

Proceedings of the Sixth Session of the First Assam Legislative
Assembly, assembled under the provisions of the Government
of India Act, 1935

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on
Saturday, the 11th March, 1937.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Tour of the Hon'ble Ministers outside the Province

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI§ asked :

- *42. (a) Will Government be pleased to state who amongst the Hon'ble Ministers of the present Cabinet have toured outside the Province ?
(b) How many times since the assumption of office they have done so and to what places ?
(c) Did the Hon'ble Ministers draw any halting allowance for those tours ?
(d) If so, how much each of the Hon'ble Ministers drew and at what rate ?
(e) What was the duration of the tour of each of the Hon'ble Minister and what were the reasons for their tour ?
(f) Will Government be pleased to state in which class the Railway journey was performed by each of the Hon'ble Ministers and for what class they actually charged in their travelling allowance bills ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

42. (a)—The Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Medical Departments.
(b)—Once by each Hon'ble Minister. The Hon'ble Prime Minister went to Calcutta and the Hon'ble Minister for Medical Departments to Madras *via* Calcutta.
(c)—Yes.
(d)—The former drew Rs. 15 only at Rs. 15 per diem for his halt in Calcutta and the latter Rs.30 at Rs.15 per diem for his halt in Calcutta and Rs. 7-8 at Rs. 7-8 per diem for his halt in Madras.
(e)—The duration of the former's tour was from 7th January 1939 to 11th January 1939 and that of the latter from 27th December 1938 to 15th January 1939. The former attended the Jute Conference in Calcutta and the latter inspected labour conditions in the Anamalai Hills, Poonamallee Health Unit Scheme, Anti-malarial Scheme and T. B. Sanatorium.
(f)—The Prime Minister travelled second class and the Hon'ble Minister for Medical Departments first class, and the travelling allowances were charged accordingly.

§The questions were put by Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury on behalf of Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where did the Hon'ble Prime Minister stay at Calcutta during his tour?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am not aware where the Prime Minister stayed in Calcutta.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I want to know with whom he was putting up?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am not aware, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Hon'ble Premier actually stayed with one Mr. Himatsingka at Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already stated, Sir, that I have no personal knowledge as to where the Hon'ble Premier stayed in Calcutta.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister who travelled to Madras and drew first class allowances actually travelled second class?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am not aware, Sir, but if the Hon'ble Minister has charged first class, there is neither any reason nor any justification to think it otherwise unless the hon. member asking the question can specifically prove it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it one of the party pledges that the Congress Ministers have got to travel third class?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The Congress Ministers when travelling outside the province and during night are entitled to go by second class and as such the Hon'ble Prime Minister travelled second class and drew the travelling allowance accordingly.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is that the direction of the Congress High Command?

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

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: What is the total amount that has been spent for the Calcutta journey and for the Madras journey?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The total amount which the Hon'ble Ministers drew I am not now in a position to say. I want notice of this question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Shall I be correct if I say that while travelling within the province, the Hon'ble Ministers are in the habit of requesting the Railway employees to place one of the third class compartments exclusively at their disposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No, I am speaking from my own personal experience. When the Premier and I travelled, we took third class tickets.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I ask the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, when he toured over the Eastern Bengal Railway from Bangaigaon to Dhubri, was not an inter class compartment placed at his disposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I travelled third class and charged as such.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know whether the railway people were requested to place one inter class compartment at his disposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The station master asked me to travel in the Intermediate class although I had purchased only a third class ticket.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: The question is "(d) if so, how much each of the Hon'ble Ministers drew and at what rate". Is not the question sufficient for the Hon'ble Minister to give us information about the amounts drawn ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: In reply to the question I have stated "The former drew Rs.15 only at Rs.15 per diem for his halt in Calcutta and the latter Rs. 30 at Rs. 15 per diem for his halt in Calcutta and Rs.7-8-0 per diem for his halt in Madras". If the calculation is made and the amounts added together the hon. member can find out the total amount from the information that I have already supplied.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: One of the hon. members has asked whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister stayed at Calcutta with a certain gentleman who was named. The Hon'ble Premier is now here and would he show us the courtesy of telling us where he stayed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That information has been given in reply to another question and the reply is there, I have got it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He wants to know merely with whom the Premier stayed.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it a bar to stay with a friend ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I may be permitted to explain. It was like this. It was expected that the Government of Bengal who invited me might have made some arrangements for my stay. But I found nothing was done. At the station when I arrived, Mr. Himatsingka met me and he was prepared to accommodate me and I had to accept his invitation.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know how our Premier found himself so helpless in Calcutta platform ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is there any harm in his staying with him ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: There was no harm.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: For his information, I may say that a large number of friends were present in the station and the crowd consisted of many sections and many communities.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is there not any hotel in Calcutta ?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is it not a fact that Mr. Himatsingka is a contractor of the Assam Government, both as regards the electric supply at Jorhat as well as timber business ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know that. I know that one Himatsingka having a timber business is a contractor, but I do not know that Mr. P. D. Himatsingka is a partner with him or has any other relation with him in the concern as my hon. friend suggests.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Was it not a return visit paid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Mr. Himatsingka for the latter's visit to him in Shillong during his last tour to Assam ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: He did not stay with me.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Is it not the same person upon whom eviction notice was served regarding his building at Kukurmara ?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is he not a brother of Ramkumar Himatsingka ?

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

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble the Premier drew halting allowance for those days for which he stayed with Mr. Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Possibly yes, Sir.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: When the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical went to Madras to discuss medical schemes, did the Director of Public Health accompany him ?

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

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Was not the Director of Public Health alone competent to represent the Assam Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It was a conference of Ministers.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: How could the Hon'ble Minister take part in those medical schemes about which he has no knowledge ? (laughter).

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, now that the Hon'ble Medical Minister is here, will the Hon'ble Finance Minister enquire from him as to what class he travelled ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I stick to my reply, Sir, that unless the hon. member who has put this question is prepared to substantiate his allegation, I am not going to ask my Hon. Colleague here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition has not made any allegation.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I simply want to know whether the Hon'ble Medical Minister will show us the same courtesy as was shown by the Hon'ble Prime Minister ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I travelled that class for which I have charged.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know Sir, the class in which he travelled ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He has said that.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is it a fact, Sir, that in a radio broadcast it was stated that the Hon'ble Minister ... cut a very ...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. No question regarding news spread by radio broadcast. Next question.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I have raised my question, Sir, before you called out 'order'. I think I should have a chance to put my question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am here to decide whether a sufficient number of supplementary questions have been asked. Will the hon. member take his seat ? I find that a sufficient number of supplementary questions has already been asked.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would the sufficiency of a particular question be decided by the number of supplementaries asked or the exigency of a particular matter shall decide to what length the supplementaries shall go ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Speaker has a right to see not only whether a sufficient number of questions have been put but also whether the questions put are legitimate. If a sufficient number of questions have been asked, then he can call out the next question. Hon. members will see that about 15 minutes have been taken over this question.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : This question is an important one, Sir. We want to know many things from the Hon'ble Minister who has toured to Madras and has spent a lot of Government money. We have a right to know, Sir, about the matters he has dealt with at the meeting, and unless we know about these things we shall not be satisfied.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All that the hon. members wanted to know have been supplied. The point was raised that the Hon'ble Minister travelled second class, whereas he charged first class travelling allowance. Now with regard to that the Hon'ble Minister gave a very straightforward answer. What else remains to be known ?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : It is about an important matter. He went there with some purpose. We want to know what that purpose was and we want to know also what he did there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : One question was "Why did the Hon'ble Minister go to Madras when the Director of Public Health went there ?" I do not think that was a legitimate question. That is the nature of many questions that have been asked.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : We have a right to put any question, Sir, to enlighten ourselves about this important meeting.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, not any question.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think, Sir, there is a little bit of confusion. My hon. friend wanted to put his question as regards (e) and not (d).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There was a conference of Medical Ministers.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That has been replied to, Sir.

Question re the Lock-up at Jowai

Rev. L. GATPHOH asked :

*43. (a) Are Government aware that the lock-up at Jowai forms part of the Thana building and under-trial prisoners are practically under the custody of the Police ?

(b) Are Government aware of the most insanitary condition of the said lock-up ?

(c) Are Government aware that the under-trial women prisoners are accommodated in the same room with men, there being only a thin partition made of partly corrugated iron sheet and partly wire netting ?

(d) Do Government propose to improve the prevailing conditions in the said lock-up ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

43. (a)—The lock-up is part of the Thana building, but the under-trial prisoners are in charge of the Deputy Superintendent of the lock-up who holds the key.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Are Government taking any precaution to protect the under-trial prisoners from ill-treatment by the police when they are under the latter's charge?

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

Rev. L. GATPHOH: What precautions have been taken?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: We do not know if there has been any occasion to take any precaution.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Are Government aware that there have been cases of ill-treatment of under-trial prisoners?

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

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Will Government ascertain by enquiry whether there have been any such cases?

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

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied:

(b)—A project for a latrine separate from the lock-up has been included in the district Budget.

(c)—Yes, but a male prisoner cannot enter the portion occupied by females.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know, Sir, how long this practice has been continuing?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I cannot answer that question off hand, Sir,

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Are the males and females located in the same room having no partition?

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

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Are there separate rooms?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I have already replied, Sir, that the male prisoners cannot enter the portion occupied by the females.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Is it a fact that they are housed in one and the same room?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Yes. But the male prisoner cannot enter the portion occupied by the females.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that there is only one door for exit for both the rooms?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: My information is that the males cannot enter the portion occupied by the females. If the hon. member asserts otherwise, I shall enquire into it.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is there any objection to make an enquiry to find out whether the statement is correct?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already said that he would make the enquiry.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: If the statement is found correct, will the Hon'ble Minister take necessary steps?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He has already said that.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied.

(d)—Better arrangements could be made if funds were available.

Powers of the Munsiff at Dibrugarh

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked:

*44. Is it a fact that in the Munsiffis of Jorhat and Gauhati, officers with powers to try original suits up to Rs.2,000 and with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge up to Rs.250 had been posted?

*45. (a) Are Government aware that the *ex-officio* Sub-Judge of Lakhimpur has no time to hear any uncontested cases on account of his manifold duties as the Deputy Commissioner and the Political Officer of Lakhimpur Frontier Tract ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of investing the Munsiff of Dibrugarh with power to try original suits upto Rs. 2,000 and Small Cause Court powers upto Rs. 250 just to afford facilities for quick disposal of a large number of civil litigants and also to give much-needed relief from congestion to the *ex-officio* Sub-Judge of Lakhimpur ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

44.—Yes.

45. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Munsiff of Dibrugarh has been recommended to the High Court for Small Cause Court powers upto Rs. 100. The question of further enhancement of his powers will be examined by Government.

