideration ”.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend the Finance Minister in making his motion ought to have explained both the utility of the Finance Account and the Appropriation Account and why it is necessary, and in fairness to me he should have also pointedly brought to the notice of the House the points of financial irregularity, if there are any, for the accounts of those periods relate to 1937-38 when I was the Finance Minister. I am therefore, Sir, at a disadvantage, for I have got to review these two reports of the highest Audit Authority which are themselves are reviews of the working of the Finance Department under my charge and I would crave the indulgence of the House to give me a few minutes.

My hon'ble friend has made the motion that the Appropriation Accounts and Audit Report together with the Finance Accounts be taken into consideration. In my opinion the position ought to have been transposed, that is to say the Finance Accounts ought to have come first and then the Appropriation Accounts. The Finance Accounts, as hon. members will notice, give a clear indication of the financial position of the province and also give an exposition of the indebted position of the province together with an explanation of the very complicated and intricate nature of our accounting in the Budget Estimates. Whereas the Appropriation Account is mainly concerned to see that supplies voted by the House have been applied for the purposes for which they were meant and that there has been no variation. If there has been any variation how they have been met. Explanations have to be forthcoming for every surrender or reappropriation. And if the deficit or surplus was of heavy nature, and if there be subsequent variations again, serious notice of the action of the Finance Department find place in those reports.

The system of accounting, hon. members will find at page 2 of the Finance Accounts. I need not detail them here. But I request every hon. member to go through these reports so that he may understand the nature of our accounting system and especially the Finance Accounts which deal with our pecuniary condition and which have been lucidly explained. At page 7, the revenue position of the province has been stated and it has been mentioned there that the expected surplus for the year 1937-38 at the time of framing of the estimates was Rs.4,46,000. But during the actual working of the year this surplus was converted into a deficit of Rs.4,81,000. The causes of this fall in our income have been explained in that page. It has been stated that the fall under land revenue under ordinary receipts was as much as Rs.10,77,000, and it has been explained that the fall under land revenue was due to remission of land revenue and to the postponing of deferred enhancement in one district. I hope those hon. members, who know the trend of events in this House last year, will remember that it was the unanimous desire of the House that there should be a remission in land revenue. As a matter of fact my friends who now adorn the Government Bench went so far as to say that there should be a minimum remission of 50 per cent. of the land revenue. But in order not to make the administration impossible, the then Government could not give as much as my friends proposed. The then Government headed by me looked both into the finances of the province and also to tremendous agricultural depression, or rather the depression in the prices of agricultural produce, and they came to a *via media* which they added a few lakhs to the existing remissions in land revenue. Therefore, it will not be proper for any section of the House to criticise the then Government for the fall in revenue.

Another matter to which I should draw the attention of every hon. member of this House is our debt position. That has been explained at page 10 of the Finance Accounts and hon. members will be staggered to find that at the end of the year 1937-38, the provincial exchequer was indebted to various parties and funds to the tune of Rs.1,13,99,000. This, Sir, contains two very big items. The first item is that of a loan of Rs.30,65,000 which the Government of Assam had to pay to the Central Government for accommodating them to tide over the deficit of the previous year 1936-37. This as has been already told, has been repaid to the Central Government. The bulk of our debt is termed as unfunded debt of the Provident Fund money which at the end of the year amounted to no less a sum than Rs.94,37,000. This staggering load of debt need not place us in a position of despair for as I have already mentioned at the time of the general discussion of the Budget that we can utilise the amount of the unfunded debt to wipe out our debt to Central Government and at the same time to reduce our interest charges. I need not, therefore, repeat the arguments which I advanced then. The Comptroller also at page 41, paragraph 3, has expressed as follows:—“It must be clearly understood that the balance of accounts shown in the statement above are not and cannot be regarded as a complete record of the state of affairs or the net financial position of the Government of Assam, as it is not possible to take into account all the various physical assets of the province such as lands, buildings, communications, etc., for which complete statistics are not available and the exact value of which is difficult to estimate.” If the monetary value of these assets are calculated then, I have no doubt whatever that the assets will be far in excess of the liabilities that have been mentioned in the finance accounts.

I now, come Sir, to the appropriation accounts. It had been my privilege to sit in many Public Accounts Committee where the appropriation accounts are scrutinised, and since 1930 when I was invested with the charge of the Finance Department I had presided over the deliberation of that Committee for some years. I can say from my past experience that the highest auditing authority, I mean the Auditor-General had for very many years past commended Assam on its very accurate budgeting. I wish I had the previous Appropriation Reports to place the relevant portions of these Reports, but unfortunately I could not find them in the Library. In the present Appropriation Accounts and the Audit Report, also we have got a similar acknowledgment though not in the same terms of good budgeting in Assam, and in paragraph 3 of the prefatory remarks of the Appropriation Accounts, hon. members will find that “the cases of financial irregularities apparently defective administration, etc., which are brought to the notice in the Report represent only a small percentage of the total financial transaction of the year. The comments on such cases must not be understood as conveying any general reflection on the administration of public expenditure.” At page 6 of this Report hon. members will find under the heading “General comments on the accuracy of budgeting. Hon. members will find as follows:—“Of the thirty heads for which voted grants were sanctioned, the variations under seven were less than one per cent. and under twelve between one and five per cent. Of the remaining heads, the largest variations occurred under grants Nos. 18, 19, 27, 29 and 31.” Then at page 7 of that Report we have got the heading under “General conclusions relating to control over expenditure.” There the hon. members will find that out of a total savings of Rs.7,92,515 under the voted grants, Rs.6,12,846 were surrendered which gives a percentage

of 77.3 on the total savings while in respect of the charged appropriation there was a substantial surrender of Rs.2,35,642 as against the total saving of Rs.2,76,499." Then Sir, the year 1937-38 was a unique one in the history of our budgeting. The new Reforms have been ushered in and the financial arrangement with the Centre has been entirely dislocated. Then the year began with a statement of authorised expenditure for six months by His Excellency the Governor and then the Ministry had to frame the Budget for the next six months only. On account of these, an accurate budgeting was not possible in that year. A few variations of a bigger magnitude which have been noticed by the Comptroller in his Audit Report should also be touched. The Comptroller has also furnished the explanation of variations. The hon. members know that after about nine months working on the Budget estimate as passed by the House a scrutiny is made to find if the sum voted, will prove in excess of the requirements of the particular item or fall short. In either case the deficit is found or surplus reduced by transfer from other items.

An approximate estimate is made and re-appropriation or surrenders are the orders of the day since November onwards in the Finance Department. The fact that before four months of the year have elapsed substantial surrenders are made clearly shows that our Finance Department has a good control over the expenditure of the different departments.

I will now refer to the detailed criticisms of the few big items of variations. The first one I would like to notice is one mentioned at page 20, where it is mentioned in paragraph 2 "savings in the grant and excess over the ultimate appropriation occurred mainly in Sub-head D, the expenditure under which is difficult to estimate accurately." This Sub-head D refers to the commission to be paid to the mauzadars and nobody can calculate beforehand what amount will be collected by the mauzadars during the financial year, and therefore the amount of commission to be paid to these people cannot be accurately budgeted. It has been explained in this volume that at one time revenue was coming in very slowly, and the Finance Department thought that the money meant for payment of commission to the mauzadars would not be required in full. Therefore, they surrendered a part of it, but towards the latter part of the year, *i.e.*, in March, substantial revenue began to come in as the cultivators had received good price for their crops and so re-appropriation had to be made to make payments to the mauzadars. I mention this fact simply to show that it is next to impossible to calculate accurately the amount of commission that shall have to be paid to the mauzadars.

The next item of note is as regards Excise Department, and hon. members will find it at page 23. There under the head "Notes" hon. members will find that charged savings in respect of original and ultimate appropriations were 17.4 per cent. and 1 per cent. respectively. hon. members can very well question why a big amount was budgeted and why very nearly one-sixth of the amount budgeted was not necessary. This saving took place under the item 'cost price for opium.' The fact that the restriction scheme of the Government was very tightly enforced was responsible for less quantity of opium to be imported, and therefore Government did not require the entire sum of money which was provided for cost price of opium issued from the Gazipur Opium Factory. In this matter, far from receiving condemnation, the then Government ought to be commended that their policy contributed to the decrease in the consumption of opium in the province.

Next, I will draw the attention of the hon. members to page 29 where the forest Budget is reviewed. There the only item that needs consideration is an item of Rs.23,298 which represents remissions of forest revenue during the year 1937-38. I remember the facts but I need not detail them. All these remissions were of bad debts of contractors previous to the year 1937-38. The contractors failed to pay royalty, and lax sort of collection occurred. In this matter the budgeting was not at fault ; if any body was at fault it was the administrator of the Forest Department previous to the year 1937-38.

Now, there was big variation in the voted sum for the administration of justice. Hon. members will find at page 49, where it is mentioned that under the heads AA 3 to D controlled by the Legal Remembrancer, the charged expenditure exceeded the original appropriation as well as the final appropriation by 20·7 per cent. and by 8·9 per cent. respectively. This increased expenditure was due to the presence of the Advocate-General on the floor of this House on a certain memorable occasion. That was an expenditure which was entirely unforeseen at the time of framing the Budget. Then the surrender of Rs.34,000 on certain heads was the result of economic drive for which I hope the hon. members will see the necessity and justice.

Another big item is noticed in the Public Health Department which is mentioned at page 81 of the Report. There it is mentioned in paragraph 2 under Notes that "the charged expenditure relating to non-excluded areas fell short of the original appropriation by 46·8 per cent." This is a very heavy variation, but it is explained by the simple fact that when the I. M. S. Director of Public Health went on leave, the then Government insisted that Dr. Paul, the Deputy Director of Public Health, should take charge of the Department. Although ultimately we could not convince the Government of India of the justice of the case, still for the best part of the year, Dr. Paul was in charge and that explains the variation between the budgeted and the actual expenditure. Then in paragraph 3 it is mentioned: "There was a large saving of Rs.62,224 under the sub-head B(non-excluded areas) controlled by the Local Self-Government Department." This item relates to the grant of the Government of India for rural uplift, which could not be spent by local bodies in time and therefore had to be surrendered. Here too there was no fault of budgeting, but the money could not be spent *in toto* owing to the inability of the villagers to fulfil the conditions of the grant.

Then there is another item of half a lakh of rupees mentioned in the Public Works Department Budget at page 103. But this short expenditure is also explained in the same note, where it is stated, at the bottom of the paragraph, "it will be seen from the explanations against these items that the savings were due mainly to delay in receipt of materials, delay in acquisition of land, postponement of certain works and lesser progress on certain other works than anticipated."

Next, I need refer only to two other items mentioned in the report. One, under the head—'Miscellaneous' at page 122, where a saving of 32·1 per cent. has been noticed. This, I am glad to tell the House, represents the difference between the guaranteed sum and the sum demanded by the Railway to be paid to the Eastern Bengal Railway administration for the Tangla-Belsiri extension. A less amount had to be paid on Account of better traffic carried by the Railway.

The last item that I need mention has been noted at page 123 of the volume, where under the head 'Loans and Advances by the Government' it has been stated: "The saving in the grant was 23·5 per cent. The wide



gap between the actuals and the grant was due to the fact that the anticipated demands for loans did not materialise." This redounds to the credit of the then Government. Certain Municipal and Local Boards did not require some help and a higher sum was provided in the Budget to be issued as agricultural loan, but the demands which was anticipated by Government did not materialise. Therefore this saving.

From all these variations and the biggest items that have been noticed by the Comptroller I have touched very briefly I have been trying to furnish a proper explanation to what has been advanced from the auditing officer.

Then, hon. members may remember that our appropriations were disturbed very considerably by the total refusal of the Commissioner's establishment supplies and those for the temporary branch of the Criminal Investigation Department by the vote of this House. Although these items were subsequently reintroduced in a modified form by His Excellency the Governor, to a certain extent they represent a variation in the Budget appropriation of the year. The fact that those items which we had then pressed for inclusion in the Budget have now been included by our critics, clearly shows that there was enough vindication for the attitude I took.

Sir, I hope, I have proved sufficiently that the Budget as framed in the unusual year 1937-38 has not in any way deviated in accuracy and control of expenditure from the financial statement for the previous years. I have therefore much pleasure in seconding the proposal of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that the Reports be adopted. (*Applause*)

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been rebuked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, first, for not explaining the purpose for which I have come forward with this motion, and, secondly, for not explaining certain items in the Appropriation Accounts. I want to assure him that, if I did not explain these things, it was not due to the fact that I had any intention of casting any reflection over him for the administration of the province for the year 1937-38 during which period he was in charge of the same. It was due to two of the following reasons:

First of all, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition would also bear me out, I had explained all these matters fully at the time of introducing the Budget.

Secondly, Sir, all these facts are fully explained both in the Finance Accounts and Appropriation Accounts, and therefore I thought it was not necessary for me to go into details again and take the valuable time of this House. I had however, decided that, if there was any criticism from any section of this House, I would be prepared to meet such criticism and explain fully if any information was required. So, Sir I repeat once again that it was neither with any motive nor with any intention of casting any reflection against him.

I would like to mention here another fact. Objection was taken by the hon. Leader of the Opposition for not placing the Supplementary Demand at the same time before both the Lower House and the Upper House. I would invite his attention to sections 78 and 81 where I think the language of this two sections is identical. He will realise, Sir what I have done to-day is not only in keeping with what he had done in the previous year, that is, of presenting these demands not at one time but at different times in the two Houses, but also in accordance with the law. I am however thankful to him for his taking the trouble of explaining all these items fully through which effort hon. members must have derived some benefit if they already had not understood the purpose of this motion.

