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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 Thursday, the 30th March, 1939

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**  
(to which oral answers were given)

**Superintendent of Assam Government Press**

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED** asked :

- \*202. Will Government be pleased to state—  
(a) When the Superintendent of Assam Government Press last went on leave and for what period ?  
(b) Whether he drew any house-allowance during the period of his said leave ?  
(c) If so, under what rules he was entitled to such allowance while a substitute was taken in his place at that time ?  
(d) Whether any house-allowance was drawn by his substitute during the period, when the permanent Superintendent was last on leave ?
- \*203. (a) Are Government aware that during the leave of the Superintendent of Press, his house was occupied by the Hon'ble the present Finance Minister ?  
(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state—  
(i) Whether the Hon'ble the Finance Minister occupied the house on payment of regular rent ?  
(ii) If so, to whom he paid the rent for the said period ?
- \*204. Are Government aware that the employees of the Assam Government Press are tortured by the Press Superintendent, by deducting from their remuneration a certain amount for clearing up their private dues ?
- \*205. Will Government be pleased to state the number of "Mithaiwallas" and Tea-suppliers removed from the Press compound by the present Superintendent of Press during the last one year ?
- \*206. Will Government be pleased to state—  
(a) The number of Foremen in the Assam Government Press and the name of the permanent Foreman ?  
(b) Whether the man who was deputed to Madras for training has returned and joined his duty ?
- \*207. (a) Is it a fact that the Superintendent in order to frustrate the claims of the permanent Foreman has appointed a Reader to work as a Foreman in his place ?  
(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Superintendent obtained the approval of the Government in the matter ?  
(c) If not, why not ?
- \*208. Will Government be pleased to state—  
(a) Whether they have given due consideration to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee about the abolition of the post of the Superintendent of Assam Government Press ?  
(b) If so, what is the decision arrived at by Government on this matter ?



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

202. (a)—From the 10th October to the 10th November 1938, both days inclusive.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Under Subsidiary Rule 246 of the Fundamental Rules.

(d)—No.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to read Subsidiary Rule 246 ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: "A house rent allowance may be drawn by a Government servant on leave or transfer in the circumstances specified in Subsidiary Rule 245 ; provided that he certifies that his previous rate of expenditure for a house continues during his absence and that he places his house, free of rent, at the disposal of the Government servant, if any, who officiates in his post. The officiating Government servant cannot in such case draw the house rent allowance, attached to the post. If, however, the officiating Government servant, for a reason which a competent authority considers to be sufficient, refuses the accommodation placed at his disposal, he, and not the absent Government servant will draw the allowance."

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED**: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge whether this house was occupied by the officer in charge of the Press, I mean the officiating Superintendent ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: He did not occupy the house.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED**: May I know whether the house was vacant ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: No, Sir ; I do not think the house was vacant.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED**: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister as to who occupied the House ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: I do not know exactly who occupied the house, but.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: Is it the duty of Government to enquire ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Yes, the rule says "..... provided that he certifies that his previous rate of expenditure for a house continues during his absence and that he places his house, free of rent, at the disposal of Government servant, if any, who officiates in his post". May I know, Sir, whether the Government made any enquiry if the house was occupied by his substitute or not ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: No, Sir. We have enquired and the substitute refused to occupy it.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: In that case does not the rule say that the officiating Government servant cannot in such case draw the house rent allowance ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: By this proviso that if "he certifies that his previous rate of expenditure for a house continues during his absence," he was entitled to draw it as the officiating man refused to occupy it.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Did he certify that the officiating man was offered and he refused and that he continued to incur the previous rate of expenditure ?

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

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Was there a certificate to that effect ?



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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know who occupied the house during his absence ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I cannot say who occupied the house actually.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Do I understand from the Hon'ble Minister's reply that somebody must have occupied the House ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Yes, Sir. But I think this question comes under some other question down below.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, I put some questions just a little while before and the answer, I think, was that somebody must have occupied it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** My point is that the answer has been given and the Hon'ble Minister said that he does not know.

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

203. (a)—It is not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister, Finance, either stayed with the Superintendent of Press or even took his house from him on rent.

(b), (i) and (ii)—Do not arise.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister means that the Hon'ble Finance Minister of that day did not occupy ? Because, from 10th October to 10th November the Prime Minister was the Finance Minister. The question is not directed against the Prime Minister.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I refer to the present Finance Minister.

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

204.—The Superintendent does not torture the Press employees.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Hon'ble Premier received any representation from the press employees before the *Pooja* holidays ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** About what, Sir ?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** About the oppression of the Press Superintendent over the press employees ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I do not remember to have received any.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether he received any deputation ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, Sir, I do not think I received any deputation on "torture". But I surely received a deputation in February 1939, with regard to certain arrangements said to have been made by the Press Superintendent in respect of putting certain compositors in the grade of distributors and the matter is yet under the consideration of Government.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. member mean by torture, is it physical torture ?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Economical torture and in various other ways, not actually physical torture.

May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether he cancelled the order of the Superintendent regarding such unauthorised deduction from the remuneration of the press employees ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No ; I did not pass any order and as I said the matter is under consideration still.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know from the hon. member as to the nature of the tortures that the employees are said to have been subjected to ?



**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I have already answered that, Sir.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Whether it is a fact that one Bhagaban Chandra Das on receipt of a wire from his home regarding the illness of his daughter applied for leave for two days during the last Christmas holidays and the Press Superintendent refused him?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I do not know.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** How does it arise?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Is it not an injustice that when he applied for leave on receipt of a wire from his home about the illness of his daughter for two days he should have been refused?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am not sure that the question arises. But I received a wire although I do not remember exactly the person, while I was on tour and I suppose I asked that the Superintendent might grant the leave if he thought fit.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I want to know whether the fact was represented by wire to the Hon'ble Premier and he granted the leave?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I have already answered

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether he himself with the hon. member Srijut Debeswar Sarmah, the Whip of the Congress Party, went with some press employees to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla to represent their grievances?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** How can I know what the Chief Whip did?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I am asking whether the Hon'ble Premier himself went along with the Chief Whip?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, Sir. I never led any deputation to the last Government.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Did not the Hon'ble Premier lead a deputation?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No, I did not lead any deputation.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Is it a fact that Srijut Debeswar Sarmah wrote a letter to the Government?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Which Government?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** The previous Government.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Is it a fact that Mr. Debeswar Sarmah with the approval of the Congress Party wrote to Government that he wanted to inspect the Press?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** There is no question of the approval of the Congress Party and I do not know if Mr. Debeswar Sarmah wrote such a letter.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that they also gave a demi-official letter to that effect to the then Minister-in-charge against the Superintendent of the Press, that is to say, in connection with his unnecessary torture and high-handedness against his employees containing 41 allegations against the Press Superintendent?

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I may point out to the hon. members that they can only ask for information from Government relating to the administration of the Press, but these are questions which are being asked



for getting information from the Hon'ble Minister which might be in his possession as an ordinary member of this House and not as a member of Government.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I have to put only one more question, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** May I know whether the question relates to him in his capacity as Premier?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** No, Sir. I want to know whether he wrote a demi-official letter to that effect? May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether he remarked that things should not come to such a pass that efficiency should be brought about at the cost of the blood of the staff regarding the press employees?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I do not remember if I wrote like that.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** The latter part of the question has not been answered, that is to say, whether a certain amount of the remuneration of the employees has been deducted by the Press Superintendent for clearing up their private dues?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I have already replied, Sir, and I have nothing to add.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The question, Sir, is whether any part of their pay is deducted by the Press Superintendent?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** If any deduction was made, it was done with the consent of the employee.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The question, Sir, is whether any deduction was made or not and that has not been answered.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I am not aware, Sir.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The next question.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** He wants an answer to his question, Sir.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I am not aware, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** Is it not expected, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister should come with the facts ready?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I have already said that I am not aware of the fact, but I may enquire.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us an answer to-morrow?

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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know whether it is a fact that Mr. Bhagawan Das was reverted to a junior post with a reduction of pay of Rs. 20 per mensem?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question does not arise. The original question was whether any remuneration was deducted. The hon. member may put any other question.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** This is relevant to the question, Sir, as this man was refused leave by the Superintendent of the Press and he had to seek the help of the Hon'ble Premier who was kind enough to grant him leave to see his ailing daughter and because this man sought the help of the Hon'ble Premier against the order of the Press Superintendent he was reverted to a lower post with the reduction of his pay of Rs. 20 a month. Are these not things of torture, Sir?



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But the Hon'ble Minister is only to come prepared with the answers of Supplementary questions which do really arise on the answers to the main question. When a question does not arise, the Hon'ble Minister cannot give an answer.

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

205.—One "Mithaiwalla" was stopped from vending at the canteen of the Press on account of the doubtful quality of his wares and the questionable nature of his account keeping on protest from the employees themselves.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Was his food tested by any Public Health officer before he was turned out ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I do not think it was tested, Sir.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Are Government aware that a representation was made by the Press employees to keep this Mithaiwalla, under the signatures of 80 Press employees ?

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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Are Government aware that the said Mithaiwalla refused to supply the Press Superintendent ghee and butter gratis and so he was driven out ?

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

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

206. (a)—One ; M. Shamsuddin Ahmed.

(b)—Yes.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know Sir, when the man was sent to Madras and what was the period prescribed for his training ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I cannot exactly remember the date, Sir, but it was some time in 1936, and he was deputed for 3 years.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Has he completed his course and obtained any diploma ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** No, he has not.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Was he not asked by the Assam Government to appear in the Examination ?

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

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Did he appear in the Examination ?

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

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Is it a fact that the Reader officiated in the place of the Foreman before ?

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

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Is it a fact that the Reader as well as the permanent Foreman both issue orders as Foreman ?

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

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Was he sent to Madras at the expense of Government ?

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

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Do Government consider that the money should be refunded by him ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** The matter will be considered.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Is it a fact that the man was asked by the Madras Government to sit for the test, but he went on leave for four months ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Yes, he went on leave.



**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know, Sir, who was managing the work of the Foreman when the permanent Foreman went for training?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I cannot give the name, Sir.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Sir, is it not a fact that the Government of Madras wrote to the Government of Assam that the man sent there could not take advantage of the lectures delivered there due to his want of knowledge in English?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** We have got no such information.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Is it a fact that there is no technically qualified man in the province of Assam to be appointed as Superintendent of the Government Press when the present incumbent will retire?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I don't quite understand what the hon. questioner mean by 'technical qualification'. I may tell the hon. member that when the present Superintendent went on leave, someone of the staff officiated in his place.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Will Government please take it from me that one of the Senior Readers was allowed to act as Foreman when the permanent Foreman was deputed on training?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** That may be, Sir. I am not aware of it.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know whether the Senior Reader is now allowed to act as additional Foreman?

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

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

207. (a)—No.

(b) and (c)—Do not arise.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Do I understand that the Retrenchment Committee recommended for the abolition of the post of the Superintendent?

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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that the present Superintendent ordered the Reader to act as additional Foreman from 7th March 1939?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** As I have already replied, my information is that no such order has been passed.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Sir, is it a fact that the hon. questioner has got his letter heads printed in the Shillong Government Press free of charge?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** No, Sir.

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

208. (a) and (b)—This is under examination.



### Foreign News and opening of a Publicity Department in Assam

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked:

\*209. Will Government be pleased to state what amount is spent for subscribing Reuter's General Service (Foreign News) annually?

\*210. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have discontinued subscribing the Indian News Service?

(b) If so, since when and what is the saving thereby?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

209.—Rupees 615-15-0 only per annum.

210. (a) and (b)—Yes, with effect from 1st March, 1939. The saving will be approximately Rs.400 per month.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May we know what was the reason for subscribing Foreign News Service when Government discontinued subscribing the Indian News Service?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is no particular reason, Sir, but it will be seen that the amount is very small and the necessity for foreign news is very apparent, just now.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean to say that no Indian News should be subscribed?

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know from which agency whether the United Press or Associated Press, the Indian News Service was subscribed?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Formerly it was supplied, I think, by the Indian News Agency.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that Government subsidised some papers from Calcutta and Shillong?

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

(Starred question No. 211 was not put and answered.)

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

#### Boat-hire for serving processes

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked:

203. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that boat-hire for serving processes is annually levied during the months of June to November, at the maximum rate of 25 per cent. of the fees chargeable for the service of process within the entire territorial jurisdiction of the Goalpara Subdivisional Court, both civil and criminal?

(b) Whether any account has ever been taken as to the actual realisation and expenditure of the said boat hire under the provisions of section 685 of the High Court Civil Rules and Orders?

(c) Whether any attempt has ever been made to work out the percentage of fees of boat-hire to be levied in any particular year as required by the aforesaid Rules and Orders?



- (d) Whether any list of areas, localities or villages within the jurisdiction of the Goalpara *Nazaret* has ever been prepared and notified to the Secretary of the Goalpara Bar Association, showing the amount of boat-hire chargeable for service of processes, as required by the High Court Rules and Orders ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that boat hire for service of processes, both Civil and Criminal, within the Municipal limits of the town of Goalpara, where no boat is necessary for service of any such processes, is also charged and realised ?
- (f) The total amount of boat-hire actually realised for service processes for (1) Civil and (2) Criminal cases during the years, from 1920 to 1938 at the Goalpara Civil Station ? (Figures year by year may be given and then the total.)
- (g) The total amount of expenditure, during these years, out of the money thus realised ?
- (h) Whether there has been any accumulation out of the funds left undischursed ?
- (i) If so, what is the amount ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

203. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Such lists are under preparation and have been sent to the District Judge for approval.

(e)—In civil cases, boat-hire is not realised within the limit of Goalpara Municipality but in criminal cases it has been the practice to realise it, but the Commissioner has now ordered the Deputy Commissioner to stop the practice of realising boat-hire within the Goalpara Municipality for criminal processes and to submit for his approval a detailed list showing the areas in which boat-hire is to be charged.

(f)—A statement is laid on the table.

Year	Civil cases			Criminal cases		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1920-31	...	...	...	Not available	...	...
1932	...	...	...	Not available	...	...
1933	...	...	...	292	12	0
1934	...	...	...	278	1	0
1935	...	...	...	381	5	0
1936	...	...	...	401	7	0
1937	...	...	...	401	4	0
1938	...	...	...	251	1	0
Total	...	...	...	2,005	14	0
					629	6 0



(g)—A statement showing the amounts of boat-hire expended during the years 1932 to 1938 is laid on the table.

Year	Amount		
	Rs.	a.	p.
1920-31	...	...	Not available
1932	...	...	178 6 9
1933	...	...	312 5 3
1934	...	...	495 12 0
1935	...	...	443 12 0
1936	...	...	380 15 3
1937	...	...	273 2 0
1938	...	...	567 11 3
Total	...	...	2,652 1 3

out of which Rs.216-15-6  
paid and the rest is  
due for payment.

(h)—No.

(i)—Does not arise.

### Want of a Girls' High School at Barpeta

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked :

204. (a) Are Government aware that there is no Girls' High School at Barpeta ?

(b) Are Government aware that many girls have to give up their studies after completing the Middle English course for want of a High School there ?

(c) Are Government aware that there has recently been an attempt on the part of the public of Barpeta to meet this long-felt want and that classes up to VIII have actually been opened ?

(d) Are Government aware that this is the only Girls' High School in the whole subdivision ?

(e) Do Government propose to take all necessary steps to make it a full-fledged Girls' High School either directly under the Government or by sanctioning substantial aids ?

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

204. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This is probable.

(c)—Class VII has been opened with the sanction of the Inspector, but no sanction has been given to opening class VIII.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—There are two Girls' Middle English Schools in Barpeta and Government will have difficulty in giving grants if the schools do not amalgamate.



**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS :** May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education to the fact that my question was not in regard to the two Girls' Middle English Schools at Barpeta but it was in regard to the Girls' Venture High School only ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** It will be found in the reply that only one Girls' High School has been started with classes up to VIII.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS :** May we know what is the view of the Government with regard to this High School and whether they are agreeable to revise their attitude and sanction a monthly grant to this High School with effect from 1st April 1939 ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Sir, it is very difficult to say that. Sir, when two schools are catering for two different sections of the public, the attendance in both the schools must necessarily be very low and for that reason Government have not been able to decide as to which school should be the proper school to receive Government aid.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS :** Sir, is it not a fact that one of the Middle English Schools is a Municipal School ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** I am not aware of that Sir. In any case when the question has been raised, that fact will be taken into consideration.

#### Official visits given by the Hon'ble Ministers and the Heads of the Departments to each of the Subdivisions of the Province

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS** asked:

205. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of official visits given by the Hon'ble Ministers and the total number of official visits given by the Heads of the Departments to each of the Subdivisions of the Province between 1st April 1937 and 31st January 1939 ?

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

205.—A statement is laid on the table:—

Hon'ble Ministers	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939
Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Prime Minister.	Sylhet ...	2
	Karimganj ...	1
	Silchar ...	1
	Hailakandi ...	1
	Maulvibazar ...	1
	Habiganj ...	1
	Gauhati } ...	5
Dibrugarh ...	2	



Hon'ble Ministers	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939
Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Prime Minister—concl'd.	Sibsagar	1
	Jorhat	1
	Goalpara	2
	Dhubri	1
	Golaghat	1
	Nowgong	1
	Tura	1
Hon'ble Minister, Education.	Sylhet	10
	Karimganj	3
	Silchar	2
	Sunamganj	2
	Maulvibazar	2
	Habiganj	3
	Hailakandi	1
	Gauhati	2
	Dhubri	2
Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Govern- ment.	Gauhati ...	5
	Nowgong	4
	Dibrugarh	1
	Jorhat ...	4
	Golaghat...	2
	Dhubri ...	2
	Goalpara...	2
	Sunamganj	1
	Tura ...	1
	Sibsagar ...	1
	Mangaldai	1
	North Lakhimpur ...	1
	Karimganj	1
	Maulvibazar	1
Habiganj...	1	
Jowai ...	1	
Hon'ble Minister, Revenue.	Gauhati ...	13
	Goalpara...	3
	Dhubri ...	2
	Tezpur ...	1
	Nowgong	2
	Jorhat ...	2
	Sibsagar ...	2
	Golaghat...	2
	Dibrugarh	1
	Mangaldai	1
	Sylhet ...	4
Silchar ...	1	
Hailakandi	1	



Hon'ble Ministers	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939
Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture.	Sylhet ...	5
	Karimganj ...	3
	Silchar ...	2
	Hailakandi ...	2
	Maulvibazar ...	2
	Habiganj ...	1
	Nowgong ...	3
	Jorhat ...	4
	Golaghat... ..	1
	Dibrugarh ...	2
	Goalpara... ..	1
Hon'ble Minister, General.	Dhubri ...	1
	Goalpara ...	1
	Nowgong ...	1
	Sunamganj ...	1
	Nowgong... ..	1
	Jorhat ...	2
	Dibrugarh ...	1
Hon'ble Minister, Medical.	Gauhati ...	1
	Golaghat... ..	1
	Sibsagar ...	1
	Gauhati ...	1
	Golaghat... ..	1
Hon'ble Minister, Judicial.	Gauhati ...	1
	Gauhati ...	1
Hon'ble Minister, Forests and Regis- tration.	Jorhat ...	1
	Dibrugarh ...	1
	North Lakhimpur... ..	1
	Goalpara... ..	2
	Mangaldai ...	1
	Dhubri ...	1
Hon'ble Minister, Public Works De- partment,	Sylhet ...	1



Hon'ble Ministers		Subdivisions		No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939	
Hon'ble Minister, Industries.		Gauhati ...	...	2	
		Sylhet ...	...	2	
		Karimganj	...	1	
		Silchar ...	...	1	
		Maulvibazar	...	1	
Hheads of Departments					
Conservator Forests.		of	Karimganj	...	4
			Sibsagar ...	...	2
			Golaghat...	...	2
			Jowai ...	...	1
			Haflong ...	...	1
			Mangaldai	...	1
			Maulvibazar	...	1
Reserved forests and the actual places of forest operations are situated at a considerable distance from the headquarters of most of the subdivisions. The Conservator of Forests visited almost all important places of operations in the interior of almost all Subdivisions without visiting the headquarters.					
Commissioner Excise.		of	Gauhati ...	...	6
			Barpeta ...	...	2
			Tezpur ...	...	2
			Mangaldai	...	2
			Nowgong	...	4
			Jorhat ...	...	3
			Sibsagar ...	...	3
			Golaghat...	...	1
			Dibrugarh	...	5
			North Lakhimpur...	...	1
			Shillong ...	...	1
			Garo Hills	...	1
			Sadiya ...	...	2
			Sylhet ...	...	4
			Karimganj	...	2
			Habiganj...	...	2
			Sunamganj	...	2
			Maulvibazar	...	2
			Silchar ...	...	2
			North Cachar Hills	...	1
			Hailakandi	...	1
			Dhubri ...	...	1
			Goalpara...	...	2



Heads of Departments	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939
Chief Engineer ...	Kohima	1
	Manipur	1
	Gauhati ...	5
	South Shillong	7
	North Sylhet Road	5
	Maulvibazar	3
	Gauhati-Shillong Road.	4
	Mangaldai	2
	Dibrugarh	1
	Sibsagar	1
	Jorhat	2
	Golaghat	1
	Karimganj	2
	Dhubri	1
	Goalpara	1
Barpeta	1	
Tezpur	1	
North Lakhimpur	1	
Nowgong.	1	
Director of Industries and Registrar, Co- operative Societies.	Gauhati	8
	Goalpara	4
	North Lakhimpur	1
	Sylhet	3
	Karimganj	2
	Nowgong	4
	Golaghat	1
	Sibsagar	3
	Jorhat	2
	Dibrugarh	2
	Sadiya	1
	Mangaldai	3
	Barpeta	2
	Maulvibazar	2
	Hailakandi	2
Silchar	2	
Tezpur	3	
Kohima	1	
Manipur	1	
Director of Agriculture	Gauhati	27
	Tezpur	3
	Mangaldai	1
	Goalpara	4
	Dhubri	1
	Nowgong	4
Jorhat.	9	



Heads of Departments	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 31st January 1939
Director of Agriculture —concl'd.	North Lakhimpur	1
	Sylhet	... 18
	Habiganj	... 3
	Karimganj	... 6
	Sunamganj	... 1
	Silchar	... 1
	Garo Hills	... 1
	Sadiya	... 1
	Balipara	... 1
	North Cachar Hills	1
	Interior of Shillong Subdivision.	2
Inspector General of Registration.	Sylhet	... 5
	Habiganj	... 2
	Karimganj	... 1
	Silchar	... 1
	Dhubri	... 2
	Goalpara	... 2
	Gauhati	... 9
	Barpeta	... 1
	Tezpur	... 1
	Mangaldai	... 2
	Nowgong	... 3
	Jorhat	... 4
	Sibsagar	... 3
	Golaghat	... 2
Dibrugarh	... 3	
North Lakhimpur	1	
Director of Land Records.	Dibrugarh	... 3
	Sadiya ...	... 1
	North Lakhimpur	1
	Sibsagar	... 3
	Jorhat ...	... 4
	Golaghat	... 2
	Tezpur ...	... 1
	Mangaldai	... 2
	Nowgong	... 3
	Gauhati	... 9
	Barpeta	... 1
	Goalpara	... 2
	Dhubri	... 2
	Silchar ...	... 1
	Sylhet ...	... 5
	Karimganj	... 1
Habiganj	... 2	

Heads of Departments	Subdivisions	No. of visits from 1st April 1937 to 1st January 1939
Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.	Silchar ...	... 1
	Hailakandi	... 1
	Sylhet ...	... 3
	Habiganj	... 1
	Karimganj	... 1
	Kohima ...	... 1
	Goalpara	... 1
	Dhubri ...	... 1
	Gauhati ...	... 2
	Tezpur ...	... 2
	Jorhat ...	... 2
	Sibsagar ...	... 1
	Dibrugarh	... 2
	North Lakhimpur	... 1
Nowgong	... 2	
Director of Public Instruction.	Gauhati ...	... 5
	Sylhet ...	... 6
	Silchar ...	... 1
	Maulvibazar	... 1
	Tezpur ...	... 1
	Mangaldai	... 1
	Goalpara ...	... 1
	Garo Hills ...	... 1
Director of Public Health.	Maulvibazar	... 3
	Dibrugarh	... 4
	Sylhet ...	... 4
	Karimganj	... 5
	Silchar ...	... 2
	Habiganj	... 2
	Hailakandi	... 1
	Gauhati	... 5
	Nowgong	... 5
	Jorhat ...	... 3
	Golaghat	... 2
	Sunamganj	... 2
	Goalpara	... 1
	Dhubri	... 1
Tezpur ...	... 1	
Inspector General of Police.	Gauhati	... 4
	Jorhat ...	... 2
	Dibrugarh	... 3
	Imphal ...	... 2
	Kohima ...	... 2
	Sylhet ...	... 4
	Silchar ...	... 2



Heads of Departments	Subdivisions	No. of visits	
		from 1st April 1937 to 1st January 1939	
Inspector General of Police—concl'd.	Sadiya ...	...	1
	Tura ...	...	1
	Dhubri ...	...	1
	Tezpur ...	...	1
	Nowgong	...	1
	Aijal ...	...	1
	Golaghat	...	1
	Sunamganj	...	2
	Habiganj ...	...	1
	Jowai ...	...	1
	Goalpara ...	...	1
	Karimganj	...	2
	Hailakandi	...	1
Sibsagar	...	1	

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** Sir, there have been frequent visits in some of the subdivisions, but some subdivisions have been altogether omitted from the visits of the Hon'ble Ministers. May I know whether the Hon'ble Ministers consider the desirability of undertaking tours uniformly and fairly in all the places consistent with the exigencies of public duties?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As the subdivision from which the hon. member comes has been neglected, the matter will be taken into consideration and we will also see that particular subdivision is also inspected by us.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** From the answer we find, Sir, that the number of Ministers is eleven. Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain that fact to us?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, this statement has been drawn for a particular period in which some of the portfolios held by the previous Ministers have also been shown and therefore the hon. member has found that the number of Ministers is eleven.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** But, Sir, some portfolios were not represented.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** These portfolios are covered by the Hon'ble Ministers whose names have been mentioned here.