Staff allowance of the Teachers and Demonstrators of the Berry-White Medical School

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

*46. (a) Is it a fact that Government propose to cut down the staff allowance granted to the Teachers and Demonstrators of the Berry-White Medical School ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that this measure of retrenchment will affect the efficiency of the staff ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

46. (a)—Government are considering the general recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that special pay should be abolished.

(b)—Government cannot commit themselves to an opinion at the present stage.

Buildings of the proposed Medical School at Sylhet

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*47. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total cost of the construction of the buildings in connection with the proposed Medical School at Sylhet ?

(b) The purpose for which it is now being used ?

(c) Whether Government is aware of the fact that the Government was censured by cut motions on this score ?

(d) If so, what step the present Government has taken for its early opening ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

47. (a)—As the Assembly were informed only last year, Rs.8,39,347.

(b)—For the Civil Hospital and certain other Government offices.

(c)—Yes.

(d)— Government have only recently received the Report of the Conference on Medical School Education held last November at New Delhi, and are examining in consultation with the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals the best way of arriving at a policy which will receive the support of all who are interested in Medical Education in Assam. As the hon. member may be aware, the Conference recommended that there should be only one standard of medical teaching in India, the Collegiate.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister when the construction of these buildings were completed?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It was constructed many years back.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: As regards question No. 47 (d), may I know for how many years these buildings are being used?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, this answer was given in connection with a question put by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri in the December Session of 1937.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that for a pretty long period these buildings were lying vacant?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: No, Sir, they were not lying vacant all along.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I could not follow the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: All rooms are not lying vacant. Some Government offices have been placed there.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, is it a fact that the whole building was lying vacant for a pretty long time after the construction was completed?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It might be lying vacant for sometime.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please read out again the reply to question No. 47(d)?

[The Hon'ble Minister again read out the reply to question 47(d)]

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the estimated amount which will be necessary for the opening of this school?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Unless the standard of the school is arrived at, it is very difficult to estimate the actual expenditure that will be necessary for the opening of the school.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact that the Conference recommended five years' course for the Medical School in Assam?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It did not recommend five years' course for Assam alone.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I believe, it recommended for the whole of India.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Yes, Sir. It recommended for the whole of India.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Do Government propose to accept that proposal?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that Government have got the whole question under consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Next question should be called out so that an useful answer may be obtained.

Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

*48. (a) Do Government propose to raise the status of the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, to that of a college ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to state the difficulties that stand in the way ?

(d) Do Government propose to take any steps towards removal of those difficulties in the immediate future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

48. (a)—Government have only recently received the Report of the Conference on Medical School Education, held at New Delhi last November. The first recommendation of the Conference, that there should be one uniform standard of training, which would satisfy the requirements of the Medical Council of India, must be accepted as an ideal.

(b)—That is difficult to say. It raises very difficult questions, particularly in the financial aspect, but it is the intention of Government steadily to improve the training facilities and the conditions of the school, as money can be made available.

(c)—The difficulties in the way of immediate fulfilment are first the inadequacy of clinical material at Dibrugarh, and second the very large increase in expenditure which it would involve to extend the course to five years, and provide the teachers, buildings and equipment which would be necessary to satisfy the requirements of the Indian Medical Council.

(d)—Government are consulting the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals as to the best means of obtaining the considered advice of all who are interested, and arriving at a comprehensive policy of Medical Education for this province.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Sir, may I know what are the clinical materials ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : By clinical materials I mean medical cases in the Hospital.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Sir, my question No.48(a) has not been answered. My question was "Do Government propose to raise the status of the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh to that of a college ?" I want a direct answer to that question.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, I have already said that the whole matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Sir, from the answer of the Hon'ble Minister it is clear that there are difficulties on the part of the Government to raise the status of the school to that of a college but there is another proposal to raise it to five years course instead of four years. I want to know whether Government is ready to accept that proposal pending the final inquiry.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, I have already said that the whole question is under the consideration of the Government.

Holidays for Muhammadan festivals

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*49. Are Government aware that the number of holidays granted to the Educational Institutions and Government offices, for Muhammadan festivals is inadequate and insufficient for the purpose ?

*50. Are Government aware that Muhammadan officers and public have to suffer a good deal due to the paucity of the number of Muhammadan holidays ?

*51. Are Government aware that the Sectional holidays granted to Muhammadan officers create much dislocation of work in offices and Courts ?

*52. Are Government aware that even the Muhammadan employees for whose benefit these sectional holidays are granted, do not really enjoy those holidays, as all Government offices remain open and their respective works accumulate ?

*53. Are Government aware that the Muslim litigants and public having transactions with the courts and Government offices are deprived of the benefit of these sectional holidays ?

*54. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of converting these sectional holidays into public ones ?

*55. Do Government propose to grant at least 3 days' holidays on the occasion of each of the *Idds* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

49 and 50.—Government have no information.

51, 52, 53 and 54.—Do not arise in view of the fact that all the sectional holidays for Muslims have been converted into general holidays with effect from this year.

55.—No.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that the Muhammadans feel great difficulty due to the inadequacy of holidays allotted for each Idd festival ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said in reply to questions Nos.49 and 50, we are not aware of that, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact, Sir, that for paucity of time the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali had to say his last Idd prayers at Gauhati last time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I don't think that question arises. As a matter of fact, during the last time Saturday was also added and there was a holiday of four days.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, May I know whether Government propose to add one day more to the each holiday so that this sort of difficulty would not arise ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The general information is that we are already having too much holidays. As a matter of fact we have more than 25 per cent. days as holidays in a year. So it seems that no other Government is having more number of days as holiday for these festivals except probably the Punjab where the last Friday of the Month of Ramzan is also observed as a holiday. We are also prepared to consider whether that holiday may also be accepted as such here in this province.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Do I understand that the Hon'ble Premier has got some directions from the offices that they feel some difficulty on account of these holidays. Are Government going to be guided by the offices alone ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier has said that Government are considering whether a holiday can be granted on the last Friday of Ramzan.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: That is not my point, Sir. I want to know whether three days' holiday would be granted for Idd alone ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said we have already got a large number of holidays ; but we shall consider whether the last Friday of Ramzan can be granted as a holiday.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Can the total number of holidays not be adjusted by curtailing two holidays from the Muharram holidays, and adding one to each of the Idd festival ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know how far it is desirable to curtail the established number of holidays, but the matter may be considered.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact that from this year the number of Muharram holidays has been increased ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Not from this year. As far as I know it was accepted by the last Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Under what circumstances was the number of Muharram holidays increased this year ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that. As far as I know it was only putting into effect the orders of the previous Government.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Are Government aware that there is no sectional holiday provided for Idd ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not been able to follow the question, Sir ?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: In the notification, it is stated that if any of the Idd day falls on any other day except the day notified in the Gazette or in the list of public holidays, then that day may be observed as a public holiday. But there is no sectional holiday in connection with Idd. Are Government aware of this ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think the hon. member is correct.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: So my demand is that at least three days holiday should be granted for Idd.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already said that we are considering the question whether the last Friday of Ramzan can be granted as a holiday. This is done in the Punjab.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If I heard the Hon'ble Premier correctly, he wants to do away with all sectional holidays irrespective of Hindu holidays and Muhammadan holidays. Am I correct ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir, it is in respect of Muhammadan holidays only.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact that there are some sectional holidays as regards Hindu holidays also ?

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I inform the Hon'ble Premier that *Dol jatra* in Garo Hills and Goalpara are sectional holidays ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: They are local holidays.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will Government be pleased to declare them as public holidays?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Local holidays apply to both Hindus and Muhammadans. My own information is that local holidays are not sectional.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I want a direct answer from the Hon'ble Minister. My point is that Idd day is not fixed, it depends on the visibility of the Moon. The Moslems find it difficult to celebrate the festival within two days. So are Government ready to remove this difficulty and grant 3 days' holidays instead of 2?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: If the demand is so insistent, Government are prepared to consider the question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that Iduzzuha festival continues for 3 days? It is compulsory for Muhammadans to sacrifice cows and do other things for three days continuously.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Premier seek the advice of his Muhammadan colleagues in the Cabinet?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have said, we are having too many number of holidays, and it should be the duty of every one of us to see that holidays are enjoyed not at the cost of work of the administration but consistent with the work. In view of that we thought that the conversion of sectional holidays into general holidays was a sufficient measure by which that object could be obtained. But if it is the insistent demand of the House to add one more holiday to the Idd festival Government will be prepared to consider that question.

Re: Assam Schedule II Form No. 82 (New), 112 (Old) (Return re representation of various communities in public services)

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked:

*56. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when Assam Schedule II, Form No.82 (New), 112 (Old) was first introduced?

(b) Is it still in force?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what are the communities to which the item "others" belong?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

56. (a)—It has been in existence since the days of Eastern Bengal and Assam Province, if not earlier.

(b)—Yes, but the contents of Columns 1, 2 and 3 have undergone alteration from time to time.

(c)—The labour population of the tea gardens, Indian Christians, Budhists, Hindus residing in the Naga, Lushai, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Sikhs and various other minor communities which do not fall within items 1 to 7 of the statement.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government aware that till recently the Manipurians were considered as falling under this category?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government are not aware of that, but if it is the desire of the hon. member to enquire about it, I shall do that.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Do Government appreciate the necessity of overhauling this antiquated form?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir. As a matter of fact the last Government were discussing about this question, but this Government has not as yet taken any action on this matter.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I know whether 'others' include people coming from other provinces?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know of that, but it must be governed by the general rule of domicile that prevails now.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I have not said anything about domicile. A person who is domiciled is a man of the Province. I want to know whether 'others' include persons coming from other provinces?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot give any further information beyond what is given in reply to question No.56(c).

Abolition of the Second Chamber of this Province

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

*57. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If they have taken any step for the abolition of the Second Chamber in this Province?

(b) If so, what are these steps?

