

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR 1917

The Committee on the Budget has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Joint Committee on the Budget for the year 1917, and to express its appreciation of the thoroughness and accuracy of the same. The report is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the public mind, and it is hoped that it will be read with interest and profit by all those who are concerned with the financial affairs of the Nation.

The report is divided into two parts, the first of which deals with the general principles of budgeting, and the second with the details of the proposed budget for 1917. The first part is particularly interesting, as it sets forth the reasons for the adoption of a budget system, and the advantages which it offers to the Government and to the people.

The second part of the report contains a detailed statement of the proposed budget for 1917, and is accompanied by a number of tables and charts which illustrate the various items of income and expenditure. The total amount of the proposed budget is \$1,100,000,000, of which \$800,000,000 is to be derived from the ordinary sources of revenue, and \$300,000,000 from the sale of Government bonds.

The Committee on the Budget has the honor to recommend the adoption of the proposed budget for 1917, and to express its confidence in the wisdom and soundness of the same. It is believed that the adoption of this budget will result in a more efficient and economical administration of the Government, and will contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the Nation.

Very respectfully,
Chairman

A. K. HALL
Secretary

11 5 1917
M.H.

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

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd February, 1940

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers and 90 members

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Posts of Traffic Sergeants and Inspectors of Motor Vehicles

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH asked :

*62.(a) Do the two Inspectors of Motor Vehicles with headquarters at Shillong and Dibrugarh get house allowance and motor allowance like the said two Traffic Sergeants ?

(b) If not, why not ?

(c) What are the respective duties of the Traffic Sergeants and the Inspectors of Motor Vehicles ?

(d) Do Government propose to place these two classes of officers in the same footing in the matter of house allowance and motor allowance ?

(e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir **MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied :

62.(a)—No.

(b)—Traffic Sergeants are Police Officers enrolled under the Police Act and are therefore entitled to house allowance. It is essential that motor cars should be available for Traffic Sergeants and as vehicles are not as yet provided by Government and their pay is small, a Motor Car Allowance is paid to them in the interests of Government work.

The scale of the first Motor Vehicles Inspector is Rs.200—400, and that of the second Rs.150—350 and they are therefore better able to maintain a car. They are not entitled to house allowance.

(c)—Traffic Sergeants have continually to travel on the roads in their jurisdictions to prevent and report offences under the Motor Vehicles Act, such as overloading, dangerous driving and all traffic offences.

Motor Vehicle Inspectors have to inspect periodically all public service vehicles to ensure that they are in a fit mechanical condition to ply on the roads, and to examine all applicants for professional driving licences.

(d) and (e)—The remuneration, etc., of these officers are under consideration as the result of recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee.

Srijut DEVESWAR SARMAH: Cannot the work be done by the regular Police Officers and the Motor Vehicles Inspectors?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, it was not found possible.

Srijut DEVESWAR SARMAH: May I know, why the same type of work is being done by the two Sergeants and the regular police Sub-Inspectors in Motor Vehicles Department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, the regular Police does not perform the same duties as the Motor Vehicles Sergeants: the latter's duties are entirely different.

Appointment of Assistant Masters of the Government High Schools as Superintendents of Hostels

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked:

*63 Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any circular to the effect that the Assistant Masters of the Government High Schools should ordinarily be appointed Superintendents of the Hostels?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i) the principle on which this circular was based? (ii) the particular cases in which this order has been violated and on what grounds?

*64. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of (i) Head Masters and (ii) Assistant Masters with the names of their schools in which they are working as Hostel Superintendents, their present pay and allowances, if there be any, being also shown in each case.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

63. (a)—No.

(b)—Do not arise.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government consider that the Assistant Head Masters should be given preference and placed in charge of hostels in place of Head Masters?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am prepared to consider that suggestion.

64.—A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PARTICULARS OF THE HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS

Serial No.	Name of resident Superintendent	Designation	Hostels	Present pay	Hostel allowance according to sliding scale
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Rs.
1	(a) Babu Girindra Chandra Banerjee, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Headmaster, Sylhet Government High School.	Hindu Hostel	220	15
	(b) Maulavi Abdul Gafur, M.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Sylhet Government High School.	Muhammadan Hostel.	135	25
2	(a) Babu Harendra Kumar Bhattacharya, B.Sc., B.T.	Assistant Master (now officiating as Assistant Headmaster), Habiganj Government High School.	Hindu Hostel	190	25
	(b) Maulavi Syed Hafizur Rahman, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Habiganj Government High School.	Muhammadan Hostel.	185	15
3	(a) Pandit Jitendra Nath Bidyabhusan.	Sanskrit Teacher, Sunamganj Government High School.	Hindu Hostel	130	25
	(b) Maulavi Masaddar Ali Choudhury.	Assistant Master, Sunamganj Government High School.	Muhammadan Hostel.	125	15
4	(a) Pandit Purna Ch. Sastri.	Head Pandit, Maulvibazar Government High School.	Hindu Hostel	200	15
	(b) Maulavi Ahmadur Rahman.	Classical Teacher, Maulvibazar Government High School.	Muhammadan Hostel.	87	15

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PARTICULARS OF THE HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS—*concl'd.*

Serial No.	Name of resident Superintendent	Designation	Hostels	Present pay	Hostel allowance according to sliding scale
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Rs.
5	(a) Babu Sarada Ch. Bhatta- charjya.	Assistant Head Master, Karim-ganj Govern-ment High School.	Hindu Hostel	230	15
	(b) Maulavi Abduk Alim.	Assistant Master, Karimganj Govern-ment High School.	Muhammadan Hostel.	87.	15.
6	(a) Babu Kanta Das Sena- pati, L.T.	Assistant Master, Silchar Govern-ment High School.	Hindu Hostel	165	25.
	(b) Maulavi Maha- sin Ali Barbhuiya, B.A., B.T.	Ditto ..	Muhammadan Hostel.	145	15.
7	Babu Pramada Charan Banerjee, M.A., B.T.	Headmaster (a) Government Victoria Memorial High School, Haila- kandi.	School Hostel	350	15.
8	(a) U Subodh Roy	(b) Assistant Master, Shillong Government High School.	Superintendent, Earle Hostel.	195	50
	(b) U Deng Rowland Pohishna.	Ditto ditto	Assistant Su- perintendent, Earle Hostel.	91	15.
	(c) U P. G. Gatphoh	Ditto ditto	Superintendent, Jaiaw Hostel.	66	20

(a) He has since been transferred to the Normal School, Silchar, as its Superintendent. Babu Jamini Kumar Bhattacharjya is now the Headmaster and Superintendent of the school. His present pay is Rs.225.

There are no quarters for the Superintendent in the hostel. The Headmaster's quarters are a few yards from the hostel in the same compound. It is for this reason that the Headmaster is allowed to act as Superintendent.

(b) One outsider Babu B. K. Das works as 2nd Superintendent, Earle Hostel and gets Rs.20 per mensem from Government.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PARTICULARS OF THE HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE ASSAM VALLEY

Serial No.	Name of resident Superintendent	Designation	Hostels	Present pay	Hostel allowance according to sliding scale
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs. a. p.	Rs.
1	Srijut Indreswar Barthakur, B.A.	Headmaster, Government High School, North Lakhimpur.	Hindu and Muhammadan Hostels.	300 0 0	25
2	Srijut Sasi Kanta Sarma, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Government High School, Dibrugarh.	Hindu Hostel	180 0 0	25
3	(a) Srijut Bhabadhar Thakur.	Assistant Master, Government High School, Sibsagar.	Hindu „	185 0 0	15
	(b) Maulvi Md. Khair.	Ditto ditto	Moslem „	54 0 0	10
4	(a) Srijut Lakhinath Dutta, B.Sc., B.T.	Assistant Master, Government High School, Jorhat.	Hindu „	125 0 0	25
	(b) Maulavi Sherifuddin Ahmed, B.Sc., B.T.	Ditto ditto	Moslem „	95 0 0	15
5	(a) Srijut Golap Chandra Borbo- ra, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Head- master, Go- vernment Bez- barua High School, Gola- ghat.	Hindu „	210 0 0	15
	(b) Maulavi Syed Imdad Hussain.	Assistant Master, Government Bezbarua High School, Gola- ghat.	Moslem „	66 0 0	10
6	(a) Srijut Khireswar Sarma, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Government High School, Nowgong.	Hindu „	180 0 0	15
	(b) Maulavi Saha- buddin, M.A.	Ditto ditto	Moslem „	75 0 0	15
7	Srijut Gokul Chan- dra Barua, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Government High School Tezpur.	Hindu „	155 0 0	25

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PARTICULARS OF THE HOSTEL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE ASSAM VALLEY—*concl'd.*

Serial No.	Name of resident Superintendent	Designation	Hostels	Present pay	Hostel allowance according to sliding scale
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs. a. p.	Rs.
8	(a) Srijut Hareswar Sarma, B.A., B.T.	Assistant Master, Government High School, Mangaldai.	Hindu Hostel	155 0 0	25
	(b) Maulavi Ishahaque Ali, B.A.	Ditto ditto	Moslem „	120 0 0	15
	(c) Srijut Gauri Kanta Barpujari.	Ditto ditto	Basha „	70 0 0	15
9	(a) Srijut Lakheswar Sarma Barua, B.A., B.T.	Headmaster, Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati.	Hindu „	237 8 0	35
	(b) Srijut Bhudhar Goswami.	Assistant Master, Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati.	Assistant Superintendent, Hindu Hostel.	87 0 0	10
	(c) Maulavi Syed Abdul Quddus.	Classical Master, Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati.	Moslem Hostel	83 0 0	15
10	(a) Srijut G. C. Roy Chaudhury, B. A., L. T.	Headmaster, Government High School, Barpeta.	Hindu „	262 8 0	15
	(b) Maulavi Md. Hifzullah, B. A.	Classical Teacher, Government High School, Barpeta.	Moslem „	180 0 0	15
11	Srijut Kamala Kanta Bhuyan, B. A., B.T.	Headmaster, Government High School, Goalpara.	Hindu and Garo Hostel.	250 0 0	35
12	(a) Babu Kadareswar Das Gupta, B.Sc., B.T.	Headmaster, Government High School, Dhubri.	Hindu and Bodo Hostel.	237 8 0	35
	(b) Maulavi Mamtazus Samad.	Classical Teacher, Government High School, Dhubri.	Moslem Hostel	175 0 0	15

Appointment of Srijut Surendra Nath Das, B.Sc., as a Science Teacher

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*65. (a) Is it a fact that one Srijut Surendra Nath Das, B.Sc., was appointed a Science Teacher under a mistaken impression that he had passed B. Sc. with Distinction ?

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

- (i) Whether this particular appointment was made on the recommendations or orders of the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Education or by the Director of Public Instruction ?
- (ii) Whether the candidate represented either verbally or in writing that he had passed B. Sc., with Distinction ?
- (iii) Whether there is anything in the file relating to this appointment to show that any one other than the candidate made that representation ?
- (iv) When the mistake was brought to the notice of the Government and by whom ; and what action was taken against the person responsible for the mistake ?
- (v) Whether it is a fact that all other persons appointed as Science Teachers excepting Srijut Surendra Nath Das were either B.Sc. with Honours or B.Sc. with Distinction ?
- (vi) If so, do Government propose to ask Srijut Surendra Nath Das to vacate his post now ?
- (vii) Whether it is a fact that Kamal Chandra Mohanta of Barpeta subdivision who had passed B.Sc. with Honours and Mr. Khamseng Marak who had passed B.Sc. with Distinction and had previous teaching experience, applied for the same ?
- (viii) Whether the said Srijut Surendra Nath Das had any previous teaching experience ?
- (ix) Whether the said Srijut Surendra Nath Das, before his appointment as Science Teacher, rendered any service to the present Ministry in any way ?
- (x) If so, what were those services ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

65. (a)—Yes. At the time of his appointment it was understood that he had passed B. Sc. with Distinction.

(b) (i)—The late Hon'ble Prime Minister who was then in charge of Education desired that the Director of Public Instruction should appoint Srijut Surendra Nath Das as one of the Science teachers. In his letter dated the 1st April 1939 to the Director of Public Instruction by which he expressed this desire, the late Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that Srijut Surendra Nath Das had passed B. Sc. with Distinction. In the circumstances the Director of Public Instruction appointed him as he had also necessary qualifications of a teacher.

(ii)—No such representation was made to the Director of Public Instruction by the candidate either verbally or in writing. It is however not known whether a representation to that effect was made by the candidate to the late Hon'ble Prime Minister who informed the Director of Public Instruction that he had passed B. Sc. with Distinction.

(iii)—Yes, the letter dated the 1st April 1939 addressed by late Hon'ble Prime Minister to the Director of Public Instruction.

(iv)—The fact that Srijut Surendra Nath Das had not passed B.Sc. with Distinction was published in certain newspapers; the candidate also reported the fact in a letter addressed to the Inspector of Schools. As the appointment was made under the direction of the late Hon'ble Prime Minister no action could be taken against anyone.

(v)—No. Three other candidates from the Assam Valley districts were appointed although they had not passed B.Sc. with Honours or Distinction. One was a Muhammadan, another belonged to the Scheduled Caste and the third had passed B.T.

(vi)—The matter is under consideration.

(vii)—No application was received from Srijut Kamal Chandra Mohanta or Mr. Khamseng Marak.

(viii)—No.

(ix) and (x)—Assuming that by the words "present Ministry" the hon. member is referring to the last Ministry, the reply is that this Government has no information.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to 65(b), will the Hon'ble Minister kindly read that letter which is on his file?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I do not consider it desirable to read the letter to the House.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Even if the Hon'ble Minister does not read the letter may I ask him to let the House know the main purport of the letter?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The main purport of the letter is in the answer, what more does the hon. member require?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What particular recommendation was made by the late Hon. Premier to the Director of Public Instruction. The House will know that there were certain other distinguished graduates also, and their claims were thrown out and an ordinary graduate was appointed in preference to Honours graduates.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is in the answer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: But what particular reason was there to appoint that man in preference to other better candidates? I want to have that letter read to the House.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have already given the substance of the letter, and the answer given is quite full and there is nothing to add.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May we know whether candidates were not required to submit petitions for this post?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Of course, applications were invited.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Was not the qualification of the candidate given in that petition?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That has been answered. There was nothing in the application of the candidate to the effect that he passed B.Sc. with Distinction.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: He did not represent that he passed B.Sc. with Distinction and that wrong information was given in the letter of my predecessor.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: That is to say the Director of Public Instruction has acted on the letter of the Premier?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That goes without saying.

Question enquiring whether any Minister belongs to Muslim League

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

- *66. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers of the present Cabinet are members of the Muslim League ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to name them ?
- *67. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers of the present Cabinet hold any office of the Assam Provincial Muslim League and the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to name them as well as the office held by them ?
- *68. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether the present Ministry of Assam is a Muslim League Ministry ?
 (b) Whether the programme of the present Ministry is guided or influenced by the Central or the Provincial Muslim League ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

66. (a) and (b)—All the Muslim members of the Cabinet are members of the Muslim League.

67. (a) and (b)—The Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Public Works Department are respectively the President and Secretary of the Assam Provincial Muslim League. They are also members of the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League.

68. (a)—No, the very personnel of the Cabinet demonstrates that it is a Coalition Ministry.

(b)—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Am I to understand that this is a League Coalition Ministry ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir.

Conditions given by the Prime Minister to His Excellency the Governor before the formation of the present Ministry

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

- *69. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla when called upon to form the Ministry, after the resignation of the Congress Coalition Ministry, expressed to a Press representative that he might form the Ministry if four conditions were fulfilled?
 (b) If so, what those conditions were and whether those conditions were fulfilled ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

69.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question (starred question No.9) by Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri at this session.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What is the harm or delicacy in disclosing the conditions proposed by the Premier ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There was absolutely no condition.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table).

Amount spent in connection with the Retrenchment Committee

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

1. Will Government be pleased to state—
 - (a) The total amount of money that was spent on the Retrenchment Committee ?
 - (b) Whether the Committee submitted any report ?
 - (c) If so what steps the Government have taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

- 1.(a)—Rupees 8,096.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to the Starred questions No. 13(b) and (c) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at this session of the Assembly.

Amount of travelling allowance drawn by each Minister of the Congress-Coalition Ministry since their assumption of office

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

2. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each Minister since their assumption of office—the amount to be shown separately for tours both within and outside the province and the purpose of each journey ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

2. The question presumably relates to the last Ministry. A statement showing the amount drawn up to 15th November 1939 is laid on the Library table.

Recommendations of the Line System Enquiry Committee

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

3. Will Government be pleased to state—
 - (a) What action, if any, they propose to take on the recommendations of the Line System Enquiry Committee ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that owing to the publication of anti-Bengali Report of the Line System Committee by the Assam Provincial Congress Committee, there is a great sensation and nervousness among the immigrants ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to take any action according to the recommendations of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee to stop immigration and take some such steps as recommended by the Committee ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

- 3.(a) and (c)—The matter is still under consideration.
 (b)—Government have no information.

Joint Public Service Commission with Bengal

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

4.(a) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal was willing to co-operate with the Government of Assam in having a joint Public Service Commission ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons that led the Government of Assam to appoint a separate Public Service Commission ?

(c) Do Government propose to reopen this question and to have a joint Public Service Commission with Bengal ?

5. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the recommendations of the Public Service Commission are mandatory on the Government or the Commission is a purely advisory body ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission is frequently asked by the Government to revise its recommendation and the process is repeated till the Commission is compelled to recommend the particular candidate whom any Minister has in view ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health verbally ordered the Commission through the Director of Public Health to follow a certain policy in making the selection for appointment of Assistant Surgeons recently ?

(d) If so, whether the Hon'ble Minister could issue such orders and if he was acting on behalf of Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

4.(a) and (b)—There was correspondence and as the Assembly was informed at the August Session, 1937, no terms acceptable on financial and administrative grounds were proposed by the Government of Bengal.

(c)—No such suggestion is before Government.

5.(a)—It is an advisory body.

(b)—No.

(c)—The question concerns a former Minister. The record does not support the suggestion contained therein.

(d)—Does not arise.

Post of the Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

6. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The names of the Assistant Surgeons who have held the post of Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals up-to-date ?
 - (b) What is the usual term of each Personal Assistant ?
 - (c) How long the present Personal Assistant held this office ?
 - (d) When is he normally due to be transferred from this ?
 - (e) Has he been granted any extension ?
 - (f) If so, why ?
- 7.—In view of the fact that no Moslem Assistant Surgeon was ever appointed as Personal Assistant, do Government propose to appoint a Moslem to that post when the present incumbent's term expires ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

- 6.(a)—1. Dr. Paresh Chandra Guha.
2. Dr. Kumudini Kanta Banarji.
3. Dr. Dibakar Hazarika.
- (b)—Three or four years.
(c)—Since 1st August 1936.
(d)—Within one year from 1st August, 1939.
(e)—No.
(f)—Does not arise.
7. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Head Maulavi of Katarihara Majaharul-Ulum Senior Madrassa in the district of Goalpara

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

8. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The periods of leave taken by the Head Maulavi of Katarihara Majaharul-Ulum Senior Madrassa in the district of Goalpara in the year 1938-39, with pay and without pay to be shown separately ?
 - (b) Whether Government received any representation to the effect that due to the incapacity of the Head Maulavi to teach efficiently, there is a constant friction between him and the residents of the locality and the students ?
 - (c) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove the grievance of the people ?
 - (d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have any objection in retaining the services of the said Maulana because of the fact that he is a Bengalee ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

8.(a)—From 15th October, 1938 to 30th November, 1938 on full pay.
From 2nd January, 1939 for two months—on full pay.
From 2nd March, 1939 for 1½ months—without pay.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise as the said Maulana belongs to Sylhet.

Inspection of a bund between Lakhipur and Fakirganj by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

9. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether he promised to locally inspect the bund between Lakhipur and Fakirganj in connection with a cut motion of mine in the last Budget Session ?