I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My hon'ble friend just now said that he would explain any item that required explanation. I have not understood one thing. At page 52 of the Finance Account, there is a sum of Rs.8 to the credit of house building advance. Would he please explain that ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** This is an item which is fully explained. Will he please refer to page 54 of the Finance Account ? It does not require any further explanation.

With regard to which particular point does the hon. Leader of the Opposition require an explanation ?

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** On the credit side at page 52—Loans and Advances, there is an amount of Rs.8. What is that sum ? I could not understand it, and the Hon'ble Minister promised that he would give me his explanation. At page 54 there is again a mention of the same figure, but the explanation is not helpful.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** It is explained there that the advances under this head were granted in pursuance of a policy of financing certain unemployed youths after their training in Agriculture. The balance agrees with that shown in the broad sheet and has been accepted as correct.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I think my hon. friend has not understood my point, or it may be that my expression is faulty and I have not been able to place my case. All these loans and advances by Provincial Governments are shown as Rs.3,71,685 and the total on the debit side is Rs.11,03,208, but on the credit side there is this sum of Rs.8. I tried to find out what it represented, and I read paragraph 68 of the report, but I could not find out what it represented.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** This is the amount which was found on the credit side from the previous years.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition must be in a better position to give an explanation of this item which relates to a period during which he was in charge. (*laughter*).

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have not the papers with me.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As far as I can understand this amount was found outstanding on the credit side from the previous years, and the hon. Leader of the Opposition should be in a better position to know what it was due to ?

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** If I get the file I will be in a position to find out.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition thinks that it is necessary that this information should be elicited, and if for that purpose he wants to handle the files I think the Hon'ble Minister will have no objection to his doing so (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As I have already said, Sir this amount was found on the credit side from previous years. If however the hon. Leader of the Opposition wishes to know for what particular reason this amount of Rs.8 was left on the credit side, I shall be glad to let him know later.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I find that two motions have been put down with regard to this business. I was thinking whether such motions were at all necessary. The Government of India Act says such reports of the.....Auditor-General of the Province.....relating to the Account of a Province should be submitted to the Governor of the Province

who shall cause them to be laid before the Provincial Legislature". Of course, the House has the right to discuss results which are disclosed by the accounts and reports; but I do not think that any formal motion for accepting the accounts and the reports is necessary. But as these motions have been put down, I think I should allow these motions to be moved as merely formal motions, for even if the House rejects these motions such a rejection cannot affect at all the accounts and the reports. However, I put the question.

The question is:

"That the Appropriation Accounts, 1937-38 and Audit Report for 1938 together with the Finance Accounts, 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I beg to move that the Appropriation Accounts, 1937-38 and Audit Report for 1938, together with the Finance Accounts, 1937-38 and the Audit Report for 1938 be adopted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### GRANT No.16

#### (37.—Education—Other than European)

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.35,96,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1940, for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European)".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

That a sum not exceeding Rs.35,96,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1940 for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European)".

There are as many as 63 cut motions. Will the hon. Leader of the Opposition state whether all these motions are to be moved?

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** We shall only move 10 motions, Sir. The first one is No.2.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is a motion which stands in the name of the hon. member Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury: it is for the total refusal of the whole grant. If it is his intention to move this motion, he should be allowed to move it first as it is a motion for the refusal of the total grant.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Yes, Sir, I intend to move it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** May I know from the hon. Leader of the Opposition whether he will allow this motion to be moved?

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** No, Sir, that motion will not be moved.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: That the provision of Rs.4,08,044 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, the intention of the motion is to raise a discussion about the establishment of a University in Assam. The problems of a University for Assam is as old as the Assam Legislature itself. Many legislators had

wasted their eloquence on this subject on the floor of this House and Government after Government had extended lip sympathy in the matter and given hollow assurances, but it is distressing and extremely disappointing to find that notwithstanding the dawn of a new era and the installation of a so-called popular Government in the year of grace of 1939 I have to table this cut motion for the failure of the Government to evolve any scheme for a suitable type of University for this province.

Without a University and without a High Court autonomy is not worth the name and it is a misnomer to call this province an autonomous province. Sir, much water has rolled down the Brahmaputra river since the preparation of the University Scheme drawn up at a considerable drain of public exchequer by Mr. J. R. Cunningham. In this connection I may also be permitted to refer to the quinquennial report regarding educational matter of this province. I may refer to page 11 of the Report where it is stated, "the demand for a University for Assam was loudly voiced in the Legislative Council and in the Assamese Press, and culminated in the appointment of Mr. J. R. Cunningham, our late Director of Public Instruction, as special Officer to examine the possibilities and in the publication of his Report. The examination of the Report and the action to be taken on it is one of the most important pieces of work facing the new Ministry". But, Sir, Government have done nothing tangible so far to further the scheme drawn up by Mr. Cunningham. It is said that the finances stand in the way, but a Government which claims to be a popular Government and whose only concern is to better the lots of the people governed by them must find out ways and means if they will for it, but where there is a real lack of sincerity all matters will drift for ever.

My object in moving this motion is to censure this policy of drift on the part of the Government. Let the Government abandon this policy and show their sincerity by action. Mere promises cannot satisfy the people of the age which is called a democratic age. With the addition of revenue as a result of half a dozen taxation measures, I hope, the Government will have no difficulty in evolving and piloting the University scheme as early as possible and as an optimist let me hope that the Government will not give me an occasion in the next Budget Session to censure them again on this count.

Sir, so far my knowledge goes, the outgoing Education Minister took up the matter in right earnest and he also drew up a scheme keeping strictly in mind the financial position of the province. But since the present Education Minister took charge of the department, I do not know whether he had the occasion or the opportunity to handle those files. I am sure if he simply cares to look to the whole file he may get those schemes which were already given hands to.

Sir, during this session, I put several questions regarding the establishment of a University in the province and I also put a few questions very recently—so far as I remember two or three days ago—whether Government proposed to start a teaching University with the existing staff of both the colleges in the province and the reply I got from the Hon'ble Education Minister was very unsatisfactory and cold. He said that such a measure to him seemed to be useless.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Not useless but financially impossible.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** In the later portion of the reply he seemed to have said useless, but I regretfully say that this is a very vital point which the Retrenchment Committee ought to have taken into consideration. What proposal I put, I put it with sincerity and with a far-reaching

motive and if my proposal of establishing a teaching University in the province is accepted, this will save a lot of money to the Government. As for the financial implication of the proposal, if the Retrenchment Committee had cared to look into this question they could have come to a solution. If we are to establish a residential University it is a big problem for us, but to establish only a teaching University I do not think we shall require a big amount. So, I would again urge upon the Government to look into the question and see whether it would be possible to deprovincialise both the colleges and to start a University of teaching and examination without further expenditure.

Again, Sir, there is a very serious point before us which this Government may have to handle with great concern. present days are autonomous days and if the Calcutta University refuse to entertain us and give us the facilities which they have been so long giving and if they charge us with heavy amount of contribution then would we not be in a very difficult position? Before my proposal is given effect to, of course some sort of legislation will be required, but this is not a difficult task. The preliminaries have already been done by Mr. Cunningham and this province has to incur a certain amount on this account. With these words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.4,08,044 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total) at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101 ”.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Before other discussions are taken up, may I enquire of the hon. member what is the idea about this teaching university? Will he be pleased to explain that in greater detail than he has introduced?

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** By a teaching University I mean that it should be simply for the purpose of teaching and examination and not of a residential nature. Perhaps my hon. friend is more enlightened regarding this matter.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** He wants more details about this teaching University.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** What I mean is that by establishing such a University we can take up the teaching of the boys of the province and hold examination. This is a serious problem because the existing staff which both the colleges are now maintaining can be sufficient for starting such a University.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Sir, I rise to support this motion. On a previous occasion this subject was discussed threadbare and the then Education Minister, Maulavi Munawwarali, gave us such assurances that the proposal for establishing a University in the province of Assam would receive his best attention. I am surprised now to learn from the Hon'ble Premier to-day that it is financially impossible.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** I am not telling that. A proposal which was submitted before the House in the shape of question by the hon. member Maulavi Abdur Rahman to the effect that the two colleges should be shifted to a third place, that there should be a new building and things of that sort, and that teaching should be organised there—that proposal appeared to me to be impossible of fulfilment in the present financial condition.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :**

However, the reply of the Hon'ble Premier is not encouraging at all. The present Cabinet has come forward with so many taxation Bills that we have been told that we are to pay up to the extent of Rs.32 lakhs in the shape of taxes in a year. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons to some Bills, I learnt that they are going to rob Peter to pay Paul. They are going to work out prohibition programme in some subdivisions and they are going to spread education in some other places at the expense of the cultivators. But they are quite unmindful to the question of establishing a University in this province. Sir, last time the allegation was made that the Surma Valley members were against this proposal. I myself, as well as, Dewan Ahab Chaudhuri informed the House that the people of Surma Valley were not opposed to the establishment of a University in Assam. What the Surma Valley people wanted was that the University should be located at Shillong which is a Central place in the province and can cover both the Valleys as both the Valleys are connected by road. The Hon'ble Premier could very easily give us an encouraging reply by saying that a part of the money they will get from the proposed taxes, would be set apart for the establishment of a University in this province. It is not unknown to those who send their wards to distant places what difficulties they have to undergo. We have to send our wards to places like Dacca, Calcutta, Allahabad and such other places. These difficulties could be very easily removed by the establishment of the University. If the Hon'ble Premier who is holding charge of Education can kindly give his attention to this matter the question will be solved very easily. Mr. Cunningham, the Special Officer, engaged to make a survey of the problem has given a definite idea how a University can be established. If those suggestions and recommendations will be utilised, I have no doubt that the financial question can be solved very easily.

With these few words, I beg to support my motion.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite feel that my hon. friend the mover of the motion Maulavi Abdur Rahman has been inspired with a noble ideal, which my Assamese friends are cherishing for a very long time since that Assam should have a University. If it is not only a question of sentiment or a matter of whim that an autonomous province like Assam should have a University, I should say that the necessity is there. A pertinent question has been asked by the Hon'ble Premier as to what he the mover of the motion meant by the words "teaching University." If he has got to be explained I would refer to him Universities like Calcutta, Madras, Agra, the Punjab and Bombay. If I have got to tell him the residential Universities, he has to travel as far back as Aligarh, Dacca, Lucknow, Allahabad, Benares, Delhi, and the Osmania University of Hyderabad. Now, Sir, residential Universities would mean that all the students of the University barring the day scholars should live in one particular place in order that they might breed in an educational atmosphere. To explain it still further I should say that the Professors, the Teachers, the Wardens, and for the matter of that the research scholars ought to be left together along with the students. They should be in such an atmosphere as to be of constant help from each other. Modern Universities is said to be a conglomeration of books. Books are there for ready references and the Professors and scholars would be handy and

they would be always available for reference and guidance. The idea of a residential University in Assam, if finances permit, would be better for more reason than one. Because that would also take away from us along with importing of education the question of valley jealousy. Especially one University at the Murarichand College at Sylhet and another at Cotton College at Gauhati would satisfy both the Surma Valley and the Assam Valley. It was suggested sometime ago that placing of a tin plate one at Cotton College and another at Murarichand College would give us a Murarichand University at Sylhet and a Cotton University at Gauhati. The question in that direction is not so easy as it appears. For it would require a good amount to have a full fledged residential University. Books, messive residential sites for Professors and pupils, and highly qualified research scholars would be required. Finances for this is difficult to eke out. But Universities of a teaching nature like the Calcutta University of course is not very difficult. Financially it is even possible now to have a teaching University with control of examinations in the different colleges. Even in the present state of finance, with a little careful handling of the different resources and the educational facilities of Assam, I think we are in a position to establish a University of a teaching nature in Assam. With these few words, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.

After lunch

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I do not like to speak for a long time on this matter because the subject has been a much debated one. The phantom of a University in Assam has been hunting our imagination for a long time, but it is a matter to be extremely regretted that it has not reached a stage of materialisation so far. As the subject has been discussed *ad nauseam*, I think it is better for us now to have some action in the matter. The need of a University has long been recognised. I think, this motion has been tabled by my hon. friend only with a view to give an opportunity to the Ministry to explain what is their exact attitude towards this matter. My predecessor Maulavi Amjad Ali has discussed about the type of the University, but, I think, it is not necessary for us to discuss as to what type of the University we want because that is a matter which is not for the members to decide, but it is essentially a matter for the Government to decide and the Government should come to a decision as to what type of university is suitable for Assam by seeking the advice of some educational experts. In this connection, I am reminded of an inquiry made by Mr. J. R. Cunningham. I do not know whether the report of that inquiry has been shelved or it has been disapproved by the Government. Whatever that may be, Sir, I think, the time has now come for us to decide first of all as to what type of University is actually suitable for a place like Assam. In coming to a decision, Government will be well advised to take into consideration the criticisms, that have been made from time to time in this House regarding the revenue of the University. Government should take the advice of educational experts. It does not matter whether they take the advice of one expert or more.