(c) If not, do they propose to take any step in the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

57. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government are at present much too busy with other measures to be able to give any thought to the subject.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that this House passed a resolution for the abolition of the Upper House?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I believe this House did pass a resolution.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that some of the present Cabinet members cast their votes in favour of the resolution?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of the contents of the division list.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I enquire whether any addition has been made to the number of nominated members of the Upper House recently?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Though it is beyond the scope of this question, I may say that one addition has been made?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I enquire whether His Excellency is to take the advice of the Hon'ble Premier for nomination of members of the Upper House?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is entirely at the discretion of His Excellency and beyond that I cannot give any answer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I take it that His Excellency took the advice of the Hon'ble Premier when adding to the number by nomination?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say anything beyond what I have said that it is entirely at the discretion of His Excellency to take advice of the Hon'ble Premier or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier says that it is entirely at the discretion of His Excellency and beyond this he cannot give any definite answer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: My question is whether His Excellency consulted the Hon'ble Premier at all when nominating the additional member in the Upper House?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter entirely lies in His Excellency's discretion and it is not for me to say whether His Excellency likes to consult the Premier or not?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact that in other Congress Provinces members have been nominated in the Upper House in consultation with the Hon'ble Premier?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is entirely at the discretion of His Excellency the Governor to nominate members for the Upper House and he may or may not consult the Hon'ble Premier. But even if His Excellency consulted the Hon'ble Premier, it is not proper for the Hon'ble Premier to disclose what advice he gave to His Excellency. That was a matter between two parties and without the consent of the other party, *i.e.*, His Excellency, the Hon'ble Premier cannot disclose it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I put a pertinent question that if the Hon'ble Premier had any hand in nominating the additional member in the Upper House, has it not been in aid of keeping the Upper House intact instead of taking steps for its abolition?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Even if the Hon'ble Premier had at all been consulted by His Excellency in nominating the additional member in the Upper House, he cannot disclose the fact.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I have an answer from Government as regards the abolition of the Upper House, *i.e.*, whether they have taken any step for its abolition? The fact that they have nominated an additional member in the Upper House shows that they are trying to keep the Upper House intact.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether the Hon'ble Premier or the Cabinet recommended for such nomination to His Excellency?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a question which I am not in a position to reply.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government took any initiative in the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say what we have done.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Debt Conciliation Board for the North Kamrup

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

20. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the newly created Debt Conciliation Board established for the North Kamrup area will have jurisdiction over the Barpeta Subdivision also ?

(b) If so, why no members to the said Board were taken from the Barpeta Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

20. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Question re a license for plying a motor vehicle

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

21. (a) Is it a fact that the license for plying a motor vehicle (a bus or a truck) in the Gauhati-Shillong Road had been granted to Begum Abdullah, wife of Maulavi Md. Abdullah, B.L., of Sylhet ?

(b) What was the reason of granting such a license to a respectable 'purdah nashin' lady ?

(c) Did Government enquire about the profession of the lady before granting the license ?

(d) What are the reasons for subsequent cancellation of this license ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

21. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY*: Is it a fact that the license was granted to Maulavi Md. Abdullah and not to Begum Abdullah ?**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI***: Does the question arise, Sir ?**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: Strictly speaking, the question does not arise, but the Hon'ble Premier may reply if he likes.**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: The license was granted to Maulavi Md. Abdullah.**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY**: Is it not a fact that he was engaged as a pleader at Sylhet ?**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: I do not know of the private affairs of the man.**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI***: Is the lorry to be plied by the lessee himself ? Is it not one of the conditions of the lease that the lorry should be plied by the lessee himself ?**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: Yes, of course the driver engaged by the lessee will ply the lorry and not the lessee himself ?

*Speech not corrected.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then, how can a lessee drive the lorry?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said it is not true.

Proposal for a whole-time Sub-Registrar at Barpeta

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked:

22. (a) Is it a fact that there is no separate whole-time Sub-Registrar at Barpeta?

(b) Is it a fact that the registration work in the Subdivisional Officer's office at Barpeta has greatly increased?

(c) If the reply to the question (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number of documents registered, year by year, during the last 10 years?

(d) Is it a fact that documents presented for registration after 1 p.m. are refused for want of time?

(e) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to create a separate Sub-Registry office, with a whole-time Sub-Registrar to remove the inconveniences of the general public?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

22. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—

Year

Number of documents registered

1928	...	...	...	...	873
1929	...	...	...	...	1,248
1930	...	...	...	...	1,014
1931	...	...	...	...	890
1932	...	...	...	...	961
1933	...	...	...	...	1,026
1934	...	...	...	...	1,032
1935	...	...	...	...	1,303
1936	...	...	...	...	1,525
1937	...	...	...	...	1,847

(d)—Government have no information but have called for a report.

(e)—A proposal for opening a whole-time Sub-Registry office is under consideration.

Honorary Magistrateship in Assam

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

23. (a) Is the Hon'ble Judicial Minister aware that the public are very much against the system of getting judicial works done by Honorary Magistrates?

(b) If so, do Government propose to do away with this practice without delay?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied:

23. (a)—No.

(b)—Government are examining the proposal.

General discussion of the Budget for 1939-40 and discussion on charged expenditure.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, the general discussion of the budget will be taken up. I shall fix 15 minutes' time for each speech, and would draw the attention of the hon. members to the fact that if they like to discuss the budget they should also speak on the estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 of the Government of India Act. I hope the hon. members will make their speeches for both the sections.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, the total number of hon. members wishing to speak on the budget?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have got a list of 19 members who want to take part in the budget discussion.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Will you please increase the number of members, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Other members whose names have not been supplied to me may take their chance and the number of speakers will then be increased. The Assam United Party and the Plains Tribal Party have only given me a list of 19 members.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know why only one day has been allotted for discussion of private members' Bills?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Premier please explain the position?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I explained yesterday in my speech, the Government business in this session is so heavy that we had to take practically a larger number of days than we really wished to do. Moreover we thought that this session is more or less a session in which the Opposition should have every opportunity of venturing what they have got to say not only on the general Budget but also with reference to the demands for grants. For these reasons we thought that it would be convenient both for Government and for the Opposition to give in this session preference to Government business over other business. With that object in view we have allotted only one day for discussion of private members' Bills.

Secondly, there was another difficulty. We thought of continuing the session for a longer time, but some of the European members, as my hon. friend Mr. Hockenull, told me, were anxious to book their passages home as early as they possibly could. We thought of carrying on our discussion till the 15th of April, but in the meantime, it was found that our Easter holidays intervening, and, therefore, we could not in the usual circumstances carry our session beyond the 6th of April. So, in order to convenience all sections of the House we could not do otherwise than what we have been able to do for the current session. But I assure the hon. member that in the next session we shall try to give a fairly larger number of days for discussion of non-official Bills and Resolutions.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an irony of fate that in spite of good intentions and great desire, my esteemed friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not been able to tackle the Line question. I quite believe him when he says that it was not the absence of desire on his part to tackle the problem. He is fully alive to the situation. He knows that the economic regeneration of the province largely depends upon the solution of this problem. Thousands of acres of land in the province are awaiting the plough. And when put to plough is sure to bring not only

peace and contentment to hundreds of homes but also make a substantial addition to national exchequer. He says: "we regard it as a fully economic question and propose to deal with it in that way". He has good intentions, but, Sir, world is not made of good intentions. He is not to blame. I do not doubt his sincerity. I quite see on the other hand the difficulties he is finding on his way due to his colleagues. If anybody is to blame it is the local feeling against the Mymensingh immigrants which is responsible for such a course of action. Eminent persons like Pandit Jawaharlal was at it. Rashtrapati Srijut Subas Chandra Bose was at it. Even the Congress Premier Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi, who is termed by some newspapermen as a "level headed politician", gave an inkling into it. But the bogey of "my men", the Mymensingh immigrants had caught the imagination of the local Congressites and they threw away all reasons and economic considerations to the winds and kept my people landless and in dire distress and poverty. So my esteemed friend the Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed became powerless. So I would ask him to vacate rather than keep in office with a group that are averse to his own constituents (*Hear, hear!*).

Augmentations of the financial and economic resources of the province is the chief concern of a Finance Minister. The extensive coal fields and rich oil mines are made to alien exploiters. Crores and crores of rupees have been earned from those treasures by those exploiters to which the children of the soil or for the matter of fact the Assam Government, have been only helpless spectators. Even the amount of income-tax and excise duty on these accounts which total about 1½ crores annually are appropriated by the Central Government. All entreaties of the province for remedy of this injustice has been cast to the winds by the Central Government. As royalty on 65 million gallons of petrol and 3½ million tons of coal raised annually, the Assam Government get only a little over Rs.8 lacs whereas it should have been treble the amount at the rate of royalty assessed on these minerals in other lands.

According to Dr. C. S. Fox, the eminent Geologist of the India Government 500 million tons of coal are embedded in the bowels of mother earth in the district of Garo Hills. Attempts to work it out on a commercial basis is fraught with immense potentialities and large amount is expected to the State exchequer. The only difficulty complained of is the difficulty in access to the area. Compared to the gain aimed at the rendering of easy access by roads and rails is only a passing phase. Our esteemed Premier Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi visited the district of Garo Hills during the last cold weather under most trying circumstances of inclement weather. I expected he would look to the question and examine the potentialities locally, but to my utter disappointment I learnt that it was in response to a telegram that some of his followers had become shaky in Garo Hills and he made a hurricane tour and visited the spot to make them firm. This belies the trust reposed on him. It is simply disappointing to find that a man of his ability and calibre should make such a huge waste of his energy to keep himself in *gukdi* rather than think of bigger problems of Assam and should thus fritter away his energies in humouring the sentiments of his supporters.

During Pre-Montague-Chelmsford Reforms Assam had to pay at the rate of 50 per cent. of her total income to the Centre. Meston Award then enjoined upon her to pay 15 lacs annually to the Central Government. Besides this she had to pay more than another 20 lacs for the maintenance of the Assam Rifles—the regiment protecting India's Eastern frontiers, and its administration. Another amount of Rs.18 lacs she had to pay for the

administration of her other barren border-hills, conquering solely for the purpose of consolidating the alien rule. The Provincial Government in its turn had been trying to cover the huge deficit thus incurred not by taxing the rich, but by overloading the poor by varied processes with the disastrous result of not being able to attain its objects and at the same time heading towards the destruction of the "rich peasantry, the country's pride" which "once destroyed cannot be supplied". Sir, the problem of poverty is a problem of all India. Alien exploitation and senseless financial policy of a foreign regime have done incalculable harm to every province of India. But the financial policy and position of Assam is the strongest of all. She has been bled white by different agencies. As a result we find, Sir, the poor agriculturists of Assam are indebted to the extent of Rs.44 crores or more. Measures to relieve the poor of their grinding poverty and huge indebtedness are wanting in this Government although it was their election pledge and they mostly returned with thumping majority from different places by hopes held out to people that they would bring the millenium in course of a short time.

Closely connected is the question of cottage industry with the poverty of the millions. I would call upon my friend Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali to study the history of ancient village communities. Their self-sufficiency and the condition above wants is a thing to be conjured with. How by slow degrees the village communities have been killed and cottage industries strangled.

Assam, the land of *endi* and *muga* has fallen a prey to their foreign exploiters and bad financial policies. Simply a request to the Board of Development of Industries to go into this question in detail so that a scheme may be adopted to improve the silk industry in this Province is not enough. I am glad to note that the Hon'ble Finance Minister admits in his budget speech that the progress in the Sericulture Department has not been satisfactory. More encouragement is necessary. Goalpara Subdivision has a rich *endi* and *muga* producing centre in Rangjuli. An improvement in the output in the silk, both *endi* and *muga*, would mean more extensive cultivation of the plants and trees on which the silk worm thrives, the adoption of proper methods for rearing the cocoons, the introduction of better spinning machines and a sufficient number of looms for weaving. "It is our desire" he says in his budget speech, "to request the Board of Development of Industries to go into this question in detail so that we may adopt a scheme to improve the silk industry in this province".

