

**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 11 a.m., on Tues-
day the 27th February, 1940

Present

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten
Hon'ble Ministers and 88 members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Starred question No.73 standing in the name of Maulavi Matior
Rahman Mia was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Reports on the Retrenchment Committee

Khan Bahadur Dewan EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY asked :

*74. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Reports on the
Retrenchment Committee are ready for publication ?

*75. (a) Is it a fact that due to the restriction imposed by Government
Notification No.6276-H., dated the 30th September 1937, all persons appoint-
ed to Government service after that date, could not be confirmed up till
now ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to withdraw that Notification
immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI
replied :

74.—Government do not propose to publish the report of the Resources
and Retrenchment Committee, but a list of the recommendations of the said
Committee has been placed on the Library Table for the information of the
hon. members of Legislature.

75. (a)—Yes, at the instance of the Retrenchment Committee till
revised scales of pay have been fixed.

(b)—The question is now being examined and orders will, it is
hoped, issue shortly.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Do Government appreciate the
state of suspense of those officers who have not been confirmed upto date ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI :
Yes, Sir.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : May I know when the persons
appointed to Government service after 30th September, 1937 would be con-
firmed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI : As
soon as possible.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the tables)

Revision of the time-scales of pay of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

72. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The different time-scales of pay for Inspectors of Vaccination and Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that these time-scales of pay were given to these officers in the year 1920 ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the time-scales of pay of the officers of other Departments have undergone revisions twice or thrice since 1920 ?
- (d) Do Government propose to revise the time-scales of pay of the officers mentioned in question 72(a) above ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI replied :

72.(a)—Inspectors Rs.45—2—65.
 Sub-Inspectors... .. Rs.30—3/2—45.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes, in some cases.

(d)—The question will be considered in connection with the proposed reorganisation of the Public Health Department which is before Government.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED : With regard to (a) and (d), is it a fact that the Inspectors of Vaccination are to move from place to place in the whole district ?**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI** : Yes, Sir, that is a duty of the Inspector of Vaccination.**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED** : Is it a fact that they are not allowed to occupy the Dâk Bungalow or the Inspection Bungalow when they go out on duty ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI: I think, there are some rules under which officers are entitled to occupy Inspection Bungalows, any one can occupy a Dâk Bungalows on payment.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Have Government made any arrangement for their stay when they go out on duty in the mufassil ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All these questions do not arise properly from the answers. The question relates to the pay of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: The aim of my question is that their pay is small and if they are not allowed to stay in the Inspection or Dâk Bungalows.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What I was trying to point out to the hon. member is that these supplementaries do not properly arise out of the answers given. The question related to the pay of the Inspectors and the Sub-Inspectors of Vaccination. How this question relating to the rules as regards the occupation of the Inspection Bungalow or the Dak Bungalow arises, I do not understand.

Declaration of 1st July as a Bank holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

73. Has the question of declaring 1st of July of every year, a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, been considered by the Government for the convenience of bank employees ?

74. Are Government aware of the fact that 1st of July is observed as a holiday, in Bengal and Orissa ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

73.—Yes. Government decided not to declare it a holiday while provinces where the banking business is of much greater importance than in Assam do not do so.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: May I know the names of the provinces other than Assam where 1st July is not observed as a holiday under the Nagotiable Instruments Act ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The following are the Provinces and States where 1st of July is not observed as a Bank holiday—Ajmer, Assam, Baluchistan, Bhopal, Bihar, Bombay, Indore, Joypur, Kapurthala, Punjab, Sind and the United Provinces. As it may interest the hon. member, I have also given the States where holiday is not observed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

74.—Yes.

Prohibition Scheme

Kumar AJIT NARAYAN DEV asked :

75. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the scheme of prohibition introduced by the last Congress-Coalition Government will be carried out by the present Government ?
- (b) Whether the scheme will be extended to some other area ?
- (c) If so, when and where ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

75.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Not for the present.

(c)—Does not arise.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : May I know why this prohibition scheme will not be extended to other selected areas ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : The Government are waiting to see the result of the experiment in the two subdivisions where the scheme is in operation.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : May I know what he means by experiment ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : Prohibition in two subdivisions was started as an experiment and Government are waiting to see how far the scheme is a success. We have extended the scheme for another year in these areas.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I know if the Government have received report from the officer who was in charge of prohibition work ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : There are various opinions about it.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Various opinions from the same officer ?

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I wanted to know what report has the Hon'ble Minister got from the officer in charge of this work ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : It is quite evident from the statements made by him in newspapers.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Is it not a fact that even the Excise Commissioner has reported that in the case of Sibsagar, prohibition was completely successful and in the case of Dibrugarh it was successful to the extent of 60 per cent. ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : The other day the Hon'ble Premier stated in his Budget speech the opinion of the very Excise Commissioner on the success of the scheme. The officer thought that some years will be required to carry on the scheme there as the habit of more than a century cannot be set right over night and that opinion as regards success is based on guess work only.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when this prohibition work was started in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh, it was discovered that nearly 60 per cent. of the addicts were those who did not possess the license ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: It might be, Sir.
Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: In what way does the Hon'ble Minister say that prohibition has not been a success?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Very recently I had been to that area and I gathered that 99 per cent. of the addicts, if not 100 per cent. had craving for opium. Even after one or two years' intensive propaganda and vigilance work if the non-officials and vigilance staff of the Excise Department are withdrawn these people will again go back to their old habits of opium, in case they are allowed to remain unguarded and uncared for. Further, I gathered that smuggling of opium is rampant and that some addicts are still getting opium from illicit source.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Is it the conviction of the Hon'ble Minister that in 99 per cent. of the cases prohibition has proved a failure?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Yes, so far as the craving for opium is concerned.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know the names of the persons from whom Government received those reports?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I had been to Sibsagar as well as Dibrugarh and had very friendly discussions with the members of the Bar Libraries there. I gathered from these discussions as well as from public interviews that so far the prohibition has been a partial success in those two subdivisions, but on the other hand opium smuggling is rampant there.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are the members of those Bar Libraries opium eaters?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The members of Bar Libraries are more in touch with the people of the interior than many other people.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Shall I not be correct in saying that the opinions of those Bar Libraries are definitely to the effect that the prohibition has been a success?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: But what I gathered from discussions with them is that that is not the case.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister was very much heckled when he visited Dibrugarh Bar Library last time?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: It was rather reverse, I had very friendly talk with all those I met there, and received commendation from persons like Srijut Lakheswar Borooh, M.L.A., for my replies.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know what is the opinion of the Dibrugarh Bar Library?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I have already said. From the various reports that we have received from those localities where this scheme has been introduced, Government are of opinion that at present it will not be desirable to extend the prohibition scheme to other areas.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: My question is what is the opinion of the Dibrugarh Bar Library?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I have already replied to that, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member wants to know what is the opinion of the Dibrugarh Bar Library.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : What I gathered from the discussion with the members of the Dibrugarh Bar Library is that smuggling of opium is still rampant there.

Srijut LAKHESVAR BOROOAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what he gathered from the discussion with the members of the Bar Library about the success of the prohibition scheme ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : I have already replied.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : Is it a fact that the opinion of the Bar Library is that the prohibition should be extended to other districts also ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : It may be, but it is not the opinion of the Government to extend total prohibition to other areas in view of the experience gained of the working of the prohibition in those areas.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA : Will the Hon'ble Minister say how Government are going to spend Rs.4½ lakhs for the Sibsagar subdivision as has been mentioned in the Finance Minister's speech ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : That is quite a new question. I want notice.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : May I know if the Hon'ble Minister consulted the Prohibition Officer who was in charge of this work ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : He was not seen although I had given him notice of my visit to those places one week before I started for the prohibition areas.

Re use of a room of the Government Jubilee High School, Sunamganj, by the Sunamganj Student Federation for holding a class for Harijan boys

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

76.(a) Are Government aware that the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, in his letter No. 732-D., dated the 28th April 1939, permitted the Sunamganj Student Federation to hold class for Harijan boys of Sunamganj town, in a room of the Government Jubilee High School, Sunamganj, after school hours ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Head Master of the said school did not allow the Student Federation to use the rooms of the school ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons thereof ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

76.(a)—Yes, subject to the condition that the authorities of the night school undertook to make good any damage to the building or furniture caused by those using the night school.

(b)—This is not a fact. The Head Master asked for an undertaking to the above mentioned effect in July last but no reply has been received.

(c)—Does not arise.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Will Government please state if the members of the Student Federation, Sunamganj, can use the school rooms if they undertake to fulfil the conditions laid down by Government ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That is a hypothetical question. However, an answer may be given.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Government will consider the question after the undertaking wanted has been given.

Starting of Demonstration Agricultural Farms in each subdivision of districts

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

77. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any scheme is being pursued by Government for starting demonstration agricultural farms in each subdivision of districts ?

(b) Do Government propose to closely follow the scheme for starting Model Villages with a view to the social and economic uplift of the rural population ?

(c) If so, how and when Government propose to take the initiative on this line ?

(d) Do Government propose to depute the Agricultural Inspectors and their Assistants with their offices to suitable localities in the rural area so that their help to cultivators would serve as an attraction ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

77.(a)—The question is rather vague. If by "demonstration agricultural farm" he means such small demonstration in connection with "Model Village Scheme", then the reply is in the affirmative, if not, then the reply is in the negative.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The scheme is being given effect to from this month.

(d)—All Agricultural Inspectors and Agricultural Demonstrators are posted in suitable centres. Along with the gradual increase of the staff more officers will be posted in different localities.

General discussion of the Budget and discussion on charged expenditure

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On a point of information, Sir. In the Budget Memorandum Rs.75,000 has been set apart as Depreciation Fund for the loan.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why does the hon. member raise that question now? Does it arise from any question?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: The other day the Hon'ble Finance Minister told the House that if any hon. member wanted elucidation on any matter relating to the Budget that might be referred to the Finance Secretary. I met the Secretary in his office room but my difficulties are not yet clear. So, I want clarification from the Hon'ble Finance Minister as regards the real purpose of this Fund.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That should have been raised when discussing the Budget. It may be raised, however, when the cut motions are discussed.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I have been asked to speak on the Budget on the last day. I find, Sir, that many have spoken, many have criticised the Budget vehemently from my side and also from the other side. I feel pity towards the Hon'ble Finance Minister, my revered friend, Sir Muhammad Saadulla. Sir, I love him and respect him because he is very kind to our subdivision (*loud laughter*).

So I thank him, Sir, the Budget is a beautiful one. Beautiful because he has cast such a glamour of patriotism in the introductory chapter of the Budget and interwoven the Budget with so many round figures and trs. rupees that none but the dry headed calculating gentleman can enter into so many figures and none can be dissatisfied with it except those who are accustomed with the diplomacy and policy of a bureaucratic Government with which our Premier has been imbued in framing the Budget.

Sir, the Budget is beautiful. His eulogy to the British Government in expectation of a sumptuous diet and his determination to serve the country like a patriot under the Act of 1935 and his condemnation of the Federal part though no reason adduced for it are so beautifully wedded with a scathing criticism of the Congress organisation that I cannot but admire him.

Sir, the lamentable cry of a wounded man for Assam financial position and laying the whole blames upon the geographical positions, topography and the invasions in the Pre-British time of the province is one thing and the full determination to change the financial positions and to find out the real cause for it is another thing. Sir, the geographical position of Assam is a very beautiful one. Her hills, mountains, rivers and abundance of forests instead of bringing happiness and prosperous financial sources of the province have become a cause for cry of lamentation for our Hon'ble Premier of Assam. I do not blame him for this. The whole blame lies upon the British Government. The subordination of 120 years, has changed us so that we cannot see with our own eyes; we cannot think independently with our own thoughts, where the sources of our finance lie. They have opened the outlets for the expenditure only. They have taught us of the official dignity, high standard of living and what more to look upon the western culture as the only torch to guide to our own salvation and the independence. Sir, we cannot change it. The Finance Minister cannot change it as long as the Constitution of 1935 remains. So, Sir, the determination of the Hon'ble Sir Saadulla to administer the province like a patriot is a cry in the vast wilderness and the policy adumbrated in

the Budget is a policy to dupe the masses and a policy to serve his own purpose—a selfish purpose and a purpose of his party, I mean the League party.

Sir, I will not criticise the League party—their plans and programmes are opened but I wonder how he has duped our Hon'ble friend, our beloved friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri and his party.

I am told, Sir, that the hills and mountains store up many mines of limes, iron, mica, coals, silajot. Where is the attempt to find out these resources? The forests abound in various sorts of medicinal herbs. Sir, I know from my own experience that thousands of maunds of medicinal herbs are exported from Assam annually to the province of Bengal and the Bengal Physicians and the Druggists reap the fruits of the produce. What benefit Assam has derived from them?

Fisheries.—Sir, the fishery is also a source of revenue. What attempt the Government have made to improve the fisheries? The rivers have changed their courses, they have dried up to a field for cultivation. The Barpeta subdivision contributed to the Government Exchequer nearly a lakh or so from the fishery mahals but alas, Sir, this amount will not be forthcoming henceforth. The Shalkhowa, the Nokhanda, the Nowbhanga, the Siloshi have dried up and our cry to cut the Showlkhowa and Nowkhonda to a certain extent and to change the courses has not been able to draw the attention of the Government.

Moreover, Sir, the lawless action of the immigrants by taking away the fish from the fishery Mahals, which run and which are situated among them has rendered the fishing operation impossible in the subdivision. Sir, I like to draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Premier to one point also that the shallowness of the river Chawalkhowa and the changing course of the rivers Biki and Nowkhanda have rendered the paddy fields in many parts of the subdivision altogether useless and this has amounted to the cause of the distress of the Rayats in the Barpeta Mouza and Khariza Bijni Mouza.

Jute Duty.—The jute duty, Sir, forms a part of the Assam Finance. Sir, if I remember aright, my hon. friend Abdur Rouf suggested to the Government in his last budget speech that the greater portion of the Assam jute passes for the Bengal jute as soon as it goes outside the province and so the consequential loss of Assam's share in jute duty is evident. Sir, I am glad to learn from the Memorandum of the Budget Estimate for the year 1940-41 at page 11 that the province of Assam has been getting 62½ per cent. instead of 50 per cent. of the jute export duty. But what check the Government has over the Assam jute which passes to be the Bengal jute? I think the Hon'ble Finance Minister will answer this.

Sir the Budget appears to be a Budget of a hungry party pouncing upon the last morsel of food prepared for the starving masses by the Congress-Coalition Ministry by taxing the luxurious and richer section of the people. The Congress-Coalition Government brought series of taxative measures and Sir Saadulla devours the whole produce. Sir, I think this will not require any more elucidation. Come to the page 35 of the Memorandum of the Budget heading "Expenditure" and see how it is substantiated.

Sir, the provincial Budget should be based on the actual needs of the people and should not be based on the needs of the Ministers, on the Gadi and their parties. Whether the Budget has met the needs you will judge.

This is the state of affairs, Sir. Undoubtedly our Premier is a patriot. I would not have grudged him, Sir, even in this expenditure, had he considered the improvement of the soil, adopted scientific method for cultivation and tried for enhancement of scientific industries.

Sir, at the end of page 14 of his Budget speech I see that he has heaved a sigh of relief after criticising the previous Finance Minister and has satisfied himself with his own statement that he has provided Rs. 15,000 in his Budget for the Dongs and Bunds system and has given a promise of another Rs. 35,000. This is not much more. Assam is an agricultural province, the soil is losing productive capacity every year and it has to depend upon the vagaries of the nature. That the Government have done nothing to increase productive capacity. My friend, Mr. Deb, has given a fitting reply to it by citing the example of Burmah, a small province which exports thousands and thousands maunds of paddy every year which is a surplus after the consumption of her people.

Education.—Coming to the education I like to draw the pointed attention of the Education Minister. Sir, he has done a great injustice to the cause of education in the Barpeta subdivision. He has attempted to kill Madhab Chandra College newly established with a donation of Rs. 10,000 given by a generous lady, a widow of late Madhab Chandra Chaudhuri. I know definitely that a monthly grant of Rs. 125 recurring and Rs. 3,000 non-recurring was proposed and recommended by the previous Government. He has robbed that amount of Barpeta subdivision to give life to a new Girls' College at Gauhati with a non-recurring grant of Rs. 1,000 and recurring grant Rs. 3,600 and this is a college of three students. I do not know how he will justify his educational policy. Sir, the Sarukhetri High School at Baniakuchi should draw special attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister. Sir, so kind and honourable our Government is towards our subdivision!