Next question will be to frame the estimate of costs that will be involved in the project. Then the question will be to provide the required fund. As regards finances, I don't think, the matter represents any difficulty at all. I think, the hon. members remember the memorable speech of my leader Sir. Md. Saadulla which he made during the last Budget Session about the feasibility of a University with the limited resources of Assam. In that speech the members will remember the argument that was advanced by him that the major portion of the cost of the University may be met by the receipts of the University, *i.e.*, examination fees, etc., and also from the contribution that is being made to the University by the Government of Assam. So I say that the question of finance need not exercise our minds so much. I can refer the hon. members to page 5 of the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister where he said "I would depart from this old practice and convention however painful it may be for sometime to banish this method and follow the procedure of first determining the expenditure which is to be incurred and then devising the means of increasing the revenue to cover it up." So if we have an idea of the actual expenditure that will be involved in the project, I don't think it will be difficult for the Hon'ble Finance Minister to find finance for the project in view of the opinion expressed by him in his speech. Now what we want is that the Government should take a decisive step in this important matter. We will not be satisfied with vague assurances like that given at page 9 of the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister in which he says as follows:— 'The questions of a University or Universities for this province, for overhauling the whole secondary system with a view to give it a more practical and morally wholesome basis and of the spread of primary education, are, however, engaging their earnest attention.' Such vague assurance would not help us in any way. I want a definite assurance from the Government as to what decisive steps they are going to take in this matter. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also like to say a few words in support of this motion. Sir, in this House a resolution was passed about the establishment of a University in Assam. Sir, many a time we have heard from different speakers the urgent necessity of a University in this province. It is really very sad on the part of the Ministry that they have not taken this matter in the right earnest. Sir, the Ministry that making this Province self-supporting, and in these days of autonomy they are providing for an Advocate-General only to make this province an autonomous one. But I fail to understand why an important matter like the University was not taken up by them first.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education asked the hon. mover of the motion to explain what did he mean by the words 'teaching University'. It is really painful to learn from the Hon'ble Minister that he does not know the system of teaching University. So, what can we expect from a Minister who does not know what a teaching University is? Sir, there are difficulties in satisfying the members of his group, in this matter, so far as I understand. If a teaching University is established the main question before the Ministry where it should be located. His party members, who are from the Surma Valley, are most probably pressing him to have it at Sylhet, and others from the Assam Valley are pressing to have it at Gauhati. So it has become very difficult for the Hon'ble Minister in charge to decide what to do in the matter and cannot think at present of any University flouting the wishes of the House. Sir, I would like to point out to the Hon'ble Minister that "where there is a will there is a way." If he really wants to establish a University he must take up the matter in right earnest. My hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali has spoken very lucidly about the



system of university, and I say, Sir, that for Assam at least a teaching University can be had without incurring much expenditure from the Government coffers. I will just refer the Hon'ble Minister in charge to a statement published by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir Muhammad Saadulla, in 1936. He explained very fully that a teaching University, *i. e.* an examining university can be run by the Government without incurring much expenditure. Sir, the fees that are realised from the students of Assam who go to the Calcutta University will cover the expenditure. Sir, when it was possible in 1936 when the number of students were less why should it not be possible now when the number of students have increased by double and are increasing daily. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will take up the matter seriously and try to establish a University very soon.

With these few words, I support the motion.

**Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF :** Excuse me, Sir, if I do not see eye to eye with the hon. members who have spoken before me. All of them think that a University is so very necessary for Assam, but I for one do not understand how at the present moment a university is at all necessary for the province, as it stands to-day (*Hear, hear*). Sir, it is well-known to the House that the Congress is pledged to drive away Surma Valley from Assam, because that is a Bengali-speaking valley. If that is the position of the Congress, then a University for Assam—if it means anything—must mean a University for the Assam Valley. Until and unless that question is satisfactorily and finally solved, we cannot raise any discussion about the establishment of a University in Assam. Sir, if the Surma Valley has really got to go away from Assam then it will be only necessary that the University should be established at Gauhati or somewhere near that place. Otherwise if the University is placed on the height of this Hill the result will be that the poor people of the province will find it next to impossibility to send up their children here. Therefore, Sir, the question which should be decided first is whether the Bengali-speaking area of the Province should be driven away from Assam or not.

Then, again, Sir, it is also known to the House that the Congress views everything from economical standpoint. I proceed to show how economically also it will be a blunder to establish a University in Assam. Sir, as I have already said, the University can only be established at Gauhati, and if that is given out or admitted by the Treasury Benches, the result will be that my friends of the Bengali-speaking areas, who are sitting behind the Treasury Benches, will like to walk over to this side of the House. It is also known that the value of the Treasury Benches is certainly greater than that of a University. Therefore, Sir, economically too it is not possible.

With these few words, I beg to retire.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sir Saadulla has already shown that there would be a big surplus of Rs.50,000 if we establish a University in Assam. What we have heard up till now is only a repetition of the speeches delivered in the last Budget Session. But I think the University is necessary and we should have one provided there is fund. Sir, we have not passed the taxation Bills up to now, and we do not know yet up to now how much money will be available for the purpose. So we should wait until the Bill is passed.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Sir, I was listening with great attention to the debate that has been raised over this cut motion, and I must thank the hon. members who have made their suggestions both for and against the establishment of a University in Assam. I must confess that, from what I have heard, I have not been

enlightened to the extent that I liked to be enlightened over this very important subject. The criticism that has been levelled against the Government is that Government is undertaking no scheme. When it was a cut motion for discussion, I very much wished that some details of the scheme should also have been brought before the notice of this House, so that Government might have been in a position to know the exact attitude of the Opposition in reference to this problem.

Sir, I have been accused of doing some wrong for having asked my friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman what his idea of a teaching university is. In that my friend Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali was pleased to refer to Calcutta University as one of the teaching universities. As far as my information goes, the Calcutta University is a teaching University in so far as post-graduate teaching only is concerned. In respect of pre-graduate courses, it is the colleges which conduct the teaching. Colleges are run under certain standards which are set up by the University. Now, if we have to adopt a university of the kind of the Calcutta University, I would ask my friends over there to know the implications of such a university. I am sure it is not known to the hon. members that for the post-graduate classes both in science and arts, the Calcutta University spends nearly 10 lakhs of rupees alone every year. And what is the idea of our university? Is it the conversion of the colleges into private colleges under that university? Should not our courses of study go beyond the stage of graduation to which it is confined to-day? Do my friends over there think that, when the university course of education is completed, we should not find amongst our graduates even equals to M.A. Degree holders of the Calcutta University, and will such a university be really desirable? Establishment of a university visualized by the hon. Maulavi Amjad Ali, would mean nothing else than curtailing the possibilities of further study and confining ourselves to our present courses. Personally, I do not appreciate a university which should limit the course of study to our present B. A. standard. Therefore, if the university is to function as a teaching university, the expenses that would involve would surely be much more than the rosy picture presented before us by the members of the Opposition. Therefore, Sir, if we want to have a teaching university the financial implication will be really very great.

Then, Sir, along with that, another point has been raised by the hon. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. If according to his proposal two colleges are to be brought together to a third place, and we take into account the cost of buildings and equipments, etc., we must cease to think of a university.

I might also mention that the fees that are paid as examination fees to the university—and the very little contribution that we make otherwise, do not come to much. I am sure the whole expenditure by the province—on those two heads would not come to more than a lac. I myself collected some figures in 1937. I think that figure must have swollen a little just now. It was then over 66 thousand rupees in examination fees. It has now probably come up to Rs.80 thousand. As I said, it cannot be more than a lac in all. Thus we have to decide very seriously about our finances before we decide on having a university.

Regarding the question of having a university as a whole, the present Government do think that there is necessity for a university. It will take some time to work out details, and although it has not been possible for Government to examine these details with any degree of scrutiny just at present, Government really proposes to do it in the near future.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** In the Cunningham scheme all these details are to be found.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir. The scheme that has been proposed in the Cunningham Report will also be considered when Government takes up the question of a university. It will not be proper for me to criticise that scheme just at present and I do not want to take up the time of the House by any such criticism. But I must say, that what is envisaged there is a university which will be more or less an affiliating and examining university. As is well-known, this question of what university should be is really a very complicated one. It has become particularly complicated on account of the two colleges being situated in the two sides of the province. All these have to be considered before any final decision can be taken. I definitely feel that it may be possible, at any rate before the next Budget Session, to be coming before the House with some kind of scheme in this connection. In this connection I desire also to make one observation in reference to what the hon. Mr. Abdur Rouf has said. The point that I have been able to get from him is that the interests of the people of the villages require more careful consideration than the establishment of a university. And this is the view of the Congress also; and that is the reason why, although we gave no time to think of a university we immediately thought of education among the poorer people in the villages before we took up the question of a university. With that point of view, we have already provided some money, and we have already made some schemes for primary and other education of the tribal, hills and other backward communities immediately.....

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** What about the transfer of Sylhet or the Surma Valley to Bengal?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That will take some time, and we cannot wait for a university till that time. We must have something in the meantime. But what I was saying is that the main point raised by the hon. Mr. Abdur Rouf was that of primary education of the poorer people which should have greater claim on attention of Government than university education.

So, in view of what I have said I would request the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the provision of Rs.4,08,044 under Grant No.16, Major-head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 114 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101.”

The motion was negatived.

**Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRABARTY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

“That the provision of Rs.89,373 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(b)—Secondary Schools for Girls (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The object of my moving the motion is to criticise Government for not providing funds to raise the Hailakandi Town Girls' Middle English School to a full-fledged Girls' High English School.

Sir, at Hailakandi there is no Girls' High English School, and so the intending girls have no scope for higher English education. Sir, the necessity for a girls' high school is being keenly felt there by the people for a long time. Sir, the only girls' school, the Town Girls' Middle Vernacular School

was raised by the Town Committee to the status of a Middle English School a few years back, but due to the paucity of funds the Town Committee cannot manage to raise it to the High School standard. Sir, the demand for higher English education for girls was so keen that some guardians had to approach the Government to allow their girls to read in the Boys' High School, and, Sir, the previous Government under much pressure, were obliged to grant permission to some guardians to send their girls to the Boys' School on condition that separate seats were allotted for these girls, but except 3 or 4 guardians others did not like to send their girls to the Boys' School, and I know that at the present moment only 3 or 4 girls are reading in the Boys' School. So the education of the other girls has come to a close. I think that is a very unsatisfactory state of things, and Government should either take up this Girls' Middle English School themselves and raise it to the standard of a high school or place sufficient funds at the disposal of the Hailakandi Town Committee for the purpose. Sir, I know that many times the Inspector of Schools, and the Director of Public Instruction at their visits have admitted the necessity of raising the school to the High School standard, and I think recommended to that effect. So, I hope that in view of their recommendation Government will at once agree to raise that school to the High School standard.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 89,373 under Grant No. 16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(6).—Secondary schools for Girls (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

**Miss MAVIS DUNN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very undesirable to cut down even a single rupee from the grant to education, especially for girls' education as it is necessary that Government should do their utmost to help the various girls' institutions in the province, but as cut motions are the best means of drawing the attention of Government to our needs, I have no alternative but to support this motion.

In the Quinquennial Report for 1932-1937, the Director of Public Instruction says—"Additional grants are urgently needed for girls' high schools of which there should be one in every Subdivision, while in the larger towns there is already demand for more than one school". Sir, it is very sad to hear from Mr. Chakravarty that there is not a single girls' High School in the Hailakandi subdivision, and that the girls in that town have either to stop their high school studies, or in the alternative to read in the Boys' High School and I understand that co-educating is unpopular. In view of the fact that so little is done by Government for Girls' Education, I hope, Sir, that this Government will take a little more interest in Hailakandi Girls' Middle English School and raise it to the standard of a High School. (*Cheers.*)

**Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an admitted fact that educational institutions generally owe their origin to the donations of the liberal-minded public. I can cite the instance of the Girls' High School at Karimganj. There the school was started with the donations from rich and charitably disposed family of the subdivision. Similarly there are other private colleges in the Surma Valley as well which owe their existence to large donations from the gentlemen, interested in the cause of education. Brindaban College, Gurucharan College and the So, Murarichand College, Sylhet are some of the illustrations on the point. So, if there is any earnestness on the part of the local people of Hailakandi

they should move in the matter and give tangible proof of their earnestness. If there is really any need for any Girls' High School, which I do not deny, certainly it is up to the local Zemindars and rich people to come forward with handsome contribution and then ask Government to do their duty. If they fail in their duty they cannot expect Government to do everything for them.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : I may inform the hon. member that the local Mirasdars will come forward with their contributions if Government takes up the project.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : I wished I had heard hon. Miss Mavis Dunn on this subject of girls' education, but I can well presume that she is taking up the cause of the sex she represents.

So far as the Hailakandi girls' schools is concerned, I can say that this was not really brought to my particular notice. Hon. members know what little money we have been able to provide for secondary education—a sum of Rs. 20,000 for the whole of the Province! Within the limitation of the fund that is at our disposal we may think of taking the case of this school into consideration. That is all I can say at present.

**Babu HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI** : With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Mr. C. GOLDSMITH** : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,05,900 under Grant No.16, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I have given in my note that the object of moving this motion is to bring to the notice of Government the long-felt grievances of certain backward communities for not getting grants for Middle English schools. It is clear, therefore, that I do not like to censure Government or criticise them for not giving grants to these schools. To some extent we realise the financial difficulties of Government in the past, but these schools which I shall mention below are in desperate need of help now. I think, Government should look to the backward people and do something for their education. The schools that I will mention are amongst various backward races living in out-of-the-way places far from district and subdivisional headquarters—some on the borders of hills and some miles and miles away from any High or Middle English school.

There are six such schools which were started by these people themselves from their own contribution and donation to start with, but which now need help of Government so that they may be run efficiently and successfully. There is one Middle English school at Harisingha amongst Kacharis in Mangaldai subdivision, one is at Haraputa for girls in Goalpara North amongst Santals, another at Tokrajhar amongst Boros, the fourth is Rongjeng Middle English school in Goalpara South Bank at the foot of the Garo Hills amongst Garos, the fifth is Gohalkona Middle English school, Kamrup, amongst Garos and the sixth is the Paul Memorial school in Sibsagar catering mostly for the *ex-garden* labour community.

