



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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m.
on Monday, the 13th March, 1939

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Separation of Sylhet

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

*58. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the present Government have taken any steps for the transfer of Sylhet from the province ?

(b) If so, what are those steps?

(c) If not, do Government propose to take any step in the near future ?

(d) If so, what are those steps ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

58. (a)—No, not till now.

(b)—If any step is to be taken, it must be done in a manner so as to satisfy the conditions of section 290 of the Act.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Government or party composing Government propose to move a resolution in the House in the next session of the Assembly and may take such other action as may be necessary to satisfy the conditions of the said section.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Is it a part of the Congress programme to try for the separation of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir, the policy of the Congress is to redistribute the provinces on a linguistic basis.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : What are the main languages of this province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It is very well known to the hon. members that these are Assamese and Bengali languages.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY : What is the number of Bengali speaking people in this province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am afraid, I have not got the figure just now.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Sir, are Government prepared to follow the principle of redistribution of the province on the linguistic basis ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The reply is there.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Are Government prepared to follow the same principle with regard to this province as well ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The reply is already there.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know what Government is going to do with regard to the district of Goalpara?

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: And also with regard to the district of Cachar?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That will, I believe, be decided by the language used by the people.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Are there not number of other languages in the province save and except Assamese and Bengali?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The information is not available. I want notice of that question.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that the province will have to be divided into many provinces such as Bengali speaking, Garo speaking, Khasi speaking and Lushai speaking provinces? I want a reply to my question from the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have not been able to understand exactly the question of my hon. friend. I want notice of that question, Sir.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I want an answer to my question Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is about the separation of Sylhet, and I understand from the trend of the reply given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he is not prepared to say anything more.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will Government be pleased to take into consideration the question of Goalpara when the question of Sylhet will be taken up?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That question is still premature to answer. At present nothing has been decided by Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, are we to understand that only the district of Sylhet has engaged the attention of the Government and no other districts?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, as I said, the matter has not yet been decided and it is premature for me to say anything on the subject.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, are we to understand that only those inhabitants of the province who speak Assamese language will be retained in this province?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot add to what I have already said.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question was whether Sylhet was going to be transferred, and with regard to that answer has been given. All other questions, I think, do not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Hon'ble Prime Minister replied that it will be decided on the basis of language.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: What I meant is that we shall follow the principle followed in other Congress provinces. As a matter of fact, it will be discussed when the resolution on this subject will come up before the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, am I not entitled to ask the question whether the principle of the Congress is that those areas where Bengali is spoken will only be transferred from this province to a Bengali-speaking province?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is about the area. The area which is called Sylhet is to be transferred and so the question whether all the Bengali-speaking people in whichever part of the province they be living should be transferred from here does not come in (*laughter*).

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The Hon'ble Premier has answered that the redistribution of the boundaries will be made on linguistic basis. May we know whether Government is considering about the districts of Goalpara and Cachar which are also Bengali speaking districts mostly?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That question, I think, does not arise at present.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that one Congress member tabled a resolution during the last Budget Session for the separation of Sylhet from Assam?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is known to the hon. member himself and so I do not see any reason why an answer should be asked from Government.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: The Hon'ble Prime Minister said that the question was one of far-reaching character.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Therefore a resolution was tabled.

Separate Judicial Service and establishment of a High Court in Assam and appointment of an Advocate General for the Province

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked:

*59. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there will be a separate Judge and Sub-Judge for the Upper Assam Districts as advised recently by the Calcutta High Court?

(b) If so, from what date?

*60. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are going to create a separate Judicial Service for the Province?

(b) If so, from when?

(c) Will Government be pleased to apprise the House of the Scheme drawn up for the above purpose and cadres of different judicial officers?

*61. Will Government be pleased to state when they expect to establish a High Court in the Province and what steps they have taken to implement the resolution passed by the House on the subject?

*62. (a) Will Government be pleased to state—(a) If they intend to appoint a separate Advocate General of the Province?

(b) If so, will Government please state—

(1) Whom they have selected for the post?

(2) The qualification of the nominee?

(3) The date from which he is likely to take office?

(4) The salary which is proposed to be paid to him?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied:

59. (a)—This matter will be considered when the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have been disposed of.

(b)—Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know when the views of the Calcutta High Court were received with regard to this matter?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: It was received, I think, six or seven years ago.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Has any step been taken within these six or seven years to create a Judge's Court in Upper Assam?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No step has as yet been taken.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Was any estimate prepared regarding the creation of a Judge's court in Upper Assam?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I think, a rough estimate was prepared long ago.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell me when that estimate was prepared?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I cannot exactly tell that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that his predecessor went to Jorhat about six or seven months ago to see as to whether a Judge's court may be established at Jorhat and that the report was submitted to Hon'ble High Court?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Was anything done in this respect since the visit was paid by the Hon'ble Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No, Sir. Nothing has been done. I may tell the House that my predecessor also decided that the matter should be considered after the Retrenchment Committee's report is considered.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Did the question for the creation of Judge's Court come up before the Retrenchment Committee?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No, Sir. The question of a separate Judicial Service came up before the Committee.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Then may I take it that this question was not brought before the Committee at all?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I do not know, as I was not a member of the Retrenchment Committee.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Then, Sir, how is it that the Hon'ble Minister says that this question would be taken up when the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are disposed of?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: As I have already said, Sir, the question of creating separate Judicial Service was brought before the Retrenchment Committee, and the present question is interlinked with that. After a decision is arrived at regarding the former question, I think, this matter will be decided.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: What relation has the creation of a Judge's Court at Jorhat got to do with the separation of Judicial Service?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Because if we have to post a separate Judge and Sub-Judge there, we think it would be better done if we have a separate Judicial Service.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Are we to take it that a Judge's court will not be created at Jorhat if the separation does not take place?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I do not mean that.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take steps to materialise the proposal at an early date?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: As I have already said, after the Budget Session we shall consider the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee, and I shall try to look into this matter too in this connection.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: It has got nothing to do with Retrenchment Committee or creation of a separate Judicial Service. I was requesting the Hon'ble Minister kindly to take steps in the matter at an early date.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I shall do that, Sir.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

60. (a)—This is under examination.
 (b)—Government are not in a position to say when the scheme is likely to materialise.
 (c)—This will be done in due course.
- 61.—The addresses passed by both Houses of Legislature have been forwarded to the Government of India. Government cannot say at present when a High Court is likely to be established in the province.
62. (a)—The question of appointing a separate *Advocate General* is under consideration of the Government.
 (b)—Does not arise.

Settlement of Excise shops

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI asked :

- *63. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Why the recent circular debarring renewal of *Excise licenses* to persons who have held particular shops for *three years* was issued?
 (b) Why the settlement of Excise shops for the coming year was postponed?
 (c) Whether Government propose to start prohibition of opium from April, 1939?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

63. (a) The main reasons are:—
 (i) even in regular services, a definite period is fixed as the tenure of service, which the popular opinion is persistently insisting for reduction; in excise business there should also be a period; Government consider that in excise business three years is a fair period in view of the nature of work the lessee has to do;
 (ii) unemployment is so acute that those going without food must get some chance, the outgoing lessee had a term of 3 years at any rate; the incoming will necessarily be a starving man.
 (iii) in working on new progressive excise policy based on popular demands, new recruits furnish better materials than people with set views and habits;

(iv) in excise business people are likely to be tainted in various ways: after some period, these taints naturally get firmly fixed; three years has been considered to be a fairly long period in which one is likely to be initiated in evil ways. In the interest of the business itself (the maintenance of the purity, which is a matter of paramount concern to all), and in the interest of the lessee himself so that he may not get into deep waters beyond possibility of his rescue, it has been fixed that none for the present should run an excise business continuously for more than 3 years.

(b)—After issue of the circular several representations and deputations were received complaining about the hardship caused by it, and the Government thought it necessary to reconsider the matter: hence the postponement.

(c)—Yes. A scheme is being placed before the Assembly for approval, by motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not a fact that the order that was first issued by Government as regards the settlement of shops was substituted by another order?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir, the order was revised afterwards.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: What was the new order, Sir?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: The new order is that a lessee who has been holding a particular kind of shop or shops continuously for three years or more should not be allowed any lease of similar kind of shop.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Was this order gazetted?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: I have no information. It is an executive order.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Did the Hon'ble Minister order that the order should be gazetted?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: No, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that there is a large number of Muhammadan opium mahaldars in the Province?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir, I know that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that these Muhammadan mahaldars will not accept any lease for liquor shops for religious reasons even if they are granted such shops?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: This is a religious question, Sir. The Khan Bahadur is dragging religion in the field of politics. But it seems that the Khan Bahadur is quite ignorant of the fact that the main liquor business was in the hands of Md. Haji Ismail Sett and Sons and now in the hands of Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I point out to the Hon'ble Minister that Haji Ismail Sett does not himself touch liquor, and that he is a man from Mysore and not from this Province?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Government cannot consider individual case, but I see that there are 9 Muhammadan mahaldars who hold liquor shops at present in the Assam Valley, from which the hon. member is hailing, e.g., 4 at Nowgong, 1 at Mangaldai, 1 at Tezpur and 3 at Dibrugarh.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : May I know why the former orders of Government had to be revised ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : I have already replied to that, Sir.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : Are not Government aware that there are lessees who ran opium shops for over 6 or 7 years, and that only recently, about 3 years ago, liquor shops and *ganja* shops had been transferred to them ? Will not now, according to the revised orders, those excise lessees get chances of settlement of opium shops again where according to the settlement policy it is not desired ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Sir, I quite see the point of the hon. member. It is technically so, but Government hope that the Deputy Commissioner will look into the spirit of the order.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : Again, Sir, there are lessees who are running combined shops, *i.e.*, opium, liquor and *ganja*. Does the present policy mean that they should be thrown out altogether ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : They will get out. They will not get the shop.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Does the limit of three years also apply in the case of *ganja gola*, shops and foreign liquor shops ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : The foreign liquor shop is out of the question, but as regards *ganja* shop, the limit of three years does apply.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Is it due to the fear that the Hon'ble Minister is likely to be infected if a lessee is given the lease of a particular excise shop which he has been holding for more than three years ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : It is a matter of opinion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Is it not a fact that the settlement of excise shops should have taken place on or before the 20th February under the rules framed in the Assam Excise Manual ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : It is the tender for the shop that ought to be called for before the 20th February, but that does not imply that the settlement of the shop also should be made before the 20th February.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : May I know whether in Upper Assam tenders were called for before the 20th February ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Yes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Does the Hon'ble Minister know that tenders are being called for even now ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think the Hon'ble Minister has already replied and what he has said should be taken as correct.

Pay of Primary School Teachers

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*64. Do Government propose to raise the pay of Primary School teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI replied :

64.—The question is under consideration.

University in Assam

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY asked:

*67. Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated Wednesday, January 4, 1939, page 5—under the heading "University in Assam"?

*68. Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is reported to have said in that connection that there is no impediment to starting a University in Assam whose main feature will be to develop the Assamese culture?

*69. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state the definition of the term—"Assamese culture"?

*70. Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister propose to exclude the Bengalee culture from the University of Assam?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

67.—Yes.

68.—Yes. It is not to be understood, that this statement was actually made. The alleged statement appears to be an amalgamation of speeches made on different occasions in such a compressed form that the meaning has not been quite clear from the report.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Will the hon. Premier please let us know what he did say exactly?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: I do not remember exactly. What the Assamese students in Calcutta impressed on me was the necessity of a University in Assam. I told them that the spirit of service and selfless work that is required can also be got from the training that is being given by the Calcutta University. Of course, for the preservation of the old Assamese culture and tradition or to educate the Assamese students in a particular line, a University in Assam is a necessity. I said that if the object of a University is to educate students in spirit of service and selfless work, then the Calcutta University offers no less facility on that account.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Did not the Hon'ble Premier say anything apart?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: That question will come afterwards.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Does the Hon'ble Premier want to say that the report published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is false or incorrect?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: I do not say that. What I say is that the report is an amalgamation of several speeches made at different places which must have been compressed in one report so that the main point which was sought to be driven at has not been made out quite clear.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Does the Hon'ble Premier want to say that he did not say anything more than regarding Assamese culture?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Did the Hon'ble Premier make any contradiction after the report was published in the paper?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No question of contradiction arises. The main point I wanted to impress upon the students in Calcutta was the spirit of service and selfless work, but that thing was not brought out in the report.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

69.—The term is very clear in itself, signifying the culture of the Assamese peoples, and surely requires no further definition.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: The reply is not clear and not convincing.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot convince the hon. member.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: What does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean by 'Assamese culture'?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot say anything more than what I have said.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May we be enlightened as to what is meant by 'Assamese culture' just by one or two illustrations?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If the Hon'ble Premier says that by 'Assamese culture' he means the whole of Assam's culture in that case everything will be clear, but by Assam if he means Assam Valley only then that is the suspicion in the minds of the hon. members.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The whole thing is there in the next reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:
70.—Government have no intention of excluding anything which is material for the educational advancement of any part of the province which a University may be set up. The hon. member will appreciate for it is premature to determine the nature and jurisdiction of any university or universities that may be contemplated, before consulting the people that existed in all parts of the province. In the address to the Assamese students in Calcutta, to which the report quoted presumably alludes it was particularly pointed out to them that the educational system of the Calcutta University offered no less scope than a purely Assamese University to work for the uplift of the suffering masses.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: What does the Hon'ble Premier mean by saying 'university or universities'?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: What is the difference between the singular and the plural Sir.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister want to establish two universities in Assam, one at Sylhet and the other at Gauhati?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have not decided even for one university; and we are not in a position to say whether there will be more than one university in the province.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: But this term was used in the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The question is so vague and uncertain at present that excepting a bare reference it will not be possible for us to say anything further. But this much I can say that we are going to consider this matter during the next calendar year.

Feeling against the use of the word "Vernacular"

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*71.(a) Are Government aware that there is a feeling growing against the use of the word "Vernacular" ?

(b) Do Government propose to discontinue its use and notify all departments accordingly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

71.(a)—Government are not aware of any such feeling but should be glad to know why and where such feeling is growing.

(b)—The question does not arise.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Are Government aware that the word "Vernacular" is derived from the Latin root *Verna* which means a slave born in his master's house ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI : Whatever may be the derivative meaning, I suppose, we are not understanding the meaning of the word 'vernacular' in all its original sense.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Are Government aware that the Government of India recently issued a notification discontinuing the use of the word 'vernacular' in all their communications ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Government are not aware but should like to see if it is a fact.

Timings of prayers

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*72. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the timings of prayer as published recently in the Government Communique in the *Assam Gazette* are proper and suitable ?

(b) Why there has been no provision for the timing of 'Zuhar' (mid-day) prayer ?

(c) Whether the Muslim members of the Cabinet consider the duration of the timings to be adequate and sufficient for all prayers ?

(d) Whether they propose to consider the necessity of revising the timings of prayer with particular reference to their duration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

72.(a)—Government believe that the timings published in the Government Communique together with his subsequent *corrigendum* giving daily times for mid-day prayer are proper and suitable.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No. -

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Teaching of Botany in Cotton College

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

24. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to introduce the teaching of Botany in the degree classes of the Cotton College to prevent the students from leaving the College for want of provision for the teaching of Botany in the said institution ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make early arrangements for teaching the subject in the degree classes of the said College ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

24. (a) and (b)—Yes, when funds permit.

Number of Motor Vehicles in Assam

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

25. Will Government be pleased to state the number of motor vehicles registered in Assam, district by district, from 1936 to 1938 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

25. A statement is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of motor vehicles and trailers registered in the various districts in Assam during 1936, 1937 and 1938.