(b) Whether he proposes to visit that place ?

(c) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

9.(a)—Yes, the promise was made by the late Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—As soon as possible.

Re Length of Service of Bani Kanta Das, a Naib, at Jamaderhat in the Mechpara Wards' Estate

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

10. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The length of service of Bani Kanta Das, a Naib, at Jamaderhat in the Mechpara Wards' Estate ?

(b) The number of times he was suspended during his tenure of service ?

(c) Whether since his posting to Jamaderhat he had been persecuting the Projas there ?

(d) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the agitation carried out by the Projas of that place for his transfer from there ?

(e) If so, what steps do Government propose to take on this ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

10.(a)—22 years, 2 months and 20 days (upto 30th June 1939).

(b)—On two occasions.

(c) and (d)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question No. 1148 (a) and (b) asked by him at the December 1938 Session published at pages 1069-70 of Part VIA of the *Assam Gazette* dated the 8th February 1939.

(e)—The Naib has been transferred since.

Pipulbari Lower Primary School under the Dhubri Local Board

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

11. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) When the Pipulbari Lower Primary School under the Dhubri Local Board was established ?
 - (b) When the Local Board sanctioned grant to this school ?
 - (c) Why the Moslem teacher of this school was removed from service ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

11. (a)—First March 1934.
 (b)—From 1st December 1937.
 (c)—The Muslim teacher of the school Maulavi Maniruddin was replaced by the Board by a qualified teacher belonging to the subdivision though he was repeatedly asked to do so and because he was found neglecting his duties.
 Maulavi Maniruddin was only a temporary teacher and he was not even domiciled in the province.

Posts of Divisional Accountants in the Province

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

12. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The total number of posts of Divisional Accountants in this Province ?
 - (b) Out of the existing incumbents how many are—
 - (i) Surma Valley Hindus,
 - (ii) Assam Valley Hindus,
 - (iii) Surma Valley Moslems,
 - (iv) Assam Valley Moslems,
 - (v) Tribal.
 - (c) What is the share of each community in this service ?
 - (d) Whether any community is under-represented in this service according to the share allotted to each ?
 - (e) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to make up the deficiency of any community in this particular service ?
 - (f) What are the qualifications required of candidates for appointment as Divisional Accountants ?
 - (g) Whether the Subordinate Accounts Service examination Part II is considered as equivalent to the Divisional Accountantship Examination ?
 - (h) If there is any order of the Auditor General to this effect ?
 - (i) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to give effect to this ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

12. (a)—The total number of posts is 13 of which 10 are permanent and 3 temporary.

(b)—The following table shows the communal composition of the service—

(i)—Surma Valley Hindus	...	...	8
(ii)—Assam Valley Hindus	...	...	Nil
(iii)—Surma Valley Moslems	...	...	Nil
(iv)—Assam Valley Moslems	...	...	2
(v)—Tribal	...	...	1
(vi)—Hindus of Bengal	...	...	2

(c)—The representation of various communities in this service is regulated by the orders of the Government of India. In order to give effect to the policy of reservation of vacancies for minority communities, vacancies are divided into groups of twelve and distributed as follows:—

Muslims	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other minority communities	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unreserved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total						12

The vacancies are filled according to the following cyclic order:—

a—a—b ——— a—b—c ——— a—a—b ——— a—a—b

where "a" means unreserved, "b" means Muslims, "c" means other minority communities. There is no reservation for Valleys or Tribal areas.

(d) and (e)—The Government of India's communal formula is applicable to recruitment only and not to the total strength or personnel of any service. The formula is strictly applied in filling vacancies and no community recognised under the above quoted formula is under-represented in respect of vacancies filled since the formula came into force.

(f)—Subject to such exceptions as may have been authorised by the Auditor General, candidates for appointment as Divisional Accountants must have passed the "Public Examination qualifying for Admission to the Cadre of Divisional Accountants" and may, subject to certain conditions laid down by the Auditor General, be recruited from one of the following sources by the Comptroller:—

- (1) Clerks employed in Divisional and Subdivisional offices of the Public Works Department, who are recommended by the authorities of that Department as suitable for appointment as Divisional Accountants.
- (2) Clerks employed in the Audit Office.
- (3) Graduates of the Indian Universities and other persons considered suitable on account of their special qualifications.

(g), (h) and (i)—The passing of the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination confers a much higher qualification than the passing of the Divisional Test. The Assam Government have agreed to an arrangement by which Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks of the Comptroller's office may hold temporary charge of Public Works Divisions, while three permanent posts in the Comptroller's office are reserved for non-Subordinate Accounts Service passed Divisional Accountants.

Establishment of a dispensary at Pailgaon

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

13.(a) Is it a fact that the people of Pailgaon under the Police Station Jagonnathpur sent a petition to Government about a year ago for the establishment of a dispensary at Pailgaon ?

(b) Is it a fact that the landlords of Pailgaon, agreed to pay Rs.6,000 in cash for the purpose ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the dispensary has not yet been established ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

13.(a)—Only a copy of a petition dated the 29th December 1937 addressed to the Chairman, Sunamganj Local Board was received.

(b)—It appeared to be so from the copy of the petition received.

(c)—This is a matter entirely for the Local Board to deal with.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : With reference to the answer to (c) may I ask whether the Government enquired of the Chairman, Local Board, Sunamganj, if any action has been taken for the establishment of a dispensary at Pailgaon ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : No, Government do not think it necessary to ask him.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Did Government make any arrangement for establishing a subsidised dispensary by now ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Certain conditions are necessary to be fulfilled before a subsidised dispensary could be established. And if the people of the locality come forward with a petition then it will be for the Government to consider.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI : Are Government aware that I myself promised a donation to the Sunamganj Local Board for the establishment of a dispensary and the Local Board refused the offer with thanks ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : So it appeared from the petition received by the Sunamganj Local Board a copy of which was sent to Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Why was it rejected, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Government cannot answer that question which is a concern of the Local Board.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Did the Local Board assign any reasons for the rejection ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : We do not know what they did. We received only a copy of the petition and nothing else.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Did the Government enquire into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : No.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will Government enquire into the reasons ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I do not think it is the business of the Government to enquire into matters which are purely within the competence of the Local Board.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government deny their responsibility in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Government have got very little power over the Local Boards in these matters. They cannot force the Local Boards to act in any other way.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Particularly when they are getting a big donation is it not the concern of the Government to enquire why the Local Board is refusing to establish the dispensary ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : For rural areas the Local Board concerned is to make necessary arrangement for supply of medicines or the establishment of a dispensary. So, I do not think it is the business of the local Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Even if the Local Board is found to be callous to its own duties ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : It is I think the concern of the Public Health Department.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is Public Health Department under the Government, Sir *(laughter)* ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Yes, it is.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In that case is it not the duty of the Government to enquire into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I do not think any petition has been submitted to the Government for that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Did the Local Board approach the Government in this matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister said a minute ago that the Government has received a petition ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : That is only a copy of the petition that has been submitted to the Chairman of the Local Board, Sunamganj.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is that not sufficient for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I do not think so.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Then what kind of petition does the Government want ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This is cross-examining.

Transfers and postings of Excise Staff in the Sylhet District

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

14.(a) Is it a fact that Maulavi Waisuddin Ahmed, Sub-Inspector of Excise at Sylhet was under order of transfer, when the last Cabinet resigned ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why he has been retained there after the assumption of office by the new Cabinet ?

(c) Did the Commissioner of Excise ask the Government for the aforesaid retention ?

(d) If not, will Government be pleased to state who asked for the retention of this officer there ?

15.(a) Are Government aware that Maulavi Mokbul Ali and Maulavi Gulam Wasid, Inspectors of Excise have been posted in their own native Subdivisions ?

(b) Is it a fact that they were under orders of transfer and such orders were cancelled subsequently ?

(c) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

14. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—In the interest of public service.
 (c)—No.
 (d)—Does not arise.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : My question (c) is " Did the Commissioner of Excise ask the Government for the aforesaid retention ? The answer is " No ". I want to ask again who was the officer who ordered the retention ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : The reply to question (d) is "Does not arise", because the transfer orders were revised and cancelled in the interest of public service.

15. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—In the interest of public service.

Improvement of communications both by land and water in Sunamganj Subdivision

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

16. (a) Are Government aware that the people of the southern parts of the police station Jagannathpur are experiencing inconvenience in going to their District Town for bad communication both by water and land ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to arrange with the Steamer Company to have a regular steamer service between Kadirganj and Fenchuganj ?

(c) Do Government propose to extend the Sunamganj-Jagannathpur Road up to Inathganj to be connected with Nabiganj-Habiganj Road ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

16. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Steamer Companies who were addressed in the matter state that whilst the Fenchuganj-Markoli (Kadirganj) and Fenchuganj-Markoli-Bhairab services have proved to be unremunerative in the past, they will in future endeavour (subject to steamers being available) to maintain connecting services with their Narayanganj-Bhairab-Chhatak Service throughout the year. During the rainy season the steamers maintaining the latter service ply *via* the Shaitan Khal and call at Markoli whilst during the dry season months the vessels run *via* the Itna route, the junction station being Dilalpur.

(c)—No, it is a matter for the Sunamganj Local Board.

Harassment by the Forest Department on one Rusen Ali of Baniagaon, under Tahirpur Police Station

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

17. (a) Do Government propose to enquire and state if one Rusen Ali of Baniagaon, under the police station Tahirpur, brought a log of wood of *rata* species from a Khasi Siem after due payment and was not allowed to take it home by the Ranger, Doloigao inspite of offer of due payment of royalty ?

(b) Is it a fact that the aforesaid log of wood was not given to the said Rusen Ali as he refused to pay an extra sum of Rs.5 to the Ranger, Doloigao, over and above the payment of royalty due ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

17.(a)—Government have already received a report on the matter. There was no proof of origin of the *rata* log, and it was the subject of a theft case brought by the Siem's agent. The trying Magistrate ordered the confiscation of the log.

(b)—No.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Will Government be pleased to enquire whether the case against Rusen Ali was instituted at the instigation of the Ranger ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: It is a new question, Sir.

Visit of the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department to Dibrugarh

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

18. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department visited Dibrugarh in the month of December 1939 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the purpose of this visit and the place visited by him ?

(c) Whether the Hon'ble Minister saw the erosion of the Brahmaputra river in the town ?

(d) If so, what steps have been taken to prevent the erosion ?

(e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

18.(a)—No, he passed through Dibrugarh on his way to Digboi.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d) and (e)—Hon. member is referred to answer given to his starred questions 31(a) and (b) and 32(a) and (b), at this session of the Assembly.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister halted at Dibrugarh on his way to Digboi ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I spent half an hour at Dibrugarh with a cousin of mine.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it not a fact that he granted interviews to some officers there ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I did not.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it not a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Dibrugarh, visited him in the Circuit House ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir.

Birth rate in Assam

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

19. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether birth rate in Assam is increasing or decreasing ?

(b) If increasing, what steps the Government is taking to check it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

19.(a)—The birth rate calculated on the basis of recorded statistics is not increasing.

(b)—Does not arise.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know whether the birth rate is increasing ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The record does not show that it is increasing or decreasing.

Traffic Sergeant of Shillong

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

20. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What salary the Traffic Sergeant of Shillong is now drawing ?
 (b) What house allowance per month he draws ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

- 20.(a)—Rupees 150 per mensem in the grade of Rs.150—5/2—200.
 (b)—Rupees 25 in lieu of free quarters.

Enquiry into the Land Revenue condition in the permanently-settled areas of Assam

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

21. With reference to the reply given by Government to question No. 250(a) and (b) in the last March-April Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the result of the enquiry made from the Government of Bengal as to whether the Revenue Inquiry Commission (Bengal) will be able to take up the question of revenue condition in the permanently-settled areas of Assam ?
 (b) If the reply is in the negative, do Government propose to take steps on similar lines as in Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

21. (a)—The Government of Bengal have regretted that it will not be practicable for the Land Revenue Commission to undertake an enquiry into the land revenue system of Assam.

(b)—Government have therefore decided to await the Committee's recommendations in regard to Bengal and would consider them in the light of the conditions prevailing in Sylhet and Goalpara.

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: May I know whether Government think it necessary to institute an early enquiry into the land revenue system in the permanently-settled estates of Assam?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As has been indicated in the reply, that will be considered after the report is received from Bengal.

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: When can we expect the report of the Revenue Commission from Bengal Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I think it is already out.

Kukurmara Forest Depot

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

22. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forest Department enquired personally into the matter of eviction in connection with the Kukurmara Forest Depot?

(b) If so, whether any final order has been passed in the matter?

(c) Do Government propose to safeguard the interests of the local timber merchants from outside aggressions?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

22. (a)—The then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge visited the place in May last and made an enquiry.

(b)—No final decision. The disposal of this property will be considered when its value is reported.

(c)—Yes.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: I want to know what is this eviction mentioned in question 22(a).

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The questioner knows that better.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Is it connected with anything else?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think the hon. member who put the question knows it better.

Question re pay and uniform of literate and ordinary constables

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

23. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the literate constables get the same pay as that of the ordinary constables?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give the former an advance increment in consideration of their work and qualification?

(c) Do Government propose to maintain a distinction in the uniforms of these two classes of constables?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

23. (a)—There is no such rank as 'literate constable' as distinct from the ordinary constables. A large number of constables are literate.

(b) and (c)—No. The literate men must do the same work as others and the question of a differentiation in uniforms does not arise.

Opening of additional centres for treatment of Leprosy

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

24. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Public Health Department aware that in the northern side of the Mangaldai Subdivision, there are innumerable cases of leprosy and that this disease is rapidly spreading itself for want of treatment and any serious attempt to check it ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to open a few centres, for treatment of those victims, in the said locality ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to direct an enquiry and ascertain the actual state of affairs there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

24. (a), (b) and (c)—The area was once surveyed for leprosy, *kala-azar*, yaws and tuberculosis. Seven treatment centres are already functioning there. This number is reported to be sufficient. A fresh survey is however being undertaken and if this discloses the necessity of opening additional centres, they will be opened.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May we know when the proposed survey is going to be held ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The survey is "being undertaken," so it is being done just now.

Proposal to divert the course of the Barlia river by the eastern boundary of the upper Barbhag Mauza

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

25. (a) Has the Hon'ble Revenue Minister received a copy of a resolution of a public meeting held on 11th August 1939 at Arangmau village in the Upper Barbhag Mauza, in the Kamrup district under the presidency of Srijut Hriday Ch. Patowari, conveying a proposal to divert the course of the Barlia river by the eastern boundary of the said Upper Barbhag Mauza.

(b) If so, do Government propose to give effect to such a project ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to depute some expert officer to examine the scheme and to take necessary steps for its fulfilment ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

25. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have decided to place the proposal before the Irrigation Department, when such a Department comes into existence, for consideration.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May we know when the Irrigation Department is going to be started ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : From April next.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

25. (c)—Does not arise.

Establishment of a Veterinary School at Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

26. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Veterinary Department aware that the youths of Assam do not get necessary scope for study in the Veterinary College in Bengal ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to open a Veterinary School in the premises of the Gauhati Veterinary Hospital ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

26. (a)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—The reply is in the negative, as the cost will be prohibitive.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Are any seats reserved for the Assamese candidates in the Veterinary College, Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: What is the number, please ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: This Government makes a representation to the Bengal Government for reserving a number of seats for our students.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Were any seats reserved last year ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I have not seen the file but this has been the practice.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: What will be the approximate cost of establishing a Veterinary School at Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It would involve several lakhs of rupees.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it by guess or was there any enquiry made ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No enquiry was thought necessary as the question was apparent.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister let us know roughly how many lakhs will be required ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It strikes me that it will be several lakhs and if the hon. member is really serious I will give him an estimate.

Number of leave vacancies that occurred at Goalpara High English School

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

7. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of leave vacancies that occurred at Goalpara High English School from the re-opening date of the last Puja holidays, *viz.*, from 11th October 1938 up-to-date ?

(b) By whom these leave vacancies were created ?

(c) The local arrangements made in respect of those leave vacancies ?

- (d) Whether the local arrangements made by the Head Master, Goalpara High English School, received sanction of the Department concerned ?
- (e) If not, for what reasons ?
- (f) Who were appointed by the Education Department to act in those leave vacancies and in what grade of the Assam School Service ?
- (g) Whether Srijut Dharendra Lal Das (Scheduled) was appointed to act in the leave vacancy created by Babu Satyendra Kumar Chakravarty, B. A., of class III of the Assam School Service by the Education Department Notification No.469-A., dated the 24th October 1938, published in the *Assam Gazette* ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that Srijut Dharendra Lal Das, having come to learn of his appointment, from the Gazette Notification, approached the Head Master of the Goalpara High English School on the 30th October 1938, and expressed his desire to the Head Master to join his appointment from the following day, viz., from 31st October 1938 ?
- (i) Whether the Head Master of the Goalpara High English School expelled Srijut Dharendra Lal Das from his presence, behaving roughly with him ?
- (j) Whether it is in practice that an appointment letter is officially issued by the Departmental authorities to the Head Master of the High School concerned, for the appointment of a candidate in any leave vacancy ?
- (k) If so, whether it is the duty of the Head Master also to inform the candidate of his appointment by referring to him the order of the departmental authority ?
- (l) Whether any appointment letter for the appointment of Srijut Dharendra Lal Das, was issued by the Department to the Head Master, Goalpara High English School, prior to the publication of the appointment in the local official Gazette under Notification No.469-A., dated the 24th October 1938 ?
- (m) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Head Master, Goalpara High English School informed Srijut Dharendra Lal Das of his appointment, before he could know of it from the Gazette Notification ?
28. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether Srijut Dharendra Lal Das was ever presented with a copy of the appointment letter of the Department by the Head Master, Goalpara High English School ?
- (b) If so, when ?
29. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the copy of the letter by the Head Master of the Goalpara High English School, addressed to Srijut Dharendra Lal Das on the 31st October 1938 ?
30. Will Government be pleased to State—
- (a) At what hour of the day the Head Master sent to him the letter referred to in question 29 above ?
- (b) Whether Srijut Dharendra Lal Das sent a telegram to the Hon'ble Education Minister and another to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, on the forenoon of 31st October 1938 protesting against the conduct of the Head Master towards him ?

- (c) Whether Government received any representation addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, from Maulavi Md. Amjad Ali, M.L.A., on the 8th November 1938, regarding the case of Srijut Dharendra Lal Das ?
- (d) If so, what step has since been taken with regard to that ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Schedule castes of the Goalpara Subdivision and the District, are under-represented in the Assam School Service ?
- (f) Whether Srijut Dharendra Lal Das is the only available scheduled caste candidate for Class III of the Assam School Service from the Goalpara Subdivision ?
- (g) If so, do Government propose to direct the Education Department to give him a suitable appointment at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

27.(a)—Three.

(b) —1. Babu Satyendra Kumar Chakraverty, teacher in class III of the Assam School Service, was on leave for 3 months and 24 days from 11th October 1938.

2. Babu Dharendra Kumar Guha, Bengali teacher, in the Assam Lower School Service was on leave for 21 days from 11th October 1938 to 31st October 1938.

3. Srijut Bipin Chandra Ghose, Assistant Master in the Assam Lower School Service was on leave for 19 days from 6th January 1939.

(c)—1. Babu Sachindra Lal Das Gupta, B. A., acted for 21 days from 11th October 1938 to 31st October 1938.

2. Srijut Dharendra Lal Das, B. A., B. L., acted for 26 days from 9th January 1939 to 3rd February 1939.

Srijut Reboti Mohan Das officiated from 11th October 1938 to 31st October 1938.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Babu Sachindra Lal Das Gupta, B. A. and Srijut Dharendra Lal Das, B. L., were appointed to act against the leave vacancies in class III of the Assam School Service and Srijut Reboti Mohan Das in the Assam Lower School Service.