These are all amongst various backward communities and so they should be pitied for their helplessness and encouraged in their efforts.

After primary education these people do not know where to go. They find it difficult to go to towns where schooling is expensive. Therefore, they get together and contribute money regularly for school building, equipment and pay of teachers. But, Sir, we all know that with such help a Middle

English school cannot be run efficiently and successfully. In spite of inadequate funds they are doing excellent work. The reason is that they are very eager for education and have sacrificing spirit. There are Government schools which are sufficiently helped and which are fully equipped. Pay of the teachers there is high and naturally they can have efficient work. But, in some schools even run by Government, the work is not as efficient as it should be. But I can assure the hon. members that those schools among the backward communities, though they do not get any grant from the Government, are doing excellent work. So is it not incumbent on Government, when these people started the schools by themselves, to come forward to help them? 95 per cent. of the students of those schools will stop their education after Middle English School standard. They do not aspire to go to the High School and the College. So when this is their life's aspiration to finish the Middle English school, should not Government come forward to help them? If it is the policy of Government to help those who help themselves, I think, these are the people who ought to get Government's first aid. Of the backward races in the plains, the Kacharis and the Garos have the keenest interest in and desire for education. Almost all these Middle English schools I have mentioned have hostels attached to them and we all know how expensive it is to run a hostel. Therefore they are more in need of help. Government cannot for long be deaf towards the incessant demands for grant for these schools. Will Government therefore be pleased to enquire whether these schools really merit any help and if so, may I know from the Hon'ble Education Minister whether he will consider their case when distribution of funds amongst the backward people of Assam which are being put in the Budget is made?

I agree with the Hon'ble Premier when he mentioned just a while ago that university education is not the desire or vision of the mass people. It is only the primary and Middle English education which they desire and to meet that reasonable wish I request the Hon'ble Premier to have special consideration for these schools which are just trying to help themselves and have contributed their utmost towards the education which Government should have taken up.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved—

“That the provision of Rs.3,05,900 under grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduce by Re.1.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Mr. Goldsmith seems to be very liberal indeed because he has neither criticised nor censured the Government. He is only bringing to the notice of the Government certain facts. But, I am sorry that he is not aware of what action has been taken by the Hon'ble Premier and the Director of Public Instruction in this matter because when we came to Shillong we proposed which schools are to be taken up and what aid should be given. In the Garo Hills there are some Middle English schools under Government aided basis and the Hon'ble Premier has been kind enough to look to these schools and we had represented the case of Garo Hills while he was there for a short time.

And here also in Shillong we have submitted to him all the list of our requirements. So, I am not prepared to support this motion. Nor am I in a position to support it (*laughter*). The hon. member is too late (*laughter*).

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech delivered by my hon. friend Mr. Jobang D. Marak has really amused us

very much. I am very glad to note that the Hon'ble Premier during his last visit, or the departmental heads, have satisfied him and his Garo people.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** No, not all. I do not say that (*laughter*).

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** It would be better still that he takes note of some schools in his own district which have been mentioned by my friend Mr. Goldsmith.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** He has not mentioned any.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Rongjeng.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** That is on aided basis getting some Rs.25 only.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Rongjeng is in the Garo Hills and within his *Elaka*. About my district of Goalpara, I have known 3 schools which are really in need of Government help.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Which school?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** The schools that Mr. Goldsmith has mentioned in the north bank, particularly at Tokrajhar, Sidli and Haraputa. I have also to mention that there is a Garo school at Nishangram which is also in dire need of help. These are local grievances of backward communities which I want to ventilate in this cut motion.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier two local Middle English schools which are struggling for existence for the past few years. One is.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion brought forward for one purpose cannot be availed of for discussing any other purpose.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** These relate to certain questions regarding education so far as Muhammadars are concerned. The Muhammadans are very backward in education.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That is an assumption by the hon. member.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** I was referring to Bamoy Middle English school in Thana Lakhai, district Sylhet. And the other is Harisurna Middle English school, Madhabpur post office, and Katihera Madrassa in Lakhai

**Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF:** Sir, it is well known to this House that the immigrants, both Hindus and Muhammadans, are backward educationally and economically. In my subdivision of Barpeta there are two Middle English schools, one at Tarabari and the other at Majuli. These schools are run by the immigrants and it is a matter of regret that the Government has not yet done anything to help these institutions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** This is also raising quite a different point.

**Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF:** Sir, if the immigrant communities are not backward.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** They are not backward in the accepted sense of the term.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Government themselves have labelled the immigrants as backward communities while they made provision for primary education for backward communities.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is that so?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir, we have done that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If it is so then that is all right,

**Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF:** I simply want to bring it to the notice of the Government that if these two schools are not helped then the education of the immigrants will badly suffer. What I say will be supported by my two Congress friends sitting behind the Treasury Benches. I hope these institutions will receive due consideration from the Government.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** In going to support this motion, I beg to bring to the notice of the Government certain grievances of certain localities which if redressed, I think, will be of great benefit to the scheduled castes and other backward people of the localities, namely Roha High English School at Raha and the Hariamukh Lower Primary School in the district of Nowgong. I do not say that by merely redressing the grievances of these two localities that the entire scheduled castes people of the province would be benefited. Here what I want to bring to the notice of the province is that the policy as a whole of giving communal representation in services and adopting measures for the uplift of the depressed classes people is being maintained only in paper and is not being translated into action. Sir, at first I want to say as regards appointments.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Is he not talking of another question?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes; there is no question here of appointments.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** I am just criticising the Government for not giving their due attention to the general policy of giving communal representation in services and adopting measures for the uplift of scheduled castes people of the Province.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No such question arises on this motion which is only for criticising "the long-felt grievances of certain backward communities for not getting grants for Middle English School". Why should the hon. member introduce the question of appointments in this?

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Then Sir, I may just refer to another thing. There is a provision in the Poona Pact that in every province, out of the educational grant, some grant should be earmarked for the educational facilities of the scheduled castes. Here we find in the Budget that the little share of the scheduled castes has been amalgamated with that of the tribal and immigrant people. The result will be that some community of some area from which there is no representation in the Assembly, will remain deprived of the benefit of the purposes for which this amount is set apart. For example, there is a toll bridge at Dharamtul in Nowgong. The member of the Legislative Assembly of the tribal community from the district of Nowgong belongs to the Lalung community. It is why the Government ordered to settle the said toll bridge with the Lalungs to the exclusion of the other castes people of the Tribal community because the member comes from that community (*Hear, hear*). The same thing will also happen in the matter of distribution of the separate grant for the spread of primary education for the scheduled castes, tribal and immigrant people.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should speak only for five minutes. He is not to introduce other things than what is relevant to the object mentioned in the motion.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** There are cut motions and I have given notices of two. So, I shall have no time to place my grievances.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** So does the hon. member say that he should introduce all matters in this cut motion?

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** I shall be very brief.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What has the hon. member to say about grants?



**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :** Now what I want to point out to the House is that there is a great deal of lack of sincerity on the part of the Government (*Hear, hear*), in taking up the cause of the downtrodden scheduled castes and other backward people.

The Government is maintaining the policy for the uplift of the depressed classes people in paper only. It will be evident from the facts that certain local grievances to the benefit of these downtrodden people though previously promised by two Hon'ble Ministers now occupying the Treasury Bench, have not yet been redressed in spite of repeated reminders given. First of all, I want to mention about the Raha High English School. Sir, two remarks were made one by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, and other by the Hon'ble Minister Babu Akshay Kumar Das, on this School.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** That is quite irrelevant. The hon. member will please take his seat. He is introducing all sorts of irrelevant things into the discussion.

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI\* :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. The hon. mover of this motion and his supporter, Dr. Saikia, do not know what the Government is doing now regarding Harisinga school. Government have decided to give between Rs.45 to Rs.50 a month to that school. Dr. Saikia referred to a high school at Raha. But that school gets Rs.100 a month.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member should not speak of that school.

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI :** As regards all the schools mentioned by Mr. Goldsmith some grants will be given from the next April. It has been agreed to by responsible officers of the Education Department that we should get the necessary grants for our middle schools. Without knowing these facts the hon. member has brought this motion. I therefore oppose this motion.

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this motion I beg to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that Dalgaon, Samabari and Sialmari mouzas are almost entirely occupied by immigrants.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** On a point of order, Sir. The other day we heard of a certain member representing immigrants saying that they were really coming to Assam to impart education and enlightenment to the Assamese *Siksha* and *Diksha*. Do they want to say at the same breath that they belong to the backward community. In other words, are they entitled to bring them under this motion ?

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI :** *Siksha* means plough.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** I am glad to hear, Sir, that Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali is importing the immigrants to give us *Siksha* and *Diksha*.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has it been accepted by the Government that the term 'backward communities' will also include immigrants ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** The immigrants of course will be considered eligible to receive the special attention of Government, but they are not backward communities. We say, backward communities and immigrants.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then Mr. Badaruddin Ahmed will please say his point of view.

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED :** Sir, I have found in the Budget Memorandum that immigrants, Tribals and Schedules are put under the same heading and Rs.25,000 has been allotted for primary education for all these classes together.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** From that it cannot be inferred that immigrants should also be included among backward communities.

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, in these three mauzas there is only one Middle English School and this school has been maintained by the immigrants for years on their own subscription. Now, during these days of hardship, if Government will not come forward with some aid to the school, the school will have to be stopped. I would draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this fact and hope that he will come forward with some aid.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the grievances which have been made out by hon. members all refer to particular localities. I am glad that my hon. friend Mr. Goldsmith has thought of the schools. I do not have all the names of the schools in my mind just now, but as regards the list of 5 schools he has given, we shall try to provide funds—at any rate for most of these schools. That is all I can say for the present.

Regarding the suggestion made by my hon. friend Mr. Badaruddin, that does not actually come under this motion. But when we allot money for the education of the immigrants, we shall remember his suggestion and try to provide funds.

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED:** On a point of information, Sir. During the last session the Hon'ble Minister in replying to a question, as far as I remember, said that he would provide some money for this school. May I know that?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir, I have already given the reply.

**Mr. C. GOLDSMITH:** Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, may I move my motion No.25?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I understand that it has been decided by the party that this motion will not be moved.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Our Party had selected 9 motions for discussion. One of them, Mr. Matior Rahman's motion No.20, was to be taken up, but he was absent at the time. In place of No.20 Mr. Jahanuddin wants to move No.25. This means going back from No.26. If you would allow that, he will move.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I have no objection.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.3,05,900 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 118 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Re.1. I wish, Sir, to criticise the policy of Government for not giving grants in various schools in the province.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The scope of this motion is very wide.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, I intentionally put this in this way so that my hon. friends from various districts may speak about grievances under this motion. Personally, I want to place before the Hon'ble Minister the grievances of the district from which I come, namely Goalpara. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has himself visited the South Salmara High School on his way to Tura and he has personally seen the condition of the people of that area. From Goalpara down up to Mymensingh there is no High School, and this is the only High School which was established by the public themselves with contributions. Sir, every one of this House

knows it very well that as severe flood visited that portion of the district, the condition of the people is very bad and so the present condition of that school has become very very deplorable because the subscriptions that were raised previously are not coming forth now due to the deplorable condition of the tenants. So, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will be kind enough to give at least some grants to this school. So far as I understand from the Secretary of that School, the Hon'ble Minister gave an assurance that if the number of students exceeds 170 then he will be in a position to give some grants. I should like to point out that though the number of students has not exceeded 170, still it is something like 130. The number of students decreased due to havoc created by the flood and if help from Government comes forth then I can say that the number of students is sure to increase within this year.

Then Sir, I like to say something about the Middle English Madrasas in the district of Goalpara. From the grant of last year which was made to these Madrasas, we have opened some new Madrasas. These Madrasas were not fully developed then as now and so I hope Government will give a greater amount of grant to these schools. But Sir, from the budget which was presented before this House, I find that the amount left for the grant of Madrasas has decreased instead of increasing. I will read from page 112.—Madrasa—voted budget estimate of 1939-40, non-excluded area—voted Rs.40,330 and the budget estimate of 1938-39, *i.e.*, for last year, was Rs.42,796. Now Sir, it is apparent that Government has decreased it by Rs.2,400 and some odds. Sir, we were expecting that we will be getting grants from the Government in the near future and so we started many Madrasas just to impart education among the illiterate Mussalman people. As it is well known to all, the Mussalmans are very fond of their religious teachings and by including that religious teaching in the Madrasa course, we are bringing them to the light of education. But Sir, we fail to understand why Government decreased the grant instead of increasing it. If it is the intention of Government not to impart education among the Muhammadan masses then I have nothing to say, but I hope the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Education will see that at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ th *i.e.*, Rs.5,000, of the money granted for the secondary education is given to these Madrasas, because these Madrasas have now developed and they require increased amount of grant. With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.3,05,900 under Grant No.16, Major head.—37.—Education, Minor head.—F.—Direct grants to non-Government Secondary schools (total), at page 118 of the budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Re.1".

**Maulavi Sheikh OSMAN ALI SADAGAR :** সভাপতি মহোদয়, বাজেট

বক্তৃতায় সে দিন আমি হাইস্কুল সম্বন্ধে বলিয়াছিলাম। আমাদের ওখানে একটা হাইস্কুল

১২ বৎসর হইল হইয়াছে।

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI :** কোথায় ?