Herein may I suggest that the people of the flood-affected and immigrant areas in my district have been clamouring for a subsidiary income. Representations have been made to Government to provide them with a few Sericulture Demonstrators, and some funds. This would occupy them 6 months annually and will mean some provision.

This is only another slice of poverty, Sir. Sir, the Department of Industries is in the hands of a Civil Service man. An expert is needed. If Bengal can have the services of an expert, I do not see why Assam should go without it.

It is to be regretted that Government have made no provision in the Budget for increasing the subsidy to the private medical practitioners who want to take charge of subsidised dispensaries in country places. This is

a very important matter for the welfare of the masses. The Government of Bombay have sanctioned the allowance of a subsidised doctor at Rs.50 to start with and Rs.350 for medicine and private practice. This seems to me a fair start and unless similar terms are offered to the doctors in Assam, the subsidised dispensaries are not likely to prove an attractive proposition as they have not done up to now. It would be false economy to place a discontented doctor in charge of a dispensary in a Country place. The Government in their own dispensaries give a doctor a starting pay of Rs.75 per month rising to Rs.175 by regular annual increment. The invidious distinction made in the case of doctors in private dispensaries, must be extremely galling to these doctors. Why should such extraordinary distinction be made among doctors who are equally qualified?

While on this subject I may be allowed to refer to another matter namely—the extent of unemployment among the doctors of Assam. As a matter of fact some doctors have submitted a formal petition to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam, that on account of influx of doctors from Bengal, Assam doctors are finding it difficult to get employment in the Tea gardens, Local Boards and Municipalities of Assam. These doctors from Bengal come in under the surreptitious influences of their relations in Bengal. There are any number of Bengal men in different parts of Assam and they manage to bring their friends and acquaintances some how or other. This is a matter to which both the Government and the tea concerns in Assam should give their careful attention.

Then, Sir, we find in the budget that no provision has been made for soap instruction in the province which had been going on for the last few years. We find in the Report of the Director of Industries that good work was done in this direction in 1937-38. We find from reports published in newspapers that the Hon'ble Minister of Industries at his recent Karinganji visit said that soap industry had vast possibilities in Assam which was a great market for soap from Dacca. The soap industry doubtless gives scope to those people who learn the method of manufacturing a good chance of starting business which to a great extent solve the problem of unemployment. We wonder from what sense of economy Assam is going to be deprived of this instruction which has been only a few years in existence and not given a chance of developing. We hope in the interests of the Province, Government will look into it and take the help of one industrial Expert so that this industry may not be killed in its infancy.

Village reorganisation is an important item of the Congress Programme. Social and economic regeneration of Indian village communities should engage the best attention of the Congress Coalition Cabinet. This could better be achieved by appointing some Reconstruction Officers with ideas in economic lines who could start useful institutions for development of villages and carrying out rural reconstruction schemes.

With these remarks I resume my seat.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, বর্তমান জমিদার এবং মহাজনদের প্রিয় বন্ধু গবর্নমেন্ট এই Houseএ যে বাজেট পেশ করিয়াছেন তাহা দেখিয়া মনে হইতেছে যে দেশের মেরুদণ্ড কৃষক সম্প্রদায়ের পক্ষে সত্যগ্রহ আন্দোলন করা ব্যতীত আর তাহাদের অধিকার আদায় করা কিছুতেই সম্ভবপর হইবে না (hear, hear!) যদিও আসামের মোট অধিবাসীদের মধ্যে শতকরা ৯৫ জনই কৃষক, আজ সেই কৃষক সম্প্রদায়ের ভিতর প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা ও কুটির শিল্প বিস্তার কারয়া তাহাদের আর্থিক অভাব

মোটনের জন্য গবর্ণমেন্ট যে নামমাত্র অর্থ ধার্য করিয়াছেন তাহা সমুদ্রে বালু নিক্ষেপ তুল্য (hear, hear!)। আজ পুলিশ ডিপার্টমেন্টের জন্য গবর্ণমেন্ট গত বৎসর হইতে অধিক মোটা টাকা বরাদ্দ করিবার সুযোগ পাইয়াছেন; কিন্তু ছুখ ও পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে কৃষক প্রজারা স্বেচ্ছায় জরুরী হইয়া তাঁহাদের একমাত্র সম্বল হালের গরু ও জমি নীলাম হওয়ার দক্ষন যে সর্বস্বান্ত হইতেছে সে দিকে মাননীয় অর্থ সচিব বা বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট মোটেই দৃষ্টিপাত করেন নাই। আমার মনে হয় যখন এই কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্ট মন্ত্রিত্ব গ্রহণ করেন তখন কংগ্রেসের ভিতর বামপন্থী দলের নেতার সাহায্যেই তাহাদের পক্ষে এই গবর্ণমেন্ট হস্তগত করা সম্ভবপর হইয়াছিল। কিন্তু বর্তমান দক্ষিণপন্থী সম্প্রদায়, তাঁহারা ধনিক-বণিক দল, নিজের স্বার্থের জন্য বা আত্মপূজার জন্য কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করিয়াছেন (shame, shame)। ধনিকদের প্রভাবে আজ প্রজাবন্ধু কংগ্রেস না হইয়া জমিদার বন্ধুতে পরিণত হইয়াছে (hear, hear!)। গত দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ স্বেচ্ছা লাঘব আইন কার্যাকরী করিবার জন্য আসাম গবর্ণমেন্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা সত্ত্বেও বর্তমান বাজেটে সেই আইন প্রত্যেক এলাকায় প্রত্যেক সবডিভিঞ্জে কার্যাকরী করিয়া কৃষক সম্প্রদায়কে স্বেচ্ছা হইতে মুক্ত করা সম্বন্ধে কোনও ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষাদান প্রধান সমস্যা। যতদিন পর্যন্ত কৃষকদের ভিতর শিক্ষা বিস্তার না হইবে ততদিন পর্যন্ত তাহাদের পক্ষে কোনও প্রকার উন্নতি করা সম্ভবপর নহে। ইহা জানা সত্ত্বেও বর্তমান বাজেটে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা বিস্তার করিবার জন্য কোনো চেষ্টা করা হয় নাই। গত বন্যার সময় মানকাছার, এবং সাউথ শালমারা এলাকার বন্যাপীড়িত লোক দলে দলে উপাস্থ হইয়া তাহাদিগকে বন্যার কবল হইতে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিবার জন্য তাঁহাকে অনুরোধ করিয়াছিল। তখন তিনি বলিয়াছিলেন—“তোমরা যদি ধুবড়ী সাউথ বেঞ্জে বাস করিতে চাও তাহা হইলে গবর্ণমেন্টকে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা বরাবরের জন্য সংগ্রহ করিয়া রাখিতে হইবে। বৎসর বৎসর flood এ তোমাদের ফসলাদি ধবংস করিবে—কি গিয়া বাস কর”। কিন্তু ছুখ ও পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে তাঁহার পরামর্শ অনুযায়ী যে আসামে লক্ষ লক্ষ বিধা পতিত জমি থাকা সত্ত্বেও আসামের বন্যাপীড়িত লোক—যাহারা বৎসর বৎসর বন্যার কবলে পড়িয়া সর্বস্বান্ত হইতেছে, তাহাদিগকে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য জঙ্গলী মাটি পত্তন দিবার কোনও ব্যবস্থা তাহারা করিতে পারেন নাই এবং যাহাতে বন্যাপীড়িত লোকেরা শিল্প শিক্ষা করিয়া কোন প্রকার জীবিকা নির্বাহ করিতে পারে তাহারা ব্যবস্থাও করিতে পারেন নাই। সাউথ শালমারা, মানকাছার এবং লক্ষীপুর এলাকায় ২১০,২০৩ জন কৃষক বাস করে। অথচ সেই লোকগুলির গবর্ণমেন্টের সৃষ্টির পর হইতে আজ পর্যন্ত শিল্প শিক্ষার জন্য কোন ডিপার্টমেন্ট আছে কি না এবং কোন কর্মচারী নিযুক্ত হইয়াছেন কি না তৎসম্বন্ধে তাহারা অবগত নহে। তাহারা বহু আবেদন নিবেদন

করা স্বত্বেও আজ পর্যন্ত সেখানে কোন বকম ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। এরূপ শুল্ক বাহাতে তাগারা নিয়মিত ভাবে পাটতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইলে তাহা বিশেষ ভাবে দরকার। সে কথা জানা স্বত্বেও গবর্ণমেন্ট সেখানে জল সেচনের কোনও ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারেন নাই।

কিন্তু চুপের ও পরিচাপের বিষয় এই যে লেণ্ড রেভিনিউ বিভাগের জন্য গত বৎসর ১৫,৮১,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল কিন্তু এ বৎসর উক্ত বিভাগের জন্য ২০,৫৭,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। গত বৎসর পুলিশ ডিপার্টমেন্টের জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল ৩০,৮৩,০০০ টাকা; কিন্তু বর্তমান বৎসরের জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৩০,০৩,০০০ টাকা। শিল্প বিভাগের জন্য গত বৎসর রাখা হইয়াছিল ২,৮০,০০০ টাকা। কিন্তু এ বৎসর বেশী করা দূরের কথা, উক্ত বিভাগের জন্য মাত্র ২,৬৭,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়া প্রজাদের বিশেষ “উপকার” করা হইয়াছে। পাবলিক হেল্পের জন্য গত বৎসর ৮,৮৬,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল, কিন্তু এ বৎসর উক্ত বিভাগের জন্য মাত্র ৮,৬৮,০০০ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। এ বৎসর কলেরার কত লোক মারা গিয়াছে—উহার সম্বন্ধে গবর্ণমেন্ট বিশেষ ভাবে অবগত থাকা স্বত্বেও তাহাদের জীবন রক্ষার জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা না করিয়া পক্ষান্তরে সেই টাকা অনেক পরিমাণে কমানো হইয়াছে। আমাদেব সাউথ শালমারা, লক্ষীপুর এবং না-কাছার এলাকার হাজার হাজার লোক কলেরার মারা গিয়াছে। কিন্তু পরিচাপের বিষয় এই যে এ দেশের কৃষক বা নিরন্ন প্রজাদের প্রতি গবর্ণমেন্টের একটুও দৃষ্টিপাত নাই। অত্র ২০ বৎসর যাবৎ কংগ্রেস প্রচারকরণ প্রত্যেক গ্রামে প্রচার করিয়াছেন যে শিল্প শিক্ষা ব্যতীত কৃষকদের আর্থিক সমস্যার সমাধান হইতে পারে না। শিল্পশিক্ষার উন্নতি করা দূরের কথা পূর্বে বৎসর যে পরিমাণ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল এ বৎসর তাহার চেয়েও কম টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে—ইহাই উন্নতির প্রধান পরিচয়!