#### Re the Economic Botanist at Borbhetta

**Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA** asked:

206. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The duties of the Economic Botanist at Borbhetta?

(b) The necessity for extensive tours of this Economic Botanist?

207. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the tour diary of the said Economic Botanist from 1st February 1938 to 23rd December 1938?



208. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The purposes of each and every tour undertaken during the aforesaid period and the practical and scientific works done by the said Officer ?
- (b) The total amounts drawn by this Officer (i) as his salary and (ii) as his travelling allowance, separately during the aforesaid period, viz., 1st February 1938 to 23rd December 1938 ?
- (c) The total amount of travelling allowance paid to the peon accompanying this Economic Botanist in his aforesaid tours ?

209. Is it a fact that this Officer purchased a new V8 Car and that he obtained from Government by way of travelling allowance the price of the Car ?

210. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any one checked the mileage shown by this Economic Botanist in his travelling allowance bills for the said tours ?
- (b) If not why not ?
- (c) If so, who checked the mileage and whether it was found correct ?
- (d) Whether Government have decided to confirm this Officer in the post ?
- (e) If so, what are the reasons ?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS** replied :

206. (a) (i)—To carry out research and experiments on the improvement of crop plants in Assam, mainly by pure line selection, genetic investigations, hybridization and improved methods of cultivation.

(ii)—To supervise and guide the work on Botanical studies of Sugarcane Research Scheme sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

(iii)—In charge of the whole Sugarcane Research Scheme both administrative and scientific sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

(iv)—In charge of the Chemical section, Entomological section and Mycological section.

(v)—Administration and management of the office and the Agricultural Laboratory. For further details the hon. member is referred to the annual Agricultural Reports.

(b) (i)—To supervise, guide and carry out research works on paddy both at Titabar and Karimganj farms and on Tobacco at Titabar farm.

(ii)—Administration and management of the Titabar farm.

(iii)—To see whether the demonstration work on the improved varieties of paddy and sugarcane recommended by the Economic Botanist are done properly.

(iv)—To visit all the Government farms where any experiment on any crop is taken up by the staff there for rendering all scientific advice and guide the work on the right lines ?

(v)—To render all help to any cultivator by personal visit who seeks advice and guidance in agricultural improvement.

(vi)—To study the agricultural problems, viz., varieties of crops, types of soil, irrigation, pasture-lands, weed problem and methods of cultivation throughout the province and find out in which way improvements can be effected.

(vii)—To collect indigenous medicinal and other economic plants and study their possibilities of development.



207.—Government regret their inability to lay copies of the voluminous tour diaries on the table as, in their opinion, the result will not be commensurate with the labour involved in their preparation. These tour diaries sometimes contain remarks on the works of the subordinate officers and sometimes technical and other advices to private farmers which it will not be in the public interest to disclose. Government will, however, be willing to furnish the hon. member with any particular information he may seek from the tour diaries.

208. (a)—For the reasons given in reply to question No. 207 above, Government regret that the details could not be supplied. The tours were undertaken for the purposes enumerated in reply to question No. 206(b) above.

(b)—The total amount drawn (i) as salary—Rs.2,750 and (ii) as travelling allowance—Rs.1,490-15 for the period from 1st February 1938 to 23rd December 1938.

(c)—The total travelling allowance paid to the peon is Rs. 136 14.

209.—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. So far as the second part is concerned, Government consider the suggestion as unfair to the Officer concerned.

210. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The question does not arise.

(c)—The travelling allowance bills of Economic Botanist are first checked in the office of the Director of Agriculture and the Director passes the bills as Controlling Officer. After encashment the bills are finally checked in the office of the Comptroller and, if any overdrawal is detected, the excess amount is retrenched from the officer.

(d)—The question will come up for Government's consideration in due course.

(e)—Does not arise.

### Percentage of services due to the Scheduled Castes

**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA** asked :

211. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of services due to the Scheduled Castes in the different Departments of the Government of Assam and in the different ranks ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what percentage of services is at present being held by the Scheduled Castes in the different Departments of Government and in the different ranks ?

(c) Do Government propose to fill up the percentage, if any, by appointing candidates from the Scheduled Castes in the next vacancies occurring in the un-represented or under-represented Departments in their different ranks ?

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

211. (a) and (b)—Two statements containing information regarding (1) the gazetted and (2) the non-gazetted non-ministerial services are placed on the Library table. The figures for ministerial officers and menials cannot be collected in time for reply in the present session.

(c)—This depends on whether candidates with a due degree of efficiency and qualification are available. Every endeavour will be made to work up to the percentage provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.



**Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Will the Government please supply me with the required information at an early date?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Yes, Sir. After sometime we shall be able to furnish him with this information.

### Defalcations in Government offices

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked:

212. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The cases of defalcation in the Government offices that have taken place in the district of Sylhet within the last 3 years?
- (b) The amount of loss sustained by Government in these cases?
- (c) The steps taken against the officers and employees directly or indirectly responsible for the loss incurred by Government on account of defalcation in the Sylhet Treasury?
- (d) Is it a fact that the said defalcation covers a period of at least 20 years?
- (e) Is it a fact that full records prior to a period of 12 years are not traceable?
- (f) Is it a fact that Government employees who deposed in the criminal case against Nabin Chandra Hur were directed not to lead evidence in the line of forgery committed by Nabin Chandra Hur, lest he be committed to Sessions for trial?
- (g) Is it a fact that the defalcation came to light on the basis of a report submitted by the then Accountant Maulavi Abdul Wahab of the Sylhet Treasury Office on his finding some discrepancy?
- (h) Is it a fact that Maulavi Abdul Wahab, Accountant, has been asked to retire immediately on the allegation that he was unfit to hold the post of Accountant and to supervise his office properly?
- (i) Is it a fact that Maulavi Abdul Wahab was made an Accountant only in 1931?
- (j) Is it a fact that it was the custom for 20 years or over in the Sylhet Treasury Office to get the *Plus Minus* Return prepared by Nabin Chandra Hur?

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

212. (a)—Three, one in Sylhet Treasury, the second in the Patherkandi Tahsil, and the third in the Habiganj Tahsil.

(b)—Rupees 73,965-13-0, Rs.9,093-2-6 and Rs.1,511-15-10 respectively.

(c)—A sum of Rs.200 was recovered from an Extra Assistant Commissioner, who was Treasury Officer for a short time, a sum of Rs.1,000 was made good by a Sub-Deputy Collector who had retired before the defalcation was detected, a sum of Rs.500 was recovered from the treasurer, the accountant was retired, three stamp clerks had their increments stopped for one year, the stoppage to have cumulative effect, while the main culprit has been criminally prosecuted.



(d) and (e)—It is not possible to say what period was covered by the defalcation, as the records prior to 1st April 1924 had been destroyed under the weeding rules, but the special audit showed that defalcation started before that date.

(f)—Government have no information but cannot believe that the local authorities would issue such instructions as would impede the cause of justice.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—Yes, because Government considered him unfit for the responsibility for the post of accountant and unable to supervise his office properly.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—The period for which the *plus* and *minus* return was prepared by Nabin Chandra Hur is not known, but the preparation of this account by him was against the rules and was one of the reasons which led to the retirement of the accountant.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** With regard to (j) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner supervised the work of the officials concerned during this period?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The work was supervised by the treasury officers.

**Mr. KEDRAMAL BRAHMIN:** May I know who was mainly responsible for this defalcation?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** All the persons who were involved in the defalcation or found to be responsible for it have been punished.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any independent enquiry was made to look into the fact whether there were any laches on the part of Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner in doing their work of supervision?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** An official enquiry was made in this matter, and proper action was taken by Government.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** By whom the enquiry was made?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** By the Officers concerned.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that the enquiry was conducted by the officers who themselves were found negligent of their duties?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** No, the enquiry was conducted by those officers who were not in charge of the treasury when the defalcation took place.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister the names of the persons who were holding office during the period of this defalcation?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** This is a question which I cannot reply offhand. If the hon. member desires this information, I can supply him with the same later on.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** In view of the fact that this defalcation involves a loss of near about a lakh of rupees, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the information to-morrow?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, Sir, the names of the officers will be supplied to-morrow?



**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister also supply the names of those officers who investigated whether there were any latches on the part of the officers who held charge of the Treasury ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, Sir, these names also will be supplied to-morrow.

#### **Cancellation of transfer orders of some Government officers**

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

213. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons, why after the Gazette Notifications, the transfers of Rai Sahib Chaudhury Singh, Inspector of Police, Hailakandi and Babu Subodh Chandra Palit, Inspector of Police, Maulvibazar have been cancelled ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Head of the Department recommended their transfers but the Government interfered ?

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

213. (a)—The transfers were cancelled by Government in the public interest.

(b)—Government are not prepared to disclose what advice is tendered by Heads of Departments.

#### **Civil Disobedience Movements**

**Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN** asked :

214. (a) Are Government aware that during the Civil Disobedience Movements of 1921 and 1931, movable and other properties of a large number of Congress workers joining in the Movements were attached and sold at nominal prices in lieu of fines inflicted on them, and many lost their services for enrolling themselves as members of the Congress ?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire and make a list of the above cases ?

(c) Do Government propose now to restore the lost properties or make reasonable compensation where the properties are no longer in existence, and also to provide those who lost their services for joining in the Movements ?

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

214. (a)—Detailed information about the attachment and sale of properties for the realisation of fines and about the persons who lost their appointments under Government cannot be obtained in time for reply in this session of the Assembly. Information is being collected by Government.

(b) and (c)—Government will consider the proposals.

#### **Barpeta Circle Office**

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS** asked :

215. (a) Is it a fact that the Barpeta Circle Office is being managed by 2 or sometimes by 3 Sub-Deputy Collectors, 2 Supervisor Kanungos and 45 Mandals unlike other circle offices, owing to general increase of work and influx of immigrants ?



(b) Is it a fact that the Circle is unwieldy and the question of encroachment in reserves and closed villages is acute ?

(c) Is it a fact that the office work of the said circle had to be managed so long by only one clerk ?

(d) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to split up the said circle into 2 for efficient management and control ?

216. (a) Is it a fact that the present Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup has so far enquired into the cases of Fatemabad Land Settlement, Metua-kuchi Town Planning Scheme and a certain number of encroachment cases of town lands at Barpeta, for more than 2 times ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the cases mentioned above have since been disposed of ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that while visiting this subdivision, the Deputy Commissioner usually halts at Bhabanipur Inspection Bungalow, at a distance of 15 miles from Barpeta, and travels up to Barpeta, and sometimes even up to Nalbari and Rangia and comes back to Bhabanipur daily ?

(e) Are Government aware that this sort of travelling is uneconomic ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to take steps to stop the wastage of public money in a manner like this ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the amount drawn by the Deputy Commissioner as travelling allowance during his incumbency, in the district of Kamrup month by month ?

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

215. (a)—No. It is ordinarily managed by one Sub-Deputy Collector 3 Supervisor Kanungos and 45 Mandals. But when there is rush of work in connection with flood relief, fisheries, grazing tax, etc., additional officers are posted, when available. The work has generally increased owing to influx of immigrants.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes. But an additional clerk used to be posted for some time to deal with arrears caused by the irregularities of a previous circle clerk.

(d)—The matter is now under the consideration of the Local officers.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS** : With reference (c), is it not a fact that these irregularities of the previous clerk took place due to unwieldiness of the work ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : That might have been so.

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

216. (a)—The Deputy Commissioner visited the Fatemabad Tea Estate three times and the area proposed for town extension in Metua-kuchi twice. As regards the enquiry into encroachment cases of town lands in Barpeta, in one case only he incidently saw the land before hearing an appeal and again some time later, when hearing the appeal, he had to visit the locality of the same encroachment case.

(b)—No.

(c)—Because, as a result of the enquiries, further action is needed.

(d)—No. The Deputy Commissioner stayed at Bhabanipur Inspection Bungalow and visited Barpeta therefrom on several days in November, 1938, and on one day only in January, 1939. During these stays he also made an enquiry at Nalbari in an emergent case. He did not go from Bhabanipur to Rangia and come back.



(e) & (f)—The Deputy Commissioner did not charge any travelling allowance for the journeys referred to in the reply to (d) above. He stayed at Bhabanipur to avoid interruption and disturbance of work. There was no wastage of public money.

(g)—The statement below gives the information :—

	Rs.	as.
March 1937...	86	6
April ...	43	8
May ...	65	8
June ...	54	0
July ...	72	12
August ...	64	8
September ...	96	0
October ...	95	0
November ...	113	12
December ...	134	14
January 1938 ...	114	8
February ...	155	0
March and April ...	203	8
May ...	152	13
June ...	80	6
July ...	209	4

(Flood touring)

August ...	127	14
September ...	152	2
October ...	Nil	
November ...	158	8
December ...	93	0
January 1939 ...	114	0

### Muhammadan Mandals in the District of Darrang

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

217. Will Government be pleased to state—

- The number of Mandals at present employed in the Tezpur and the Mangaldai Subdivisions (to be shown separately) ?
- The number of Muhammadan Mandals in the Tezpur and the Mangaldai Subdivisions (to be shown separately) ?
- Whether the number of the Muhammadan Mandals is in proportion to the number of the Muslim population of the district of Darrang ?
- If not, do Government propose to take steps to make up the deficiency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

217. (a)—Tezpur Subdivision ...	72
Mangaldai Subdivision ...	90
(b)—Tezpur Subdivision ...	1
Mangaldai Subdivision ...	13



(c) & (d)—It is reported that the number of Muhammadan Mandals is below the requisite number, in proportion to the Muhammadan population in the District, due to dearth of qualified candidates in the Tezpur Subdivision and that steps are being taken to make up the deficiency.

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED:** With reference to answers (c) and (d), do Government consider that there is dearth of Muhammadan candidates in the Mangaldai subdivision ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** When these vacancies were filled up, there was dearth of Muhammadan candidates. But as the reply will show, deserving Muhammadan candidates will get preference in the matter of future appointments.

### **Destruction of *Sali* crops by insect pests in the Dibrugarh subdivision**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** asked :

218. (a) Is it a fact that the *Sali* crops grown by the *raiylats* of Rangmala, Piparatoli, Raidang and other adjacent villages of Bogdung and Rohmoriamauzas in the Dibrugarh subdivision, were destroyed by insect pests in the last Autumn ?

(b) Is it a fact that the *raiylats* concerned applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, for inspection of their crops and for granting remission of their Land Revenue for 1939-40 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, in the matter ?

(d) If so, with what result ?

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

218. (a)—No report to this effect was received.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

### **Amount paid to the Remington Company for maintenance of typewriters in Government offices**

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY** asked :

219. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amounts, the Government of Assam are to pay to the Remington Company on account of quarterly maintenance of type-writers ?

(b) Do Government propose to invite tenders from the natives of the Province for such jobs ?

(c) Are Government aware that there are suitable youngmen, expert in the line and natives of the Province, ready to undertake such works ?

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

219. (a)—Government regret that they cannot obtain the information in the time available from all the offices in Shillong and in the districts. Government pay a uniform rate of Rs.2 per machine for each quarterly inspection including oiling, cleaning and adjusting in every place irrespective of distance except at Imphal, Kohima, Mokokchung, Aijal and Tura from which places machines are sent to the Company's office or travelling mechanic for overhauling at the rate—Rs.8 per machine usually once a year.



(b)—This will be considered if any local Company is available to inspect and repair efficiently the type-writers in use in all Government offices in the Province.

(c)—Government have no information.

### Gratuitous relief and agricultural loans given in the district of Goalpara

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN** asked :

220. Will Government be pleased to state the names of places affected by flood in the district of Goalpara and the number of population thereof?

221. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of gratuitous relief and agricultural loans given in the different thanas of the district of Goalpara?

222. Is it a fact that even 20 per cent. of the people affected by flood were not given the gratuitous relief and agricultural loan?

223. Are Government aware that the officer-in-charge for distribution of agricultural loan granted the same by lottery?

224. Will Government be pleased to state if any survey was made for the purpose of granting these loans?

225. (a) Are Government aware that 75 per cent. of the people of the Dhubri South Bank have no means to purchase the plough-cattle and also the seeds for *Ashu* and *Aman* paddy and also Jute?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken by Government for their redress?

226. Do Government propose to start any test relief work in these areas at once?

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

220.—The Chars and riparian areas of Lakhipur, Goalpara, North Salmara, Bilasipara, Dhubri, South Salmara and Mankachar Thanas of Goalpara district were affected by the last floods. The people affected were 133,389 approximately.

221.—The following amounts were distributed as gratuitous relief and agricultural loans :—

Thanas	Gratuitous relief. (From Government grants and Subscription funds)		Agricultural loans
	Rs.	Rs.	
Dhubri ...	7,533	10,024	
South Salmara ...	18,202	31,693	
		16,964	—(issued by the Mech-para Estate).
Mankachar ...	15,108	5,000	
Bilasipara ...	6,911	9,031	
Goalpara ...	1,494	1,219	—(including, issued by Rs.919 by Bijni Estate).
Lakhipur ...	18,932	22,700	—(including Rs.13,000 issued by the Mech-para Estate).
North Salmara ...	2,759	6,351	—(issued by the Bijni Estate).

Besides this amount, seeds for Rs.10,716 were distributed as seed loans in these areas.



222.—Gratuitous relief, agricultural loans and seed loans and cloths were distributed according to the need of the people. It does not follow that because a person lives in the area affected by floods that he must also be so destitute as to need help in the shape of gratuitous relief and agricultural loans.

223.—No.

224.—Yes.

225. (a)—No. It is reported that some people have no means to purchase seeds and plough-cattle.

(b)—Agricultural loans are being issued now to such people after inquiry to purchase their requirements.

226.—Test relief work was taken up on the Fakirganj-Maukachar Road.

### Land-lords' Transfer Fee

**Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** asked :

227. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue Department be pleased to state the amounts deposited in the different Collectorates in the district of Sylhet, on account of the Land-lords' Transfer fee, after the passing of the Sylhet Tenancy Act, 1936 ?

(b) How much of such Land-lords' Transfer fee, so deposited, were withdrawn by Zamindars ?

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

227. (a) & (b)—The information is given in the statement below—

*Statement showing the amount of Land-lords' fee deposited and withdrawn by Zamindars in the District of Sylhet since the Act came into force upto the 15th March, 1939.*

Name of subdivision	Amount deposited			Amount withdrawn by Zamindars		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Karimganj	402	14	9	278	1	6
Habiganj	17,780	8	8	2,013	4	0
Sunamganj	11,973	13	9	5,396	1	9
South Sylhet	4,214	0	10	1,605	14	1
Sadr	1,267	0	6	405	7	0

### Issue of permits by the Tipperah State Forest Department

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** asked :

228. (a) Are Government aware whether permits are issued by the Tipperah State Forest Department to people living in British *elaka* for removing forest produce from the Hill Tipperah ?

(b) Is it a fact that people are harassed by the British Forest Officers for *Bhatials* or certificate of origin when they remove forest produce of Hill Tipperah ?

(c) Are Government aware that the British subjects living in the border of Hill Tipperah remove forest produces daily from Hill Tipperah ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Tipperah Forest Officers do not issue daily *Bhatials* to workers ?



(e) Will Government be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, received a deputation of hundreds of people of Bishgaon pargana in the month of January, 1939, complaining against the Chunarighat Forest Officers ?

(f) Are Government aware that they complained that the Chunarighat Forest Officers detained Hill Tipperah forest produces of thousands of people for want of *Bhatials* ?

(g) Did the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj take any action on their complaints ?

(h) If so, what was the result ?

(i) Is it a fact that the Tipperah State Forest Officers refused to grant daily *Bhatials* to labourers ?

(j) Do Government propose to reserve the Putijuri Forest in the Habiganj subdivision ?

(k) Are Government aware that the public is seriously against such reservation ?

(l) If so, do Government propose to give up such idea of reservation of the forest ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

228. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There is no harassment, but *Bhatials* (certificates of origin) are demanded by the British Forest Officers for the forest produce imported from the Hill Tipperah under import Rule 6 at page 59 of Assam Forest Manual, Volume I.

(c)—There are a few British subjects living near the border of Hill Tipperah who remove forest produce from Hill Tipperah. It is not known if these people remove forest produce daily.

(d)—It is not known whether Tipperah Forest Officers issue daily *Bhatials* to workers or not.

(e), (f), (g) & (h)—The Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, sent a petition signed by 9 persons but presented to him by about 100 labourers as stated in the petition containing some allegations against the Forest Guards of Chunarighat to the Range Officer, Habiganj, on 21st January, 1939, for report and the Range Officer returned it on 22nd January, 1939 with necessary reply. The petition referred to a forest offence in which 45 persons while removing sangrass from Hill Tipperah without *Bhatials* (certificates of origin) were detected within the Tarap Forest Reserve by Forest Guards of Chunarighat and their permits were seized and they were allowed to go with the sangrass. Offence reports were drawn up against them and the accused persons were let off with warning for the first offence.

(i)—No. There is no reason why *Bhatials* as required under the import rules should not be issued by the Tripura State Forest Officers.