(g)—Yes.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The order was dated 24th October 1938, published in the *Assam Gazette* and Srijut Dharendra Lal Das had to wait to join the post till 9th February 1939. How could it happen ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I want notice of that question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The Hon'ble Minister possibly did not understand my question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He must have understood the question. When he says that he wants notice, it must not be presumed that he has not understood the question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The answer is there, but I think only certain elucidation is required. My point is the order of appointment was dated 24th October 1938, and he joined only on 9th February 1939. I want to know why he came to officiate as such after the lapse of three months ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am not ready with that information.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

27. (h)—Yes. But he did not express his desire as stated in the question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The answer is "Yes. But he did not express his desire as stated in the question." It is admitted that Srijut Dharendra Lal Das approached the Head Master on receiving certain information that such an order was published in the Gazette. How is it that he did not express his desire to officiate as such?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That is better known to him.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Let the House know the attitude of the Government. If a certain teacher,.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is that a question, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is not to start a discussion. He will please put a question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: It is not a discussion but it is question pure and simple.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As he please, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please put a question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I will do it, Sir. It is stated in the answers that he approached the Head Master after the Gazette Notification. Why did he go to the Head Master, if the application was not willing to serve as a Teacher?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is argumentative.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Probably, the hon. member's attention has not been drawn to the copy of letters and remarks given in the answer which was addressed to Srijut Dhirendralal Das. The letter is "If you are willing to serve as substitute for Babu Satyendra Kumar Chakravarty, B.A., B.T., Assistant Master of my School, you may join to-morrow in the forenoon". Then the Head Master made the following remarks which is as follows—"This letter was sent thrice to Srijut Dhirendralal Das, B.L., and thrice he refused to accept it. He opened the letter and saw its contents."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Can the Hon'ble Minister for Education guarantee that actually this letter reached the candidate or was it lying in the Head Master's office?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have given information as I received them.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the gentleman concerned did not actually receive the order from the Head Master?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The House is not to decide between the statements of the hon. member and the statement of the Head Master. The fact is that the Head Master sent the order to the candidate.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister takes the Head Master's statement as correct. Let him take it from me that he did not receive the letter at all.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

27. (i)—No.

(j)—Yes.

(k)—Yes, when a copy of the orders is not directly sent by the Inspector or the Director of Public Instruction to the candidate concerned.

(l)—No.

(m)—The Headmaster was on casual leave for a few days in the last week of October. As in the interest of the school further change or the adjustment of the appointment was not at all necessary till the afternoon of 31st October when one of the permanent incumbents was expected to resume his work, the Headmaster had to seek further instruction during this leave period from the Inspector of Schools in regard to the appointment of Srijut Dharendra Lal Das, B. L. Hence the question of appointing this candidate had to be deferred for three days.

28. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

29.—A copy of the letter is laid on the table.

D. O. No.746.

P. R. GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, GOALPARA

Dated Goalpara, the 31st October 1938.

Dear Sir,

If you are willing to serve as substitute for Babu Satyendra Kumar Chakravarty, B.A., B.T., Assistant Master of my school, you may join to-morrow in the forenoon.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) I. BARTHAKUR,

Headmaster,

P. R. Government High School, Goalpara.

To

Srijut Dhirendralal Das, B.L., Goalpara.

True Copy.

(Sd.) I. BARTHAKUR,

Headmaster,

Government High School, Goalpara.

This letter was sent thrice to Srijut Dhirendralal Das, B.L. and thrice he refused to accept it.

He opened the letter and saw its contents.

(Sd.) I. BARTHAKUR,

Headmaster.

30. (a)—In the afternoon of 31st October.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The subject-matter of the representation was the same as put forward in the above questions.

Maulavi Md. Amjad Ali, M.L.A., requested in conclusion to allow Srijut Dhirendra Lal Das to join the acting appointment. This was done; and Srijut Dhirendra Lal Das acted in the vacancy from 9th January to 3rd February 1939.

(e)—The representation in these appointments is not on district or subdivisional basis, but for the whole Division.

(f)—Government have no information.

(g)—This candidate was already over-age when he applied for a Government post in the Education Department. He was given a few chances to act in the Government High School, Goalpara, because he belonged to a scheduled caste.

The Headmaster was however not satisfied with his work.

Utilisation of the services of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and disposal of his office staff

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

31.(a) Will Government be pleased to state in what way the services of the Commissioner of Surma Valley are being utilised after the abolition of the post ?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state what savings would be effected within this financial year by the abolition of one post of Commissioner ?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether all the assistants and clerks, attached to the office of the Commissioner, Surma Valley Division, have been provided in some other offices ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

31.(a)—The question is not understood. The duties of the defunct post have been distributed between the Secretariat, the Revenue Tribunal and other officers. The hon. member is no doubt aware that the former incumbent is now Commissioner of the combined Divisions.

(b)—The actual saving cannot be determined until the close of the year. The estimated saving was Rs.54,236.

(c)—Yes.

Names of persons appointed in place of school teachers deputed for B. T. training at Shillong

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

32. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of persons who have been appointed recently in place of school teachers deputed for B. T. training at Shillong this year ?

(b) Are Government aware that no recruitment was made from the Assam Valley Muhammadans for these deputation vacancies ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

32. (a)—

Surma Valley Division.

- (1) Babu Brojendra Kumar Das, M. A.
- (2) Maulavi Rafiq Ahmed Choudhury, B.A.
- (3) Babu Surendra Kumar Sutradhar, B.A.

Assam Valley Circle.

- (1) Srijut Anandeswar Barua, B.Sc.
- (2) Srijut Harimohan Talukdar, B.Sc.
- (3) Srijut Krishna Ram Sarma, M.A. (Sanskrit).
- (4) Srijut Rama Kanta Goswami.
- (5) Srijut Dandiram Deuri.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that the quota of the Muhammadan representation in the Education Service in the Surma Valley has not yet been filled up?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The hon. member asked me to state the names of the persons appointed. The information wanted in the question has been given.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, my information is that the quota of the Muhammadan representation has not yet been filled up. Why then two appointments have been given to Non-Muhammadan candidates?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Well, Sir I shall make an inquiry about this.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

32. (b)—Government have ascertained the reasons for the non-recruitment of Assam Valley Muhammadans. The reasons are given below:—Two were mathematics teachers and as no Muhammadan B.Sc.'s were available Hindus had to be appointed.

One was Sanskrit teacher and in his place a schedule caste man (M.A. in Sanskrit) was appointed.

The fourth vacancy was in the Kohima Middle English Schools, for a short period. It was filled by the Second Master of the school who knows Angami though an Assamese Hindu.

The deputed Naga Master died in Shillong and in his place another officer was deputed.

His place was filled by a Tribal (of the plains) candidate.

It was therefore not possible to take in a Muhammadan.

Number of beds in the Sylhet Sadar Hospital

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked:

33. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of beds in the Sylhet Sadar Hospital?
- (b) The number of beds in the Gauhati Civil Hospital?
- (c) Are Government aware that many patients are refused seats in the Sylhet Sadar Hospital for want of accommodation?
- (d) Do Government propose to increase the number of beds in the Sylhet Sadar Hospital?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied:

33.(a)—36 (male 28 and female 8).

(b)—86 (male 76 and female 10).

(c)—Yes.

(d)—It is proposed to provide for 16 additional beds for female patients and to utilise the existing female ward of 8 beds for male patients in the Sylhet Civil Hospital.

Expenditure for maintaining extra police force in the Digboi strike area

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

34. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—
- What expenditure was incurred by the Government of Assam for maintaining extra police force in the Digboi strike area ?
 - What was the strength of the Military force at Digboi when the firing on the strikers took place ?
 - Who was in charge of this military force ?

The **Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** replied :

34.(a)—For Police, extra expenditure was approximately Rs.10,650 up to the end of August 1939.

(b)—There was no military force. The strength of the Assam Rifles was 264.

(c)—Lieut. Murray was in charge of the Assam Rifles.

Pituni Mohul of the Bijni Raj Wards' Estate

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

35. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state—
- How much the Bijni Raj Wards' Estate earn from their ' Pituni Mohul ' ?
 - Whether there is any other estate in the Goalpara district where this kind of mohul exists ?
 - Who are the persons that are made to pay this ' pituni-tax ' ?

The **Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** replied :

35.(a)—Rupees 37 (Thirty seven only) during 1345 B.S.

(b) and (c)—The " Pituni Mohul " exists in all estates in the district except Gauripur and Karaibari, and the persons from whom the Pituni Mohul rent is realised are the brick-makers, collectors of stone metals and potters who collect plastic earth from the estate *khas* lands for making earthen-ware.

In the Bijni Raj Wards' Estate, the Hiras of Dchi Barahazari and Dalgoma pay the tax in kind, *i.e.*, they supply earth (Hira Mati) for making Estate puja idols and earthen pots during the Durga Puja festival.

Tax in cash is realised only from the up-country Kumars and other outsiders who take earth for commercial purposes.

Grant of free permit to persons living near the Reserve Forests

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

36. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—
- Whether the concession recently granted to persons living within three miles of the Reserve Forests to get free permits to collect thatching-grass, bamboos, etc., has been extended to all the districts of Assam ?
 - Whether it is a fact that the Garos and other tribal people of the Goalpara subdivision, living near the border of the Garo Hills, are not getting this privilege ?
 - Whether he is aware that the Divisional Forest Officer of the Garo Hills has asked the Ranger of Damra not to extend this privilege to the people living near the Garo Hills ?
 - If so, do Government propose to extend this concession to the people of the Goalpara subdivision also ?
37. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—
- Whether the new rates of royalty that have been prepared for the Garo Hills Division for converted timber have been sanctioned by the Government of Assam ?
 - If not, do Government propose to sanction them at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

36.(a)—The concession referred to by the hon. member was found impracticable without grave difficulties and financial loss to Government ; it was therefore withdrawn, and the subject is engaging consideration on a new basis.

(b) to (d)—Do not arise.

37.(a) and (b)—The proposal is under examination.

Maximum period for which a police officer is retained in a particular station

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The maximum period for which a Deputy Superintendent of Police, an Inspector of Police and a Sub-Inspector of Police may be kept posted to a particular station ?
 - The number of such cases in which the usual period has been exceeded ?
 - The number of officers of the above three ranks who are serving (i) in their own districts and (ii) in their own subdivisions at present ?
 - Whether there is any special allowance attached to the officers of the Criminal Investigation Department ?
 - If so, what are the amounts for the above three ranks respectively ?
 - Whether there are some officers who have been in the Criminal Investigation Department for long periods and are drawing this special allowance ?
 - Whether there is any special reasons as to why others also should not enjoy this benefit ?

39. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table, a statement showing the date of posting to the Criminal Investigation Department of the present staff of the above three ranks, and also the period of any previous service held by any of them in the said Department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

38. (a)—There is no prescribed period for a Deputy Superintendent of Police to remain at any particular station.

Ordinarily no Inspector should remain for more than 10 years in one district, and more than 5 years in one subdivision. When an Inspector has served as a Sub-Inspector in any district, he should not continue as Inspector in that district for more than five years after his promotion.

There is no limit to the period for which a Sub-Inspector may remain in one district. Ordinarily no Sub-Inspector should remain at one police station, Court, Reserve or Town for more than three years ; but the period may be prolonged to four years for special reasons to be recorded as a District Order.

(b)—Nil.

(c)—

Rank	Posted in	
	Own district	Own subdivision
Deputy Superintendents of Police	Nil	Nil.
Inspectors	3	Nil.
Sub-Inspectors	61	Nil.
		The figures are not readily available.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Deputy Superintendents of Police ... Rs.100 per month.

Inspectors Rs.50 "

Sub-Inspectors Rs.30 "

(f)—Yes.

(g)—The allowance is granted on account of the special nature of work and the responsibilities for which only certain officers are suitable.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, it is stated in the answer that the period of service of the Police Inspector in any place is 3 to 4 years. May I inform the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that in certain places the Police Inspectors are staying for more than 3 or 4 years ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member is supplying information to the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My hon. friend is confusing between the Inspector and the Sub-Inspector. Ordinarily the Police Inspectors remain in one station for five years and the Sub-Inspectors, only three or four years.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that a particular officer is working in a particular district for more than five years ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What kind of officer?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: One Inspector is working in a district for more than five years. May I know whether Government is prepared to take immediate action on that?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It will be considered.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sir Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

39.—A statement is placed on the library table.

Sylhet-Dawki Road

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked:

40. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether Government propose to bring the motor service from Sylhet to Dawki (Local motor service) and Dawki to Sylhet under the direct control of Government?
 - Whether Government contemplates to grant monopoly to a particular concern on this road?
 - Whether individual private bus owners of Sylhet are plying their motors for the last 15 years on this road?
 - Whether the buses that ply on this road have six wheels and that the six wheeled buses are unfit for use in any other road of the district?
41. Is it a fact that restrictions have been imposed on bus services of the district of Sylhet?
42. Is it a fact that for the first time, the system of quarterly permit on the Sylhet-Dawki road has been converted into a monthly one?
43. Is it a fact that the people of Jaintia has submitted a memorial to the Ministry praying for the continuation of the existing system of bus service on the Sylhet-Dawki road?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

40. (a)—The future control of traffic will lie with the Transport Authority establishment under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

(b)—Government are unable to anticipate what the decision of the Transport Authority as to the regulation of transport on this road will be.

(c)—Full records for this period are not available, but there may be individuals who have plied for a number of years over a small part of the road.

(d)—Ten are six wheelers and one is a six-wheel truck. It is the weight of the vehicle, however, and not the number of wheels, which determine whether it can be allowed to ply on a particular road.

41.—Yes.

42.—Monthly permits were granted from July 1939, but quarterly permits are now again in force.

43.—Yes.

Removal of the establishment of the Agricultural Demonstrator from the Lakhipur Centre of the Goalpara district

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

44. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—
- Whether Government is aware that there is a proposal for the removal of the establishment of the Agricultural Demonstrator from the Lakhipur centre of the Goalpara District to elsewhere ?
 - Whether Government is aware that this centre is serving a big area from a long time ?
 - Whether Government propose to retain the said establishment at Lakhipur in order to facilitate the Agricultural demonstration work in that area ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

44. (a)—Yes. There were formerly two Agricultural Demonstrators stationed at Lakhipur—one from the Estate and the other from the Department. The Estate Agricultural Demonstrator is meant for general demonstration work and the other for irrigation work. As the number of power pumps this year has been reduced from 4 to 2, one Agricultural Demonstrator is sufficient for general work of the circle, so the Departmental Agricultural Demonstrator has been posted to Dudnai as this locality has been neglected for many years.
- Yes.
 - No.

Petition filed by one Isap Ali Sheik of Lakhipur police station in connection with assault and abuse by Sub-Inspector of Police, Srijut Tanuram Datta

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

45. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether Isap Ali Sheik, an inhabitant of Shaktola-Khanarpar under the police station Lakhipur within the district of Goalpara, filed a petition to the Superintendent of Police, Goalpara, and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Police (through Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, M.L.A.), complaining that he was assaulted, abused and handled by Srijut Tanuram Datta, Sub-Inspector of Police in charge of Lakhipur police station on the 13th of *Paush* in the year 1345 B. S. ?
 - Whether any enquiry was directed to ascertain the truth of the allegation made in the petition ?
 - If so, with what result ?
 - If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

45. (a)—Isap Ali Sheik did not complain, but one Hussain Dewani of village Pakhbirtari under Lakhipur police station complained that he was abused by Sub-Inspector Tanuram Datta in connection with the theft of a cow belonging to Isap Ali Sheik.

(b) and (c)—On enquiry it was found that there was not sufficient evidence in the matter to support the complaints against the Sub-Inspector Tanuram Datta in full, but necessary action was taken for his want of tact in the matter.

(d)—Does not arise.

Road projects approved by the Assam Communication Board for the district of Goalpara from 1st April 1937 till September 1939

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

46. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The road projects approved by the Assam Communication Board for the district of Goalpara from 1st of April 1937 till September 1939 ?

(b) The total number of miles approved by the Assam Communication Board for road building within these two dates ?

(c) The total sum allocated for each of these projects and how much of the amount has been spent up to date for each of these projects ?

(d) Whether any of the said projects has since been completed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

46. (a), (b) and (c)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to question No. 46 asked by Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia, M.L.A., at the Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, 1940.

Name of work	Estimated amount	Mileage	Present position
	Rs.		
1. Improving the Damra-Dalgoma Road (14½ miles).	1,10,000	14·50	Survey completed. Detailed estimate under preparation.
2. Improving the North Trunk Road from Roha to Garubhasa (Part of the project for improving the North Trunk Road from Domnichowki via Moramonas to Garubhasa. Rs. 8,00,000).	2,67,000	35·00	It is intended to take up the survey this cold weather.
3. Improving the Garubhasa-Kokra-jhar-Phutkibari-Bilashipara-Gauripur Road.	1,17,000	49·69	It is intended to commence work this cold weather on the Bilashipara-Phutkibari portion. Survey of Local Board portion between Phutkibari and Garubasha completed. Detailed estimate under preparation.
4. Constructing a road from Lakhipur to Mankachar.	1,00,000	50·00	It is intended to take up the survey this cold weather.
5. Bridging the Moragodadhar on the Goalpara-Bilashipara Road.	1,35,000	..	} Not yet approved by the Legislative Assembly.
6. Construction of a bridge over the Haripani river on the Jogighopa-Chapaguri Road.	63,000	..	

(d)—No.

Personnel of the Inquiry Committee to investigate condition on Tea Gardens

Srijut BHAIKAB CHANDRA DAS asked :

47. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The name of the Labour Union which nominated Mr. A. K. Chanda to represent Labour in the Committee of Enquiry to investigate conditions on Tea Gardens ?
- (b) Who are the Executive of the said Union, and what are its objects ?
- (c) Who are its members, and what is their number ?
- (d) When was it registered ?
- (e) Whether Government enquired from the Assam Valley Tea Gardens whether they were agreeable to the nomination of Mr. A. K. Chanda as Labour representative ?
- (f) If so, which Gardens or Associations were enquired of ?
- (g) The particular qualifications of Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, M. L. A., to represent the Assam Legislative Assembly in the Enquiry ?
- (h) The names of the Indian Associations that nominated Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee to the Committee ?
- (i) Which of these Indian Associations are associated with the Assam Valley and which with the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

47. (a)—Labour Unions were not consulted formally in regard to the nomination of members to the Committee. It appears that the then Ministry were satisfied that Mr. Chanda would be a suitable nominee from the view point of labour, but there is no record of any specific proposals having been received.

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : Did the then Government consult any of the members of the Legislature about the appointment of Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda to the Labour Enquiry Committee ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : I am not aware of that, Sir.

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : Is it a fact that none of the Labour members was found competent to be appointed as members of the Labour Enquiry Committee ?

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

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

47. (b), (c) and (d)—Do not arise.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—The present Ministry were not responsible for the appointment and are not aware of the considerations which guided their predecessors.

(h)—The following Associations, which were consulted, expressed themselves satisfied with the selection of Mr. Mookerjee :—

The Indian Planters' Association.

The Indian Tea Growers' Association.

The Surma Valley Indian Tea Planters' Association suggested the addition of a member to represent the Assam Valley gardens.

(i)—All except the Assam Valley Indian Tea Planters' Association are concerned with the Surma Valley.

Construction of a Bridge over the river Manu at Chandnighat in Maulvibazar

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

48. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether money has been allotted this year for the construction of the Bridge over the river Manu at Chandnighat in Maulvibazar ?
 - If so, has any contract been accepted by the Government ?
 - If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

48. (a)—No, although all preparations were made to take up the work, this could not be done owing to objections to the site which have delayed acquisition of the necessary land.

(b)—Not yet, but tender of Messrs. Gammon and Co. of Bombay for a reinforced concrete bridge is under acceptance.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the terms "the contract is under acceptance" ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: The tender of Messrs. Gammon and Company, we have decided to accept. Before the contract is entered into, certain formalities have to be gone through. This is yet to be done.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

48. (c)—Does not arise.