Communication.—Sir, non will deny that the communication of our subdivision is bad. In a subdivision of nearly four lakhs of people, there is not a single motorable road connecting the neighbouring district. I am told, Sir, that the Turabari-Barpeta road has been abandoned by the Government from the list of roads to be improved by the Communications Board at the suggestion of the Executive Superintendent. I wonder, who is he to give this suggestion? Does he know more than myself where the interest of the subdivision lies? Should he tell us how to take our meal and how to drink water? That is a road, Sir, which can connect Barpeta with Gauhati through Chenga, Dualasal and Hajo. I request the Hon'ble Pre-subdivision or he may take up the road that joins Barpeta and Nalbari through Sorukhetri.

Sir, coming to the vexed question-- the Line System, I asked the Hon'ble Premier and the Government to take a bold attitude. Sir, it is the irony of fate that we want a safeguard in our own home. I do not say that the indigenous people, the tribal people are weak. They are weak because they are law abiding. They also know how to stand and revolt. Kill them if you like, abolish the lines if you like, but before their death you will see a revolution; they are ready for it. Sir, do not misjudge me, I do not like to drive the immigrants, they are our brothers, they are also good and honest but they have been set and duped by propagandists to violate the laws of the land.

Coming to Grazing Reserves, Sir, what the Government are doing with professional grazing reserves. Sir, the Hon'ble Premier is going to give us ghee, but has he ever dreamt of the condition of the reserves? The grazing reserves at Barpeta are all paddy fields now. The Government have committed a breach of trust by allowing these trespassers to remain inside the grazing reserves and have committed two fold injuries to the graziers.

Manisimla, Sahpur, Barabala, Kowemari reserves are no more reserves. Just now I have got two telegrams about grazing reserves and I will read them before the House :—

“ Professional grazing reserves Barabala, Kopouha, Manisimla, Thekapa, San ochi all encroached by organised immigrants damaging grass cattle starving immediate eviction prayed Koimari Bolia eviction suspended Deputy Commissioner not coming.”

The same telegram has been repeated to Srijut Kameswar Das, M.L.A., also.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Are these cases of recent encroachment ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: I think so. I have got the telegram just now.

Sir, coming to Medical, I like to point out to the Hon'ble Premier that he has failed in his own words. Sir, in the answer to the question of my friend Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar when he was the first Premier to this responsible Government he assured him that he would give due attention to the indigenous system of drugs but in the whole range of this Budget I could not find a single cowrie even reserved for this department. Still I say he is a patriot and let me remain with the hope that he will do this. Let him live long.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir. A stranger to the Budget discussion in this Assembly may be excused at finding himself in a jungle of personal animosities instead of a maze of statistics. That jungle of personal animosity and ill-feeling is so forbidding that it is a relief to turn to the three factors common to the speeches of all the hon. members who have taken part in this discussion. These factors seem to me to be, firstly, the dissatisfaction at the scanty revenue of the province, secondly, a desire that this revenue shall be spent to the best advantage and, thirdly, perhaps the most important that we should find new sources of revenue. Perhaps too much attention is being given to all these statistics in these fearsome green Budget books. The measure of Assam's welfare is not the 8 crores of rupees put in the revised estimate or in the estimate of 1940-41. The measure of our welfare is surely the produce of the toil of the cultivators and labourers of this province. When any Government has been able to bring about a spectacular increase in their produce, then only can any of us take real pride in the balancing of the money budget. (*Hear, hear*) We in the tea industry have heard certain criticisms from the Opposition Benches. We have heard of criticism that only 26 per cent. of the area of tea gardens actually produce tea. We have been exhorted to grow sugarcane and cotton in the remaining area. One interesting proposal was that Government should confiscate the balance of the area that is not growing tea. I should like to remind the author of the suggestion by telling him that 200,000 acres of land is let to tea garden labourers at a nominal rate of rent for producing some of the *dhan* which would otherwise have to be imported from Burma. I should like to remind him that kept by tea garden labourers there are nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of cattle. I do not know where these cattle will graze if these lands are confiscated unless they are allowed to eat the sugarcane. And finally, there are in these tea garden grants, large areas producing timber and thatch which are necessary for building better houses for the tea garden labourers than any houses to which I have seen during tours in typical villages.

A distinguished speaker from the Opposition Bench has pointed out that the tea industry regard the new agricultural income-tax as obnoxious. I think we regard all taxes as obnoxious if we have to pay them. (*Hear, hear.*) But I may remind the House that tea industry has never objected to the

principle of agricultural income-tax. It is some satisfaction to the tea industry that the yield is estimated to be as large as 25 lakhs. It is a grim satisfaction to the tea industry to know that the yield from the private Zemindars in Assam will be small. The reason why I make this statement is that Bihar, which is the home of agricultural income-tax, estimated the yield at 20 lakhs for the first year from the Zemindaris but in the last month the revised estimate was reduced to 5 lakhs. If that is the position in a big Zamindari province, I think the grim satisfaction of the tea industry that 90 per cent. of the yield will be paid by it, is justified.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The Hon'ble Premier should hear this. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: The tea industry's objection to the Agricultural Income-tax was certain omissions and the haste with which the Bill was passed. As we are still waiting for the complete rules to be framed under the Act some of our complaints are justified.

We have also heard about the incidence of land revenue on tea garden land. This is not the proper occasion for a detailed examination of the question, but it is perhaps necessary in these days of new taxation proposals to remind the House that the unit of taxation on the tea industry is the fact that Assam is only one of the provinces producing tea. Assam has to compete in the Indian market with Bengal and with Madras. Moreover, India has to compete in the international market with four other great producers. Therefore, whatever the incidence of land revenue may be, there is a real practical limit to any taxation which may be imposed on this industry. If this House reduced the industry's competitive ability, then Government will be faced with a diminishing yield and a diminishing amount of the uplift work which they can perform. We welcome the rise in the prices of agricultural produce which should have a buoyant affect on the revenue. At the same time we consider that the Government machinery of price control creaked noisily and did not operate to secure for the raiyat the full benefit of the rise in prices. We consider that the main person who has profited by this price control is the middleman. In two months' time we suggest that Government should do well to devote some attention to the problem which will arise when the raiyat has exhausted his store of home-grown produce.

On the subject of higher prices we should welcome any attempts which the Forest Department can make to secure higher profit. With overseas supply of timber restricted for the next two years, the Forest Department has an excellent chance to capture new markets. In one respect, the outlook causes us grave concern. The finances and administration of Assam can best be likened to a slow-moving caravan. The caravan is now reached a steep and stony place. This caravan, in our opinion, is carrying too many passengers, some of whom should get out and walk if they cannot push. Those members, who are now busily engaged in throwing stones at this particular caravan, can best spend some of their energy in using these stones to wedge the wheels and prevent that clumsy vehicle moving backwards. This analogy is unfortunately only too apt. When we see a provision of Rs.12,000 for mass literacy and some thousand rupees for model villages we are told by critics that this provision should be Rs.80,000. My reply is that neither Rs.12,000, nor Rs.12 lakhs will be of any use for such problems unless all the well-wishers of the province who are present in this Assembly, irrespective of their political creed, are prepared to do long stretches of voluntary and unpaid work (*applause*). It is because the present Budget can fairly be described as the work of one of the greatest well-wishers of the province that we support, in the main, the proposals in the Budget (*applause*).

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to make two requests to you before I begin my discussion. One is that as we are expected not to read a written speech, I am not prepared with a written speech; and, therefore, through you, may I ask the reporters that when they ask for a written speech, I will not be able to produce one. Therefore, I ask them to take special note; if they, later on, come forward for my speech, I won't be able to remember what I said. My second request is that I am trying to approach this subject from a different angle — different from any other member in this Assembly has approached. Therefore, I would like that some consideration be made as to time. I have asked some hon. members on this side, and they have agreed that I may take some time. I request the Speaker to kindly permit me time if I go beyond the time limit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may tell the House that I have never encouraged written speeches. In connection with Budget debates, I have always found myself helpless, although repeatedly I have asked hon. members to do away with the practice of reading speeches. I have also told the reporters to take down speeches even when they are read and never to approach any member for written speeches. Therefore I request hon. members that they will, as far as practicable, in future, do away with the practice of reading speeches. I remember to have once pointed out to the House the disadvantages of manuscript speeches as they are called: they become dull, uninteresting and unimpressive. Now, a debate is really a thrust of arguments against arguments and when speeches are delivered on the spur of the moment, they become interesting and impressive, and also show the ability of the speakers to meet the arguments advanced against them.

With regard to the second request of the hon. member, I should tell him that it will be very difficult for me to give him more time if he wants to exceed the fifteen minutes allotted to him. Many more hon. members are to speak.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Sir, it is always easy to break, but it is difficult to construct; it is easy to criticise, but it is very difficult to evolve a scheme whereby some constructive work can be done. It must, however, be admitted that there are discrepancies in the Budget here and there. It is very difficult to satisfy all, and criticisms from the Opposition as well as from the Government side are quite welcome. Local and minor grievances and needs and claims and demands are natural, but these things can come in the cut motions when the motions for demands are moved, but to bring these little grievances now in the Budget discussion is not fair. We are here concerned, in the Budget discussion of the three days, with broad principles of finance in the light of which the financial statement of the Finance Minister is to be judged. And if we judge it from that light we must admit that the Finance Minister is helpless, and we have to accept what he has to present and what he has done to the best of his ability. We have no right, if we look from that point of view, to reject the whole Budget.

I welcome the illuminating array of facts presented by the hon. Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev. He has very admirably put forward certain projects. But he has not taken the whole of Assam in its entirety. We expect the financier and true statesman to look to the whole of Assam. He is to look to all sections of the people throughout Assam—Muslims, Hindus Tribal, Immigrants, Backward, *ex-garden* labourers, Planters — everybody. Therefore just to put forward a certain grievance here and a grievance there and thereby to ridicule the Budget is not fair.

What provincial, nation-wide, all inclusive nation-building schemes the financier has to tackle and evolve solution?—Let me enumerate a few amongst many.

Let me take *Agricultural development*—Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Assam. This will produce the *Dal* and *Bhat* for our teeming millions. And here the greatest development is needed.

One hon. member mentioned about seeds—seeds are needed but good seeds, improved methods of cultivation are needed, implements are needed, scientific implements are needed. Demonstrators are needed all over the country, not only in Goalpara, not only in Sylhet, not only in plains but amongst the immigrants, amongst the hills—every where. Rotation of crops should be taught. Embankment and drainage system should be dealt with throughout the country. Cattle breeding, cattle diseases, as some hon. members have mentioned, must be tackled with. Marketing and agricultural produce—no item amongst these should be left out. Then some members will say agricultural loans are required for relieving our cultivators. Sir, if all these items are to be looked into by the financier and if every member has to be satisfied, what amount is required? The amount required, I think, to wipe out the agricultural debt in Sylhet was 7 lakhs. Sir, it is not a matter of few lakhs even a crore will not be enough. Who is here amongst the members present, any financier, who can put forward proposal showing that by such and such methods 5 lakhs, 20 lakhs, 50 lakhs can be given in the hands of the Government of Assam? Crores are required for this item alone.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So let us sit tight!

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Will any one say how to evolve, how to find out a remedy? Is it the duty only of Sir Muhammad to find out or is it the duty only of the Muslims to find out or the immigrants or tribals to find out a remedy? All must co-operate and sit together to find out a solution.

Industrial development and forest produce.—Industry has not been developed. Indeed, the province is in great need of many things and many think that through industries the salvation of Assam will come. We require industries indeed. Minerals will have to be exploited throughout the length and breadth of Assam. This requires huge outlay. Industrial loans will be required. Facilities for marketing will be required to deal with all produce. Experts will be needed. But if there are experts, there will be criticism. My hon. friend mentioned about Cinchona. Yes, Cinchona is a good thing to be cultivated. It is a thing which is required to manufacture quinine. It is both an Agricultural and an Industrial product. But for this purpose experts are required and if experts are sent for to find out where and how it should be done, people will say, here Government are going for experts to find posts for big people. There will be objections. I have learnt very lately Cinchona project means that you plant Cinchona to-day and you will get its yield 7 years after and the second crop after 12 years and then finish. Therefore, if you start planting this year, you will get after 7 years. If you begin next year, you will get after 8 years. So if Sir Muhammad takes this up, there will be clamour since many do not want to wait. Then who will determine what kind of industry should be tackled with or to start with? What steps should be taken and to whom industrial loans should be given and how much will be required? What is the amount of money that will be required? Not only a few thousands, a few lakhs or even a crore will not be enough.

Sanitation and Rural Reconstruction.—Malaria and other epidemics—one hon. member has mentioned rightly Tuberculosis and Leprosy are to be seen everywhere playing havoc. The area is vast. Should sanitary arrangement be provided only in one small area or whether to look throughout the

country. The area is vast as I have said and every section, every part of Assam should be looked into. Then Medical Schools and also Medical Colleges are required but how much money will be required for these? For sanitation alone thousands, lakhs or even a crore will be needed. Is there any one here who can say 50 lakhs can be found out by this and that method? Cannot. There are other nation building departments to be looked into and there are indeed other things such as, communication etc. I do not want to dwell long on that. Roads are required everywhere in Assam. Unemployment question must be solved. We must give employment. Then comes total prohibition. All these require thousands, nay lakhs and critics are coming and saying that the fault lies with Sir Muhammad because he could not provide for all these. But if he is to provide for all these where is the money? Who can come forward boldly and give us the money?

Last but not the least—"Education" indeed true education. Many say that education is the panacea for all evils—it is so in its true and broadest sense. For education also we have got to look throughout the whole country not only one part of the province—not only towards the Muslims, Hindus, Tribals, immigrants, the ex-tea garden labourers but everybody. If 20 or 25 thousands are not given here or there we are not satisfied. We do not think of others. We are thinking of our own community, own area and not thinking of others and then criticising the financier and say that he has not done justice—his Budget must be rejected—all foolish. Schools are needed everywhere—grants should be made for compulsory primary education. There is a hue and cry for it. I like the project very much. Our Hon'ble Minister at one time said that about Rs. 3 crores were needed for compulsory primary education alone. What about University and there are so many other demands from all sections of the House which have got to be satisfied. Is it possible for one person to solve all these? It is the duty of all concerned. If all parties come together we can all come to some solution, and we can come to a conclusion as to what to omit and what to take up. There are two big parties in the Assembly. The Assam United Party and the Congress-Coalition Party. The Assam United Party is willing to take everyone into their confidence, but what will the Congress-Coalition Party say to this? They will say "we will not work together; we will only try to break the constitution and cannot offer you any help." That is the answer we will get and then some member will come forward from that party and say that because the Hon'ble Premier has not come forward with this scheme and that scheme of the Budget should be rejected...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order The hon. member's time is up.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say at the outset that the Budget for the year 1940-41 presented by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has completely damaged his reputation which he earned as a sound financier of repute. He claims the advantage of varied experience—he discards egotism in public life—he abhors political polemics. People would therefore naturally expect from him something constructive—something tangible—something inspiring to enthuse them with hope on their march towards progress, prosperity and advancement. But the Budget the Hon'ble Premier has presented—his seventh Budget—has proved to be a huge hoax perpetrated at the expense of the people ignorant and of funds—a Budget betraying a bankruptcy of imagination—an utter bankruptcy of advanced outlook and progressive ideas. It seems, with the exit of the Congress-Coalition Ministry of Assam, all comprehensive schemes of construction—all the schemes and plans of economy for amelioration of the

people, and the ray of hope that has been raised in the heart of the people—have also made their exit. A little tinkering here, a little tinkering there, without even a seeming principle of distribution, the provision for some unwanted appointments may satisfy some hon. members, may satisfy some of his Colleagues for the time, but it is sure to lead them to despair in the long run. It is pity that the Hon'ble Prime Minister seems to have tried to discharge his duties only by an unmerited criticism of the acts of omission and commission of his predecessor.