**Maulavi Sheikh OSMAN ALI SADAGAR :** আলিটান্ধনীতে।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** আপনি একটু আগয়ে আসুন।

**Maulavi Sheikh OSMAN ALI SADAGAR :** আমার বাজেট বক্তৃতায় এই

স্কুল সম্বন্ধে বলিয়াছিলাম এবং সেই স্কুল সম্বন্ধে আজও বলতে চাই। এই স্কুলটা ১২ বৎসর হইল

হইয়াছে এবং ২০০ ছাত্র আছে কিন্তু আর পর্যাপ্ত গবর্ণমেন্টের কোন সাহায্য পায় নাই।  
আমি চাই সেই স্কুলে যেন সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়।

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I take this opportunity to place before the Hon'ble Prime Minister certain local grievances about one High school called 'Umatunnessa High School.' So far as this School is concerned, I think, I have on three or four occasions brought to the notice of this House the miserable existence of this school. The Muhammadans are generally very shy in contributing towards any private enterprise. As regards this school, one lady has given her everything towards establishment and the maintenance of this school. Now, apart from this High School, I also like to place the case of two other Middle English Schools in my own constituency. One is in Harishama village in the Madhabpur thana. I would like to place this fact before the Hon'ble Premier that so far as this Middle English School is concerned, it is situated on the border of this province. Probably this is the reason why it is not receiving any aid from anybody. This school is mostly manned by boys of scheduled castes and the Muhammadans who belong to the peasant class. I understand that for six or seven years the school is being run, but last year the Headmaster and other leading persons connected with the school came to me for aid. I sent them to the Director of Public Instruction, and I don't know what was done. But this time they have approached me with a request to place the matter before the Hon'ble Premier for his consideration.

The other Middle English School is situated in Bamai within Lakhai thana. I shall not feel any delicacy to say that so far as this thana is concerned we have got people who are much advanced in education, and some of them hold high places in service and other spheres of life, but so far as the local people are concerned they are very much backward in education. The aristocrat people of the thana are scattered in the metropolis, and so nobody has taken any note of the people who are living in the villages. The result is that in the whole thana there is only one Middle English School which is patronised by a benevolent Mirashdar of the locality whose name is Raj Kamal Chaudhury and others. The other day he informed me about this poor finance, and told me, having regard to the fact that the Mirashdars are now in danger of being ruined, that he will not be able to maintain the school further. This is the only institution of its kind giving light to the local people. So, I request the Hon'ble Premier to consider the case of this Middle English School favourably which it undoubtedly deserves. I also bring it to the notice of the Government about Katibora Madrasa in Lakhai police station.

With these words I beg to resume my seat.

**Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, বন্ধুপ্রবর মৌলবী জাহাঙ্গির সাহেবের ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আমি সমর্থন করি এবং তৎসম্পর্কে আমি আমার সাবডিভিশন গোয়ালপাড়ার সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিব। গোয়ালপাড়া টাউন হইতে মৈমনসিংহের সীমানা প্রায় ৭০।৮০ মাইল দূর হইবে। ইহার ভিতর কোনই স্কুল ছিল না। কিছুদিন পূর্বে দক্ষিণ শালমারায় জনসাধারণের সাহায্যে একটা মাত্র স্কুল খোলা হইয়াছে কিন্তু এ পর্যাপ্ত ঐ স্কুলে গবর্ণমেন্ট হইতে কোনই সাহায্য পাওয়া যাইতেছে না। এই ৭০।৮০ মাইলের ভিতর অনুমান ২।।০ কি ৩ লক্ষ লোকের বাস হইবে। ঐ অঞ্চলে হিন্দু, মুসলমান, গারো, মেছ, রাজবংশী, রাতা ইত্যাদি সকল জাতির লোকই বাস করে।

তাহাদের শিক্ষার জন্ত শালমারাতে এই একটি মাত্র হাইস্কুলই স্থাপন হইয়াছে। জামাদারহাটে একটা মাইনর স্কুল আছে কিন্তু সেখানে সকলে যাইতে পারে না। বর্তমানে লক্ষীপুরে একটা হাইস্কুল খোলা হইয়াছে কিন্তু সেটাতেও গবর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্য পাওয়া যায় নাই। জমিদারগণও সাহায্য করিতেছেন না সেই জন্ত সেই স্কুল ভালভাবে চলিতেছে না। আমি বলি ঐ অঞ্চলে অল্পমত জাতির চাইতে ইমিগ্রেন্টের সংখ্যা অনেক বেশী হইবে এবং তাহার সকলেই মুসলমান ধর্মাবলম্বী। এই বাজেটে দেখা যায় যে, যখন অল্পমত সম্প্রদায়ের কথা উত্থাপন হয় এবং কোন সম্প্রদায়কে যখন backward বলিয়া ধরা হয় তখন ইমিগ্রেন্ট-দিগকে backward বলিয়া বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট ধরিতে ইচ্ছুক কি না জানি না। উন্নত সম্প্রদায় হিসাবেও এই ইমিগ্রেন্টদের ধরা হয় না, backwardদের সঙ্গেও ধরা যদি না হয় এই ইমিগ্রেন্টদের স্থান কোথায়? বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট তাহাদের শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে কেন উদাসিনতা এবং কৃপণতা দেখাইতেছেন তাহার কারণ বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। আমি আশা করি গবর্ণমেন্ট তাহাদের এইরূপ অল্পমত উদাসিনতা ও কৃপণতা না দেখাইয়া এইসব স্কুলে অগোণে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ সাহায্য দিবেন এবং অল্পমত সম্প্রদায়ের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্ত স্কুলের অভাব দূর করিবেন। আমাদের গোয়ালপাড়া সবডিভিসনে চুনারি মাইনর স্কুল, লক্ষীপুর হাইস্কুল এবং দক্ষিণ শালমারা হাইস্কুলে শীঘ্র গবর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্য দেওয়া একান্ত বাঞ্ছনীয় বলিয়া আমি মনে করি। তারপর আসাম ভেলীতে একটি মাত্র কাটারীহারা মজাহারুল উলুম শিনিয়ার মাদ্রাসা আছে। মরহুম সাহ সৈয়দ নছির উদ্দিন আহাম্মদ কাদেরী বোগদাদী পির সাহেব বহু চেষ্টা যত্নে এবং অসংখ্য টাকা ব্যয়ে উক্ত মাদ্রাসা স্থাপন করিয়া বহুকাল যাবত তিনি উহা নিজেই সমস্ত ব্যয়ভার বহন করিয়া চালাইয়া আসিতেছিলেন, উক্ত মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদের বেতন গ্রহণ করা হইত না। তজ্জন্ত বিভিন্ন স্থানের গরীব লোকের লেখা পড়া শিখিবার বিশেষ সুবিধা হইয়াছিল। আজ কয়েক বৎসর গত হয় তাঁহার মৃত্যু হইয়াছে, বর্তমানে তাঁহার ষ্টেটের অবস্থা খুব খারাপ হইয়াছে। গত প্লাবনে ঐ অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের অবস্থা আশা নীত শোচনীয় হওয়ায়—ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও কেহ এই মাদ্রাসায় সাহায্য দিতে পারিতেছেন না। গবর্ণমেন্ট হইতে বর্তমানে যে সামান্য সাহায্য দিতেছেন তাহাতে ঐ মাদ্রাসা চলিতে পারে না। আসাম ভেলীর মুসলমানের ধর্ম, গ্রন্থ, আদব, কায়দা এবং জাতীয়তা শিক্ষার জন্ত এই একটি মাত্র হাই মাদ্রাসা আছে। সেই জন্ত ঐ মাদ্রাসার সাহায্য আর বৃদ্ধি করিতে আমি বলিতেছি। গোয়ালপাড়া মহকুমায় মাত্র তিনটি জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসা আছে। একটা রাখালডুবিতে, একটা চাকলায় এবং একটা গোয়ালপাড়ায়। চাকলা মাদ্রাসায় গবর্ণমেন্ট হইতে মাত্র ৩৫ সাহায্য দেওয়া হয় কিন্তু লোক সংখ্যা এবং ছাত্র সংখ্যা অনুপাতে ঐ সামান্য সাহায্যে কিছুই হয় না। উহা বৃদ্ধি করা উচিত। আমার কনষ্টিটিয়েন্সিতে প্রায় ৮৭ হাজার মুসলমানের বাস কিন্তু সেখানে একটা মাত্র মাদ্রাসা আছে। স্থানীয় লোকে ৫,০০০ খরচ করিয়া সুন্দর একটা ঘর করিয়াছে। সেখানে গবর্ণমেন্ট মাত্র ২০ সাহায্য দেন এবং ঐ টাকায় মাদ্রাসা চলিতে পারে না। ইতিপূর্বে

এই বিষয়ে শিক্ষা বিভাগের কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা সত্ত্বেও সাহায্য বৃদ্ধি করা হয় নাই কাজেই পিছনে পিছনে পড়িয়া থাকা দেশের অল্পমত সম্প্রদায় যাহারা শিক্ষা পাইতেছে না এবং লেখাপড়া শিখিবার যাহাদের সুবিধা নাই তাহাদের শিক্ষার জন্ত বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট (যাহারা গরীবের মা বাপ বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতেছেন) যেন আশু তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি দেন এবং অবশ্য অবশ্য তাহাদের শিক্ষা দীক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। এই বলিয়া আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি।

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Government the case of Rameswar High English School, which has been established at Barbarua. This School has been tagged to the Barbarua Middle English School, and classes III to IX have been opened, and this has been done with the help of the donation from a local Marwari firm, Rampat Dass Rameswar. The school has 150 students on its roll and most of these students come from the backward tribal Kachari community. So I think, local people sent in a representation that Government might be pleased to give them a suitable grant for the maintenance of this school. I hope Mr. Rabi Kachari will not oppose this motion.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** May I speak on all kinds of schools, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As I said this is an omnibus cut. So, all kinds of schools may be discussed.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the needs of the Roha High School. We have been told by the hon. member Mr. Rabichandra Kachari that the grant to this school has already been increased. I do not know whether the increase has been done now in their party meeting. Will the hon. member kindly inform us whether it was increased in their party meeting. But I do not find it so allotted in the budget. If the grant has been already sufficiently increased, I have nothing to say about the Roha High School. It was brought to the notice of the Government that there are a large number of scheduled castes boys in that school, and if the grant is sufficiently increased and the Government meet the other needs of this school, that would benefit the scheduled castes and other tribal students of the locality which is to a great extent inhabited by these classes of people. But we find that though this school was visited by two of the Hon'ble Ministers of the present Congress Coalition Cabinet and though remarks were made by them to the effect that this school deserved though deration of the Government regarding increase of the grant, one-third of the students being from depressed class and that this Government is pledged to that effect, nothing palpable has been done yet.

Then coming to the Bebejia Middle English School, I beg to say that it is running for 12 or 13 years without any aid from the Government. I hope Government will kindly take notice of this and make a grant as soon as possible towards this. As regards the Girls' High English School at Nowgong, I beg to say that it has been recently started, for it was a Middle English School before and is now raised to the standard of a High English School. The school occupies a beautiful site and a beautiful building, but their grievances are many. At present, the school is getting government grant of Rs.100 per mensem which is quite inadequate. I hope the Government will take notice of it immediately and see their way to increase the grant by a considerable amount.

Then about the Kampur High English School at Nowgong. The other day, in the month of December last I was present at Kampur when the Hon'ble Premier was given an address there by the public. He said, I distinctly remember, that as soon as the building of the Kampur High English School would be completed, Government would give a grant-in-aid.

**Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, Sir, I did not commit anything. I simply said that Government would consider the matter.

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Whether the Hon'ble Premier committed or not it is for the House to see. But he spoke in this distinct words. "As soon as the buildings will be completed, I shall give a grant." I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier that the building is already completed and I hope he will keep his words now. About the Marigaon High School in the same manner I heard, he replied to an address given to him there that as soon as the building would be completed, he would give a grant though I was not present at the meeting. I hope the Hon'ble the Premier would be kind enough to extend his helping hand to the Marigaon High English School also as the building over there is also completed. With these hopes that the Government will please see to the needs of these schools and try to help them as far as possible by increasing the grant where there is already a grant and also giving grants to those schools where there are none, I beg to resume my seat.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** Sir, may I speak a few words about Middle English Madrasas.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMED MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier that Middle English Madrasas are daily increasing in number. These institutions are in name Madrasas but are rather combined institutions where Hindus and Muslim boys receive education together. In villages where it is difficult to establish Middle English Schools, it is very easy to establish Madrasas, because the name of Madrasas attracts the Muhammadans. Now there were some Madrasas which are receiving only Rs.20, 25, 30 or 35 and so on as grants. These grants are practically insufficient in running the institutions. Of course there are some Madrasas which are getting Rs.50 or 60 per mensem. I simply draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier that he will kindly review the whole situation and see that sufficient money can be provided for the extension of the Middle English Madrasa scheme and for new grant to venture Madrasas and for increasing the grants of those Madrasas which are getting grants from Government. With these words, I beg to resume my seat.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this cut motion is to censure the Government for not giving grants to various Schools in the Province, but I think, Sir, instead of criticising the Government there should be also a motion to thank the Government for the policy of giving grants to various Schools in the Province. There are so many of such Schools. So I am not in a position to support the motion.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I feel that I should rather be congratulated if not for one thing, namely, that various Schools to which our attention has been drawn were already known by me and are really under the consideration of the Government just now. But from the list itself just now presented by the hon. member, it will have to be seen whether, with the twenty thousand rupees that we have provided, it will be possible to provide for all the schools that have been named. Therefore, in such matters, Government must be given certain

discretion to choose according to the importance of the schools. Sir, we have allotted, as I said, a certain amount for tribal education, a certain amount for scheduled caste education and some amount for immigrant also. Now, in so far as the tribal education is concerned, some reference has been made to some schools, and the Roha School would surely come under that category. The Roha school is meant pre-eminently for tribal and scheduled class boys and the Government in the pursuance of their policy shall have to render the necessary aid to it. Regarding the Marigaon school, it was said that I had promised to give it help. This is not quite true; what I said was that if the public could raise a suitable building for it, it would be time for the Government to consider to give a grant, and we shall stick to what we have said. Then, our particular attention has been drawn to the South Salmara School, and I desire to say a few words in reference to that. Although the scheme for taking venture schools was not yet ready, it was definitely in our minds that this school really deserved immediate help. It is a fact that within a distance of nearly 30 miles from Goalpara up to the border of Mymensingh there is hardly any high school, and that was one reason which weighed with this Government to consider taking up that school as early as possible.....