	1936	1937	1938
Cachar	84	44	55
Sylhet	58	129	55
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	64+1 trailer.	116+2 trailers.	116+2 trailers.
Naga Hills	1	5	10+6 trailers.
Goalpara	7	9	Nil.
Kamrup	40	30	11
Darrang	59+1 trailer.	80	69
Nowgong	24	17	62+1 trailer.
Sibsagar	110+2 trailers.	140+17 trailers.	27
Lakhimpur	201	190	125
Garo Hills	1		257+1 trailer.
Manipur	18	1	Nil
Sadiya	6	15	25
Balipara	Nil,	Nil.	5+4 trailers.
		Nil+1 trailer.	1

Compilation of Manual containing various Orders and Acts

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

26. (a) Are Government aware of the inconvenience felt by the members of the Legislature in the absence of a "Manual" containing in a compact form (1) the Government of India Act, 1935, (2) Instrument of Instructions to the Government, (3) Orders issued by His Majesty in Council and the various Rules and Orders, including the Fundamental Rules issued from time to time ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to compile at an early date a "Manual" of the nature indicated above ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

26. (a)—No. Separate volumes are considered convenient for reference and handling.
- (b)—Does not arise.

Holidays for Muhammadan festivals

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

27. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The reason for granting 2 days' Sectional holidays in the Province on the occasion of the last *Id-ul-Fitr* ?
- (b) The reasons for not granting any Sectional holiday on the occasion of the last *Id-uz-Zuha* ?
- (c) Are Government aware that a great disorder is created in educational institutions by Sectional holidays due to the absence of Muslim teachers ?
- (d) Are Government aware that 2 days' general holiday for each of the two *Idds* is quite insufficient ?
- (e) Are Government aware that *Shab-i-Barat* is a very important festival of the Musalmans ?
- (f) Are Government aware that the Government of Bengal have increased the total number of Muslim holidays in Bengal ?
- (g) Do Government propose to grant at least four days' general holidays for each of the two *Idds* and 3 days' general holidays for *Shab-i-Barat* in the Province in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

27. (a)—Non-visibility of the moon on the 22nd November, 1938.
- (b)—The general holiday was adequate.
- (c)—Does not arise in view of the conversion of Sectional holidays for Muslims into general ones with effect from this year.
- (d)—No.
- (e)—Yes.
- (f)—Government have no information.
- (g)—No.

Announcement of the result of election to the Assam-Bengal Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committees

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I shall now announce the result of the election to the Railway Advisory Committees.

As regards Assam Bengal Railway, Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta has secured 58 votes and he being the only candidate to whom all the members who took part in the election recorded their votes, I declare him to be duly elected.

As regards Eastern-Bengal Railway, Srijut Purandar Sarma has secured 58 votes and he also being the only candidate to whom all the members who took part in the election recorded their votes, I declare that he is duly elected.

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

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget and the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister have given some suspicion in my mind. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given out in his speech what policy the Coalition Government is going to adopt in steering the wheels of the Government in the future. Both the Hon'ble Premier and the Finance Minister visited the district of Goalpara from one corner to the other and both have seen the district as it is, but I am surprised to find that the present Government has not cared to pay a bit of attention to this unfortunate district. Is it because that 7 out of 11 members of Goalpara have not joined the Coalition Party up till now?

I take the Hon'ble Finance Minister at his word while he says in page 1 of his speech, "over and above this, the Province has been, during the past year, visited by a series of floods, particularly in the districts of Goalpara and Cachar." Perhaps Sir, you are all aware how the south bank and a portion of north bank of the Dhubri subdivision were affected by three successive floods during the course of last rains. As a result of the aforesaid calamity the peasants totally lost their crops and cattle. I am thankful to the then Government for the timely help that had been given to the suffering tenants. Perhaps the Hon'ble Premier would admit that a vast portion of south bank presented to him on his way to Tura to be some sort of desert. The main crops of the tenants being lost, they have been put to great difficulty. Even now 90 per cent. of the cultivators are half-starved. They are without seeds and plough cattle. Petitions and representations have been sent to the Government for the advance of agricultural loans. It seems that the Government have no duty towards the tenants who are residing in the permanently settled area. The argument of the Government may be that the zeminders should come forward to the rescue of the tenants. Against this I must warn the Government and say that the Government will be guilty of the breach of trust if they do not come forward to help these helpless tenants without going into details what the Government did in the district of Sylhet which is a permanently settled district some years back.

I should say this much that the Government is morally bound to help these people in as much as the Government took upon themselves the duty of helping the tenants in distress. When the Local Rates Regulation was enacted, one of the conditions for imposing local rates over the zeminders was that the amount realised from the zeminders would be utilised to help the tenants in distress at the time of floods and famines. The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature, Bengal, also gave a ruling, most

likely in 1886 to that effect. Therefore, this Government cannot now say that they have no obligation for helping these tenants. If adequate loans are not advanced now the Government must be prepared to feed these people, because without money these people are not in a position to buy seeds and plough-cattle and thus they will not be able to raise any crops. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will not go back on his word when he, amongst other things, says in his budget speech at page 6, ".....giving relief to the poor classes.....".

I am not one with the Hon'ble Finance Minister when he says in his speech in page 7 ".....but 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". During the autumn tour of the Hon'ble Premier on his way from Dhubri to Goalpara, a large number of homeless peasants saw him in the various steamer ghats and represented their grievances. The Hon'ble Premier was kind enough to say that the south bank was doomed and they should find suitable lands in the north bank. Accordingly with high hopes a large number of homeless people went to north bank and found waste lands inside Ballamguri, Dotma and Sidli where in order to get only a shelter, they erected huts, cleared jungles and raised winter crops to save their lives.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: On a point of Order, Sir, I think either the Hon'ble Premier or the Hon'ble Finance Minister should be here to take note of what is being said.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: They are in the Upper House, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are three Hon'ble Ministers here and any one of them may take note.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, you will be shocked to here how these helpless people were treated by some of the inhabitants living nearby. Their huts were burnt, crops damaged and they were forced to leave the place. (*Cries of shame, shame.*) The only argument of those who took this horrible part was that they would not allow the Mussalmans to get any plot of land. This was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara and also to the Hon'ble Finance Minister while he visited Dhubri last in connection with the discussion of the Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister what steps he has taken in this matter.

This is not all. Yet there is another. Lands of 19 Muhammadan families near Changbada had been washed away during the last flood and as other people had done, they also occupied about 100 bighas of land in Bhandra No.1 Reserve in Lat No.15 within Bijni Police Station. This Reserve contains 416 bighas of land out of which about 250 bighas have been occupied by Bodos and Rajbanias. While these 19 homeless families occupied on about 100 bighas of land. These Bodo and Rajbania filed objection to the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, who has issued orders of eviction, in default their houses would be burnt. Sir, can the Hon'ble Finance Minister say that no oppression has been done? For the information of the Hon'ble Minister I may tell him that about 200 homeless Muslims from our district went to Mangaldai subdivision in search of land in *Agrahayan* last but they were refused any settlement though thousand acres of lands were being inhabited by wild animals. These 200 Muslim families are inhabitant of Goalpara. Does the Hon'ble Finance Minister mean to say that the lives of animals and their protection are of greater importance than the lives of human beings? Have the Coalition Government changed their mentality? The Hon'ble Finance Minister may say

he does not know these. But it will not be worthy of him to plead ignorance.

I think, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has totally forgotten the backwardness of Islamic education and the backwardness of the Muhammadan boys in point of education and therefore, it seems, he has nowhere made mention of any kind about the encouragement of Islamic education and of the Muslim boys. If this omission is accidental, I have nothing to say but if it is otherwise I regret for it. He must not forget the lots of the biggest minor community residing in Assam.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his zeal to give a greater amount of relief and substantial concession to the tenants of Goalpara has intended to bring an amending Bill. Before doing this he had to take the trouble of going to the district. In the conference held for the purpose the Hon'ble Finance Minister met all classes of tenants and discussed for hours about the grievances of the tenants. But unfortunately for us the proposed Bill falls far below the mark. The provisions of the proposed Bill have roused great agitation amongst the tenants and I understand lots of representations have been made to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, in the meantime, for inserting important provisions that have been left out. Sir, without those provisions the amendment will not be worth having. The proposed amendment, if passed into Act as it is, will surely give rise to innumerable litigations and thus the tenants as a class will be worse off.

In a House of 108 members, only 11 are interested in this piece of legislation. I understand it is the avowed policy of the Congress to mitigate the sufferings of the masses. And therefore, my friends in the Coalition group will seriously think about this piece of legislation. Their action will decide the fates of the ignorant mass of our district. Their Hon'ble Finance Minister ought to have given more attention towards the suffering tenants than towards the landlords. I think yet there is time to change his attitude and let him present a Bill which will be acceptable to all classes of tenants thus giving a chance for better understanding and good feeling between the landlords and the tenants.

Sir, no indication has been given to us by the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to whether the present Government is in favour of the separation or of the retention of the district of Sylhet from this province. This question will have a great bearing on our district. This is transferred to Bengal, the claims of Goalpara will be irresistible. If Sylhet is reasons—land laws and language question. I understand the All-India Congress has in mind the territorial redistribution of Provinces on linguistic basis. If their scheme is given effect to then practically a major portion of Goalpara must be transferred to Bengal. Some of our Assamese friends in their anxiety to keep Goalpara as an appendage to this province to suit their purpose are trying to show that the whole of Goalpara is an Assamese speaking district. Government officers in Education Department are taking silent part in thrusting Assamese language on us. Some complaints have been received that Lower Primary Schools will not get the approval of Deputy Inspector of Schools unless Assamese is taught in these schools. History never showed that by coercion and persuasion the natural tongue of a class has been changed. In these days of national advancement, I hope no such attempt should be made by any one to thrust on us a language that is foreign to us.

Sir, perhaps the Hon'ble Finance Minister knows that there has been a persistent demand for a second Anglo-Persian teacher in the Dhubri Government High School. Records in the hands of the Government will

show that this is a real necessity. But in the Budget I do not find any provision for this. I had a talk with the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools who informed me that the Government did not find out funds for this. In his anxiety to get unflinching support from the Deputy Speaker, he is going to introduce the Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill and is prepared to pay him Rs.250 a month ; whereas he forgets to repair a weak part of the nation building department. If he can find out money to pay the Deputy Speaker he can easily find out Rs.75 per month for an additional Anglo-Persian teacher in Dhubri High School. I do not know why he is very much callous about the education of the Muslim boys.

Sir, throughout the Budget I do not find the Hon'ble Finance Minister making any provision for the scholarship of Muhammadan boys in the Madrassas. If he has made any new schemes in the Budget, it is only to please certain of the followers of the Coalition Party. His utter neglect for the encouragement of Islamic education proves his helplessness and inability to do justice to the community he belongs. His position in the Cabinet reminds me of the fateful night when Juliet entreated Romeo, "refuse thy name and deny thy father."

Sir, I have been informed that the Government have decided not to take up any scheme of the Road Board in the Dhubri subdivision as the contribution from the Central Government has been directed to the other projects outside Goalpara. If the present Cabinet thinks that Goalpara is an unwanted district and therefore require no nursing, it can safely bid us goodbye so that we may seek our lot elsewhere. Everyone who has seen Goalpara will admit that the communication in the district is the worst possible. Sir, I ask the Hon'ble Premier if he agrees with me on the point as he has seen Goalpara personally. I remember to have heard him say in the Retrenchment Committee that communications in Goalpara was worst possible and yet if he exclude Goalpara from the operation of the Road Board scheme this year, I cannot imagine of any explanation he can give.

Sir, the decision of the present Government as regards music before mosque is a novel one. It has broken the age long tradition of the country, enhanced communal trouble and has roused the sleeping feeling amongst the communities who were so long passing these days in peace and amity. Sir, I request the Government to change their orders to restore the friendly relations between the communities.

Sir, tears rolled down my eyes when I heard the other day the Hon'ble Premier saying during the time of interpellation that while arriving Calcutta in order to attend the Jute Conference he found himself helpless in the desert of Calcutta and all on a sudden good Samaritan coming to his rescue by providing for him lodging and boarding in 51, Goriahata Road. Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Premier if he informed the Bengal Government by which train he was arriving Calcutta? Is it not a fact that the Calcutta dailies published that the Hon'ble Premier of Assam would stay in 51, Gariahata Road with Mr. P. D. Himatsinghka, before his arrival in Calcutta? Sir, it does not sound dignified, the aspersion by one Government against another in the matter of hospitality.

Sir, I am surprised to hear from the Hon'ble Premier that Mr. P. D. Himatsinghka was not very much known to him. Can he deny that he took part in the adjournment motion in 1937 brought by the hon. Srijut B. Das regarding the settlement of contract in Kukurmara in Kamrup district? Is it not a fact that this gentleman's relation in Assam was thoroughly discussed in that adjournment motion?

Sir, can he deny the presence of this much-talked of gentleman in the Ashley Hall at the time when the present Ministry was formed ?

Sir, in the beginning of my speech, I have spoken of my suspicion and I have shown this in my speech. Before taking my seat, I should like to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to be more careful to the community to which he belongs.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has entertained us with a long political harangue so common in the parks and squares of Calcutta, in introducing the budget estimates for the year 1939-40. He has indulged in much tall talk with beats of Congress drums that a millenium had been ushered in, with the inauguration of the Congress Coalition Government in Assam. No device or artifice was thought too low to achieve this end. Naturally the people were on their last legs of expectation to see the first budget estimates of the Congress Coalition Ministry. But unfortunately for them, the estimates fall far below their expectation. It is a tame and colourless message of hope for the toiling masses, for whom the Hon'ble Finance Minister has shed so much crocodile tears. Instead, the Ministry has launched a campaign of taxation quite unprecedented in the legislative history of the province. Most of these taxes will ultimately fall upon the shoulders of the poor masses and render their already hard struggle for existence more difficult.

We know, Sir, how the Congress Coalition Ministry was installed in office. We know how forces so long denounced as reactionary changed their colour overnight and were arrayed under the Congress banner. Treachery and betrayal were considered to be the hallmark for entering the Congress Cabinet. There was no coalition of ideas or ideals for which the Congress stood. But it was a combination of self-seekers and interested persons (*shame, shame*). It is no wonder that the present Government has proved itself incapable of delivering any good to the country (*Hear, hear*). Without laying the blame at the doors of an irresponsible Central Government, the Hon'ble Finance Minister could well admit that such a combination could not possibly function with dignity and self-respect (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. member entitled to say that the members of the coalition group are self-seekers ?

The Hon'ble The SPFAKER: The hon. member cannot say anything which casts an aspersion against any member.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then am I to take it that the hon. member is unfolding his own mentality ?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The Hon'ble Finance Minister has lamentably betrayed a lack of vision and foresight in the preparation of the budget estimates. No attempt has been made for ameliorating the condition of the poor. No work for the uplift of the rural areas has been undertaken. No comprehensive scheme for the introduction of compulsory primary education has been devised. No effort has been made for lessening the burden of rural indebtedness. But the unwanted Wardah scheme cannot brook any delay. No Hindusthan Prachar Samity must be subsidised. Various other provisions are to be made to satisfy the vanity of oscillating members of party. The new provisions reveal a shameless effort on the part of the Cabinet for humouring some members who are supposed to be responsible for maintaining the Congress Coalition in power. Sir, the cool atmosphere of

Shillong is surcharged with wild rumours about the settlement of Government contracts. All sense of shame and decency has vanished. To be a friend, relative or a supporter of a Cabinet Minister has been recognised to be the best qualification for receiving a contract (*shame, shame*). A pleader, a professor, a missionary or a layman, all are equally qualified to hold a licence. It is stated that it is the contractors who are ruling the province of Assam to-day (*laughter and cheers*). The high ideals of the Congress are at a discount in Assam. It is the vested interest that reigns under a clever camouflage. From the very start, every footstep of the Coalition Ministry has been marked by jobbery, favouritism, nepotism and corruption.