Sir, with the exit of the last Cabinet, Sir Muhammad Saadulla has again appeared on the board. He has presented a Cabinet which is nothing but a conglomeration of all possible contradictions. (*Hear, hear.*) There is no cohesion—there is no unity of ideas and outlook visible in his Cabinet. Only the tie of self-interest binds them together. No wonder therefore that the Budget lacks in consistent plan and principle and reflects want of policy and programme. The Hon'ble Premier is bound by the resolution of the Muslim League to strive for total abolition of the Line system. Some of his colleagues are party to the resolution. My brother, the Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia, is for rigid application of the system and would not tolerate even its slight modification. Our esteemed erstwhile leader, the present Education Minister—once an exponent and protector of Assamese cause and interest has been sitting on the fence observing an attitude of benevolent neutrality. I think the Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma, who was also a member of the last Government, still adheres to the policy in this matter which he was also instrumental in enunciating, and which the Hon'ble Prime Minister wants now to discard. There are some in his Cabinet who are in favour of mass immigration, and there is yet another who runs to the Bengal Government for help to stop the influx of immigrants into Assam, if possible (*laughter.*)

Then again, Sir, I still remember the vigorous plea of the present Education Minister put forward both on the floor of the Council and on the public platform for total prohibition of opium even in the pre-autonomy days. He would not wait a moment for its complete eradication, but in the year 1940 his Leader, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, ridicules the idea and laughs at the honest attempt of the last Government of which the Hon'ble Srijut Brahma was a member—towards the eradication of that evil. The Hon'ble Premier now shudders at the risk of possible extermination out of this world of inveterate addicts. Contradiction—thy name is Assam Cabinet. (*Hear, hear*) I realise, Sir, that the Hon'ble Premier has many difficulties to face with—he is under the political pressure of individual whims and caprices but the situation in which he has been placed is his own creation and hence little sympathy would be felt for him.

The Hon'ble Premier with a view to please and placate some of the hon. members of this House has adversely criticised all the taxation measures of the last Government, but strangely enough he has felt no scruples to utilise the revenue accruing from the same. If he is sincere in his profession, if he is sincere in his conviction—he ought to have, in all fairness, dropped all the taxation measures of his predecessor. He says—"The Agricultural Income-tax has also hit the peasantry most". He also says "Already the price of tea has gone up and consequently the price of the poor men's drink that exhilarates but does not inebriate is increased." He wants to deduce that the Agricultural Income-tax is responsible for the same. He conveniently forgets that the world war now raging is responsible for the present higher prices of all the commodities and that it has been demanding a huge supply of tea. I advise him with all the earnestness that I can command to spare no time to lead

a deputation to Herr Hitler with our redoubtable friend, Mr. Blennerhassett, the President of the European group, to plead for early termination of the war (*laughter*).

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Yes, I shall be prepared to do that.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I am glad to hear this. If the Hon'ble Prime Minister succeeds, he will earn the eternal gratitude of not only the group whom he wants to please, but also the poor consumers of tea, for whom he has been shedding tons of crocodile tears.

Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has also exhibited his profound concern for the poor cinema-goers. He ridicules the last Government as feeling no qualms in adding to the burden of the cinema audience for the sin of their hankering after some relaxation. Sir, I am about to congratulate the Hon'ble Premier for his concern and anxiety as I am a veritable cinema goer like my friend the Hon'ble Srijut Chakravarty, but my hon. friend Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury—a tower of strength to the Cabinet—who expressed immense satisfaction at the passing of Amusements and Betting Tax Act, who shudders at the very sight of a cinema picture, has been standing in the way (*laughter*).

But the condemnation of that taxation measure on the part of the Hon'ble Premier is only superficial. He did not raise his voice of protest at the time of consideration of that measure nor has he now dropped the revenue likely to accrue therefrom. Sweet words butter no parsnips and fine platitudes fail to be fool and beguile the people.

Sir, the legitimate and persistent demand of the people for a residential type of University at Gauhati has been still unheeded to. Floods in the districts of Assam have become hardly annual. Fang marks of desolation and destruction caused by the reptile of recurring floods are visible everywhere and yet no serious attempt has been made for solution of that percurial problem. The plethora of grievances in respect of education, sanitation and village reconstruction under which people have been smarting have received only a scanty attention of the Government. All the departments that go to build up a nation has been practically made to starve. The Hon'ble Premier pleads paucity of funds.

And yet the Budget for 1940-41, as presented, shows an increase of Rs.1,16,000 over the current year's sanctioned grant of Rs.4,09,000 for charges under "Heads of Province and Ministers" and a further sum of more than Rs.10,000 has been provided for the accommodation of the ever increasing volume of the Cabinet. I mention only these items because it has all along been our contention that the cost of the administration should be substantially reduced in order to release revenue for beneficent purposes. But instead of doing that—this ten-headed Cabinet—the *dasaskandha* of Shillong, (*loud laughter*) is bent upon consuming the huge amount by incrementing members as Parliamentary Secretaries.

Sir, *Dasaskhandha* of Ceylon of epic age is known to be a voracious *khandha* of Shillong, the burden of whose main mouth the Hon'ble Premier has the proud privilege to bear, has assured the world at large that it would not advise and tolerate hunger strike and that it would merrily partake the breakfast placed before it. But the amount spent on the breakfast is likely to disturb even the great ten-headed demon king lying in his grave and to put him to shame. If the sumptuous but costly breakfast be the forerunner of the full dinner that is cooking for the Cabinet, the sooner this poor province of India, the poor cinderella of the East is rescued from the clutches of this *dasaskhandha* Cabinet, it will be good for all concerned (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the whole of India is in a state of animated suspense. The world order is changing and changing at a speed which even the flight of our imagination cannot conceive. The members on this side are likely to be clapped up in prison (*A voice: When?*)—ere long—for the sin of their struggle for complete independence of their mother land. But I sound a note of warning to the Government that if they still persist in their present reactionary policy, if they still function as the limbs of British imperialism, if they still fail to realise the reality of the situation, they are likely to be swept away by the rising tide of Indian nationalism and that too, sooner than they have realised. (*Hear, hear.*)

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: সভাপতি মহাশয়! বাজেট সম্বন্ধে ছদ্মস্বাক্ষৰ কোৱাৰ আৱশ্যকতা আছিল যদিও এই আলোচনাত যোগ দিয়াৰ পৰা লাভ বিশেষ একো নহয় বুলি বিবেচনা কৰি যোগ দিবৰ মন নাছিল। কিন্তু বাজেটত ক'লাজৰ সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা বিদৰ্বে হব লাগে সেই দৰে ছোৱা নেদেখি আৰু গোটেই দেশখন বিদৰ্বে ক'লাজৰে ঘেৰি গৈছে আৰু কোনো কোনো ঠাইত বিশেষকৈ গোলাঘাটত গাঁৱৰ পিচত গাঙকৈ উচ্চৰ কৰিবটো ধৰিছে, তাক দেখি, সেই বিষয়ে কিছু নকলে কৰ্তব্য অবহেলা হব বুলি বিবেচনা কৰি সেই সম্বন্ধে ছদ্মস্বাক্ষৰ কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়িলো।

সিদিনা প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহাশয়ে বাজেট সম্বন্ধে যিটো বক্তৃতা কৰিলে তাক পঢ়ি আৰু তনি তাহানিৰ মথুৱাৰ ৰাজ্য কংসই কৃষ্ণত দৰ্শনৰ দৰে ভূতপূৰ্ব কাইনান্দ মন্ত্ৰী মৌলবী ককৰুদ্দিন দৰ্শন আৰু তেখেতক আক্ৰমণ কৰাত বাজেট বিশেষ কিবা দেশ হিতকৰ কাৰ্য আচনি আছে বুলি বুজা নগল। তেখেতে তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতাৰ আৱশ্যতে কৈছে তেখেতে বোলে এইবাবেৰে সৈকে সাতবাৰ বাজেট দাখিল আৰু বাজেটৰ বক্তৃতা কৰিছে। সাতবাৰ কৈ বাজেট কৰা ধুবন্ধৰ জনৰ বাজেটৰ বক্তৃতাৰ লগত একেবাৰে নতুন প্ৰথমে দিয়া জনৰ বক্তৃতাৰ লগত তুলনা কৰিলে পুৰনি ঘাগী জন কিমান দেশহিতৈষী তাক ভালকৈ বুজা যায়। তেখেতৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা তেখেত কিমান স্বার্থপর আৰু মতলবী সি ভালকৈ ফুটি ওলাইছে আৰু সেইবাবে হাহিয়তাৰ পাত্ৰ হৈছে।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member is using certain objectionable expressions and I want to know if he can use such words as *Dhurandar*, *Swarthapar* and *Matlabi*?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The word *Dhurandar* seems all right.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: But it is generally used in a bad sense. And is it right that he should use expressions like *swarthapar* and *matlabi*?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think there is nothing wrong.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If I remember aright, Sir, on a certain occasion when the word *swarthapar* was used by a member of the Opposition, to which a Congressman objected, I think he was Srijut Parama-the expression.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. members will have to remember the context.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I well remember the context. Now this hon. member who is delivering his speech says *swarthapar* and *mattabi*. These are all unparliamentary and objectionable words and before he proceeds further I would expect that he withdraws the words.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member was perhaps criticising the formation of the Ministry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: No, Sir, he was not criticising the formation of the Ministry. But he was criticising the Finance Minister himself. The hon. member has got his manuscript with him and you may refer to it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: My difficulty.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Yes, I quite feel that your knowledge of Assamese language is limited. But you can have a look at the manuscript and decide.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If it was really a personal attack.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Yes, it was a personal attack.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If he was really criticising his policy as a Minister.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Not at all, Sir.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: (*Starting to speak*).

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do you hold that the expressions are in order, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If it be personal attack then of course the expressions are not in order.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: কংগ্ৰেচ মহাসভাই বৰ্ত্তমান যুদ্ধ বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নীতিৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰি গোটেই ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ কংগ্ৰেচ আৰু কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাক ইস্তফা দিবলৈ আদেশ কৰে আৰু সেই অনুপাতে এখন এখনকৈ ইস্তফা দিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰে। আটাই কেউখন প্ৰদেশত ইস্তফা দি শেষ হোৱাৰ আগতে বিলাতত লড'জ্জেলগুে অন্তৰ্ঘ্যামীৰ দৰে ঘোষণা কৰিলে যে অহিন কোনো প্ৰদেশত মন্ত্ৰী সভা গঠন নহলেও আসামত কিন্তু হবই। লড'জ্জেলগুেৰ ভবিষ্যৎবাণী যেতিয়া কাগজে পত্ৰে প্ৰচাৰ হ'ল, সকলোৱেই লড'জ্জেলগুেৰ হুঃসাহসীকতাত আচৰিত হৈছিল। আমি কিন্তু তেতিয়াই অনুমান কৰি কৈছিলো যে আমাৰ দেশত মহামতি চাৰ চাহুল্লা আৰু তেখেতৰ লগত তেখেতৰ প্ৰধান শিষ্যৰূপে ভীষৰ ভাওলৈ দেশ হিতত আজীৱন ব্ৰতী থকা জেটলেগু চাহাবৰ এনে সাহস নহব কেলেই? আসামত বাজে সকলো প্ৰদেশতে বাবে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ দলৰ লোক সকলৰ গাত তবনি নাইকিয়া আৰু অধৈৰ্য্য হৈ তাৰ ভিতৰত হ'ই এজনে আসাম মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ ওপৰত শাস্তিমূলক বিধান লব লাগে বুলি মহাত্মা গান্ধীলৈ টেলিগ্ৰাম কৰা গম পোৱা গৈছিল। শেষত যোৱা ১৫ নবেম্বৰৰ দিনা কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাই পদত্যাগ কৰিলে আৰু কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্তদলে নতুনকৈ বেভাৰেণ্ড নিকলাচ, ৰায়ক দলপতি নিৰ্ব্বাচন কৰি গৱৰ্ণৰক জনোৱা স্বত্বেও গৱৰ্ণৰে সংখ্যালঘিষ্ট দলৰ দলপতিক নিমন্ত্ৰণ কৰি পক্ষপাতিতা কৰি সংখ্যালঘিষ্ট দলেৰই মন্ত্ৰীসভা গঠন কৰিলে।.....

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Sir, is he in order? He is mentioning the name of His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course the hon. member will avoid mentioning the name of His Excellency. My difficulty is that I cannot understand Assamese properly.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভা গাৰীত বহিয়েই আগৰ যুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ কাৰ্য্য প্ৰণালী ওফৰাই দিয়া নীতিগৈ দেশৰ হিতেই হওক বা অহিতেই হওক তালৈ কান নকৰি প্ৰথমে আগানৰ জীৱন মৰণ সমস্যাৰ কথা কানি বৰ বিহ একেবাৰে উঠাই দিয়া আগৰ মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ নীতি নাকচ কৰিলে। আমি কিন্তু সকলোকে কৈছিলো যে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভাই অস্ত্ৰ নকৰিলেও কানি উঠাই দিয়া কামত হস্তক্ষেপ নকৰিব। তেওঁলোকৰ দলৰ লোকে আক চোৰাংকানি বিক্ৰি কৰোতা সকলে কংগ্ৰেচ মন্ত্ৰী সভা ইস্তফা দিয়াৰ কথা যুহুক যানাকটেক ওলাওতেই প্ৰচাৰ আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল—“চাওল্লা মন্ত্ৰী আকৌ আহিব আক কানি চলাব। কানীয়াহত তহতে ভয় নকৰিব, কানি আকৌ খাবলৈ পাবি”। ঠিক সেইটোৱেই আংশিকৰূপে ফলিয়ালে। তাৰ পিচত শিক্ষাৰ অভাবত একেবাৰে আন্ধাৰত থকা অসমীয়াক অলপ পোহৰলৈ আনিব খোজা অভিযানৰ ওপৰত কুঠাৰাঘাত কৰি ধ্বংস কৰিলে।

বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভা গঠন হোৱাৰ লগে লগেই মৈমনসিঙিয়াৰ উৎপাত আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ ধৰণৰ যবে ত'বে পৰা আহিবলৈ ধৰিলে আনকি গোলাঘাটতো এদল মৈমনসিঙিয়া ওলাইছিল গৈ। এই বিলাক দেখি শুনিও টাইবেল সকলৰ জনদিয়েকে বিশেষ কৈ শ্ৰীমুত ৰূপনাথ ব্ৰহ্ম ডাঙৰীয়াই কেনেকৈ বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰীসভাত যোগদান কৰিছে তাক ভাবি আচৰিত হবলাগে। এইটো, মন্ত্ৰী হোৱাৰ আক ধন বটাৰ মোহত বাজে আক একো নহয় বুলি অনুমান হয়।

ক'লাজৰৰ সন্মুখে কৰলৈ উঠি বহুতখিনি পালোটে। কলাজৰে সম্প্ৰতি যি অৱস্থাৰ উদ্ভব কৰিছেহি তাক দেখি গতান্ত ভয় লগা হৈছে। বিশেষ কৈ গোলাঘাটত প্ৰায় প্ৰত্যেক মৌজাতেই ক'লাজৰে চাৰিকালৰ পৰা ঘেৰি ধৰিছে হি। গাওঁবিলাকৰ অৱস্থা দেখি চকুৰ পানী নোলাই নেথাকে। বৰ্ত্তমান গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট যি নীতি অৱলম্বন কৰি কাম কৰিছে সি এপাচি কচুত এটা জালুক দিয়াৰ দৰেহে হৈছে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ৰিপৰ্ট মতে আমি যিমান হৈছে বুলি কৈছো সিমান দেখা নেযায়। তাৰ কাৰণ বহুত বিলাক ৰোগী চিকিৎসা নোপোৱাকৈ আছে আক বহুত বিলাকক প্ৰাইভেট ডাক্তৰৰ দ্বাৰাই চিকিৎসা কৰোৱা হৈছে। সেই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত কিমান যে মৰিছে তাৰ খবৰ লোৰাটো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্ত্তব্যৰ ভিতৰত পৰা যেন দেখা নাই। যোৱা বছৰত আমি গোলাঘাটৰ গোটেই বিলাক গাওঁ survey কৰাই প্ৰত্যেক মৌজাতে centre খুলি ক'লাজৰ উচ্ছেদ কৰিবলৈ বহুত আবেদন নিবেদন কৰা হৈছিল। তাৰ ফলত দুখন আস্থাতাল আক