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** From Goalpara to the Mymensingh border the distance is about 80 miles, and there are no high schools between the villages lying in that locality.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am glad to be corrected.

But, I may inform the House that when I made an inspection of the school both on my way to the Garo Hills and back, I found that the number on the roll was only 109. I do not know what the actual attendance was. Under the University Rules, no school can be recognised if the number on its roll is less than 150. Now, I really see the difficulty of this school. Formerly the Local Board used to give it a grant of some Rs.60 or 63. That grant has also been withdrawn for the reason that under the present rules the Local Board cannot give any aid to high school education. I therefore thought that if somehow the school could show a muster-roll which was admissible under the University rules, the Government would be most willing to give a grant to it. I hope, it will be possible to have that number with the opening of the new session, and if that is done, the Government will have no difficulty in giving aid to this school.

Then regarding Alitangoni and Dalgaon Schools, these are all under our consideration. Regarding the Lakhipur and Chunari schools—(the latter has not come into existence yet and I do not think Chunari School is even an Middle English School yet) I am sure when the school is raised to the status of a normal school, Government will consider the desirability of giving it help. Regarding the Barbara School, I made a personal inspection of this school, and subject to funds being available from the tribal allotment, we are taking the question of this school into our consideration.

Then, Sir, regarding the Madrasas, it has been said that we have not made any allotment for it. On the other hand it can be shown that an increase of Rs.1,000 has been made. Of course this has been made in the course of increase which will come in the course of normal expansion—in other words for providing money for the teachers that were there, but it may be remembered that middle vernacular education would include also the cases of Madrasas, and therefore we have thought that in allotting funds, that matter should also be considered by the Department. In the matter of giving grants to Madrasas, I am particularly anxious to see that only new Madrasas are considered. Those that want to come into existence



should be given help to do so, and therefore it is no question of our neglecting the case of the Madrasas. I hope that however small the allotment may be, something might be given for the cause of Madrasa education also.

I think I have replied to all the points that have been raised, and in view of what I have said.....

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** What about the Middle English Schools in Habiganj Subdivision. This case has been sent to the Government. The grant-in-aid that the Local Board used to get from the Government has been discontinued, and so the Local Board has reduced the grants to these schools?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That raises a very great question of policy, but we do not see why the Local Board should not give the aid. If these grants were to be restored by Government, it would mean that Government shall have to pay at least Rs.30,000. The Bamai School is probably one of the schools, and we have taken note of that, and although the funds are very small, the cases of these schools will be taken into consideration, within the limitation of funds at our disposal according to their importance.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** In view of the assurance given, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** I beg to move, Sir,

"That the provision of Rs.1,200 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Primary Education—I.—Government Primary Schools, Sub-head—(a)—Primary Schools for boys (i)—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Lump provision for Training of Teachers, at page 119 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.1,200."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** This motion raises a question of economy. The hon. member must show how this question arises.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir. The other day Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury asked a starred question and you told him that he should bring a separate motion to discuss the matter.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I said that any hon. member is quite entitled to table a motion and then have a discussion for that purpose.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Sir, this is a provision which has been included in the new projects or new schemes by the Government in the budget provision for the coming year. It finds place in the Memorandum at page 91 where it has been mentioned that a sum of Rs.1,200 is required for carrying out the Wardha scheme. Now, Sir, as a Mussalman, I fear we cannot accord our approval to a scheme which is seriously detrimental to the religious and cultural interests of the Mussalmans. It is not unknown to the hon. members of this House that this scheme particularly has been very seriously condemned and opposed by the Mussalmans of India. Why it has been so vehemently opposed by the Mussalmans of India can be evident from certain facts which I shall try to bring out before the members of this Hon. House. Sir, if anybody cares to go through it with a clear mind and with scrutinising eyes, he will have to admit that this is a scheme which will seriously tell upon the religious and cultural interests of the Muslims. Mussalmans are quite a distinct community in certain respects. For instance their culture is quite a different thing which no other person of India can have. By the daily cultural habit they form a distinct and

different community. It is one of the most serious problems before the Indian Nation to-day that the solution of communal problem—the Hindu-Moslem problem—cannot be solved unless the culture of the Mussalmans is totally changed and with that view it appears that this scheme has been prepared only to remove the cultural identity of the Mussalmans. If this scheme is introduced, and if it is followed by the Mussalmans, I can boldly say that the Mussalmans will be wiped out from the surface of India (*Laughter*) and there will be Mussalmans by name only, as in Spain. At one time Spain was fully populated by Mussalmans, but now the community as a whole has been extinct because they are Muslims only in name. In religious culture they are no better than the Christians (*laughter from the European benches*). That will be the fate of the Mussalmans of India also if they are to be educated under this scheme. They will be extinct from the surface of this country (*Laughter*).

Sir, this is a matter of detail. Only my argument before this House is that the present Government is pledged to safeguard the interests of the minority communities and the Mussalmans of this province being a minority community, must not be dealt in their hands against their will. It is not unknown to the hon. members of this House that the Muslims in other parts of the country are offering *satyagraha* and are embracing jails in thousands. Many Muhammadan youths including sons of Nawabs and of high families are undergoing imprisonment by offering *satyagraha*. The Muhammadans as a whole oppose this scheme. The Jamait-ul-ulema which is a religious organisation of the Mussalmans and the Muslim League in a chorus have condemned it and have named this as Gandhi Scheme. Even an hon. member of the Congress Cabinet, I think, in the Bihar Government, has declared it as Gandhi scheme. With these words, I would press Government that they should not introduce such a scheme which in the near future will tell upon the culture of the Muslims. It is not incumbent on the part of the Government that they should introduce such a scheme which is very strongly opposed by the entire Muslim community of India. With these words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.1,200 under grant No.16, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—Primary Education—I—Government Primary Schools—Sub-head (a)—Primary School for boys (i)—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Lump provision for training of teachers at page 119 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.1,200.”

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion whole-heartedly. The other day I heard from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the author of this scheme was Dr. Zakir Hussain. My friend Dewan Ahab Chaudhury said that he had no confidence in him, but I look upon him with a different angle of vision. Sir, I yield to none in my respect for Dr. Zakir Hussain. I have not the fortune of knowing him personally, but I have learnt about him from Madame Khalide Edib who devoted a pretty long chapter in her memorable book entitled “Inside India” about Dr. Zakir Hussain. Dr. Zakir Hussain is a man of extraordinary ability—of international fame. He has long beard and he says his prayers regularly. He is a pucca “*Musalli*.” It is he who made Jamca Millia a success.

But this scheme was not drawn by him independently. It will be proved from the letter he wrote while submitting his scheme. He wrote to

Mahatma Gandhi as follows :—

“Mahatmaji, I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Committee appointed by the Wardha Conference on the 23rd October, 1937, to formulate a scheme of basic education on the lines suggested by the resolutions of that Conference.”

So Dr. Zakir Hussain had not the freedom to formulate this scheme. The line was suggested by the resolution and that resolution was adopted in a Conference which was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi.

Now what is this scheme? You will find that this scheme aims at turning the entire country to some small factories. If we work out this scheme we may have some weavers and craftsmen, but I am sorry this scheme will not produce any Mahatma Gandhi, any C. R. Das, any Zakir Hussain, any Jinnah or even a G. N. Bardoloi (*Loud laughter*). The main object of this scheme is to solve the question of economy and that is also doubtful. But, Sir, we do not live on money alone. We require some training for spiritual advancement also, but the spiritual side in this scheme is blank. This scheme was not only condemned by the Moslem Leaguers who are called communalists by my hon. friends, but also by those who are not such communalists, I mean the *Jamiat-Ul-Ulema* of Delhi which is a branch of the Indian National Congress. If you permit, Sir, I may read out a few passages from the speech delivered at Delhi by Maulana Abdul Haq. This is published in “*Aljamiat*” an official organ of that Jamiat. Under heading “*Wardah Scheme and Vidya Mandir*” he says :—

“*Mulk wa kaum ki tarakki ke liey sanaati taalim ke barabar balke isseh ziyadah mazhabi taalim ki zarurat hai. Keonke amn wa aman awar tahzib wa akhlaq ki ruh mazhabi taalim hi paida kar sekti hai. Awar jabke Hindusthan ki basnewali tamam kaamon ko apni tahzib awar culture ke tahfiz ki zarurat hai, to iski surat sirf ehi ho sekti hai ke inke bachchaonko sahi taur par inki tahzib se ashna kia jai. Mamkin hai ke koi eklimiyat apne is haq seh rastkos ho jai lekin Mussalman to kisi surat se bihi apne is fitri mataleba seh rastbardar nahihosekte.*

*Hame afsus hai ke mazkurai bala har du schemeonme un tamam zaruri pailu-onpar tawajju nahi ki gae. Wardha scheme me sanaat awar hirsat ko lazimi karar dia gaya hai awar usiko ulum wa fanunki taalim ka zaria karardia gaya hai, magar mezhabi taalim kataan nazarandaz kardi gayi hai.*

*Baharhal ham kisi tareh bihi is akidaseh chashm-pushi nahi kar sekti ke hariak munsife hukumat ke dufarz hai—amn awar tarakki. Awar ye dunu farz khushgawari ke sat jabhi ada kija sekti hai ke sanaat wa hirsat ke sat mazhab awar akhlaq ke sat taalim bihi ho.”*

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May I know from the hon. member in what particular place the person concerned has opposed the scheme?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** It aims to convert all to Gandhism. I shall hand over the paper to the Hon'ble Minister, after I have read it.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I have understood the purport of the article read out.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** I shall give only the sum and substance of the points of the passage I read out. He says that the scheme only makes arts and crafts compulsory, but it has entirely ignored religious education. I can say this much. This is the opinion of one of the most learned Alims of India who is entirely in one with the Congress. I may read out a few words from what has been said by a Hindu gentleman Mr. R. Chaudhury, a Barrister.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What would we do with the opinions of others? The hon. member is to show in what respects the scheme is defective.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY :** I will read only three lines, Sir. He says that the Wardah scheme indicates cutting India adrift from the onward march of the times and throwing her a hundred leagues back. Sir, I think the feeling of the entire Moslem community is expressed in the words of Mr. R. Chaudhury. The Muhammadan community cannot accept the scheme at all. This scheme has not only ignored religious education, but it is a direct invasion against Moslem culture and religion in India. It has got some insidious poison in it. Because it encourages materialistic education. So the Muhammadans cannot accept this scheme.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** On a point of information...

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY :** I do not give him time, Sir. It is not my opinion and I do not think myself well versed in religious laws. But I am simply voicing the opinion of the entire Muhammadan community. With these words, I whole-heartedly support the motion and urge upon the Hon'ble Premier to support the motion himself as it affects the right of the minority communities. He may say that by a majority he may defeat the motion. But by this motion being defeated here, he may have defeated its purpose only within this Hall. But beyond the lobbies the defeat will not go. Because the whole Muhammadan community will be with us.

With these few words, I support the motion.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** I think, Sir,.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member should finish within five minutes.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** I think the hon. member who has spoken just now did accept Mahatma Gandhi as also Mr. C. R. Das, men like them as great leaders of India. And Mahatma Gandhi, as our Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru says, is the thermometer of the country and in him we can find for ourselves the temperature of the country. We all accept him as a great man to-day and nobody will deny this. It has been said that the Wardah scheme is Gandhian scheme. And we know also about the Wardah Committee and who was the Chairman or the President of that Committee. I need not name him here. So such great men are trying some new scheme for the uplift of the general education in the country. The small amount that has been proposed in the budget should be granted and it is unreasonable to refuse that. Of course, the Hon'ble Premier will deal with the nature of the scheme, this and that and he will explain all the points. I think most of the hon. members have read the scheme through. Under the circumstances, Sir, we should see our way to allow such experiments as proposed in the scheme and also the budget for the purpose. For this reason, I am very sorry that I cannot support this motion.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, an identical motion, motion No.59 stands in my name and instead of moving that motion, I should be allowed to support this cut motion. The Wardha Scheme has been prepared after hard labour and perseverance. But the time at our disposal is too short and I have got only 5 minutes ; and we are to discuss and give our opinion within this short time. So it is impossible to do justice to the subject. The subject is a vast one. It concerns not only Assam but also the whole of India. The Government should have consulted the opinion of all sections of the people of Assam, before they made such a provision in the budget for the Wardha scheme. The All-India *Jamiat-Ul-Ulema* and the all-India Educational Conference held at Patna recorded their emphatic protest against the introduction of the scheme,

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** This has been pointed out by others,

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** It is an irony of fate, Sir, that the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is also in charge of the portfolio of Education declared that he had no knowledge of the Muslim opinion on the subject. Thus it seems that he ignored the Muslim opinion of India. The Government had made a grim resolve to thrust this unwanted scheme upon us.