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: Corruption is a very strong charge to make and the hon. member ought not to make such charges lightly.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: A resolution has been tabled by me and the Ministry will have ample opportunity to speak on that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not the matter. The charge of corruption is now made against the Ministry.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: If you take objection, Sir, I may omit the word "corruption."

Sir, we hear that the Coalition Government is going to check corruption in offices. First of all "cleanse thyself" would be my friendly advice to them.

Sir, too much has been made of the salary of the Congress Ministers. We are told that they are drawing a subsistence allowance only. A cursory glance at the budget estimates will show a tremendous hoax. The salary of rupees 500 per month for a Congress Minister in Assam is more than a stunt and eyewash. It has been ingeniously devised only to deceive the ignorant masses. The budget figures for the year 1939-40 under the Head "Ministers" is Rs.1,34,000 as compared with Rs.1,47,000 for the year 1938-39. But the question of a ninth Minister is already in the air. So, with its creation the figure will go up to Rs.1,50,000 or more, which shall be far in excess of the estimated amount for 1938-39.

Sir, we have been presented with a deficit budget. But the deficit has been very cleverly underestimated. The revised and the actual will be far in excess of these figures, particularly as we know that many other items of expenditure will have to be accounted for—within the course of the financial year to maintain the prestige and power of the Coalition Government.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister referred in his speech that he would come up with supplementary demands for various purposes and schemes such as prohibition, adult illiteracy and medical education. We fail to understand why these items are not included in the budget. Supplementary demands are generally meant for unforeseen expenditure. Are we to conclude that there is lack of sincerity in the utterances of the Finance Minister; or were these expenditures deliberately omitted to keep the deficit lower on paper?

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is a spendthrift child. He has no care for the future and no worries for the present. The new taxations will bring him enough money to squander about in useless and unnecessary expenditures.

We envy the lot of our very capable Deputy Speaker, who will henceforward draw a salary of Rs. 250 per month, in spite of a deficit budget.

We know, Sir, what a stumbling block the Upper House has proved to be in the matter of legislation. The natural expectation was that a Congress

Government worth the name will take requisite steps for the abolition of the House. But on the contrary we find that the number of that fortunate brotherhood has been increased by one, entailing an additional burden of Rs. 2,000 on the provincial exchequer. These are instances of the desperate attempts that are being made by the Cabinet for clinging leechlike to the office.

Throughout the budget, Sir, the Cabinet has shown a lamentable lack of courage and conviction in tackling the problems of the province. No attempt has been made to augment the natural resources of the province. The top-heavy departments continue to swallow the major portion of the revenues of the province. The expenditure on Police has gone up by 2 lakhs of rupees. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have been very conveniently shelved.

Sir, the education budget convinces us more than anything else that the Government of the day is a Government of the Scheduled and the Depressed. The two Surma Valley Muhammadan Ministers adorning the Treasury Benches are veritable Schedules. They have been roundly condemned as such by their co-religionists and respective electorates. So it is no wonder that the expenditure of the Sylhet Government Madrassa the only institution of its kind in the whole province—will be curtailed during this Scheduled regime.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industry extended promises of expansion of the soap and other industries to the people during his long and expensive tours in the Assam Valley. But we find no provision for the same in the budget. Are we to understand that he is determined not to keep his word with anybody, or is it a fact that his plans did not find much favour with the Finance Minister?

Sir, the supersession of the Sylhet Municipality will remain, to the last, a history of local self-government in Assam, as a black spot in the the biggest municipality of the province was guillotined only with which firm the belief that it was not an effort for suppressing a long standing scandal, but it was an attempt to spite an enemy and to satisfy a couple of Government appendages. The step is not only unjustified but unwarranted (*shame, shame*).

Sir, the people of the Surma Valley have fallen on evil days. They have hardly any place in the mind of the Finance Minister. They have members have been crying in the wilderness for the starting of the Surma Valley Medical School. But in the eyes of the Bardoloi Cabinet it is a sheer waste. The huge expenditure for raising the status of the Dibrugarh Medical School is to them a better investment. Our Hindu friends of the Dibrugarh Medical Valley have evidently forgotten their election pledges. How long they will go on slavishly supporting a Ministry which is so hostile and reactionary in outlook? (*Hear, hear and Opposition cheers*).

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব বর্তমান বর্ষের যে আয়বায়ের বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন তৎসম্বন্ধে বহু কথা বলিবার ও আপত্তি উত্থাপন করিবার আবশ্যিকতা আছে।

দেশের কর্তার প্রপীড়িত প্রজার হৃৎকের বোঝা কমান্বিতা শান্তি, সুখে ও স্বাধীন ভাবে বাস করিবার ব্যবস্থাকামী তথাকথিত কংগ্রেস আজ আমাদের এই দেশের শাসন ভার গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। বহুকাল যাবৎ যে কংগ্রেসের কতিপয় গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিগণ দেশকে পরাধীনতার

দাসত্ব শৃঙ্খল হইতে মুক্ত করিবার জন্ত, দেশের মানুষকে প্রকৃত মানুষ করিয়া গড়িয়া তুলিয়া নিজেদের পায়ে নিজেদের দাড়াইবার জন্ত, দেশের হাজার হাজার লোক ধন মান এমন কি প্রাণ পর্য্যন্ত বিসর্জন দিয়া এই যে কংগ্রেস কমিটি স্থাপন করিয়াছেন, সেই প্রবল স্বাভাৱিক কমিটি আজ ভারতের সর্বপ্রদেশে আয়ুপ্রতিষ্ঠা স্থাপনক্রমে প্রায় সমস্ত প্রদেশের শাসন কর্তা হইয়া সর্বজাতির উপর শাসনদণ্ড পরিচালনার ভার গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। দেশের প্রত্যেক সত্তে বাজারে হাটে, মাঠে, বাটে প্রচার হইয়া আসিতেছিল কংগ্রেস গরীবের বাপ মা, অন্ধের লাঠি, রৌদ্রের ছায়া, খঞ্জের বাহন; কংগ্রেসের নিকট কোনও জাতি নাই, বর্ণ নাই, ধনী নাই, গরীব নাই সব সমান—সকলকে সমান চক্ষে দেখিয়া প্রত্যেকের প্রতি সমবাহার করিবে; বিশেষতঃ গরীবের সাহায্য সহায়তা ও উপকার করিবে; অহর্নিশ কাগজে এসব দেখিয়া, কানে শুনিয়া বাস্তবিকই দেশের জন সাধারণের মনে কংগ্রেসের প্রতি ইচ্ছায় অনিচ্ছায় অনেকটা শঙ্কার তাণ আসিয়াছিল। তখন অনেকের মনে ধারণা হইত বাস্তবিকই কংগ্রেস স্বার্থশূন্য পরোপকারী। এই প্রতিষ্ঠান দেশের প্রজার দুঃখ বেদনা দূর করিয়া শাস্তিবারি বরণক্রমে দেশকে স্বর্গরাজ্যে পরিণত করিবার জন্ত বড় বড় মহাত্মাগণকে অবতার স্বরূপ স্বয়ং ভগবান এই ভারতের মস্তাধানে পাঠাইয়াছেন। যদিও তখন আমাদের সমাজের কতিপয় ব্যক্তিগণের না বুকার জন্ত হউক বা বুকার জন্তই হউক, সেই প্রতিষ্ঠানে যোগদান করিয়া বেশীদিন স্থায়ীভাবে থাকিয়া কার্য করিবার সুযোগ সুবিধা পাননাই, তবুও আমরা নিরাশ হইয়াছিলাম না। আমরা ভাবিয়াছিলাম কংগ্রেস দেশ সেবায় আয়নিয়োগ করিতেছেন; আর আমরা ত সেই দেশেরই সন্তান—আমরা কেন তাঁহাদের ভাল কার্যের সহযোগী হইব না? তাই দেশবাসীরও অনেকটা আন্তরিক ইচ্ছা ছিল—এমন সুযোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপর দেশের শাসন ভার অর্পিত হইলে সেই নান্দাতার আমলের সর্বপ্রকার গোলামী নিয়ম প্রণালী পরিবর্তিত, পরিবর্তিত ও সংশোধিত হইয়া এই দেশের প্রজার জন্ত এমন কতকগুলি আইন বা পদ্ধতি প্রবর্তন হইবে যাহার সাহায্যে দীন-দুঃখী প্রজার অভাব অভিযোগ দূর হইয়া চির উপকৃত হইতে পারে ও যাহার সাহায্যে দেশে নূতন আবহাওয়ার শাস্তিবারি প্রবাহিত হইয়া গরীব প্রজাকে বাস্তবিকই চির সুখী করিতে পারে। কিন্তু ভগবান বোধ হয় বান, তাই প্রজার ভাগ্যে তাহা বটিল না।

বর্তমান বাজেট দেখিয়া মনে হইতেছে জল নয়—শাহারা মরুভূমির বালু—সিনেমার ছবি-গুলি, প্রকৃত মানুষ বা জীবজন্তু নয়, শুধু ছায়াবাজী, প্রেহেলিকা সব মিথ্যা, সব ভুয়া, সব ভুল; বরং তৈয়ারী হইতেছে কৃষক প্রজার মরণের শূল। কারণ ঐ যে কংগ্রেসী মহাত্মারা এই Houseএ আমাদের এই বেঞ্চে বসিয়া ইতিপূর্বে মেদিনী কাঁপাইয়া দলে বলে জোর গলায় বক্তৃতা দিয়াছিলেন “আমরা নিজ নিজ স্বার্থসিদ্ধির জন্য এখানে আসি নাই; কৃষক প্রজাগণ ভোট দিয়া পাঠাইয়াছেন তাহাদের উপকারের জন্য যথা—করভার লাঘব, খণ দায় হইতে মুক্ত, দেশের ভাই, বোন ও সন্তান দিগের মুর্থতার অজ্ঞান অন্ধকার দূর করিয়া শিক্ষার জ্ঞান আলোকে উদ্ভাসিত করিবার জন্য, অকাল মরণের কবল হইতে রক্ষাক্রমে দেশে অধিক পরিমাণ দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপনের ব্যবস্থার জন্য, চলাফেরার রাস্তা ঘাটের সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা করিবার জন্য,

প্রজার সর্বপ্রকার অভাব অভিযোগ দূর করিয়া দেশবাসীকে প্রকৃত মাহুষ তৈয়ার করিয়া শান্তি, সুখে, মানুষ হিসাবে কাল যাপনের ব্যবস্থা করিবার জন্য আমরা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধি হইয়া এই ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে আসিয়াছি। কিন্তু কেবল এই মন্ত্রী সভার এবং বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের প্রতিযোগিতায় উহা কার্যকরী করিতে পারিতেছি না—ইত্যাদি।” তাই দলেবলে উঠিয়া পড়িয়া লাগিয়া অল্পশ টাকা খরচে বৈধ ও অবৈধ উপায়ে সেই মন্ত্রীসভা ভাঙ্গিয়া বন্ধুগণ স্বহস্তে এখন দেশের শাসনভার গ্রহণ করিয়া এই কি তাঁহাদের বাক্যাড়ম্বরের ও প্রতিশ্রুতির সত্যতার পরাকাষ্ঠা দেখাইতেছেন? কোথায় গেল টাকা প্রতি ॥০ আনা কর লাঘব, কোথায় ঋণ লাঘব, কোথায় বা গেল অবৈতনিক বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা? কোথায় জলকষ্ট দূর, কোথায় গেল প্রেম প্রীতি সদ্ভাব স্থাপনে জাতিবর্ণ নির্বিশেষে ভাই ভাই ঐক্যতা স্থাপনে প্রজার উপকার করা? (laughter) তৎপরিবর্তে কৃষি আয়কর স্থাপন, জমি শূন্য আশ্রয়হীন লোকদিগকে আশ্রয় দেওয়ার পরিবর্তে অসংখ্য গরীব প্রজার বাড়ীঘর আগুন দিয়া পোড়াইয়া সর্বস্বান্ত করিয়া পথের কাঙ্গাল সাজানো হইয়াছে ও হইতেছে এবং সর্বোপরি মুসলমান জাতির মনে মর্মান্তিক ব্যথা দিয়া তাহাদের ধর্ম্মকার্য্যে বাধা জন্মাইয়া উপাসনা গৃহ পবিত্র মসজিদের অপমান করিয়া উহার সম্মুখ দিয়া গীত ও বাজতাণ্ড বাজাইয়া যাওয়ার আইন প্রণয়নক্রমে ইস্তাহার জারি করিয়া দেশের মুসলমান জনসাধারণের মনে তীব্র চাঞ্চল্য, ক্ষোভ ও হুংখের সৃষ্টি করিয়া দেশময় ঘোর অশান্তি উৎপাদন ক্রমে স্থানে স্থানে সাম্প্রদায়িক দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামা, পদ্ধতি, এই কি প্রজার উপকার করা, এই কি তাঁহাদের শাসন কার্য্য পরিচালনার উপযুক্ততার পরিচয়? ইহা কি প্রজাপালন না প্রজাপীড়ন, প্রজা রক্ষক না প্রজা ভক্ষক, প্রজা পোষক না প্রজা শোষক? (laughter)

আমাদের পল্লীর অল্প কৃষকগণ অত শত রাজনীতি বড় বুঝে না। তাহাদের যাহা অভাব তাই তাহারা চায়। আমরা তাহাদেরই প্রতিনিধি—আমরা আমাদের ব্যক্তিগত স্বার্থ চাই না। চাহিলে তাহা পাওয়াও সম্ভব নয়। কৃষক প্রজাই দেশের পৌণে বোল আনা। তাঁহাদের সকলেই জমি চাষাবাদ করিয়া জীবিকা নির্বাহ করে—তাহাদের চাষের জমির দরকার। আসামে এখনও লক্ষ লক্ষ বিঘা জঙ্গল জমি পতিত পড়িয়া আছে। গবর্ণমেন্ট জমি শূন্য সর্বস্বহারা নিরন্ন ও বন্যাপীড়িত সহায় সম্বলহীন প্রজাদিগকে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ জমি দিয়া প্রতিপালনের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া জন্মভূমি হারা দেশান্তরিত বাংলাদেশাগত মুসলমানদিগকে আসামের অপরাপর প্রজাদের সম অধিকার দানে আসামবাসী বলিয়া গ্রহণ করিয়া লওয়া হউক।

গরীব দেশের আয় বুঝিয়া ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ করা সম্ভব। কৃষকদের আয়ের কোন নিশ্চয়তা নাই এবং প্রতিবৎসর উপর্যুপরি অকাল প্লাবনে, অত্যাধিক ঝড়ায় বা খরায়, অজন্মায় ও শস্তের মূল্য হ্রাস হওয়ায় তাহারা নিজেদের শুধু জীর্ণ শীর্ণ দেহের বোঝাই বহিতে পারিতেছে না। বাজেট ঘাটতির জন্তু তাঁহাদের প্রতি যে কর ধার্য্যের ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে উক্ত কর তাহাদের উপর