Two-shift arrangement in the Karimganj Government High School

Khan Bahadur Hazi ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked :

49. (a) Are Government aware of the two-shift arrangement of the Karimganj Government High School due to the destruction of its buildings by fire ?

(b) Are Government aware of the troubles of boys of Classes III to IV, attending the school at 7 in the morning from distance up to 5 miles ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to redress these grievances ?

(d) Are Government aware of the proposal to hire the Karimganj Mission School buildings pending acquisition of the same for the Moslem hostel as a stop-gap measure ?

(e) Do Government propose to hire them without any further delay in view of the gravity of the situation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

49. (a) to (d)—Yes.

(e)—The hon. member's attention is invited to the replies given to starred questions Nos. 10(b) and (c) asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali, M.L.A. at this session of the Assembly.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Maulavi Mabarak Ali was not present yesterday and so the starred questions Nos. 10(b) and (c) were not put. In the answer it is stated that "the hon. member's attention is invited to the replies given to starred questions Nos. 10(b) and (c) asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali, M.L.A., at this session of the Assembly". This question was not put as he was not present.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes. Of course a reference has been made but the starred questions No.10 (b) and (c) were not answered and therefore the Hon'ble Minister will please state the reply.

10. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMUD SAADULLA:
Replies to starred questions Nos.10(b) and (c) are:—

(b) and (c)—It has not been possible for paucity of funds to take any steps for reconstruction of the buildings but Government have sanctioned money and issued orders for purchasing the buildings of the defunct Mission School and pending completion of arrangements in this respect to rent the same for accommodation of the lower classes. They will afterwards be used for hostel purposes.

Replacement of unsafe wooden bridges from Sheolabazar to Karimganj, by permanent pucca bridges

Khan Bahadur Hazi ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked :

50. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the un-afe wooden bridges from Sheolabazar to Karimganj are likely to be replaced by permanent pucca bridges ?

(b) If so, when the work will be taken up ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY replied :

50. (a)—A proposal to this effect was included in the programme submitted to the Assam Communications Board.

(b)—When it is selected for immediate action by the Assam Communications Board, passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly and approved by the Government of India.

Population of non-British subjects (subjects of independent States—Joypur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, etc.) living in Assam

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

51. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What is the population of non-British subjects (subjects of independent States—Joypur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, etc.) living in this province ?

(b) Their chief occupation in this province ?

(c) Whether these people are generally called Marwaris in Assam ?

52. Are Government aware of the fact that these non-British subjects have captured the trade and commerce of the province ?

53. (a) Is it a fact that the children of the soil of this province cannot compete with them in the matters of business, trade, etc. ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of putting a stop to the onrush of these people coming to this province by legislation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA
replied :

51. (a)—If the question refers to the immigrants from Rajputana, the number was reported in the Census Report of 1931 to be about 22,000.

(b)—Business.

(c)—The reply is in the affirmative.

52.—It is true that these people have a dominant position in the commerce of the province.

53. (a)—The statement is too sweeping, but it is true that in many lines of business other communities have hitherto found it difficult to compete with them.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Sir, in the answer it is stated that “it is true that in many lines of business other communities have hitherto found it difficult to compete with them.” May I know the basis of the Government answer?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Well, Sir, it is common knowledge and reported by the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: May I know whether the Deputy Commissioner reported that the Marwaris are interfering with the local merchants?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Marwaris are far too industrious and their personal expenditure is far less and therefore they are in a more advantageous position than the traders of the indigenous people.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: The question is whether they are competing? Is it a fact that the children of the soil cannot compete with the Marwaris in the matter of business? I want to know whether the Deputy Commissioner has reported that the Marwaris are competing or interfering with the local merchants?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The hon. member is quite welcome to put any meaning on the very simple statement of facts. The Government reply is “The statement is too sweeping, but it is true that in many lines of business other communities have hitherto found it difficult to compete with them.” Government have made absolutely no insinuation upon the Marwari traders. All that has been said is that the local traders have found it difficult to compete with the Marwari traders. By this the Government have given a certificate to the latter rather than any insinuation.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: I am thankful to the Hon'ble Premier for that, but the answer is very sweeping.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: The reply is—the statement is too sweeping—May I enquire in whose opinion the statement is too sweeping?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is in the opinion of Government.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Is it in order, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The question was admitted by the Hon'ble Speaker and we thought it better to reply. It is up to the hon. member to accept it or not.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

53. (b)—No. It is probable that any measure of the kind suggested would be found repugnant to the provisions of the constitution.

Expenditure incurred in connection with the Joint Session of both the Houses of Legislature held in August 1939

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

54. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of expenditure incurred by way of payment of halting and travelling allowance of the members who attended the Joint Session of both the Houses of Legislature held on the 3rd August 1939 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

54.—Rupees 11,616-13-0.

Percentage of communal representation in different services in the province

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

55. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any rule prescribing certain percentage of representation in different services in the province, for
 - (1) Muhammadan, (2) Tribal People (3) Schedule Castes, (4) Surma Valley Caste Hindus, (5) Assam Valley Caste Hindus ?
- (b) If so, when and by whom it was promulgated ?
- (c) Whether any of the aforesaid classes or communities are over-represented in any of the services ?
- (d) If so, which classes or communities are over-represented and in which service, and, by how much ?
- (e) Whether any of the aforesaid classes or communities are under-represented in any of the services ?
- (f) If so, which class or community are under-represented, and, in which service, and, by how much ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the gentlemen who are inhabitant of Bengal and hold posts under the Assam Government in the Assam Educational Service, are counted as Surma Valley Caste Hindus in calculating the percentage of representation ?

56. Will Government be pleased to quote the rule or rules referred to in question No. 55(a) above ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

55.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The policy which underlies the present rule has been in force for many years in one form or another, and was last promulgated in general orders in 1935, though frequent occasion arises to issue orders on particular points. The whole question is now under review.

(c)—Yes

(d)—Government do not receive returns in respect of ministerial services and it would entail a considerable delay to obtain all the particulars that the hon. member desires and to tabulate them, without corresponding advantage. It is well known that there are still a number of persons not natives or domiciled in Assam in certain branches, and that owing to the evolution of the services, generally speaking, the Surma Valley Hindus are the most frequently over-represented on a population basis. Necessarily it takes time to rectify such excesses.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Since it was only in 1935 that Scheduled Castes and Tribal People of the Hills and Plains came to be exhibited separately, and for other reasons connected with the evolution of the services, it may be said that generally speaking these are the least represented.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier as to what step has been taken to give the scheduled castes and tribal communities — both hills and plains — their full quota of representation in different services?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend would look to the advertisements in the gazette calling for candidates whenever any vacancy occurs, he would find there it is generally stated that preference will be given to unrepresented communities?

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May I know whether the Surma Valley and Assam Valley Muhammadans are treated jointly or separately in their representation in the services?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They are treated as one unit.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Is the Hon'ble Premier aware that on various occasions the claims of the scheduled caste and tribal communities were not taken into consideration and they were not given their due share in the services though it was advertised that preference would be given to those communities?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend gives concrete instances, I will enquire.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: In reply to question No. 55(b) it is stated that "the whole question is now under review". May I know the nature of the review?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The whole question is under review in this respect as there have been demands from tribal people that the tribals of the plains and the tribals of the hills should be separately treated in their representation in the different services. Similarly, there have been demands that the Muhammadans of the two Valleys should be treated separately.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government take into consideration the claims of the Surma Valley Caste Hindus and the Assam Valley Caste Hindus separately?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

55. (g)—No.

56.—Rule 307 of the Executive Manual, and Circular No. 1-A.P. of the 2nd December 1935.

Placing of the services of the Sub-Deputy Collector of Tihu Circle at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, on special duty

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

57. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) For what special duty, the services of the Sub-Deputy Collector of Tihu Circle were placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup ?
 - (b) Whether it was for the purpose of preparing a Record of Rights under the Assam Tenancy Act of the tenants of the Temple lands of Kamrup district ?
 - (c) How long the said special officer has been engaged in his duties, what progress he has made and what duties he is doing now ?
 - (d) Whether he has submitted any report ?
 - (e) If so, to what effect ?
 - (f) Whether Government propose to proceed further in the matter ?
 - (g) Whether Government propose to get the proposed Record of Rights prepared as early as possible ?
 - (h) If so, when is the work expected to begin ?
 - (i) Whether the proposed Record of Rights extends to the Satra lands also ?
 - (j) If not, do Government propose to include the Satra lands also in the proposed scheme ?
 - (k) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

57.(a) and (b)—The services of the Sub-Deputy Collector were placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, for (1) preparing a scheme for the compilation of Record of Rights for all temple lands in Kamrup for the present, (2) estimating the time likely to be required, (3) estimating the probable cost of the scheme and the share on average acreage basis which would be payable by each temple and its tenants and (4) investigating how far the parties are willing to bear the costs and in what way.

(c)—The officer was engaged in the duty from April 1939 but at present he is being posted elsewhere.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : May I know whether the officer has finished the duties entrusted to him ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

57.(d)—Yes.

(e)—The report is too lengthy to be quoted in a reply.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: My question was whether the officer submitted any report, and if so, to what effect? But the answer is "Yes and the report is too lengthy to be quoted in a reply". Here, Sir, I wanted to know the substance of the report not the report itself. Is the answer proper, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I read from the concluding portion of that report. "In some, we find that under the present state of circumstances all the parties concerned in temple lands have found themselves in an awkward position. The Government stand to lose because they have not been able to realise the Government dues satisfactorily and in time. The trustee is helpless because he cannot realise rents from tenants for want of sufficient powers and the tenants' position is quite unsafe because he has no documents to fall upon to prove his title to possess a particular piece of land and that under certain favourable condition. Above all, the income of the endowed properties has not been properly utilised in connection with the purposes for which they were originally meant.

It is high time that these defects should be remedied and legislation purporting to remove all the defects is the only solution to set the matters right.

But before legislation can be taken up the whole situation should be carefully surveyed and the preparation of the Record-of-Rights of tenants is the preliminary step towards the achievement of this end."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

57. (f)—Yes.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know what is the desire of the Government—whether they wish to push this question or drop it altogether?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government have undertaken to prepare Record-of-Rights under the Assam (Temporarily Settled Districts) Act for which preliminaries are being made.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are Government going to amend the Assam (Temporarily Settled Districts) Tenancy Act soon?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do I understand that Record-of-Rights for all temple lands will be covered by the proposed amendment?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, before preparation of Record-of-Rights some amendments are necessary.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know how long the officer had to work for the purpose of preparing the Record-of-Rights? And what will be the cost incurred by Government in this matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I require notice of that question.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

57. (g) and (h)—Action is being taken to prepare Record-of-Rights under the Assam (Temporarily Settled Districts) Tenancy Act which, however, has first to be amended and a Bill has been introduced for that purpose. The matter will be taken up as soon as the Bill is passed.

- (i)—Yes. The Record-of-Rights will be prepared for all temple lands.
- (j) and (k)—Do not arise.

Question re P. R. Government High School at Goalpara

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

58. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Who is the present Headmaster of the P. R. Government High English School at Goalpara ?
- (b) For how long he has been serving as the Headmaster of this School ?
- (c) Is it a fact that he is under orders of transfer ?
59. Will Government be pleased to state whether 9(nine) students were refused admission in class VII of the P. R. Government High School Goalpara, during the current year ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

- 58.(a)—Srijut Indreswar Barthakur.
- (b)—For 4 years.
- (c)—Yes.
- 59.—Yes, some such students who came from Venture Schools and were found unfit for class VII, were refused admission.

Question re : Belsor Middle English School in the Kamrup district

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

- 60.(a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the Belsor Middle English School in the Kamrup district is doing its best in spreading education in the locality and that the villagers have made it a fully equipped institution ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to help the school with an adequate recurring grant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied .

- 60.(a)—Yes, it is reported to be a fairly successful school.
- (b)—Yes, if and when funds are available.

Adjournment motion on account of grave situation caused by control of prices of Agricultural produce by the district authorities of Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and other districts in Assam Valley.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have got notice of an adjournment motion from Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. He may move it.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance to wit the grave situation caused by control of price of agricultural produce such as rice, mustard oil, etc., by district authorities in Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and other districts in Assam Valley resulting in irreparable loss and hardship to the peasantry.

Sir, it is a definite matter in as much as the price of specific agricultural produce is being controlled. The maximum price has been arbitrarily fixed.

Sir, it is a definite matter inasmuch as the price of specific agricultural produce is being controlled. The urgency and importance come in like this: it has been done lately and it is continuing. The price of paddy was being controlled at Tezpur some time back on certain representation. I gather that it has since been discontrolled. In Dibrugarh and Jorhat we find that price of rice is being controlled. So also the price of mustard oil. There is no control over the price of these at Gauhati. Therefore in this season mustard seeds are being sent to Gauhati, where they fetch better price. The peasants who have now got a chance in a generation's life time to get a fair value of their produce are deprived of their legitimate profit because the Railway and Steamer Companies and the middle men are getting the advantage. If the price is controlled, the agriculturists are deprived of their legitimate profit. Peasants did not get a fair value of their produce for a long time and they have been landed into indebtedness. So when a chance has been obtained for war conditions the price should be left to be adjusted in accordance with the law of demand and supply, and there should be no control over them; there being arbitrary control for the advantage of a particular non-agriculturist body, the agriculturists are being deprived of a fair value for their agricultural produce. So I submit Sir, that this is a definite matter of urgent public importance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: From when this is being done.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Lately, for a month or so. I suppose the control of price was introduced some time after the declaration of the War. It is being continued now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was it after the Assam Control of Prices Order, 1939?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: That I do not know. But District Officers are passing *Jabardust hukums*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: *Hukums* may be *jaburdust*, but there are certain orders of Government.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: We are not concerned with that. The Deputy Commissioners are controlling the prices. They go to villages and they are frightening people. Sometimes they pass verbal orders; for example we do not find any written orders regarding control of price for paddy. They go to villages and villagers are spoken to about it. That is how this is being done in some cases.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As a public man and as a member of the Legislature did you enquire of the Deputy Commissioner?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I had the privilege of seeing the Deputy Commissioner. He said that he was acting under orders and ordinances. District officers are left with certain discretion and this discretion is being used for the loss of *rayats*. I am sorry to say that I have not gone through the Central Government Ordinance regarding price control.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member ought to have gone through that.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I am not concerned with that here in this Assembly. I am concerned here to show whether any hardship is caused to peasants and agriculturists. They have now got a chance and should not be deprived of their legitimate profits from their agricultural produce. Whether this comes from the Central Government or from elsewhere I have got nothing to do with that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How has it become a grave situation?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: There are certain *mill-wallas* all over the valley. They have been terrorised in a different way. If a mill happens to have a stock of, say, a few thousands of maunds, they say, you

are hoarding paddy. So they cannot stock paddy. Can they be expected to go to market day to day and buy paddy and run a mill in that way? If the mills are closed, there will be dearth of rice in towns. As a matter of fact, there is already scarcity of rice in some towns and I learnt it from public that business men find it extremely difficult to buy rice from the bazar. If a certain mill stocks about 50 bags of rice or 200 bags of paddy, they will be prosecuted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: For once I find that I am in perfect agreement with the mover of the motion.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Let us hope it will be the beginning.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: But I am sorry to inform him that I have already taken the wind out of his sail. While I was on tour last January, I got a telegram from my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das from Tezpur, complaining that the price of paddy there had been fixed at a minimum. (*Voice-Mrximum?*) Telegram mentioned 'minimum'. I immediately enquired into it and stopped such an action. During the same tour I had been to Jorhat, and on receipt of a complaint both from my hon. friend Mr. Blennerhassett as also from the Deputy Commissioner, I gave definite instructions not to control the prices of agricultural produce as the agriculturists have got chance after a long time. Since my return to headquarters, I issued a general circular to all the Deputy Commissioners not to restrict the control of agricultural produce.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: For the information of the Hon'ble Prime Minister I may say that there have been prosecutions both at Jorhat and at Dibrugarh. I do not know how these two district officials dared to do this if the Government instructions were to the contrary. At Jorhat one Padma Ram stocked paddy of his own field. He has been prosecuted. Another Assamese who sold paddy at a little higher price was got hold of and sought to be penalised with an imposition of Rs. 100. I happened to be there. I requested the Deputy Commissioner to be lenient saying that he was poor but the Deputy Commissioner was adamant. It is refreshing to hear that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has issued instructions. I should be glad if he would issue telegraphic instructions with regard to mustard oil and so on.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Either my language is defective and I could not express fully what I wanted to convey to the House. My orders did not refer to mustard oil but to seeds which are agricultural commodity. There were complaints from the tea industry as well as from the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat found that certain traders who used to keep rice in their godown for sale their in the previous years, have kept their godown empty showing that they have not been able to buy. On the other hand, our reports are that they are keeping all the paddy hoarded in the house of the cultivators themselves so that when the prices go up a little higher, they will be able to sell at a little higher profit. I am sorry to hear that there has been a prosecution of an indigenous cultivator. If my hon. friend will give definite information, I will have enquiries made.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: If the price of the mustard oil itself is directly controlled, the mustard seeds cannot be sold at a higher price because the buyers and millowners will not be in a position to pay more. At Majuli the price of the mustard seeds has been low as in Lakhimpur and Jorhat. There is control over price of mustard oil and the maximum is fixed. The result is that some buyers from Gauhati come and buy it: the profit in that case goes to the pocket of the steamer company or the railway.

So Sir, what benefit is to be given to the peasants—Premier himself possibly not meaning to take it away by the left hand—will not accrue to them. May we therefore have an assurance from the Hon'ble the Premier, Sir, that he will send a wire to the District Officers asking them to discontinue the control of prices of mustard oil and rice ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend is assuming that all the mustard oil consumed in Assam is produced within the province but I may tell him that this is not the case. Some 75 per cent. of them comes from Bihar. If my hon. friend wants that in order to help a few millowners of Assam, there should be no control of prices of mustard oil to what high level, prices will soar, I do not know and the benefit will go to the Bihar people and not to local people.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: What about rice, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There is a scarcity of rice at the present moment because Assam does not produce the quantity of rice she consumes. Every year the tea industry had to import rice from Rangoon and Manipur. My hon. friend knows very well that owing to a recent agitation, the Manipur Durbar has stopped exportation of rice and therefore there has been some difficulty in getting this commodity. Government have not restricted either the sale or price of rice arbitrarily.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: The price of rice has been restricted there ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes it has been, so that the price should not go beyond a limit so that the poor people should not be hard hit.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: What I gather is that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is not prepared to accede to the request that the price of rice and mustard oil should be discontrolled. So I would like to press my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have heard both the hon. mover of the motion as also the Hon'ble Prime Minister and I do not see that this is a matter which can be discussed by means of an adjournment motion.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I interrupt for a minute, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No. Moreover, the hon. mover has not taken the earliest opportunity to move the motion. Therefore, I rule that the motion is out of order.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Yesterday I came here after 11 O'clock and so I have taken the earliest opportunity.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The earliest opportunity is not to be judged by the time the hon. member comes to the Assembly. He could have sent the notice before he came.

**Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee
on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government
of Assam for the year 1937-38**

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation accounts of the Government of Assam for the year 1937-38. A copy of the Report will be found on the hon. members' tables.

**Presentation of the Appropriation Accounts and Finance
Accounts 1938-39**

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg, Sir, to present the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts for the year 1938-39.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Appropriation Accounts and the Finance Accounts for the year 1938-39 have been laid on the table. The hon. members, if they like, may discuss.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, we have received it only yesterday and it was hardly possible for the members to go through it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But the hon. members must have noticed that it has been put on the agenda that the discussion will take place to-day.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was going to make some submission. As regards discussion of these items, I also think, Sir, there cannot be any discussion on these two reports to-day. It was only last year that we had a discussion because at that time there was no Public Accounts Committee and the report was not placed before that Committee. These reports should first be scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee and their report should be taken into consideration. The Public Accounts Committee is formed in order to go into the matter and after they have discussed and submitted their report then this report might be discussed on the floor of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The discussion might be postponed till the time the Public Accounts Committee has considered it.