কেইগটাও বেজী দিয়া centre খুলি কাম আৰম্ভ কৰি কৈছিল—“খৰালি আহিলে এতেক মৌজাৰ এন্তোক গাওঁবিলাক survey কৰি ভালকৈ চিকিৎসা কৰা হব।” চাওঁতে চাওঁতেই খৰালি প্ৰায় গল হি, কিন্তু কোনো কাম আজিলৈকে আৰম্ভ নহল কিয় একো বুজিব পৰা নগল। সম্প্ৰতি যি কেইটা centreত কাম চলি আছে তাতে অকৰ্ণণ্য Director of Public Healthৰ বাবে ৰাইজে নানা কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিব লগা গৈছে। কাৰণ, ৰাইজৰ আপত্তি স্বত্বেও পুৰনি অভিজ্ঞ ডাক্তৰ কেইবা জনো বদলি কৰি বহুত বোগীক একেবাৰে নতুন ডাক্তাৰৰ হাতত দি বৰ বিপদত পেলোৱা দেখা গৈছে আৰু যি কেইজন ডাক্তৰ নিযুক্ত কৰা হৈছে সেই নকলে, কামৰ বোজা বেচি হোৱাত, বহুতক বিপদত পেলোৱা দেখা গৈছে। ৰাইজৰ এনে এটা জীৱন মৰণ সমস্যাৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টে এনেদৰে স্বেচ্ছাচাৰীতা দেখুৱাত আৰু মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে হাত সাৰটি বহি থকাত আমি আচৰিত হৈছো। ফলত, ক’লাজৰ প্ৰকোপ দিনক দিনে বাঢ়িবহে লাগিছে। এই বৈজ্ঞানিক যুগত ক’লাজৰ কৰাল প্ৰাসত শ, শ দুখীয়া প্ৰজাক মৰিবলৈ এৰি দি মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে দেশৰ যোৱা অকল্যান সাধন কৰিছে। এনে মহা বিপদৰ সময়ত তৎপৰতাৰে সৈতে কাম কৰাটো হৰত থাকিব পাৰিব অলপ কৰিছে তাতে স্বেচ্ছাচাৰীতা হে দেখা গৈছে।

১৯৪০—৪১ চনৰ বাজেটত ক’লাজৰ researchৰ নিমিত্তে Indian Research Societyলৈ ৩,০০০ টকা গ্ৰাণ্ট ধৰা হৈছে। Indian Research Societyএ এই টকা ধিনি কত কেনেকৈ খৰচ কৰিব আমি ভূ নপাওঁ। আমাৰ বিবেচনা হৈছে Indian Research Societyৰ expert আহি বোগাক্ৰান্ত ঠাইত research কৰিলে হে ফল ধৰিব পাৰে।

ক’লাজৰ সম্বন্ধে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে বাজেট speechত কিবা scheme হতে কাম আৰম্ভ কৰাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। কিন্তু schemeৰ বিষয়ে সবিশেষ একো উল্লেখ কৰা নাই। আৰু বাজেটতে ২ | ৪ জন Assistant আৰু Sub-Assistant Surgeonৰ পদ বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ বাহিৰে কোনো টকা ধৰা হোৱা নাই। টকা নোহোৱাকৈ কি scheme হাতত লব আমি বুজি পোৱা নাই। যি scheme কেই হাতত লওক অতি শীঘ্ৰে কাম হাতত নললে গোলাঘাটৰ ১৯টা মৌজাৰ প্ৰায় সকলো বিলাক গাওঁ উচ্ছন্ন হব। সেই কাৰণে মই এই বিষয়ে বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is it not the practice and convention that whenever any expressions of the House, it should for the sake of courtesy and for the sake of preserving a ruling from the Chair that such expression should not be made? In last Budget Session while my hon. friends were on the Government Benches, my hon. friend Maulavi Matior Rahman used the word “স্বার্থ-ৰ” and that was objected to by one of the hon. members on the Government side and the Hon’ble Chair ruled that such expression should not be used and the member was asked to withdraw the word.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. members have heard what I said on this issue. If it was really a personal attack then it was not in order and I also said that I was really unable to decide whether that was a personal attack on account of the fact that I am not very proficient in the language in which he spoke. Of course, the hon. member maintained that he did not mean any personal attack and this side (looking to his right) of the House was saying that he was meaning personal attack. So I was unable to decide anything. Unless, I understand the language it is very difficult for me to decide the course. The hon. member will take it from me that I shall always ask hon. members using objectionable expressions to withdraw them then and there and there will be no omission on my part when my attention will be drawn to any objectionable language used by any member.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The hon. member who spoke just now has not even the courtesy to say that he did not mean any personal attack whatsoever.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, if any expression whatsoever be objected to by a certain section of the House, then should it not be courteous on the part of the hon. member that he should withdraw it in order to maintain the cool atmosphere of the House ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, I have said that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : The hon. member said that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is "swarthapar" or "mallabi". I think the sooner he withdraws it the better.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Did the hon. member use that expression as a personal attack ?

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : I did not use that expression as a personal attack.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : May I request the hon. member to read that particular sentence again from his manuscript ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER. Of course, I may ask the hon. member to read that expression again but again there will be difference of opinion. This side of the House will maintain that this is a personal attack and the other side will maintain that this is not a personal attack. The difficulty is that I cannot understand the language.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Sir, let him read that sentence alone. The simple reading of that sentence is enough and we leave it to the Hon'ble Speaker to decide whether it is unparliamentary or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will the hon. member read that again ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, certain expressions were used by the hon. member which this section of the House has taken as a personal attack on me. I am perfectly willing to reply to the statement made by the gentleman but since you have ordered that he should read, I will leave it to my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition to say whether it is a personal attack. He is perfectly cognisant of the language.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Whether it is a personal attack or not, when so much exception is taken to it by a certain section of the House, I would request my hon. friend to withdraw this expression.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member will please withdraw the expression.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : Yes, I withdraw the expression.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the name of criticism, my friends on the opposite have thrown enough mud on the Ministry but the fact remains that all their vilifications of the Ministry proved nothing but attempts of vindicating the cause of the Congress Coalition Ministry of Assam that preceded the present Ministry. My hon. friends have shed enough crocodile tears for the poor masses, but they forget that they themselves could do nothing for them while they were in power. They could not bring heaven within easy reach of the people, but on the other hand left a Himalayan burden of taxes upon them.

It is said that the Budget of 1940-41 is not satisfactory and up to our expectation. I admit it and at the same time beg to say boldly that no budget can satisfy the representatives of a province whose needs are so great and grievances are innumerable. The Budget presented by the Congress-Coalition Government of Assam was not also satisfactory and perfect.

Much has been said about the proposed post of Private Secretary for the Hon'ble Premier. What is the pressure of work to the Premier of Assam is not unknown to Mr. Bardoloi who, as the readers of newspapers know, suffers from blood pressure. Even it was said that Mr. Bardoloi was contemplating resignation owing to this. A Private Secretary is proposed only to help the Hon'ble Premier in his official work which is most essential for running the administration of the province.

Mr. Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri said that he knew not whether to weep or laugh for the Budget, but while discussing the Budget he actually wept remembering the position his party had lost.

He blamed the Ministry for not providing money for the Sylhet Medical School. One will simply amuse himself to remember what part the Surma Valley members of the Congress Assembly Party played while a motion on this subject moved by no less a person than the hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali was put to vote. They in a body kept themselves aloof from voting.

When they condemn the Ministry on this subject, I think they do nothing short of condemning themselves (*Hear hear*). The previous Saadulla Government was finding out money for starting the Medical School at Sylhet, but circumstances took such a turn that they tendered resignation. The Congress party formed cabinet but what did they do for starting the Medical School at Sylhet? They appointed a Committee to consider the question, but that committee with majority of Congress elements did not give any practical shape to the proposal. My friends on the opposite should first of all wash their own dirt before condemning others. (*Laughter*)

Babu Lalit Mohan Kar shed enough tears for the poor Lower Primary teachers. It seems that he conveniently forgot that he himself is guilty for the non-increment of their pay (*laughter*). The resolution moved by him fixing the starting pay of the Lower Primary teachers at Rs.15 received our hearty support but he withdrew it and all the Congress members voted for withdrawal. Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the *Ex-Finance* Minister sang 'helelujah' for his own regime in glowing terms. But what was the policy of his Government? His policy can better be described by the words of poet :—

‘এই বেলা বোকা পকেটেতে ঢুকা,

সেই তালে,

ফুটো চালটাও ছেয়ে নে এবার

নইলে পস্তাবি শেষ কালে’

“you fool, have your pocket filled up just now, and following the same way, have the damaged roof of your house mended. Otherwise you will have to repent ultimately”. The aim of his Budget was nothing but strengthening his own camp (*hear, hear*).

Mr. Mahi Chandra Bora has compared the Ministry with *Dashaskandha* or Ravana. As far as I remember, *Dashaskandha* or Ravana fought with Rama whose followers were monkeys (*laughter*). Mr. Bardoloi the Rama of the Oppositionists only knows whether the analogy is appropriate or not (*Prolonged laughter*).

I again say, Sir, that the Budget is not satisfactory and it cannot be satisfactory, as our resources are limited. What we find in the Budget speech of the Hon. Premier is that the Government are making honest attempts to remove the grievances of the people. They are responsible to this House and to the people of the province and not like the Congress Coalition Government, responsible to any outside agency.

The cruel fact is that no Cabinet could work from the beginning to the end of the term of the Assembly and so no regular programme could be brought to action. The present Cabinet is the 4th cabinet of Assam during the first term of Assembly under the new Reforms. This state of affairs is responsible for slow progress of the province.

The Budget of 1940-41 may not be satisfactory, but it is encouraging.

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আগামী বৎসরের বাজেট আলোচনার অংশ গ্রহণ করিতে দাঁড়াইয়া স্থচনায়ই আমার বন্ধুবর মোলানা আব্দুল হামিদ সাহাবের একটি উক্তি মনে পড়িতেছে। তিনি প্রথম বৎসরই ১নং স্তর সীহল্লা সরকারের বাজেট আলোচনা করিতে দাঁড়াইয়া বলিয়াছিলেন “মদের দোকানে হুধের খোঁজ করিলে হুধ পাইবনা”। এইবারও যদিও তিনি সরকারী এগেণ্ডায় আসেন গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন তথাপি কার্যো না হউক বাক্যে সরল মোলানা সাহেব বলিয়াছেন “আমলাতান্ত্রিক আওতায় কাগ কাটাইয়া স্তর মহম্মদ আমলাদের দিকেই দৃষ্টি রাখিয়াছেন। দেশের দরিদ্র, নিরক্ষর অধিবাসীদের প্রাত দৃষ্টিপাত করিবার সুযোগ পান নাই।” আমি অবশ্য এতটুকু অগ্রসর হইবার ধৃষ্টতা প্রকাশ করিব না; কারণ ভূতপূর্ব চীফ মিনিষ্টার এবং বর্তমান মাননীয় প্রিমিয়ার স্বয়ং বলিয়াছেন যে বর্তমান বাজেট তাঁহার সপ্তম অভিযান। সুতরাং কোথায় আমরা তাঁহার কল্যাণে সপ্তম স্বর্গের কল্পনা করিব—তা নয় বাজেট সহ তাঁহাকে রসাতলে নামাইয়া দিব—এমন ইচ্ছাও মনে আনা পাপ বলিয়া মনে করি। বিশেষ ভাবে কলিকাতার ফট্কার বাজার হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া এই দেশের বিএর বাজার পর্যন্ত বাহার অভিজ্ঞতা তাঁহার অর্থনৈতিক জ্ঞান সম্পর্কে সন্দেহ পোষণ করা অন্তায় হইবে। ভূতপূর্ব কংগ্রেস-কোয়ালিশন সরকারের অর্থ সচিবের উপর বর্তমান অর্থসচিব বেলায় চটীয়া আছেন। তাঁহার বাজেট বক্তৃতাটি আগাগোড়া সেই সস্তরের জালায় পরিপূর্ণ অনেক মাননীয় বন্ধু এই অভিযোগ করিয়াছেন। আমি কিন্তু ইহাতে বেশ আনন্দ উপভোগ করিয়াছি। কারণ এতবড় ধীর, স্থির এবং বহুদর্শী রাজনীতিজ্ঞের ক্রোধ, উৎকর্ষা ও উন্নাদনার অভিব্যক্তি কি সহজে আমরা প্রত্যক্ষ করিতে পারিতাম? তবে আমার মনে হয় ভূতপূর্ব অর্থসচিবের প্রতি তাঁহার কৃতজ্ঞতা প্রকাশ করাও উচিত ছিল। তিনিই পদত্যাগ করিয়া স্বেচ্ছায় এই প্রতিশোধ গ্রহণের সুযোগ স্তর মহম্মদকে দিয়াছেন। তাহা না হইলে এখনও হয়ত কোনো সুদূর ভবিষ্যতের আশায় আসামের এই অর্থ নৈতিক মস্তিস্ক উপবাসই থাকিত।

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি নিঃসঙ্কোচে স্বীকার করিতেছি প্রাদেশিক বাজেট অর্থসচিব যে অঙ্কের কসরৎ দেখাইয়াছেন তাহার সেই গোলোক ধাঁধাই প্রবেশ করিবার মত অর্থ নৈতিক অভিজ্ঞতা আমার নাই। বড় বড় আধিক বাজারের বেচা কেনা আমরা জানি না ইহা জানেন বড় বড় মন্ত্রীরা, বড় বড় সদস্যেরা। কলিকাতার সেয়ারের বাজারে কিম্বা ঘোড় দোড়ের মাঠে ও ভাগ্য পরীক্ষায় অভিজ্ঞ নই। আমরা গরীব লোক—এইটা বাজারের সঙ্গেই পরিচিত। সুতরাং সাধারণ একজন মানুষ হিসাবেই আমাদের সুখ সুবিধার অনুসন্ধান এই বাজেটে করিব। ইহা সর্ববাদী সম্মত সত্য যে একটা দেশের জনসাধারণের অবস্থা উন্নত করিতে হইলে দেশের শিল্পকে উন্নত করিতে হয়। সেই শিল্পোন্নতি সম্পর্কে এই বাজেটে কোন কিছুই দেখিতে পাইতেছিলাম না। আমরা আশান্বিত হইয়া উঠিয়াছিলাম যে একজন মহিলা শিল্প বিভাগের মন্ত্রীও গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু তিনি আমাদের প্রতি মুখ ফিরাইয়াছেন—আমরা নিরাশ হইয়াছি। কুটির শিল্পরূপে আমরা উপহার পাইয়াছি মাছ আর ঘি। মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী ও শিল্পমন্ত্রী হয়ত জানেন না যে মাছের ও ঘির পরস্পর সংমিশ্রন হিন্দুর কাছে অখাদ্য। তাহা ছাড়া ইহারা আমাদের ঘিয়ের ব্যবহার কথা বলিয়াছেন কিন্তু গরুর কথা একেবারেই ভুলিয়া গিয়াছেন অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কি বলবেন তাঁহার ঘৃত গব্যঘৃত কিনা? সরকার দলের চীফ্ হুইপ মাননীয় মৌলবী আব্দুর রহমান গত বৎসর হবিগঞ্জের গরুদের ওষু অত্যন্ত উৎকণ্ঠিত হইয়া উঠিয়াছিলেন। সেই কথা বোধহয় সরকার বিস্মৃত হইয়া যান নাই। মৌলবী আব্দুর রহমানের সেই মড়কভীতি দূর করিবার জন্য পশু বিভাগে কোন ব্যবস্থাই করা হয় নাই। অথচ আমাদের শুধু ঘির লোভ দেখান হইয়াছে। আমার অনুরোধ সরকার শুধু মন্ত্রীর রক্ষার নয়—পশু রক্ষায় অধিকতর মনোযোগী হউন।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, বর্তমান বাজেট ও বাজেট বক্তৃতা ক্ষুধা ও প্রতিহিংসায় অভিযুক্ত। মধ্যায়াগাকী দীর্ঘকাল যাবৎ যতই অহিংসার বাণী আমাদের শুনান না কেন, আমরা রক্ত মাংসের মানুষ—হিংসা, বিদ্বেষ, অন্তরের জ্বালা ভুলিতে পারিব না। তাই রক্ত মাংসে গঠিত অর্থসচিব মনোদলকে দোষ দিতে পারি না। ক্ষুধার বেলাও সেই কথা ধাটে। মন্ত্রী বেতন বৃদ্ধি, পার্লিয়েমেন্টরী সেক্রেটারীর পদ সৃষ্টি করিয়া অনেকের আর্থিক ক্ষুধা নিবারণের তাই ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে। বিশেষ ভাবে এই কথা ভুলিয়া গেলে চলেনা যে ভাগ্য দোষে বৎসরাধিক কাল উপবাসী থাকার পর উদরে রাক্ষসী ক্ষুধার উদ্ভব হওয়াই স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু মর্তমান মন্ত্রী সভার উপর আমাদের অভিযোগ এই যে ইহারা দেশ বাসীর ক্ষুধার দিকে দৃষ্টিপাত করেন নাই। নিজেদের বাড়ী, গাভী ও বিলাতী খানার ব্যবস্থায়ই শুধু তাঁহারা তৎপর; দেশবাসী দরিদ্রের শাকান্ন ভোজনের ব্যবস্থায় উদাসীন! মাছ আর ঘি হইলেই দেশের লোকের চলেনা—তাহাদের অন্ন চাই, পরিধানের বস্ত্র চাই, স্বাস্থ্য চাই, শিক্ষা চাই, পানীয় জল চাই। কিন্তু কোথায় সেই ব্যবস্থা? সত্যি সত্যি উন্নতি-মূলক দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীর অভাব বলিয়াই এমনটি ঘটিয়াছে।