না ধরিয়া একশত টাকার উপরে ২০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত নাহিনাধারী অফিসারদের মাসিক শতকরা ১০ টাকা, ৩০০ টাকার উপরে ৩০ টাকা, ৫০০ টাকার উপরে ৪০ টাকা এই হিসাবে ক্রমান্বয়ে কমান্বয়ে বহু টাকা পাওয়া যাইবে। এবং নিম্নপ্রয়োজনীয় কতকগুলি পদ উঠাইয়া দিয়া ব্যয় সংকোচ করা দরকার। সেকথা বোধ হয় কমতা হাতে পাইয়া মহাশয়রা হুলিয়া গিয়াছেন; তাহা আমি পুনরায় স্বরণ করাইয়া দিতেছি।

মুসলমানের ধর্ম এবং জাতীয়তা ও আদব কার্যনা শিক্ষার জন্ত এবং ধর্মগ্রন্থ পরিচয় কোর্স-শরিক্ ও ধর্মের নিয়ম-প্রণালী হাদিস্ ইত্যাদি অপরাপর গ্রন্থ পাঠ করিবার জন্ত মুসলমান বাদশাহ্ গণের আমল হইতে এদেশে যে মাদ্রাসা মক্কাবের প্রচলন হইয়া আসিতেছিল উহা আরও ভালরূপে প্রস্তুত করিয়া পিছনে পড়িয়া থাকা অশিক্ষিত গরীব ক্রমবর্ধমান ছেলেমেয়েদের শিক্ষার বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাইমারী মক্কাবের প্রচলন করাই অবশ্য কর্তব্য ছিল। উহা না করিয়া অর্থ সচিব নিজে মুসলমান হইয়াও মুসলমানের ভাবী দোর অনিষ্টকারী, বিশিষ্ট সমাজের অদূর ভবিষ্যতে সর্বভারতে একছত্র অধিপতি হওয়ার পৃষ্ঠপোষক গোপন উদ্দেশ্য সাধনের জন্ত “ওয়ার্ল্ড স্কীম” বলিয়া নুতন আজগুবি একটা স্কীম এই বাজেটের বক্ষে স্থান দিয়া মুসলমানের ধ্বংসের পথ উদ্ঘাটন করা হইয়াছে। উক্ত স্কীম প্রচলনের আমরা দোর বিরোধী এবং আমরা তাহার আপত্তি করি (*shame, shame!—laughter*)।

এদেশের শতকরা অন্তত ৯০ কি ৯৫ জন অশিক্ষিত গরীবের লক্ষ লক্ষ ছেলেমেয়েদের লিখাপড়া শিক্ষার জন্য এই বাজেটেই সর্বপ্রাতিব নিম্ন নিম্ন মাতৃভাষায় অবৈতনিক বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষার আইন প্রচলন ক্রমে উহা কার্যকরী করিবার চেষ্টা করা উচিত ছিল। যদি বেঙ্গল গবর্নমেন্টের মত আমাদের আসামেও উহা করিয়া একটা শিক্ষাকর দায়্য করা হইত তাহা হইলেও প্রজাদিগকে বুঝাইবার কিছু ছিল।

সর্বস্থানের সর্বপ্রকার প্রকার জলের খুব অভাব। বহুস্থানে কদমাক্ত জল পান করিয়া সংক্রামক পীড়ার অকালে দৈনিক শত শত লোক জীবন লীলা সম্বরণ করিতেছে। কথিত গরীবের একমাত্র বন্ধু বর্তমান গবর্নমেন্টের উচিত ছিল জল কষ্ট নিবারণের জন্য নুতন পস্থা অবলম্বনে অধিক পরিমাণে উপযুক্ত জলাশয় খননের ব্যবস্থা করা; কিন্তু, বর্তমান গবর্নমেন্ট বাজেটে তৎসম্বন্ধে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ অর্থ বরাদ্দ করেন নাই।

চলাফেরা, পার ঘাট ইত্যাদি নফঃস্বলে ভয়ানক অসুবিধা। কিন্তু, তৎ সুবিধার্থে নুতনতঃ এই বাজেটে কিছুই নাই।

জমির খাজানা কম করা, জল কর, বন কর, হাট কর, ঘাট কর, গাড়ীর ট্যাক্স ইত্যাদি উঠাইয়া দেওয়ার সংক্ষে বাজেটে কোনই ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। বাংলা ভাষা বজায় রাখা ইত্যাদি অন্যান্য বহু বিষয় যাহা আমরা এ যাবৎ চিৎকার করিয়া আসিতেছিলাম তৎসম্বন্ধে প্রজার উপকারার্থে নুতন ভাবে বর্তমানে গবর্নমেন্ট কি করিয়াছেন বা করিতেছেন? আমি বলি কিছুই করেন নাই বা করিতেছেন না। কাক কোকিলের পার্থক্য বা স্বরূপ কাহারও

দেখিবার বা জানিবার বা বুঝিবার বাকী নাই। তরুণ কর্তমান কংগ্রেস গবর্নমেন্টকেও এখন দেশবাসী ভালরূপে চিনিয়াছে (laughter)। আজ কংগ্রেস দেশের শাসনভার গ্রহণ করিয়া কৃষককে— প্রজাকে ভুলিয়া গিয়াছেন। প্রজার প্রতি শোষণ ও কঠোর শাসন দণ্ড পরিচালনা করিয়া নিজের ভুড়ি পূজা ও বহুবাকব ও মন্ত্রী লাভের সাহায্যকার গণের অস্বাক্ষরী লাভের জন্য তাঁহারা ভোট দিয়া পাঠায় নাই। এই মন্ত্রীর গদি কাহারও মৌরনী পাড়া নয় বা স্থায়ী সম্পত্তি নয়। আবার কিছুদিন পরে তাঁহাদের নিজ নিজ ভোটারদের নিকট যাইতে হইবে। কথিত চক্ষু হৃদয়া ও বিপদ তাড়ন, প্রজাদরনী, দীনবন্ধু কংগ্রেস গবর্নমেন্ট যদি নিজকে নিজেরা রক্ষা করিতে চাহেন তবে বড় বড় ধনী হাজার হাজার টাকার ভোডায়, হাজার হাজার বেঙ্গল সৈন্যের বাকা বাণে বা মোটা মাছিয়ানাধারী অফিসারগণের canvassing এ বা মিষ্ট কথার অর্থাৎ প্রলোভনে বা ছায়া বাণীর চিত্র দেখাইয়া আর বেশী দিন চলিবে না (hear, hear!)। আগে যে দেশের নিরাশ্রয় জমি শূণ্য ব্যক্তিগণকে অশ্রয় দিয়া জমিদানে লক্ষ লক্ষ নিরক্ষ প্রজাকে রক্ষা করা হইত। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব গত বৎসর তাহার constituencyর লক্ষ্যনা মিটিং এ প্রায় হাজার লোকের সাক্ষাতে প্রতিজ্ঞা করিয়াছিলেন “আমি অবশ্য অবশ্য লাইন প্রথা উঠাইয়া দিবার চেষ্টা করিব এবং উহার সপক্ষে ভোট দিব এবং জমিশূণ্য প্রজাকে জমি দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিব”। আমি এখন মাননীয় অর্থসচিবকে কী ? মৌলবী আমির উদ্দিন সাহেব বর্তমান গবর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে যোগদান করাই শুধু তাঁহাকে হইবে না (laughter)। স্যার আমিরুদ্দিন সাহেবকে সন্তুষ্ট করিবার জন্য মাননীয় অর্থ সচিবের ভোটারগণ তাঁহাকে ভোট দেন নাই, তিনি আসামের অর্থ সচিব; আসামের সংসদ প্রজাকে তাঁহার সমক্ষে দেখিতে এবং তাঁহার যোগা কায়ে মনুষ্যত্বের পরিচয় পাইবার কামনা করি।

ধনে জর্জরিত ও নানা প্রকার করভার প্রেপীড়িত দীন দরিদ্র কৃষকের প্রতি কখনই কৃষি আয়ের উপর কর ধাৰ্য্য করা কোন কারণেও কোন অবস্থাতেই সম্ভব নহে। বরং গবর্নমেন্ট ঋণ লাঘব আইনের ব্যবস্থা ক্রমে উহা কাৰ্য্যকরী করিয়া কৃষকগণকে ঋণের দায় হইতে অগোণে মুক্ত করিয়া অপরাপর ২৭ গুণ্য কর হইতে অব্যাহতি দিয়া তাহাদিগকে রক্ষা করা একান্ত আশু প্রয়োজন।

দেশের প্রত্যেক মহকুমার প্রত্যেক থানার কেন্দ্রে কেন্দ্রে কো-অপারেটিভ ব্যাঙ্ক স্থাপন ক্রমে কৃষক প্রজাদের কৃষি কার্যের সাহায্যের জন্ত তাহাদের অভাবের সময় খুঃ কম হুদে টাকা ধার দিয়া ভাল রকম শস্ত উৎপাদনের সাহায্যক্রমে সকলের উৎপন্ন শস্ত উপযুক্ত মূল্যে বিক্রয় করিবার জন্য উপরোক্ত কেন্দ্রের অফিসে রেজিষ্টারীভুক্ত করিয়া শস্ত গুদানে ভাড়া রাখিয়া আবশ্যকীয় সাংসারিক খরচ কিছু কিছু বহন করিতে থাকিয়া তৎপর ব্যাঙ্কের কর্তৃপক্ষ হইতে উপযুক্ত মূল্যে শস্ত বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া মহাজন নামে অভিহিত মহাযমের দায় হইতে গণীত কৃষককে রক্ষা করা একান্ত দরকার। সর্বোপরি ধর্মভীরু মুদলমান

জাতির কোটা কোটা মানুষের মনে ব্যথা দিয়া তাহাদের ধর্ম কার্যে বাধ্যত জরাজীর্ণ অনাচার অসম্মতভাবে মুসলমানের উপাসনা গৃহ পবিত্র মসজিদের সম্মুখ দিয়া গীত বাদ্যভাণ্ড বাজাইয়া নিয়ম বা আইন প্রচলন করা অত্যন্ত গর্হিত কার্য হইয়াছে। মুসলমান শুধু পবিত্র কোরান সুরিকের আদেশ ও হাদিস সুরিকের নিয়ম ছাড়া কাহারও ধর্ম কার্যে ও নামাজের সময় নির্দিষ্ট করিয়া দেওয়ার হুকুম কখনই মানিতে বা শুনিতে বাধ্য নয় বা জীবন গেলেও শীত হইবে না। মুসলমান ধর্মের জন্য প্রাণ দিতে পারে। কিন্তু তাহাদের বক্তৃতা পঠিত ধর্মে বাধা জন্মান বা তাহার অবমাননা সহ্য করিতে পারে না ও পারিবে না। (Hear, hear)। বহুকাল ধাবং হিন্দু মুসলমান উভয় জাতির প্রত্যেকেই প্রত্যেকের সহিত তাই তাই হিসাবে ঐক্য ও সম্ভাব স্থাপনে শান্তি স্থখে বসবাস করিয়া আসিতেছিল। হিন্দুর পূজার কার্যে মুসলমান বাধা দেয় নাই; মুসলমানের কোরবানীতে বা নামাজেও হিন্দু কোন বাধা দেয় নাই বা কোন জাতি কাহারও উপাসনা মন্দির বা মসজিদের অবমাননা কিংবা উহার সম্মুখ দিয়া বাদ্যভাণ্ড বাজাইয়া যায় নাই। বিদেশী ইংরাজগণ কোথাও কখনও এবিধ কার্যে বাধা দিবার সাহস পায় নাই। আর আজ প্রতিবেশী দেশের ভাই মুসলমানের সহিত সামান্য বিষয় লইয়া পরস্পরের মধ্যে চির অশান্তির বীজ বপন করিতেছেন! তাহাও করিতেছে আজ ভারতের স্বাধীনতা কামী জ্ঞানী-মানী, ত্যাগী নামজাদা, দেশের বিখ্যাত নেতাগণের দ্বারা। এক কথায় বলিতে গেলে কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্ট সহস্রে ক্ষমতা পাইয়া এইকি উহার সম্ভাবহার করিয়াছেন বা করিতেছেন? উহার দ্বারা কি উহারা তাহাদের কুশাসনের পরাকাষ্ঠা দেখাইতেছেন না? উহার জন্য আজ দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ এমন কি কোটা কোটা মুসলমানের মনে ভীষণ আতঙ্কের সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে। আর অমুসলমান কতিপয় অফিসার ও জনসাধারণের মনে একটা ভ্রান্ত ধারণা জন্মাইয়াছে যে মুসলমানের পরাজয় হইয়াছে এবং আসামে হিন্দুরাজ স্থাপন হইয়াছে। কাজেই ছলেবলে কৌশলে মুসলমানকে নির্গ্যাতিত নিষ্পেষিত করিতে হইবে এমন কি এদেশ হইতে তাড়াইয়া দিতে হইবে (Shame, shame)। তাহার একটা স্বরূপ গোয়ালপাড়া জিলার লক্ষীপুর থানার দারোগা শ্রীযুক্ত তহুরাম দত্ত। বাঙ্গালপাড় মোস্লেম লীগ সমিতি হইতে প্রেসিডেন্ট একটা গরু চুরি ঘটনার বিষয় থানায় রিপোর্ট করিলে দারোগা বাবু নাকি মোস্লেম লীগের কথা শুনিয়া তেলেবেগুনে জলিয়া উঠিলেন ও বলিতে লাগিলেন “শালা মোস্লেম লীগ—কিছু নয় উহা ছাড়িয়া কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করিতে পার না?” ইত্যাদি গালাগালি ও অপমান করিয়া তাহাকে তাড়াইয়া দেন (Shame, shame)। তৎপর ফরিদাদী আদালতের আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করিলে দারোগা বাবু নাকি উক্ত ফরিদাদীকে ধরিয়া থানায় নিয়া অন্যায়ভাবে ভীষণ মারপিট করেন এবং গ্রামে গিয়া উক্ত ফরিদাদীর সাহায্যকারী গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিগণকে অকথা ভাষায় জাতিধর্মকে সম্বোধন করিয়া গালাগালি করেন, যথা—“শালা! তোমাদিগকে কে মোস্লেম লীগ করিতে বলিয়াছে.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনি এমন অনেক কথা বলিয়াছেন যাহা প্রশংসা সাপেক্ষ। প্রশংসা উপস্থিত না করিয়া মিনিষ্টারকে charge করা সম্মত হইতেছে না। অবশ্য আপনার মত সর্ব grievance আছে তাহা বাজেট আলোচনার সময় উল্লেখ করা

চলে ; কিন্তু grievance এমন হওয়া উচিত যাহাতে তাহার অকাটা প্রমাণ থাকে । আপনি যে একজন দাবোগার কথা এখন বলিতেছেন, একথা গবর্নমেন্টের দৃষ্টিগোচর কখনও করিয়াছেন বলিয়া আমার মনে হয় না । অথচ, একজন ভদ্রলোক যিনি সরকারের চাকরীতে আছেন তাহার বিরুদ্ধে charge আনিয়াছেন । সেটা সম্বন্ধে বলিয়া আমি বিবেচনা করিতে পারি না ।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমি এসম্বন্ধে ভালভাবে শুনিয়াছি ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : শুধু শুনার উপর নির্ভর করিয়া বক্তৃতা করা ন্যায় সম্বন্ধ নহে ।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমি এ বিষয় তাহাদের নিকট হইতে লিখিত দরখাস্ত পেয়েছি ও ইহার প্রতিকারার্থে বহুস্থানে আরও দরখাস্ত দিয়াছে এবং কোর্টে মামলা চলিতেছে । “আমি শুধু দ রোগা নহি, আমি কমিশনার হইয়াছি, আমি ইচ্ছা করিলেই বড়পেটার মত তোমাদের বাড়ীঘর আঙণ ধরাইয়া আলাইয়া ভিটাছাড়া করিতে পারি ” ইত্যাদি ।