প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা ব্যতীত স্বাধীনতা লাভের কোন উপায় নাই—স্বাধীনতা লাভের কি উপকার তাহা বুঝিবারও উপায় নাই। ইহা গবর্ণমেন্টের বিশেষভাবে জানা স্বত্বেও বাজেটে এমন কোন আভাষ দেন নাই যে কতদিনের ভিতর কার্যকরী প্রাইমারী আইন পস্থা অবলম্বন করা হইবে। মাত্র কয়েক হাজার টাকা মিরি সম্প্রদায়ের জন্ত রাখা হইয়াছে। সমস্ত দেশের নিরক্ষরতার প্রতি লক্ষ্য না করিয়া শুধু কোন এক সম্প্রদায়ের জন্ত বা কোন এক শ্রেণীর জন্ত টাকা বরাদ্দ করা গবর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষে মোটেই উচিত হয় নাই। আগার মনে হয় যে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টের যদিও ভাল ইচ্ছা ছিল, কিন্তু এই জমিদার এবং মহাজন বন্ধুরা তাহাদের সমস্ত মন ইচ্ছা ধ্বংস করিয়া দিয়াছেন (laughter)। জমিদারের প্রিয় গবর্ণমেন্ট যদি প্রজাদের উপকারার্থে বর্তমানে অগ্রসর নাহন তাহা হইলে এই গবর্ণমেন্ট চিরস্থায়ী হইবে বলিয়া মনে হয়না, তাহাদের সম্বন্ধে ধ্বংস হইতে হইবে।

আজ প্রকারা বৃদ্ধিতে পরিমাণে তাহাদের বাৎসরিক কি পরিমাণ টাকা আয় হয় এবং সেই টাকা কি ভাবে খরচ হইয়া থাকে। কৃষিবিভাগ এবং শিল্পবিভাগের অনেক টাকা ব্যয় হয় শুধু কতগুলি অফিসারের জন্য কৃষকদের জন্য; কিছুই হয়না আজকাল যাহাদের আত্মীয়-স্বজন এম, এল, এ, বা এম, এল, সি, নাহন, তাহাদের পক্ষে চাকরী পাওয়া দুষ্কর। তাহা গবর্ণমেন্ট অবগত আছেন। ইহা স্বত্বেও দেশের শত শত বেকারদের জন্য বাজেটে কোন প্রকার ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয় নাই। তাহারা জানেন যে বেকার লোকেরা দিবারা অনশনে থাকিয়া মৃত্যু কামনা করিতেছে। বাংলাদেশে ব্যবসা অথবা চাকুরীজীবী যে সকল ব্যক্তি ইনকমট্যাক্স দেয় তাহাদের উপর তৎকাল গবর্ণমেন্ট হুতন ফাইন্যান্স বিলে ৩০% টাকা হিসাবে একটি মতিরিক্ত ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু দুখ ও পরিহাসের বিষয় এই যে বর্তমান জমিদার ও মহাজন বন্ধু আপাম গবর্ণমেন্ট আপামের ধনি অফিসারদের ট্যাক্স ধার্য্যের ব্যবস্থা না করিয়া মরিয়া কৃষক—যাহারা খাইতে পায়না— যাহাদের কোন রকম সহন নাই, সেই কৃষকদের উপর ট্যাক্স বসাইবার জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন (*shame, shame*)। আজ বহুদিন যাবৎ আমরা শুনিয়া আসিতেছি যে কর্মচারীদের বেতন কম করিয়া শাসন কার্যের খরচ কম না করিলে এই দেশের মঙ্গল নাই। কিন্তু বর্তমান বাজেটে তাহার একটুও আভাষ নাই। পঞ্চাশত্রে আরও কৃষকদের উপর যে ট্যাক্স ধার্য্য হইবে এবং সেই ট্যাক্স আদায় করিবার জন্য আরও অনেক কর্মচারীর আবশ্যক হইবে এবং সেই কর্মচারী কোন কোন এম, এল, এর আত্মীয়-স্বজন হইবে তাহা লইয়া এখন হইতেই তুমুল আন্দোলন শুরু হইয়াছে। কৃষকদিগকে সর্বস্বান্ত করিয়া তাহাদের ট্যাক্স আদায় করিবার জন্য যে কর্মচারী দেওয়া হইবে সেই কর্মচারী কোন এম, এল, এর আত্মীয় বন্ধু বা পরিবারভুক্ত ব্যক্তি হইবে, তাহা লইয়াই আজ দেশের প্রধান সমস্যা হইয়াছে। আমি অনেকরি সন্দেহই এই গবর্ণমেন্ট জমিদার ও মহাজনদের প্রভাবে ধ্বংস হইলে যদি কৃষকদের জন্য ঋণ লাঘব আইন জারী করা না হয়, যদি প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা এবং শিল্প শিক্ষা বিস্তার করা না হয় এবং শিক্ষিত বেকারদের জন্য শুধু মৌখিক বক্তৃতা দিয়া কার্যতঃ কোন পন্থা অবলম্বন করা না হয় তাহা হইলে ভীষণ অবস্থা হইবে। গোয়ালপাড়া জেলার ভিতর তন্তুতঃ পক্ষে মানকাছার, সাউথ শালমারা এবং লক্ষীপুর থানায় যাহাতে শিল্প শিক্ষা করিয়া গ্রামবাসীরা কোন প্রকারে জীবিকা নির্বাহ করিতে পারে তাহার বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। প্রতি বৎসর flood এ তাহাদের সমস্ত ফসল ধ্বংস হওয়ায় তাহাদের জীবন রক্ষার কোন উপায় না থাকার ফলে তাহারা সর্বস্বান্ত হইতেছে। গোয়ালপাড়া জেলার সহিত সংলগ্ন গারোহিলের সমতল ভূমির অবস্থা অত্যন্ত ভয়াবহ। তাহাদের ফসল কোন বৎসর টিকিতেছেন। এমতাবস্থায় তাহাদের মধ্যে শিল্প শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা হওয়া দরকার এবং বরো ধান আবাদ করিয়া যাহাতে তাহারা কোন প্রকারে জীবিকা নির্বাহ করিতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা হওয়া উচিত। মাননীয় কৃষি মন্ত্রীর বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা স্বত্বেও সাউথ শালমারা, লক্ষীপুর এবং মানকাছার এলাকায় একটি পাম্প দিবার

সুযোগ তিনি পান নাই। গবর্ণমেন্টের যে একটা কৃষিবিভাগ আছে তাহা তথাকাৰ কৃষকেৱা জানেনাই। কৃষি অফিসাৰ খুবচু টাউনে বসিৱা বসিৱা মাগিনা draw করেন কিন্তু কৃষকদের যে কসল নষ্ট হয় তাহাৰ প্ৰতি মোটেই লক্ষ্য করেন না। বৰ্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টকে আমি বিশেষ ভাবে সাবধান কৰিৱা বিতেছি যে তাঁহাৱা যদি এই জমিদাৰ এবং মহাজনদের প্ৰভাৱ হইতে সৰ্ব্বই মুক্ত নাহন তাহা হইলে তাঁহাৱেৰ ক্ষেত্ৰে অনিৱাৰ্য্য।

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I offer my thanks to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the tremendous efforts made by him and his colleagues in placing before us in an acceptable form the budget for the year 1939-40. But I feel I cannot persuade myself to believe that it is either a good budget or it is at all an achievement for which any Government can be proud of. The Hon'ble Finance Minister himself has confessed that the budget is a deficit budget—a desperate budget. I am at one with him in this. But the remedy which he has in view can hardly be said to be a remedy at all. His remedy should not lie in borrowing and taxing people who are already overtaxed. His remedy lies in the radical change of policies which are wrongly being followed up to now. Judicious expenditure on the administration and Police based on the income should be the policy of the Government.

Sir, the budget of a country should surely be the index of its problems and also of the solution proposed thereof, but what are the problems in this poor province of Assam? The agriculturists of our province, who form about 90 per cent. of the population are becoming poorer day by day due to failure of crops; illiteracy is reigning supreme. Everywhere there has been an attempt to remove illiteracy. Our literacy is only about 10 per cent. Let us compare this, Sir, this low figure with the literacy elsewhere. In Britain it is 95 per cent., in Italy 75 per cent., in Japan 99 per cent., in Germany 100 per cent., in Russia 90 per cent., in France 96 per cent., and in Phillipines 71 per cent. Sir, the tutelage of America for over half a century in Phillipine has brought literacy to 71 per cent., whereas in India nearly 200 years of British tutelage could not raise literacy beyond 10 per cent.

Then comes the question of medicine and drinking water. There are dispensaries both of Government and Local Bodies, but they are without medicine and people in villages are dying like cats and dogs for want of medicine and pure drinking water. Amongst others, these are the problems that any Government which will come into power shall have to face and face with boldness. But the present Ministry has failed totally even to approach it from a correct angle of vision, not to speak of making an attempt towards that solution. They have provided practically nothing for these purposes.

Sir, it appears from the budget that a scanty sum of Rs. 20,000 has been allotted for giving new grants-in-aid to secondary schools. But no sum has been allotted for giving aid to recognised madrassas, though money could be found for a newly started Sanskrit college at Nalbari.

Besides these, Sir, there are many urgent and important problems which require the immediate attention of the Government, if there is to be any real uplift of the country, politically or economically. But alas, we find no indication in the present budget if the Government is trying for any solution thereof; and unless that it is done, it is useless for us to multiply local and provincial grievances, though every one of us has a long list of such grievances in our pockets.

Sir, in brief, the Budget is a deficit one to the tune of Rs. 17,39,000. Beyond the saving grace of frankly stating the deficit, the Budget has no other merit.

Assam is an ill-fated province and for the last seven or eight years it has been constantly facing deficit. It will be remembered that in the year before last the Finance Minister informed the House that the Government of India cancelled all debts amounting to Rs. 1,77,88,000 prior to the 1st of April 1936. Even after this, the Provincial Government had to take a loan from the Government of India, of rupees thirty lakhs, and over and above that loan the province has been running on deficits.

Though under the Niemeyer Award Assam gets every year Rupees thirty lakhs as subvention and though the province will get Rs. 11,50,000 from jute duty and a further sum of Rs. 3,20,000 as income-tax, still there is no end of deficit in Assam.