আমি যে সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতিনিধি, সেই সম্প্রদায় ব্যবস্থার কাল হইতে রাষ্ট্র ও সমাজের নিকট উপেক্ষাই পাইয়া আসিয়াছে। কংগ্রেস তাহাদের উন্নয়নের আশা দিয়াছিলেন এবং বিভিন্ন প্রদেশে সেই প্রচেষ্টা আরম্ভ হইয়াছে। কিন্তু বর্তমান আসাম সরকার এই সম্প্রদায়ের উন্নতি কল্পে কি করিয়াছেন? দুই বৎসর হইল শ্রীহটে একটা হরিজন ছাত্রাবাস স্থাপিত হইয়াছে। ভূতপূর্ব স্ত্রীর সচল সরকার অধীনে এই ছাত্রাবাসকে যৎকিঞ্চিৎ সাহায্য দান করিয়াছিলেন এবং ভবিষ্যতে স্থায়ী সাহায্য দান করিবেন বলিয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন। কংগ্রেস-কোয়ালিশন সরকার গত বৎসর কিছু সাহায্য করিয়াছিলেন এবং এবারকার বাজেটে স্থায়ী মাসিক বরাদ্দের ব্যবস্থা করার কথা ছিল। অন্ততঃ মাসিক ১০০ টাকা আদিক সাহায্য ব্যতিরেকে বর্তমানে এই অনুরক্ত সমাজের ছাত্রাবাসটা উঠিয়া যাইবে। এই ছাত্রাবাস পূর্বে স্থানীয় ভদ্রলোকের নিকট হইতে এবং ভূতপূর্ব মন্ত্রীর সদস্যের নিকট হইতে যে ব্যক্তিগত সাহায্য পাঠত তাহা অনেকটা হ্রাস পাইয়াছে। এই ছাত্রাবাসে অর্থাৎ ১৯১৯ জন ছাত্রকে শিক্ষা দিতে দেওয়া হইত। এখন অবস্থা এমন দাঁড়াইয়াছে যে অন্ততঃ ৮৯ টি ছাত্রকে তাড়াইয়াই নিতে হইবে। আশ্চর্যের বিষয় বর্তমান সরকার এই ছাত্রাবাসটির জন্য মাসিক ২,০০০ টাকা নয় ১,০০০ টাকা নয়, ৩০০ টাকাও নয় মাত্র ১০০ টাকার ব্যবস্থা করিলেই একটা নির্ঘাতীত সমাজ তাহাদের আশীর্বাদই করিত।

প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রসারের জন্য এইবার মাত্র ৪০,০০০ টাকার বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। অর্থাৎ সকলেই এক বাক্যে এই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য অনবরত চিৎকার করিতেছেন। আমাদের বর্তমান মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী যখন গত বৎসর স্ত্রীর সচল ছিলেন, তখন মাদক নিবারণের প্রচেষ্টার অর্থের দ্বারা ৪,০০০ টি বিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠার উপদেশ তাহা হই কঠোর মনিত হইয়াছিল। এবার মাদক নিবারণী চেষ্টা পরিত্যক্ত হইয়াছে, কিন্তু কতগুলি বিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে? আমি কি সম্মানে, মনিনয়ে তাহাকে অনুরোধ করিতে পারি, মন্ত্রী বেতন ও পালিয়েমেন্টের সেক্রেটারীর বেতন বাবত যে লক্ষাধিক টাকা অতিরিক্ত ব্যয়ের সদিচ্ছা তিনি জ্ঞাপন করিয়াছেন সেই লোভনীয় সদিচ্ছাটা আপাততঃ বন্ধ করিয়া প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থাকল্পে এই অর্থ গুলি ব্যয় করিতে অগ্রসর হউন? এই ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের নিজেদের সম্প্রদায়ের কথাটাও একটুখানি বলিতে হয়।

হতভাগ্য অনুরক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রসারের জন্য স্বতন্ত্রভাবে কোন অর্থের ব্যবস্থাই করা হয় নাই। এই আসাম প্রদেশে অন্ততঃ ২,০০০ টি ভেন্সার স্কুল আছে। তাহার জন্য ৫০,০০০ টাকার বরাদ্দ সমুদ্রে বারি বিন্দুবৎ। আমাদের করিমগঞ্জ সাব-ডিভিজেই প্রায় ১০০ টি সরকারী অনুরোধিত অসাধ্যাকৃত বিদ্যালয় রহিয়াছে, অনুরোধিত আরও ৫০৬০ টি আছে। তন্মধ্যে ৭০৮০ টিই অনুরক্ত জাতির এলাকায়। এই রূপ শ্রীহটে জেলায় প্রতি মহকুমায়ই বিদ্যালয় রহিয়াছে। অনুরক্ত জাতির শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থার জন্য প্রতি মহকুমায়ই অন্ততঃ ২৫,০০০ টাকা করিয়া বরাদ্দের প্রয়োজন ছিল। দীর্ঘ কালের উন্নত সমাজের উদাসীনতা ও দারিদ্রের ফলে এই সমাজ আজ এমন অবস্থায়

উপনীত হইয়াছে যে তাহার যে নিজেদের চেঁচায় শিক্ষা প্রসারে মনোযোগী হইবে সেই ভরসা মোটেই নাই। সরকার হইতেই তথাকার বিদ্যালয়গুলিকে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিতে হইবে—ব্যাপকভাবে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইবে। কংগ্রেস কোয়ালিশন সরকার আগামী বৎসরে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাবত অন্ততঃ দেড়লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ের পরিকল্পনা করিয়াছিলেন বলিয়া আমরা জানি কিন্তু বর্তমান সরকার সমগ্র প্রদেশের শিক্ষার জন্য পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকার দরকার উর্ধ্বে দৃষ্টিতে পারেন নাই। এম, ই, ও এম, ভি স্কুল সম্পর্কে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার অনুরূপ এলাকায় কেবল মাত্র বালাউঠে একটি এম, ই ও ত্রীগৌরীতে একটি মাত্র বালিকা এম, ভি স্কুল আছে। কিন্তু বর্তমান বাজেটে এইদিকে মন্ত্রীসভার মোটেই দৃষ্টি পড়ে নাই। নিজেদের দিকে এবং নিজেদের আশে পাশেই শুধু দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ রাখিলে চলে না—দৃষ্টিটা একটু ফিরাইয়া দরিদ্র দেশবাসীর উপরও মাঝে মাঝে ফেলিবেন এই ভরসা কি আমরা করিতে পারি না?

সরকারী কিম্বা সরকারী সাহায্যকৃত বিদ্যালয়গুলিতে যেসব হোস্টেল আছে সেগুলিতে অনুরূপ শ্রেণীর দরিদ্র ছাত্রদের থাকিবার কোন ব্যবস্থাই নাই। প্রতি হোস্টেলেই বিনা ভাড়ায় অন্ততঃ ২৫ জন অনুরূপ শ্রেণীর ছাত্রের থাকিবার ব্যবস্থা হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। পালিয়েমেন্টারি সেক্রেটারী সম্পর্কে অর্থসচিব মহোদয় কোন কোন কংগ্রেস সরকারী মন্ত্রীসভার শরণ লইয়াছেন, কিন্তু মন্ত্রীদের কংগ্রেসী সরকার অনুরূপ শ্রেণীর বালক ও যুবকদের বিনাভায়ে শিক্ষার যে যে ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন, সেই তথ্যটা তিনি অনুধাবন করিতে পারেন নাই। এই সমাজের শিক্ষাহীনতা ও দরিদ্রের কথা বিবেচনা করিলে প্রতি মহকুমায় অন্ততঃ ৫০ জন এই সমাজের ছাত্রকে বিনাভায়ে মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা কর্তব্য ছিল।

চিকিৎসা বিভাগের দপ্তরের কর্তৃত্ব যখন আমাদের হাইলাকান্দির জমিদার প্রবর মাননীয় হীরেন্দ্র চক্রবর্তী মহাশয় গ্রহণ করিলেন, তখন আমরা আশা করিয়াছিলাম এই বার বুঝি শ্রীহট্ট মেডিকেল স্কুল প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইবে। সুরমা উপত্যকার দীর্ঘকালের এই দাবী তিনিও একদিন সমর্থন করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু তিনিও বাম হইয়াছেন। আজ এই মন্ত্রী সভায় মেডিকেল স্কুলের সমর্থক শুধু তিনিই নহেন, আরও তিনজন সুরমা উপত্যকা বাসী মন্ত্রী রহিয়াছেন। কিন্তু এই মন্ত্রী সভা মেডিকেল স্কুল স্থাপনের প্রস্তাবে বিরুদ্ধতা করিতে লজ্জা অনুভব করিতেছেন না। তাহার হৃদয় বলিবে “লজ্জা শিল্প মন্ত্রীর ভূষণ” এবং “পিটে গেলে পেঠ নয়”। কিন্তু সুরমা উপত্যকাবাসী কি তাহাদের এই বিছানার ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য চিকিৎসা বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে পত্রবাদ প্রদান না করিয়া পারি না। কিন্তু হাইলাকান্দি হাসপাতালের বিছানার সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি না করিয়া তিনি কি অবিচারই কবিয়াছেন। তাহার নিঃসঙ্গ স্বরণ আছে, এক বৎসর পূর্বে তাহারই গৃহদ্বারে আহত বহু সম্ভ্রান্ত মতিথি তথাকার হাসপাতাল হইতে স্থানান্তরে ফিরাই আসিয়াছিলেন। হাইলাকান্দির প্রতি এত নিঃসঙ্গ হওয়া সম্পূর্ণ অস্বাভাবিক ঠেকিতেছে।

বর্তমান সরকার নাৰ্ভিসিডাইজড ডিসপেনসারীর ডাক্তারদের বেতন ৩৫ টাকা করিয়াছেন। অন্ততঃ ৫০ টাকা করিবে একজন সরকারী স্বপ্নের পাশকরা ডাক্তার ও পাওয়া যাইবে না। ছয়খের বিষয় এই বৃদ্ধি টুকু খার দিলেও তাঁহারা গ্রহণ করিতে প্রস্তুত নহেন। তাহারা আবার মেডিকেল কাউন্সিলের পরামর্শে এই প্রবেশটাকে এম, বি পাশ ডাক্তারে ছাইয়া ফেলিতে চান। স্বপ্নের পাশেই রক্ষা নাট, এম, বি পাশে যে ভবিষ্যত মন্ত্রী সভার কলেবর আরও বৃদ্ধি করতে হইবে। এখন স্বপ্ন পাশ ডাক্তারের হাজার টাকা নাহলে মর্ধ্যাধা বণ্ডায় থাকে না—তখন ছই হাজার টাকানা হইলে চলিবে না। ম্যার মহাশয় অতীত ভুলিয়া ভবিষ্যত বংশধরদেরে দায়বদ্ধ রাখিগা “আপনি বাটিলে বাপের নাম” নাহিবাক্য অনুসরণ করিয়া বর্তমানে পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ টাকা স্বপ্ন গ্রহণে উত্থুখো, কিন্তু সামান্য পরামর্শ টুকুর স্বপ্ন গ্রহণে বিমুখ কেন? আসামের দশদিক পাল মন্ত্রীদের গুরু চাপরাশ বহনে অক্ষমতার জন্ত বশজন পালিচামেন্টেরী সেক্রেটারীর প্রয়োজনীয়তা বাহারা তীব্রভাবে অনুভব করিতেছেন, তাহারাই এসব ডিসপেনসারির জন্ত চাপরাশীর প্রয়োজন অনুভব করেন না ইহা বাস্তবিক আশ্চর্যের বিষয়। ঐষ পত্রের জন্ত প্রথম বৎসরে ৩০০ টাকা এবং পরবর্তী প্রত্যেক বৎসরে ২০০ টাকা করিয়া দেওয়ার অবস্থা হইয়াছে, কিন্তু বর্তমান বৃদ্ধি হেতু মূখ্য বৃদ্ধি ৩০০০ প্রথম বৎসর ৫০০ টাকা ও পরবর্তী প্রত্যেক বৎসরে ৪০০ টাকা না দিলে যে দারিদ্র্য রোগ শোকে প্রপীড়িত অধিবাসীদের প্রয়োজন আংশিক ভাবেও মিটিবে না তাহা বুঝাইতে যাওয়া “ব্রাহ্মণের মন্ত্র পাঠের” মত বৃথাই যাইবে।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি কথায় কথায় ভুলিয়া গিয়াছি যে মাননীয় বন্ধুবর মহাবাব চৌধুরী সাহেব আমাদের আলোচনার সূচনায়ই শুনাইয়া দিয়াছেন যে আসামে বর্তমানে প্রকৃত রাম রাজ্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়াছে—রাঁবণ ধ্বংস হইয়াছে। ভুলিয়া গিয়াছি যে পাইন বন হইতে সীতাকে উদ্ধার করা হইয়াছে। রাম রাজ্যের মহাবলশালী রামানুচর দেওয়ান সাহেবের কথা অস্বীকার করিবার উপায় নাই। রামানুচরগণ বর্তমান মন্ত্রী সভার প্রতিষ্ঠাকালে ভারতবর্ষ ও ইংলণ্ডের মধ্যে বহু বোজন ব্যাপী সমুদ্রের উপর সেতু বন্ধন করিয়া অক্ষয় কীৰ্ত্তি অর্জন করিয়াছেন। এই অবস্থায় বাজেটের বিকল্প সমালোচনা না করিয়া, অভাব অভিযোগের কথা উত্থাপন না করিয়া আমাদের সকলের সমুদ্র থাকা কর্তব্য।

উপসংহারে আমার আর এক জন বন্ধুর কথা স্মরণ হইল। মাননীয় খান মুর্শিদাবাদের দেওয়ান একলিমুর রজা সাহেব গত বৎসর বাজেট আলোচনায় আমাদের গাথা বোড়ার অনেক কাহিনী শুনাইয়া ছিলেন। ভগবানের নিকট আমি প্রার্থনা করি মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী ম্যার টেইয়দ মহাশয় সাহেবকে যেন গদভ লইয়া নাকাল না হইতে হয়।

Srijut KHORSING TERANG: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আজি বাজেট আলোচনার জৰিয়তে মই গব ব মিকিৰ বিলাকৰ তখন-তুর্গতিৰ বিষয়ে কিছুমান কথা কবলৈ আগ

বাঢ়িলে।। গোটেই পৃথিবীৰ ভিতৰত মিকিৰ জাতিটোৰ নিচিনা গৰীব, নিৰীহ জাতি নাই বুলি কলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়। এই জাতিটো বৃটিছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ অধীনত থকা আজি প্ৰায় ১৫০ বছৰ উকলি গল, কিন্তু আজিলৈকে এই জাতিটোৰ সুখ দুখৰ কাৰণে এফেৰিও চোৱা নাই। ইং ১৯৩৭ চনৰ পৰা মিকিৰ সম্পদায়ৰ পৰা প্ৰতিনিধি আহ্বান কৰাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা সাহায্য পাম বুলি বহুত আশা কৰিছিলোঁ। কিন্তু দুখন কথা আজি প্ৰায় ৩ বছৰ হৈ গল, অৰ্থচ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা কোনো সাহায্য পোৱা নহল—মাত্ৰ মিনিষ্ট্ৰি বন্ধাৰ অৰ্থে ভোট হে দি অহা হৈছে।