(j)—A proposal submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer for reservation of two blocks of Unclassed State Forests near Putijuri is pending with the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

(k)—No.

(l)—All aspects of the proposal will be considered before orders are passed.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : With regard to (b), may I know if it is a fact that people are not allowed to come outside the Tipperah Hills boundary with forest produce unless such certificates of origin are produced ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** : The production of this certificate of origin is essentially necessary for checking whenever forest produce is imported from the Hill Tipperah or from other places.



**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these *Bhatials* are granted by the Hill Tipperah office or by the Forest Revenue Office?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** By the Hill Tipperah State.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Are Government aware that *Bhatials* are not granted daily by the Hill Tipperah State?

**Rai Bahadur PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT:** To my knowledge, the Tipperah State do grant *Bhatials*.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** The question is whether they grant it daily or not. Sir, the reply to question No.228(i) is "No", but I know that *Bhatials* were once refused to some 500 labourers with the result that their forest produce were stopped by the British Indian Officers.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** This has not yet been brought to the notice of the Government.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Is it not a fact that this matter was represented to the Tipperah State authorities, but they did not even give any reply to that representation?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I am not aware of that.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Are Government prepared to take up the matter urgently, and either instruct the Tipperah State to grant daily *Bhatials* to the labourers, or amend the existing import Rule 6 of the Forest Manual which insists on production of daily *Bhatials*?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I may look into the matter.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I know whether there is a provision in the Assam Forest Manual that a certificate of origin is to be produced if demanded by the Forest Officer to satisfy himself that the produce is brought from the Hill Tipperah State to the British territory?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I think that is so.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** My question was whether the Hill Tipperah rules show that a certificate of origin is required of labourers to remove forest produce?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I have already replied that I am not aware.

### Flood-affected people in the district of Goalpara

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED** asked:

229. Are Government aware of the fact that some flood-affected people went to settle near Datma under the Kokrajhar Police Station in the district of Goalpara?

230. Will Government be pleased to state whether these people took written permission to settle there?

231. Are Government aware that many of the flood-affected people of the south bank went to settle in the north bank of the Goalpara district?

232. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether some of those people went to settle in Ballamguri side under the Bijni Police Station?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether these people settled there with the permission of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Sidli Circle?



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

229. & 230.—Government have no information. The land belongs to the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate and the Manager also is not aware of the fact.

231.—Yes.

232. (a)—Yes.

(b)—These people have submitted petitions which are under consideration of local officers.

**Discussion on Supplementary Statement of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1938-39**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order.

We now come to item No. 2 in the list of business. I am to inform the House that there is no further demands for grants to be presented.

Item No. 3—Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1938-39.\* Hon. members may discuss the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province for 1938-39, which has been laid on the table.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a question of great importance, both from the accounting point of view as well as from the financial point of view, in the best interests of the province. In this statement of charged expenditure both for non-excluded areas as well as excluded areas, the point of importance that I want to raise is, whether it will not be in the best interests of the province to have a clear idea of the income that the provincial exchequer receives from the Excluded areas, for in our budget estimate we have an idea of the expenditure that the province incurs for that. If we knew what is our income from those areas, this House would be in a better position to discuss the merits and demerits of the different items that appear under expenditure head for those areas. I know it fully well that we have not got the right to deduct one single rupee from these items, but, at the same time, if the House would impress the reasonableness of their attitude by the criticisms against the expenditure, the public opinion or opinion of the Legislature may weigh with the authorities to consider thrice before incurring such expenditure. I know, Sir, the subject matter is a bit difficult. During the time that I was in charge of Finance, I should say before the present constitution, I took up this matter with the Central Government, but I was told: it is better to leave the matter as it is, otherwise Assam will suffer. My point in raising this question is that the bulk of our contribution or our expenditure for the Assam Rifles is necessitated by the stationing of battalions of the Assam Rifles on the Frontier areas or in the State of Manipur. If the House knew what amount of expenditure is necessitated by the stationing of the Assam Rifles in these areas, this House, or rather the Government would be in a better position to press upon the Central Government that the tax payers of the non-excluded part of the province ought not to be put to this extra expenditure. This is a

\*Appendix H.



matter of fundamental and great importance for the province. I hope hon. members of both sides of the House will take this matter into consideration and then give their opinion to the Ministry whether they should not take this matter up with the higher authorities.

After this discussion on a general point, I now come to the specific items for additional supplies which the Hon'ble Minister for Finance will be asking as items charged to the revenues of the province. Probably there is a misprint in one item—I mean item No. 3 where it is said: 'Additional amount *not* required.' Probably it will be 'now' required. This is the amount of debt to the Central Government which has already been paid, and which the Hon'ble Minister is coming before the House to regularise. The money has been spent already. I point out this before the House not to show how thorough I am, but to request them that they should not pass anything before it is thoroughly examined.

Then, as regards the explanatory note for the additional sum required under head, education, item No. 5, I want an explanation because I am not satisfied why this additional sum of nearly Rs. 2,000 is required. It is said: "Owing to more officers going on leave the existing provision has proved inadequate and an additional sum is required." Sir, we have got only three Indian Engineering Service officers in the province. We know that only Mr. Roy has gone on leave and everybody knew that he would go on leave to England. As a matter of fact he wanted study leave which was not granted to him. Which other officers have gone on leave that this extra sum is necessary? Probably the House would like to know something about that.

Another item rather intrigues me. I never knew that Assam though very nearly a bankrupt province had not sufficient money to pay our Municipal dues and that it will keep them in arrears. I find in the explanatory note under item No.9, at page 3, the last line over "Charged—Excluded Areas the explanation given is 'The excess amount is required to pay enhanced Municipal tax due to revised assessment and also to pay arrear municipal tax'." Why should Government have any arrears? If arrear is of the current assessment, Government knows the amount of rates and taxes that they have got to pay.

I would now turn to the items necessary for the Excluded Areas. A sum of very nearly Rs.30,000 is wanted, and the explanation given is that "the additional appropriation is required for commission of land revenue, poll, hoe and house tax collections". If this money is wanted for additional collections, there should naturally be an increase in our collections from these areas. I want to know whether there is an item showing the amount of increase from this source. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will enlighten us on that point.

Then, with my little knowledge of the subject of Finance, I could not understand the explanatory note under Item No.11—page 4. That explanatory note shows that the Audit authorities have changed their system of accounts as regards leave salaries and overseas pay of officers serving in Excluded areas, but surely the salaries of these officers were put down somewhere in the Budget probably in the Budget of non-excluded areas and therefore there must have been a saving under that head. Of course, it is mentioned that part of the sum necessary or at least Rs.30,910, will be met by reappropriation from District Administration where savings are available. Is this saving due to leave salary or the general provision for District Administration which runs to many lakhs of rupees? Probably I



will be told that this sum of Rs.30,000 represents the leave salary of those officers which were budgeted under a wrong head, and it is only a paper transaction, but that explanation ought to have been made clear.

The last item under this statement is about the Lushai Hills Cottage Industries building. It is said that a sum of Rs.5,500 is to be spent from the Central Government's Rural Re-construction Fund, and this was earmarked for a building for the Lushai Hills Cottage Industries Association, and it is said that this grant for rural reconstruction was sanctioned with the approval of the Government of India. I want to know when the Government of Assam received this sanction. If the sanction was received after the current year started, then nothing could be put down in the Budget, but if the sanction was received when the Budget was being framed, I want to know why provision was not made there. Of course, I am myself responsible for that item, but I have forgotten the facts now. I have not the papers with me and I want to know whether the sanction came before the Budget was framed.

I have taken the valuable time of the House in raising this discussion, but I was concerned not so much with the general question of supplies, but with the question whether we should not try to have a separate Budget entirely of income and expenditure for the excluded areas.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for pointing out the mistakes in the printed forms, as well as for drawing our attention to the general question that both the receipts and expenditure on excluded areas should be shown separately. As regards the first, I can assure him that it was not due to any inadvertance on the part of the Finance Department that this mistake in the print has occurred, the word should have been "now" instead of "not".

Secondly, Sir, he has expressed the desire that both receipts and expenditure of the excluded areas should be shown separately. The Government will take his suggestion into consideration and will examine the questions.

Thirdly, he has asked for some information. He wants to know why nearly Rs.1,900 has been shown as charges in England for the Education Department. In this connection, I may tell him that two of the officers of the Indian Educational Services are already in England, and in order to pay their salaries in England that this amount has been shown. Secondly, when the Budget was being prepared, Mr. Small had also applied for leave, and possibly that portion of the charges for his salary were also included, but now that he is not going on leave there will be a saving.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** May I know from what date he wanted the leave?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** From the beginning of this year. I am not certain of the date.

Then, Sir, as regards the other amount of Rs.30,000 about which he has himself given the reply, I need not take the time of the House. That is the amount which has been saved on account of certain officers not going on leave and therefore the amount has been shown as it is in the Explanatory Note. But if he wants that it should be fully explained, I shall take note of it for future.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** According to the Explanatory Note, the leave salaries even of those officers who have gone on leave from service in the excluded areas have been shown in the non-excluded areas. Now, the audit authorities say that this should be shown



in the excluded areas. I simply was depending saving in the Budget of the

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, there is a corresponding saving in the Budget. I shall take that fact into consideration.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I can take care of myself, but hon. members of the House ought to know all the facts.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I think, I have supplied all the information asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** What about the arrears of Municipal rates?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The Municipal rates were enhanced about a year ago and in the last Budget the amounts were shown at the old rates. But since Government have been compelled to pay these enhanced taxes to the Municipality, the two amounts for the last year and the current have been shown.

### Supplementary Demands for Grants

#### 7.—LAND REVENUE

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.59,620 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1939, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

		Rs.
	Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	15,21,000
for—	II—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted	
	(i) B—Tahsil and other establishments :—	
	(a) Tahsil establishment ...	4,000
	(ii) D—Charges on account of Land Revenue Collection—	
	Contingencies ...	28,332
	(iii) H—Assignments and Compensations ...	14,000
	(iv) Land Records—Kanungo establishment :—	
	1. Pay of establishment ...	2,300
	2. Allowances and Honoraria—Travelling allowance establishment ...	1,500
	3. Contingencies—Contract contingencies ...	454
	(v) Government khas establishment :—	
	1. Pay of establishment ...	6,580
	2. Contingencies ...	228
	3. Travelling Allowance of establishment ...	60
	4. Rewards ...	1,250
	(vi) Survey Schools—	
	1. Pay of officers ...	731
	2. Travelling Allowance of officers ...	185
	Total ...	59,620



## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) The extra grant under (i) is required mainly to meet the additional expenditure in connection with opening of a Tahsil Office in the Serpanguri Mauza in the Goalpara district where the Mauzadari system did not work satisfactorily.

(ii) The additional grant under (ii) is required to adjust an amount due from a dismissed Mauzadar which remained irrecoverable even after the sale of his movable and immovable properties and also for the payment of commission on arrear land revenue collection.

(iii) The additional grant under (iii) is due to the payment of *malikana* to the Raja of Sidli which remained in arrears since 1932-33 owing to misunderstanding of the orders by the district officers.

(iv) The full strength being maintained throughout the year and the staff of the mandals and kanungoes being exempted under the general economy orders issued by Government, the existing net grants have fallen short of requirements. An additional sum of Rs.4,254 is required to meet the requirements for the year.

(v) An additional sum of Rs.8,118 is required. The original provision was made in the hope that the work would last for one month only. It was found, however, that the works in Madan Raja and Md. Natir Estates in Sylhet were much too complicated and had therefore to be continued.

(vi) It was not anticipated that Principal would take leave during the year. Extra provision is necessary for the pay (Rs.731) and journey of the substitute (Rs.185).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There are no cut motions to this demand. The hon. members are quite entitled to oppose this demand if they desire.

(After a pause)

The original motion was put and agreed to.

11.—REGISTRATION (2)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.2,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1939 for the administration of the head "11.—Registration".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly	Rs.
II—Sub-head under which the supplementary demand will be accounted for by the Registration Department:—	... 1,41,400

District charges—	Rs.
3.—Allowances and Honoraria	... 2,000

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a measure of economy certain Sub-Registry offices in the Surma Valley were abolished in the year 1933. But since then the demand from the public for the re-opening of these offices has been increasing in persistence. Government have therefore had to order the opening of three Sub-Registry offices on a commission basis. A supplementary grant of Rs.2,000 is necessary on this account under the head "11.—Registration—3.—Allowances and Honoraria."



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is no cut motion to this demand. The original motion was put and agreed to.

18B.—NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.6,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1939 for the administration of the head "18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly...	Rs. 47,500
II—Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Works Department—	
	Rs.
3.—Maintenance and Repairs	6,000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The original estimate for the current year provides for the normal requirements of the province but the additional sum of Rs.6,000 is now found essentially needed to carry out abnormal flood damage repairs to certain bunds, which could not be foreseen when the Budget was framed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There are no cut motions to this demand. The original motion was put and agreed to. ✓

25.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.60,222 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1939 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly	Rs. 20,97,300
II—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Department of General Administration—	
(i) R. Commissioner—	Rs.
(a) Allowances and Honoraria	400
(b) Contingencies	450
Total	850
(ii) S. District Administration—General Administration—	Rs.
(a) Pay of officers	17,000
(b) Contingencies	2,650
(iii) U.—Other Establishment—Debt Conciliation Board	8,000
Total	27,650



	Rs.
H. Ministers ... ..	18,500
L. Election for Legislatures ... ..	3,722
V. Discretionary grants by Heads of Provinces—	
Ditto by Commissioners, etc., for economic development of rural areas.	9,500
Grand total ... ..	60,222

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*Commissioners.*—The additional grant is required to meet the expenses in connection with the deputation of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, to the Central Assembly as a representative of the Government of Assam. The amount required under "Allowances and Honoraria" represents Travelling Allowance of the Tour Clerk and Ghaprasis. The amount required under "Contingencies" represents incidental charges in connection with the above deputation, and also telephone and other charges in connection with the communal trouble and flood work.

*District Administration—"Pay of officers."*—The additional amount is required to meet the pay of provincial service officers promoted to listed posts. This is due to more officers in superior service going on leave out of India than was anticipated when the Budget was framed. There has been a consequent saving under "Pay of officers—Charged."

*Contingencies.*—The extra grant is required to meet the additional expenses in connection with the flood relief work.

*Debt Conciliation Board.*—The amount is required to meet expenses in connection with the Debt Conciliation Boards. No separate provision was made in current year's Budget, as it was anticipated that the existing provisions under other heads would be sufficient to meet the expenditure involved. But as the expenditure under other heads increased considerably owing to flood relief work, this anticipation did not materialise and a supplementary grant has therefore become necessary.

*H. Ministers.*—The total additional grant of Rs.18,500 is required to meet the extra expenditure involved in connection with the increase in the number of Ministers and has to be accounted for under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Pay of Establishment ... ..	6,000
Allowances and Honoraria ... ..	6,000
Contingencies ... ..	6,500

*L. Election for Legislatures.*—A small provision of Rs.2,000 was made in the Budget for ordinary expenditure in connection with the election charges but the grant has proved insufficient due to the preparation and publication of lists of amendments to the electoral rolls for both the Indian Legislative Assembly and Assam Legislature. An additional sum of Rs.3,722 is therefore required to meet the extra demand for the year.

*V.—Discretionary grants.*—Provision had to be made in the Budget for expenditure out of the special grant from the Government of India for rural development according to such an estimation as the necessarily speculative nature of the case permitted. From the reports now received it appears that a sum of Rs.17,500 is likely to be spent on account of discretionary grants (*i.e.*, for objects of public utility) as against Rs.8,000 provided in the Budget. Hence the necessity for an additional grant of Rs.9,500 provided in the



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is one cut motion which stands in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. He wants to criticise the policy of Government in increasing the expenditure on this head. I may point out to the hon. member that in discussing a supplementary demand questions of large policy cannot be discussed. Now I shall read from May's Parliamentary Practice which will give an indication as to the manner in which this cut motion to supplementary demands can be discussed. "Debate on supplementary and excess grants is restricted to the particulars contained in the estimates on which those grants are sought ; and the debate cannot touch the policy or the expenditure sanctioned, on other heads, by the estimate on which the original grant was obtained, except so far as policy or expenditure is brought before the committee by the items contained in the supplementary or excess estimates". I hope the hon. member will remember this and go on discussing his motion.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.18,500 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 3 of the Supplementary Demands for 1938-39, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.60,222 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

This is a motion brought with a view to criticise the policy of Government for increasing the expenditure on this item. In the Explanatory Note it is given—"The total additional grant of Rs.18,500 is required to meet the extra expenditure involved in connection with the increase in the number of Ministers and has to be accounted for under the following heads:—

Pay of Establishment—Rs.6,000, Allowances and Honoraria—Rs.6,000, Contingencies—Rs.6,500". Sir, it was with the policy of economy that the present Ministry was wedded.

So, we were distinctly pleased at the fixing of Rs.500 as the salary of the Ministers. As a matter of fact it would have a moral effect upon the entire administration because economy at the head would give us some idea that the administrators themselves are satisfied with a monthly remuneration of Rs.500. And this will certainly throw a moral effect upon the entire administration. The idea is very laudable ; and if we would proceed with the same object in view, our expenses for the Ministers would not have come to very much. But first of all I should lay a protest for increasing the number of Ministers. The portfolios that could be distributed and worked by only 5 Ministers previously have now been distributed to nine.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** It was not 5 previously and it is not 9 now ; both the figures are wrong, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I am grateful to my hon. friend for the correction. But I have reason to say that the ninth Minister is in the air. My Hon'ble friend the Premier is just now pointing out at me as I speak on. Possibly the crown will fall on my head to-day. Sir, I am looking up for that day when we succeed in running our administration cheaply. We can ourselves cut down our expense and be successful in carrying out the Congress programme.

Sir, travels, as I find, have become a fashion of the day. To give one instance, my Hon'ble friend the Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali made a hurricane tour to my district and spent some hours there. He says he saw everything with his own eyes within that time. He had seen as many as three model villages in my subdivision and spent about 19 hours there. I do not, however, know how he spent the rest of the five hours. He says he did not spend the night there. The tour was not published in the Gazette and he made a hurricane tour.



**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** On a point of order, Sir, is this House entitled to enquire into the nocturnal activities of an Hon'ble Minister? (*Laughter*).

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** It is not with any idea of regaling my audience that I have got to discuss about the nocturnal movements of my Hon'ble friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, but it is just to show that his tour to my district was so very hurried.

I am sure that it did not give him any trouble. My district in that respect is very much safe for him. Otherwise, I find he was treated with black flag demonstrations (*cries of nowhere*), shoutings and hootings down. But I have invited him again to come and see things for himself, after due publication in the Gazette that he is coming actually to my place. The tour he originally fixed was that he would visit Jorhat. He went all the way to Gauhati we are told and then suddenly changed his mind and came over to my place. Then again he travelled in a motor car, possibly in his own car and charged mileage.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is the hon. member entitled to organise a black flag demonstration against the Hon'ble Minister?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I for myself would have considered it very much indecent (*hear, hear*) to show a certain Hon'ble Minister a black flag. Because it is not only indecent but outrageous. Then, Sir, a word about the travel itself. Our Ministers have been found in 99 per cent. of cases to travel inside the province in a motor car. If they travel by motor cars they are entitled to get six annas for the first forty miles and 4 annas for the subsequent miles that they travel.

Six annas for the first 40 miles and for the rest it is possibly 4 annas. Inside the province they say they travel third class in railways. I have questioned certain Hon'ble Ministers whether it is a fact that the railway authorities in the province very often come to them and place some of the inter-class or second class bogies at their disposal even if they carry a third class ticket.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is it the idea of the hon. member that the Hon'ble Ministers should not travel by third or inter-class and that they should travel by first class?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** But why this hoax of third class? Outside the province they travel not only second class but also in the first class. Some Ministers went to Bombay and Madras.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** No.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I understand they travelled to Calcutta and Madras. Our Hon'ble Premier travelled to Calcutta and stayed there for some time. Our Minister-in-charge of Medical travelled from Calcutta to Madras in a first class compartment. (*A voice: Did he travel first class?*) By whatever class he travelled, Sir, he has charged for first class. And the expense is there at that rate.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** On point of order, Sir. Are these matters relevant?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** From the questions and answers that were given on the floor of the House he was not satisfied and he is bringing it again.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We want a definite reply, Sir. We want to know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical who is always absent from this House when this question is raised, definitely whether he travelled first or second class. The other day I put the same



question to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and he gave an evasive reply. If he had asked his Personal Assistant, he would have told him what class he travelled.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I protest against this statement. The Hon'ble Minister himself was present when the question was put to him and he replied definitely that he travelled by the same class for which he drew his allowance. So, it is not proper for the hon. member to bring such allegation without any foundation of truth.

**Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, with all sense of responsibility I make this statement that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical actually travelled second class while he drew first class. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** On a point of order, Sir. I beg that a definite ruling may be given on the point I am going to raise. At a minimum calculation, Sir, each minute of our time calculating at 5 working hours per diem costs the tax-payer Rs.37. Are we to hear a repetition of the same thing over and over again and are we to hear such stuff and nonsense every minute which costs Rs.37 to the tax-payer? I make no reference to any particular individual or member, Sir, but I am just requesting you to give a ruling so that the time of the House may not be wasted by such repetitions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Of course, I pointed out to the hon. member that it was not a happy thing that matters like this should be often and often repeated on the floor of the House, and it was perhaps when I pointed out to him that a discussion was started. Certainly there is power in the Chair to restrain a member when there is unnecessary repetition of one and the same matter. I think at this stage I need not say anything more. The responsibility rests with the members whether they are to utilise their time in the best way possible and I am here only to restrain them when I notice that there is going to be an unnecessary waste of time by a repetition of the same thing.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Sir, as my hon. friend Srijut Debeswar Sarmah has raised the point that we are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House by this cut motion, I, as a Leader of the Opposition, congratulate him inasmuch as sense has dawned upon him after going over to the other side, and has learnt to calculate the time and money wasted in this House. This question, Sir, as you very rightly pointed out, should be limited to a discussion of the policy, my hon. friend the mover of this cut motion was only discussing the policy.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. mover may proceed.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Sir, one of the items in the demand is for an amount of Rs.6,000 under Allowance and Honoraria. Therefore, the House is perfectly competent to discuss that item, as there has been an increase after the assumption of the Congress Ministry in travelling expenses. And they have got a right to say that there have been too many trips abroad headquarters. Although the Hon'ble Ministers say that they travel third class and charge very little in comparison to the first class allowances charged by the previous Government, yet 99 per cent. of this travelling is done by road and outside the province they travel first class and in all cases first class rates are charged.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Chair in relation to certain remarks made by my hon. friend Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. Is it not the primary duty of the Chair to regulate the business and proceedings of this House? If so, is it not an infringement of the rights of the Hon'ble Chair that such remarks should come from a gentleman who purports to belong to the Congress Party, especially when



he referred to some "nonsense" being spoken in this House? I want to know whether it is not infringement of the rights and privileges of member of this House for him to point out the nonsense is being repeated in this House.

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** That does not illustrate my statement, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Certainly, it is the right of the Chair to regulate the proceedings. Order, order.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** In our discussions, Sir, we have travelled so far as Madras. Now, let me come to Assam. In Assam we have found that within the province the Hon'ble Ministers have been too frequently travelling in their motor cars and hardly use the railway compartment. Once I found the Hon'ble Premier coming all the way from Dhubri to Goalpara. I found him in a first class compartment in the steamer. It was during the day time. To cut down expenditure he could very well have travelled a lower class. But he did not do it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member has spoken for 13 minutes.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** With so many interruptions, Sir. However, I shall shorten my speech. I have seen several Ministers making hurricane tours day in and day out from one end of the country to the other. With what motive and with what purpose I do not know. Many of these visits to us are still a mystery. Here, Sir, I should say that within the Ministers' travelling allowance we could cut down a lot by cutting down these unwanted or less wanted visits.