Motion to the effect that as soon as the Appropriation and the Finance Accounts with connected Audit Reports are laid on the table, it may be assumed that the Legislature has ordered their publication

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg, Sir, to move: "That this Assembly pass a standing order to the effect that as soon as the Appropriation and the Finance Accounts with connected Audit Reports are laid on the table it may be assumed that the Legislature had ordered their publication."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to state that in previous Sessions of the Assembly while presenting the Appropriation Accounts of 1937-38 and Audited Report for 1937-38 together with the Finance Accounts for 1938-39, a motion was moved asking for permission of the House to make this report available to the public. That motion referred only to the reports of 1937-38. To save the time of the Legislature by not bringing forward such motion year after year, it has been suggested that the Legislature be moved to pass a standing order to the effect that as soon as the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts are laid on the table it may be assumed that the Legislature has ordered for their publication.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved: "That this Assembly pass a standing order to the effect that as soon as the Appropriation and the Finance Accounts with connected Audit Reports are laid on the table, it may be assumed that the Legislature has ordered their publication."

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker Sir, this was a motion which I had the honour of making last year. Then the idea was that the motion should be made from year to year before the reports are made available to the public. Now the Hon'ble Finance Minister is moving that

there should be a standing order so that this motion need not be made from year to year. There is this difficulty that if we agree to this we may be binding the hands of the future Legislature. So the proper thing would be for the Finance Minister to make this motion from year to year ; it will not take much time of the House, as it only requires the formal sanction of the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I find, Sir, from my records that this was ordered by my hon. friend while he occupied the position of Finance Minister. If he thinks now that it will not be proper to have a standing order I do not want to proceed in the matter and am prepared to lay it on the table from year to year.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I may inform the House that I moved the motion only for last year.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This was drafted in my friend's time and the record shows that it was done on the 4th of August 1939. If he now objects to his own initiation, I have no objection to drop the motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is only regarding the question of publication.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I had the experience of administration only for 10 or 12 months, whereas my Hon'ble friend has the benefit of 12 or 13 years' experience of the administration and if he advises that this course could facilitate the work, I have no objection. (*laughter.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member did not clearly show to the House in what way it would bind the hands of the future Legislature.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Is this a mutual admiration Society ?

The Hon'ble Minister and the Ex-Minister are complimenting each other, Sir, (*laughter.*)

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

"This Assembly pass a Standing Order to the effect that as soon as the Appropriation and the Finance Accounts with connected Audit Reports are laid on the table it may be assumed that the Legislature has ordered their publication".

The motion was put and adopted.

Presentation of Notifications under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I beg Sir, to present the following notifications under section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (i) No. 1962.-L.S.-G., * | dated the 20th March 1939. |
| (ii) No. 2700-L.S.-G., † | dated the 9th May 1939. |
| (iii) No. 2762-L.S.-G., ‡ | dated the 13th May 1939. |

Election of a member to the Assam Bengal-Railway Local Advisory Committee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect one member to the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee in place of Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.

The motion was put and adopted.

* Appendix A.
† Appendix B.
‡ Appendix C.

Election of a member to the Dibru-Sadiya Railway Local Advisory Committee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect one member to the Dibru-Sadiya Railway Local Advisory Committee in place of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

The motion was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under Rules 1 and 2 of the Rules regarding the procedure to be followed in holding election of members of the Public Accounts Committee and other Committees, I hereby fix 2 to 4 p. m. on Saturday the 24th February 1940, as the time for holding the election to the Assam Bengal Railway and the Dibru-Sadiya Railway Local Advisory Committees. The voting will be held in the Secretary's Chamber between these hours.

Election of members to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move, Sir, that this Assembly do elect seven members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 102 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1940-41.

The motion was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under the Rules, I hereby fix Monday, the 26th February, as the date, and between 2 and 4 p. m. as the hours of holding the election to the Public Accounts Committee. The voting will be held in the Secretary's Chamber within these hours.

The Assam Prohibition Bill, 1939,—Copy of Bill passed by the Council laid on the table

The Secretary to the Assembly: In accordance with the provisions of Rule 127 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I lay on the table "The Assam Prohibition Bill, 1939" which was passed by the Assam Legislative Council on the 12th May, 1939. The Bill was not referred to a Select Committee of the originating Chamber.

The Bill was already circulated to the hon. members.

The Assam Finance Bill, 1940.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1940. The memory of hon. members may be fresh as they passed the Agricultural Income-tax Act only last year. Under Sections 3 and 6, if I remember aright, the rate of taxation under that Act was left to be annually provided for in a Finance Bill. In accordance with that we have introduced this Finance Bill. We have kept the same rates of taxation as last year.

(The Bill was introduced.)

The Assam Local Authorities Compensatory Grants (iCharged) Bill, 1940.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir, MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to introduce the Assam Local Authorities Compensatory Grants (Charged) Bill, 1940.

(The Bill was introduced.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg to move, Sir, that the Assam Local Authorities Compensatory Grants (Charged) Bill, 1940 be taken into consideration

It is well known to the hon. members of the House that so long, with the approval of the Audit Authorities, the local rates realised by Government for our local bodies were credited to them direct. Similarly realisations from lease of collections under Public Works Department ferries and Cattle Trespass Act etc. went to the parties concerned. But since 1937 the same Audit Authorities have ruled that this should be credited as a Government revenue and a like amount should be debited in the budget estimates as grants to local bodies, etc. Since then a further instruction has come from higher authorities that this payment should be made a "charged" one in order to ensure regular payment. Hence this Bill has become necessary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

That the Assam Local Authorities Compensatory Grants (Charged) Bill, 1940 be taken into consideration.

(After a pause.)

Then I take it there is not going to be a debate on this motion. I shall put the question.

The motion was put and adopted.

Motion regarding raising of monthly subsidy of the subsidized medical practitioners.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The next item of business stands in the name of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this item is now engaged in the Upper House, probably dealing with a resolution. I have sent for him just now. If you will kindly pass on to the next item No. 19, I shall be thankful. If he does not turn up in time, then I shall deal with it myself.

Motion regarding grant of same time scale of pay each to the Bell Metal Instructor and Electroplator of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : I beg to move, Sir, "That this House approves that in connection with the scheme of addition of classes to give training in Bell Metal Works and Electroplating to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, which was passed by this House in its last Budget Session, on an experimental basis for three years from the school session of 1939, other items of expenditure remaining the same, the same time-scale of pay of ks. 75-5/2-100 per mensem each be given to both the Bell Metal Instructor and the Electroplator of that School instead of different scales fixed for them, as were originally approved by the House."

Sir, at first, different scales of pay for the Bell Metal Instructor and the Electroplator was proposed and approved by the House. The difference in salary was proposed, probably with a mistaken idea that one of the Instructors could look after his own section and also supervise the work of

the other. Subsequently, it was found that these different rates of pay could not be justified on the ground that the duties and responsibilities of both were of the same nature. Now to fix the salary at the sum originally proposed will mean that if and when the posts are made permanent the initial pay of one of the Instructors will have to be reduced. This is not very desirable.

I may say here that these two posts had already been advertised and the salary mentioned for each post was Rs. 75 per month. This was recommended by the last Government.

In conclusion, I wish to say that a change in the scale of pay will not mean a change in the ultimate expenditure and Government will not suffer any loss; on the other hand there will be a saving of Rs. 5 per month. On these grounds I commend the motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves that in connection with the scheme of addition of classes to give training in Bell Metal Works and Electroplating to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat, which was passed by this House in its last Budget Session, on an experimental basis for three years from the school session of 1939, other items of expenditure remaining the same, the same time-scale of pay Rs. 75—5/2—100 per mensem each be given to both the Bell Metal Instructor and the Electroplator of that School instead of different scales fixed for them, as were originally approved by the House."

(After a pause)

The motion was put and adopted.

Motion regarding extension of the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I beg to move:

"That this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which expired on the 31st January 1940 be extended till the end of the year 1940-41."

The Government of India, as the hon. members of the house are all aware, in 1935, granted Rs. 2 lakhs for the development of marketing in different provinces. The share of allotment to this province was Rs. 50,000 for 5 years. The term expired on the 31st January last. Now the Government of India proposes to put at the disposal of this Government Rs. 15,000 for the coming financial year, *i.e.*, 50 per cent. more than they gave previously, per year.

So far as the expenditure for the period from the 1st February to the 31st March is concerned, this can be met by reappropriation from the Budget of the Director of Agriculture and there is no difficulty about it. As regards the scheme for the development of marketing in the province is concerned, it is essential and it is a truism that needs no reiteration from me, and we should be thankful for the generosity of the Government of India for the proposed contribution of Rs. 15,000 next year.

I hope the House will give unanimous support to it. I do not think that I should take the time of the House any further in dealing with this question.

The Hon'ble the Speaker:—Motion moved :

“That this House approves that the term of Agricultural Marketing Scheme which expired on the 31st January, 1940 be extended till the end of the year 1940-41.”

There will be a discussion if the hon. members want.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA: Sir, we welcome this, but at the same time would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture what work has been done from the allotment made hitherto by the Government of India and whether this Government will have to pay anything in addition to the grant received from the Government of India in order to push the scheme further, whether this Government has any scheme to proceed with the work from the grant to be received from the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Under this Government, as many as 28 marketing surveys have been made in different parts of the province. Areas have been surveyed under different cultivations and the prices of different commodities in different places. They have obtained data and other necessary accessories thereto for facilitating marketing. They have also obtained data from other provinces regarding the prices and one senior marketing officer has been at work. He was a Superintendent of Agriculture and he has two other assistants, two clerks and two peons and so forth. During these five years, the total expenditure was Rs. 62,962. The share of allotment from the provincial budget was Rs. 12,962—on an average Rs. 2,952 per annum.

Our people are taking interest in this matter and they are also trying to obtain the benefit of marketing facilities. Our people, as the Hon'ble House is aware, were not acquainted with the importance of marketing facilities and what economic benefit these facilities would afford to them. Now they have been acquainted with all these. Previously it was that prices were very different from place to place and people did not know what was the actual state of things in a place, a few miles off. So all this information is dissimulated amongst our people and they are asked how to take their commodities to different places and secure all possible benefits thereunder. Even in what way our commodities can be despatched to other places—this has also been observed and calculated and brought to the notice of our people. Hon. members know that there is a marketing officer in Calcutta who is always giving this province information as to the export of pineapples and oranges and how to capture some markets for them. All this, is bringing in profits to the province and our people are getting ideas about the state of things within the province as well as outside the province and this is fruitfully an economic scheme. When the Government of India expenditure towards this from the provincial Exchequer.

So far as the future scheme is concerned I have engaged the Director of Agriculture and other officers concerned in evolving a practicable scheme for this and I have every hope that with the officers it will be possible for us to obtain better results in the near future.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: On a point of information, Sir. Can the Hon'ble Minister point to any new market outside the province for produce from Assam and can he point to any new source of supply within Assam as a result of this five years effort ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The orange and pineapple market in Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak from my personal experience of Calcutta markets for, as hon. members know, I generally repair to Calcutta when I am shorn of political duties here. At one time, Calcutta used a big amount of Assam oranges which were mistakenly known as Sylhet oranges; although the oranges really come from the Khasi Hills. But on account of better trade facilities from the Central Provinces where the people, with the help of Government had started orange cultivation, Calcutta markets for the Assam-grown oranges became practically non-existent. Similarly in Assam we grow a variety of pineapple which goes by the name of Joldhup pineapple—very good colour, perfectly golden, very well flavoured, but very small in size. This kind of pineapple used to be sent to Calcutta, but it could not capture the attention of the consumers. Through the efforts of the Agriculture Department in Assam the other variety which is known as "Giant Kew" and another variety the technical name I have forgotten, but which is brought from Manilla, has been grown throughout the province, specially at a place known as Akbarpur in Maulvibazar subdivision, and in our new colony at Barpathar. In order to push the sale of these pineapples, the Government of 1937—rather 1938, deputed one of our marketing officers to open a stall in the New Market in Calcutta better known as Sir Stuart Hogg market. I can say from my personal experience that some of these 'Giant Kew' were selling there at the rate of one rupee each and there was on account of the facility that was provided, a regular supply and better packing of these Assam-grown pineapples and they have had a ready market in Calcutta. Hon. members will be glad to hear that the pineapples grown in our newly-opened Barpathar colony obtained the highest gold medal in the Lucknow exhibition. Our marketing staff has introduced two methods amongst our exporters—the first one is of grading and the second one of packing. It may be news to many that our growers generally do not get the same price for the produce simply for want of proper grading, they put the whole stock in a lump,—the smallest, the biggest and the medium sized all in one bunch so to say and they get a low price. If the same consignment is graded according to its size then they get a better price. Similarly our exporters do not know how to export these luscious fruits like pineapples and oranges. Some fruits were sent to me, not as my capacity as the Premier, but as ordinary citizen of Calcutta from Assam and I was surprised at the difference that had been made in the way of packing. It will again be news to many of our friends that pineapples and other fruits even though stocked in crates thanks to the efforts of the transport Coolies if they do not handle them cautiously they get rotten and smashed. If each fruit is packed in tissue paper the fungus and fermentation from a bad fruit will not be carried to the next fruit. Mere putting a fruit in pieces of tissue paper saves a lot in each consignment. I have seen with my own eyes the packing of these pineapples. I have seen that each pineapple was separately packed in hay and the pineapple was packed standing with the green tuft protruding from the crate. By such packing, the fruit arrives in Calcutta in fresh and undamaged condition and each of them fetch a price of Re.1 or near about. These are the benefits which our growers are deriving by the institution of the marketing system. Now that the Government of India is giving us a sum of Rs.15,000, it will be possible for finding market for other products of the province. We have still a Marketing Officer in Calcutta. Sir, these are the few informations which I have got in my personal capacity and not as a Premier, and these I put before the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We are not proceeding in a regular way. If there is a debate then we must proceed in a regular way. The question must be put to the Hon'ble Minister and hon. member may speak on the subject so that the Hon. Minister may give the reply.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, I want to make one or two observations before the House regarding this motion.

I think, we should be grateful to the Government of India for the money they are giving us for the development of marketing in the province, but even as a member of the Government, I felt that we are not making proper use of our Officers to the extent as we should or of the money given. It must be said that the benefit of the experiment has not been much as it should have been. I know, Sir, that at present the Marketing Officer is more or less dealing with these two fruits only namely pineapples and oranges. More than once I was taken to the New Market where the Department is maintaining two stalls and where we maintain two officer—a Marketing Officer and an Assistant. They are supposed to secure better prices for the producers of Assam. But to my surprise, I received complaints from some growers who are residing in Calcutta and doing business there that instead of these officers being of any help in raising the prices of the product, the action of the Marketing Officer had gone to deteriorate the prices.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Yes, I also learned it (*Loud laughter*).

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, many of the observations that have been made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in reference to our fruit growing are quite true. As a matter of fact, we have probably produced in our province the best of pineapples in comparison with the pineapples grown in any other part of India. I think, oranges and pineapples of our province stand undoubtedly as the best in India.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : That is not due to the Marketing staff.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am sure that it is not connected with the work of our Marketing staff. Therefore, if the Provincial Government desire to spend the money which is granted by the Government of India or if the Provincial Government want to economise the money they supplement the Government of India grant, then we should be more mindful of the ways by which we can improve our marketing. I do not of course want to oppose the motion but I want to bring these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Department.

Srijut DEVESWAR SARMA : On a point of information Sir. Is there any contribution from the Assam Government fixed in proportion to the sum of Rs.15,000 contributed by the Central Government.

The Hon'ble MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : No, nothing of the kind. We get additional grant only to supplement our increased expenditure.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMA : Our attitude will depend to a considerable extent on that fact whether we are committed to a proportionate contribution. If we are not obliged to pay any portion we could not shape our budget within the four corners of the grant that we receive from the Central Government ?

The Hon'ble MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : If that is the intention of the House, I will see if I can accommodate to that.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA : On a point of information Sir. It is due to the propaganda of our marketing staff in Calcutta that our producers are getting good prices for their oranges and pineapple in Assam.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : That is the intention of the entire scheme.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Will they also popularise the selling of *ghee*?

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA : Have we achieved any result ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Premier has said something like that.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Is it a fact that this Department stands only for selling and popularising these oranges and pineapples ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : This Department is meant to arrange for sale and to popularise all sorts of agricultural produce.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : May we know what other crops this Department is popularising ?

(Voices from the Congress Bench :—Yes, we want to know the names of the other crops also.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. The question is. "That this house approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which expired on the 31st January, 1940, be extended till the end of the year 1940-41."

The motion was adopted.

Motion regarding raising of the monthly subsidy of the Subsidised medical practitioners.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : I beg to move, Sir. "That this Assembly recommends to Government that the following changes be made in the scheme* for Government Subsidised Medical Practitioners :—

- (a) The monthly subsidy paid to a subsidised medical practitioner be raised from Rs.25 to a uniform rate of Rs.35.
- (b) The cost for an initial supply of medicines and instruments for the purpose of starting a dispensary be raised from Rs.150 to Rs.300 in the first year and Rs.200 in the following years.
- (c) Drugs for *kala-azar* treatment be provided free by the Public Health Department and a peon provided at Government expense in those dispensaries where *kala-azar* treatment is to be carried on.
- (d) No subsidised doctor be employed on epidemic work except in case of emergency and then only within a radius of five miles from the dispensary. If so employed he should be given a combined allowance of Rs.2-8-0 per day to cover all charges.
- (e) In cases where no doctors come forward to start subsidised dispensaries the Local Board be given a corresponding grant if they undertake to open and maintain a dispensary together with a whole-time doctor at or near the village selected by Government."

Sir, a copy of the Explanatory Note has been placed on the table of every hon. member and it will speak for the necessity of making the changes. Sir, the scheme was originated in the year 1937-38 and it was decided then that subsidised dispensaries should be started all over the province. So far only 15 dispensaries have been started. In the Explanatory Note the number is given 14, but it should be 15. Of these 15 dispensaries, 3 had to be closed, because the subsidised medical practitioners could not continue with the small subsidy. Besides, the amount provided for purchase of medicine was found to be too inadequate. For these reasons, Sir, Government have come forward with the proposal for making

*See Explanatory note at Appendix "D".

the changes. I find, Sir, that the necessity for making such changes was also felt by the previous Government, and I hope the whole House will support the scheme.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to Government that the following changes be made in the scheme for Government Subsidised Medical Practitioners:—

- (a) The monthly subsidy paid to a subsidised medical practitioner be raised from Rs.25 to a uniform rate of Rs.35.
- (b) The cost for an initial supply of medicines and instruments for the purpose of starting a dispensary be raised from Rs.150 to Rs.300 in the first year and Rs.200 in the following years.
- (c) Drugs for *kala-azar* treatment be provided free by the Public Health Department and a person provided at Government expense in those dispensaries where *kala-azar* treatment is to be carried on.
- (d) No subsidised doctor be employed on epidemic work except in case of emergency and then only within a radius of five miles from the dispensary. If so employed he should be given a combined allowance of Rs.2-8-0 per day to cover all charges.
- (e) In cases where no doctors come forward to start subsidised dispensaries the Local Board be given a corresponding grant if they undertake to open and maintain a dispensary together with a whole-time doctor at or near the village selected by Government."