মোৰ কন্স্টিটিউেঞ্চৰ অৰ্থাৎ মিকিৰ জাতিৰ উপকাৰ হবৰ কাৰণে মই সদায় গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লগত থাকি আহিছোঁ। বৰ্তমান অনাৰেবল চাৰ সাহুল্লাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলী পূৰ্বে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট থাকোঁতেও support কৰি আহিছোঁ। কোনো কাৰণত তেওঁবিলাকে resignation দিব লগীয়া হোৱাত আৰু কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱালিছন মিনিষ্ট্ৰী form হোৱাত তেওঁবিলাকৰ পাৰ্টৰ পৰা resign দি কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱালিছন মিনিষ্ট্ৰীৰ লগত join কৰিলো। কংগ্ৰেচ মিনিষ্ট্ৰীৰ লগত থাকোঁতে গৰীব মিকিৰ জাতিটোৰ কাৰণে এখন এন, ভি স্কুল আৰু এখন এম, ই, স্কুল আৰু ৩ খন এল্. পি, স্কুল পালে। আৰু গৰাব হুখীয়া খাওঁলৈ নোপোৱা বিলাকৰ কাৰণে ৫,০০০ টকা সাহায্য পাইছিলো আৰু বৰবিহু কানি নিশ্বুল কৰিবলৈকো কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱালিছন মিনিষ্ট্ৰীয়ে চেষ্টা কৰিছিল। সেই কাৰণে কংগ্ৰেচ মিনিষ্ট্ৰীক অন্তৰেবে সৈতে ধনুবাদ জনাইছো। দুখৰ বিষয় তেওঁবিলাকে হাইকমান্ডৰ হুকুম মতে resignation দিব লগীয়া হোৱাত পুনৰায় অনাৰেবল চাৰ চাহুল্লাই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট form কৰে। ময়ো কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱালিছন পাৰ্টৰ পৰা resign দি নিজৰ কন্স্টিটিউেঞ্চৰ স্বার্থৰ কাৰণে পুনৰায় বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীক support কৰিম বুলি প্ৰতিজ্ঞা কৰি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পাৰ্টত যোগ দিলো। মই আশা কৰো যে বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীৰ লগত যোগ দিয়াৰ পিচত মোৰ কন্স্টিটিউেঞ্চত থা গৰীব প্ৰজা সকলৰ প্ৰতি তেওঁবিলাকে সুদৃষ্টি ৰাখিব।

বৰ্তমান মিকিৰ জাতিটোৰ সকলো বিষয়ে অভাৱ অভিযোগ আছে। আজিলৈকে আসাম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তেওঁবিলাকৰ অশা-যোৱাৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে আলি-পতুল দিয়া নাই। অহা যোৱাৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণ তেল, নিমখ ৪ গুণ বেচি দাম দি খাবলগীয়া হৈছে আৰু উৎপন্ন বস্তু ৪ গুণ কমকৈ বেচিবলগীয়া হৈছে। গতিকে মিকিৰ জাতিটোৰ উন্নতি হওক চাৰি দিনে দিনে অৱনতিৰ ফাললৈহে আগ বাঢ়ি গৈছে। সেই কাৰণে এই বাজেট অন্তৰ্গত বোকাঝান বেল ষ্টেছনৰ ওচৰৰ Development বোৰ্ডৰ বোৰ্ডৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি দিয়া লাই, মহাডিঙ্গুৱা বকলীয়া ঘাটু আৰু ফুলনিয়দি নগাওঁ জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত পাৰ খোৱাৰ ওচৰত ডবকা বোডত লগ লগাই এটা আলি দিয়ক; আৰু মহাডিঙ্গুৱাবে পৰা দিফু বেল ষ্টেছনলৈ মাত্ৰ ১৬ মাইল বাস্তা অতি সোনকালে সদায় অহা যোৱা কৰিব পৰাকৈ এটা ভাগ আলি কৰি দিয়ক। বৰ্তমান সেই আলিত গৰু গাড়ী চলি আছে।

মিকিৰ হিলত ক'লাজৰ আৰু কুঠ বোগীৰে ভাৰা; কিন্তু তাৰ চিকিৎসাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণ-
মেণ্টে কোনো সুবিধা কৰা নাই। কংগ্ৰেচ কোৱাৰিচন মিনিষ্ট্ৰীৰ দিনত শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ
স্বত্বগত মাগাচাব নামে ঠাইত কুঠ বোগী চিকিৎসাৰ কাৰণে এটা সামান্য হিচাপে ডিচ-
পেকুৱা খুলিটোৰ সাৰল কৰিছে বুলি জনিব পাৰি গা; কিন্তু এই এটা ডিচ-
পেকুৱাৰ বাবাই পোটেই মিকিৰ পাহাৰত উপচাব হব বুলি জনা কৰিব নোৱাৰি।
গতিকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট বাহাজৰক অনুবোধ জনাও যে মাছে মাছে কোনো কোনো ঠাইত
চেণ্টাৰ কৰি ক'লাজৰ আৰু কুঠ বোগীৰ চিকিৎসাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে যেন।

সাক্ষিকৈ পোটেই মিকিৰ হিলৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰায় দুইলাখ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত মাত্ৰ ৫৫
খন প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুল আৰু এখন এম্‌টি আৰু এখন এম্‌ ই স্কুল আছে। পোটেই মিকিৰ
হিলৰ ভিতৰত এইখিনি স্কুলৰ বাবাই শিক্ষাৰ প্ৰচাৰ হোৱাৰ অসম্ভৱ। গতিকে শিক্ষা
বিভাগৰ অনাৰেণ্ড মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে পৰাৰ অসভ্য মিকিৰ জাতিৰ কাৰণে বেচি সংখ্যা প্ৰাই-
মাৰী স্কুল আৰু মাছে মাছে এম্‌ ই স্কুল দিবলৈ যেন ব্যৱস্থা কৰে আৰু যেন বেচি সংখ্যা
স্বল্যৰূপে দিয়ে।

কংগ্ৰেচ কে'ৱালিছন মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে আদামত বৰবিহ কানি বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ যি প্ৰচাৰ
কৰিছিল, সেই সময়ত মিকিৰ কানীয়া বিলাকৰ প্ৰায় ভাগেই কানি খাবলৈ এৰিছিল;
কিন্তু বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে কানি বন্ধ নকৰিব বুলি প্ৰচাৰ হোৱাত কানি খাবলৈ এৰি
দিয়া কানীয়া বিলাকে কানি খাবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে। এই বৰবিহ কানি গুছাই বাঁৰ
জাতিৰ উপকাৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীৰ অনুবোধ জনালো।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will
take only two minutes.

The previous Ministry presented their Budget six months after their
formation, and the present Ministry has placed this Budget before the House
4 months after the formation of this Ministry. Sir, when the Budget discus-
sion of last year was coming to a close, my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath
Mookerjee made certain remarks. I feel that those remarks were indeed very
wise and very sensible, and, therefore, I am tempted to repeat those remarks
of my hon. friend for the benefit of his friends in the Opposition.

"Considering the briefness of time and the many handicaps imposed
upon him by a change in Government, what the Hon'ble Finance
Minister has achieved is a remarkable success and he is deserv-
ing of high praise. I have listened patiently to the speeches that
have followed the Budget speech from the Opposition benches.
Most of them have been delivered in a spirit of bitterness, the sole
object being to malign the Hon'ble Finance Minister personally
or the party to which he happens to belong. I do not propose
to reply to insinuations and innuendoes with counter insinua-
tions and innuendoes, although the provocation has been great
and justification so ample. I wish only my hon. friends had
remembered the good old adage 'those who live in glass houses
should not throw stones at others'. Some of the points raised
are so trivial and parochial that one could not persuade one-self
to take any serious notice of them. It is a pity that in their zeal

the maligners on this side of the House, the Opposition forgot what was expected of them, the result being a plethora of vague accusations and utter poverty of constructive suggestions."

I hope the hon. Mr. Mookerjee remembers those remarks. May I request him to remind the members in the Opposition his good advice.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF ELECTION TO THE DIBRU-SADIYA RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have to announce the result of election to the Dibru-Sadiya Railway Local Advisory Committee.

Srijut Jogesh Chandra Gohain and Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah having withdrawn their candidature, Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah has been elected unopposed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF ELECTION TO THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I then announce the result of the election to the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

An election having taken place, Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has been elected as member of the said Committee.

Adjournment.

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

After Lunch

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must confess that I find myself in a curious predicament. The little knowledge of parliamentary procedure that I claim to have tells me that it is for the Opposition to attack and for Government to reply; but in this House the table has been turned more or less. We have been made an object of attack from the Government benches, and these attacks have proceeded from the Hon'ble Chief Minister onward down to even the last speaker who spoke. I have therefore the duty not merely to attack but to defend also. In this connection, Sir, I must make a little observation to what hon. Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Goldsmith said in regard to the attitude which has got to be taken by parties in reference to certain matters. Mr. Whittaker seems to think that we should be as detached as possible from party politics in our remarks on the Budget speech. I agree with him in so far as certain aspects of the Budget is concerned, *viz.*, the constructive and nation building departments. I think, Sir, we should be able to sink all our party differences and should be able to think alike about them. All the same Sir, in a Government by party politics each party has its own outlook, its own way of thinking, and its own ideals; and all actions whether they be matters of politics or matters of even works of natural reconstruction the outlook varies and actions also accordingly vary.

Sir, I do really congratulate the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on the frankness with which he is placing the Budget before us through the Budget speech. In reference to his policy and programme of work during the last six years during which he had presented similar Budgets we had not the opportunity of placing his proposals against the proposals of any other Government. The hide and seek played by his speeches in the country could not be revealed. To-day however we have the advantage of understanding him by

the background of the policy and programme of another Government, the Government I had the honour to lead till only 4 months ago. With this background we shall be able to understand the policy and programme that is proposed to be followed by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think 'Premier' is the term in use.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: If I am so permitted, I shall be very glad to use it. I refrain from using it because over this word there was some controversy in the Legislature and it seemed that the Opposition showed preference for the term 'Chief Minister', to that of Premier or Prime Minister.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The present Bill contains the term 'Prime Minister'.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I shall use the term in my future references.

I was pointing, Sir, that on account of the background that we had in the last administration the policy and programme of the present Government stands in bold relief. I am glad, Sir, that on account of that fact much of the propaganda that we have got to carry on in the country against certain measures and policy with which we are at complete variance with the present Government—much of the propaganda which we must carry in order to explain the difference in outlook of the present Government with that of our party—will be rendered easier. The present Ministry with its policy and programme now stand in entire nakedness. We read the Premier's political theories in breakfasts and dinners, his economics in land revenue reliefs, his policy of moral regeneration in the opium policy and his policy of upliftment, in the educational scheme, mass literacy scheme and rural reconstruction scheme; we have also occasion to examine his land policy over the Line System and lastly his policy of administrative efficiency in creation of highly paid posts and increased salaries to the Ministers. In this humble speech of mine, I will make only an attempt to show, Sir, how those matters of policy and programme differed between his Government and the programme that we as a party have sought to carry on in this Legislature.

Reference has been made by the Hon'ble Premier with regard to the politics of the day. He says "here is before us the breakfast—the breakfast which the present Government of India Act offers" that we should at any rate for the time being be satisfied with it before we go for the full "dinner", I believe he means thereby independence of India.

Sir, to me his argument seems to be so very old, wooden and antiquated, particularly in view of the many changes that have taken place in the world to-day, that was the Muslim League, his party organization could have answered him otherwise. Sir, to-day the voice of India has almost been unequivocal in demanding full independence for India. With the war raging there in Europe, but with all its effects being felt here, the whole world is seeking a new order and we cannot agree that the political discussion to-day is mere polemics—it is very much more serious than that—it is something very much more vital to us. We are demanding, and I am sure whether the British Government wish it or not—we shall acquire that independence in no time. I am a staunch believer in that, and there is the difference between him and me in any political outlook. I must have independence; I must acquire it by my efforts, and it must come to me as early as possible.

Then, Sir, he has referred in his speech to "hunger-strike"—by that I think he means the attitude which the Congress has taken in resigning the Ministries—and he seems to think that we have committed a blunder by refusing to eat the breakfast given to us by the Government of India Act.

I would very humbly point out to him the circumstances under which that strike was undertaken and why all the Congress Ministries had to resign. The Hon'ble Prime Minister very well knows under what conditions the Ministries were accepted by the Congress. The power of the Governor loomed large over the heads of the Ministers and the Congress Party could not believe itself to be acting as an independent body with honour and dignity unless the whole position of Ministerial responsibility was made perfectly clear. And as may be well known to the House that fact was made very clear in what has been called the "Gentlemen's assurance" given by Lord Zetland and Lord Linlithgow. The conditions were that in the sphere of Ministerial responsibility there should be absolutely no interference on the part of the Governor, that in the sphere of individual judgment similar interference would not be made, and even in the sphere of discretion the Ministers would be consulted and action would be taken only after consultation with the Ministers. Now, Sir, what became of the position of the Ministers after the declaration of the war? Did those assurances hold good? Several amendments to the Government of India Act were done overnight. The papers report that in 18 hours' time the whole show was finished—provisions were incorporated by which large encroachment was made on the rights of the Provincial Governments. If the Hon'ble Prime Minister has gone through the files, he must have seen how this interference was made and resented even in this province. The Defence of India Act was extended to this province and variety of action belittling the Provincial Government was undertaken by Government of India without consulting them. Subjects which were under the control of Provincial Governments were taken out of their control; officers who were working under the Provincial Governments were made direct agents to the Government of India for the purpose of exercising control for certain affairs. It was therefore manifestly clear to all thinking people—to all people with any degree of self-respect in them—that the Government of India was out to crush the power of the provinces in the sphere of their responsibilities. It was therefore thought necessary and it was thought imperative that a party which had all along stood for the independence of the people of India could not co-operate; it was not possible for them to co-operate in the administration any longer. There are other reasons also. Sir, war was declared by British Government and India was also made a belligerent country without consulting her. India was not consulted when Indian troops were sent to the different parts of the world, and large expenditure incurred in the name of defence. Therefore, there was no alternative left but for the Congress Ministries to resign in all Congress Provinces. I cannot attribute great sincerity to the Hon'ble Prime Minister when he says we made a great mistake in what he terms as one going on hunger-strike, when at the same time, he himself and some of his colleagues made a mad rush for the loaves and fishes of office. He may be satisfied with a "breakfast" at any cost; but he has no right to criticise men who may take a different line of action—knowing that it is an action which any people with a sense of self-respect and notion of freedom would take. This, Sir, is the difference between him and me in the political outlook.

Then, Sir, he has talked about breakfast and dinner. I do not grudge him either dinner or breakfast provided it were his own; but if he had the same view about "the breakfast" and "dinner" of our people in the countryside, I believe that there would have been not much difference between him and me. If he had known that instead of dinner, our people are having compulsory "hunger-strike" every day of their lives and that is being created by a Government like the one he is leading, I would probably have been finding myself in complete agreement with him over

many matters that affected the interests of our people in the countryside. But even there I find that I have to differ from him and with great regret, Sir, I bring in the question of land revenue remission as a point at issue in this connection. The land revenue remission has been criticised by the Hon'ble Premier and some members, the leader of the European group Mr. Moore, as a measure which is not conducive to the well being of the people. He thinks that the money that would be wasted in remission might be more profitably utilised for the good of the people in the countryside for improvement of agriculture, etc. I am no less cognisant of the wants of the people in the countryside and I am no less desirous of finding money for the people of the countryside than either the Leader of the House or the Leader of the European group. But should we not question the justice of any imposition of tax itself before we think of these things? Sir, I may be permitted to point out that reading through the finances of the province it would be seen that till the remissions were granted, practically half of the revenue receipts of the province were derived from taxes on *khiraj* lands. (There is *nisf-khiraj* lands also but it yielded a very small amount of revenue). Any way the land revenue derived from *khiraj* lands varied from a crore to a crore and 25 lakhs. Even after the remissions have been given and granted they represent at least one-third of the revenue of the province. Now, Sir, who pays all this? Are they not the poor people of the countryside who entirely make these payments? As against this, if we take into consideration the richer sections of our population we will find that they definitely pay less than what these poor cultivators are doing. There are two sets of people who also pay something to Government on account of land. They are the tea planters and the zemindars. The other day my hon. friend Mr. Nirendra Dev was pleased to point out that as much as 17 lakhs of acres of land are in the occupation of tea gardens of which only 26 per cent are actually under cultivation. When we try to compare the incidence of taxation paid by the tea planters with that of the ordinary *raiya*, it will be seen that in so far as the tea planters are concerned they pay between 6 annas upto Re.1-2-0 in the acre. Whereas the ordinary cultivator pays not less than Rs.2-8-0 to Rs.3-10-0 in the acre. The difference is indeed very remarkable.