Then, Sir, about the increase in the number of Ministers in the Cabinet. The increase of Ministers has increased the expenditure under contingencies also. Rupees 6,500 has been asked to be voted as an additional sum under contingencies. That means buying more typewriters and sundry other expenses of office staff. So, Sir, the entire policy of carrying on the administration at a cheaper rate is a hoax. I should say that this is only a means of saying that we are carrying on Government much cheaper than it was previously done. I cannot think that my Congress friends over there are alert on this fact, though they gave out to their constituency and there now they appear to do it from time to time that the administration under their charge would be cheaper. But they are not doing it. With these words I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the provision of Rs.18,500 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 3 of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1938-39, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.60,222 do stand reduced by Rs.101".

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the motion. From the replies to questions we find that extensive tours are undertaken by the Hon'ble Ministers not for benefiting the province and the Government but to strengthen their incomes. I should like to read out the unstarred question No. 179(b) which was put in connection with the tour of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue. The question was as follows:—"If so, will Government be pleased to lay before the House a comparative statement of the condition of the peasants of the different Valleys in general and that of the districts in each Valley in particular?" The answer was:—"I am afraid Government is not in a



position to make any comparative statement as asked for on the basis of the mere impressions gathered by me in the course of the tour." Sir, we as representatives of the people have got to lay before the House grievances of our respective constituencies. How can a man who is not conversant with the language of the province, have the luxury of touring all through the province and when he is asked as to what impression he has gathered after his extensive tour, he cannot give the proper reply. Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Amjad Ali has probably calculated much about it because he said that the principle of patriotism was there but I am afraid, the principle that prompted Mr. Gandhi to make Rs.500 to be the salary of the Minister is not related to the personal of the present Cabinet. It is hardly a case of sacrifice for our Ministers to take pride that by accepting Rs.500 they are serving the country by patriotic feeling. While discussing on this point we have got to believe that the extensive tours rendered no benefit to the people in general. My Hon'ble friend, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali had been to his locality and gave extensive tour there but Sir, we know what is his portfolio. If we go through the Budget, we will find that no provision has been made there for the places where the Hon'ble Minister of Industries undertook an extensive tour. I think, Sir, the money which has been spent for his travelling allowance, could have been better utilised if certain schools could be started or if certain scholarship could be given to the students to study industry. Sir, from a reply to a question put by my hon. friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, we find that the Hon'ble Prime Minister drew about Rs. 1,000 as travelling allowance in course of six months only, the Hon'ble Finance Minister Rs.615, the Hon'ble Medical Minister Rs. 1,467, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Excise Rs.622 and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Rs.703.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it a fact that the then Minister of Industries Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury drew a sum of Rs.4,000 or Rs.5,000 in the shape of travelling allowance in course of seven months?

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** I am not aware of that, Sir. I can say only this much is that he never said in the press or anywhere else that Rs.500 was his salary. I really congratulate my hon. friend when he said that he can throw open challenge to contradict the statement that the Hon'ble Minister for Medical Department travelled in second class but he drew first class allowance. Sir, I fail to understand how they can maintain the fair name or reputation of the posts which they held. This is a matter of serious consideration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is practically repeating what has been spoken by Maulavi Amjad Ali.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** No Sir, I am not repeating. What I want to place before the House is that if those gentlemen who have got to run the administration indulge in this sort of thing then will not these instances have a bad effect upon the whole administration and will not the Subordinate Officers of the Government take lesson out of these breaches? If the Hon'ble Minister travels in second class and draws first class travelling allowance then will not the Subordinate Officers be justified in following the same procedure? Sir, with these few words I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad. Amjad Ali.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, and want to speak a few words in connection with the tours of the Hon'ble Ministers which were undertaken not for the public benefit or interest but to enlist support to their party. At the outset, I will deal with the question asked by me and the answer given by the Hon'ble Ministers before this House. Sir, on a



question put by me the Hon'ble Prime Minister replied that during his halt at Calcutta he stayed with one Prabhudayal Himatsingh and he drew halting allowance at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per day. What I like to say is that when he stayed with a friend and took his meals also with him, should it be proper for him to charge Rs. 7-8-0 per day for nothing.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it necessary for the Hon'ble Ministers to spend the entire amount they draw, and whether they can draw more than they are entitled to in case they spend more?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** I am not concerned with that.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Then with what is the hon. member concerned?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That is a very pertinent question.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** It may be pertinent to him, Sir, but it is not at all pertinent to me and I am not going to reply to the hon. member. Sir, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will always accept the invitation of his Subordinates when he goes out on tour. Is it not undignified for a Hon'ble Minister to place him under the obligation of the officers who are to work under him or under them? This is the way how the Hon'ble Ministers are saving money, the money which they draw from the public exchequer. They boast that they are running the administration at a lesser cost and at much sacrifice but these are the examples of their sacrifice. We also heard from the Hon'ble Ministers that while they purchased third class tickets they were allowed to travel in inter-class or first class. Are they not taking undue advantage of their position in this way?

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Is it Ministers' fault?

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** It is admitted by the Hon'ble Premier that he himself travelled first class from Dhubri to Goalpara, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister travelled inter-class from Abhayapuri to Dhubri. I wish the hon. member had been in the House and heard the Hon'ble Premier. He would have then realised.....

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The hon. member has said that had I been present in the House I would not have asked some such question. But I like to inform him that this remark applies to him, and not to me because if I remember aright the Hon'ble Premier said that he had to do some official works while travelling on board the steamer, and that so it was convenient for him to travel first class so that he could use the tables and chairs.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** But, Sir, then there is no justification for their saying and preaching to the illiterate masses that they always travel third class, but here in this House they come with explanations why and how they are obliged to travel first and inter-classes. This is the way how they are bluffing the illiterate masses.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Because the masses are illiterate, people like ourselves can come here.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** With these few words, Sir, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this motion I do not want to repeat the arguments that have been advanced by the previous speakers. Sir, when the new Ministry took office on a lesser salary it was given out that there would be a saving of



about Rs.10,000, and it was widely talked that this money would be spent for education in the hill areas. The first question I want to put to the Hon'ble Premier is whether any such saving made and whether the money was actually spent for education in the hill areas. Sir, in the Memorandum on the Budget I find at page 34 that the original provision under the head "Heads of the Province and Ministers" was Trs. 4,10 and the revised estimate was Trs. 3,90, and it is explained in the Memorandum that the decrease of Trs. 20 in the revised estimate was mainly due to several items, one of them being "under Ministers (Trs. 8) owing to the change in the Ministry and lower rates of pay fixed by the Legislatures for the Hon'ble Ministers". Then it is shown that "the Budget generally follows the current year's sanctioned grant and shows a decrease of Trs.11 which is the result of the following variations:—(1) Smaller provision under Ministers based on the lower rates of pay drawn .....Trs. 13".

Now, in spite of this, Sir, we are surprised to find that Government have come forward with a supplementary demand of Rs. 18,500. So I think that this talk of economy was only a camouflage, there has been no real economy at all. Although there was a saving of Rs.8,000 they have come forward with a supplementary demand of Rs.18,500. Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister kindly explain this?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the actual facts and figures will be supplied by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and I expect the hon. members who have spoken on this motion as also the hon. mover will take these facts and figures at their worth and would understand their implication. I only rise to reply to a few remarks that have been made regarding my tour.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I believe the hon. Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman has not finished his speech. It would be better if the Hon'ble Premier replies after all the members have spoken.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I have finished, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will any other hon. member take part in this debate?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Yes, Sir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard.....

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I rise to a point of order, Sir. As my Hon'ble friend the Premier is not replying on behalf of Government.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But he has moved the motion.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** But I understand the final reply will be given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. If my Hon'ble friend the Premier gives us facts under which he travelled in higher first class and also some other facts which the hon. members on this side wanted to know, then I think the speech of my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury would probably be considerably curtailed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What I wanted to say is that the right of reply was with the Hon'ble Premier. If the House want some facts and figures from him with a view to curtail the debate then the Hon'ble Premier may at once speak at this stage. But he will have the final right of reply.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I only wanted to explain a few remarks which have been made regarding my tours. Sir, I undertook four or five tours all of which were definitely for the purpose



of either making certain enquiries or for the purpose of investigating certain issues which were absolutely necessary and which are under the consideration of Government. The first tour, as may be known, was in connection with the flood at Goalpara. Some hon. members were saying that we undertook those tours for party purposes, but I definitely say that nothing could be more false than this. There was a clamour—a clamour which was wide and very strong—that the flood stricken people of Goalpara had not been looked after by Government.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I know what took the Hon'ble Premier to Gauripur on the night he stayed at Dhubri? Was it in connection with any flood? Was there any flood at Gauripur?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, an hon. member of the House saw me, and I thought it necessary to return the visit. That is all I can say. That was the object for which I had gone there. I met the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner there, had the Committee brought before us and discussed about the flood relief and did something about the relief of the people. Definitely it must be admitted.

Then there was another tour to Calcutta where I had to go at the invitation of the Bengal Government. I do not want to repeat what I have already said. But that tour was absolutely necessary for the province to be represented in the Committee. It was a matter with which the financial interests of the province was very closely connected.

The third tour was in reference to the organisation of the tribal education. That was a very trying and a very long. I had to go to the whole of the Upper Assam districts and meet a various tribal associations, students and accordingly we have drawn up a scheme which will be given effect to very shortly. I already stated the necessity of my Garo Hills tour.

Then, Sir, other tours were very short. I was taken to Gauhati to see the political prisoners in jail for their release. Then I went once again to Gauhati and it was in connection with the extension of Zoology class in the Cotton College. Besides these two tours, I have had four other tours. These were not charged to the revenues of the province but was undertaken with this humble man's own money. These were done also for the purpose of understanding the grievances of the people. I had taken a tour in the Surma Valley and three times in the Assam Valley for these purposes without charging Government anything.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of information, Sir; is the Hon'ble Premier in duty bound to reply why and how he travelled?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It is not at all necessary. But I find unfounded and almost malicious charges are being made in this House over this travelling allowance for the last few days. I find it necessary to remove the misunderstanding.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** May I know if there was any saving?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Whatever expenditure has been made has been shown by the Hon'ble Minister. This supplementary demand which has been shown was due to the travelling and other allowance spent by the last Ministry. And I can only hope that the hon. members who are bringing this motion will realise that their charges are malicious and false. This supplementary demand is more on account of the last Ministry.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will be able to show to this House that within the short time of their assumption of office they have, as a matter of fact drawn less travelling allowance and that they have incurred less expenditure than what the previous Ministry did. Well, Sir, so far as we could gather from the



figures which have been supplied to this House in answer to a question, we cannot hope to have any such promise fulfilled. I think, within the short time of their assumption of office and considering the work done by them during their tour, one cannot but be led to believe that these Hon'ble Ministers are doing rather extravagant touring. But what strikes me more is this that these Ministers by their touring and the manner of their drawing allowance—travelling allowance and halting allowance—have set a very bad example to the Government servants serving under them and they are, as a matter of fact, being encouraged to incur more expenditure for the Government doing less work and getting more in their pocket. What I want and what I expect of the Hon'ble Ministers is to follow the example which they are preaching and to convince this House and the country that they are really following the principle which they have preached. If they had succeeded, they would deserve some congratulations. I need only touch one point. Although the Hon'ble Ministers according to the creed, are expected, to travel in third class in steamers and railways (The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi—Never) then why did they tell the public that they would travel by the third class and they are actually travelling in second and first classes ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It has never been our custom that we have told in public that we would travel in third class.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** They are expected to travel in the third class and owing to the exigencies of circumstances and in the interests of public purposes they sometimes travel by the third class. Is that so ?

**Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH:** On a point of information, Sir. The point is this: without meaning any aspersion on Mr. Chaudhuri, is Mr. Chaudhuri allowed to quote the Congress scriptures ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I think, the hon. member means that Congress has become monopoly property of some individual. My hon. friend is ordinarily kept under the vow of silence and he gets permission to speak only to attack me

However, Sir, the Hon'ble Ministers take car allowance. No Government servant is entitled to car allowance. On the one side, they are drawing car allowance and on the other, they are drawing travelling allowance equal to any first grade Government servant, by making most of their journeys by cars instead of going by train. They have charged Government in two ways. They have taken a car allowance of Rs.160 per month. At the same time they are charging at the rate of first grade officers for railway and steamer journeys.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Did he not travel by his own car when he was a Minister and charge first class.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I travelled by my car and I have never drawn any car allowance.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** May I know what was his salary at that time ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I am afraid he does not know many things if he does not know what was my salary. He cannot distinguish between a point of order and a point of information.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** So this is one point. The other point is, Sir, if a Government servant actually makes false statement in his bill for travelling allowance, proceedings would be drawn up against him and he would be punished in due course. On the other hand we



know that the Hon'ble Ministers being at the head of the Government are immune from all such inconveniences—(*shame*). Sir, if this scandal has been in the air for some time and it has been tolerated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is the talk of the town—the very subordinates—the Personal Assistants, Director of Public Health and other subordinate officers know what the Hon'ble Minister has done, and this has set a very bad example to their own subordinates. Sir, from these two points of view I think that the Government deserve very strong censures.

### Adjournment

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

### After lunch

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Before the proceedings of the House are resumed, I beg to mention one fact. Sir, it may be known to you that to-day is the last day for the collection of Anti-Tuberculosis Fund. A fun fair has been held in the Government House grounds to collect funds in that behalf. It may be interesting for the hon. members to know that the collection for this day will be entirely devoted to works inside this province and therefore it is desirable that we should all be trying to contribute whatever we may be able in that connection. We may have enjoyment and at the same time make a little contribution for a good cause. I hope all the members of the House will patronize this fair.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** So we may be allowed to go early.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It would depend on the hon. members themselves. If they can manage to finish the business of the day expeditiously they can disperse earlier than the normal time.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the opportunity that has been given to us for placing the figures on this matter which has been discussed times without numbers on the floor of this House during this session. But, Sir, while I propose to repute the charges made by the hon. members against the present Ministry, I do not propose to introduce into this discussion the personal element and reflections on individuals which have been imported by some of the hon. members of the Opposition.

Sir, it is very difficult for us to understand when in the same breath we are asked to reduce the expenditure on this item and criticise if some of us have been travelling by third class or charging third class fare. We have been accused that, while we take third class ticket and charge the exchequer as such, we persuade the railway authorities to provide first class, second class or inter-class compartment for our convenience. It may be interesting for the hon. members to know that the officers of these railway companies are not subordinate to us, they are not persons who are within the control of the Government or in any way connected with the Provincial Governments. Therefore, it is improper to suggest that either we would go to induce these persons or they would themselves put better class of compartment for our travelling. Sir, as far as I am concerned and I know about the Hon'ble Premier as well, we never went out of our way to make request to the railway authorities to place a better class of compartment than one for which we had purchased the ticket. At the same time if any of these railway officers asked us to occupy an inter-class compartment while we had purchased the ticket for third class, we did not refuse that hospitality. I do not see any justification why we have been refused on this account particularly when we did not submit our travelling allowance bills for inter-class or second class.



Secondly, we have been accused for not spending any amount on food out of the travelling allowance which we get and charged for living on the hospitality and charity of the persons of those places which we go to visit. Not only I can assure the hon. members who have raised this question that I shall take this hint into consideration when I visit their respective constituencies and see that they are not put to any inconvenience but also, assert that we have never forced any person to entertain us during our visits. But, Sir, if we are offered hospitality by a friend or by a relation with whom we have had connection for years, is there any justification in the claim that for our being Ministers we should turn down such a hospitality. I fail to see the point raised by the hon. member. I, however, assure him and others of his opinion that it is not our intention to exact hospitality from persons whom we do not know and who appear to invite us only for the sake of formality and show and if an invitation from such quarters is ever offered to me I shall take the hint now given and shall straightway refuse that hospitality.

Thirdly, we have been accused by hon. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri for drawing travelling allowance in spite of our drawing allowances for car. By arguing in that way he has tried to show that the tax-payers are now paying more and we are chiefly responsible for the increase of expenditure. Sir, a good deal of criticisms has also been levelled by other hon. members for the increase of expenditure on travelling allowance. In this connection I shall do no more than to place the facts and figures to show that we are not responsible for this increase of expenditure. If to-day Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri is criticising this increase in the expenditure, he is criticising his own action much more than he is criticising our action (*Hear, hear*). These amounts were included in the Budget under three heads. Under Allowances Rs.4,500 were provided in the Budget for 1938-39. It will be interesting for the hon. members to note that Rs.5,309 were spent by the hon. members of the previous Cabinet before they vacated the office. That is to say, though the House had sanctioned an amount of Rs.4,500, for the whole year, they had spent Rs.809 more before they vacated office. We have now come forward for a supplementary grant of Rs.6,000 for this item out of which an amount of Rs.809 has to be met on account of the additional expenditure by the previous Ministry. A simple calculation will show that with six Ministers in those 6 months which were hardly touring season the previous Ministry drew much more on this account than the present Ministry consisting of 8 Ministers during the touring season. If to-day we have come forward with this supplementary demand and if on that account we are being criticised, I can only ask the hon. members who have criticised us to hold a mirror before them and see their own face.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Before I see my face in the mirror, Sir, will the Hon'ble Premier revise his simple arithmetic and find out whether we were in office seven months or five months and 13 days in 1938?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Twenty days.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** No, we resigned on the 13th, September.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** We took charge on the 20th and therefore it is 20 days.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** After we resigned we did not travel. But why not give the correct figures?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I say it is 20 days; and they drew salary till the 20th.



**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This is a question about travelling allowance and we did not travel after the date of our resignation.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The plain fact is there. It makes no difference whether it is 20 days, 15 days or 13 days. What more I want to say is that these months, being summer months were not touring period. We not only travelled during the touring season but also with more Ministers in seven months we have drawn much less amount than what the previous Ministry with six Ministers did in five months.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will the Hon'ble Finance Minister recollect that then we were passing through a time of floods and most of the former Ministers had to make extensive tours on account of the floods and visiting flood-affected areas?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Most of the touring for that purpose was done by the present Ministry (*Cries of No, No*). Sir, we have also been criticised for coming forward with a supplementary demand for the pay of establishment. If the hon. members were to look into the Budget which was presented and passed by this House last year they will find that Rs. 25,000 were allotted for this particular item. Out of that, before the last Ministry went out of office a sum of Rs. 17,684 were spent by them and we were left to carry on with a balance of Rs. 7,316 for the remaining seven months. Sir, is it proper for these hon. members to come forward with criticism when these figures show that we have in no way increased the expenditure even on establishment? Then there is a third item Contingencies for which this House had sanctioned Rs. 5,800. Before the previous Ministry went out of office Rs. 4,093 were spent by them during the five months and a few days and we were left with only Rs. 1,707 to carry on the work for the rest of the 7 months. These figures which I have placed before the hon. members will convince each and every section of the House that if we have come forward with this supplementary demand we have done so on account of the legacy left by our predecessors. If any sin has been committed or any omission made in that commission neither the hon. member who has moved this motion nor his supporters who have spoken in support of this motion nor leaders who were then Ministers and their party from the blame which they now want to thrust on our shoulders. And if they were honest and if they were sincere.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister will do well to avoid such words.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** There is no other alternative, but to agree with us. In the few months that we have been in charge of the administration, we have tried to bring about a saving not only in our own salaries but also in other directions. Sir, we have been accused for taking car allowances and also for charging travelling allowance. I only wish that those hon. members had levelled such criticisms when salaries over Rs. 2,000 and over Rs. 1,300 were drawn by the Ministers who were supported by those very hon. gentlemen. Is it proper, that these gentlemen who once supported the heavy expenditure on the salaries of Ministers should now come forward, try to criticise us and bring in personal elements into such discussions, which go not only against our dignity but against the dignity of all the members concerned? Is it proper that they should wash dirty linen of the personal disappointments and grievances on the floor of the House by the discussion of which neither the province nor the tax-payers stand to benefit; but which only



reveals the mentality of the hon. members concerned. I deplore this attitude taken by a number of members not only to-day but also on previous occasions in indulging in criticising of Ministers in this manner, and for talking, or even entering into discussions which concern Minister's individual and personal behaviour and not in their capacity as public servants. Sir we are here to serve people. What we are drawing, whether it be by way of salary or by way of travelling allowances, we are doing it with one object. In drawing these amounts we are guided by one motive alone and that is of being as less a burden as possible to the tax-payers whose money we hold in trust and which we do not want to spend extravagantly.

One hon. member went to the extent, and I think, it was meant more as a reflection on me than on any one else, that without knowing the language of the district, I wasted the money by touring in Sylhet. That hon. member comes from a district which is mostly populated by Muhammadans and I take a pride in being a Muhammadan myself. I spoke to the people and they conversed with me in a language of which not only but every Mussalman should be proud of. If by speaking in Urdu language I cause dissatisfaction to the people of the hon. member's district, it is not my fault, Sir, and I am really unfortunate.....

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** On a point of information, Sir, shall I be correct to assert that the Hon'ble Minister's speech all throughout the valley had to be translated into Bengalee?

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Not at all places. And if they were translated they were so translated for the benefit of the other community which did not understand the Urdu language. Then, Sir, with regard to the pay of the Ministers, the hon. Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman has raised a question. In this connection I only say, Sir, that we are drawing much less than what the previous Ministers were drawing, with the result that now there is a considerable saving under the head of salaries. The hon. member's argument is, while there was a saving under the head of salary, why should the Government come forward with a supplementary demand for those other items. He would realise from the figures shown in the Budget that the salaries of the Ministers are shown as charged expenditure and the saving, which has resulted on account of the fact that the present Ministers have taken smaller salaries, has been surrendered and utilised for other public purposes. These amounts for which we have come forward with supplementary demand are under a votable item and have nothing to do with the saving which has resulted under the head Salaries of the Ministers. So, Sir, what I want to say is that the increased expenditure for which we have come forward with this demand is not one for which we can be held responsible. It is unfortunate that we have been compelled to carry on the legacy which has been left by our predecessors. For such acts of omissions and commissions it is not proper for hon. members and least of all for the hon. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri to criticise and accuse us.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs. 18,500 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total) at page 3 of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1938-39 be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 60,222 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

The motion was negatived.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then the original motion is that an additional sum of Rs. 60,222 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending



on the 31st March, 1939 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

The motion was agreed to.

### 27.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (5)

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.22,924 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly	Rs.	6,60,000
II. Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Judicial Department—		
(a) District and Sessions Judges—		
Sub-Judge	Rs.	1,686
Munsiffs		18,338
		<hr/> 20,024
(b) Law Officers—		
Contribution to Bengal for Law Officers of Bengal	Rs.	2,900
<b>Total</b>		<hr/> <b>22,924</b>

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) As a result of the re-allocation of the leave salaries in respect of leave taken on or after 1st April 1937 by Judicial Officers of Bengal serving under the Government of Assam and who are subject to the leave rules in the Fundamental Rules a sum of Rs.20,024 (voted) is payable to the Government of Bengal. As the payment is obligatory the Assembly is asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.20,024.

(b) Provision for contribution to Bengal for the services of their law officers was made under "Charged" head in the Budget, but a sum of Rs.2,900 will be required under "voted" during the current year. On the whole there will be no excess as there will be a larger saving in the original provision made under the "Charged" head. A supplementary grant is, therefore, required to meet the excess under the (voted) or demand for the current year.