এরূপ গোলমালপাড়া প্রাবানের সময় অমুসলমান কতিপয় অফিসার বাবুরাও বলিয়াছিলেন এবং এখনও ফুসলাইতেছেন যে, যে কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করিলে সে সাহায্য পাইবে এবং অন্যেরা পাইবে না.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : এবার আপনি আরও কতকগুলি কর্মচারীর বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ আনিয়াছেন । ইহার প্রমাণ দরকার ।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমি প্রমাণ করিব ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : এই অভিযোগ আপনি গবর্নমেন্টের সাক্ষাতে আনিয়াছেন বলিয়া মনে হয় না, অথচ আপনি গবর্নমেন্টকে দোষী করিতেছেন ।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : বহু complain করিয়াছি কিন্তু গবর্নমেন্ট শোনেন নাই । বহু টেলিগ্রাম করিয়াছি—বহু আবেদন করিয়াছি, কিন্তু কোন প্রতিকার করা হয় নাই ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনার সময় হইয়া গিয়াছে, শেষ করুন ।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমার অল্প কিছু বাকী আছে । ৩৪ মিনিটের মধ্যেই শেষ করিব ।

“ এবং যাহাকে ভোট দিয়াছ সেই সাহায্য দিবে ” ইত্যাদি ।

আজ অফিসে, আদালতে, চাকুরিতে—এমন কি সর্বত্র অমুসলমান ভাই বন্ধুরা এই বিষয়ানী উদ্দিগরণ করিতেছেন—কংগ্রেসে যোগদান না করিলে জমিজমা, কুয়া-ইন্দায়া, রাস্তাঘাট, চাকরি সাহায্য কিছুই পাইবে না । ইহাতে মানুষ অতিষ্ঠ হইয়া উঠিয়াছে । এক

সমগ্রা আনন্দের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের মাথা রাহিদার স্থান নাই—তৎপরে গরু চীমণী চরনে লক্ষ লক্ষ কৃষকের বড়ীঘর শস্তাদি সম্পূর্ণ ক্ষয় হইয়া গিয়াছে এবং বজনা হজর হজর লোক অনাহারে থাকিয়া অকালে দিনা সাহায্য ও বিনা চিকিৎসায় মরণ হারাইয়াছে, হারাইতেছে। পেটের দায়ে আমার constituencyতে প্রাণপ্রিয় ছেলে পদীন্দ্র সামান্য ২৩ টাকায় বিক্রয় করিয়া পঠিয়াছে। তাহাদের সমস্ত জমিত প্রথমেই ৩০০ হইয়া পড়িয়া মরুভূমিতে পরিণত হইয়াছে। এখানেই উক্ত জমিতে আর কোন শস্ত জন্মাতে পারে নাই আর পারিবেও না। গবর্ণমেন্ট হইতে যে সাহায্য দেওয়া হইয়াছিল উহা শাক্তা মরুভূমিতে এক বিলু বারিবৎ হইয়াছে। তাহাদের ময়ন, হালের গরু, হীর গরুনা, খাওয়ার বাসন, থাকার কুড়ে ঘর সমস্তই নিঃশেষ হইয়াছে, আছে শুধু অধিষ্ঠার বিশিষ্ট কঙ্কালসার দেহ আর গগণভেদী হাহতাস এবং করণ আন্তনাদ।

আমি এখন কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্টকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে, কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করিলেই যদি ভূমি, শুল্ক, জলাশয়, রাস্তা, চাকুরি ও সর্বপ্রকার সাহায্য-সহায়তা পাওয়া যায় এবং প্রজার করভার, ঋণভার লাঘব হয় ও প্রকৃতই কৃষকের উপকার হয়, তবে আমিই সর্বপ্রথম প্রকাশ্যভাবে এই Houseএ খোলাননে প্রকাশ করিতেছি যে অদ্য আমি কংগ্রেসের creedএ স্বাক্ষর করিব এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ মুসলমান কৃষককে অগোপনে কংগ্রেসে যোগদান করাইব (laughter.) কংগ্রেস গবর্ণমেন্ট প্রজার কিভাবে কি কি উপকার করিবেন, অদ্য তাহার পাকা প্রতিশ্রুতি এবং সত্যতার প্রমাণ চাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনার এখন বসে যাওয়া উচিত।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Sir, আর একটু বাকী আছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: না, বহন।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr Speaker, Sir, the budget presented to us does not by itself disclose any departure from the old groom. In fact when I looked to the closing pages of the Memorandum detailing the new schemes I rubbed my eyes and asked myself "Is this the budget of the much vaunted Congress Coalition Government?" The Hon'ble Minister for Finance is to be congratulated for the ingenuity and cleverness displayed by him in making up the defects of the Budget by a learned speech which, to say the least, is only a window dressing to conceal the nudity of the unfinished Budget (Hear, hear). The House will remember the criticisms levelled against the previous Government for want of any bold and well-defined policy, programme and scheme. The Budget is to be judged in the light of these criticisms. The Hon'ble Finance Minister admits that there is groaning poverty, ignorance and disease in the rural areas and also admits that the cries of the masses require an immediate response from Government. I look in vain for this response in the Budget. It is proposed to spend Trs. 3,59 on new schemes. Out of that it is curious that nearly 50,000 is going to be spent for the hills which are either excluded areas or partially excluded areas. How this is so? A paltry sum of Rs.25,000 is allotted for spread of primary education, another sum of Rs.25,000 for rural uplift, and there is no allotment for water-supply or opening of new dispensaries in the rural areas. A careful perusal of the

speech of the of the Hon'ble Finance Minister will show that he has not yet passed the consideration stage and that he wants all to live on deferred hopes for the future. All the proposed schemes are still in the air. To be more precise, I quote the relevant portions of his speech :

At page 3, he says "In the short time Government have had at their command, it has not been possible to effect any effective reorganisation of education".

At page 12, he says "The Director of Public Health is working out proposals for reorganisation and expansion of the department's work".

Again at page 12, he says "We have a series of agricultural measures, while this and many other measures are within our contemplation and which for shortness of time we could not transform into comprehensive scheme, etc".

"The scheme for agricultural colonies and agricultural schools are now under our detailed examination and it is hoped to give effect to those schemes as early as possible".

At page 13, he says "It is our desire to request the Board of Development, etc".

At page 14, he says "The question of what big industries will be taken up is a matter for our future consideration".

Again at page 14, he says "We have not been able to put forward any new scheme for the improvement of Co-operation in the Province." "A comprehensive scheme of jail reform is under our consideration."

So the Hon'ble Finance Minister also now seeks shelter under the halting phrases "under consideration", "no time" etc. In this connection I want to remind him of what he said in his own budget speech in 1937. He said, "If the Hon'ble Minister can do no more but to express some pious wishes and apologies for not being able to do this or that, then I want to tell him that it is better to close up this business."

So, it is for him to consider now whether in the circumstances it is not for him to close his business (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the salient feature of the Budget have been the Prohibition Scheme, the Wardha Scheme and the Hindi Prachar Scheme, which are the pet schemes of the Congress High Command. Let me examine each of these

The Prohibition scheme is theoretically very sound but is fraught with possibilities of failure for many reasons. Other Congress Governments have proceeded very cautiously in the matter, but our Government is guilty of precipitate action. Their decision to stop use of opium, without any previous notice, in the two largest opium-consuming subdivisions of the Province was not happy. Prohibition should have been tried in a less important area so that the experience gained could have been utilised with better chance of success in the more important parts of the province.

The success of the scheme depends largely on the honesty of all concerned. I doubt if we can have a honest set of people to run the show. The point I wish to make is this that Government has taken upon its shoulders to spend a portion of their revenue on the gambling chance of success. Moreover, prohibition is one of the means but by no means the only means to raise the social and moral level of the masses. Prohibition alone cannot bring about the material prosperity of the people in the country-side.

I find that a sum of Rs.1,000 is allotted in the budget for the training of teachers under the Wardha Scheme. The Wardha Scheme for the training of had been disfavoured by the Muhammadan community with all its charms disapproved by many eminent Moslems at the All-India Moslem Educational Conference. The Jamiats Ulema-i-Hind headed by Maulana Hussain Ahmed, the political guru of our hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, also disapproved the scheme. The allotment in the budget

is only the thin end of the wedge. I see little wisdom in introducing a scheme of education whose soundness had been questioned by an important section of the people.

The Hindi Prachar Scheme also is one on which there is a sharp difference of opinion.

My point is this that the Government have given preference to schemes which are of doubtful efficacy over those whose soundness was beyond dispute. A drive against illiteracy, a campaign against mortality and disease, a bold move towards improvement of the lot of agriculturists and a certain step towards resuscitation of cottage industries would have been more to the credit of the Ministry than a superficial adherence to the Congress programme.

Coming to the specific items in the budget, I am sorry to find that the allotment to Madrassas and Maktabas had been omitted. I don't know if this omission is accidental or intentional. The Government probably expects that the grant made to the Local Boards for expansion of primary education will be utilised by them for grant to Maktabas according to necessity, but Local Boards have no uniform policy in the matter on account of executives. There are some Local Boards which taboo the Maktabas altogether. One instance has come to my recent notice. I read from the *Khadem* of the 10th March which was handed over to me yesterday that in Kamalpur there is a Maktab at Tengabari. The Muhammadan people there have been crying hoarse for a grant from the Local Board but the Local Board have refused the grant to the Maktab and have made it to another primary school which has been established in the vicinity. So, in the circumstances.....

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Which Local Board does the hon. member refer to?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It is the Gauhati Local Board. I find it in the *Khadem* of the 10th March.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: It is false.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: My submission, therefore, is this that I hope the Hon'ble Education Minister (A voice—He is not here) will see that from the grant allotted in the budget for primary education a particular sum is earmarked for the Maktabas. Similarly, I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education will see that the Madrassas which came into existence last year or year before last and were granted but petty grants do not die out for paucity of enhanced grant necessary for their up-keep and full growth. I suggest that a sum of Rs 5,000 be earmarked for the grant to Middle Madrassas out of the allotment of Rs.20,000 for spread of secondary education. High Madrassas, as many hon. members know, are intended to secularise Islamic education and should therefore be encouraged by the Government as far as possible. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is himself interested in such a Madrassa at Rangiya. I understand the Hon'ble Premier promised help to that Madrassa. Unless there be a grant in the budget earmarked for such Madrassas, how can the promise be implemented?

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: May I inform the House that there is a combined Madrassa and High School there, and Government are going to give a grant to it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is the portfolio of Education has temporarily been transferred to the hon. member?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If such grants are not made, the Madrassas and Maktabas will cease to exist under the present Government.

As to allotment of Rs.12,000 for the construction of a common room, the necessity of a separate common room for the girls students is recognised to guard against the evils of co-education. I do not understand why this amount cannot be spent in opening a separate class for the girls students as was proposed on the floor of this House during the last budget discussion.

At page 37 of the memorandum I am sorry to find that the provision for Additional Sub-Judge of Assam is omitted. The necessity of 2 Judges one with headquarters at Gauhati and the other at Jorhat and 2 Sub-Judges, one at Dhubri and another at Dibrugarh, had been long recognised by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature of Calcutta. The number of civil suits and sessions cases at Dibrugarh will justify the posting of a permanent Sub-Judge at Dibrugarh. In the circumstances, I consider this omission in the budget as regrettable and unwise.

Having criticised the general features of the budget, it remains for me now to offer some constructive suggestions.

To add to the resources of the province, it is all very well to launch some taxation proposals. The principle to tax the rich in order to help the poor appears sound but I doubt very much if all the proposals will only be confined to the rich. The incidence of agricultural income-tax will fall on the consumers of tea and the tenants of the Zemindars and middle class gentry. So the sales tax on petrol and lubricants will affect the poor bus owners and ultimately the travelling public. I may refer here to the objection which was raised in the Punjab Assembly by a Congress member when the sales tax was discussed. He said "that the poorer classes in the Punjab will be shifted to travel by motor buses and the indirect burden of this taxation will be shifted to their shoulders". So the proposed taxation may defeat the very object with which it is launched. I would ask the Government in the circumstances to add to the resources of the province not by taxation which will affect the poor but by a development of the cultivable waste land already proposed by my friend Mr. Matin Chaudhury. In this connection I will remind the Hon'ble House of what was indicated by the then Hon'ble Finance Minister Sir Muhammad Saadulla last year. He said: "with the opening up of even one-fourth of Assam's vast waste land measuring about 8 and half lakhs of bighas would bring Rs.10 to Rs.15 lakhs to the depleted exchequer". I would ask the Government to exploit the forests in Assam. This province should concentrate on getting more and more revenue from the Forest Department. The Ministry should not have shelved the report of the Line Enquiry Committee in the manner in which it was done and it should not have delayed the most important problem of immigration in general and the Line System in particular. The sooner they take it up, the greater the chance of augmenting the revenue of the province.

The Ministry is holding out hopes of effective retrenchment in expenditure, but I would ask the Government to guard against probable expenditure the unretrenched expenditure also. If the budget be scrutinised more carefully, such wastes may be detected. I am giving only an instance of such wastes. A sum of Rs.3,600 is allotted as annual contribution to the River Steam Navigation Company Limited for the maintenance of a steamer service between Tezpur and Silghat. This is altogether a waste, for the River Steam Navigation Company Limited is maintaining the service for carriage of mails and not for the convenience of the travelling public.

Even if the steamer service be discontinued for some reason or other, the people concerned will be able to avail of country boats to go from Silghat to Tezpur and back.

I would also ask the Government to take up the question of corruption in right earnest. If corruption continues as it is, no measure of retrenchment however stringent will help us. We look up to the Government to root out corruption, but if the Government itself breeds corruption by offering baits and inducements to its adherents, we cannot expect any better of them. Mahatma Gandhi's wire to the Tripuri Congress President to rid Congress of internal corruption should put the Ministry on guard (*Hear, hear*) against corruption both internal and external. For corruption within is destined to lead to corruption without. Corruption at the top is sure to percolate to the bottom.

Finally, I cannot close my observations without a reference to the situation that had been created by the recent Government Notification on music before mosques. There are tension, discord and insecurity. The recent rioting at Sibsagar should be an eye-opener to the Hon'ble Premier. I do not believe for a moment that the Muhammadan members of the Cabinet are feeling easy over the situation. I appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to win the confidence of his colleagues and the entire community by adopting a policy of live and let live. Why wound the susceptibilities of a particular community by countenancing music before mosque, hoisting of Congress flags and singing of Bande Mataram songs? I hope the Bordoloi Cabinet will rise above communalism and restore peace and order in the province.

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking my stand to discuss the Budget of the present year, I will be failing in my duty if I do not admit that this year's Budget is really worthy of the present Government. The Budget is undoubtedly a monument—a monument of pledges broken, it is an edifice—an edifice of partiality; it is an embodiment—an embodiment of wilful neglect of the duties of a Government. But the explanation is there in the introductory speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. It has not been possible for the Government to function with self-respect and dignity under the present Central Government. Then again the finance has been left in a chaotic condition by the previous Government and even with constant help of Mr. Nichols-Roy, Hon'ble Mr. Akshay Kumar Das and Hon'ble Mr. Ali Haider Khan, the Government has not been able to know its nature. A compliment for the above mentioned gentlemen indeed! We have been asked to believe that the decrease in land revenue is due to the increase of percentage in remission of land revenue. But in support of this statement no figures have been supplied. This is certainly significant.