Sir, the scheme has made a direct invasion on our religion. We know full well what will be the fate of our cut motion. We Muslims are in a minority in the Assembly and we shall be out-voted and defeated by the Government. Yet we on behalf of the Muslims of this province record our protest with all the emphasis we can command against the introduction of the Wardha scheme. So, Sir, we seek our protection under the Government of India Act. Sir, we are working out the constitution and so we are bound to follow the principles laid down in the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 52 says:—"In the exercise of his functions the Governor shall have the following special responsibilities, that is to say, the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the minorities....."

So, I appeal to His Excellency the Governor of Assam to delete the sum of Rs.1,200 from the budget estimate. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If the House passes it, His Excellency the Governor cannot do anything to alter that decision.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened with great patience and attention to the objections that have been raised against this scheme, known as the Wardha Scheme. Any scheme of education that could tend to the betterment of the condition of the people is always to be welcomed; and I also agree that, if any kind of education infringes on the religious susceptibilities of any community, it should be very seriously considered, whether the scheme should be adopted (*Hear, hear*). I was listening with great patience myself to find out from the arguments that have been advanced how the scheme offended any religious practice of any community, or any culture of any community. All that has been urged before this House, Sir, is that it goes against the religious susceptibilities of the Muslims, but how it does transgress them nobody has explained. Therefore, I take it that the criticism is more or less of a nature of 'give a dog a bad name and then hang him'. How it deserves that bad name has not been made out.

Now, Sir, you will permit me to speak a few words about the whole scheme. I made some attempt to study it. The whole object of the scheme is to create an atmosphere in the village for education and conservation of the little education that the students get in the primary stages—which is very lacking now. The complaint is everywhere, and any educational expert will also tell you, Sir, that the money that we spend on primary education has not been spent in the manner it should have been spent. Even for this province of ours it has been said that if the money that we have been spending on primary education was well utilised, we would have had to-day at least 33 per cent. literacy, instead of having 8. I may be permitted to say that, if there is one reason which is responsible for this state of things, it is that we have not been able to conserve the education that we get in the primary stages. The curriculum as obtaining to-day is more or less of the nature of what we learn in the shape of letters—probably a little more than that—but as soon as the student leaves the school and grows into manhood,

he does not find the use of what he has learned in actual life. The result is that what he has learned and the money that has been spent by the State on his account are altogether lost.

The idea of this education is that some craft should be made the basis of imparting education. It is now agreed that through this craft not only it is possible to teach to a boy within at least a certain period, but also to give him the general education that is necessary to be given to him for an intelligent understanding of his surroundings and getting a knowledge of how he should behave in life. For example one of the basic crafts through which education is sought to be imparted under the Wardha Scheme is, Sir, carpentry. It will be questioned how carpentry could help a boy in getting general education. Well, Sir, it may be that during the first two or three years he may be given only the three Rs. of the craft into which he is initiated. But along with it and in the upper classes an attempt will be made to show how geometry is applicable to carpentry, how botany is applicable to know the quality of the timber to be used for furniture purposes, the composition of paints and varnishes and all sorts of information that is possible to be given for a thorough learning in that craft. Then, Sir, the education that is proposed to be imparted is not so much by notes or text-books, but through the medium of teachers, who, as the scheme contemplates, must be highly learned in the subjects that they are going to teach. The result is that, as soon as the student finishes his course of study, namely seven years, he knows his art, he can talk intelligently about his subject and he knows also the co-related subjects that come under the subject in which he has been taught. Again, it will be seen that the crafts that are proposed to be given are exactly the crafts which a villager who in his day to day life shall have to take recourse to as an ordinary avocation. Thus the policy of giving education in subjects such as agriculture, carpentry, spinning, weaving, sandal making etc., have been adopted by the Committee that was brought to adopt a curriculum only with the object of teaching crafts which would come in the course of the life in villages. Now, Sir, education on Wardha scheme is no longer confined within the four walls of Wardha alone. It may be known that Government of India are also taking up that matter. It was there was a conference of experts where, I know, Dr. Jakir Hussain was invited and he tended his valuable advice.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir. Is Dr. Jakir Hussain a political convert like our Hon'ble Finance Minister? We have got no confidence in him.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I think, I should not reply to his question, in view of the fact that this education has nothing to do with politics. In our opinion, it is an education which is meant for the regeneration of the villagers and in view of that fact we don't think that any politics or any religion are attached to it. Now, I want to know Sir, how such scheme can affect the religious susceptibilities of any of my Muhammadan friends. It would be seen, Sir, that although there was some degree of resistance among the Mussalmans over this kind of education in the beginning, that resistance has now passed away. As I said, Sir, there were some criticisms in some quarters that the whole idea of this scheme was to make certain students slaves, it was alleged in certain quarters that it affected the religious susceptibilities of the Mussalmans. Opinions are being now crystallised that it does not offend the religious susceptibilities of any community. In point of religion, I should like to point out, that the education which is proposed to be given under this Scheme, is not very different from that which is being given in our High Schools. There can be no bar for any student to say his *Namaz* or perform his

religious worship. So, Sir, I venture to submit before the House that this education does not attack on the religious susceptibilities of any community.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** But it attacks the religious teachings.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, Sir, it does not attack the religious teachings of any community.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** The scheme is divorced from religion.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, that is the criticism which was levelled against the scheme by Maulavi Abdul Haque because of the fact that the scheme does not provide for the religious education of any community, but under this scheme there is no bar by which anybody can be stopped from observing his own religious observances. So, Sir, I should say that the scheme does not stand against the religious susceptibilities or the culture of any religion whatever.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** If there should be religious teaching, then that will have to be done by private arrangement. There should not be any Government aid.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The same thing is true of the High School education.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** That is the reason why the Muhammadans are so backward in education.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will it be a news to the Hon'ble Premier Sir, if I say that Mussalmans as a class are averse to any sort of education unless it is coupled with religious education?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** There is nothing to prevent a student from observing his own religious practices.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** That is why we are having Madrassa education.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** As I said, Sir, I do not find that this scheme affects the religion or culture of any community. On the other hand it has been found that this is a scheme which will go for the benefit of the villagers and, therefore, Government think that an experiment on this line should be made. If we find that this scheme is not a successful one then we may have time to abandon it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is—

“That the provision of Rs.1,200 under Grant No.16, Major head 37. - Education, Minor head—Primary Education.—1.—Government Primary Schools, Sub-head—(a) Primary Schools for boys—(i) Pay of establishment, Detailed head—Lump provision for training of teachers at page 119 of the Budget be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.1,200.”

The motion was negatived.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.9,01,876 under Grant No.16, Major head.—37.—Education—Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for primary education (total) at page 120 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, before I proceed I should like to thank Mr. G. D. Birla for the generous donation that he has made for the spread of education in Assam. Though his donation is meant for a particular section of the people, still it is welcome because he is not a resident of this province and I congratulate him for it. Yesterday in reply to question No.166(a) we learnt from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education that not less than 1,040 venture schools are in this province which require grants-in-aid. Our

Hon'ble Prime Minister said on a previous occasion in connection with discussion regarding the University that more attention should be directed towards the poor villagers. I think, the question of these venture schools is not so complicate as that of University. I find in that Budget Memorandum that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has provided Rs.25,000 in the shape of grants-in-aid to the Local Boards to take over some venture schools. Sir, I may point out that this sum of Rs.25,000 is not quite sufficient to take over 1,040 schools.

The Hon'ble Premier has provided more than a lakh of rupees for the scheme of prohibition, but he was kind enough to provide only Rs.25,000 for taking over the venture schools. To me it is more important to take over the venture schools than the prohibition scheme. If anything is wanted in our province it is education, and we see that a healthy tendency is growing up in the villages to establish new schools every year. The list which the Hon'ble Premier has supplied to us shows that in the district of Sylhet there are 442 venture schools while in the district of Kamrup there are 140 schools. If the Hon'ble Premier would provide money on the basis of one teacher for a school, I think Rs.1,50,000 or a little more than that would be sufficient for taking over these schools. But I am sorry to say that the Hon'ble Premier did not give his due consideration to this question. By moving this cut motion, I want to bring to his notice that this is the crying need of the province. There are some places where the number of schools is very small. The poor villagers establish schools, a teacher is brought on a nominal salary, but after struggling for some days the school is abolished for want of grants-in-aid. I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge to this question. I hope he will agree with me and accept my motion, *i.e.*, he will make provision subsequently to take over all the venture schools. This will not only increase the number of aided schools in the villages, but will help to pave the way for bringing into operation the scheme of compulsory primary education.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to move my motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.9,01,876 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.101".

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am in sympathy with the object of this motion; but I just want to explain a little to show that the amount we have provided for primary education is very much more than my hon. friend the mover has stated. It may be seen in the Budget that a provision of Rs.25,000 has been made for primary education, and possibly the hon. mover might have heard from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he was supplementing it with another Rs.25,000, so that Rs.50,000 has been provided for general primary education. Besides that we have allotted, as may be known, Rs.40,000 for the special education of the tribals, the scheduled castes and the immigrants, a considerable portion of which must necessarily go to the cause of primary education. Therefore, Sir, if the whole amount is taken into consideration, we feel that we have at least been able to provide half of the amount which my hon. friend wants us to provide for all the schools. In other words, his scheme would bring the total expenditure to Rs.1,57,500, and at present we have provided at least Rs.75,000 for the cause of primary education. In view of this, I think, instead of receiving criticisms, we should have received congratulations from the hon. mover.



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

“That the provision of Rs.1,24,552 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—General Charges—S.—Scholarship (total) at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100”.

In proposing a cut motion of Rs.100 in the Budget allotment for Education, my intention is to point out the want of care and attention on the part of the present Government, so far as the tea garden labourers are concerned. They have not indicated in the Budget that it is their wish to improve the condition of the tea garden labourers in Assam, in spite of their tall talks that they care for the masses.

It is clear that the present Government care not an iota if the tea labourers continue in their ignorance, if only at their expense, they can wield power. I should point out to this House that there are some hon. members on the Congress Benches, in whose constituencies large masses of *ex-tea* garden labourers are settled, and whose aims should have been to obtain an allotment for the training of labour boys, and for their educational facilities in the form of scholarships. These tea garden labourers who have left the gardens and settled in the *busties* no longer enjoy the same benefits which they were given by their employers while staying in the gardens. They have settled down in the *busties*, and they are remaining backward and illiterate as before, and excepting the Christian missionaries, nobody cares for them. Mr. C. S. Mullan, *i.c.s.*, has rightly said in his Census Report of 1931: “Indeed from many points of view, the social position of coolies and *ex-coolies* is worse than any class in the Province; they are educationally terribly backward: they have no recognised leaders, or associations to press their claims, or to work for their social advancement, they are foreigners to the country, and as a class, they are much addicted to liquor.” Sir, these are not my words, but the words of Mr. Mullan, *i.c.s.*

These labour settlers are direct voters and pay a large revenue and local rates. The Government has not thought it worth while to help the *ex-garden* labourers in any way, and need more attention than any one else, in view of the fact that their interests are in the keeping of some of the hon. Congress members. So far as can be seen, the present Government is callous regarding the interests of the *ex-garden* labourers, who have been forced by circumstances to make Assam their home.

I entreat those members of the House whose place in the Assembly is to some extent dependent on the *ex-garden* labour population to support me in this present cut motion. If the present Government has any desire to help the *ex-garden* labourers, the very least they can do is to readjust their Budget, and allot at least Rs.4,000 for their training and scholarships. There are a large number of labour boys, who have read up to the Middle English Standard, and they could be trained as village teachers. When they have been trained, they will become the best teachers for the labour boys. For a beginning, if twenty of those boys are given training on the same plan as Naga boys are trained by the Inspector of Schools (Assam Valley Division), they may be expected to create a thirst for primary education among the children of the labourers. With these words, Sir, I commend my cut motion for acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs 1,24,552 under Grant No.16, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—General Charges—S—Scholarships (total) at page 125 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

**Srijut BIDESHI PAN TANTI :** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, হাম্ভি এ বিষয় মে এক্ঠো বাত্ বলনে চাতা হৌ। হামলোককো গাৰ্ডেনমে কোন্ স্কুল নেহি, মাষ্টাৰ নেহি, স্কলারশিপ কেইসা হোনে সেক্তা? পইলা হামলোককো স্কুল লাগে, মাষ্টাৰ লাগে, ইনস্পেকশন লাগে, পইলা স্কলারশিপছে কি হবে? স্কুল যো হায় সব বাঙাকো মাফিক। ছুচাৰ বাগান মে স্কুল হোতা রাহা—ভতি, উহা বাঙাকো মাফিক দেখনে যেই স্কুল ছয়া। কামমে কুছ নেহি হয়। উসি আন্তে—পইলা স্কুল লাগে, স্কলার শপছে কোয়া হোগা। হামলোক আভি স্কলারশিপ নেই মান্ততা পইলা স্কুল মান্ততা হয়। ই সি লিয়ে হাম এছি প্রস্তাব্ মে মঞ্জুর নেহি হোনে সেক্তা; মই বিরোধিতা করতা হৌ।

**Mr. C. GOLDSMITH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Mr. Sarwan has spoken, the tea garden community is backward educationally in Assam, I agree with him. As I have said before that amongst the backward communities of Assam, the Kacheries and Garos are the keenest in the matter of education. The *ex-garden* community as a class are backward and they are not so keen for education. They grow crops laboriously and diligently. They cultivate and get their food and if they get their food and clothing they do not mind for anything else. Now the Hon'ble the Education Minister may say: if they are not keen on education why should we provide education for them. But if we really want to develop Assam as a whole, we cannot leave one section of Assam in ignorance and superstition. We must provide for them, I mean those *ex-garden* people living in both the valleys, in such a way whereby they, as people of Assam, have the same privileges as others and rise to the equal level as the rest. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti has said just now, we want schools before we want scholarships. I can tell him that there are many schools among labouring classes. But what they want is more encouragement and therefore, I agree heartily with Mr. Sarwan that if scholarships are granted, they will be greatly encouraged and it will be the duty of the Government to see that this people really have education in future so that they may be advanced. I may say that as regards tea gardens, our hon. members who are coming from the planting constituency would do well if they grant scholarships from their own budget. Twenty-five such scholarships from Government will not be too great a demand that Mr. Sarwan can make. With these few words Sir, I beg to support the motion.