Then, Sir, we should take into account other factors in determining the justice of any tax. If the incidence of taxation has anything to do with the produce in the land it will also be seen that even by the most recent figure the gross produce per acre of tea would never be less than Rs.300; whereas the gross produce of an ordinary cultivator per acre would never be more than Rs.20. It will surely be pointed out by the planters that vast capital has been used in clearing jungles, in maintaining upto date machineries, in paying labour and over things of that kind, before this produce was obtained. I really see the force of that argument. But it must also be said on the other side that these cultivators have to do the same when they originally opened out these lands. They had also to spend some money, if not money, at least as much labour convertible in terms of money and the conditions remaining almost the same, with this difference only that probably their investment could be represented more in terms of labour than in terms of money. The disparity is therefore very remarkable. Then when we go to examine the position of the Zemindars, the same state prevails. The Zemindars pay, I believe, not more than 8 annas to 10 annas per acre to Government. Now, therefore, when the Congress-Coalition Government tried to bring down this rate of taxation to a position by which the incidence could be equally distributed on all the parties, did they do anything wrong? I must not, in this connection, forget to mention, Sir, the great sacrifice that was made

by the Indian section of the tea Planters and the Zemindars in the passing of the Agricultural Income-tax which fact alone made it possible to bring about an equitable distribution in the incidence of taxation. Sir, it is well known that in civilized countries the rich alone principally bear the burden of administration. But what did we find here ?

Sir, it is repeated that the principle of the taxation involved in the Agriculture Income-tax was not opposed and we are pleased to note that fact. But in practice and in actual effect we found that this measure was opposed at every stage. Beginning from the stage of introduction up to the stage of passing this measure was opposed by the present Government in power—I mean the party of the Hon'ble Prime Minister which includes the European party also. I desire to point out before the House that in bringing forward this measure of relief by remission, by imposing the Agricultural Income-tax we did no injustice to anybody ; and if the Hon'ble Prime Minister is anxious for righteousness as he has shown in the Budget speech, I hope, he will see the righteousness of this measure and will never think of setting it aside. To tax the rich and to relieve the poor are measures which are based on moral principle and whatever the Prime Minister and Mr. Moore might say, we adhere and will adhere to such principles.

Then, Sir, I come to another measure of work which was undertaken by the last Government and which the present Government seeks to stop—I mean the total prohibition of opium. This to our mind raises a great and a grave moral issue. We had taken great pains to initiate this scheme. I personally claim a little hand in this affair. My friend the late Minister of Excise was pleased to allow me to take the initiative in this matter and to formulate the scheme. We hear to-day that this scheme has been a failure and the grounds on which this scheme has been said to be a failure are in the first place that smuggling has increased and secondly that the money spent and surrendered over it are uselessly spent. Now, Sir, before going to examine the position I desire to point out on what grounds this scheme was adopted by our Government. It was found, Sir, on recognised opinion of the Excise Commissioner that in spite of increased reductions smuggling was rampant in the country. That fact was very amply demonstrated when we launched the scheme. As explained by me to the hon. members in the last sessions, this scheme was composed of three activities. Firstly, a propaganda was initiated in the country to make the addicts feel that the habit of opium eating is a great evil and that Government would help them in getting rid of this evil. Sir, if we have to judge an experiment by the results, it must be said that the propaganda was a great success. There were only ten thousand addicts in all in the two subdivisions according to the opium register, but the House will be surprised to hear that as many as fourteen thousand addicts applied for treatment with a view to get rid of this habit. This clearly demonstrates that at least four thousand people were outside the list of opium eaters. While this showed on the one hand that smuggling was going on all the while when this reduction scheme was being given effect to, it also showed the success of the propaganda—the moral conviction that came upon the society that this habit should be got rid of. The second part of the scheme consisted of medical treatment and in that we have achieved something which has not been shown in the history of any other country in the world. It may appear as a boast, but it is nevertheless a fact. China did experiment on total prohibition, but there were several deaths in the course of that experiment. But here, Sir, although there were as many as 14 to 15 thousand people came for treatment, there was not a single case of death. I shall be failing in my duty (although not in Government Bench to-day) if I did not once more record our grateful thanks to those

advisers—I mean Colonel Chopra, the late Principal of the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, his Assistant Captain R. L. Chopra, Colonel Allen, Colonel Hesterlow, the Director of Public Health and his Assistant, Captain Dutta and the great band of field workers who have worked under their guidance. It would as well surprise many to hear how the committees that were brought into existence for the purpose of this treatment helped the cause. Sir, a number of young men used to bring the addicts to the different centres, they attended them during their course of treatment and what is more, they catered to the needs of the dependants of these unfortunate addicts. Still, it is being given out that the scheme was a failure so far as the medical treatment was concerned. Then comes the most difficult problem—the problem of vigilance. We also felt that this was the most difficult part of the whole scheme. We therefore proposed that only those officers who could be absolutely relied upon for their honesty should be allowed to work in that region. We also perfectly realised the insufficiency of the staff and therefore appointed about 20 other excise officers to help in this work of vigilance. The Excise Commissioner devised patrol parties and other measures of vigilance for the purpose. As the opium shops had ceased to exist, the possibility for vigilance was greater for that fact alone. The result was that the number of detections abnormally increased—a fact which could be hardly anticipated. To-day that fact of smuggling in the country. The fact is definitely clear that with the passing away of these shops from existence the smugglers have not the same facilities as they used to have before. The considered opinion of the Department is that it is these shops which had carried on the smuggling during the time that this reduction of ration scheme was at work. Therefore, Sir, this plea of smuggling is definitely exaggerated and there can be no ground whatsoever for stopping this prohibition.

On the other hand when we look to the other side, we find what moral regeneration has come into the country. Sir, husband and sons, who were separated from their wives and mothers for many years because they had to earn their ration of opium in distant lands came back home much to the joy and happiness of their wives and mothers giving up the evil (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, it will be astonishing to hear that these very opium eaters have been responsible for constructing village roads to a length of at least 40 miles in the two subdivisions and doing other works of utility to the village. A statistic was obtained from our workers and it is from them that we know what success the scheme has achieved. The opium eaters are now jubilant they are now willing to co-operate in the mass-literacy scheme which was proposed to be started by our Government. Such an atmosphere of regeneration, has come into the land and yet it is sought to be stopped on the plea of smuggling. The Prime Minister has quoted from the Excise Commissioner's latest report to show that the progress has not been as great as he had desired, but if the Hon'ble Prime Minister had taken his advice as a whole, he would have also come to know that the same Excise Commissioner wanted that this scheme should be extended to all other Subdivisions in order that this smuggling might be more effectively stopped. Therefore, Sir, when the Hon'ble Prime Minister quotes one portion of his speech and leaves the rest, I do not think his criticism on this project is either fair or just. Sir, can the prevalence of smuggling be a sufficient ground for giving up such a good scheme? Can the presence of the tempter be a ground for our friends of the Government Bench to support vice? The tempter has been there since the beginning of the world and the smugglers will also be there so long there will be love of gain from illicit hands, but can that

be a ground for giving up such a scheme of moral regeneration? I want my Christian friends particularly to answer this question. Sir, I feel very strongly about this scheme. I think, Sir, the present Government will be doing a positive act of mischief and disservice to the country if they give up the scheme as they are proposing to do. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has yet got time to consider this matter, and I would earnestly appeal to him to see that the scheme is not dropped in the manner he proposes to do. I agree with him that the financial implication is a matter which may be worth consideration; but it would be seen Sir, that although we had provided a sum of 1 lakh and 25 thousand for this work, only a sum of Rs. 50,000 was spent up to the time when we had left office. This was possible simply for the fact that we had obtained a vast number of voluntary workers and voluntary organisations to work for the cause. It is only on account of the fact that we could appeal to their moral sense that we could get such generous and splendid response; I feel, if the Hon'ble Premier makes the same appeal to their sense of morality he will get the same response also. I, therefore, want the House to consider seriously whether this is a thing in which there should be any difference of party politics—whether there should be any two ways of thinking over this matter. Sir, in every province where the Governor himself has undertaken the responsibility of the Government through his Advisers, they are scrupulously following the policy of the last Government. Sir, we may be speaking before Hon'ble Prime Minister as members of the Opposition, but that does not take away from him the responsibility of doing what is good to the people. I hope, Sir, he will give due consideration to the appeal that I have made to him and to the House as a whole.

Then, Sir, I come to the subject of education, and I would first dwell on the subject of a University for Assam. Let me say Sir, that no money has been provided for in the Budget over any question of University. I think it is yet in the stage of consideration. I am prepared to have a University for the purpose of creating true leadership, a leadership that will inculcate the spirit of sacrifice in the country, a leadership that will inculcate the spirit of service in our students. But I am very much against University which will be merely a replica of the Calcutta University. The Calcutta University has turned out a large number of unemployed youths. If we follow our sister province in the matter of similar University Education, I think, we will not be doing any good to the country. Our object is to teach students certain crafts and some scientific subjects by which they would be able to take their place along with other advanced people. If the study would encourage research in the country, then I would welcome it. I feel, Sir, that these facts will be taken into consideration by the present Government if they at all take up the question of a University in hands. To my mind, unless a proper University at Gauhati could be had, we need not have one. ✓

Then, Sir, I come to a very important scheme which the last Government adopted in order to create literacy among the masses. It will be seen, Sir, that the idea behind the scheme was to inculcate the spirit of self-sacrifice among our young men and to secure their service for this work. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has been pleased to criticise it on the ground that as we proposed a remuneration of annas four to the village school teacher who may be utilised for that purpose he would not get good work. As far as I know, the Bihar Government first inaugurated this scheme and made the same allotment per capita of literates. They subsequently changed the rate and raised it to annas eight. It is quite clear that however much money

may the Prime Minister find for the project, it will never be sufficient to make people of Assam literate within any reasonable time. Therefore, unless we can get the co-operation of the educated people, it is impossible to get this work done. It will be seen Sir, that in two Congress provinces, Bihar and the United Provinces, they have fairly succeeded in this venture. Bihar in their first year of venture have had about one lakh of people brought under this scheme and made them actually literate. The United Provinces, as I got from a report only the other day, have made as many as 3 lakhs of people literate within the course of one year. We allotted 35 thousands of rupees for expenditure on such a purpose. The scheme was drawn up and charts and maps had been printed. They are even now ready in the hands of the Department; but it is not known, Sir, why the whole thing has been dropped. We had actually nominated the Subdivisional Committees; yet no action is being taken under the scheme. We do not know, Sir, what prevented the present Government from acting up to the scheme. I do not know if it was tabooed for the simple reason that it originated from us. And then we find that only a sum of rupees 12,000 has been provided in the next Budget.

Then, Sir, there is another subject to which I want to refer. It is the provision for Wardha system of education which the present Government have thought fit to drop from the list of new schemes. We proposed an expenditure of Rs. 40,000 for this scheme and this amount would have, I think, financed 20 or 25 schools, if I remember the scheme aright. But the present Government have thought fit to drop it altogether and I do not know for what reason. I had some discussion on this in this House when I was in office. Some section of Muslim members condemned this system as anti-Muslim. But it will be seen, Sir, that even the Government of India have adopted this system and are encouraging it in the provinces by lending the services of their officers for carrying out the scheme.

I would not like to take up the time of the House by enumerating the benefits that might accrue from the adoption of such a scheme, but there is no denying the fact that the scheme has been acclaimed as one of the best schemes of education, and yet we do not know, Sir, why the present Government have dropped it. Is it for the reason that as the Congress Government wanted to initiate the scheme, it was dropped? A sum of Rs. 1,200 is even now available in the Budget for the purpose of training the teachers who might take up the responsibility of the schools which may have been opened. But the matter has been dropped.

I do not like to speak very much in regard to other schemes.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know one thing? Has the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that he ordered the initiation of the scheme after seeing the report of the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectors of Schools?

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, definitely so. The report came a month or at least 20 days before we resigned and I felt that even there was enough matter by which the scheme could have been held as sound. Now, Sir, I would not like to speak on the many other schemes which have been dropped by the present Government. Our schemes of education may have involved an expenditure of 3 lakhs in excess of what has been proposed by the present Government. They covered all spheres of educational activities—the college education, the secondary education, the middle vernacular education and all kinds of special education. But all these things have been dropped. I am sure it will be said that paucity of funds prevented the Ministry from giving practical shape to them. But I may point out to the Government that we are even now

with a surplus of nearly 5 lakhs ? I do not see the reason why some part of it had not been allotted for the purpose. So far as the education of the tribal people and the backward communities are concerned, we wanted to make a further addition to the allotment for the education of the tribal, the scheduled caste, the ex-tea garden labourers and the immigrants. But I do not know, Sir, why these schemes have also been dropped. I do not know also why more grants could not be allotted for *Hindustani Prochar*.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of agriculture.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, before we leave the subject of education, may I ask one other question whether the hon. Leader of the Opposition does not want a university like that of the Calcutta University and only a residential University and nothing else ?

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I am not one who can describe things in phrases. But if the Hon'ble Education Minister would like to have my opinion in this matter, I am prepared to give it in details at some other place. Sir, in regard to the schemes that we had given about agriculture, I do not propose to go through all of them. All that I consider necessary to refer are two or three important subjects which will explain our standpoint. Sir, the present Government have curtailed our allotment of twenty Agricultural Demonstrators to ten. We have always claimed, even as oppositionists, that field work in the villages is more necessary than creation of highly paid posts at the centre. Then, Sir, a very important scheme which we proposed to take up is canning and preservation of fruits. The urgency of the scheme is very well known to those who have any connection with fruit growing. It is well known that a large number of pineapples and oranges are wasted in this province. So, if some people were given the training in canning and preserving of fruits it would make a good cottage industry. But I do not know why that scheme has been dropped, although it would not involve much expenditure. All the other projects except that of Demonstrator for the Mikir Hills which we provided for have been similarly rejected.

As regards Veterinary, we made a provision for fifty additional Field Assistants, but the number has been curtailed to seventeen only. We proposed that twenty stipends should be given for training of Veterinary Assistants at Belgachia, but it has been reduced to ten. We also proposed to construct Veterinary Dispensary at Tura as it is far away from the activities of the Veterinary Department. We do not know why that scheme has also been dropped. I think, the usual plea will be the want of funds. But everything taken together would not cost more than Rs.20,000.