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, মহী মহোদয়ে যি প্রস্তাব আমাৰ আগত দাৰ্জি ধৰিছে, মই সেই প্রস্তাবৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিবলৈ ঠিয় হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু মোৰ বিশ্বাস ইয়াক অলপ সংশোধন নকৰিলে এই প্রস্তাব কাৰ্য্যকৰী নহব বুলি ভয় কৰো— মই সেই সংশোধন তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টিগোচৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰনেহে ঠিয় দিছো। প্রথমতে এই যে (a) ধাৰাত subsidised dispensary ৰ medical practitioner ৰ subsidy ২৫ টকাৰ পৰা ৩৫ টকালৈ বঢ়াবলৈ যি প্রস্তাব কৰিছে তাত মোৰ আপত্তি আছে। মই ভাবো যে ২৫ টকাৰ পৰা ৩৫ টকা কৰিলেও উপযুক্ত ডাক্তৰ পোৱা নাযাব। কাৰণ, যিবিলাক subsidised dispensary হয়, সেইবিলাক প্ৰায়েই ভিতৰুৱা গাঁৱতহে হয়। অনুন্নত ঠাই বিলাকত হে তেনেকুৱা dispensary পাতিবৰ দিহা হৈছে। তেনেকুৱা ঠাইলৈ সিমান কম দৰমহাত যে উপযুক্ত ডাক্তৰ নেযায়, সেইটো মই নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কব পাৰো। আমি তেজপুৰৰ কলাবাৰীত এনেকুৱা subsidised dispensary ত আজিলৈকে ডাক্তৰ পোৱা নাই। এজন ডাক্তৰক গাৰ বলেৰেহে কৈ-মেলি ৰাখিছো। যদি এতিয়া এই subsidy অন্ততঃ ৪০ টকা কৰা নহয় তেতিয়াহলে সেইজন ডাক্তৰ তাত নেথাকিব সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে এই subsidy ৩৫ টকাৰ পৰা অন্ততঃ ৪০ টকালৈ বঢ়াব লাগে। বাকী বিলাক প্রস্তাব অৱশ্যে ভালৈই হৈছে; কিন্তু মোৰ মনেৰে এইটো যদি শলনি কৰা নহয়, তেনেহলে উপযুক্ত ডাক্তৰ পোৱা নেযাব। সেই কাৰণে গৈ কওঁ যে ৩৫ টকাৰ ঠাইত অন্ততঃ ৪০ টকা আৰু সম্ভৱ হলে ৪৫ টকা কৰা হওক।

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been found from past experience that a few doctors are available to undertake the duties of subsidised dispensaries as these dispensaries are located in almost in all cases in the out of the way places and as the doctors cannot expect any private practice there. It is therefore, proposed to increase the subsidy by Rs.10 from Rs.25 to Rs 35, but-I have grave doubts as to whether this increment will act as sufficient inducement to the doctors. I think that it should be raised to Rs.50.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion. I think it is now high time that the Government should start some Ayurvedic Subsidised dispensaries as well. Subsidised Ayurvedic dispensaries I am sure, will be very popular among our people who have great admiration and love for this system of treatment. At the same time it will be less costly as good Kavirajas will be agreeable to work on a reasonably lower subsidy. So long our Government or, as a matter of fact, most of the Provincial Governments have done absolutely nothing to encourage this system of treatment, and it cannot be denied that the Ayurvedic system of treatment is as efficacious as any other systems and is very popular amongst our countrymen. So, I do not see any reason why some attempt should not be made to encourage the Ayurvedic system. It will be easy for the Local Boards, if they get a decent grant from the Government, to start one or two Ayurvedic subsidised dispensaries in each subdivision.

Secondly, Sir, I want to draw the pointed attention of Government to the fact that the Gauhati Local Board is double of an average Local Board in area and population and also in payment of local rates. But at the time of getting grants it does not get a rupee more than what any other Local Board gets. And it is for these reasons that we are demanding that there should be an additional Local Board for the district of Kamrup. But the difficulties can, to some extent be obviated if Government at the time of making grants to Local Boards make it a point to give to the Gauhati Local Board twice as much as is given to any other Local Board. As I find, Sir, in clause (e) of the motion that it is the intention of Government to give more grants to the Local Boards for procuring doctors for subsidised dispensaries, I suggest that some special consideration should be given to the claim of the Gauhati Local Board.

Babu BALARAM SIRKAR: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই যে subsidised dispensaryর ডাক্তারের বেতন ২৫ টাকা হইতে ৩৫ টাকা করা হইতেছে তাহা উপযুক্ত ভাবে করা হয় নাই। কেননা, একজন উপযুক্ত ডাক্তার কখনও এই rate এ যাইতে রাজী হইবেন না। কারণ, একজন ডাক্তার গবর্ণমেন্ট সার্ভিসে অন্ততঃ ৭৫ টাকা পান এবং লোকালবোর্ডেও প্রায় সেরকম। এখানে মাত্র ৩৫ টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। ইহা ছাড়া poor locality তে ডাক্তারেরা বিশেষ কোন call ও পান না। কাজেই ২৫ টাকা বা ৩৫ টাকাতো কোনও ডাক্তারের পক্ষে সেখানে থাকা কিছুতেই সম্ভবপর নহে। অতএব ৩৫ টাকার স্থলে অন্ততঃ ৫০ টাকা বেতন হওয়া দরকার। ইহা ছাড়া প্রাথমিক খরচ বাবদ পূর্বে যে ১৫০ টাকা ধরা হইয়াছিল, সেস্থলে বর্তমান দ্বিতী মহোদয় প্রথম বৎসরের জন্ত ৩০০ টাকা এবং পরবর্তী বৎসরের জন্ত ২০০ টাকা করিমাছেন, তাহাও যথেষ্ট হয় নাই। কেননা, বর্তমান যুদ্ধের জন্ত কোন কোন ঔষধের মূল্য দুইগুণ, তিনগুণ পর্যন্ত হইয়াছে। কাজেই প্রথম বৎসরে ৩০০ টাকা সেই অনু-

পাতে সংশোধন নহে। ১৫০০ টাকা যে সময় ছিল সে সময়ও দেখা গিয়াছে যে ১৫০০ টাকার ঊর্ধ্বে এক বৎসর সংকুলান হয় না। এ অবস্থায় বর্তমান যুদ্ধের সময় ঊর্ধ্বে মূল্য বৃদ্ধি হওয়াতে ৩০০০ টাকা কিছুতেই সংশোধন হইবে না। কাজেই ৩০০০ টাকার স্থলে প্রথম বৎসরে ৫০০০ টাকা এবং অন্তিম বৎসরে ৪০০০ টাকা দেওয়া হইলে ভাল হইবে বলিয়া আমার মনে হয়। কালাজরের dispensary তে পিয়নের বন্দোবস্ত করা হইয়াছে কিন্তু subsidised dispensary তে পিয়নের বন্দোবস্ত করা হয় নাই। আমি সে জন্য অসুখের কথা যে প্রত্যেক subsidised dispensary তেও যেন পিয়নের বন্দোবস্ত করা হয়।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What I was thinking is that what is the value of this debate. Hon. members are giving suggestions, but there are no amendments before the House. If the Hon'ble Minister does not agree to accept these suggestions then of course what is the use of all the suggestions. So it is quite unnecessary I think in view of the fact that there are no amendments before the House.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: May we submit amendments now, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But hon. members got notice long before when the provisional programme was sent to them.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: These details are not given in the provisional programme. We got this yesterday only. If the Hon'ble Minister agrees to embody them in the Resolution then I may be permitted, Sir.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I cannot allow this amendment to be moved on the spur of the moment.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I can, in my reply, make the position quite clear. I think there will be no necessity for all these suggestions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is the Hon'ble Minister agreeable to accept any of these suggestions?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: There are various kinds of suggestions and I do not know which to accept.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister may choose one of the suggestions.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDAR CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think Government is not in a position now to accept any amendment.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: May I just speak a few words, Sir. I will just take two seconds.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Are the hon. members willing to continue the debate? I have already pointed out that there will be no use in continuing it.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: You have got inherent right to allow amendments now, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It will be perfectly irregular to allow amendments on the floor of the House. If I allow one amendment there will be no end of it. There will be numerous amendments.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: May I add a few remarks to the debate which has gone on to-day with regard to this motion. As a member of the Government this matter was brought to my notice and I also felt the difficulty in giving effect to the scheme which was no doubt designed for the relief of the people in the villages. This scheme was formulated by the Government in 1938-39. The Hon'ble Minister will bear me out when I

say that inspite of our efforts to give effect to the scheme we could not get more than 15 doctors to accept the post at Rs. 25 per month. It is not in a spirit of opposition but with a view of helping the Hon'ble Minister that suggestions from this side have been given. I hope he has been able to go through the file and the reports which have been sent to Government from the various local bodies concerned. If he is of opinion that by increasing the salary from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 he will be able to secure the services of doctors who could be usefully employed in this work, Sir, we have no reason to oppose the motion. But if the Hon'ble Minister thinks that an increase of Rs. 10, from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 will not be conducive enough for qualified doctors to apply for these posts, I hope, without pressing for an amendment he would be prepared to take our suggestion of increasing the amount from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40—50. I think the suggestions that we have offered is not in a spirit of opposition but in a spirit by which he will be able to give full effect to the scheme which will ultimately go to help the poor people of the villages.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I think, I can clear the position in one sentence and that is embodied in the explanatory note. In the explanatory note it is stated that the scheme is intended to be an experimental one and must be adjusted from time to time in accordance with experience. From our experience we felt that the subsidy of Rs. 25 was too inadequate, and it is for this reason that we are going to make this change by raising the subsidy from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Opposition says that Rs. 35 is also inadequate.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : The Opposition has made it a matter of their personal opinion. Some members have stated that Rs. 40 would be adequate while I have heard other members stating that Rs. 50 would be a proper subsidy.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is a golden mean.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Some others at the same time have said that they should be granted the Government scale starting from Rs. 75—(Voices—No body said that). Then it shows that this member is of opinion that as Government is paying Rs. 75, to the other Government doctors the subsidised doctors should also get an equal amount. (Voices—No, no). Some members questioned the Government scale. It comes to be a matter of opinion. But I think considering all these facts and the resources at the disposal of the Government and the local circumstances, Government thought it proper to raise this subsidy to that amount. As I have said from the explanatory note that this is an experimental matter. Government is prepared to consider this question from time to time.

I think, Sir, this clears the situation.

I may inform the House Sir, that even in certain Local Board dispensaries, doctors are appointed on Rs. 40 a month and the grant for purchase of medicine—I have myself seen some outlying dispensaries in the Local Board areas—amounts to Rs. 250 to Rs. 350. I do not think Sir, considering this the change proposed is not at all unsuitable. I hope the hon. members after hearing me will support the motion.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : May I know Sir, in what capacity the Hon'ble Minister is replying whether as Chairman of the Hailakandi Local Board or as Minister ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question does not arise. The question is:—

“ That this Assembly recommends to Government that the following changes be made in the scheme for Government Subsidised Medical Practitioners:—

- (a) The monthly subsidy paid to a subsidised medical practitioner be raised from Rs. 25 to a uniform rate of Rs. 35.
- (b) The cost for an initial supply of medicines and instruments for the purpose of starting a dispensary be raised from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 in the first year and Rs. 200 in the following years.
- (c) Drugs for *Kala azar* treatment be provided free by the Public Health Department and a peon provided at Government expense in those dispensaries where *Kala azar* treatment is to be carried on,
- (d) No subsidised doctor be employed on epidemic work except in case of emergency and then only within a radius of five miles from the dispensary. If so employed he should be given a combined allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 per day to cover all charges.
- (e) In cases where no doctors come forward to start subsidised dispensaries the Local Board be given a corresponding grant if they undertake to open and maintain a dispensary together with a whole-time doctor at or near the village selected by Government.”

The motion was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There remains only one item to be disposed of. If the House agree, I may sit for 5 or 10 minutes more.

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ASSAM COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move, that:

“ This Assembly recommends that, subject to the approval of the schemes by the Government of India, the programme of road improvements recommended by the Assam Communications Board in paragraphs 3, 4, 8 and 9 of the proceedings* of their fifth meeting held on the 13th—15th September 1939 to be undertaken from the Central Road Fund to be approved within the limit of funds as may be allocated by the Government of India.”

The proceedings have been supplied to the hon. members this morning.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Resolution moved:

“ This Assembly recommends that, subject to the approval of the scheme by the Government of India, the programme of road improvements recommended by the Assam Communications Board in paragraphs 3, 4, 8 and 9 of the proceedings of their fifth meeting held on the 13th—15th September 1939 to be undertaken from the Central Road Fund to be approved within the limit of funds as may be allocated by the Government of India.”

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: One word Sir, I have gone through the proceedings of the Communications Board this morning very carefully. I am surprised to find that the hon. members who had the fortune to work on the Committee have become very much unkind towards the poor subdivision from which I come, because the roads that require improvement badly have not been taken up by them. From among the roads existing

in the Habiganj Subdivision, I remember, the Habiganj Local Board is submitting petition after petition for taking up at least some of them particularly the one that connect the sadr subdivision with Habiganj.

But inspite of all the endeavours of the Board and of the public nothing has been done so far. There had been the recommendations of the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner but the hon. members did not think it wise to recommend or take up any project from the subdivision of Habiganj. May I now make an appeal to the Hon'ble Minister, whether he can see his way to give some relief to the Habiganj Local Board and take up the Nabiganj-Sherpur Road which very recently was strongly recommended by the Executive Engineer as also by the Deputy Commissioner for the purpose of connecting Sadr town with Habiganj town. This road requires to be raised above flood water level.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: The Sibsagar district is not represented on the Communications Board. I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department will kindly remember that district. I can place before him the grievances of the people of Jorhat. The Garali and Noali were taken up in the last Communications Board meeting but it was rejected. I hope the Communications Board will kindly take it up.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As a member of the Communications Board, I think, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make the position of the Board clear before the House. As for Habiganj, it has got its quota both from the Communications Board as also from the Tea Road Fund. I think it has got more than what it is due to it. If the hon. member cares to go through the present year's programme, he will find that there are big projects from that quarter. So far as Sibsagar district is concerned I also request my hon. and veteran friend the Khan Bahadur to look into the programme. There are projects from the Sibsagar district (*A vice*—nothing for Jorhat) Sir, am I to understand that it is the intention of all the members that all the projects according to the choice of the hon. members should be executed in one year or the Government as well as the members of the Board should get things done according to the priority of necessity as decided upon by the Board! No hon. member should do the Board the injustice to think that they do not give due consideration to the needs of the districts not represented on it.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, I would refer to one thing, to an omission. I am myself a member of the Communications Board. With regard to proposal No.6 of item No.3 that is "consideration of proposals for additions to the existing one crore road improvement programme" class II, the proposal as passed by the Board was "Road for Shabandar to Aloha and thence to Shamsherganj and an extension upto Satgaon-Mirzapur Road" which should be taken over by the Public Works Department. But in the Gazette publication as also in the proceedings sent to us and also as it came to us to-day I find Sir, that the part which should be taken over by the Public Works Department has been omitted. I therefore request the Hon'ble Minister to incorporate that part and make the scheme a complete one as originally passed by the Communications Board. I made reference to the Secretary, Public Works Department; but unfortunately have received no reply. If this part is eliminated, necessarily the scheme does not become a complete one and 8 miles of road will be left. I therefore again request him to accept my proposal and remove the defect.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention here that in the Dhubri subdivision, the Gauripur-Raha Road which is connecting the two subdivisions has not been taken up by the Road

Board. I would just like to mention this that this is the only shortest road from Dhubri to Goalpara, and also up to Shillong. I have put many questions regarding this road, and the Hon'ble Premier, Sir Muhammad Saadulla, has admitted that this is an important road connecting two districts and 4 subdivisions, and also Shillong, the capital of Assam. So I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge should have taken this Roha Road, in the Programme. A portion of this road, from Dhubri to Bilashipara, has already been taken up by the Road Board, and it was diverted from Bilashipara through Kokrajhar to the North Trunk Road. For some years this North Trunk road almost every year gets breached in many places and several of the bridges are washed away, and it becomes simply impossible to use this North Trunk Road in the rainy season. Now if this Roha road is taken up and maintained by the Public Works Department and if we can make the remaining 32 miles gravelled it will be possible for people of the Dhubri subdivision to use the road throughout the whole year without any difficulty. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will keep this road in view and try to include it in the Road Board programme, as early as possible.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will remember the Garo Hills and see that the roads in the district are improved.

Babu BEPIN BEHARI DAS: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur road is a very important road, and if it is raised above flood level it will connect Habiganj subdivision with the district town of Sylhet throughout the whole year and the journey will not take more than three hours, and the people living nearby will be benefited in various ways, and commerce will be improved. So I wish that the Government will improve this road as early as possible.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. members from different parts of the House have made various suggestions with regard to the schemes which may be taken up by Government. The Communications Board, when they meet, take into consideration all the conflicting claims, and the various schemes that are put forward, and then come to a decision. I am sure the debate which we have had just now, and the suggestions made by the various hon. members, will receive due consideration at the hands of the Communications Board.

With regard to the suggestions made by the hon. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta I am sure hon. member will realise I cannot off hand undertake to make a correction in the proceedings which are signed by the Secretary. If at the next meeting of the Board, when the proceedings are being confirmed, it is pointed out that there has been an omission, I am sure a correction will be made.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is "This Assembly recommends that, subject to the approval of the schemes by the Government of India, the programme of road improvements recommend by the Assam Communications Board in paragraphs 3, 4, 8 and 9 of the proceedings of their fifth meeting held on the 13th—15th September 1939 to be undertaken from the Central Road Fund to be approved within the limit of funds as may be allocated by the Government of India."

The resolution was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a. m., on Saturday, the 24th February, 1940.

Shillong,

A. K. BARUA,

The 16th March 1940.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

APPENDIX A

The 20th March 1939

No.1962-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2)(x) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923, (Assam Act I of 1923), the Governor of Assam is pleased to prescribe in supersession of the orders conveyed in this Department Notifications No.2036-L.S.-G., dated the 14th July 1928, No.418-L.S.-G., dated the 18th February 1929 and No.769-L.S.-G., dated the 28th April 1930, the following fees as the maxima which may be levied by the following Town Committees on carriages and carts under section 59, sub-sections 1(h) and (i) of the said Act :—

License fees on carriages and registration fees on carts in the Hailakandi Srimangal, Gauripur, Nalbari, Palasberi and Mangaldai Small Towns :—

	Per annum		
	Rs.		
For every four-wheeled carriage...	18
For every two-wheeled carriage...	10
For every cart...	10

The Town Committees may vary these rates as they please within these maxima for different kinds of carriages and carts.

H. G. DENNEHY,

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam, Edn. & L.S.-G. Depts.

APPENDIX B

The 9th May 1939

No.2700-L.S.-G.,—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2)(i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, and in modification of the Notification No.203-L.S.-G., dated the 14th Jynuary 1925, so far as it relates to the Habiganj Municipality, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rule for the division of Habiganj Municipality into wards and for fixing the number of members to be elected for each of such wards of the said Municipality.

HABIGANJ MUNICIPALITY

The municipality shall be divided into five wards with the following boundaries :—

	Number of elected members for each ward
Ward No.I Is bounded on the North by the Barak river, on the South by the Ghatia <i>Khal</i> , on the East by the Municipal bund and by the Barak river, on the West by the Katakhal.	2
Ward No.II Is bounded on the North by the Barak river, on the South by the Chirakandikhal and by the ditch south of Chaudhuri Bazar, on the East by the Khowai river, and on the West by Municipal bund.	3

Ward No. III 2
 Is bounded on the North by the Chirakandikhal, the ditch south of Chaudhuri Bazar and Ghatiakhal, on the South by the *Khal* to the south of the *bashas* of Babu Prem Narain Kar, Babu Devi Charan Ray and the Head Master, Government High School, and by the southern boundary of Haripur, on the East by the Khowai river, and on the West by the Municipal boundary *Khal*.

Ward No. IV 3
 Is bounded on the North by the southern boundary of Ward No. III, on the South by the cross road to the north of the Girls' school, by the Rajnagar *khal* and the passage from the main road in the front of Maulavi Abdul Gani's *basha* and by the *khal* to the north of Rai Sahib Kamal Kanta Ghose and late Sarat Chandra Purkayastha's *bashas* up to the Khowai river, and on the East by the Khowai river, and on the West by the Burning ghat road and by the Rajnagar *khal*.