The plain explanation is that, however, the income may be augmented in Assam, deficit can never disappear, as most of the income is eaten up in salary charges and travelling expenses of the Government servants including the Ministers particularly, to keep up the show of provincial autonomy in the province. Out of all this income practically nothing has been set apart for new schemes in 1939-40, which is merely a drop in the ocean and a mere eye-wash to deceive the people, just like the drafting of the Sylhet Tenancy Amendment Bill to deceive the tenants.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the first time that the present Ministry, which has been miscalled as Congress-Coalition Ministry has presented a Budget in this House. I purposely use the word "miscalled". We find, Sir, that the present Ministry is not purely Congress. Some of our esteemed friends in the Treasury Benches satisfy their conscience and proclaim to the world that they do not put on a white cap and that thus they keep their identity both politically and socially. But truly speaking, Sir, in spirit, though not in form, they have fully surrendered themselves to the principles and programme of the Congress. The name coalition is used only as a mask to deceive the world. So it is as good as the Congress. Sir, we have now had an opportunity of studying their psychology and have a clear understanding of their aims and objects. The speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister has faithfully mirrored the ideals and aspirations of the Congress. His speech is very learned, but it is more academical than businesslike, more literary than practical. I think he would have proved himself a very successful professor of politics in the college at Gauhati. Sir, I regret to say that, as a Minister of Finance, he has totally failed to create a happy impression in our minds. He is very sincere no doubt in his speech (*hear, hear!*) but he has unintentionally exposed the tactics and mentality of the Congress. He must be congratulated for one thing, Sir. He has honestly gramophoned his master's voice at Wardha, though at present the place of authority has been transferred to some other place, though not yet settled. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his speech referred to the relation of our provincial autonomy and "an irresponsible but increasingly active Central Government". I whole-heartedly endorse the views expressed by the Hon'ble Minister. Decentralisation was the main principle of provincial autonomy. But here under the present Congress Government the ideal of the India Act has been frustrated. The Congress Government of Assam have subordinated, nay, surrendered our provincial independence to the dictates of the High Command who controls the destiny of the province from outside. In the words of renowned Congress Leader of Bombay, I mean Mr. K. F. Nariman—"recently however, the Congress had been developing

totalitarian tendencies. Hero-worship had grown to such an extent that decisions taken by the body like the Working Committee after days of prolonged and mature consideration, were nullified overnight by the mandate from inner voice."

Our Hon'ble Finance Minister has very successfully copied the programmes of other Congress provinces. In connection with the Federation he mentioned the names of the Congress, Princes and State people and other organisations, but felt shy to include the name of the Muslim League. However, Sir, it is an irony of fate that our Muslim Finance Minister has made bold to make provision in the Budget for training teachers in the Wardha System of Education which has been vehemently opposed and condemned by the whole of the Muslim India. In the words of Persian Poet "Mon Aj beganegan hargiz no-nalam Acha Basma Kard An Ashna Kard". (*Voices from the Congress Benches* :—Please translate). The meaning is this—I have no complaint against my opponent, but it is my friends and well-wishers who have done me the greatest wrong.

Hindustan Prachar Samiti have found place in the Budget and the Congress Coalition Ministry have also issued a Communiqué on the music before Mosques. "The House will be disappointed to find that no provision has been made in the Budget for prevention of cow-slaughter. (Otherwise a full-fledged 'Ram Raj' would have been established in this province".

But, Sir, may I remind the Government as I have repeatedly said on the floor of this House that Assam is not a Madras or a Orissa. It is a land of minorities, of diverse nationalities, religions and cultures. It is impossible to establish a Fascist Raj in Assam. Those leaders of minorities and mass movement who have crossed the floor of the House and fondly believed that they would best serve their community and country by joining hands with the Congress, have now, I hope, been disillusioned. The Government like the famous story of Aesop's fables tried to please every body, both the people and vested interest at the same time but pleased none, and I can assure the House that in near future the House of Cards of the Coalition Ministry will fall to the ground.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister shed crocodile tears for the poor cultivators and said that "they accepted office with a definite object of easing the burden of taxation on the poor" but at the same breath, he has prepared a catalogue of taxation and brought a Bill called 'tax on agricultural income'. This tax is direct tax on the agriculturists and it will break the very backbone of our poor cultivators. The poor cultivators wanted bread but they have got stones instead. The Congress treat the Kishan as their political weapons and try to exploit them for achieving their political objects. They are not the sincere friends of the Kishan. As soon as they achieved their object, they threw their pledges to the winds and forgot them. This is why the Kishans have lost their confidence in the Congress and raised their standards of revolt in other Congress provinces. Even Gandhiji had to admit that the Congress Ministers always live in terror of Kishan demonstration. But I wonder, Sir, how could the leaders of the Kishan movement make an unholy alliance among themselves and keep 'chup' over the 'zoolum' of the Kishans. But Sir, this Kishan demonstration at Shillong during the last session was communal in their outlook. Their main object was to dislodge Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla who became the eye-sore of the Congress and the so-called nationalist press, because his only fault was this that he is a Muslim. I hope, Sir, if my hon. comrade friend of my district who has been styled as 'dinabandhu' is true to his ideal and slogan will again lead a procession of Kishans in the streets of Shillong and will shout his pet slogan—'down with the Congress! Down Coalition Ministry's

Otherwise I would say that these slogans were used only to capture votes and exploit poor ignorant masses.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid, speech is not relevant to the Budget.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Sir, imposition of new taxation indicates the complete failure on the part of the present Government in tapping the existing resources of the province. Our former Government I mean Saadulla Government could run the administration without imposing any new tax whatsoever. Moreover they reduced the enhanced local rate and Government revenue in the temporarily-settled areas and remitted lacs of rupees to the poor cultivators. So in the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, if it is not impossible for the present Government of the province to function with dignity and self-respect I would humbly ask them to resign and hand over the reins of the administration to some abler hands (*A voice from the Congress bench.—To you?*) who can run the administration without imposing any new taxation.

Sir, in the Budget estimate we find that Gauhati, the native town of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister has received a lion share but alas our poor Sylhet has been totally ignored. The demand for a medical school at Sylhet is a long-felt one. While thousands of poor people were dying like cats and dogs for want of proper medical relief, our Hon'ble Congress Ministers are indulging in the luxury of the Wardha Scheme and Hindustan Prachar Samiti. So it seems that our Budget estimate is in its outlook not only communal and reactionary but it has also got strong bias against the sister valley.

Now, Sir, a few words about the Line System and Wardha Scheme and I finish.

The cursed Line System was thoroughly discussed on the floor of this House and I have repeatedly expressed my views regarding this point on several occasions. So I need not tax the patience of the House any longer. The phrase "while Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling" may be applicable to the mediaeval method of administration of the Congress Government of the province. While the houses of the poor immigrants were being burnt by the subordinates of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, he was merrily writing his Budget speech in the cool climate of Shillong and said that "I make bold to say that since this Government have assumed the reins of office no oppression of any kind has been committed against the immigrants". But, Sir, the adjournment motion of my friend Maulavi Abdur Rouf compelled him to admit his fault and assured the House that he would make an inquiry on the matter. The *Assam Herald* has truly characterised the Congress Government as the Atilas of Assam and said—"the exploits of the Congress Government in Assam in burning a large number of houses in the village of Gomerpathi in Barpeta subdivision and forcing the homeless families with their children and women to take shelter under the open canopy of sky recall in its horror and barbarity the depredation of Atilas and the Huns in a miniature scale".

Sir, the Moslems of India have recorded their emphatic protest against the introduction of the Wardha Scheme. Knowing full well the Civil Disobedience Movement at Nagpur in the province of Central Provinces, against such anti-Moslem scheme, I do not know, Sir, how in the teeth of such strong and active opposition, Congress Government could dare to embark on such unpopular scheme in the province. It will only create ill-feeling and discontent. But, Sir, Congress Government have now thrown away their mask and appeared in their true colour. Their main object is to wipe out the separate cultural and social identity of the Moslems and the

minorities, and establish a Fascist Raj, if I am allowed to say a Hindu Raj, in Assam. We, the Moslems of India, are not prepared to be converted into a community of political Sudras and Panchamas. We shall never allow them to repeat the history of the old Spaniards and ancient Buddhists. The ill-conceived Government communiqué is mainly responsible for communal riots at Sylhet, Putijuri and other places in the province. May I sound a note of warning and tell the Hon'ble Premier—I don't find him here—may I tell him that his communiqué will not go unchallenged and we accept his challenge. We find, Sir, that a veritable Savarkar has been entrusted with the reins of the Government of Assam, and I apprehend, Sir, that if he proceeds in this way the province of Assam will be turned into a battle field of Panipat and the Muslims will be compelled to declare *Jihad* and fight to the last with their back to the wall for the safeguard of their religion and country.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister opens his Budget speech with the utmost show of patriotism. Sir, the word "patriotism" is very alluring. We have heard enough of high sounding slogans, and I further say that this Budget gives out the indication of corruption that has been the basis of the formation of this Ministry. If we look round we find that provision has been made to please certain members, and not to please the entire population of the Province. We know how the patronage of this Government is going to be distributed, we know what scandal the Government of Assam is committing in the name of Congress, in the name of high sounding words of public service and patriotism (*Shame, shame*). We know how the members are being offered Government contracts, how people disappointed either in the Bar or elsewhere are having lucrative Cabinet seats, how people who are age-barred are being appointed in Government service. So it is not unlikely that they will forget about the condition of the people who are suffering due to inequitous forest laws (*laughter from the Congress Benches*). My friends over there may laugh at it, but they have to take these things into consideration if they care for the good of the country at all, they must look to the formation of character. A gentleman disappointed in getting a job at a monthly salary of Rs. 400 or so will suddenly take to politics and at the expense of the public money will go from place to place to look after his own self-interest and at the same time call us all self-seekers as we do not support their corrupt practices (*A voice:—pathetic*). I know it must be very bitter to them, it must be very pinching to them. But we have heard enough of tall talks, but how long we can go on with this state of things?

Sir, no provision has been made for the starting of the Sylhet Medical School. Sir, on many occasions we have found that my friends on the opposite who are now adorning the Benches in the Government block proclaimed both in the Press and in the Platform and also on the floor of the House that they want the medical school at Sylhet. But now, they have acted against their conscience, if they have any conscience at all (*interruptions from the Congress Benches*). Of course they can go on in this way for the time being, they can go on winning their point, but ultimately this will not be good to the country as well as to themselves. They are purchasing people by bait, they are debasing their morality, they are unfit for higher and nobler things in life (*Shame, shame*). They are not only debasing their souls, but also of others. We know how an Hon'ble Minister of the present Cabinet found light in joining the Congress-Coalition, the light of profiteering, the light of bargaining. Those gentlemen are indulging in bargaining in the name of patriotism with their family members.

We know how a Cabinet Minister fell out with his brother-in-law in the matter of bus-permit of Gauhati. Thus we find they are doing disservice not only to their souls, but to their successors and children. It is no good framing a Budget only to please certain people without looking to general interest of the people of the Province!