Regarding the very important subject of Line System it has been said that the Government have been much maligned by responsible persons and that during the regime of the present Government the immigrants have nowhere been oppressed. In compliance with the wish of the Government that they should not be subjected to the ordeal of criticism I do not propose to say anything now except this that the statement is not only untrue but intentionally false. The Government says that the masses have so long been crying in the wilderness and in full recognition of their complaints of long neglect, the Government have given them a full response. They have appointed warders for their jail life, they have given them the chance of becoming Pankhapullers of Mandal Babus and Chainmen of Kanungo Babus. What more do they want? They will get teachers if they are sent to jail and will be allowed there to work as sweepers. A Thana building is going to be constructed for them and nine Daroga Babus and some Constable Kartas are going to be trained. A museum has been established for preserving their skeletons after their death (*Laughter*).

If the public is not yet satisfied well they are going to be sent to Tezpur Jail where some 25 seats are being arranged. Quarters for married and unmarried keepers are being constructed. I am sure, Sir, even now if the foolish mass is not satisfied they are sure to cry from the Tezpur Hospital Beds—"Congress Coalition Zindabad." (Opposition—laughter).

Sir, allow me to admit that the Government has brought a revolution in the nation-building departments—some schemes are under consideration, some within contemplation, some drawing attention, some under examination and again some are but pretentions. A Bengali proverb goes "রামা বড় দাতা, এক গাই দিতে চাইছে আরও একটা দিবে" Does not the present Ministry stand on the same footing with Rama? Sir, the Government is going to impose a number of new taxes yet why they are silent about their pledged 50 per cent. land revenue reduction? It has been said by the Government that their policy is to ascertain the duties first and then to find money to discharge those duties. May I then take it that the Government do not now think it their duty to grant a remission of 50 per cent. of land revenue.

Sir, I like to place before you the cases of some unfortunate departments of the Government. The Deputy Commissioner's clerks and among them specially those who work in the Subdivisional Courts and revenue offices are the real back bone of general administration. These gentlemen have got to work from morning till evening and yet they cannot return home finishing their works. Their conferences are often presided over by big men and every year high hopes are held out to them. But up till now neither their grades have been increased nor their numbers. They certainly deserve a more sympathetic treatment from the Government

The Mandals and Kanungoes are another batch of unfortunate public servants. They have got to work really very hard, they have got to remain in villages where they can have no medicine when they fall ill—no educational facilities when they have got children yet they get the poorest pay. Is it at all possible to maintain a family with some eighteen rupees? If the Government have got anything like justice they should increase the scale of pay of the Mandals and Kanungoes.

The poor Primary School Teachers form yet another class. Once it seemed that the members sitting by the right were eager to see their condition ameliorated. But now that they are running the Government they are silent about the matter. In fact a resolution was moved by them to increase the pay of the Lower Primary School Teachers and they can be safely charged as being pledge breakers if the Government do not pay sufficient money to the Local Boards to give the teachers a suitable pay.

Sir, I now like to touch some vital questions regarding my Subdivision. Some 20 to 25 years ago immigrants from Bengal came to Barpeta Subdivision and settled in *chars* and riverain areas of the Brahmaputra. Since 1930 the mighty Brahmaputra has been devouring village after village and by now some 13 flourishing villages have been engulfed in the mighty bosom of the Brahmaputra. Over and above this the ruinous Porna Dhala has made many villages unfit for cultivation. The poor immigrants of these villages had to shift towards the north but finding no land open for settlement many of them have become day labourers, *adhiaars* or *uthulis*. The more unfortunate section who could not be absorbed in any of the above mentioned categories had to take shelter in various reserves and even to-day they have been moving from jungle to jungle living lives more pitiable than those of wild beasts and birds. The last year's flood

had added to the number of this proletariat and all of them are now standing on the very verge of starvation and total annihilation. The situation has become so acute that they have become dangers to the society. If immediate steps be not taken to provide them with shelter, I have reasons to fear that grave consequences will follow. I therefore earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue to have a personal local enquiry into the matter and to provide these people with some land. There are vast reserves in the Subdivision and if "Zid" and "anti-Immigrant feelings" do not work, these people can safely be provided with land without minimising the utility of the Reserves to the least. Will the Government kindly admit that a human life is really worth saving?

The immigrants of my Subdivision have been running two Middle English Schools—one at Tarabari in Mouza Chenga and the other at Majgaon in Mouza Bhabanipur. The Awamese Muhammadans have been running a Junior Madrassa at Dargahpur in Mouza Barpeta. But it is a matter of pity that none of these institutions have as yet received any help from the Government. If it is not the intention of the Government to keep the Musalmans of my Subdivision in perpetual darkness, I most earnestly request the Government to help these institutions with suitable grants. It has been whispered to us that unless the immigrant members join the Coalition they cannot expect to receive help for their institutions. I cannot believe that any Government can stoop down so low and I hope actions of Government will prove that the present Government have got a sense of justice in them. In this connection I like to remind the Government that the jute duty of 11½ lakhs is really the outcome of the labour of the immigrants. If from the proposed Agricultural Tax the tea garden labourers can expect a share for the education of their children can we not quite legitimately expect a share in the Jute Duty? The establishment of at least two Debt Conciliation Boards in the Subdivision is another crying need of the Subdivision.

The Barpeta-Tarabari Road is one of the main roads of our Subdivision and if this road is not improved the agriculturists cannot be expected to get a fair price for their agricultural produces. My friend Mr. Kameswar Das has been pressing the Government since he came to the old Council but most unfortunately for us nothing has as yet been done to improve the road. May I now hope that the present Government will see their way to help us in this direction?

Sir, up till now nothing has been done in the Barpeta Subdivision in the immigrants area to improve the holdings of the *rai-yats*. The inhabitants of mouza Howly are badly in need of a small *khal* in the southern side of the mouza. If the Government kindly spend some money in this direction I am sure some seven villages will be benefited and Government shall not have to grant any remission for flood in the mouza. As the work requires a very small sum and as a large number of people will be benefited by it, I hope Government will take up the work in right earnest. I can assure the Government that the public will help them in the matter.

Lastly, I like to draw the attention of the Government to one very important direction. The southern side of Gauhati Subdivision, the Barpeta Subdivision and the Goalpara District are the main Jute growing area of the Lower Assam. Much of the jute produced in this area is carried away by Bengalee purchasers in country boats and those jute passes in the market as Bengal jute as it is packed either at Sarisabari or at Sirajganj. Our province therefore remains deprived of a considerable share of jute duty. I like to suggest that measures be taken to ensure our right.

3 I like to touch an important question and I finish. The question of vernacular primary Schools in the immigrant areas has been engaging the attention of the guardians of the boys and of the leaders of the community at a great cost and risk Hindu immigrants have retained Bengali primary schools and they have thought it wise to get their children educated through the medium of Bengali. The immigrants from the Assam Valley and Muslim immigrants from Bengal stand on a different footing. Poor as they are, they have got to depend upon the Boards for the education of their children and the Assam Valley Boards barring those of Goalpara district do not recognise any school if Assamese is not taught. They have therefore been forced to accept Assamese in their Lower Primary Schools and even in Makhtabs. The immigrants do not want that they should not learn Assamese, they rather want to occupy a place in the Assamese language and literature. But in the practical field we find that the boys and girls of tender age find it most difficult to learn this language in the primary stage. Every school register shows a huge waste of energy and almost 90 per cent. of the boys of top classes do not understand the tongue very little. If the 6 lacs of immigrants have not as yet produced a single graduate it is due to this language difficulty. The immigrants are no more prepared to undergo this tremendous loss. They want a radical change in the attitude of Government and they pray that Government do take an early step in the direction. My suggestion in the matter is this that a Committee consisting of some educationists of both the valleys should be appointed to study the situation and to report so that an unbiased and happy solution of the matter can be obtained.

With these words, Sir, I beg to retire.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই বঙ্গের বাজেট পাঠ করিয়া মোটা মুঠি আমার এই ধারণা জন্মিয়াছে যে স্মার সাহুল্লা গবর্নমেন্ট পাচ কে পাচ দ্বারা পূরণ করিতেন এবং অনারবোল বড়দলই গবর্নমেন্ট সেই পাচকেই পাঁচবার উপযুক্ত পরি লিখিয়া যোগ করিয়া সময়ের অপব্যয় করিলেন; অবশেষে সেই যোগফল ও পূরণফল ছবছ মিলিয়া গেল। আসলে বিশেষ কোন ভারতম্য দৃষ্টি গোচর হইল না। বরং বিচার করিয়া বা তুলনা করিয়া দেখিলে স্মার সাহুল্লা গবর্নমেন্টেরই প্রশংসা করিতে হইবে।

জনৈক রাজা ও তাহার মন্ত্রী তাঁহাদের চাকরের ঘারে উভয়ের শাল চাপাইয়া দিয়া রহস্য করিয়া চাকরকে বলিলেন 'কি হে, তোমারতো এখন এক গাধার বোঝা বহিতে হইল'। চাকর ইহা শুনিয়া যুক্ত করে বলিল "হুজুর, এখন ত আমার এক গাধার বোঝা বহন করিতে হয় নাই; বরং দুইটি গাধার বোঝাই বহন করিতে হইল"। আমার মনে হয় মিষ্টার বড়দলই বনাম মিষ্টার ফখরুদ্দিন সাহেব ও এই দীর্ঘ বাজেট প্রস্তুত করিতে যাইয়া সতটি গাধার বোঝা বহন করিতে বাধ্য হইলেন। কিন্তু অবশেষে তাঁহার এই সমস্ত খাটুনি পণ্ডশ্রম হইয়া গেল। কেননা এই সুদীর্ঘ আড়ম্বর পূর্ণ বাজেটের মধ্যে গঠনমূলক কি জনহিতকর কোন প্রোগ্রামেরই সন্ধান পাওয়া গেল না।

একব্যক্তি দ্বিতীয় পক্ষের দ্বী তাহার স্বামীর পাতে লাগত ব এক বাটি জাল দিয়া বলিল— 'এইবৎসর মাছের দাম অত্যন্ত অধিক । সুতরাং মাছ ধরুন মস্তা হইবে । এখন মাছের গোল আর ভাত খাইয়া বেশ তৃপ্তিলাভ করিতে পারিবে । আর কে কিছুকাল বৈদ্যা ধরিয়া বসিয়া অপেক্ষা কর' । তাহার স্বামী জালের পাতে লাগতে লইয়া আসুক হইয়া গেল । কেননা, সেই পাতে জল ব্যতীত মাছের নাম গন্ধও পাওয়া গেল না । আমিও কে খেতেছি এই দীর্ঘ তিন ষণ্ড বাজেটের মধ্যে সেই দ্বিতীয় পক্ষীয় দ্বী জালের পাতের মত মূল্যবান বস্তু কিছুই নাই । অর্থাৎ জনসাধারণের হিতকর কার্যকরী কোন কিছুই পাওয়া গেল না । তবে যদি কোন উকীলের বিবি সাহেবাকে ব্যবসা করার কার্যসম্পন্ন দেখিতে জনহিতকর বলিয়া ধরিয়া লওয়া হয় তাহা হইলে আমার বলিবার কিছুই নাই ।

সকলেরই জানা আছে যে শ্রীচট্ট টাউনে একটি মেডিকেল স্কুলের মত বস্তু বৎসর হইতে অক্ষয়্য অবস্থায় পড়িয়া রহিয়াছে । কিন্তু পরিচালকের বিষয় এই যে এই বাজেটে আসাম ভেলীর জন্য অনেক হিতকর ব্যবস্থা করা হইল, কিন্তু এই প্রভাণশীল সুশাসকের মেডিকেল স্কুলের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থাই করা হইল না । বিশেষতঃ শ্রীচট্ট অঞ্চলের যে সমস্ত পল্লী ম্যালেরীয়া কিম্বা অন্যান্য মহামারীতে উৎসন্ন হইবার উপক্রম হইয়াছে, সেই চূর্ণশাগ্রস্ত অঞ্চলের নরনারীকে রক্ষা করার কোন ব্যবস্থাই এই বাজেটের মধ্যে দেখিতে পাওয়া গেল না ।

আমাদের দেশের কৃষককুল ও তৎসহ জমিদার, তালুকদার প্রভৃতি দেনার দায়ে নিঃস্ব হইতে চলিয়াছে । বিশেষ করিয়া অনবস্থহীন কৃষকের হাহাকার ধ্বনিতে পল্লী সমূহ মুখরিত হইয়া উঠিল । কিন্তু দেশের চর্ভাগ্য এই যে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্ট এই সমস্ত চঃস্থ জনগণের প্রতি কিছুমাত্র লক্ষ করিলেন না কিম্বা উহাদের চঃস্থ দূর করার কোন উপায় উদ্ভাবন ও করার চেষ্টা করিতেছেন না অথবা এই বাজেটে এমন কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই যে যাহার দ্বারা এই সমস্ত অর্দ্ধাহারী—অনাহারী নরনারীর কষ্টের কিছুমাত্রও লাঘব হইতে পারে । বিশেষতঃ গতবৎসর বতায় সমস্ত আউষ ধানের ফসল নষ্ট হইয়া গেল এবং চর্ভিক্ষ পীড়িত গ্রামাঞ্চল জুড়িয়া হাহাকার ও হাহাকারে পরিপূর্ণ হইয়া উঠিল, কিন্তু তাহাদেরই রক্তশোষা ধনে যে গবর্ণমেন্ট স্থাপিত সেই গবর্ণমেন্ট তাহাদের দিকে তাকাইয়াও চাহিলনা কিম্বা তাহাদের সহিত কোন সহানুভূতিও প্রকাশ করিল না । অতএব আমি গবর্ণমেন্টকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি যদি গবর্ণমেন্ট এই সমস্ত চূর্ণশাগ্রস্ত নরনারীর চঃস্থ লাঘব করিতেই না পারে তবে এই গবর্ণমেন্ট থাকা বা না থাকায় জনসাধারণের লাভ লোকসান কি ? “আগে ছিলেন উল্লা তুল্লা শেষে হৈলা উদ্দিন ; আগের আলী পাছে গেল, কপাল ছিল যদি ।” হয়ত কোন আলীর স্থান কোন উদ্দিন দখল করিয়া বসিলেন, হয়ত কোন নাথের জায়গা কোন অনাথ বা তিন নাথ একযোগে জুড়িয়া বসিলেন । তবে আমার জিজ্ঞাস্য এই যে ইহাতে জনসাধারণের কি লাভ হইল বা কি উপকার সাধিত হইল ? সুতরাং যদি জনসাধারণের কোন উপকার করার প্রবৃত্তি কিম্বা ক্ষমতা এই গবর্ণমেন্টের নাই থাকে তাহা হইলে অগোণে এই গবর্ণমেন্ট resignation দিয়া

তাঁহাদের মান রক্ষা করা তাঁহাদের পক্ষে বুদ্ধিমানের কাজ নয় কি? তবে বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টের এতদূর স্পৃহা আছে কিনা আমার সন্দেহ।