Ward No. V 3
 Is bounded on the North by the southern boundary of Ward No. IV, on the South by the southern boundary of the Municipality, on the East by the Khowai river, Mirash of Rajani Kanta Saha, Rushanullah, Maniruddin, Ulfatullah and others and the burial ground and Shaisthanagar village, and on the West by Railway line.

S. GOHAIN,

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Edn. & L.S.-G. Depts.

APPENDIX C

The 13th May 1939

No.2762-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2)-(i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following amendments in the rules for the election of members of Municipal Boards published with the notification No.656L.S.-G., dated the 13th February 1937:—

AMENDMENTS

- “ For rule 2(1)(a)(i) and (ii) and (b) substitute the following—
 2(1) (i). On the establishment of a Board under section 9, or its re-establishment under section 294, or on a fresh election being ordered under section 293, by an order issued at least three months before any such election ;
 (ii). In any other case of a general election under section 17(1), by an order issued not later than the expiry of the third year following the completion of the last general election ; and
 (iii). In the case of a bye-election, by an order issued as soon as possible after the vacancy occurs, but at least 50 days before such bye-election.”

S. GOHAIN,

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Edn. & L.S.-G., Depts.

APPENDIX D

EXPLANATORY NOTE REGARDING THE CHANGES IN THE SCHEME FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDISED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

The Assembly during 1937-38 approved a scheme by which private qualified medical practitioners who settle in rural localities to be selected by Government would receive a monthly subsidy of Rs.25 and also an initial sum of about Rs.150 for medicines and appliances, with an annual allotment of the same amount to provide medicines for treatment of ordinary diseases, etc. The total recurring cost for 27 dispensaries was, therefore, stated to be Rs.12,000.

So far only 14 dispensaries could be opened but 2 were subsequently closed for want of qualified doctors. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills it has not been possible to open one for want of qualified doctors. In three cases at least, *viz.*, Ganirgram in Cachar, Haripur and Selbaras in Sylhet, the failure to open dispensaries was definitely attributed to the inadequacy of the monthly subsidy but the dispensaries at the two latter places have since been opened. The inadequacy of the subsidy is almost certainly a very important cause for the failure in other places. It stands to reason that localities vary in respect of the extent to which the local people can contribute to the subsidised dispensaries for the attention and medicine they receive. The scheme must be given a fair chance in view of its great potential importance, and Government desire to experiment further in order to see what will be normal average rate of subsidy which it is necessary to give. At the same it appears vital that the rural people should be encouraged towards self-help. It is also not possible for them to meet the whole cost of medical treatment everywhere without the due degree of co-operation from the local people.

The scheme was intended to be experimental and must be adjusted from time to time in accordance with experience. When instructing Civil Surgeons to pursue the particular ventures with which they are concerned on the new terms, Government propose to enquire what modifications are necessary in this respect, and by what means local self-help can best be encouraged.

It is at present intended to keep within the total sum of Rs.12,000 sanctioned for the original scheme. Since, however, owing to the delay in establishing the dispensaries the expenditure estimated for 1939-40 is only Rs.8,500 ; if this total is exceeded, the Assembly will be requested to make a supplementary grant. In those hill districts where hitherto an absolute lack of doctors has been experienced, Government will, if necessary, reconsider the whole basis of the experiment.

Experience in the working of the scheme during this 1½ years goes to show that some other modification of the terms on which the subsidy is given is essentially necessary as mentioned in items (b) to (e), the most important of which is item (b). It is true that in unhealthy areas or during unfavourable periods a rigid allotment of Rs.150 is found inadequate for medicines and so it is proposed to raise it as stated in the motion.

APPENDIX E

FIFTH MEETING

Assam Communications Board

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ASSAM COMMUNICATIONS BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, THE 13TH, 14TH, AND 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1939, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Sittings

10-30 A. M.	to	1	P. M.	} On Wednesday and Thursday.
2-15 P. M.	to	4-30	P. M.	
2-15 P. M.	to	4	P. M.	On Friday.

PRESENT :

President

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan, Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department.

Members

2. Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, M. C., I. S. E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department.
3. Mr. S. P. Desai, I. C. S., Secretary, Finance Department (on the 13th only).
4. Mr. S. Gohain, M. A., B. L., Secretary, Education and Local Self-Government Departments (on 13th and 14th only).
5. Srijut Mohi Chandra Bora, B. L., M. L. A.
6. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda, Bar-at-Law, M. L. A.
7. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, B. L., M. L. A.
8. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, B. L., M. L. A.
9. Babu Dhakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhury, M. A., B. L., M. L. A.
10. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali, B.A., LL.B., M. L. A.
11. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev, M.A., B.L., M.L.A.
12. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua, B. A., M. L. A.
13. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull, M. L. A.
14. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, B. A., M. L. A.
15. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta, M. L. A.
16. Mr. W. J. Gray, M. L. A.
17. Mr. R. G. Manson, Chief Operating Superintendent, Assam-Bengal Railway, representing Railway interests in Assam.
18. Mr. E. S. Kaye, M. L. A., Representative of the Steamer Companies operating in Assam.

Observers

19. Rai Bahadur Nilambar Dutta, representing the recognised Local Transport Associations interested in the development of communications in Assam.
20. Mr. N. Dawson, M. L. A., representing the North Bank interests of the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.

Superintending Engineers and ex-officio Joint Secretaries

21. Mr. Ali Ahmed, B. A., I. S. E.
22. Mr. A. A. Barnard, B. E., O. B. E., I. S. E.

The President in opening the Meeting desired that the item:—

1. "To constitute a Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee of the Communications Board"

be taken up first for discussion.

(1) **The Chief Engineer** said that the Tea Industry had some years ago voluntarily agreed to an enhanced assessment of their lands under tea cultivation. The proceeds of such enhanced assessment used to be paid into a Fund, called the Tea Rates Road Fund, and from that Fund money was spent for the improvement of roads in the districts from which the Fund was collected. This was previously managed by a separate body called the Tea Rates Road Fund Committee and the works thereof were executed by an Engineer of that body. From the 1st April 1939, the constitutional position having changed, this Fund has become a part of the provincial revenues and consequently it has now to be managed, and the works to be undertaken under it executed, by the Public Works Department. It is therefore suggested that a Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee of the Communications Board be constituted. The functions of this Sub-Committee will be to select the roads to be improved from this Fund. The Sub-Committee will put up their recommendations to the Communications Board, who would either approve or disapprove these recommendations. He also referred to the old rules issued with Notification No.3885-F., dated the 7th June 1927 under which the Fund had previously been administered.

(2) **Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma** said that as the Communications Board consists of representatives of the Indian as well as European planting communities, there was no necessity at all for forming a separate Sub-Committee for this purpose.

(3) **Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** said that when ultimately the decision of the Sub-Committee would be approved or disapproved by the Communications Board, the procedure suggested would be dilatory. Because when the members of the Communications Board could settle matters among themselves, there could be no justification for the projects to pass first through a Sub-Committee.

(4) **Mr. S. P. Desai** pointed out that before coming to a decision in the matter, it would be advisable to look into the original papers with a view to find out, if in constituting the Fund a few years ago, there was any implication or understanding—legal or moral—that this Fund should be administered by a separate Sub-Committee.

(5) **Mr. Hockenhuil** pointed out that it was the Premier Mr. Bardoloi himself who had suggested converting the Tea Rates Road Board that had existed for the last 12 years into a Sub-Committee of the Communications Board, and the necessity for such a Committee had been accepted by the Prime Minister as well as by Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the Finance Minister.

(6) The discussion on the item was postponed for the time being and after lunch time, **Mr. Desai** again resumed the point.

He narrated the original history and position of the Assam Tea Rates Road Fund and the Assam Local Rates Regulations as amended in 1926. He explained that in the case of land under tea cultivation, an enhanced rate was levied @ -/8/- per acre, and the proceeds of such additional rate was credited to the Tea Rates Road Fund to be administered under the orders of the Local Government for the improvement of the Road Communications in the districts from which such rate was realized.

(7) Before the New Constitution came into effect, this Fund was treated as a separate Fund and not as a part of the Provincial Revenues. Under the New Constitution, the wording of section 136 of the Government of India Act, 1935, required that all moneys which were raised on Province. It was on that technical ground that the proceeds of this additional Tea Rates Road Fund as well as ordinary Local Rates Fund are now being credited to the Government as part of the Provincial Revenues. The intention so far is that although we are now taking action that is technically necessary, we do not want to make any change in the rules for the administration of this Fund. This would mean that the money raised under the Assam Local Rates Amendment Act should substantially remain as before, that is to say, it should be administered by the Advisory Committee, as before, consisting of:—The Finance Minister or any other Minister of the Government, the Chief Engineer, and the 4 planting members of the Assam Communications Board. This Advisory Committee will deal only with projects to be financed from the proceeds of the Tea Rates Road Fund. He, however, made it clear that legally the Government was not bound to keep the same Advisory Body as before for the administration of the Fund, but considering the fact that this Fund was derived from enhanced assessment on lands under tea, they might reasonably hold that their representatives should have some say in the matter.

(8) **Mr. F. W. Hockenull** also explained the origin of the Fund and stressed the point that the money derived from this Fund was the result of a voluntary taxation which the planting community subjected themselves to for improvement of communications in Assam which were in a very backward state.

The discussion on this item was at this stage postponed for the following day.

The question was again resumed on the morning of the 14th September 1939.

(9) **Mr. K. E. L. Pennell** at the outset enquired if the members had come to any decision whether they would agree to the formation of an Advisory Sub-Committee.

(10) **Mr. F. W. Hockenull** said that the members of the Board were fully acquainted with the conditions which had brought this item on to the Agenda and he hoped that if the members agreed to this proposal they could minimise the labour and trouble of the Communications Board.

(11) **Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma** at this stage suggested that if the Sub-Committee was at all to be formed, it should be enlarged by taking two rural members—one from each Valley—as he thought that unless rural members were included, their interests would not be fully served.

(12) **Mr. K. E. L. Pennell** pointed out that the Chairmen of Local Boards concerned would also be co-opted, as Members of this Sub-Committee, when projects relating to their respective Boards were discussed and that it was probably not essential to enlarge the Sub-Committee further.

(13) After further discussion **Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** supported the Government proposal, on condition that the full proceedings of the Sub-Committee would be available for discussion at the Communications Board, for their consideration and final decision.

(14) It was pointed out that these proceedings would, in any case, come up for ratification by the Communications Board as a matter of course and that it was not necessary to introduce any such condition.

(15) The Board then accepted the proposal that a Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee be constituted as follows:—

Chairman

(1) The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department.

Member and Secretary

(2) The Chief Engineer.

Members

(3) Mr. F. W. Hockenull, M.L.A.

(4) Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, B.A., M.L.A.

(5) Mr. W. J. Gray, M.L.A.

(6) Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta, M.L.A.

(7) Chairmen of the Local Boards concerned (Co-opted) in non-voting capacity.

Srijut Siddhinath Sarma dissented.

(16) It was suggested that with a view to enable the Board to make their final selection of the projects discussed and passed by the Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee, without waiting for a further meeting at a subsequent date, the Sub-Committee should sit at 9 A.M. on the morning of the 15th September 1939, and that their proceedings should be available for discussion at the afternoon sitting of the Communications Board on the same day. This decision was given effect to.

2. Financial position of the Road Fund

(1) The financial position of the Fund was fully explained by the Chief Engineer to the Meeting. He pointed out that while during the current year (1939-40) Rs.1,35,000 was shown as the unallotted balance available, it must be remembered that the 23 projects, already selected as class I (Priority List) and finally approved by the Government of India, will in all cost Rs.34,54,073 and will probably consume the opening balance of Trs.5,26 as well as the proceeds of the next 3 years, viz., 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42, during which period the following receipts are anticipated:—

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS

Year	Ordinary share	Reserve Fund	Total
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
1939-40	3,50	5,00	8,50
1940-41	3,75	5,00	8,75
1941-42	4,00	5,00	9,00
Total	11,25	15,00	26,25

As there are various commitments already incurred or anticipated, in addition to the 23 items in the priority list as shown in Appendix A of these proceedings a deficit of about Trs.3,40 appears probable. But until detailed estimates for all these schemes have been prepared it is not possible to forecast the deficit with any accuracy.

(2) It was fully explained by **Mr. Pennell** that while Assam have a definite claim on the quota available as the ordinary share on the sale of petrol in this Province, they have to depend entirely on the mercy of the Central Government for doles from the Reserve Fund. It is to be admitted that Assam has fortunately received very special consideration in this respect from the Government of India in the past, but a warning has already been given that although this Province was treated as the Cinderella of the provinces, the position has become quite different now, as Orissa and Sind have also come into the picture and it may be necessary in future for the Government of India to give special consideration to these provinces as well. With this warning in mind, we could only anticipate a dole of 5 lakhs annually for the next year or two from the Reserve Fund.

(3) **Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** pressed the point that we must always try to bring home to the authorities at Delhi and Simla that ours is a very backward Province in respect of communications and we would urge them as strongly as possible not to forget Assam when making their allotments from the Reserve Fund.

(4) The Board after full discussion decided that with a view to serve the interests that did not in the past receive as much consideration as they were entitled to, they should make out a new list of roads to be included in the main Programme of road improvements in Assam, limited to 3 years' anticipated receipts, which would be about 30 lakhs, and on the basis of this sum, a distribution should be made at the ratio of 2 : 1 for Assam Valley and Surma Valley respectively. From this list, projects estimated to cost 9 lakhs, that is, 3 lakhs for the Surma Valley and 6 lakhs for the Assam Valley should be selected for inclusion in the Priority List (Class I) and that attempts should be made to move the Government of India as quickly as possible for approval of these projects after the next session of the Assam Legislative Assembly have passed all these schemes.

(5) **The Chief Engineer** pointed out that in respect of new schemes which are immediately intended to be included in Class II, that is, as additions to the existing One Crore Road Improvement Programme, the Department had not been able to look into these schemes whether they were going to be "competitive", "non-competitive" or "feeder", nor estimate how much they would ultimately cost, even on rough calculations. The figures shown can only be taken as "approximate cost" for the purpose of discussion and as a basis for preliminary selection, but it was not possible to state definitely whether in some cases the final figures would not go far beyond what had been shown. In any case, however, as the Board were expressing their strong desire to include them in Class II list, he would not object to take them as the basis for discussion. For projects which would be selected from this List (Class II) for inclusion in the Priority List (Class I) to the extent of 9 lakhs, *i.e.*, 3 lakhs for the Surma Valley and 6 lakhs for the Assam Valley, the Chief Engineer would try to furnish as accurate figures as possible before the next sitting of the Board. He will also apprise them of the various classifications under which these schemes will fall according to the location of each project.

3. Consideration of proposals for additions to the existing "one crore road improvement programme"—Class II

After discussion, the Board decided to include the following projects as additions to the existing One Crore Road Improvement Programme—Class II.

SURMA VALLEY

Proposed by—	Projects	Approximate cost
		Rs.
Mr. A. K. Chanda, Bar-at-Law, M.L.A.— Cachar ...	1. Joynogar-Katigora Road—11·5 miles	63,250
Mr. B. Mookerjee, B.A., M.L.A.— Sylhet ...	2. Kulaura-Murai Road <i>via</i> Prithimpasa to Tilagoan and connecting with the Shaistaganj Trunk Road <i>via</i> Sriman-gal—8·2 miles.	1,05,500
	3. Balaganj-Tajpur Road—7·43 miles.	1,15,000
	4. Latu-Fakirerbazar Road—5·5 miles	1,82,000
	5. Latu-Nilambazar Road—8·5 miles	2,88,000
Babu Dakshina Sylhet ...	Ranjan Gupta Chaudhury, M.A., B.L., M.L.A.— 6. Road from Shabandar to Alwa and thence to Shamsheganj and an extension up to Satgaon-Mirzapur Road.	2,50,000
	Total	10,03,750

ASSAM VALLEY

Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua, B.A., M.L.A.— Goalpara...	1. New road from Dhubri to Patamari through Adabari—11·32 miles.	2,50,000
	2. Improvement of Dhubri-Kachugaon Road with permanent bridges.	60,000
	3. Gravelling Bogribari-Gosaingaon Road	20,000
Maulavi Md. Amjad Ali, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A.— Goalpara...	4. Bridge over Haripani river on the Jogig-hopa Chapaguri Road—300'	63,000
	Total Goalpara	3,93,000
Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A.— Kamrup ...	5. Polashbari-Loharghat Road to be extended up to Barduar Tea Estate—6 miles.	25,000
	6. Chari-Ali-Ramgaon-Nagrijiuli Road—26 miles.	86,600
	7. Dhamdhama-Tamalpur Road—8 miles.	33,700
	8. Tihu Feeder Road—3 miles.	2,300
	9. Basistha Road (including bridge) 4·45 miles.	27,500
	10. Nalbari-Polla Road—10·5 miles.	68,000
	11. Namati-Masalpur Road—16 miles.	48,000
	Total Kamrup	2,91,100

ASSAM VALLEY—*contd.*

Proposed by—	Projects	Approximate cost
		Rs.
Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora, B.L., M.L.A.—		
Nowgong...	12. Nowgong-Jagi road	5,00,000
	Total Nowgong	<u>5,00,000</u>
Chief Engineer—		
Sibsagar	13. Improving the Bokakhat-Dhansiri- mukh Road (South Bank)—6 miles.	2,25,000
Mr. F. W. Hockenull, M.L.A.—		
Sibsagar...	14. Cinnamara-Titabor Road (about 8 miles) (Noa-Ali) to be converted into an all-weather motorable road.	30,000
	Total Sibsaagar	<u>2,55,000</u>
Chief Engineer—		
Lakhimpur...	15. Construction of a bridge over the Dikrong at a site in Harmutty tea garden and a consequent 20-mile long diversion of the North Trunk Road taking off from mile 16 and rejoining in mile 28 from North Lakhimpur.	4,00,000
	16. Construction of a road to connect Silli- kagurighat with the North Trunk Road—4 miles.	17,500
Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, B.L., M.L.A.—		
Lakhimpur...	17. Improving "Mahmara Ali" and "Mahmara extension" road" in the Dibrugarh and Sibsaagar subdivisions.	10,000
	Total Lakhimpur	<u>4,27,500</u>
Chief Engineer—		
Garo Hills...	18. Construction of two screw-pile bridges in miles 16 and 20 of the Tura-Row- mari Road in the Garo Hills.	1,70,000
	Total Garo Hills	1,70,000
	Total Assam Valley	<u>20,36,500</u>

DISTRIBUTION
SURMA VALLEY

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cachar	63,250	0	0
Sylhet	9,40,500	0	0
Total Surma Valley	<u>10,03,750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

ASSAM VALLEY

						Rs.	a.	p.
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	...	3,93,000	0	0
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	2,91,000	0	0
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	5,00,000	0	0
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	2,55,000	0	0
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	4,27,500	0	0
Garó Hills	...	...	...	...	...	1,70,000	0	0
Total Assam Valley	...	...	...	...	...	20,36,500	0	0
TOTAL ASSAM	...	...	...	...	...	30,40,250	0	0

4. To consider the projects proposed for additions and alterations to the priority Class I Schemes

After discussion, the Board decided on the following projects, either from the old main road programme or from List II Projects selected in this meeting, for inclusion to the Priority Class I Schemes:—

(1) SURMA VALLEY PROJECTS

Sylhet District

- (1) Kulaura-Murai Road *via* Prithimpasa to Tilagaon and connecting with the Shaistaganj Trunk Road *via* Srimangal—8·2 miles. Rs.
50,000
(Total estimated cost Rs.1,05,500).

If it is ultimately held that this road or any part of it shall be competitive and that it is impossible to take up this road from the Road Fund, the sum of Rs.50,000 allocated for this road should be diverted as an addition to the next project shown as Item 2 below.

- (2) Latu-Nilambazar Road, 8·5 miles. 1,50,000
(Total estimated cost Rs.2,88,000).