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

"That an additional sum of Rs.22,924 be granted to the Minister in charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1939, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 39.—PUBLIC HEALTH (6)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 84,350 be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.	7,67,500
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II—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Health Department—

C.—Epidemic Diseases—

	Rs.
(b) Other epidemics—Contingencies ...	76,000
(c) Epidemic Units—Pay of establishment	1,150
Allowances and Honoraria ...	5,900
Contingencies... ..	1,100
Total ... ..	84,350

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The excess was mainly due to severe outbreaks of cholera in the districts of Goalpara, Sylhet and Kamrup which involved Government in a great additional expenditure on account of medical stores (accounted for under the sub-head "contingencies"), and in the pay and allowances of the establishment. In order to cope with the outbreaks, which took a heavy toll of human lives, cholera vaccine and bacteriophage had to be supplied in much greater amount than in a normal year; additional staff had to be entertained temporarily for a certain period, and extra touring was done by all officers concerned. An additional cause was that expenditure for the treatment of *kala azar* also increased considerably in some districts because many more patients were detected and brought under treatment during the year as compared with the previous one. The increase in numbers is estimated at present at about 25 per cent. on last year. Certain savings due to less expenditure than anticipated for the Public Health portion of the grant for development of rural areas have been set off.

The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 84,350 under the above mentioned sub-heads.

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

"That an additional sum of Rs. 84,350 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "39—Public Health".

The motion was put and agreed to.

41.—VETERINARY

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly ...	Rs. 1,55,400
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II—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Veterinary Department—

	Rs.
B. Subordinate establishment—Contingencies—	
Other non-contract contingencies (purchase of instruments and appliances) ... ..	2,000



## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been pressing for a long time for the employment of some Veterinary Field Assistants to supplement the work of the Provincial Veterinary Department. The demands for veterinary aid have now become so wide-spread and numerous that the matter has been constantly and widely discussed both in and outside the Assembly. The Veterinary Department is inadequately staffed and the existing few officers are not able to cope with epidemics which frequently occur in different parts of the province. The demand put forward is the most economical way to strengthen the Veterinary staff by the appointment of Veterinary Field Assistants on a scale of Rs.25—5/5—50, who will be most useful, with a proper practical training for such work as dressing, compounding, rendering aid in the preventive vaccination and inoculation, registration of pedigree stock, tattooing and branding animals and in castration with Burdizzo castrator. It is proposed to appoint 43 such Field Assistants and to train them first for six months. The staff will be temporary and entertained only for a period of three years for the present. As the appointments have not yet been made, no expenditure will be necessary for the pay of these field assistants this year but a sum of Rs. 2,000 will be necessary to meet the cost of instruments and appliances which have already been ordered for. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,000. Provision for the pay of these assistants has been made in the Budget for next year.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary". There are no cut motions.

The motion was put and agreed to.

43.—INDUSTRIES 8

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head 43.—Industries."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. ... 2,31,000
II—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Department of Industries—	
B—Industrial development—	
4.—Contribution—Contribution to All-India National Planning Committee	Rs. ... 1,000

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

At the request of the Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, Madras—Convener of All-India National Planning Committee, this Government have, in anticipation of the sanction of the Legislative Assembly, contributed a sum of Rs. 1,000 being the quota assigned to this province for meeting the preliminary expenses of the National Planning



Committee. It was considered by Government that the matter was urgent and that participation in the said Planning Committee by this province was ultimately beneficial to Assam. As no such demand was anticipated at the time of framing of the current year's Budget, a supplementary demand is necessary for the amount of Rs. 1,000.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries." There are no cut motions to this demand.

The motion was put and agreed to. ✓

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

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 78,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	29,41,800
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Works Department—	
	Rs.
A—Original works—(a) Buildings—	
Police (other than Assam Rifles) ... ..	9,000
(b) Communications—	
Ordinary roads ... ..	14,000
Petrol Tax Projects (ordinary) ... ..	36,300
D. Grants-in-aid for communications—	
Grant for economic development of rural areas (village roads).	19,500
Total	78,800

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

(a) (i) The existing thana building at Silchar was severely damaged by storm and is beyond repairs and may collapse at any time. The thana office has therefore been temporarily shifted to the sadar town outpost building. This arrangement cannot continue for any length of time. As the reconstruction of the building is of imperative and urgent necessity in the public interest a project was administratively approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,270 and the Government have authorised the Public Works Department to proceed with the actual construction at once. Of the total amount a sum of Rs. 6,500 is anticipated to be spent during the current year for the purpose.

(ii) It was decided with the approval of the Assembly in September 1937, to split up the very unwieldy police station of Jaldhup in the Sylhet district into two, one at Beanibazar and the other at Barlekha. The police station buildings at Beanibazar are now ready for use, the Sub-Deputy



Collector's quarters being converted departmentally for the purpose. But the cost of constructing the buildings at Barlekha with the necessary quarters for the staff is estimated at Rs. 15,612 against the original estimate of Rs. 5,748 framed for departmental construction. The whole project being for more than Rs. 10,000 the Public Works Department have since been asked to execute the work and the actual construction is now in progress. Owing to late sanction the Public Works Department will not be able to spend more than Rs. 2,500 this year.

The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a sum of Rs. 9,000 for both the projects.

(b) A new source of revenue for the improvement of communications has been found in the surplus of motor vehicles taxation proceeds after payment of expenses incurred on account of the imposition of the tax and payment of contributions by way of compensation to local authorities, as may, by reason of passing of the Act, suffer a loss of revenue.

At the time of the preparation of the Budget it was not known that a grant will be available for the purpose during the current year but an allocation of Rs. 19,224 having been made in course of the year the following projects have been undertaken, the anticipated expenditure on which is Rs. 14,000 and the Assembly is therefore asked to vote a supplementary grant for the purpose.

Name of work	Amount of estimate	Anticipated expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Strengthening of certain bridges on the Sylhet-Shillong road.	11,992	10,000
2. Gravelling the ungravelled portion of North Trunk Road between Gauhati and Tezpur.	9,968	4,000
	21,960	14,000

2. The Government of India have been pleased to sanction the schemes, as noted in the list below, included in the programme of road improvement and accepted by the Assembly at the Budget 1937 session. These works will be financed from the roads funds sanctioned by the Government of India and the expenditure anticipated during the current year, for which the vote of the Assembly is now sought for, is shewn in the list.

Name of work	Amount of sanctioned estimate	Estimated expenditure during 1938-39
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Bridging the Khandajan and Barnadi in Mangaldai Subdivision.		
(a) Khandajan ... ..	6,177	1,200
(b) Bornadi ... ..	43,272	1,200



Name of work	Amount of sanctioned estimate.	Estimated expenditure during 1938-39.
	Rs.	Rs.
2. Bridging the Borgong in Darrang district	2,77,000 (approximate).	500
3. Replacing the timber bridges on the Nowgong-Kampur road.	63,360	1,025
4. Improving the Damra-Dalgoma road ...	1,10,000 (approximate).	300
5. Surveying the Hojai-Doboka road ...	462	462
6. Surveying Srimangal-Telipara in Maulvi-bazar Subdivision.	2,895	2,598
7. Improvement to Sylhet-Sunamganj road	1,26,064	29,000
Total ... ..	...	36,285
Say ... ..	...	36,300

D—Grant-in-aid for communications—

Provision had to be made in the Budget for expenditure out of the special grant from the Government of India for rural development according to such an estimation of the position as complicated and somewhat speculative nature of the case permitted. From the reports now received it appears that a sum of Rs. 64,500 is likely to be spent on village roads as against Rs. 45,000 provided in the Budget. Hence the necessity for an additional grant of Rs. 19,500.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs. 78,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1939, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)."

There are no cut motions to this demand.

The motion was put and agreed to.

54.—FAMINE RELIEF (10)

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,84,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge



to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for administration of the head "54-A.—Famine Relief".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	50,000
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

	Rs.
(a) Relief work ... ..	1,21,000
(b) Gratuitous relief ... ..	1,63,000
Total ... ..	2,84,000

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

On account of the heavy flood which visited almost all the districts of the province, a very large sum was required for granting relief to the effected people. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,84,000.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs. 2,84,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for administration of the head "54-A.—Famine Relief".

There are no cut motions to this demand.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 56.—Stationery and Printing 11

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.25,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	3,14,700
II.—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the General Department—	

E.—Printing at private presses... ..	Rs. 25,000
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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Besides the fact that more than 100 forms under different schedules were standardised during the current year resulting in increased expenditure bills to the extent of Rs.34,000 odd relating to the forms supplied in 1937-38 had to be paid during the year owing to their being submitted late in the year (1937-38) without complete vouchers. An additional sum of Rs.25,000 is, therefore, required during the current year to meet all the demands.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.25,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

There are no cut motions to this demand. ✓

The motion was put and agreed to.

### 57.—Miscellaneous

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.4,818 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous".

Grant originally passed by the Assembly	Rs.
...	3,32,300
II.—Sub-head under which the supplementary demand will be accounted for by the Local Self-Government Department—	Rs.
57.—Miscellaneous—I.—Contributions—(a) Contributions to Local Bodies—Grants to Municipal Board for special purposes.	4,818

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The compensatory grant of Rs.1,847 given to the Maulvibazar Municipal Board to make up the loss of their ferry receipts through the transfer of the Channighat ferry from the Board to the Public Works Department, which is properly to be debited under "57.—Miscellaneous", has been wrongly provided under the head "50.—Civil Works—D.—Grants-in-aid for communications—I.—Grants to Municipal Boards—Recurring" in the current year's Budget. The present supplementary demand so far as this amount is concerned is thus only a transfer of grant from one head to another.

The Gauripur and Nalbari Town Committees applied to Government for the free services of officers for purposes respectively of re-assessment and assessment work in these towns. Accordingly Maulavi Rajjab Ali Mazumdar and Srijut Krishna Ram Medhi, Sub-Deputy Collectors, were placed on foreign service under these Town Committees respectively and grants equivalent to the pay and allowances of these officers for the period of their deputation were made to the Town Committees to enable them to meet the pay, etc., involved. Rupees 531-2-0 represents the pay and travelling allowance of the former officer and Rs.948-12-0 represents those of the latter. As these amounts are already provided in the Budget under appropriate heads the present supplementary demand with regard to these amounts will not result in excess in the Budget as a whole in the current year, and in fact amounts to a transfer of the amount from one head to another.

The Gauhati Municipal Board arranged for a re-assessment to be carried out by a Sub-Deputy Collector on an honorarium of Rs.500. There was delay however on the part of the Board as well as of successive Sub-Deputy Collectors, and ultimately a Sub-Deputy Collector had to be placed on whole-time duty for this work from 16th June 1938 to 17th December 1938, except for a period of 12 days when he was employed on flood relief. Following the practice in similar cases it is proposed to pay the Board a grant to cover the cost of his pay—Rs.1,696-8-7—and travelling allowance—Rs.294-3-0, less the Board's lump sum payment of Rs.500 for honorarium, or say Rs.1,491.



In the circumstances stated above the Assembly is asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.4,818.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.4,818 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for the administration of the head 57.—Miscellaneous.

There is no cut motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

### Loans and Advances, etc. (13)

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,66,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for administration of the head 'Loans and Advances' etc.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... .. Rs.5,78,500

II.—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—

B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government—

Advances to Cultivators ... .. Rs.1,66,700

### EXPLANATORY NOTES\*

On account of the heavy flood which visited almost all the districts of the province, a very large amount was required in the shape of agricultural and seed loans for relief to the flood-affected people throughout the Province. A total sum of Rs.4,47,500 has been sanctioned for the purpose during the year against a provision of Rs.25,000 in the Budget. Of the excess of Rs.4,22,500, Rs.2,55,800 will be met from savings in the grants for house building and other advances and the provision for "Loans to local bodies". The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.1,66,700.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.1,66,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939 for administration of the head 'Loans and Advances', etc.

There is no cut motion also.

The motion was put and agreed to.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### GRANT No.20

#### (41.—Veterinary)

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,71,100 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 "41.—Veterinary".

\*For further statement see Appendix B.



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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,71,100 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—'41—Veterinary".

There are several cut motions. Maulavi Abdur Rahman may move his cut motion.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.15,000 under grant No.20.—Major head.—41.—Veterinary, Minor head, D.—Hospitals and dispensaries (total) at page 161 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.50 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,100 do stand reduced by Rs.50.

Sir, at the very outset, let me request the hon. members of this House to look through the pages of the Budget where they will be disappointed to find that no provision has been made by the Government regarding any new project under the Veterinary Department. Sir, from a cursory glance to the Budget memorandum we find that some new provisions have been made and that is only for Garo Hills and Hailakandi Local Boards. Besides these, Sir, Government have not made any provision in the Budget to cope with the crying necessity of the outbreak of epidemic among the cattle. It is also the crying need of the various parts of the province that Government should come forward to tackle the situation arising out of the outbreak of cattle epidemic in serious form but if we look into the Budget what do we find? We find that neither any new scheme has been taken up by the Government nor any provision has been made. Sir, the necessity of making adequate provision for starting dispensaries and appointing more Doctors cannot be denied even by the Government. It is also admitted that Local Boards are seriously handicapped for want of money to provide requisite amount of medicines to the dispensaries. Sir, I may refer the hon. members of this House to the report on the administration of the Local Bodies published by the Government in the local Gazette on the 15th March 1939. I may refer the hon. members to page 397 of the Gazette. It reads as follows.—'There were outbreaks of various cattle diseases in Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Dhubri and Goalpara in the Assam Valley and in all the Subdivisions of the Surma Valley. They were severe in Silchar, Karimganj and Sunamganj.' I should also inform the hon. members of this House that after the publication of the Government report there was a serious outbreak of the cattle disease also in the Habiganj Subdivision and Sunamganj. Epidemics of cattle diseases in one form or another are a perennial source of anxiety to all concerned and the demand for more Veterinary aid is on the increase. An appeal sent out to the Boards to increase the existing Veterinary staff met practically with no response. Dibrugarh alone sanctioned the appointment of an extra Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, whereas the other Boards while recognising the urgent need of additional staff could only ask for additional grants from provincial revenues for this purpose.

Sunamganj went a step further and decided in December 1937 to abolish their veterinary section with effect from the 1st April 1938, on the curious pretext that the two veterinary dispensaries were found inadequate for a 'vast Subdivision'. The Board was asked to reconsider its decision and without rescinding the resolution for abolition of its Veterinary section decided to provide for the continuance of the two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. The execution of the original resolution was then suspended. Sir, may I inform the House that the Sunamganj Local Board had, out of despair, adopted this resolution. The Hon'ble Minister now in-charge of cattle was also a member of the Sunamganj Local Board and as far as my information goes he also supported that resolution.



Again I may refer the hon. members to the speech which the Hon'ble Finance Minister delivered during the presentation of the Budget. In this connection he also admitted that "it has already been recognised from all quarters that the Veterinary Department requires considerable strengthening to enable it to perform its essential duties, but we could not till now arrive at a decision on the question of reorganisation of this Department for dearth of qualified Assamese Veterinary graduates". Sir, a short while ago we have voted a supplementary demand of Rs.2,000 which was asked by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of cattle.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** May we know what the hon. member means by "Minister in charge of cattle"?

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** I mean the Minister in charge of Livestock and other things. In the explanatory note we find that Government have now recognised their responsibilities and the necessity of increasing the staff, and so they are going to appoint 43 field assistants on a scale of Rs.25—50 per month. This amount has been asked to give them training this year, of course it is not a recurring expenditure. Sir, so far as my knowledge goes, this scheme was drawn up by the previous Ministry. If that be a fact then the Hon'ble Minister is not at all making a new provision.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member has exceeded his time.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Sir, what I want to drive at is that there should be more trained hands so that wherever necessary doctors may cope with the situation. It is almost a natural thing now-a-days, particularly in lower parts of the subdivision that epidemics break out like anything among the cattle, and I would request the Government to make it a point to supply the Local Boards with more money for medicines and also to establish as many dispensaries as they can. Sir, in a big subdivision like Habiganj there are only two doctors, and each of them has been allotted an area of 10 to 20 miles. Is it possible for them to manage this vast area single-handed?

Then, Sir, we are often accused for our criticisms. My hon. friend who is in charge of Veterinary Department accused me the other day of unfair criticism. He said that we did not come forward with any scheme, but if the Hon'ble Minister in charge does not get provoked and attack me with his rod as he did the other day, then I may place a definite proposal before this House for consideration.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member has long exceeded his time. We have got only half an hour to discuss this demand. He ought to have given his scheme earlier.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** All right, Sir, with these few words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the provision of Rs. 15,000 under Grant No. 20,—Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—D.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 161 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.50, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,100 do stand reduced by Rs.50."

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we come to discuss the Budget of the Veterinary Department, our attention is naturally rivetted to the problem of cattle. The other day when we were discussing the Budget for Industries, we were assured that our fish world was quite safe without an expert. So I should say, Sir, that along with fish the Ministry must take into consideration a valuable property like the cattle also.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Fish and cattle go ill together (laughter). Let us leave out fish.



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I leave out fish, Sir, because I find that it is in safer hands now. The Cabinet can draw up on its experience. Sir, we can do without an expert for fishes, but cattle cannot go on without experts. Before I talk of a local grievance I want to say that it is the crying need of the province to have more doctors and more dispensaries in order to save the lives of our cattle. Barring a few centres like Upper Shillong, Khanapara, Jorhat and Sylhet, where we have only a few specimens of good cattle, we have got no provision for cattle breeding in our villages where the cattle ought to be in plenty.

To talk of a local grievance, I may point out to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Akshay Kumar Das that during his visit to Goalpara he must have got into touch with our people, and he must have noted that in the southern part of the Brahmaputra three thanas have been placed in charge of one Veterinary Assistant. He has got to work from the border of Kamrup almost to the border of Mymensingh, he has got to survey a number of villages in those three thanas. It is not possible for him to cope with the work single-handed. The funds at his disposal are scanty, the area he has got to work is very vast. So a suggestion was made, through a representation, that another dispensary, either at Lakhipur or at Chunari, may be established at State expense and Government may provide a doctor and some medicines. That would relieve the doctor from his heavy work in which he is just now engaged, and would enable him to devote more time and energy to real work. During the last flood havoc it was found that this doctor was amply unable to cope with the situation. The medicine at his disposal was scanty, he had to go from one place to another, and if he was visiting one centre hundreds of cattle were dying at another centre. So, it is a crying need of my subdivision that another dispensary should be opened either at Lakhipur or at Chunari in order to protect our cattle from dying an untimely death. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government admit that the Veterinary staff is inadequate. The number of the Veterinary staff ought to be enlarged and for the enlargement of the staff this Government have increased the scholarship from 2 to 5. And again I have placed a supplementary demand before the House for Rs.2,000 to provide instruments for forty-three Veterinary field assistants who are going to be appointed to look after the cattle of the Province. So the remark that there is no new project in this Department is not true. As regards the epidemic throughout the Province I can read the contents from a letter which the Superintendent of the Veterinary Department has issued on the 22nd March, 1939, to the Veterinary Inspector, Surma Valley Circle—

“You are informed that at present besides the epidemic in the Habiganj Subdivision there are epidemics of cattle diseases in the districts of Kamrup, Sibsagar, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Sunamganj subdivisions. To each of these places except Sibsagar extra Veterinary Assistants have been deputed. In the circumstances it is extremely difficult to find out more extra Veterinary Assistant Surgeon for Habiganj subdivision. One Staff Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and a reserve Veterinary Assistant Surgeon from Silchar have been deputed to Habiganj and supplementing the two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons maintained by the Local Board, Habiganj. Not only this I withdrew the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Government Sylhet Farm, temporarily and deputed him to Habiganj for epidemic duty. I thought that this should have been enough specially having regard to the great paucity of officers and epidemics in other districts. Since you have been pressing for more extra hands which however are not available, I see no



other alternative but to wire the Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, to spare the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Kohima, for epidemic duty in the Habiganj subdivision....." Sir, this is the condition of the Department.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** What about Sunamganj?

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** The Superintendent of the Veterinary Department went there.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Sunamganj is also mentioned in the letter.

**The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** We are going to supplement this Department with 43 Field Assistants. I have nothing further to say about this Department.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs.15,000 under Grant No.20, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—D.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 161 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.50, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,100 do stand reduced by Rs.50.

The motion was lost.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,71,100 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 "41.—Veterinary".

The motion was agreed to.

## GRANT No. 21

### (42.—CO-OPERATION)

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.91,700 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 "42.—Co-operation".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.91,700 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 "42.—Co-operation".

Cut motion No. 3 will be moved :

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.91,700 under Grant No. 21, Major head—42.—Co-operation, at page 163 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.91,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, the Minister in charge of Co-operation has much improved physically, but not departmentally. That this Department has got some inherent defects is admitted by all. The Head of the Department, Mr. S. L. Mehta in his Annual Report, 1937, said that there were some defects which required overhauling. The previous Government attempted to remove the defects and they were ready to do it, but I am sorry that there is no indication on the part of the present Government in order to improve the working



of this Department. The main defect lies in joint liability. I know some persons in many places went to take loan through Co-operative Societies, but as liabilities are joint they refrain from doing that. There are instances when for one man's liability another man's property was attached. Government might say that this method of joint liability is quite sound but on the part of cultivators it is nothing but cruel. We stand for the benefit of the peasants but we fail to realise their difficulties. It has been seen that the Co-operative Department though stands to remove the indebtedness in rural areas they have failed to do so. I cite one instance. There is a Co-operative Society in Dakshinkul in the subdivision of Sunamganj. The poor members of the society were rather robbed by the Department. They submitted petitions after petitions to Government but to no effect. This is the way in which Government are trying to remove the indebtedness of rural areas. A special feature in the *Assam Gazette* is that notices of liquidation proceedings are too frequent. In 1937 some 39 Societies were sent into liquidation, and 2 Agricultural Credit Societies were sent into liquidation; membership was also reduced by 1,442 in that year. This state of affairs is certainly not encouraging. It simply shows that this system has failed in rural areas in removing indebtedness of the cultivators. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies further gives information that in the next year the number of liquidations will increase. The meaning of all this is that the system under which Co-operative Societies are working is defective and has failed to do any good to the village people. I bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that he will kindly look into the affairs and see whether the rules can be revised and the Societies can be placed on a sounder basis so that the Societies may not be sent into liquidation so frequently, and the villagers can get as much benefit as they desire from them. I propose that they should establish agricultural banks in rural areas in order to advance money to the cultivators, so that they may liquidate their debts all at one time and repay it in small instalments.

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

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

"That the total provision of Rs.91,700 under Grant No.21, Major head—42.—Co-operation, at page 163 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.91,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. member that he has given us the opportunity to discuss a very important subject which is vitally connected with the rural life of the province, and I am sure his intention is not so much to criticise the Government as to bring to the pointed attention of the Government the straits to which this co-operative movement has now been reduced.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir. Is the hon. member supporting or opposing the motion?

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** There is no denying the fact that there has been a stalemate in the position of the Co-operative movement in the province. During the last trade boom period the Co-operative movement was bolstered up by the officers of the Department, and many Credit Societies sprang up like mushrooms, but the greatest defect was that there was not the stamp of real co-operation on them. The members who formed these Credit Societies had very little idea of what co-operation means. The hon. member who just argued about the defects of joint liability has also perhaps missed the implications of co-operation.



The spirit of co-operation implies joint liability of members so that one may have an effective control over the expenditure of the loan taken by others. Sir, I would submit some proposals to the Government for their favourable consideration in this connection. My first submission will be that these primary societies as they existed should be revitalised, and if they are to be revitalised some of them may be converted into Mixed Type Societies so that they may be able to take up some other functions as well. In this connection I would commend to the consideration of the Government the suggestion that the rural uplift schemes and schemes for drainage, embankment, and other rural reconstruction measures, may be pushed through the medium of these Co-operative Societies. If some of these measures are undertaken by the Co-operative Societies I am sure these Societies will be activated to some extent.