আমি আমার constituencyর আস্থা ও শুভ ইচ্ছা লইয়াই আমি এসেম্ব্লিতে প্রবেশ করিয়াছি। সুতরাং আমার constituencyর উঃখের কাহিনী কিছু বিবৃত না করিয়া পারিতেছিলাম। আমার constituency বিশ্বনাথ থানা ও সদর থানার রেঙ্গা ও জালালপুর পরগণা দ্বন্দ্ব লইয়া গঠিত। কিন্তু উঃখের বিষয় এই যে এই বিশ্বনাথ থানার মধ্যে মাত্র দুই মাইল পরিমাণ সড়ক বা রাজপথ আছে। যদি গবর্ণমেন্ট বিশ্বনাথ বাজার হইতে আমার কাজির বাজার পর্য্যন্ত একটি রাস্তা বাড়াইয়া (পরিমাণ প্রায় ৫।৬ মাইল হইবে, সুনামগঞ্জ রাস্তার সহিত যোগ করিয়া দিতেন এবং আর একটি রাস্তা কামালপুর বাজার হইতে সিংহেরকাছ রাস্তার সহিত যোগ করিয়া দিতেন, কিম্বা অন্ততঃপক্ষে একটি রাস্তারও কোন ব্যবস্থা করিতেন তাহা হইলে বিশ্বনাথবাসীর অশেষ উপকার হইত। সমস্ত বিশ্বনাথ থানার মধ্যে মাত্র দুইটি লোকেলবোর্ড ডিস্‌পেন্সারী বিদ্যমান আছে। ইহাও একটি হইতে অণুটির দূরত্ব প্রায় ১২।১০ মাইলের কম হইবে না। সুতরাং ইহার মধ্য স্থানে যদি গবর্ণমেন্ট অন্ততঃ রাজাগঞ্জ বাজারে একটি ডিস্‌পেন্সারীর ব্যবস্থা করিয়া দিতেন তাহা হইলে সেই রোগাক্রান্ত নরনারীর যে কত কল্যাণ সাধন করা হইত তাহা ভুক্তভোগী ব্যতীত বুকিবীর শক্তি অণুর নাই। আমি এই দিকে গবর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

আমার এলাকার মধ্যে মগলের বাজার নামক স্থানটি অতি প্রসিদ্ধ। কিন্তু উঃখের বিষয় এই যে এই স্থানে কিম্বা ইহার চতুর্পার্শ্বে এমন কোন চিকিৎসালয় নাই যে কোন রোগী বিপদকালে সেই চিকিৎসালয় হইতে ঔষধ-পথ্যের ব্যবস্থা লইতে পারে। আমি এদিকেও গবর্ণমেন্টকে মনোযোগী হইতে এবং যতদূর সম্ভব সম্বর একটি ডাক্তারখানা খুলিতে বিশেষ অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

উল্লিখিত রেঙ্গা, জালালপুর এবং বিশ্বনাথ অঞ্চলে শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা—বিশেষতঃ মুসলমান শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা অতি অল্প। এমন কি গ্রেজুয়েটের সংখ্যা বোধ হয় শ্রীহট্ট জেলার অন্যান্য অঞ্চল হইতে অনুপাতে অপেক্ষাকৃত কম এবং নিরক্ষরের সংখ্যা কিন্তু সেই অনুপাতে বেশীই হইবে। অতএব আমি আশা করি এই সমস্ত হতভাগাদের যাহাতে নিরক্ষরতা দূর হয়—যাহাতে তাহারা মানুষ হইয়া মানুষের মত জীবন যাপন করিতে পারে তাহার প্রতি গবর্ণমেন্ট অবহিত হইবেন এবং ইহার বিহিত ব্যবস্থা করিয়া জনসাধারণের কৃতজ্ঞতা অর্জন করিবেন।

জনৈক ব্যক্তি মুনির নিকট বর চাহিল যে সে চুরি করিবে কিন্তু লোকে তাহাকে চোর বলিবে না। মুনি বলিলেন—“তুমি পরজন্মে জমিদারের নায়েব হইবে। তাহা হইলে তুমি সর্বদা চুরি করিবে; কিন্তু লোকে তোমাকে চোর বলিবে না। বর নায়েব বলিয়া সম্মান করিবে।” কিন্তু সেই মুনি যদি পুরাতন যুগের না হইয়া বর্তমান যুগের হইতেন তাহা হইলে তিনি সেই ব্যক্তিকে নায়েব হওয়ার বর না দিয়া বরং আসাম কেবিনেটে মন্ত্রী হওয়ার জন্য আশীর্বাদ করিতেন।

কেন না, এই গবর্নমেন্টের মন্ত্রীগণ বাহ্যিক ৫০০০ টাকা মাসে হইলেও আরও ২০০০ টাকা ফাও নারিতেছেন, সুতরাং জনগণ তাঁহা দিগকে ৫০০০ টাকা মূল্যের তালী মহাপুঙ্গব বলিছাই জানিতেছে। কিন্তু আসলে ইহারা সাতশত টাকার আদায় করিতেছেন। অর্থাৎ ইহারা এক টিলে দুই পক্ষী শীকার করিতেছেন। তবে আমার কথা এই যে যদি মন্ত্রী খাইতে হয় তাহা হইলে ইহাকে তাড়ি বা আঙ্গুরের রস না বলিয়া মদ বলিছাই খাওয়া উচিত। কেন না কাক যদিও নিজ চক্ষু মুদিয়া কোন মদ্য লুকাইয়া রাখিথা মনে করে যে সে মদ্যন জগৎকে দেখিতেছে না, সুতরাং জগৎও তাহার কার্যকলাপ কিছুই দেখিতেছে না। কিন্তু ইহা তাহার ভুল। কারণ একরূপ চাতুর্যের দ্বারা সে তাহার নিজেকেই ঠকাইতেছে—জগৎকে ঠকাইতে পারিতেছে না। সুতরাং আমি মন্ত্রীগণকে অহুবেদ্য করি—তাঁহারা এই সমস্ত কাক policy ত্যাগ করিয়া সে.জাস্টিজ ৭০০০ টাকা বেতন গ্রহণ করুন অথবা এই উপরি পাওনা সম্পূর্ণ ত্যাগ করুন।

জানা গেল যে ইদানিং Upper House এ একটি nomination দেওয়া হইয়াছে এবং উক্ত প্রতিনিধির জন্য বাজেটে অনেক টাকা বরাদ্দ দেওয়া অনিবার্য। পূর্বে হইতে অদ্য পর্যন্ত চারিটি nomination দেওয়া হইয়াছে; কিন্তু উভাঙ্গা বশতঃ সুরমা ভেলীর ভাগ্যে একটিও জুটিল না। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি ইহা কি নিঃশেষ মনোবৃত্তির পরিচায়ক নহে?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: ইহা গবর্নরের কার্য। এ সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রীদের হাত নাই।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY: আমি জানি যে মন্ত্রীদিগকে consult করা হয়।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনার জানা উচিত কে কি কাজ করে। এ রকমভাবে বলা উচিত হয় নাই।

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY: সমস্ত বাজেট আলোচনা করিলে বেশ পরিষ্কার বোঝা যায় যে গবর্নমেন্ট আসামভেলীর প্রতি ভয়ানক পক্ষপাতিত্ব করিয়াছেন। মেডিকেল স্কুল হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া আজ পর্যন্ত তাঁহারা যে সমস্ত কাজ করিয়াছেন সে সমস্তই কার্যে যদ শুধু আসাম ভেলীর ভাগ্যে প্রসন্ন হয় তাহা হইলে বহু প্রচারিত কংগ্রেস নীতি যাহা সত্য ও ন্যায়ের উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত বলিয়া কথিত হয় তাহার মূলে কি কুঠারাঘাত করা হইল না? সময় এবং সুযোগ পাইলে আমি ভূরি ভূরি দৃষ্টান্ত দ্বারা প্রমাণ করিয়া দিতে পারি যে বর্তমান গবর্নমেন্ট পক্ষপাত দোষে ছষ্ট এবং এই গবর্নমেন্টের কার্যকলাপ এক দেশদর্শিতার পরিচায়ক। এবং আমি চক্ষে আঙ্গুল দিয়া দেখাইয়া দিতে পারি যে এ সমস্ত কাজের দরুণ বর্তমান গবর্নমেন্ট পথভ্রষ্ট ও সত্যভ্রষ্ট হইয়া পড়িয়াছেন। সুতরাং আমি গবর্নমেন্টকে সাবধান করিয়া দিতেছি যে তাঁহারা সতর্ক হইয়া এ সমস্ত অশাস্ত নীতি পরিহার করুন। নতু, পক্ষপাত দোষে ছষ্ট কোন গবর্নমেন্টই অধিককাল টিকিয়া থাকিতে পারে না এবং পারিবেও না। বরং একদিন না একদিন অন্যায্যকারীর তাসের ঘর এক ফুৎকারে উড়িয়া যাইতে বাধ্য হইবে।

(4) ✓ **Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:** Sir, I do not know how to thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is a full-fledged Congress member for giving the general public and especially the depressed classes and backward people an opportunity to examine how far the Congress policy and programme has been adapted in the Budget by this Congress Government. Sir, though it is a Congress Coalition Government, I call it a Congress Government, because the Congress President, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, himself while forming the Congress-Coalition Cabinet at Shillong, published a statement that they will carry out the Congress programme and the Congress policy only.

Coming to the Budget itself, I regret to say that we are far behind the expectations that we made under the Congress regime and I fail to differentiate the present Budget from the previous one. I will deal only with a few points from the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech to substantiate my statement.

Sir, he has said in his speech :

"Before switching on to other matters, I should like to refer here to one other matter which concerns the peasantry and that is the burning question of Line System. We regard it as a fully economic question and propose to deal with it in that way". But I do not think, Sir, that it is a purely economic question. Mr. Mullan's Census Report states that the Assamese race will go into extinction after a few years, except in Sibsagar. So I say, Sir, it is not only an economic question but a question in which racial and political problem are also involved.

Then again, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister states "Those who have come here leaving their relations, homes and familiar surroundings, have been forced to do so either because they had no land for cultivation in their own places or could no longer bear the oppression of the zemindars, money-lenders and other such middle men." But it is his presumption only, Sir. During the course of enquiry by the Line Enquiry Committee we were told that, while a *pura* of land in this province was sold for Rs.50 only there in the district of Mymensingh it went up to Rs.1,500 per *pura*. I do not know if the Government have ever enquired whether these people who have come from the district of Mymensingh did come actually to escape from the oppression of the zemindars or for the speculative purpose to make bargains by selling their lands there at higher price and to possess large areas of land here to become zemindars themselves. Those who gave evidence before the Line Enquiry Committee, informed us that there are good number of immigrants who possess about 1,000 *bighas* of land in this province. It is greatly detrimental to the Assamese interest that there are the Government have not studied the question that up till now

Then again, Sir, he said : "Till a definite policy is settled upon, the *status quo* is maintained." Here, Sir, I differ altogether. The other day on the 9th instant an adjournment motion was moved by Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri about giving possession to Mr. Amiruddin recently a plot of land at Kalikazar on the Assamese side of the line where there is a plot of land of worship, for the Lalungs. But there the whole position could not be explained by me as I did not personally move the motion. I saw that the hon. member Mr. Chaudhuri gave notice of the adjournment motion and therefore I did not take any further move in the matter. Sir, now I take the opportunity here to say that the *status quo* is not maintained. It is being maintained by the Hon'ble Finance Minister by breaking it. This plot of land at Kalikazar in Mikirbhetta mauza in the district of Nowgong originally belonged to some Lalung people. These Lalung people had annual *pattas* for the land which was in their occupation for some years. Due to the great influx of immigrants some immigrant people got settlement

of certain plots of land, near these Lalung people, of course on the immigrants' side of the line. Meanwhile disputes arose between the Lalungs and the immigrant people. The Lalungs got afraid and for fear of future troubles and oppression by these immigrants some of them sold their plots for a nominal price or no price to Mr. Amiruddin. Other Lalungs also along with those who sold removed from their lands without selling their land to anybody. In the meantime Mr. Amiruddin took possession of the entire land. This was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner, after enquiry, passed an eviction order against Mr. Amiruddin and for violation of that eviction order, a daily fine was imposed on him and further he was threatened with forcible eviction after which Mr. Amiruddin vacated the land, and this land remained for some time unsettled. In the meantime Mr. Amiruddin appealed in two courts, namely, that of the Commissioner and that of the Governor. In both the courts the appeals were disallowed. After sometime, some of the Lalung people who did not sell their lands and had shifted from the land under fear, were given settlement by the Deputy Commissioner on payment of the old revenue arrears. As regards the lands which were sold for some price to Mr. Amiruddin, these were yet unsettled, pending decision on the report of the Line Enquiry Committee. ✓

Since then Mr. Amiruddin was not in possession of the land. It was only immediately after the recent visit of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to Nowgong, that Mr. Amiruddin went to Kalikazar with his men to take possession of the entire land by ploughing over others' *patta* land also. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Finance Minister has passed provisional orders or the final orders about this land but it is known that some orders has been passed by him. Is this the way in which the *statusquo* is being maintained by our Hon'ble Finance Minister? The adjournment motion which was brought on this issue was really a motion to be moved. I can cite an example that one Hap ngkachari of Rupohi killed a man who came to dispossess of his land forcibly and he was acquitted. The number of people at Kalikazar is not less and Mr. Amiruddin's act of taking possession of disputed land and forcibly ploughing over other *patta* holders' land also may lead to commitment of murders even. The hon. members are aware that there is a *Than* also over the land which is the place of worship for the Lalungs. Whether the *Than* occupied a large area or a small area is not a matter to be seen. After all the *Than* is within that area of land at Kalikazar which has been given settlement to Mr. Amiruddin by the Hon'ble Finance Minister recently. The hon. members are also aware that there occurred many communal riotings simply because of making processions nearby the *Masjids*. Here also people going to the *Than* may not be out of danger. Now, again that the *statusquo* is not being maintained will be clear from the facts that some plots of lands which were covered by special annual *pattas* on the Assamese side of the line are now being converted into periodic which means abolition of the Line System. The *pattas* of the Assamese people on the Assamese side of the Line are kept as annual so that they may not sell their lands to immigrants. One may be willing to have his annual *patta* converted into periodic just to get more money by selling lands to immigrants but it will create nuisance to the other people who will not like to sell and who will be compelled to abandon their villages and go elsewhere. During our last tour in the Assam Valley in connection with the Line Enquiry Committee we gathered information that a large number of villages had to be abandoned by Kachari people and others for such and other similar reasons. It is very painful to see that the pleaders who are also members of this House say one thing in this Chamber but do things quite to the contrary while they go to the country side. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is not speaking to the Budget.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, I want to show how they are inconsistent in their principles in matter of vital interest of the Assamese people. When the resolution for the abolition of the Line System came up before the House many members belonging to the Congress group spoke very strongly that the interest of the Assamese people must be protected by maintaining the line by strictest measures but when they get few rupees from their clients they then as professional pleaders plead in the courts that such and such annual *pattas* of land covered by Line System should be converted into periodic which means abolition of the Line System over that area.

I am saying this in order to show how some of the responsible representatives of the public have become instrumental in the abolition of the Line here and there. Sir, again the Hon'ble Finance Minister said, "on the other hand when cases of eviction under the orders of the previous regime were brought to my notice, I was satisfied that people evicted would face starvation, I have passed orders directing the Local Officers either to find lands elsewhere for those people or to put them back in possession of the land from which they have been evicted till lands are found for them provided that such lands still remain unsettled". Sir, here I regret to cite a good number of cases of eviction of Kaibartta people which are now pending. About one and half year ago an area of about 10 thousand bighas of annual *patta* land of Rangalumukh and Lomati Kisan in the Pakhimoria Mauza, in the Nowgong district was cancelled and made Reserve. Some Kaibartta people who had their lands in that area approached me to get back their lands. They said that they were paying their revenues every year regularly and that they were getting good crops out of these lands. When it was brought to my notice, about a year ago I approached the then Revenue Minister, Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri while at Nowgong and in view of the hardship these Kaibarttas were put to, he was pleased to ask the Deputy Commissioner to release their lands and the Deputy Commissioner also allowed them to grow their crops over the said land. But now just before I left for Shillong to attend the session, I came to learn that about 40 Kaibarttas living over the very land have been served with eviction notices, who are in possession of the land for nearly 35 years. However, the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong has been pleased to stay eviction orders, pending enquiry in April next. I now request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to look into this matter and treat them sympathetically so that they may not be evicted from the land which is in their possession for the last 30 or 35 years.