- (3) Replacing the two bamboo bridges on the Sylhet-Sherpur Road which was included as Item No.8 "Improving the Sylhet-Sherpur Road" in the main programme estimated to cost Rs.2,15,000. 26,000

[Item No.8 "Improving the Sylhet-Sherpur Road" is to be deleted from the main Programme of Road Improvement, as this road has already been improved considerably and it is no longer necessary to keep this in the main Programme.]

Cachar District

- (4) Diverting the Cachar Trunk Road between Salchapra and Dhaleswari bridge south *via* Algapur road junction and constructing a bridge over the Katakhal near Barni Braes. 82,000

Total Surma Valley... 3,08,000

The construction of a bridge over the Katakhal river at Matijuri on the Silchar-Hailakandi Road at an estimated cost of Rs.1,00,000 has already been included in the Priority List, *vide* Item No.19 and approved by the Government of India. Owing to erosion by the Barak river, it is impossible to put any permanent bridge across the Katakhal on the existing Trunk Road alignment. Hence the Trunk Road must be diverted *via* the Salchapra-Algapur Road which crosses the Katakhal within a mile of Salchapra and joins the Hailakandi Badarpur Public Works Department road near the 5th mile post from Hailakandi. The best site for a bridge appears to be at the northern end of part II of Narayanpur village in the middle of a straight reach about a mile north of Barni Braes Factory. It is, therefore, decided that the project shown as item No.19 in the Priority List should be substituted as suggested above. Since Rupees one lakh is already included in the Priority List the balance of the altered Project is only Rs.82,000, the total cost being Rs.1,82,000 as follows:—

	Rs.
Improvement to road 7.5 miles	22,000
Bridge	1,60,000
Total	1,82,000

(2) ASSAM VALLEY PROJECTS

Goalpara District

	Rs.
(1) Bridging the Moragadadhar river on the Gauripur-Bilashipara Road (Item 4 of main programme).	1,35,000
(2) Construction of a Bridge over the Haripani river on the Jogighopa-Chapaguri Road—300'. (New item 4 of Class II).	63,000
Total	1,98,000

Kamrup District

(1) Chari-Ali-Ramgaon-Nagriuli Road, 26 miles (Item 6 of New List.)	86,000
(2) Dhamdhama-Tamulpur Road, 8 miles of New List.)	33,000
(3) Tihu Feeder Road, 3 miles (Item 8 of New List).	2,300
(4) Namati-Masalpur Road, 16 miles New List).	48,000
Total	1,69,000

Nowgong District

(1) Improving the Jamunamukh-Doboka Road (Item 55 of main programme as now altered).	75,000
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<i>Lakhimpur District</i>		Rs.
(1) Improving the Moran Road: (Items 26 and 38 of main programme as now altered).	Naharkhatiya-Tin Ali Rajgarh	1,00,000
(2) Investigation and collection of flood data in connection with the following three projects.—		
(a) Chaldhoa to Dibrugarh. (Item 24 of main programme).		
(b) Chaldhoa to North Lakhimpur (Item 41 of main programme).		
(c) Construction of a bridge over the Dikrong and consequent diversion of the North Trunk Road. (New item 15 of Class II).		10,000
(3) Construction of a road to connect Sillikagurighat with the North Trunk Road, 4 miles. (Item 16 of New List).		17,500
	Total ...	1,27,500

Darrang District

Rs.

- | | | |
|--|--------------|--------|
| (1) Bridging the Gabru in the Darrang District (Item No.22 of the main programme in the Map, 360.) | Bridge No.38 | 60,000 |
|--|--------------|--------|

Total Assam Valley ...	6,29,500
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(3) The Board decided that as the district of Sibsagar had received no share in the existing priority selections, the Sibsagar schemes would be considered with the next selections, when Item No.28 of the main Programme :

“Improving the Dhodar Ali from Desoi bridge to its junction with Seleng Railway station feeder road, and also improving the feeder road to the Seleng Railway station” costing Rs.45,000 would be given priority.

5. The following two resolutions were passed by the Board

Precedence of projects

(1) The inclusion of any remaining portion, or portions, of an approved project already included in the programme, of which a portion has been included in the priority Class I List, to take precedence for inclusion over any new scheme, except when the latter is deemed to be of imperative urgency.

Schemes to be submitted through the members of the Communications Board

(2) In view of the large number of projects already approved by the Communications Board, any new proposals from outside the Department are to be submitted to one of the Communications Board members representing the valley in which they lie.

That member will reject all schemes except those which he considers, after consultation with the President and any other members whose advice he requires, to be of imperative urgency.

These latter schemes will then be put before the Board at their next meeting and such of them as are approved for inclusion in the main programme will then be sent to Public Works Department for getting out rough estimates.

6. Powers of the "Observers" in the matter of moving resolutions in the meetings of the Communications Board

(1) Mr. F. W. Hockenull said that he personally derived a good deal of benefit from his collaboration with the North Bank "Observer" and he suggested that if the "Observers" were allowed to initiate discussions, their advice and knowledge of the conditions of communications in the areas they represent, would be highly beneficial to the Board.

(2) The Board considered that while there could be no objection to these "Observers" taking part in the discussions, they could not allow the "Observers" to move any specific resolutions, as they possess no power to vote, and it seemed to be an impossible proposition that the mover of a resolution would have no power to vote on his own resolution. The Board therefore decided not to extend voting powers to these "Observers".

7. Consideration of a motion regarding the enlargement of the Assam Communications Board

(1) The President (Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan) stated that it was his intention, if the Board agree, to move a motion at the next session of the Assembly to the following effect:—

"This Assembly recommends that the Commissioner of Divisions, Assam, and an elected Representative of the Assam Legislative Council be included as Members of the Assam Communications Board, the constitution of which was confirmed by the Assembly on the 31st August 1937."

(2) The Board discussed the point and stated that the various interests are already fully represented on the Communications Board, as at present constituted. They had also got two "Observers" to look into special interests. While therefore they would not object to any one official or non-official, receiving special invitation from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department to attend a Meeting for a particular purpose on special occasions, and assisting the Board in their deliberations in a non-voting capacity, just as the two "Observers" at present do, they were not in favour of the proposed motion recommending the enlargement of the Board, by the addition of the Commissioner of Divisions and an elected representative of Assam Legislative Council, as members.

8. To approve starting work on the project "constructing a road between Lakhipur and Mankachar" from the Lakhipur end instead of from the Mankachar end as decided in the last meeting

(1) Mr. E. S. Kaye, M.L.A. pointed out that it was decided in the last Meeting of the Communications Board that the road should commence from Mankachar end so that it would serve as a feeder road to the Steamer Service at Rowmarighat, and therefore from a public point of view it should be started from Mankachar.

Mr. Hockenull and Mr. Dawson supported **Mr. Kaye**.

(2) **The Chief Engineer** remarked that although by starting the road from Mankachar end, it would serve as a feeder road to the Steamer Service, there were certain Engineering difficulties, because Mankachar was so inaccessible that it would be extremely difficult for the Public Works Department officers to supervise the work efficiently, but he left it to the Board to decide the point raised, and if the Board so desired, he would agree to start work from Mankachar end as originally decided.

(3) The Board decided to accept the departmental proposal to start the work from Lakhipur end.

Mr. Kaye dissented.

9. To approve the deletion of the words in Brackets "portion from Garubhasa to Bilashipara" under serial No.6 of the List of Additional Schemes for inclusion in class I selected by the Communications Board at their fourth meeting

(1) **Mr. E. S. Kaye** pointed out that the project sanctioned by the last Meeting of the Board was from Bilashipara to Garubhasa and now the Board is going to change the project. He said that if the proposal was accepted by them, it would be a "competitive" road to the Steamer Services, as it runs parallel to the Brahmaputra from Bilashipara to Gauripur.

(2) The Departmental proposal to delete the words "portion from Garubhasa to Bilashipara" was accepted by the Board, **Mr. Kaye** dissenting.

10. The improvement of Local Bodies' roads from the proceeds of the Motor Taxation Fund

(1) **The Chief Engineer** stated that he originally anticipated that an amount of Rs.35,000 per annum would be received as a new source of revenue from the proceeds of the Motor Taxation Fund, for the improvement of Local bodies' roads. The recent information from the Home Department shows that this figure is likely to be near about Rs.82,000 for the current year. With a view to make out a well considered programme, the Chairmen of Local Boards in Assam have been instructed to put forward schemes within their respective areas, keeping the total estimated expenditure within Rs.15,000. This amount of Rs.15,000 has been arrived at on the basis of an 8 year programme. At Rs.35,000 per annum a sum of Rs.2,80,000 would be available in 8 years. There are 19 local boards in Assam thus each board's share of this total would be Rs.15,000 approximately.

As it now appears that annual receipts are likely to increase, it may be possible to reduce the periods of the programme to less than 8 years.

The projects had not yet been received in the Chief Engineer's Office, but it is expected that they would soon come through the Local Officers concerned.

(2) **The Chief Engineer** pointed out that the specifications for these roads which will be termed as "Secondary roads" will be as specified in Appendix C of these proceedings, and that the roads so improved will be resumed by the Local bodies for maintenance.

(3) The Board discussed the desirability of not restricting the estimated expenditure for a particular Local Board within the limits of Rs.15,000 fixed in the departmental instructions as the backwardness of communications within the area of a particular Local Board, its length, population, and necessity, must be borne in mind when making final selections. The Chief Engineer stated that he was not going to suggest a hard and fast rule of Rs.15,000 per local board, but for the purpose of getting estimates it was necessary to fix a limit.

(4) **Mr. Barnard** stated that each local board was likely to send up schemes costing, in any case, more than Rs.15,000.

(5) Further discussions ensued and **Mr. Pennell** pointed out that at this Meeting it was not necessary for the Board to discuss details. In the departmental instructions issued to the Local Boards it was pointed out that the roads selected by the Local Boards should be those that will benefit the largest number of villages at present suffering from bad communications with their nearest market, railway station or steamer ghat, and yet be easily accessible from provincial roads, in order that the use of road machinery, kept at Public Works Department depots, may not prove unduly expensive and the necessity of additional staff for the supervision of work may not arise. If more schemes than one are proposed they should be listed in the order of urgency by the Local Board concerned and the estimated cost noted against each. As the Communications Board will, however, have full opportunity to look into these schemes when they come up before them for the final selection at a subsequent meeting, due consideration can then be given to the needs of particular boards.

(6) The Board after hearing the Chief Engineer decided that when the scheme come up to them for consideration at a subsequent meeting, they would consider all these aspects.

11. Consideration of the proposal whether the Srimangal-Shaistaganj-Teliapara Road, serial No. 3 of the priority class I list of projects, which has already had the sanction of the Government of India, should again be considered with a view to change the site of crossing the Khewai River from Shaistaganj to Chunarughat.

The Board after hearing the Chief Engineer decided that the existing sanctioned alignment of the road from Srimangal to Teliapara *via* Shaistaganj with the crossing of the Khowai river at Shaistaganj should be adhered to.

12. Proposal for the road connecting Cinnamara and Titabar (Noa Ali) in the Sibsagar district (about 8 miles) to be converted into an all-weather road and maintained as such.

(1) **The Chief Engineer** explained that after examining the prospect of the Jorhat Railway, the Government of India had come to the conclusion that the continuance of passenger services on that Railway between Cinnamara and Titabar was not justified from either financial or strategic point of view. They had, accordingly, decided that if the Government of Assam insisted on the continuation of the passenger service between these two points they must guarantee the Government of India against loss and consequently pay a subsidy to the Railway.

(2) **Mr. Ali Ahmed** stated that a meeting was held in Calcutta with the Jorhat Provincial Railway Representatives, the Representatives of the Railway Board, and Mr. Ali Ahmed, as representative of the Government of Assam. At that meeting the Managing Agents of the Jorhat Railway (Messrs. Macneill and Company) agreed to continue passenger services and to bear the loss caused thereby, for some time, on the assurance given by Mr. Ali Ahmed, as the representative of the Provincial Government at that

meeting, that he would recommend to his Government that the improvement of the road from Cinnamara to Titabar should be brought into the programme of works to be financed from the Road Fund, so that an alternative mode of transport be available throughout the year before the Railway actually stop passenger traffic in the Jorhat Provincial Railway. The Railway Board had agreed to continue passenger service until Assam can make necessary improvement to the road running parallel to the Jorhat Railway. The Managing Agents have now represented to the Government of India that the Provincial Government should be moved to make the grant from their Road Fund for the improvement of the road at an early date, and that the Managing Agents should be relieved of the heavy burden of maintaining the passenger services between Cinnamara and Titabar.

(3) The Board discussed the matter, heard Mr. Ali Ahmed, and then decided that they were unable at the present moment to take up the question of converting the Cinnamara-Titabar Road into an all-weather road and to maintain it as such. **Mr. N. K. Dutt** pointed out that there is at present a road and it serves the public fairly well. If at some future date after the railway had discontinued their passenger services between Cinnamara and Titabar it was felt that the existing road facilities between these two points or in the neighbourhood for reaching Jorhat were not sufficient, and that it was essential to convert the road connecting Cinnamara and Titabar into an all-weather road, they would consider the matter further, but that at present they were unable either to accede to the proposal for improving the road or suggesting the payment of any subsidy to the Jorhat Railway for maintaining passenger services between these two points.

13. Confirmation of the proceedings of the Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee (Appendix B).

The Board ratified the proceedings of the Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee held in the morning of the 15th September 1939.

14. Miscellaneous.

- (a) **Mr. A. K. Chanda** requested that he may be furnished with a rough estimate for a road from Kabuganj to Dholai Bazar in the Cachar district.
- (b) **Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora** requested that he may be furnished with a rough estimate for a road from Kuaritol to Silghat in the Nowgong district.
- (c) At the conclusion of the proceedings, the **Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan**, Minister in charge of the Public Works Department, thanked the members for their deliberations and also the Department for equipping the meeting with all the details necessary for arriving at satisfactory conclusions on the various questions raised.
- (d) **Mr. Hockenull**, on behalf of the members, thanked the Department for the admirable way in which they rendered help to the members with details and information necessary, and added that on this occasion the Public Works Department had more than fulfilled their expectations in the matter of furnishing details.

ALI AHMED,

A. A. BARNARD,

*Superintending Engineers.
and ex-officio Joint Secretaries.*

SHILLONG:
The 27th September 1939.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CLASS I PROJECTS ALREADY APPROVED

Showing estimated amounts against each scheme as per latest information up to 1st July 1939

Serial No.	Name of project	Assam Valley			Surma Valley		
		To be financed from			To be financed from		
		Ordinary share	Reserve Fund	Not yet decided	Ordinary share	Reserve Fund	Not yet decided
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Rebuilding Doom Dooma bridge in mile 318 of the Assam Trunk Road	44,000	..	..	..	..	..
2	Improving the North Trunk Road from Dumnichowki via Moramanas to Garubhasa.	8,00,000	..	..	..	..	..
3	Improving the Srimangal-Shaistaganj-Teliapara Road— Section A— Srimangal to Shaistaganj .. .. .	..	..	..	3,74,000	..	..
4	Improving the approach road to Earle Bridge, Karinganj .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18,000	..
5	Improving the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road— Section A— Sylhet to Gobindganj .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,26,064	..
	Section B— Gobindganj to Pagla .. .. .	..	..	..	1,92,000	..	..
	Section C— Pagla to Sunamganj .. .. .	..	..	..	1,74,000	..	..
							Total Trs. 4,92 say lakhs.

APPENDIX B

Proceedings of the First Meeting of the Tea Rates Road Fund Sub-Committee of the Communications Board held at 9 a.m. on the 15th September 1939 at the Committee room of the Assam Legislative Assembly Chamber, Shillong

PRESENT

Chairman

The Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan, Minister in-charge of Public Works Department.

Members

Mr. F. W. Hockenull, M. L. A.

Mr. B. Mookerjee, B.A., M.L.A.

Mr. W. J. Gray, M.L.A.

Mr. N. K. Datta, M.L.A.

Member and Secretary

Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, M.C., I.S.E., Chief Engineer, Assam.
The Committee approved of the following expenditure which have already been incurred or which have already become liabilities:—

		Rs.
Lakhimpur	1. Completion of North Lakhimpur Schemes.	4,274
Darrang ...	2. Completion of Mangaldai Scheme.	29,400
	3. Pay of Mr. Royston for 3 months and for contingencies.	4,514
Cachar ...	4. Surveying Kabuganj-Palanghat road.	100
Cachar and Sylhet	5. Constructing Monacherra-Anipur road.	15,500
Darrang ...	6. Survey work on the Borengajuli Attarikhat Road.	50
Lakhimpur	7. Construction of a screw pile bridge on the Harmuttu road.	1,557
	8. Construction of a bridge at Seajuli road.	1,020
Sylhet ...	9. Surveying Lakhipur Fullartal road	17
Darrang ...	10. Fee to Mr. R. L. Varma for the preparation of estimate for the Tea Rates Road Board at Mangaldai.	150

56,582

2. The Committee made the following new selections for road improvements on the basis of a two-year programme:—

Surma Valley Schemes

	Rs.
1 Kanai Bazar-Anipur Road, gravelling 12 miles	20,000
2 Kabuganj-Palanghat Road, 2·9 miles ...	20,000
3 Chandkhira Schemes	19,000
4 Rabibazar-Rangicherra Road—6 miles ...	12,000
5 Dhalai bridge at Chaitraghat on the Maulvi bazar-Shamshernagar Road.	10,000 (First instalment.)
6 Eraligool Road—2 miles gravelling	5,000
7 Mirpur-Putijuri Road—11 miles.	24,000
	1,10,000

Assam Valley Schemes

Golaghat

1 Improvement of the Moranji Ali, 13·75 miles	48,000
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Nowgong

2 Salona-Dejoo Valley Road	} 50,000
3 Road from Bamuni to Assam Trunk Road....	

Kamrup

4 Improving the Pathsala Feeder Road—½ mile	2,000
5 Improving Mandakata Road	} 20,000
6 Improving Gauhati-Sonapur Road	

Goalpara

7 Improving road from Rupshi to Bashbari Station	10,000
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Bishnath Schemes

Darrang

8 Galating-Charali Road—10·75 miles. ...	24,700
9 Shakomati-Sadharughope Road—2·75 miles ...	6,300
	1,61,000

3. The Sub-Committee resolved that no Local Board road be taken over for improvement under the Tea Rates Road Fund until the Local Board concerned has given a written undertaking that it will resume the road for maintenance on completion of the improvement. As an exception to

the above, the Monacherra-Anipur road which has been constructed out of Tea Rates Road Fund shall be maintained by the Public Works Department from the Surma Valley contribution to that Fund. The normal maintenance expenditure for the next three years should not exceed Rs.6,000 per annum.

4. The Sub-Committee resolved that the roads improved from the Tea Rates Road Fund shall be improved to the enclosed specifications for Secondary roads (Appendix C).

Bridging under these Specifications does not include the replacement of any ferry by a bridge.

Shillong,

The 15th September 1939.

K. E. L. PENNELL,

Chief Engineer, Assam.

APPENDIX C

Specification For Secondary Roads

Embankment :—

Crest width	...	Not less than 16 feet.
Height	...	Not less than 18" above normal flood level.

Gravelling :—

A 10' wide strip along the centre of the road to be gravelled using not less than 6,000 c.ft. per mile.

All gravel to be retained on a $\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh screen.

Bridges :—(a) Existing bamboo bridges to be replaced by bridges with a 10' clear width road-way constructed with pile piers either of hard-wood timber or light steel sections, rolled steel beams and planked flooring.

(b) Existing timber bridges in good condition to be made fit to carry 3½ ton gross load motor vehicles by strengthening where necessary.

(c) Existing timber bridges not in good condition to be reconstructed to the specification given in paragraph (a) above.

Where new culverts have to be constructed reinforced concrete rectangular or circular ones as per Public Works Department designs should be adopted whenever it is possible to obtain shingle and sand suitable for this work at a reasonable cost.

Land Acquisition —To be entirely avoided if possible. It is usually possible to arrange for obtaining earth for raising and widening by payment not exceeding Re.1 per thousand c.ft.