So, I say that while we find no provision for the expansion of Madrassa education, provisions have been made for the Hindusthani Prachar Sangha. I know a set of people, who go by the name of *Jamiat-ul-ulema*, have blessed my hon. friend Maulavi Mahmud Ali to forget his *Inshalla* and join the Congress Government. Both the hon. Maulavi Mahmud Ali and the Hon'ble Premier visited the Madrassa and gave assurance to provide for the scholarships for High Madrassa students, but these promises have been given a go-by by this Cabinet.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may tell the hon. member that he is to deliver such speech on the floor of the House which cannot be construed as acrimonious. That will certainly be inconsistent with the atmosphere that should prevail here. The Budget speech should be as dignified as possible, and hon. members should take care to see that their speeches cannot be characterised as acrimonious.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: The Sylhet Municipal Board has been recently superseded by Government for public scandals having been found out. Otherwise, I would not have taken the trouble of discussing this aspect of the Government. But I want to point out that this Government cannot comment on scandal of the Sylhet Municipality. This Cabinet itself—this Government itself owes its birth in corruption and scandal. So, I say and touch about its own corrupt practices and scandals.

We find that no provision has been made in the Budget for imparting education to the Muhammadan section. We find that 50 per cent. of the provision will go to the tribal people, 20 per cent. to the scheduled and 30 per cent. to other backward classes. We know that the Muhammadans are educationally very backward but no provision has been made for them.....

(Interruptions from the Ministerialist Party)

Maulavi Saïyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, would you please stop this constant interruption from a particular quarter? We should know how to behave in this solemn assemblage of the legislature. We should not behave like circus-clown.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: We have got so many Government Bills—very good in number—that they are going to tax the richer section of the people and to benefit the poorer. But, have the Government given any thought over the matter that they are going to tax the poor people also? There are certain articles of luxury which it is very good to tax. But when even the Bicycles are going indirectly to tax the poor people will invariably be affected by it. We know that many poor people, as for instance, the newspaper hawkers, milk suppliers, etc., carry their trading business on Bicycles. These poor people also will have to pay the tax. It may look that the Bill is going to tax the shop-keepers, but in fact, the purchasers will indirectly have to pay for it.

We have already discussed the Assam Agricultural Income-tax Bill. Had its operation been confined to the tea industry only, it would have been better (*Hear, hear*). But paddy is also included in its operation. The poor people and the day labourers who have no land and have to purchase paddy for their maintenance, will have to bear the burden of agricultural income-tax indirectly.

We further find that there will be a tax on petrol. The effect of this tax will not remain confined to the owners of private motor cars; the poor people will have to bear a share of it, as they are to carry on their business on motor buses.

There is enough scope in the Budget to curtail expenditure but the Government will not apply their attention to it. We see that the Hon'ble Ministers are drawing Rs.500 a month as their salary and Rs.200 as allowances, besides they are making unnecessary tourings all over the country.

As regards drainage, Sir, in the district of Sylhet, I think the necessity of it will have been realised by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya had he been on this side of the House and also by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali who was also very keen about drainage in the district. But only Rs.15,000 has been provided in the Budget for the entire province. So far as the Sylhet district is concerned, everybody knows the deplorable condition of the cultivators who do not know how to improve their soil and crop. If there had been sufficient provision for the clearance of the silted up *khals* and bunds, it would have been a great good done to them.

Then, no provision has been made for reservation of land for grazing purpose. This matter which concerns the poor people was enough discussed on the floor of this House.

There is a catalogue of Bills for taxation of the people who go by the name of rich but, in fact, the effect of the taxation Bills will fall on the poor people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has exceeded 20 minutes.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I may be given a few minutes more, Sir. I am finishing soon. So far as cholera epidemic is concerned, particularly in Sylhet and south Habiganj, there was a chronic development of it while the Hon'ble Minister of the Medical Department was having a luxuriant tour in Madras with his various retinue and very little attention was given to the dying people.

We, on this side of the House, and also some hon. members on the other side, have spoken much about inadequacy of drinking water. What provision has been made there in the Budget for it? Very little—practically nothing in comparison to other things. So, as my hon. friend Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury has said, the Hon'ble gentleman in charge of the Finances of the province has prepared a Budget, more fitted for a Professor of a College than a practical politician—a Finance Minister to rule the destiny of this unfortunate and impoverished province.

Now, so far as the local grievances are concerned though the Middle English School at Tura has been started very recently for 3 years, it has been raised to the standard of a High School, whereas for Ummatunassa High School in the Madhabpur thana which I should say is unique in its character, for it is being run by a Muhammadan lady, no provision has been made for granting aid to this High School although enough has been said about it. Then, there is a Madrasa in the Lakhai thana for which also no provision has been made. So, I say that it is rather characteristic of the rich people to be indifferent to the backward people. There is only one Madrasa and there is one Middle English School but both of which are struggling for existence, and I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister to this fact. With these words, I take my seat.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 p.m., with Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman) in the Chair.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever criticisms may have been levelled or may be levelled against the Finance Minister, I feel that the Finance Minister is to be heartily congratulated for the thought-provoking speech he made the other day in introducing the Budget for 1939-40. It was a long one of course but not too long for a thesis to be carefully studied out.

With a courage and frankness characteristic of the man, the Hon'ble Finance Minister at the very outset of his speech, struck a note of warning—indicating the rock which the present Congress Coalition Ministry may strike against and be dashed to pieces. The truth asserts itself. And the Hon'ble Finance Minister, credit being due to him for the honesty of thought, has laid down the principles quite clearly according to which the Budget was made. One of the principles on which he laid great stress was the principle implied in the inversion of the well-known maxim 'cut your coat according to the cloth'.

"You are old fashioned in your ideas", the Hon'ble Finance Minister seems to have said to the previous Government; "what you did was to sit tight and calculate how much money you could get and then you started to build accordingly, but we, what we do, we first find out what are the things we need and want and then we set about to find how much money we have—and if we have not enough money for the purpose, we go and borrow and even go to the length of compelling people to give us at whatever cost it may be to the tax payers." Commonsense surely condemns such a course of action. But what has commonsense to do with politics the Government seem to think? I now therefore ask has commonsense anything to do with politics? I leave it to the hon. members of the House to form their own answer. It is true, Sir, that for certain departments or activities of a national life, money may not and cannot always be found enough from existing sources of revenue to make them so function as to produce desired results. It may be found necessary to borrow for that end. But it is to be borne in mind that the persons who initiated such a step must be prepared to stick to their posts through thick and thin, through all the storms and changes of a political life of the province—in spite of the disappointments and may meet and bound to meet in carrying on the machinery of Government—for not finding things in agreement with their pet ideas, or otherwise it would not only be unfair but a sheer act of dishonesty they part to saddle an enormous burden of a loan on those who come after them, be it a Cabinet of Ministers or a Legislature as a whole or a new generation of people in the province. It is a crime especially when the motive for taking the loan is merely that to enable the party that is in power to implement their pledge or election promises. However, Sir, we take the Government at its word and we shall exercise our patience to wait and watch how and to what extent distribution is to be made of the money borrowed over (if I may use the expression of the Finance Minister) "water supply schemes and schemes involving capital expenditure". The Hon'ble Finance Minister is also to be admired for his daring intention of making a departure from the old method whenever occasion arises, from the old practice, departure from old method or system of working of Government, if only by doing so, relief may be given to the peasants. This was the impression made on me in reading through the printed speech of the Finance Minister over and over again. And I would request the Finance Minister to kindly bear that in mind when

the thorny question of solving the problem of double tax in the Jaintia Hills will come up to him early next financial year.

I now come to the Budget estimates. It is the declared policy of the present Government, whatever may be its nomenclature it matters little to me. I am not a bit interested in labels, I am only concerned with persons and things—the policy of the present Government is that of protecting and safeguarding the interests of the minorities in the province, of giving a good start in life to the Tribal people in the plains and hills and the scheduled castes. That policy has been broadcasted throughout the length and breadth of the country.

But the Budget is the index of policy. That is a well-known fact. And what do we see in the list of the new schemes included in the Budget for 1939-40? It is obvious that a discrimination is made in the Budget between one hill tribe and another hill tribe. In drawing your attention to the comparison to be made I would ask the hon. members not to misunderstand me. I want to make it quite clear that this discrimination reflects the policy of the Government. The Garos and the Mikirs are well served, perhaps the latter are not so much served. I think much more should be done for them.

The total amount of Rs.21,500 shown at page 91 of the Memorandum on the Budget estimates in the list of new schemes as a provision in the Budget for 65 Primary Schools in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is very misleading to those who do not know anything about education in that district. It does not show that that sum is a new sanction for the primary schools in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The amount of Rs.21,500 is the usual sum given annually to the Missions for years now working in the district. The Government in taking over 65 schools from the Missions has not sanctioned an extra sum of money for the purpose, not even a single penny for the education in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. And moreover the recurring expenditure shown is Rs.17,820 only and the rest for building and equipments which amount will not be found necessary to spend it at any rate the greater part of it because the Missions have placed the school buildings at the disposal of the Government for one year. In fact, Government in taking over these schools will get a saving of about Rs. 3,680 for the year 1939-40 from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. That means that the Khasi and Jaintia Hills will get much less than what it had hitherto been getting as its share from the Government for education. Even if it should be found necessary to build new buildings here and there I can assure the Government that they will not have to spend money because in the Jaintia Hills impress labour is still in force and the Government through Executive order will get these school buildings built by the people without paying anything for that. While in the Garo Hills, the Government in proposing to take over 36 schools from the Mission have provided Rs.4,392 over and above the grant of Rs.2,304.....

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): Order, order, one hon. member is reading newspaper; reading of newspaper is not allowed in the House?

Rev. L. GATPHOH: Again, Garo Hills has already one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Tura. Besides this provision has been made for one more Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. But Jaintia Hills is still served from Gauhati in times of cattle epidemics. The Shillong Veterinary Surgeon is too occupied with the work in the capital of the province and cannot be

spared. The Jaintia Hills although it is styled a subdivision is in reality a district in itself, if we think of the fact that the Khasi Hills is mainly composed of native states—considering the economic necessities, thereof difficulty of road communications and its political importance the subdivision ought to have a claim to a High School.

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): The hon. member is reaching the time limit.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: (Two minutes more Sir, and I shall finish.) But a deaf ear has been turned to all its cries. Now, Sir, the question is "what have we not done which others have done, that we are neglected and ignored by the Provincial Government?" What pains me most, Sir, is to think that there seems a conspiracy to have been made between the Government and the permanent department side of it and as a result of which we are neglected. No visits have been paid to the subdivision although we are only 33 miles away from here but visits have been paid to far distant parts of the province which entailed loss of time to the extent of even one month (*twice*—more Travelling Allowances).

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Nearest to the Church furthest from God.

Rev. L. GATPHOH: With these words, Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the subdivision which has been neglected in the past but from which the revenue of the district of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is mainly derived. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister but I cannot compliment him for the Budget he has presented in the House. I was so long expecting that I shall get a different Budget from that of the previous Government. But to my disappointment the present Budget is nothing but the same Budget of the previous Government with alteration of some figures here and there.