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for a long time.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I am the only Scheduled caste member on this side of the House and as such I should be given some more time. The other scheduled caste members have all merged in the Congress Coalition party and they will not speak against the Budget (*Laughter*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, the hon. member will get five minutes more.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I have not yet come to the main things, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Main thing should have come first.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: All right, Sir. Now I will come to the main things.

Sir, I am now comparing the programme and policy of the Assam Congress-Coalition Cabinet, who very highly spoke of their sincerity of heart for the upliftment of the scheduled castes and backward classes of Assam, with those of other Congress Governments.

“Education of Harijans.

Activities of United Provinces Government.

Lucknow, September 16.

The Congress Government in the United Provinces has nearly doubled the number of scholarships for Harijans and increased the amount of scholarships by 150 per cent. during the very first year of its regime. The number of Harijan schools has increased and the Harijan students are being admitted to schools in larger numbers.

In 1935-36, 4,286 scholarships amounting to Rs. 74,918 were being awarded. At present 8,051 scholarships amounting to Rs. 1,02,790 are being given. The number of Harijan scholarships has doubled and the amount gone up by about 150 per cent. For supplying free text-books and writing material to deserving and poor Harijan students the Government has allotted Rs. 6,000 to the District Boards and Rs. 1,500 to the Municipal Boards.”

Then I come to Education in Orissa, Concession in School Fees.

Cuttack, December 24.

“The concession of entirely free secondary education to the members of the scheduled castes should be extended to South Orissa.”

Sir, then I come to another article: “Need of Doctor-Teacher.” Hon’ble the Education Minister may kindly take note of this. It is a very important and highly desirable proposal.

“Need of Doctor-Teacher.

It is further suggested that a doctor-teacher who is an L. M. P., and who subsequently undergoes an intensive course of professional training in child psychology, methodology and principles of education can profitably replace a trained graduate-teacher. He can teach Hygiene and sanitation and other suitable subjects and look after the students, healthful and hygienic habits better than an ordinary teacher.”

Sir, I suggest that our Government High Schools should be equipped with a doctor-teacher. Now, Sir, I come to what Madras Government has done for the uplift of the scheduled castes.

“The amount spent on the special activities for the Scheduled classes was Rs. 8.98 lakhs in 1936-37. The revised estimate for 1937-38 was Rs. 9.77 lakhs while the Budget provision for 1938-39 is Rs. 11.24 lakhs, an increase by Rs. 2¼ lakhs over the expenditure in 1936-37. These figures are exclusive of the cost of supervision by the Commissioner of Labour and also of the provision made for these classes along with others under the heads Education, Industries and Fisheries.”

Then with regard to Services :

“With regard to the recruitment and appointment of Scheduled Castes to the Public Services the policy of the Congress Government has been specially liberal. Generally speaking, one out of every twelve appointments made to a provincial or subordinate service is reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes. If there is no qualified and suitable candidate available when the turn of the Scheduled Castes comes for appointment, the turn goes to a member of the next community in the list, but a member of the Scheduled Castes has the preferential right to appointment in the next and every subsequent turn until such is appointed.

Government have also sanctioned certain special concessions to members of the Scheduled Castes in the matter of qualifications for appointment. The minimum general educational qualification for appointment to subordinate services has been appreciably lowered and the age limit has been raised to 27 in the case of ministerial services. A number of Harijans have recently been appointed to positions of responsibility in the Police, Medical and General Administration Departments.

Attempts at economic amelioration of the Harijans have been taken up at the very roots. To satisfy their land-hunger waste land at the disposal of Government is assigned to the Harijans free of cost. Land is also acquired under the Land Acquisition Act and given to the Harijans for house-sites. In such cases Government will bear half the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per acre of dry land and Rs.350 per acre of wet land.”

Sir, in Assam, the depressed class people are submitting petitions after petitions to the local Government and other District authorities, but no attention is given to them. During the regime of the previous Government, the Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri was kind enough to allot a certain area of land in Barbhogia Mouza of Nowgong for some applicants, who belonged to the Kaibartta community. That area is still unsettled with them and I don't know why. Though it is one and half year since the order was passed, Government have paid no attention to it. Then, Sir, the report goes on to say “The Collectors of the districts are empowered to sanction non-recurring expenditure up to a limit of Rs.2,500 in each case on miscellaneous measures connected with the economic and sanitary welfare of the Scheduled Castes such as the construction of wells, pathways, latrines and raising the level of house-sites. In the matter of wells, the Labour Commissioner is empowered to sanction Rs. 5,000 in each case.”

Here, in Assam, Sir, there is a fund from the Central Government at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner from where allotments are made for the construction of roads in the villages, and also for wells. But it is impossible for the needy poor people to get a well. The people have got to pay Rs. 100, and Rs. 200 is allotted by the Deputy Commissioner for a well. Is it possible for a village, containing 30 or 40 houses to subscribe Rs. 100 in these days of hardship for a well? I don't know about the paying capacity of other communities, but so far as the depressed classes are concerned, it is a great hardship on them. So I request the Government to exempt them from any payment for a well. The report goes on :

“Co-operative Societies formed by members of these classes are given grants for clerical assistance and members will be given also grants for payment of registration fees for production of encumbrance certificates. They are also given grants and loans for the acquisition of house-sites, although unfortunately, a substantial part of the loans so granted has often-times to be written off as irrecoverable together with accrued interest.”

Here, Sir, when the people take agricultural loan on account of heavy floods and cattle mortality, these depressed class people have to undergo great suffering. In their case if they cannot be well-represented they go unconsidered. However bad may be their pecuniary condition they have to repay the loan they got from the Government, by selling their house hold articles.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has already exceeded 25 minutes.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, I am the only scheduled caste member speaking on the Budget and I should be given some more time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Instead of quoting from the extracts, it would be better if the hon. member stops.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Then, what has the Budget provided for the education of the depressed classes in Awam. The Budget has got two sides, the receipt side and the expenditure side, and there are some Bills for taxation. Of course, we don't say that resources of revenue should not be increased. But does the Hon'ble Finance Minister say that the taxation Bills will not be a burden on the poor people. They will, I mean to say, affect directly or indirectly the poor people also. Supposing

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That has been pointed out by other hon. members.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Then about educational grants. About Rs. 25,000 has been allotted for the education of the immigrants, tribal and scheduled caste people. The sum allotted by the last Government was Rs. 10,000 or 12,000, I don't remember exactly. But that sum remained unspent. But under the present Congress Coalition Government, they issued a circular recently which I came to see accidentally that sum should be spent for spread of education in the backward localities but no consideration had been made separately for the tribal and scheduled caste people. They have been always saying that they will give more money, out of the savings from the low pay the Hon'ble Ministers are now drawing, for the spread of primary education for the tribal and the scheduled castes. But is this sum adequate for the spread of primary education of the three communities? So far as I understand, the immigrants will probably be 14 lakhs, the tribal 5 lakhs and the depressed class $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. So, it comes up to about 25 lakhs. Then, where is the difference between the grants by the former Government and the present Government? The former Government gave 10 or 12 thousand rupees for the education of about 11 lakhs of tribal and scheduled caste people and the present Government have given 25 thousand rupees for three communities the population of which is about 25 lakhs.

Then again, Sir, I want to point out some remarks made on the Raha High English School but I do not see that the Government have made any provision for the school, in the Budget. I quoted the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Das, Minister for Legislative, Registration and General Departments on the 12th July 1938. "I come to see this Institution with Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia, M. L. A., and some other leading gentlemen of the scheduled caste communities. The school is closed for the summer but the Head Master is regularly holding coaching classes for the boys of class X. This year five boys appeared in the Matriculation Examination, out of them four passed.

One of the most interesting factor is that one-third of the students are coming from the scheduled caste and tribal people. This is a healthy sign of these depressed and tribal people. I am sure this institution alone can impart education to a section of these illiterate and down-trodden people. I have also gone through the inspection notes of the Director of Public Instruction, Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government and the late Hon'ble

Minister, Education. All these notes speak highly of the local people and the teaching staff who are serving in a sacrificing spirit. The Head Master placed all the facts and figures before me and I find that the income scarcely meet the expenditure for the establishment. The Government recurring grant is Rs.100 per month. In view of these circumstances, the recurring grant seems quite insufficient. I draw the Hon'ble Minister, Education's special attention to this Institution and request him to make more provision for this school in the coming Budget."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has finished. I have got a list of members to speak on the Budget, and there are many more who want to speak.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, I have almost finished. There is another remark on the same school by the Hon'ble Premier on the 16th December, 1938. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to visit this institution. That this school deserves special consideration of the Department will be apparent from the fact that 38 per cent of the students come from tribal and scheduled castes. Consistent with the policy of the present Government attempt will be made to increase the grant-in-aid." In spite of all these remarks I am sorry to find that no provision has been made to increase the grant to this institution. Another thing I like to point out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will get an opportunity to say, what he likes, in connection with the cut motions.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, I have already stated what the other Congress Governments have done in comparison with this Congress Government. I call it a Congress Government because the Congress President Srijut Subhas Chandra Bose during the time of his strenuous effort of forming this Congress Coalition Cabinet at Shillong published a state-ress policy and programme. But I say that this Congress Government have done practically nothing for the depressed class people. I now request the Hon'ble Ministers to do at least one-tenth of what other Congress Governments have done for the uplift of the scheduled caste people and other backward classes.

[At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker left the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.]

Khan Bahadur Haji ABDŪL MAJID CHAUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, অনারেবোল ফাইনাস মিনিষ্টার যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন, হুংখের বিষয় এই বাজেটে নানা বিষয় খরচের টাকার বরাদ্দ না করার এবং দরিদ্র কৃষকদের উপর অনেকগুলি নুতন ট্যাক্স বসাইয়া আয় বৃদ্ধি করায় এই বাজেট মোটেই সুন্দর হয় নাই। যে কৃষি জাত দ্রব্যের আয়ের উপর ইনকম্ ট্যাক্স বসাইয়া দরিদ্র কৃষকদের ভগ্নানক ক্ষতি করিতেছেন সেই কৃষির উন্নতি কল্পে খাল, নালা, বান্ধ ইত্যাদির খরচের জন্য কোন টাকার বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। কাপড়ের মিলের উপর সাইকেল, মটরকার, পেট্রল ইত্যাদির উপর ট্যাক্স বসাইয়া যে আয় বৃদ্ধি করিতেছেন তাহাতেও গরিব কৃষকদেরই ক্ষতির কারণ দাড়াইয়াছে। পল্লীগামে পানীয় জলের অভাবে শত শত লোক কলেরা, বসন্ত, টাইফয়েড্ রোগে মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হইতেছে। সেই সব গ্রামে জলের কোন ব্যবস্থার এই বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। নম্ন প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য লোকেল বর্ডের সাহায্য বৃদ্ধি করা হয় নাই। ছোট ছোট টাউনের

পানীয় জল সরবরাহ ও ড্রেইন ইত্যাদির জন্য মিউনিসিপালিটিতে সাহায্য বৃদ্ধি করা হয় নাই। পানীয় জলের ও ড্রেইনের অভাবে করিমগঞ্জ টাউনে সর্বদাই টাইফয়েড ও কলেরা, বসন্ত রোগে বহুলোক মারা যায়। এসব বিষয়ে গবর্ণমেন্টের একটুও দৃষ্টিপাত হয় নাই। গত নবেম্বর মাসের জল প্রাবনে করিমগঞ্জ সাব্ ডিভিসনের নানা স্থানে নানা কক্ষ সমূলে নষ্ট হইয়া যাওয়ায় গ্রামে গ্রামে বহুলোক অশুষ্ক ও অনাহারে উপহাসে থাকিয়া কঠোরগ করিতেছে; তাহাদিগকে সাহায্য দেওয়ার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। যাহাতে প্রজাদের ভাত কাপড়ের সচ্ছলতা হইতে পারে তৎপ্রতি বর্তমান গবর্ণমেন্টের সর্বদা দৃষ্টি রাখা কর্তব্য।

করিমগঞ্জ সাব্ ডিভিসনে গোচর ভূমি না থাকায় এট বৎসর অনেক গরু অনাহারে মারা গিয়াছে। সহরে একটি মাত্র পশু চিকিৎসালয় থাকায় গ্রামা লোকের পশু চিকিৎসায় কোন সুবিধা হইতেছে না। এ বিষয় কোন টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। লোকের বোড়ে টাকার অভাবে হাঁসপাতালগুলিতে যথেষ্ট সাহায্য না দেওয়ার রোগীরা ভাল ঔষধ পাইতেছেন না। এট বাজেটে মাদ্রাসা, মন্ডব ইত্যাদির জন্ত কোন টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। বরং গরিব কৃষকদের উপর নানা প্রকার ট্যাক্স বসাইয়া জুলুম করা হইতেছে। এসব হুতন ট্যাক্স না বসাইয়া ফরেষ্ট রিজার্ভের জমিগুলি বন্দবস্ত দিলেই অনেক আয় বৃদ্ধি পাইত। বর্তমান দেশদরদি বিশেষতঃ প্রজাদরদি কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলি প্রজাদের খর ৩৫ ভাগে ভরিয়া দেওয়ার জন্ত চেষ্টা করিবেন বলিয়া দেশবাসীকে আশ্বাস দিয়া এখন বাজেটে তাহার কোন সংস্থান না করিয়া তাহাদের উপর নূতন নূতন করতর ধার্য্য করিলে দেশবাসী তাহাদের কার্যের তীব্র নিন্দা করিবেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could not follow the speech delivered by the hon. member. If it is not inconvenient, will you please hand over the speech to me so that I may reply to it?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: I think the Hon'ble Finance Minister will get a copy from the reporter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that he could not follow the speech made by Khan Bahadur Haji Abdul Majid Chaudhury who read out his speech in Bengali. In the fitness of things, I think, the said Khan Bahadur would at least give the Hon'ble Finance Minister the manuscript copy which he read.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is any other member going to take part in the discussion of the Budget?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: There are so many members on the other side. Are they not going to speak?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: I think there is no other speaker. The House may be adjourned.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is no other member coming to take part in the discussion it will be my duty to adjourn the House. If there is any one yet to take part in the discussion he is quite welcome.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Tomorrow, Sir, I shall take the earliest opportunity to say what I have got to say.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: May I point out one thing? To-morrow the Leader of the Opposition is expected to wind up the debate and I think the leader of the European group is expected to speak to-morrow and I am also expected to give the reply to-morrow. So it will be better if those hon. members who like to take part in the discussion, speak to-day.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, from what the Hon'ble Finance Minister says it appears that no other member of his group is going to take part in the debate to-morrow.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I think the Hon'ble Speaker has already been informed that some of them are taking part in the discussion to-morrow.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If the reply of the Hon'ble Finance Minister be a long one to-morrow, I think, the House may sit up to 5 p.m.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, I find no other member is forthcoming to take part in the discussion. So in the fitness of things I adjourn the House till 11 a.m. to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1939.

SHILLONG :

The 21st April, 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.