Then, the liabilities of the debtors of the Co-operative Societies should be scaled down, and some easy instalments should be allowed to them for the repayment of their liabilities. In doing this the financial position and the paying capacity of the debtor should be taken into consideration, along with the low rate of interest now ruling the money market. Taking all these factors into consideration the liabilities may be scaled down to a considerable extent. In order to do this Government must have some powers. For that I submit that since co-operation is now a provincial subject, Government should come up with some amendments of the existing Co-operative Societies Act, so that the officers may be armed with suitable powers for having an effective control over these Societies. If there is an amendment of the Act the following measures may be taken into consideration by the Government:—They may invest the Registrar with powers for realisation of money due by the Societies or their members and this power may be delegated even to some of the financing banks and to some of the well-managed rural societies, so that they can, without taking recourse to law-courts, realise their dues from their debtors, *i.e.*, some sort of summary powers for the realisation of dues may be given to the Department, or even to some of the financing banks. Then when new loans are issued it is to be seen that they are used for the purpose of productive investments. The rule as it stands does not permit of any control about the spending of that money after the loan is taken. The result is that almost 70 or even 80 per cent. of the loan taken is swallowed up in the shape of consumption capital.....

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. May I ask the hon. member to enlighten us whether he means short loans or long-term loans?

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** That is another thing requiring a detailed discussion. There is a necessity for shorter loans for agricultural purposes; long-term loans are required to wipe off the existing liabilities of the debtors. Both are necessary.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** On a point of information, Sir. May I know if the hon. member is aware of the conclusions of the All-India Co-operative Conference which met in Bombay and Madras?

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Then there must be some provision for more thorough and more effective auditing of these societies. There is another drawback from which the Co-operative Societies are now suffering. There is no other provision for the Registrar to take up the management of a rural society except by sending it to liquidation. But some power must be given to the Registrar to control the societies or to supersede the management if he thinks that the management of the same is going from bad to worse. At present there is no such provision in the Act. So there must be some provision in the new Act to the effect that the



Registrar may have power to supersede some of the societies instead of sending them to liquidation and after its financial position is rehabilitated the supersession order may be annulled and the society may be restored to its normal working. The Registrar may also be authorised to control and check the members of rural societies from fraudulent transfers of properties, to defeat the claim of the lending society. (Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali: How to check that?) That is a question of details. In the short time at my disposal it is not possible for me to discuss all those points. I am just placing some points for consideration of the Government.

Then there should be some power left to the Registrar for effecting a compromise with the creditors of the Bank—rural bank or financing bank whatever that may be. At present there is an insistent demand on the part of the depositors to take back their money and the financing banks are not in a position to pay the interest, not to speak of the principal, to the depositors. So there must be some power with the Registrar so that he may effect a composition with the depositors of the bank.

Sir, these are some of the suggestions that I can give to the Department and for the necessary amendment of the Co-operative Societies Act. I am afraid if the Act is not amended in the line I have suggested the Department of Co-operation may not be able to change its course towards an impending crisis. From my little experience in the working of the societies I can say that the Co-operative Societies Act must be immediately amended so that some of these provisions suggested be inserted there. There should also be a provision for scaling down of the debts of the borrowers. That is an absolutely necessary step that should be taken at once by the Government.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that Mr. Aditya who was a trenchant critic of the last Government is coming forward now to oppose this motion. If I remember aright, in 1937 he began his speech by saying that this Department of Co-operation is a Department of non-co-operation. What I beg to submit is this: that the Government whether this Government or that Government is always non-co-operating with this Department. This Department is now in a dying condition. The present Government also admit that. I refer to the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech at page 14. He says—"It is a fact that we have not been able to put forward any new scheme for improvement of co-operation in the province." The recent Resolution on the working of this Department is very disappointing. I will just read a few extracts to show how this Department has been worked. The Government Resolution begins "The Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies for the year ending the 31st March 1938 covers a period of critical struggle. In the Agricultural side of the movement the state of stagnation set in with the world-wide economic depression still continues and calls for most anxious thought.....The position of the non-agricultural societies was however slightly better.....The position of the Central Banks cannot be said to be satisfactory. The five Land Mortgage Banks are in a moribund condition and have lost public confidence. Government consider that the experiment of Milk Societies has failed and have decided to withdraw the Demonstrators from these societies and it is obvious that the societies will close down in no time".... "The increase in the number of liquidation proceedings from year to year is most disquieting and Government are considering whether more prompt disposal could be ensured by employing non-official liquidators with better emoluments".

Sir, we have been criticising this Department since 1937 but nothing has been done during these two years and half to effect any improvement whatsoever. The last Government in the last Budget session promised to



go into the matter and appoint a committee to effect a reform in this Department but this Government have turned down that proposal. In their Resolution they say "the out-going Government took up the question of appointing a committee to examine the defects and suggest remedies. The present Government have the subject under their most serious consideration and are collecting certain data upon which alone an investigation of the question can be based". Then there was another suggestion that there should be a separate audit staff for this Department. This proposal has not also been taken up. We find in the Resolution "A proposal for the creation of a separate audit staff is under their consideration at present and Government consider that it will be unwise to give effect to the proposal before the results of the proposed enquiry are known".

So the present policy of the Government comes to nothing. It is only a dilatory policy that they have adopted. Without taking the valuable time of the House I beg to suggest that if this Government is earnest about furthering this movement—and this is one of the principal planks of the rural constructive scheme—I think, they should give their most careful and immediate consideration to this matter and should devise ways and means to resuscitate this dying department.

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** Sir, this Government has been charged that they have taken a dilatory policy for not doing anything for the improvement of this Department. Sir, all I would assure the members is that after assumption of office, this Government have not been sitting idle. The previous Government really appointed a Committee. But this Government have found that there is no data on which the Committee can work. So, Sir, this Government issued some communiqué like this. "Please ask the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, please ask each Central Bank of the province to supply the following information without delay....."

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister what does he mean by saying that there was no data to go on?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** The difficulty is that the Committee had nothing like a data to go into.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Are we to take it that the previous Government appointed a Committee for the purpose and there was nothing on which to work? Is that the idea that the Hon'ble Minister in charge wants to give us?

**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** The circular asked for information about the amount which the Central Bank granted to each Society; secondly the total amount realised from these societies both as principal and as interest and the outstanding balance still to be repaid in each case. Thirdly if any member on account of his joint responsibility has paid more than once his share of the loan taken from the society of which he is a member. Sir, another letter I do not find just now here: but I do not like to take up the time of the House (*laughter*). That letter asked the Registrars and Assistant Registrars and Central Bank authorities to suggest means and ways how to improve the condition of these Co-operative Societies. Then they have also submitted their proposals. We are now in possession of some facts and shall take action and we shall ask a Committee to sit. Then, Sir, we shall decide what we can do. Not only this, we want even that the Head of the Co-operative Societies should not be an Indian Civil Service Officer and he might be an expert or something of the kind. So there is a move towards the right direction; and a few months afterwards you will find the result (*hear, ! hear ! and laughter*).



Sir, the hon. member Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya has said many things and also the hon. member Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman Sahib has submitted some suggestions. All these will be carefully considered by the Committee when they will sit.

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

“That the total provision of Rs.91,700 under Grant No. 21, Major head—42.—Co-operation, at page 163 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.91,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101”.

The motion was negatived.

The original motion that a sum not exceeding Rs.91,700 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 “42.—Co-operation” was then put and agreed to.

## GRANT No. 23

### (47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,300 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 “47.—Miscellaneous Departments”.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,300 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 “47.—Miscellaneous Departments.”

There are some cut motions on this. Cut motion No. 1, Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri is to move.

I find that the object of the cut motion has been stated to be to discuss about applications for Karimganj Electricity License. What I learn from the answers to certain questions answered on the floor of the House is that the applications have not yet been disposed of by the Government.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** That is my grievance, also the delay and the reasons for delay.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** Mr speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,300 under grant No. 23, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Electric and Factory Inspector, at page 174 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 95,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I have only to state the facts and the House can judge whether they should or should not support the motion. As early as in the year 1937, an application was submitted by two persons one was Dr. Triguna Sen and other was Mr. Sarat Chandra Bora—for the grant of electricity license for the town of Karimganj. After that application which was a joint application I understand others submitted applications. And although, as my information goes the preliminaries were settled long ago and the reports of the Electric Inspector were received long ago, no license has been granted on account of a difference of opinion in the Cabinet itself. There is I understand a tug-of-war between two Hon'ble Ministers on one side and the Hon'ble Premier on the other. And in the result the Minister in charge of Electricity has been considerably bewildered.



**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Are they the two Karimganj Ministers ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I need not say that. That is well-known to the members themselves.

Sir, the Subdivisional Congress Committee of Karimganj is fighting for Dr. Triguna Sen and as a matter of fact has addressed a letter to the Hon'ble Premier stating among other things that the licence should be granted to Dr. Sen alone.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** On a point of information, Sir. Will the hon. Mr. Chaudhuri extend to us the courtesy to tell us by what method he came to possess the letter which was addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I shall disclose it after the Hon'ble Prime Minister contradicts my statement.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** He wants to know how the hon. member came to know of such a letter.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I shall come to that. I have received the letter which was addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and it is dated the 15th February and was signed by the Prime Minister on the 16th February and endorsed to Hon'ble Minister, Electricity.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** But that is not the reply that was wanted.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The Minister-in-charge of Electricity probably threw it into the waste-paper basket. *(Laughter.)*

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is taking a great responsibility. A letter addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and sent by him to another Minister has come in to the possession of hon. member. It is certainly a great responsibility and the answer that he has given is that it was picked up from the waste-paper basket.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I shall say how I got it afterwards. It was not from the waste-paper basket. I got it through post.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It was only a discarded letter then. Somebody picked it up from the waste-paper basket and sent it to the hon. member.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I should have taken absolutely no notice of it, had it not been for the fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister tried to prevaricate when replying to question on the subject the other day.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** As a man of honour I strongly protest against such a statement. I never said that I never received the letter. I only said that the letter did not contain the import which the hon. member suggested.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I appeal to the hon. member to take into consideration one fact. The hon. member wants to criticise the conduct of the Minister. But when he himself says that the letter which was received by the Hon'ble Minister was thrown into the waste-paper basket, wherein lies the strength of the criticism ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I did not say that. I only say that it must have been thrown out.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Prime Minister has not acted upon that letter.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** He has acted on that letter, Sir.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If the hon. member can show that the Hon'ble Minister has acted on that letter and on that letter an order has been passed which he ought not to have passed, then the hon. member can go on making out what he wants to make out from that letter.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, it is a case dealing with stolen property.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** This shows, Sir, how certain Congress organisation is dealing with matters.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Congress party is not on its trial. It is the Ministers who may be considered to be on their trial.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** What I say is that the Minister has yielded to that demand made by the Congress Party. The letter is as follows:—

"I learnt very recently that the contract for the generation and distribution of electricity in Karimganj town has not yet been decided on. Dr. Triguna Sen is an applicant, whom the Subdivisional Congress Committee has recommended as he is a political sufferer. I do not know what is a real position, but what we think is, if anybody is to be given, his case comes to the foremost, if Congress recommendation has any value at all. The public opinion here is in his favour and if he is not given the license, it may affect the public opinion adversely. He is a political sufferer and the most qualified person. If his case does not come to the forefront and he is not given preference over all other candidates and if he is not wholly given the license, (probably the objection is that a man from Assam Valley is a joint applicant)\* it is useless running the Congress organisation. If he is advised to take the contract with other applicants, it is no use, because you know, after receiving foreign education and after his return to India, he was persecuted for long years under Government. I come to know that you have supported him very strongly and issued an order to grant him license. If that is a fact, I request you to be a little firm and stiff. I give you a guarantee that he will be financed if Dr. Sen is given the license. I shall be able to learn from you soon what you will do in the matter. If some other Ministers interfere, you are requested to rise above your situation and use your voice so that Dr. Sen may be granted the license. We are ready to be held responsible for this. Hoping to be excused for this trouble."

This, Sir, is the demand by the Congress and it was forwarded to the Minister-in-charge of Electricity.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Premier has only forwarded it.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, to the Hon'ble Minister of Electricity for action.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Does mere forwarding mean forwarding for action?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, that is how one Minister forwards a paper to another for action. It has merely to be endorsed to another Minister by name.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of order, Sir. I beg to be excused, Sir, but is it not the duty of the Chair, if any member commits any wrong before him, to rectify him? I will just explain my statement, Sir. Is it not the duty of every gentleman to return a letter addressed to another gentleman to the latter in whichever way it might have come to the hands of the former? Is it decent for one man to read a letter written to another man? I think, Sir, in the present case it would have been quite proper for the Chair not to allow this kind of wrong to go on in the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As regards the point raised by Mr. Mookerjee, it is in the discretion of any hon. man to do what he should or should not do. But as regards the letter read out here, it was a letter from

\*The portion within bracket was the comment made by the hon. member and did not appear in the letter.



a certain gentleman who may be a Congress man. But it does not appear that the Hon'ble Premier has taken any definite action on it. This letter was addressed to him and it was forwarded to the Minister-in-charge of Electricity, not with a definite direction that this letter should be acted upon and the license given to Dr. Triguna Sen. Here the letter has been written by a Congress man. Any other man could have written a similar letter to the Hon'ble Premier. A member of this House might have written a similar letter to him recommending a certain man. It will be within the legitimate right of any individual to request the Hon'ble Minister to do a certain thing or take a certain action. But there may be a difference in the ways in which such a request can be made. But, for the manner of the request made the Hon'ble Minister cannot be made responsible. Any man can address a letter in the way he likes, but the question is whether the Minister has taken any definite action and an action in a way which is prejudicial to the interest of the public. That is a thing which I at the very outset pointed out to the hon. Mr. Chaudhuri. And from the very beginning I was trying hard to impress upon the hon. member the undesirability of reading out that letter. I had a right to stop the hon. member from reading out that letter, while even according to him has come to his possession in a questionable manner. But having regard to the fact that he was determined to read out the letter, I have thought it desirable not to prevent him from reading it.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** On a point of information, Sir.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** My time is limited, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister should be allowed to say what he has got to say.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, this is not the first time that such a thing has occurred, in the public interest and I would request the hon. member to let us have the information as to the source from which he received the letter.

Let me explain to the hon. member and then he will be able to understand what I mean by saying in the interest of the public. I would request the hon. member to let us have the information as to the person from whom he received this letter. The hon. members have also stated previously on the floor of this House that the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee had leaked out and asked that some Government Officers must have been responsible for this purpose. Unless we are helped by the hon. members, it will be very difficult for us to eradicate this evil. I would therefore beseech the hon. member to give us the exact information as to the person who has handed over this letter to him.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir. Is Dr. Triguna Sen the brother-in-law of Mr. Aditya?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I would appeal to the hon. member just to come to that point where the action of the Minister would come in for criticism with regard to the letter.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I may mention here that this letter was addressed by the Congress Committee of the Karimganj sub-division. The date of this letter is 15th February, 1939. My point is that the matter for which this letter was written has been inordinately delayed. It is clear that this matter has been delayed on account of the conflicting interests which are at work.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is only a surmise.



**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** It is not a surmise, Sir. From the letter it appears that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is willing to grant license to Dr. Sen.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** How the hon. member can form that opinion? This letter was written by a man and the hon. member has no right to say that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is anxious to give that license.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** He is not anxious, Sir. He has already passed the order.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. member seen that?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have not seen that of course.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then how can the hon. member say that?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Let the Hon'ble Prime Minister deny that he did not pass the order in December. It is now demanded that this licence ought to go to Dr. Sen.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I can say Sir, that every bit of it is false.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But the Hon'ble Prime Minister says that every bit of it is false.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Then, Sir, there was some difference of opinion between the two Hon'ble Ministers.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** How does the hon. member know about that? Certainly I cannot allow all these inferences to be put forward in such a manner. The hon. member was himself a member of the Government. How would he have liked this sort of thing himself if it was directed against him when he was a member of the Government?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I received plenty of such criticisms.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I never remember that there was a similar occasion in the past when the hon. member was a Minister himself.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have said, Sir, that the matter has been inordinately delayed and that the order should be passed quickly so that some one should get the licence in time. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge should disclose to the House in course of a reply that when the report of the Officers were complete why they took such a long time in submitting their report. These things they may say only to remove the misgivings that are in public mind. The reason which has compelled me to produce this letter in this House is that the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is in charge of the administration of this province ought not to have allowed his memory to play false within such a short time. It was a letter which was received by the 16th of February and he ought not to have forgotten that letter altogether so soon. He received notice of a question by me by the first or second of March and he should not have forgotten so quickly to give reply to that letter.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I just like to say a few words with reference to this letter. I never said that I did not receive any letter. What I said is this that I never received a letter to the import which was mentioned in that question. It may be seen from the letter read just now whether my reply was not perfectly correct. Sir, many applications containing many things come to us and it is not always possible for us to go through each letter. After the receipt of those letters we send them to the department concerned. The only point which I like to bring to



the notice of this House is the fact as to how this document is being fished out from the hand of the Minister and how it came to the possession of one hon. member of this House. (*shame, shame.*)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is really no shame to those against whom these lines are directed. But there is shame to those who indulge in such cries.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The hon. member is not giving the name and source from which he got this letter and I fail to understand how can it be consistent with the privilege and the dignity of a member of this Hon'ble House. Sir, we are finding it difficult to find out the source from which he has got this letter but the hon. member knows how and from which source he has got this letter and he can very well make it clear before the House. Instead of doing so, he seems to be gloating over the receipt of a stolen letter and making use of it without any sense of responsibility.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I was going to show how I got this letter but the Hon'ble Prime Minister became excited.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member said that he got it by post.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, here is the post mark on the letter which was delivered to my house. I have got it from post and not from anybody.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, May I ask him to hand over the envelope to us?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I can hand over it either to the Hon'ble Prime Minister or to the Hon'ble Finance Minister with a request that this may be kept on the file.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** May I know what is the post mark?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The post mark is Shillong and the delivery post mark is dated the 20th March.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I should ask the hon. member whether he can assist the Hon'ble Ministers in the matter of starting an inquiry to find out how that document was removed from his file and delivered to the hon. member through post. I hope the hon. members will place at the disposal of the Hon'ble Ministers all the services they can render in regard to this letter to find out as to how this letter was secreted from the Hon'ble Minister's file.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I am fully prepared to help the Hon'ble Ministers in this respect.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of information, Sir. Was there any forwarding letter with it or not?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** There was no forwarding letter.

(At this stage the letter was handed over to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance.)

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, from the letter I find that there is written only the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity and nothing else.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Did not the hon. member say that it was forwarded for action?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, the way of forwarding the letter from one Department to another is merely to write 'such and such H. M.'

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** It was definitely said; Sir, that it was forwarded, and that "for action" was added by me.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** No, Sir.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member ought to have read out the actual contents of what the Hon'ble Premier wrote on the letter, and not what he inferred from it. I remember to have asked the hon. member to point out how this letter was acted upon by the Hon'ble Premier. The Hon'ble Premier only forwarded this letter to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Electricity. The Hon'ble Premier absolutely gave no direction to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Electricity that the matter should be disposed of in the manner mentioned in the letter.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I never said that. The usual practice is that letters are endorsed to Hon'ble Minister concerned, which means forwarded for action.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I also told the hon. member that it was for him to point out how any definite action was taken by the Hon'ble Premier on the letter. Unless that is done, the conduct of the Ministers does not come in for criticism at all.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, if the Hon'ble Prime Minister merely initials a letter, it means that no action would be taken. But when he forwards that letter to the Minister-in-charge it is implied that some action has to be taken.

**The Hon'ble Sr'jut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The hon. member has just now stated that he got the letter by post. Then how did he manage to say a minute before that the letter was picked up from the waste-paper basket.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** How could the man, who posted this letter, get it had not the Hon'ble Minister, Electricity been careless about it?

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** It might have been stolen by somebody.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** It may be, I know the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Electricity has not got good neighbours.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As it was pointed out to the hon. member, he made the inference that the letter must have been thrown into the waste-paper basket, and naturally he must have also made the inference that it must have been picked up by some other person, who was a rival candidate; and the very fact that he drew that inference should have induced the hon. member to think that really the Ministry was not inclined in favour of that party, as is proved by the fact that the letter was thrown in the waste-paper basket. So, the Ministry does not come in for criticism. I should not allow any further discussion on this motion.

The motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.3,300 under Grant No.23, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Electric and Factory Inspector, at page 174 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.95,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that the hon. mover has just now stated that I am very careless, but, Sir, I can definitely say that I am not careless. Sir, the hon. mover has inferred that this letter might have been thrown into the waste-paper basket by me, but I can definitely say, Sir, that I did not throw it in the waste-paper basket. When a man throws a letter in the waste-paper basket he tears it off, and then throws it, but it will be seen, Sir, that the letter is not torn. It was surely stolen from my room.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister would do well to enquire who stole it.



**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** I will do it, Sir. As regards the delay in disposing of this matter, I can only say that we are following the policy of the previous Government (*A voice*: No credit in doing that). It may not be, but we are following them. The previous Government tried their best to combine all the rival concerns so that there may be a strong Board of Directors which will be helpful to the consumers as well as to the applicants. Similarly, Sir, this Government also has been trying to effect an amicable combinations of the rival concerns, because in the case there would be no competition among them and they will jointly raise money. As a result of this, two applicants have combined but they have also not withdrawn their application, submitted individually and have not yet submitted a joint one. It is for this and some other reasons, Sir, that we are delaying the disposal of this matter, and when we shall be satisfied that all conditions have been complied with we shall dispose of the matter. As regards the suggestion that there has been a difference of opinion in the Cabinet which is responsible for the delay, I can definitely say, Sir, that there has been no difference among us.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** May I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Electricity whether he received that letter, with the order, from the Hon'ble Premier's office ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** I do not actually remember whether I received it or not. If I would have remembered it, the other day I would have said, in reply to the question, that such a letter was forwarded to me.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Minister will do well to enquire whether he got that letter at all. And here is the envelope (showing the envelop) which bears the name of the hon. mover of this cut motion. The envelope is type-written. The Hon'ble Minister may requisition the services of a type-writing expert to find out by which type-writer the address was written.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Yes, Sir, I will do that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is that the provision of Rs.3,300 under Grant No. 23, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—A.—Inspector of Factories, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Electric and Factory Inspector, at page 174 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.95,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The motion was negatived.

**Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI :** I rise to a point of order, Sir. The motion under discussion was concerned with the delay in granting the license. The hon. mover has not been able to show the relevancy of this letter to the subject-matter under discussion. He has not been able to show this letter is responsible.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** That matter is closed, and I would not allow any further discussion. The hon. member ought to have raised that point when the motion was under discussion. The hon. member may very well remember that I tried to impress upon the hon. Mr. Chaudhuri that the letter in question was not at all relevant to the subject-matter of the discussion.

**Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI :** I suggest that the portion of the proceedings concerning that letter may be expunged.

*Voice.*—Why ? let it remain.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri may move his next motion,



**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.750 under Grant No. 23, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—E.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts, Sub-head—4.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Printing of Manuscripts, at page 175 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.95,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On a point of order, Sir; is this motion in order. I think this motion would properly come under the head 'Stationery and Printing'.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** This cut motion aims at a cut on the contingencies which are allotted to the Government Press.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Printing of manuscripts?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** There is some amount of contingency allotted for printing in Government Press.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** But the object given does not look like that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am afraid the motion is not in order.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I beg to point out that there are items as non-contract contingencies and I beg to refer to these.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** But the minor head is preservation of ancient manuscripts and I do not think the Printing Department of the Government come in for discussion under this cut motion. So I hold that this cut motion is out of order.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.95,300 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 "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

The motion was agreed to.