Sir, the Budget is wanting in bold policies the Government is going to work out. The Hon'ble Finance Minister hopes that he will do this and that thing when he gets fund. For this purpose he is going to pilot some Bills for taxation. The present Budget is deficit by Rs. 23,35,000. The plea of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is this that for this deficit he cannot undertake any definite and bold policy towards nation building. To my understanding this is not for want of fund but for want of earnest desire. I am afraid hopes entertained will be realised at all.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister and his party men at the time of election and also during tenure of office of the previous Government gave pledges to their constituencies that they would give the people reduction of revenue by eight annas per rupee. But, Sir, now where is that pledge in The present Budget does not disclose that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has arranged to fulfil their pledges?

Sir, I represent most of the interior villages where there is no drinking water and roads for communication with the outside world. For want of good drinking water the villagers annually suffer from epidemic diseases like cholera, dysentery and small-pox. This year due to epidemic diseases like mortality of cattle is so numerous from the time of the last flood of the Brahmaputra up till now, that it is simply horrible. This is all, Sir, for want of drinking water. But the Government is indifferent towards this direction. The Mangaldoi Local Board has resolved to do away with this tax on the cart of the agriculturists. Thereby the Board lose about the thousand rupees. The Commissioner of the Assam Valley has held out 12 threat to the Board in his inspection note that the Board will not get any

grant from the Government to improve the communication in the villages. The Board wants to relieve the poor villagers from the burden of taxation, but the Commissioner will not tolerate it.

The condition of the villagers where there is Rural Co-operative Society is horribly miserable. In the Rural Societies, the liability of the members being unlimited, once the Society is given to liquidation the member's liability has no limit. Their all belongings, movables and immovables, are sold to clear the liability of the bank caused by inefficient and unscrupulous office bearers. In my last Budget speech I suggested that there should be a distinct audit staff to examine the accounts of the bank frequently and an inspecting staff to acquaint the villagers with the educative value of the co-operative movement. In the last meeting of the Advisory Board this suggestion was recommended. But it is disappointing to find in the Budget that no provision has been made towards this direction. If the Government do not like to accept the recommendation of the Advisory Board what is the use to spend public money in giving allowances to the Members of the Advisory Board who come to Shillong to attend the meeting of the Board? Sir, on several occasions I drew the attention to hostel buildings attached to the Mangaldoi Government High School and the Tezpur Government High School. In Tezpur there is no hostel for the Muslim boys. For want of accommodation many of the poor Muslim boys coming from the interior villages in the Tezpur subdivision cannot get the High School education. Hence the reason of backwardness of the Tezpur Muslims in education. In Mangaldoi there are two hostels for Moslems and Hindu boys. The hostel buildings cannot be said to be buildings; they are so many sheds in dilapidated conditions. When hails and storms come, the anxiety of the inmates for their life, becomes a matter for greater concern than their attention to the lessons. I hope and request the present Government, who style to be popular, to remove the grievances of the people of the Darrang district.

There are two Middle English Schools in the subdivision and I have drawn the attention of Government on many occasions when it was asked to give grant-in-aid to these schools. But to our disappointment no grant has been made to the schools. It is most surprising to find that in the Darrang district, only one Middle English School has got a grant of Rs.25 a month. So I draw pointed attention again of the Government that they will come forward with some aid to these Middle English Schools.

Maulavi Sheikh OSMAN ALI SADAGAR: Sir, আমি নর্গাঁও সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিতে চাই। ৩০ বৎসর পূর্বে আমি নর্গাঁও জেলায় আসিয়াছিলাম। তখন সেখানে কেবল অরণ্য-জঙ্গল ছিল। প্রথম আসিয়া আমি বড় সাহেবের নিকট গিয়া আশ্রয় চাহিয়াছিলাম। তিনি তখন আমাকে বলিয়াছিলেন—অরণ্য-জঙ্গল আছে। সবড়েপুটীর কাছে যাও—তিনি কিছু সুবিধা করিয়া দিতে পারিবেন। সেই অরণ্যের বাব, ভালুক এবং হাতীর দ্বারা যে আমরা কত অত্যাচারীত হইয়াছি—মালেরীয়া কালাজ্বরে যে আমাদের কত লোক মারা গিয়াছে তাহা আর বলিবার প্রয়োজন নাই। ৩০ বৎসর ধরিয়া আমরা কত কষ্ট সহ্য করিয়া আসিতেছি তবুও গবর্ণমেন্টের নিকট হইতে আমরা কোন রকম সাহায্য পাই নাই। ১২ বৎসর ধরিয়া আমরা একটি মাইনার স্কুল করিয়াছি।

পূর্বে আব্দুল হামিদ সাহেব এবং সাজ্জাদা সাহেব সেখানে গিয়া সেই জুল দেখিয়া আসিয়া-
 ছিলেন কিং আমরা জন কন্দন করিয়াও কোন বকম সাহায্য পাঠিতেছি না। (*shame, shame*)।
 এত কন্দন করা স্বত্বেও যে গবর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের দিকে দৃষ্টিপাত করেন না—
 ইহা বাস্তবিক ভাষেতে বিষয়। নর্গাঁও জেলায় আত্মকাল ঘরে ঘরে বাইসিকেল এবং মোটর
 হইয়াছে। নর্গাঁওএ কিছুই ছিল না। সেই বাইসিকেল এবং মোটর কাহাদের ?
 সেগুলি সবই আমাদের (*hear, hear*) আমরা নর্গাঁও জেলায় কত কষ্ট করিয়াছি তবুও
 আনিট'জনি, পাকলি, দীঘল আটি, শিমুল আটি, সোনাঈবেরা প্রভৃতি গ্রামের মধ্যে রাজ্যের
 কোন বন্দ বস্ত নাই। জুরিয়া পর্য্যন্ত যে রাস্তা আছে তাহার উপর মাটি দেওয়া হইয়াছে।
 কিন্তু বর্ষের সময় সেই রাস্তার উপর একইটু জল হয়। এট সাহায্য আমরা পাঠিতেছি।
 না কোন ও জুল বা মাদ্রাসার বন্দবস্ত নাই একটু ইন্দারা বা কুয়ার বন্দবস্ত নাই। আমরা
 কিছুই সাহায্য পাঠিতেছি না। আমি অকরোধ করি যে গবর্ণমেন্ট যেন একটু দৃষ্টিপাত
 করিয়া আমাদের স্কুলের জন্য কিছু সাহায্য মঞ্জুর করেন। ইহাই আমার বক্তব্য।

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): A list of members willing to take part in the Budget discussion has been furnished. I want to know if I should call out the names.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I know, Sir, that three days have been allotted for the discussion of the Budget. I was thinking that I would be delivering my speech on Monday and so I am not speaking to-day. I shall do so on Monday.

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): There was date given for the different members to speak. Instead of waiting for other hon. members to get up I think I shall call out the names and those that are prepared can speak. The first name I have is Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed. He is not in his seat. Miss Mavis Dunn is also not in her seat. The next name is that of Mr. Sarwan. He can deliver his speech if he is ready.

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Sir, I have carefully gone through the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. We know, Sir, that due to lack of funds the previous Government was charged by the then opposition with lack of vision and tact (*hear, hear*). But the same charge with more effect can be levelled against the present coalition Government. What is evident is that the Government have spared no pains to find ways and means to placate the new supporters for their support. But they have not had the time to ameliorate the condition of some of those who are entirely dependent on them and who belong to the Congress fold—I mean the *ex-tea-garden* labourers. These same people are well over six lakhs and contribute a considerable amount to Government revenues and local rates. What does the Hon'ble Minister propose to do for these people? Has he shown any indication in the Budget that he desires to make a beginning for the amelioration of the condition of these poor *ex-tea-garden* labourers who are more backward than any other community in Assam—not to speak of the Khasis, Miris and Mikirs and those who are called depressed Hindu classes? Since two years, an association to organise these people for their social and economic uplift has been formed—I mean the Assam Chota Nagpuri Association. This name has been put in only as a generic name. The Hon'ble Ministers, including the Prime Minister, have turned a deaf ear

to their requests and would not support their cause. So these people are helpless. The Government use their power only in favour of the members belonging to the Congress fold and so the cause of these people goes without any heed. So this is one glaring defect in the Budget, namely the lack of provision for the uplift of the *zai-tea-garden coolies* which I would like to put before the notice of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the hon. members whose names are called out and found to be absent be entitled to make their speeches on other days?

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): Certainly, because the 14th also is fixed for general discussion of the Budget.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am not fully prepared to speak to-day. May I know if I will be allowed to speak on the 14th?

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): Yes.

(Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla rose to speak.)

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I think it is the custom for the Leader of the Opposition to speak last.

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): I am not pressing him to speak to-day.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is the convention that the Leader of the Opposition gets the last speech on the non-official side.

(The Chairman then read out the names of Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Choudhury and Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.)

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: It will be convenient for me to speak day after tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal, Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury and Maulavi Muzroff Ali Laskar. All are absent. I have exhausted the list.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is another name and that is the Hon'ble Chairman himself.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Will not any member of the Ministerialist Party take any part in the discussion.

(No reply)

Mr. CHAIRMAN Khan (Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): There are two other names put down for the 13th, Srijut Dhirsing Dev'ri and Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI. I will speak on the 14th, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): As I have exhausted the list, I would ask the House whether any other member will speak to-day. If not, we will have to adjourn the House.

(After a pause) I take it that no other member is speaking to-day.

STATEMENT RE SENDING OF NOTICES OF AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNMENT BILLS.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN): Before I adjourn the House I should like to read a statement regarding amendments to Government Bills.

I. The provisional programme of business will show that, as at present arranged, the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1938, will be taken

into consideration clause by clause on the 16th March, 1939. Under rule 67(1) of the Assembly Rules, notice of amendments to a Bill, if any, must reach the Assembly Department three clear days before the day on which the Bill is to be so considered. So the notice of amendments, if any, to this Bill should reach the Assembly Department before 3 p.m. on the 12th March. As 12th is a Sunday, the amendments may be sent to-day.

2. The undermentioned Government Bills will be taken into consideration clause by clause, on the 31st March, 1st and 3rd April, 1939. So the amendments with regard to these Bills should reach the Assembly Department before 3 p.m. on the 27th March, 1939.

(1) The Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Bill, 1939.

(2) The Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1939.

(3) The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax Bill, 1939.

(4) The Assam Commissioners' Powers Distribution Bill, 1939 (as passed by the Council).

(5) The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

(6) The Assam Prohibition Bill, 1939.

(7) The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

(8) The Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1939.

(9) The Civil Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1939.

3. On the 6th April, the Assam Agricultural Income-tax Bill, 1939, and the Assam Finance Bill, 1939, are proposed to be taken up for consideration clause by clause. So the amendments to these two Bills must reach the Assembly Department before 3 p.m. on the 2nd April. As the 2nd April is a Sunday, hon. members are requested to hand over the notices of amendments, if any, on the 1st April.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the 13th March, 1939.

Shillong :

The 13th April, 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.