**Srijut OMEMO KUMAR DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to find Mr. Sarwan espousing the cause of the labourers. Let me enlighten members of this House that the Tezpur District Congress Committee has been running several schools in areas inhabited by *ex-tea garden* labourers. Since 1934 the Harijan Shevak Shangha is working amongst tea garden labourers. For the welfare of the tea garden labourers the Congress Committee have been doing their utmost in spite of their meagre funds. The present Ministry came into power only 6 months ago and it is trying its utmost to ameliorate the condition of the tea garden labourers and *ex-tea*

garden settlers. I have submitted a memorandum to the present Government for the welfare of the labourers. As regards education in the tea garden areas, "I have contended to have it under the complete control of the Government and I am very glad to note that the tea industry have also realised the necessity of educating labourers and they have opened schools in many gardens. The question of scholarships will come certainly as sequel to the progress of education. I cannot understand the psychology of a censure motion of the kind and as such, I oppose this motion.

**Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion before the House, although it is not so worded in the reason attached to the motion, relates particularly to *ex-tea* garden labourers, and the mover has made this clear in his speech. It is a well known fact that they live at distances from towns and villages and their facilities for attending schools are not great. The issue has rather been clouded by those who are referring to the facilities which obtain inside tea gardens as at present.

It is not quite right to say that nothing has been done regarding providing facilities for labourers' education within garden area until recently. Twenty-five years ago there was a very wide drive in the direction of giving educational facilities to tea garden labourers. On all sides it was recognised that if labourers would take advantage of it, education might very easily be provided for them. I myself, among other tea planters, established a school, provided the material, provided the teacher, but the results were, I regret to say, a failure, and the reason for that failure was primarily due to the fact that tea garden labourers, as a body, did not appreciate the value of the educational facilities which were being offered them. They were lethargic about it, and the attendance fell away, with the result that most of the schools, of necessity, had to be closed down for want of attendance. As a matter of fact there has never been a lack of appreciation on the part of the tea gardens proprietary side for the necessity for education and I hope that by the end of this year we shall be able to announce that every tea garden in the province has a school, (*hear hear*). But even now you may provide the school, you may provide the teacher, you may lead a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink; and that is the principal difficulty we have in spreading education amongst tea garden labourers. They are not naturally much disposed towards it.

The question has been raised whether it cannot be done through scholarships. I had the opportunity of a talk with the Hon'ble Prime Minister about it, and I think the understanding between us is perfect. We do appreciate that in three or four years there will be a number of boys from tea garden schools who will be able to continue their education under a system of scholarships, and the Prime Minister has assured me, and I am very glad to hear it, that in this respect he has a proposal whereby there will be here and there schools which will be able to take the best scholars, the scholarship boys, from a number of tea garden schools, with one school perhaps of this kind to every 10 or a dozen of the other kind. These will provide education where such education is really wanted and where the boys will derive much benefit from them.

My object in speaking is to remove this idea which is widely prevalent that nothing has been done until quite recently in this direction. That is wrong. Every effort has been made for many many years, but as I said, the great obstacle with regard to the educational advancement of these people is that they themselves hitherto have not appreciated the advantages of it (*hear hear*).

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I may be permitted to speak a few words on this subject,.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Your few words will become many words.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** I will be very brief, Sir, I am also looking at the clock.

After hearing Mr. Hockenhull, I would like to say a few words. He has drawn a very misleading picture by saying that they are doing their level best to educate the children of the tea garden labourers, but that these labourers do not take to education and do not attend the schools in spite of the educational facilities that are being offered to them. Sir, we, coming from the tea districts.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member should speak from his seat.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Sir, I was here, but hearing Mr. Hockenhull's speech, I thought he should not go uncontradicted and that is why I jumped up to speak.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The other day I had to ask another hon. member to come to his seat.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** (Coming to his seat), Sir, we, coming from the tea districts in Upper Assam, know of a different story. We know what sort of facilities are being offered. We have been told that there are schools in many tea gardens, and that by the end of the present year there will be a school in every tea garden, but if I may say so, they are some sort of schools in some tea gardens by way of eye-wash, just to show that effort was being made to impart education. We know how the planters who import their labour into this province sap out the energy of them for the best part of their life and when they grow old, they are driven to earn their livelihood by begging. We know that even children are made to earn their livelihood, and that these schools which are said to be established are there to hoodwink to the public and the authorities. We also know that children are employed in catching worms from tea bushes and various other duties and are also sometimes employed inside the factories. So I say that the children were not encouraged and proper care has not been taken by the white masters to educate them.

(A voice : I challenge that.)

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Of course, it is all very well to speak in dignified language and to say we have started schools in tea gardens and done our best to teach them, but we know better. It is interesting to hear them say "we tried to impart education to these children but they would not take advantage of it". I would ask, how are they being treated even now? How many have passed even Matriculation? Do the labourers go out to work in the morning willingly?

**Mr. BINODE KUMUR J. SARWAN :** More than a thousand.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH :** That is no where.

So I say that it is all very well to say that we have done this and that, but the facts stare us in the face.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have not much to say with regard to this motion. I will only say that Government is quite in sympathy with the object of this motion. Strictly speaking, the motion in its limited scope would aim at nothing but the provision of some scholarships, but as this issue has brought the broad question of the education of labourers in tea gardens and outside, it is necessary for me to say a few words.

Sir, we are pleased to hear from the European group that by December 1939 they are going to have a school in every tea garden. I am told that this scheme was in their contemplation for a long time, and we are glad to hear that the scheme is going to be given effect to soon. The policy for

encouraging the education of the backward communities, in which tea garden labourers are included, has been engaging our earnest attention, and I had a talk the other day with Mr. Hockenull on the subject. Our idea is that in order that the students coming out from the primary schools, either from the tea gardens or outside, may have further opportunities for at least of a Middle English education. We are proposing to establish Middle English Schools near about the gardens, so that the students coming from there may take advantage of these schools. We are also thinking of taking up, or starting, schools in areas where *ex-tea* garden labourers live. So that on the broad question of primary and other education among these people, the Government is giving its best attention to the matter. From the grant that has already been earmarked for the backward people, we have proposed that a certain amount should be allotted for granting a certain number of scholarships. Hitherto I can say that there have not been many students coming from that community, and therefore it is necessary to encourage them with scholarships. I may inform the House that we have already made some allocation of scholarship regarding the claims of different communities, in the College Education budget, and under the head "Other backwards" which includes many communities, certain number of scholarships have been reserved, and I can definitely tell hon. Mr. Sarwan that if any student comes to the College, his case will receive the first consideration.

**Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** There are more than 20 boys who read up to Middle English standard and who can avail themselves of the scholarships if given by the Hon'ble Premier, and I would like to give the names and places of those boys.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** As far as I know, no student has come for scholarship after passing the Matriculation examination. These scholarships are meant for college students only.

**Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** There are several Middle English passed labour boys and they can avail of the scholarships in the Normal School, if given.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** If there are qualified boys then that suggestion will surely be taken into consideration. So in view of this assurance, I think, my hon. friend Mr. Sarwan will withdraw his motion.

**Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, I am very glad to beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Rev. L. GATPHOH:** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.35,96,100 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, at page 113 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The object of my moving this motion is to criticise Government for not providing any grant for starting a High English School in the Jowai subdivision.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unsportsmanlike to shoot a dead lion. Therefore my criticisms and remarks are directed against the present Government, and in advocating the cause of the people of my constituency in particular, through this motion and all the hill tribes in general, I am not apprehensive of any contradiction from the opposition side. On the other hand, I expect to get very strong support from my hon. friends representing the hill tribes.

I feel that this cut motion is a token of the long and impatient waiting of the people of my constituency of what they consider is overdue to them long years ago. And I feel I cannot do better than what I have done in

resorting to this cut motion in order to express the grievance of my people. I need only refer the hon. members of this House to page 63 of the Quinquennial Review of the progress of education in Assam during 1932-37 to convince the hon. members of the fairness and reasonableness of my criticisms. The statement runs thus: "The Governments of the past have definitely neglected the Hill areas and it is only recently that they have recognised all their responsibility in the matter".

The previous Government had moved in the matter and as far as my information goes, they had embarked on a scheme in that direction and the present Government—credit is due to them—have in some hill areas helped the scheme to get materialised. I am glad that the Garos will soon have a High School established at Tura and the Mikirs will have better facilities for Middle English Schools. But the specific case for which I contend on this occasion is a High English School in the Jowai subdivision. It may be argued or it may be asked what are the grounds for the claim or it may be pointed out that there is already a Government High English School in Shillong and why do you want another in the Jowai subdivision; the School in Shillong will meet the educational needs of the whole district. For economy of time and clear understanding, I shall try to give my reasons quite briefly and concisely. First, it is common knowledge that in every subdivision there is at least one High School, Government or aided or both. Therefore, a subdivision like the Jowai subdivision which is no less important ought to have a High School. Secondly, I may remind the hon. members of what I spoke in budget speech that from the British India point of view, Jowai subdivision is very very important. The Khasi Hills proper is mainly composed of native states—just only a few British villages interpassed among them. Therefore Government should pay greater attention to the educational needs of Jowai subdivision. Thirdly the Shillong Government High School is situated in a non-British area in the Capital of Assam and it exists primarily to meet the educational needs of the Capital of Assam. Reference again may be made to the remarks of the Director of Public Instruction at pages 63 and 64 of the Quinquennial Report which runs thus: "..... the Shillong Government High School which is at present probably the most multilingual school in the world, containing in addition to the Khasis for whom it was originally intended, Assamese, Bengalis, Nagas, Lushais, Garos, Marwaris, Gurkhas, Punjabis, and other up-country races." He further remarks "At one time there were representatives of 19 languages in the School which has now an enrolment of over 600." Of this total enrolment only one-third are Khasis and Jaintias and again the number of boys who come from the Jaintia Hills is very small. There is great value in the opinion expressed at the Hill Educational Conference held in Shillong in 1935. That opinion of the Conference is, if I may be allowed to read the statement, it runs thus:—"It seems to be generally agreed that Education up to Class VIII should be given to the boys in their home hills, and that they should then be given opportunities for training in mechanical pursuits or agriculture, and that facilities for High School and College Education should only be given to the exceptional boys." I do not know whether the then Government or the late Government or the present Government committed themselves to the policy to which I referred. If the present Government had gone only so far even they might have done well to meet the educational needs of the people in the Hill areas in view of the financial circumstances. But it seems that the Government has no policy at all for Secondary Education for the hill areas and even of Primary Education until recently.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I hope the hon. member has finished.

**Rev. L. GATPHOH:** Only one or two minutes, more Sir. If I am not allowed to speak for a minute or two more, I cannot make a good case for my people, Sir, the Jowai subdivision is more than self-supporting and has been heavily taxed, a fact which is known to all Government officials. Lands and houses are taxed, Stamps and Registration Acts are in force and on the top of it impress labour which is another form of taxation still prevails in the country. The people of my constituency are fully conscious that Government are not acting on the principle laid down by them, namely, that payment of revenue is realised on grounds of providing communications, sanitation and all kinds of education and other facilities. I have been told, whether in jest or earnestness, that there is no use asking a favour of or arguing with the present Government.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I hope this will do.

**Rev. L. GATPHOH:** To be short, Sir, I am not asking for any favour, but I demand what in justice belongs to the people of my constituency by right, and I do so because I have an exalted idea of the office of the Ministers who hold the public money in trust. And I hope they will do justice to people of my constituency.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved—

“That the total provision of Rs.35,96,100 under grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, at page 113 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.35,96,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The grievances made out by my hon. friend Rev. Gatphoh have been taken notice of by Government. The Director of Public Instruction will visit his place in April and he may submit proposals regarding the school from what he will be able to gather from the constituency which the hon. Rev. Gatphoh represents. I should, however, like to say a word to him and that is, that he should also try, at any rate, to see that if he wants a High School, a building may be possible for him to be raised from the donations of the public. Beyond this, I do not propose to say anything now. The Director of Public Instruction, I am sure, will go and look after the matter and after that the Government will examine the proposal. I suppose that with this assurance, the hon. member will withdraw this motion.

**Rev. L. GATPHOH:** On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I shall now put the original motion before the House. The question is—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.35,96,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940 for the administration of the head—37.—Education (other than European).”

The motion was agreed to.

### Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday the 27th March, 1939.

SHILLONG :

The 29th May, 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

His Excellency Mr. H. J. TWYNAM, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

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