## GRANT No. 29

(57.—MISCELLANEOUS)

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** My motion of the other day regarding the administration of local bodies should be repeated under this Grant.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think the hon. member has worded his motion in a way which is different from the motion tabled under grant No. 24. I would therefore ask him to frame his motion in a way which would fit in with the subject under discussion. The hon. member can frame it now.

**Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Let the Hon'ble Minister move his demand in the meantime.

**The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,51,700 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 '57.—Miscellaneous'.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.7,51,700 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 "57.—Miscellaneous."



**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** I beg, Sir to move that the provision of Rs.67,290 under Grant No. 29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a).—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed head—Grants to Municipal Boards for general purposes, at page 196 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in moving this cut motion is to criticise the action of the Ministry for superseding the municipality of Sylhet.

This Municipality was established in the year 1878, 20th of May. Sir 60 years back it came into existence. Now, Sir, while little places like Srimangal and Tinsukia have been favoured with the privileges of self-Government, this town—admittedly one of the most advanced towns in the whole province—has been superseded. Now, Sir the grounds which are advanced by the Hon'ble Minister on the 10th February 1931, *Extraordinary Gazette* I find, to sum up, are as follows—The Board was called upon in July 1936 to consider measures to improve the water-supply, the condition of which had become a subject of public complaint, but up to this date no definite step has been taken in this direction..... An order of supersession was narrowly avoided in 1936-37 by a belated decision to substitute the general tax on holdings for the tax on inhabitants. Then we find another point in the audit note of 1937-38 in which it is mentioned that there are many arrears. Several members of the Board were in arrears for two years with their own taxes. Further we find that public criticism became severe with the events which occurred at the general election of 1937 and has now grown to a pitch which demands immediate action. The last ground that has been advanced is this: An opportunity was given to the Board to meet these criticism by a rejoinder and a reply was promised within one month in the Vice-Chairman's letter of the 1st December. Characteristically no reply was actually received by the Government up to the 3rd February 1939 which was admitted by the Vice Chairman to be the last date for submission under the rule. The Governor of Assam is therefore constrained to declare the Sylhet Municipal Board incompetent and in default and in exercise of his powers under section 293 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 to direct that the Board shall be superseded for a period of two years from the publication of this resolution.

As regards the first ground regarding delay in putting taxation on holdings it was not a solitary case with this Municipality, and it was also with the approval of the Government. I shall also refer here to the Administration Report on Municipalities for 1934-35 and 1935-36. We find first the revaluation of the holdings of the Gauhati Municipality is over due. But the Board proposes to abstain from doing this on the ground of financial condition. At the time no such instruction was given so far as this Board was concerned. Now we find from the Administration Report of 1935-36: as both towns have now decided to adopt the holding tax and election will take place next year, it has been decided to give these places another chance to make proper use of the privileges of popular self-Government. What I want to place before the House is that if there was any delay that delay was with the approval of the Local Government, and Government also considered about this.

Now, leaving apart this point I shall now take up the audit notes. It has been said in the audit note that several members were in arrears and that the outstanding arrears and collection were very bad. I shall give comparative figures and statement from some other Municipalities. It will be seen that the affairs of the Gauhati Municipality, from which the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is now occupying the administration of the province comes, were far more unsatisfactory than those of the Sylhet



Municipality. It will be seen from the Resolution on the Working of Municipalities for the year 1934-35 that "The Gauhati Board is still reluctantly considering the desirability of replacing an illegal system of assessment on a sliding scale by the legal arrangement". "The Board's outstandings were enormous, though the taxation was the lowest in Assam, and so was the percentage of collection".

Then, in 1935-36, we find the position of the Gauhati Municipality described thus:—"Gauhati must also make a serious effort to recover large arrears if the water-supply scheme is not to end in a financial fiasco" again, it goes on to say—"It is a frequent subject of severe criticism by the Examiner of Local Accounts and the Commissioners that even members of the Boards, who should be the first to show an example, delay payment of their dues. No less than seven members of the Gauhati Board were in arrear at the time of the last audit note. Now we shall see what is the position of the Gauhati Board in 1936-37. "The Gauhati Board found itself financially embarrassed throughout the year. Not only did many of the Board's bills remain unpaid, but it is reported that there were occasions when the staff did not receive their pay on the due dates. On the 4th of March 1937 the Board had an outstanding liability of Rs.1,37,000 against a balance in hand of Rs. 13,000, and the deficit at the end of the year was over a lakh". Though "expenditure in connection with the improvement of the Water-works, was the main cause of the crisis at Gauhati, the contributory causes have been the failure of the Board to collect taxes satisfactorily for a series of year".

Now I will try to show that Sylhet is not the only Municipality responsible for mal-administration or mis-management. It will be seen from the Resolution on the Working of Municipalities for 1936-37, which is the Chief basis for this supersession, that "The Examiner's report for 1936-37 indicates the reasons for the poor financial state of many of the Boards. The incurring of expenditure without reference to the progress of realisations on items not provided for in the Budget, undertaking of new liabilities fully knowing that they would not be able to meet them from their funds, were mainly responsible for the present financial crisis. Some of them could not even maintain the prescribed minimum balance. In some cases the balances were not even sufficient to meet all the liabilities. Mal-administration was vivid in some of the Boards. No prudent man aware of his probable income and his probable expenditure will incur liabilities which he cannot at the time see his way to meet. There is no difference between an individual and a Board in this respect, and Government hope that the new Boards which come into office at the close of the year will pay much more attention than did many of their predecessors to this all-important question of financial stability and solvency". "The matters dealt with in this Resolution refer to a period before the present Government assumed office, and relate to the administration of Boards which have since been replaced by new Boards elected after a general election. Government take the opportunity of welcoming the members of the new Boards with whom it is their intention to work in the closest harmony and co-operation. What is really necessary is that the members of the Boards should not merely follow, but—as the chosen leaders of the towns men—should give a lead in all progressive measures for the improvement of the amenities of urban existence".

Now, Sir, I will place before the House the position of some Boards. So far as the Sylhet Board is concerned it will be seen that it is not the only solitary Board that has been found fault with, and that there are many Boards like it that stands on the same level. It is stated in the Report on the Working of Municipalities for 1936-37 that "even members of the Boards were in arrears." In the case of the Sylhet Board the number is



not given—it may have been two or it may have been three, but not more, but in the case of the Gauhati Board the number is given specifically—it is mentioned that 7 members were in arrears. Now, Sir, it has also been said that the public feeling ran very high due to general elections and there were some cases of litigation, but from the Government's Administration Report it appears that there was rivalry in the town to capture the Board and that culminated in a series of litigation, and we find in the Report for 1934-35 "election disputes and consequent litigation in Municipalities continued throughout the year and hindered efficient administration". Again, in the 1935-36 Report—"Two Acts were passed during the year affecting Municipalities. Act IV of 1935 lays down a new procedure for the settlement of election disputes following the Bengal Act of 1932, and should prevent such disastrous litigation as resulted in the Chairman and 2 other members of the Sylhet Board only finding themselves finally secure in their seats through ruling of the High Court in January 1936".

Now, Sir, I shall also place before the House some figures to show how this Board was doing under the new management, to show that it was doing progressive work. From questions and answers—unstarred question No.118, we find that this Municipality was superseded without giving any notice or without asking it to show cause. Here it is stated in the *Extraordinary Gazette* that the Municipality was to blame for mal-practices extending over a period of ten years. Now, under the Accounts Rules if any correspondence is to be made between the Chairman and the Examiner of Local Accounts, it is to be made direct. From the questions and answers it will appear that the reply did not reach the Examiner till the 3rd February 1937. May I ask hon. members of the House that as the trusted leaders of the people and representatives of the people and of the democratic principle, how could that supersession be done without ascertaining or without caring to find out when the reply reached the Examiner's Office?

Now, Sir, I shall place another fact before the House. We find that the Board's outstanding liabilities on 31st March 1937 were Rs.1,94,568 but that on 31st March 1938 they were Rs.85,705, that is to say that after one year's working the new Board had reduced the outstanding to Rs.85,700, notwithstanding the fact that Government withheld to pay in that year Rs.7,000 and further we find that the Government makes a grant to other Municipalities for general purposes (and the grant to the Gauhati Board is Rs.7,000 per year), no such grant was made to the Sylhet Board. Now, what I want to say is that the Board has been superseded only out of malice because the Chairman is a friend of Babu Hirendra Chakravarti.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think, the hon. member ought not to indulge in such things. Every time he is imputing motives to Government.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHUAY:** Now, Sir, I want to make it clear that the public scandal displayed. The new Board has come to power—functioning for only two years. In the Board there were persons who went with Congress principles and persons who went on Congress ticket only for the sake of office. There were also persons who have been working in the Board for the last two years sincerely and faithfully and who also suffered for their principle and courted jail for a number of months. So I say there was absolutely no justification to single out this Municipality for supersession just to please a certain party.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is again imputing motives to Government. If they also go on imputing motives to the hon. member, how would he like it?

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** There was absolutely no justification for that. Government waited for 10 years and



just when new members were in office, just when the new Board was functioning, just when they have cleared the debt of near about Rs.10,000—the supersession order came without waiting for any explanation. There were two sections in the Board but not a single section was consulted. There were capable members of the Bar in the Board and without consulting any of them—all on a sudden, this was done. Even a worst criminal is given a chance.

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: If the action of the Government is such that it is liable to sinister interpretation should it not be shown to the House?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The hon. member is to place before the House all those facts which would go to show that the action is not justified; but he cannot attribute motives. In Parliamentary debates attributing of motives is not permitted. If the facts are analysed and the facts show that the order was quite unreasonable, then it should be left to the House to draw its own conclusion. But the hon. member should refrain from directly saying that the action of the Government was prompted by such and such unworthy motives. Let him give all the facts and let the facts speak for themselves. The hon. member is a lawyer and he may even in matters like these remember the principle that even in penal laws motives of persons guilty of offences are quite immaterial.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY**: I bow to your ruling. What I want to say is that even without.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The hon. member has taken full half an hour, and I cannot allow him any more time.

Cut motion moved:

That the provision of Rs.67,290 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a).—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed Head—Grants to Municipal Boards for general purposes, at page 196 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to impute any motive to the hon. member as he has been pleased to do with regard to this Government. I shall place only facts but I do not think I shall be allowed so much time to narrate the whole catalogue of mal-administration and incompetence for which this Municipality has been superseded. I can say this much with all the emphasis that I can command that anybody who looks into the records will be satisfied that there is not a single local body in this province which is guilty of so much incompetence and default as this Municipality was. The hon. mover of the cut motion has tried, I am afraid, to mislead the House by drawing parallels with Gauhati and some other Municipalities and has also tried to show as if this Municipality has been superseded only for its bad collection or arrears with regard to its members' holdings. But I may say that this is not the fact. Supersession, I admit, is the last step that Government have in its power and as long as other steps are available, certainly I would have been the last person and this Government, I am sure, would have been the last to agree to the supersession of a Municipality like that of a premier town like Sylhet. But, Sir, it will be clear from the *Gazette Extraordinary* that it was not only for bad collection or arrear taxes that the Municipality was superseded but the extreme step had to be taken for continued mal-administration, incompetence and default. Mal-administration in this Municipality Sir, continued for more than 10 years and the previous Government gave the Municipality rather undue latitude to rectify the matters but it was to no effect.



I am not going to give a long list of the instances of mal-administration, as I have not the time to do so, but I wish to refer only to some of them to show that it was not with any motive that this Government supported the idea of supersession of this Municipality, but they were forced to do so as there was no other alternative to save this Municipality from continued mal-administration. Firstly, with regard to the mal-administration I would refer to some specific instances of gross negligence on the part of the authority as noted in the last audit note. I would inform this House that a sum of Rs.167 had to be paid for delay in payment of interest on Government loan. Next is Rs.37 paid as the cost of a suit for the price of a typewriter which was purchased by the Municipality. Then another sum of Rs.353 paid in 1936-37 as interest to the Electric Supply Company which had stopped its supply for non-payment of its instalment. Similarly Rs.176 was paid last year as interest to that very company which had again stopped its supply. The next instance of mal-administration is with regard to settlement of lands. It is stated in the last Audit Report: "In as many as 27 cases fresh settlement was given, but in none of the cases approval of the Board was taken as required by section 40 of Municipal Act".

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** On a point of information, Sir, I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister prefers good Government to self-Government.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** That is a question of opinion, Sir. It will be seen from the list below that the plots that were settled were settled *benami* by the Chairman and certain other members in the names of their wives. I am not going to give the names of the ladies concerned. One is the wife of the Chairman himself, two are the wives of the Chairman's two brothers. Still another was settled with the wife of the law clerk of the Board and one with the wife of the Conservancy Inspector. These things I am quoting from the Audit Report.....

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Of which year?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Last year. I have not the time to go into further details. I have only taken some of the items. Then I come to another item of mal-administration—namely petrol consumption. It is known to the hon. members that the Sylhet Municipality has got only one watering car. For that 624 gallons were consumed in 1937-38. In 1934-35 consumption was 264 gallons and in 1935-36 it was 371 gallons. In 1936-37 the consumption was 392 gallons and as I said in 1937-38 that has risen up to 624 gallons for a single car. It should be remembered that in Sylhet, rainfall is rather heavy and watering of streets are not necessary for more than four months in a year.

The fourth item is about the Provident Fund deposits. These deposits were never made regularly and the Examiner had to comment on this several times previously. But this practice was not discontinued on this in spite of repeated warnings. Then we come to another item regarding tender for contracts. Here the report mentions that no tender was called for for public works and not more than one tender was available even There was an audit objection and in reply to that the explanation was that tenders were called for but no tender was received for audit. was also said that outside contractors seldom come to tender except one; and it owing to Board's Financial condition. Even if this explanation is true, it is in itself a scathing indictment of the administration.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** This Audit Report was for 1934-35 and may I know if there are other boards also which have paid more to the contractors than what they have tendered for.



**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** But the redeeming feature is that in those cases when there was a warning, instruction was generally followed. But the difficulty here is that when the Board is asked for an explanation it takes at least one year to give a reply and when that reply comes it is incomplete, evasive and irrelevant. When further asked they take another six months to clear out these points and things generally went on like that.

Then I come to another serious charge in connection with the election of 1937. It was found that there was tampering with the nomination papers at the election of 1937. The nomination papers of innumerable candidates, which under the rules were presented to the Chairman, were tampered with and the Chairman and one of his brothers sought to withdraw papers filed on account of others on the ground that identity not being established. A large number of new voters were found by the Magistrate, when the matter was brought to notice by petition, to have been newly and probably *mala fide* entered on the electoral rolls and assessment register.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I know whether any judicial enquiry was held regarding this matter?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** The finding of the Magistrate is what I have stated. In spite of that, the last Government gave them an opportunity to rectify matters.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister say whether the matter went up to the High Court and instead of removing the Chairman, the Hon'ble High Court decided in favour of the Chairman?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I do not know whether all the cases went up to the High Court. I have mentioned about the finding of the Magistrate.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The Hon'ble Minister is referring to matters which happened before the present Government took office. These matters were put up before the old Government when there was a movement for supersession in 1937. Have there been any new grounds? That is the issue raised now.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** An regards arrears, my hon. friend has already referred to the fact that members are in arrears for more than two years. Now I come to instances of default. There are a lot of such cases, but I wish to refer only to a few of them.

Firstly the Government called upon the Board on the 8th July to take definite steps on the question of water-supply. The Audit Report says that no report was as yet received as to the activities of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board or what line of action is contemplated. The second instance is that though asked for the last six years to send up revised subsidiary rules to govern their procedure nothing has yet been done. The last inspection report of the Director of Public Health was not dealt with until after seven months delay after issue of five reminders. The Commissioner's Inspection Note of May 1933 was returned in November. The latest instance of default about which the mover has referred but has conveniently failed to reproduce that part of the answer to the unstarred question which does not help his case is that of delay in the submission of reply to the last Audit Note. The fact is that not only the reply was not received on the 3rd February, but also that although the Vice-Chairman promised that he would send the reply within one month and although the



reply was passed by the Board in its meeting of the 13th December, the reply was not actually despatched till the 30th January that is more than 1½ month after the decision of the Board.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** May I know if it is not a fact that the Board should submit it within 90 days ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** It is three months and that period expired on the 2nd February.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** No, it expired on the 3rd February.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I think hon. member can calculate and see whether 2nd or 3rd of February is the last date. But that question does not arise at all because when the replies have been approved in the meeting on the 13th December, what was the necessity for the Chairman to.....

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** May I draw the attention of the Minister to the report received on the 13th in which it was admitted by the Vice-Chairman that it was the last date ?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** My submission is that even admitting for argument that 3rd February was the last date, that question does not arise at all. The reply to the Audit Note was approved by the Board on the 13th December and what was the necessity to detain it in the Municipal office for one and half month particularly when the Vice-Chairman promised by his letter to reply to it by the 21st December ? That is the position, Sir. It will be evident from the Government resolution that for over ten years the affairs of the Sylhet Municipal Board have been giving constant cause for anxiety and the dissatisfaction to the Government. The response of the Board to audit and inspection notes and to any requirements on the part of Government for information or action has been characterised by delay and half-heartedness, an order of supersession was narrowly avoided in 1936-37 by a belated decision to substitute the general tax on holdings for the tax on inhabitants. But instead of innumerable instances of mal-administration and incompetence and tampering of nominations during the last election, the previous Governments gave them ample latitude to rectify matters. But the last year's audit note showed that not only there was no improvement but that there was positive deterioration in some other respects. It is not possible for me to go into all the details of the audit note now, but I am sure anybody who looks into the audit note will agree with us that not only there was no improvement but that it showed an absolute callousness on the part of the authorities who very often abused its power even in spite of repeated Government instructions and warning. So in the circumstances the Government had no other alternative but to supersede it to rectify matters.

**Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** May I know, Sir, whether there was an election of the Municipality in 1937 and whether the previous Chairman was re-elected ?

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

Another point referred to by the hon. mover is that no notice was served on them to show cause. According to section 293 there is no provision for a notice in such cases. Even supposing that the Government intended to give a notice, the Government considered that no useful purpose would be served by giving such notice. If a notice was served, its purpose was likely to be frustrated by dilatoriness, as has been the usual practice with this Board and as such there was no utility of serving a notice which is



not contemplated by section 293 of the Municipal Act. Under the circumstances I do not see how there can be any justification for censuring the Government or for imputing any motive on the Government for superseding the Municipality.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY:** May I know, Sir, whether before dissolving this Board there was an order for a fresh election?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I do not think that would have been possible, because to rectify matters we must have a special audit at first to ascertain the correct position. At present the auditor could not even find some of the registers and some of the registers were found to be incomplete. So it is difficult to rectify matters without knowing the correct position.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Does it not go Sir, against the credit and intelligence of the people of the Sylhet town?

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Certainly not. I do not know what the hon. member means by the words credit or intelligence.

It must be said to the credit of the tax payers of the Sylhet Municipality that after the Municipality was superseded, there was not a single protest that the Government did anything that was not justified by the circumstances. So, Sir, if the tax payers themselves approve of the action of the Government, I do not see any reason for the censure that is the object of this motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs.67,290 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a).—Contributions to Local Bodies, etc., Detailed Head—Grants to Municipal Boards for general purposes at page 196 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The motion was negatived.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.6, 82,671 under Grant No.29, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous charges—Minor head—1.—Contributions—Sub-head—(a)—Contribution to Local Bodies—Detailed head—Grants to Local Boards for general purposes at page 196 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in bringing this motion, Sir, is to criticise the Government for undue interference in the internal administration of the Tezpur Local Board. I have only to state the facts, and the hon. members, at least those who have not made up their minds in this matter, will certainly condemn the Government for the part they have played.

The Tezpur Local Board office building is a very ancient building and for some time the roofs have been leaking, the result of which is that the records have been damaged. This Board, Sir, have by a majority of votes decided in November 1938 to incur an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 for improvements and repairs to this building. This act of theirs was perfectly legal under section 68 as well as section 27 of the Local Self-Government Act. And what is more, this grant by the Tezpur Local Board, which was passed by a majority of votes, had the administrative approval of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner. Now, Sir, after this resolution was passed, some 8 members of the Congress Party in the Board wired to the Government for suspension and cancellation of that resolution. The Hon'ble Minister on receipt of that telegram alone passed an order suspending the resolution.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Question!



**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The other day, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in the course of a reply virtually admitted that this was done by him under section 82 of the Local Self-Government Act. Any one reading the provisions of that Act will be bound to come to the conclusion that it does not authorise such interference in the matter of a grant which was within the competence of the Local Board itself. Now, Sir, when we heard the Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act moved in this House some time ago—and that motion came from hon. members who are now sitting behind the Government Benches—we thought that section of the House was at any rate opposed to such power being given either to Government, Deputy Commissioner or Commissioner. It is an irony of fate that, when not even three months have elapsed after the assumption of office of the Congress Party, they should be exercising their alleged powers under section 82 of the Government of India Act, so outraging. I can challenge the Hon'ble Minister that, should he consult any legal adviser, he will be advised that his action was perfectly unlawful. It is very difficult to imagine, Sir, that the passing of a resolution for the spending of a sum of Rs. 4,000, which was a surplus of the Local Board funds, could be construed as either annoying the public or causing an injury to them. It is absurd to think like that. The real reason why this order was passed was the pressure exerted by some Congress members of the Local Board who also happened to be members of the Assembly. The Hon'ble Minister had not the patience even to wait for an application from the members concerned, he had not the patience to wait and see what the majority of the Local Board had to say, he had not the patience to wait and see what the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner had to say in the matter; but he straightaway suspended the order on receipt of a telegram and what is more pathetic is that, although three months have elapsed since the order of suspension, he has not been able to make up his mind whether that order should be cancelled or not. Is it not a disgrace that, under the cloak of interference under section 82—a section which that section of the House was anxious to repeal at one time—the Government have exercised their power most arbitrarily only to placate a certain section of the Local Board who do not command a majority? Sir, members of this Board, I must say, have shown a public spirit in the past by not taking any travelling allowance from the Board itself. They saved Rs.1,500 per year and paid all that money for the construction and maintenances of the girls' school and I hope my hon. friend Srijut Mahadev Sarma will bear me out when I say that since the advent of his party—since it created influence with Government it is now demanding the payment of travelling allowance from the Board. Now Sir, the other day it was said that the Hon'ble Minister could not understand why a dark room was necessary for the Board.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should remember that the Hon'ble Minister should also get time to give a reply.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I am also anxious to hear his reply. Sir, as the Hon'ble Minister was himself the Chairman of the Local Board, he knows it very well that dark room is necessary because blue print is done by the Surveyor. The hon. members of this House will be interested to know that this Board has engaged one qualified B. E. as their Engineer. No other Board as far as I know has made such appointment and so this Board is a very progressive one. This is a fully developed Board and this lamentable and shameful state of things but for the trouble arising on account of the influence which some of its members have got in the present Government, would never have come into being. To-day is the 30th March and to-morrow is the 31st March. Probably the Hon'ble



Minister suspended the order only in order to allow the whole amount lapse before he passed his orders so that the Board may not be able to do the work which they want to do.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved: That the provision of Rs.6,82,671 under Grant No. 29, Major head.—57.—Miscellaneous charges, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions to Local Bodies, detailed head—Grant to Local Boards for general purposes at page 196 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

**Srijut MAHADEB SARMA:** সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া: মই এই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব সম্পূৰ্ণ বিৰোধিতা কৰোঁ। এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিণেও প্ৰস্তাবক ডাক্তারীয়াই যি উদাবত দেখুৱাইছে তাৰ বাবে প্ৰশংসা নকৰি নোৱাৰিলোঁ। তাৰ পাচত তেখেতৰ উদাবতাৰ পতি যেতিয়া শুৱাঘাটীৰ পৰা তেজপুৰ লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ কাগলৈ মাউতি মেলা দেখো তেতিয়া তেখেতক বিশেষ ভাবে ধন্যবাদ দিব লগাত পৰোঁ (applause)। মোৰ ধন্যবাদৰ নাজা তাতোকৈ চৰি যায়, যেতিয়া দেখোঁ প্ৰস্তাবক ডাক্তারীয়াৰ উদাবতা শুৱ তেজপুৰ লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ চাৰি সীমা পাৰটৈহ internal administrationৰ ভিতৰত পৰেগৈ (hear hear)। মোৰ দুঃখলগা হ'ব পাৰে কিয়া আইনজ নোহোৱাৰ বাবে কোনো শব্দৰ অৰ্থ সাধাৰণ ভাবে গ্ৰহণ কৰাত বিশেষতঃ আলোচ্য কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাবৰ প্ৰথমে এই নটিছ দেখি তাত internal administrationৰ কথা শুনি মোৰ বৰ ভয় লাগিছিল। মোৰ ভয় এই বুলি যে তেখেতে কি জানি কোনো গোহন্দা লগাই আমাৰ বোৰ্ডৰ ভিতৰত কথা আতাইবোৰ জানিলে হবলা? কিন্তু তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতা শুনি আশ্বস্ত হলোঁ যে internal নহয় external অথবা general ভাবেহে তেখেতে বোৰ্ডৰ বিষয়ে জানিছে। আচল কথা যোৱা নবেম্বৰ পাচত তেজপুৰ লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ বাজেট অধিবেশন বহিছিল। বাজেটৰ general feature বা সাধাৰণ অৰ্চনি দেখিলে কিয় তেজপুৰ বোৰ্ডৰ কংগ্ৰেছ দলৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলে এই অলাগতিয়াল ঘৰ বঢ়াবৰ প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছিল সেইটো জানিব পাৰিব। তেজপুৰত প্ৰায় ৬০ খন Venture schools ৰাইছে নিজৰ টকা খৰচ কৰি চলাই থকা স্বত্বেও মাত্ৰ দুখন স্কুল বোৰ্ডে ল'ব পাৰিছে। আমাৰ commun-ication বাবে বোৰ্ডে এটা টকাও বাজেটত ধৰিব পৰা নাই। কিন্তু বাজেট আলোচনাৰ সময়ত যেতিয়া দেখা গ'ল যে বোৰ্ডৰ ঘৰটো বঢ়াবলৈ আৰু মেবামত কৰিবলৈ ৪,০০০ টকাৰ এটা প্ৰস্তাব কৰিছে তেতিয়া আমাৰ দলে বোৰ্ডৰ মিটিংত এই বুলি প্ৰস্তাব-টোৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছিল যে, যি হেতু বোৰ্ডে ৰাইজৰ প্ৰজাবঞ্জক কাৰ্য্যত সহায়তা দিবলৈ ধনৰ অভাবত অসমৰ্থ তেনে স্থলতো এনে অনাবশ্যক আৰু ব্যয় বহুল প্ৰস্তাবত সম্মতি দিব নোৱাৰে। প্ৰস্তাবটো বিৰোধিতা কৰাৰ আৰু এটা বিশেষ কাৰণ হৈছিল। শুনি আপোনালোকে আচৰিত হ'ব ঘৰটোৰ Extensive repair and extension এই বাবে ৪,০০০ টকাৰ প্ৰস্তাব কৰিছিল তাৰ বাবে estimate Boardঅত দিব পৰা নাছিল বোৰ্ডৰ সাধাৰণ নিয়ম মতে কোনো estimate নোহোৱাটক কোনো টকাৰ বাবে টকা মঞ্জৰি প্ৰস্তাব দিব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ দলে সেই নিয়মৰ দোহাই দিও আপত্তি কৰিছিল কিন্তু সংখ্যাধিক্য অপৰ পক্ষে তালৈ কান নকৰিলে।



**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Sir, he can speak very nice in English.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I don't think that he can speak very nice in English. He will be able, I think, to give his ideas better in mother tongue than in English.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** তেখেতেই ইয়াৰ নিমিত্তে দায়ী নহয়নে ?

**Srijut MAHADEB SARMA:** মই অভদ্র হ'ব নোখোজোঁ। কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমানে মই নিকপায়। সময় নিচেই কম। ক্ষমা কৰিব আপোনাৰ কথাৰ উত্তৰ দিবলৈ মোৰ সময় নাই। মোৰ পক্ষৰ কব লগিয়া কথা কেইটা কবলৈ সুবিধা নিদিলে বৰ দুঃখৰ কথা হ'ব। বাজেট অধিবেশনৰ পিচত যেতিয়া Public Works Departmentৰ চাব কমিটি মতা হ'ল সেই সময়ত আমিও সেই কমিটিত উপস্থিত হৈছিলো আৰু আমি সভাত চেয়াৰ মেনক জনাইছিলো যে এই বিষয়ে আমি আপত্তি জনাইছোঁ। সেই আপত্তিৰ সিদ্ধান্ত সাপেক্ষ আমি ভোট দিছিলো। তাত কিন্তু দেখা গ'ল যদিও ৪,০০০ টকাৰ বাবে বোৰ্ডৰ সভাত প্ৰস্তাব কৰা হৈছিল Public Works Department ছাব কমিটিত যি estimate আমাৰ আগত দাঙ্গি ধৰা হল তাত দেখা গল যে ৪,৬৪৬ টকা খৰচ হ'ব অথচ ৬৪৬ টকা বঢ়ায় estimate কৰা হৈছে। মুঠতে বোৰ্ডৰ সভাত আন্দ জতে গাব বলেৰে সেই ৪,০০০ টকা মঞ্জুৰ কৰাই লৈছিল তাৰ পাচত আটাইতকৈ চাব লগীয়া কথা এইয়ে যোৱা ২১-১২-৩৮ তাৰিখে বোৰ্ডৰ যি মিটিং হৈছিল সেই মিটিংত ইউ-বোপীয়া দলৰ এজন সভাই যি প্ৰস্তাব দাঙ্গি ধৰিছিল তাত তেওঁ কৈছিল "That the confirmation of the same be postponed before the decision of the Government on this important item (viz extension and the extensive repairs of the office building) be received."

এই resolution বোৰ্ডে ২১-১২-৩৮ তাৰিখৰ মিটিংত সৰ্ব্ব সম্মতিক্ৰমে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল। এইটোৰ অৰ্থ কি? অৰ্থ এই নহবনে যে আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলৰ সভ্য সকলেও পাচত বুজিব পাৰিলে যে বোৰ্ডৰ ঘৰটো এতিয়াও মেৰামত নকৰিলেও চলিব পাৰে। আৰু সেই বাবে পাকে প্ৰকাৰে আমাকেই সমৰ্থন কৰিছিল। নতুবা তেতিয়া তেনে প্ৰস্তাব গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ অৰ্থ কি হ'ব পাৰে? কাজেই চৌধুৰী ডাঙ্গৰীয়াই সিমানেই বোৰ্ডক সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ ডাঙ্গৰ ডাঙ্গৰ কথাৰে চেষ্টা কৰক সেইটো সত্য নহয়। তেখেতে আমাক আক্ৰমণ কৰি এই দৰে কৈছে যে যি দলৰ সভ্যসকলে এসময়ত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক এই হস্তক্ষেপ কৰাৰ ক্ষমতা দিব লুখাছিল আৰু সেই দলেই সেই হস্তক্ষেপ কৰা ক্ষমতাৰ সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। উত্তৰত মই এই সম্বন্ধে ইয়াকেই কব খোজো যে যদি কোনো সচাসচিকৈ প্ৰজাভাৱগত গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট হয় তেওঁলোকৰ সৰ্বদায় কৰ্ত্তব্য হ'ব প্ৰজাসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰকৃত কল্যাণ সাধন। বোৰ্ডৰেই বা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰেই যি টকা খৰচ হয় সেইটো প্ৰজাৰ হিতৰ কাৰণে যেন খৰচ হয় এইটো চোৱা সকলোৰেই কৰ্ত্তব্য নহয়নে ?



কিন্তু যেতিয়া দেখা তেজপুৰ লোকেল বোৰ্ডে এটা common room এটা dark room, Chairman আৰু Vice-Chairman বেলেগ বেলেগ কৰাৰ নিমিত্তে টকা খৰচ কৰিবলৈ প্ৰস্তাব কৰিছে আৰি সেইটো অনাবশ্যক বিলাসিতা হুবলিমনে? যেতিয়া বোৰ্ডৰ এখন স্থল লগলৈ টকা নাই সেই সময়ত এই বিলাক খৰচ অনাবশ্যক, অগ্ৰহণীয় আৰু অসম্ভৱীয় বুলি ভবা কামৰ পক্ষে অজ্ঞা হৈছিলনে? প্ৰস্তাবক চৌধুৰী ডাঃগীয়াই আগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ hasty action লোভাৰ বাবে সমালোচনা কৰিছে। মই শোধনী hasty action মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ নে বোৰ্ডৰ Chairman অৰ? Estimate নকৰাকৈ গাৰ বলেবে কণামুনাকৈ ৪,০০০ টকা মজুৰটো কেনে ধৰনৰ কথা? সেই নিমিত্তে মই প্ৰস্তাবক চৌধুৰী ডাঃগীয়াৰ এই মনোভাবৰ সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে দায়িত্ব বুজি অৱস্থা জানিলে এনে ধৰনৰ কাৰ্যত আমাক সহায়তা কৰাৰ বাবে সিবিলাকে প্ৰকৃততে কৰ্তব্য কামেই কৰিছে।

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think may hon. friend Mr. Sarma has already said much about the utility or otherwise of the project, and in spite of the strong orations made by my hon. friend the mover, I have not yet been able to be satisfied on the point I raised the other day during the question period. The facts have not been correctly stated. The real fact is that on the plea of some leakage on the roof and the congestion of the record room this estimate of Rs.4,600 and odd has been made. This estimate includes, besides roofing by corrugated iron, one dark room, one common room, one Chairman's room and one Vice-Chairman's room. I said the other day that I have not been able to understand the utility of the dark room, the common room and two separate rooms for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. My hon. friend Mr. Sarma has already stated that not a single rupee has been provided for communications, but provision has been made for unnecessary things like dark room, common room, etc. I have asked for detailed report on this point, and I am awaiting the report. I have not yet suspended the resolution.....

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The Hon'ble Minister has said that he has not yet suspended the resolution of the Board. Then I think there is no necessity for moving this motion.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I have not yet finally suspended the resolution, but preliminary steps towards suspension have been taken. We have asked for a detailed report as to the utility of these projects. Is there any justification for spending more than Rs.4,600 for repairing leakage in the roof when that can be done at a cost of few rupees?

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** It seems the Hon'ble Minister is not satisfied with the work of the majority party in the Local Board.

**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** It may be the work of the majority party, but I have already said that expenditure which is wasteful and unnecessary does come within the purview of section 82, and Government must therefore intervene. It certainly constitutes a public injury. *Prima facie* it appears that this expenditure is both wasteful and unnecessary and unless Government is satisfied that it is not wasteful and resolution of the Board. We are waiting for the report, and I do not see any justification for attempting to censure Government in the meantime.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take action on similar other matters if they are brought to his notice?



**The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Certainly, Sir. **Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** May I know whether the members of the Board will guide the Board, or the Hon'ble Minister will guide the Board ?

(No reply).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Let us not all go to Tezpur before closing to-day. (*Laughter*).

Order, order. The question is:

That the provision of Rs.6,82,671 under Grant No. 29.—Major head—57.—Miscellaneous Charges—Minor head—1.—Contribution,—Sub-head—(a) Contribution to Local Bodies,—Detailed head—Grant to Local Boards for general purposes, at page 196 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,51,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The motion was negatived.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,51,700 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 "57.—Miscellaneous".

The motion was adopted.

#### Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Friday, the 31st March 1939.

SHILLONG :  
The 10th June, 1939.

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



## APPENDIX

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED  
ON THE REVENUES OF THE PROVINCE DURING 1938-39, LAID  
BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY UNDER SECTION 81 OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

(To be discussed by the Assembly on the 30th March 1939)

## CHARGED—NON-EXCLUDED AREAS

## No.1

7.—Land Revenue—	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	36,300
Additional amount now required ... ..	601
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional amount will be accounted for—	
(a) Charges of Administration—General Establishment—	
3. Allowances and Honoraria ... ..	485
4. Contingencies ... ..	116
	601

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The excess under 3 represents remuneration to Copyists and is due to increase in the number of demand for copies.  
The excess under 4 is due to payment of arrear municipal bills.

## No.2

11.—Registration—	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	800
Additional amount now required ... ..	240
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	
District charges ... ..	240
4.—Contingencies—Rates and taxes ... ..	

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sanctioned grant proved inadequate owing to the assessment of the new Registration office building at Sylhet.

## No.3

23.—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debts—	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Nil
Additional amount now required ... ..	30,65,243
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	
Other appropriations ... ..	30,65,243



## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The amount represents the repayment of the loan from the Government of India to meet the deficit of the year 1936-37 and was shown as a capital expenditure in Statement D in the Budget for 1938-39. But as this is a charge on the revenues of the Province, it is properly debitable to this head. The total provincial balance will not be affected.

## No.4

## 27.—Administration of Justice—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Rs. 3,10,400
Additional amount now required ... ..	13,616
II.—Sub-heads under which this demand will be accounted for—	
(a) District and Sessions Judges—	
Pay of officers (charged) ... ..	13,106
(b) Law Officers—English Law Officers—	
Fees to Advocate General ... ..	510

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) As a result of the reallocation of the leave salaries in respect of leave taken in Assam on or after 1st April 1937 by Judicial Officers of Bengal serving under the Government of Assam and who are subject to the leave rules in the Fundamental Rules a sum of Rs.27,675 (charged) is payable to the Government of Bengal to meet the leave salaries of I.C.S. Officers. Of the excess, Rs.14,569 will be found by reappropriation from the provision for contribution to Bengal for High Court and Law Officers and for the balance of Rs.13,106 an additional grant is necessary.

(b) This represents fees to the Advocate General of India who has given some opinion on a certain reference from this Government.

## No.5

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

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Rs. 1,13,800
Additional amount now asked for ... ..	1,973
II.—Sub-head under which this demand will be accounted for—	
V.—Charges in England—	
Expenditure by the High Commissioner for India ...	1,973

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The expenditure under this head depends on the number of officers going on leave in England. Owing to more officers going on leave the existing provision has proved inadequate and an additional sum of Rs.1,973 is required to meet the demand.



## No.6

## 38.—Medical—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	2,02,000
Additional amount now required ... ..	12,000
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	
A.—Medical Establishment—District Medical Officers— Pay of officers.	12,000

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The provision for pay of I.M.S. Civil Surgeoncies has proved inadequate for the following reasons:—

- (1) increments falling due during the year which were not known when the Budget was framed ... .. Rs.6,300
- (2) no provision was made for Lt.-Colonel E. T. N. Taylor, who went on leave from the Manipur State but was posted on return to an included area—

	Rs.
Pay ... ..	4,500
Overseas pay ... ..	1,200
	<hr/>
	5,700
	<hr/>
Total ... ..	12,000

## No.7

## 39.—Public Health—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	54,900
Additional amount now required ... ..	14,355
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	
E.—Pasteur and Vaccine Institute—	
Pasteur Institute—Pay of officers ... ..	11,555
Travelling Allowance of officers ... ..	2,800

A provision of Rs.8,600 (Charged) and Rs.9,600 (Voted) were made for the pay of the Director of the Pasteur Institute. But owing to the posting of Major M. A. Ahuja, I.M.S., instead of a non-I.M.S. officer to the Pasteur Institute during the absence on leave of Lt.-Colonel L. A. P. Anderson, I.M.S., there has been an excess of Rs.11,555 on account of the pay of the Director under the Charged head, against a saving of Rs.9,600 under the voted head. The actual excess over the total Budget grant is however Rs.1,955 only.

The provision for travelling allowance (Charged) was Rs.300 only but it exceeded by Rs.2,800 on account of the travelling allowance of Major Ahuja on transfer from Kasauli to Shillong and back.



## 43.—Industries—

No.8

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Rs. 36,300
Additional amount now required ... ..	
II.—Sub-head under which this additional demand will be accounted for—	684
A.—Director of Industries—	
Pay of officers ... ..	684

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mr. Mehta, the former Director of Industries, has been granted leave from the 9th March 1939. He intends to spend his leave outside India, and therefore under the rules has had to draw his pay for the 8 days of March before leaving Shillong. As there is no balance in the provision for his pay in the current year's Budget an additional sum of Rs.684 is necessary to meet this obligatory demand.

## 57.—Miscellaneous—

No.9

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Rs. 1,11,900
Additional amount required ... ..	
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	1,837
H.—Rates and taxes—	
E.—Petty Establishments—	1,694
Circuit and Sessions Houses—Contingencies— Rates and Taxes.	143

The excess amount is required to pay enhanced municipal tax due to revised assessment and also to pay arrear municipal tax.

## CHARGED—EXCLUDED AREAS

No.10

## 7.—Land Revenue—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	Rs. 23,600
Additional amount now required ... ..	
II.—Sub-head under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for by His Excellency the Governor of Assam—	2,950
D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections	2,950

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The additional appropriation is required for commission on land revenue, poll, hoe and house tax collections. It was not possible to forecast this excess at the time of the preparation of the original Budget Estimates, as the charges under the above head are of a fluctuating nature.



## No.11

## 25.—General Administration—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	2,65,600
Additional amount now asked for ... ..	16,850
II.—Sub-head under which this additional amount will be accounted for—	
X.—Charges in England—	
(a) Expenditure of the High Commissioner ...	16,850

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the original Budget for the current year provision for leave salaries of all officers going on leave in England, sterling overseas pay and other sundry items of expenditure incurred by the High Commissioner was made under non-excluded areas, but subsequently it was decided in consultation with the audit authorities that leave salaries and sterling overseas pay of the officers serving in excluded areas should be debited to excluded areas. It is now estimated that a sum of Rs.47,760 will be required this year of which Rs.30,910 will be met by reappropriation from District Administration where savings are available.

## No.12

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

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	64,900
Additional amount now required ... ..	1,060
II.—Sub-head under which this demand will be accounted for—	
Government Primary Schools—Pay of Establishment...	1,060

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Owing to more expenditure on the teaching staff than was estimated by Government at the time of framing the Budget.

## 38.—Medical—

## No.13

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule.	1,94,600
Additional amount now required ... ..	8,800
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional amount will be accounted for—	
(1) District Medical Officers—	
Pay of officers ... ..	4,500
(2) Ordinary Dispensaries—	
Contingencies ... ..	3,800
(3) Travelling Dispensaries—	
Allowances and honoraria ... ..	500
Total ... ..	<u>8,800</u>



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) Due mainly to the posting of an I. M. S. Civil Surgeon to Lushai Hills in place of an I. M. D. Officer on lower pay.

(2) Due to the expansion of medical work mainly in Naga Hills, special arrangements for treatment of syphilis and increase in the number of patients.

(3) Due to the provision for the opening of a new travelling dispensary in the Naga Hills proving insufficient.

No.14

## 43.—Industries—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	Rs.
Additional amount now required	7,400
II.—Sub-head under which this amount will be accounted for—	5,500
E.—Works—Original Industries	...
Works—Development of Rug Industries	5,500

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

An expenditure of Rs.5,500 from the allotment of Rs.5,998 for Lushai Hills from the Government of India's second grant for rural reconstruction in Assam was sanctioned, with the approval of the Government of India, for the construction of a building for the Lushai Hills Cottage Industries (Manufacture of Rugs by the Lushais). As no provision was made in the current year's budget for this purpose a supplementary demand for Rs.5,500 is now made.

*Statement showing by major heads the amounts of Supplementary estimates of expenditure charged on the revenues of the province during 1938-39*

Heads	Amount included in the authenticated schedule		Additional amount now required		Amount as it will stand finally		Reference to number of demand
	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
7.—Land Revenue.	36,300	23,600	601	2,950	36,901	26,550	1 & 10
II.—Registration.	800	..	240	..	1,040	..	2
23.—Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debts.	..	..	30,65,243	..	30,65,243	..	3
25.—General Administration.	..	2,65,600	..	16,850	..	2,82,450	11
27.—Administration of Justice.	3,10,400	..	13,616	..	3,24,016	..	4
37.—Education (other than European).	1,13,800	64,900	1,973	1,060	1,15,773	65,960	5 & 12
38.—Medical..	2,02,000	1,94,600	12,000	8,800	2,14,000	2,03,400	6 & 13
39.—Public Health.	54,900	..	14,355	..	69,255	..	7
43.—Industries	36,300	7,400	684	5,500	36,984	..	8 & 14
57.—Miscellaneous.	1,11,900	..	1,837	..	1,13,737	12,900	9
Total ..	8,66,400	5,56,100	31,10,549	35,160	39,76,949	5,91,260	..



## APPENDIX I

Statement showing by major heads the amounts of Supplementary Grants already voted by the Assembly during the current year and the amounts which the Assembly are asked to vote in the present session

Heads	Grant originally voted by the Assembly and authenticated by H. E.	Supplementary grant sanctioned by the Assembly in December session, 1938 and authenticated by H. E.	Grant asked for in present session	Grant as it will finally stand	Number of supplementary demand
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
7.—Land Revenue ..	15,21,000	..	59,620	15,80,620	1
11.—Registration ..	1,41,400	..	2,000	1,43,400	2
10.—Forests ..	8,87,300	10,680	..	8,97,980	..
18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	47,500	..	6,000	53,500	3
25.—General Administration	20,97,300	..	60,222	21,57,522	4
27.—Administration of Justice.	6,60,000	7,000	22,924	6,89,924	5
39.—Public Health ..	7,67,500	..	84,350	8,51,850	6
40.—Agriculture ..	5,93,500	9,844	..	6,03,344	..
41.—Veterinary ..	1,55,400	..	2,000	1,57,400	7
43.—Industries ..	2,31,000	..	1,000	2,32,000	8
50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges).	29,41,800	..	78,800	30,20,600	9
54A.—Famine Relief ..	50,000	..	2,84,000	3,34,000	10
56.—Stationery and Printing	3,14,700	..	25,000	3,39,700	11
57.—Miscellaneous ..	3,32,300	..	4,818	3,37,118	12
Loans and Advances bearing and not bearing interest.	5,78,500	..	1,66,700	7,45,200	13
Total ..	1,13,19,200	27,524	7,97,434	1,21,44,158	



**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

**GOVERNOR OF ASSAM**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

1. The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI, M.A., B.L., in charge of Home and Education Departments.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, Barrister-at-law, in charge of Finance and Revenue Departments.
3. The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN, B.L., in charge of Local Self-Government, Legislative, Judicial and General Departments.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS, B.L., in charge of Medical, Public Health, Welfare of Labour, Boilers, Factories and Electricity Departments.
5. The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS, B.L., in charge of Excise and Agriculture Departments.
6. The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN, in charge of Public Works Department.
7. The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA, B.L., in charge of Forest and Registration Departments.
8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI, in charge of Co-operative Societies and Industries Departments.