Then, Sir, I propose to speak a word on the rural development scheme which the last Government— I mean our Government—wanted to introduce. I quite admit that the first Government of the Hon'ble the Premier did also look into this matter. They had actually devised a scheme, which to my mind, fell short of many things that are so very necessary for the purpose of infusing a spirit of self reliance in the villagers. All that the scheme envisaged was the creation of certain centres, creation of some advisory body, training of thirty-five young men for the purpose of giving advice to the villagers in various matters, and, lastly, I think, the whole thing was proposed to be done through the Deputy Commissioner. The scheme that was proposed by us Sir, was different in many respects. I tried to read the speech of the Hon'ble Minister of that Department, in various places where he proposed the opening of new centres ; I confess however that I have not been able to follow what he is intending to do. If my proposition comes as an advice to him, he may be pleased to accept it. The main thing that is necessary, in

regard to village uplift is the necessity for the inculcation of a spirit of self reliance in the villagers. What we proposed was that a particular centre should be opened with an area of 20 or 30 square miles. The various activities of the various nation-building Departments should be concentrated and converged in that particular area and that the centre should be made, as far as possible, the headquarters of the field assistants of these departments. The idea was to develop all kinds of industries in that area, so that the whole centre should be self-sufficient for the purpose of everything that was needed there. Then we proposed that the whole work should be placed in charge of a Committee of the representatives of the people who would form the majority. At the same time these field workers should also be members of that Committee. In order that the money that may be placed at their disposal might not be wasted, we thought that a person of the status of a Sub-Deputy Collector should be the Chairman and that the worker which the Government would appoint should be its *ex-officio* Secretary. Certain amount of money—I thought up to Rs.4,000—was to have been placed at the disposal of these Committees, so that they might carry on with the activities in all the departments besides getting what assistance they could from the various departments. But we find that no money has been provided, except the same 25 thousand rupees which is being provided during the last two years for no work. We did actually open a centre at Majuli where all these principles were explained to the people but with our resignation that scheme has been dropped. Is it also for the reason that because the Congress Government initiated the scheme it should be dropped?

Thus, Sir, in examining the whole Budget scheme we come to one conclusion, *viz.*, that party politics is working in such a pernicious manner that all that were thought good and beneficial by us have been tabooed. I am pained to make this observation, but this feeling has been forced upon me and therefore I must say that the difference in outlook is there. We feel, Sir, that the people should be made to feel that the Government live for them and it is their work that Government is doing. We felt that co-operation of the people must be there in all Governmental activities. But we find a grave reluctance on the part of this Ministry to recognise this very important principle. We recognize that Government should live for the service of the people, while the present Government think of living for themselves and the highly paid officers. Therefore, the Prime Minister and myself are bound to differ and I must say that this difference must continue. I am not one who would claim that all knowledge that I have or all thinking that comes out of my mind to be infallible. We are prepared to consider and discuss matters and in that we are prepared to offer co-operation, the co-operation which he sought in the speech. But I find that he and his party have fundamentally a different outlook from the one that we propose to bring into the administration. If, therefore, this policy be revised to the extent of the comment that I have made here in my speech, Sir, if the programme of constructive work of the Congress which we feel will lend to the regeneration of the country is adopted, I would not find it difficult to co-operate with him. But as I find, Sir, that there is a great difference between him and me in fundamentals—fundamentals in politics, fundamentals in economics, fundamentals in what will be good for the people as a whole. I must say, Sir, I will differ and continue to differ from him. I am sure, it is not necessary for this House to determine who is right. But I am sure the country at large will surely support me.

Sir, I have very little else to say—there was plenty of things to say—but I am afraid it will be encroaching upon the time of the House if I proposit to speak at length on other subjects. But I would like to criticise and repeat

the criticisms that have been made on the floor of the House regarding the salaries of Ministers and regarding the appointment of highly paid officers by the present Government. Even there I mark that difference in outlook. We have claimed that it is the increase of field workers that would tend to better efficiency of administration and more service to people than by increasing the number of the highly-paid officers at the top. We have cried hoarse about the top-heaviness of the administration. The octopus of the Act prevented and will prevent the object of true retrenchment so long as the Act will continue to operate. I feel, Sir, that we should not be encouraging any increase in the number of the highly-paid appointments. We should not have any mill stone round our neck, even if it is to be added by one. But the present Government seems to think otherwise.

They also seem to think that money is the criterion by which one's dignity is to be weighed. I feel, Sir, money is surely not the criterion by which the dignity of men should be judged. Dignity of man was never mercenary and will never be so. I quite realise that the Congress scale of salaries may not be high enough or remunerative enough to keep Ministers in great comforts. But the fact of the acceptance of a lesser salary has a very great moral value ; such public servants always feel that they are taking lesser salary as sacrifice for the cause of those for whom they are working. Such a feeling chasten their thoughts by day and dreams by night. It is such feelings that uphold them in their difficulty, and strengthen them in their endeavours. I wish, Sir, that this ideal was also accepted by the present Government.

I shall only close my speech, Sir, by making a brief reference to the many things that are happening in our country along with the declaration of war. Sir, I find that increased grants for Criminal Investigation Department have been provided for. I also find that larger contribution is being proposed for the Assam Rifles. Am I not correct in that, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir, my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition is not correct. No increased sum is being provided for the Assam Rifles. But according to the ruling of the Government of India we have to give them a share of the saving from the ration and pensionary charges and consequently there has been an increase of Rs.27,000.

Srijut GOPINATH BORDOLOI : Sir, I understand that we would have a saving in the Budget on account of Assam Rifles. We had decided that Tura Hills should go without Assam Rifles altogether and that would give us some saving. I definitely feel that saving is not there in the Budget and therefore to that extent, Sir, we have been losers by situation during the war. Then, Sir, the situation that ordinances have brought about after the outbreak of war, was very well explained before the House by my friend, Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah and I feel, Sir, that in the name of war there should be no curtailment of liberty of the people that there was absolutely no necessity for subjecting hon. members of the Legislature while doing their duties to the kind of indignation they were put to during the last two months. I hope the present Government will look into this matter.

Sir, in making these observations I desire to impress upon the Hon'ble the Premier that it is not out of any personal feeling or on account of any personal *zid*, that I am making these remarks. It is not with any curbing spirit that I am offering these suggestions. Therefore, while we may differ with him in politics, while we differ with him in our outlook, and in many things, I definitely feel that the spirit of good feeling and unfailing courtesy must prevail between the Opposition members and the Government bench for all times.

I have nothing more to say, Sir.

Finance Minister's reply on Budget Discussion

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I begin to reply to the general discussion on the Budget provisions for the year 1940-41, I must apologize to the hon. members of the House through you for my inability to remain in this House throughout these discussions. As hon. members are aware the Council was also in simultaneous session and I had to reply to the debate on the provisions of the Budget and I had also to attend to some resolutions tabled thereon. I had requested some hon. colleagues of mine to take notes on the points raised by various hon. members who have spoken. They have given me the benefit of their notes. But it must be admitted that the points that might strike me as needing reply may have escaped their notice. If, therefore, Sir, I fail to touch on certain observations of different hon. members of the House in the course of my reply, they should not take it that I have ignored them. I can assure the hon. members of the House that as soon as the proceedings are published, I will carefully go through them to find out what they actually said and if possible, act up to their suggestions.

To begin with, Sir, I am very happy to note and therefore ungrudgingly I congratulate my *vi-a-vis* of last year, the present Leader of the Opposition for rehabilitating the discussion on the high plane of politics. I was pained to see the amount of bitterness, the acrimoniousness which crept in the speeches of some of the hon. members who had spoken on the earlier days. I had fully expected that the devotees of the cult of *Ahmsha*, i. e., non-violence, will display that, not merely in their action but also in their tongue and thought and use temperate language. But I need only mention here as an indication, the language of one of the leading members of that group, uncelebrated for courtesy or suavity, about our picking up of the "cast off shoes" of the Congress Ministry. Well, Sir, if that is Parliamentary language, I have got absolutely no objection for his using the phrase. But what was cast off last year by his party was the Ministry and Ministry is the governance of the country and the symbol of Government is Crown and as the Crown is kept on the head and not on the feet so if we had picked up anything, we picked up what was the highest. If the hon. members of the Congress party thought that the Ministers themselves were nothing but the shoes of their own party, they are welcome to their opinion. Some other hon. members out of sheer bitterness from seeing that their party was not in power had used most unmannerly language in their speeches. Some of them were read in vernacular and in such great haste that I could not follow. I appeal to all hon. members of the House to keep the dignity of their proceedings and not use terms which will show that we do not know what are manners, that we are not up to Parliamentary standard of discussion. I am, therefore, Sir, as I have already said, thankful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for keeping his discussion at a high level.

He is perfectly correct in saying that with the advent of the Reforms, constitutional party system of Government has come into existence, and now that we have got a permanent Opposition in the Congress party whose ideals and fundamentals are known to every one, we expect that the Opposition will use their opportunities to correct the mistakes of the Government, if there be any. My hon. friend and predecessor in the last Government holding the portfolio of Finance has found in my speech nothing but rebuke and maligning of his work. He thinks that throughout my speech I ridiculed him. But I can assure him, and also the hon. members of this House that this was far from my thoughts. If hon. members will read my contribution, as Leader of the Opposition last year, to the proceedings of this House

they will find that what I have stated in my introductory speech about the Budget, has all been said from the opposite Benches then. I had spared myself nowhere in saying that the measures of taxation which were introduced by the last Government would ultimately devolve on the poor. I have always said that if our peasantry is to be saved they should be helped, and when we found that the agricultural produce—the result of the labour of the peasants—does not fetch them sufficient return they should be helped by a remission of revenue. I have also suggested that I hold the view that the opium habit could be eradicated from the province. I have reiterated from the Government Bench this time those very ideas which I had pronounced from the floor of the House last year. I had to make special reference to my hon. friend the *ex-Finance* Minister only on one point, and that was that according to him either from apathy, antipathy, or incapacity of his predecessors the financial position of the province has been in such a parlous state. I could not but refute that assertion of his. Our proceedings are expected to last for a long time. The succeeding generations will find out what was done in this House by the previous administrators. Whatever line I was compelled to take in my speech, let me assure him that in spite of our differences I will be the last person to forget manners and to rebuke or malign my predecessors. My hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has rightly hit the nail on the head when he said that the outlook on different points, the angle of vision, from which certain aspects of administration are looked into by his party are fundamentally different. The ideas of those who follow the dictates of Mahatma Gandhi in politics who though no longer the *de-jure* leader of the Congress, is still the guiding factor in the destiny of that organisation and is the final authority on Congress matters—are not in line with the outlook in life of Mahatma Gandhi which does not appeal to them. His frugal fare of goat's milk and nuts his extremely bare clothing, has not been followed by even his own votaries. Similarly, certain principles of politics which he has enunciated have not been followed by people who still claim to be within the Congress fold. We have seen that his authority to speak on behalf of the Congress has been challenged by no less a person than the late President of the All-India Congress, I mean Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose. A third party in the Congress ranks has appeared and is led by Mr. M. N. Roy. When we find that even in the Congress fold there have appeared three different parties with three different ideologies, can it be expected that people who feel that they cannot follow the saint of Sabarmati, should see things in the same light, should see the picture with the same glasses? Therefore, it is but proper that the action of every group should be judged by its own merit and not merely by party politics or on grounds of party allegiance. In the party system of Government it is well-known to all students of history that when one party resigns, if there is an Opposition commanding majority, they accept office, and this acceptance of office by me, and my forming a Cabinet to run the administration, whether as self-respectors or otherwise, instead of being calumniously termed into as "stepping into the cast off shoes" should have been termed as an act of chivalry and boldness.

My hon. friend, Srijut Bardoloi has given us to-day the reasons why the Congress Ministries resigned in other provinces—in Assam they did not have the privilege of having a Congress Ministry themselves—they had only one member—the Leader of the Cabinet who was returned to this House on the Congress ticket. Of course, I am not unmindful of the fact that from December 1937 my predecessor Finance Minister of the last Government had joined the Congress fold. He must be guided by the dictates of his conscience.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As you have done the League.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have been a Leaguer since its inception.

Of course, he must be guided by his own conscience and I have nothing to say. But all that I was trying to emphasise is that if the members coming from that great party who had assumed office under the orders of the High Command wanted to resign on the issue of the war there was absolutely no necessity for his non-Congress colleagues also to resign at the same time. They were not bound by any such order or by any other question of principle. Even now they have not joined the Congress group or signed the Congress creed. I wish that they had continued in office to carry out the programme laid down by their Leader the sole representative of the great Congress in the Cabinet (*Hear, hear*). But when that did not happen, and when I took over the administration of the province, instead of condemning my action they ought to commend favourably on my bearing their burden. For, I cannot believe that any one of my friends opposite did not know that I had a little bit of practice in the Calcutta High Court which would give me my breakfast elsewhere. I had no necessity to depend upon what my hon. friend, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, left for me to come and chew. It is only a sense of duty and a sense of loyalty to the province whose salt I have eaten for a long time that induced me to put aside other considerations and shoulder the responsibility which he found too overpress to bear further.

My hon. friend Srijut Bardoloi knows full well the tremendous responsibility that fell on his shoulders. And my hon. friend Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed knew well what trouble he had with the finances of the province. And when I have been able to shoulder the responsibilities of office at some sacrifice to myself, I am pained to see that remarks should be made by some of the members opposite saying that I am a hungry man with no resources and I could not maintain myself without coming from the Calcutta Bar to take over the Assam administration. If I wanted to pay back my friends in their own coin and use similar language as has been hurled at me, I could point out that if their leaders and Ministers had been true to their creed and true to their cult, they would not have waited for a fortnight to vacate office and their party members ought to have compelled them to vacate simultaneously with other provincial Congress Ministers when the ukase went forth from the High Command. I am however glad to hear from the lips of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition the reasons which led them to resign. He has been clear enough that as a self-respecting person he did not like to remain in office when he found that with the advent of war, ordinances were issued without consulting the Provincial Governments and areas inside his jurisdiction were taken away from his authority and converted into "protected areas." Sir, may I just make one enquiry? When did the war start and when were these ordinances promulgated by the Central Government? And when were those areas—he is referring to Digboi and Tinsukia—proclaimed "protected areas"? All these happened at least six weeks before he resigned. For these six weeks probably I shall have to take it that he had pocketed his self-respect and was planning on the line of action he should take.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Delay is dangerous.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Delay is dangerous in everything, yes. But it is too late in the day to urge that he resigned as self-respector after acquiescing in all these as self-respecting people and when we do it we are dubbed non-self-respectors. Where was his sense of self-respect all these six weeks, may I enquire and where was his self-respect when the same hon. gentleman had to be ordered by the High line Command to vacate office at once?

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I must say that the Hon'ble Premier is speaking an untruth when he insinuates like that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Untruth !

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The Hon'ble Premier should not make that statement without knowing the facts.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have not given up my stand ; but, Sir, you have allowed him to flare up and say that it is an untruth. But I do not like to follow his example. It was published in the papers.....

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : On papers ! (*Laughter.*)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : You may laugh now. But when it suited the party's purpose they had to go to the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* for help. Sir, it was mentioned in the papers that a deputation was going to Wardha to seek the permission of the High Command that the Congress Ministry should be allowed to function in Assam. The personnel of the delegation was also named. If you want further revelations I shall be prepared to give.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Far from it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It would not do to say merely " untruth " or " far from it ". Facts must be placed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Then again, Sir, the hon. *ex*-Premier said that the Governor loomed large in the Government of India Act and, therefore, he thought fit to resign. But again, Sir, when did this piece of profound knowledge come to his mind ? Did he not read the Government of India Act when he accepted office in September, 1938 ? Did he not find that already there was the question of Governor's responsibility, individual judgment, Governor's discretion and all that sort of power there ? Of course, he refers to a gentleman's agreement between the Congress on the one side and Lord Zetland and Lord Linlithgow on the other. When ? But I am too insignificant a person to be aware of any such agreement that might have been arrived at between high contracting parties. Sir, this topic I for the present shall pass over.

I will now take up the question which has been raised about land revenue remission by some of my hon. friend. The same matter was adverted to by various speakers on the side of the Opposition. My hon. colleague Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed has given the House the statement that I made from the opposition side of this House. I stick to what I said last year even now, but what I stated then I stated in pursuance of a principle. Land revenue remissions should be given only when our cultivators do not get any reimbursement or any surplus from his agricultural produce. If he gets any surplus after feeding himself and his family, which on its market value gives him a decent income, then there is no question of remission. But when on account of agricultural produce not having good market and fetching no sufficient price the cultivator finds it difficult to make his two ends meet, surely he should get help from the State by way of remission of land revenue. That was what I said last year and I say now. But times have changed. There has been an upward trend in the price of agricultural products. So far as certain commodities are concerned—notably jute—the price that was realised only a few days ago was nearly about three hundred per cent. better than the price the same commodity fetched last year. Price of paddy and rice has not increased to the same extent, but even for these commodities at certain places, there has been cent. per cent. increase. I shall ask all thinking men whether we should encourage indolence on the part of our local cultivators by giving them remission at a time which, as the hon. members know has not led them to observe thrift but which has

given them some surplus money to spend on commodities which to them must be luxuries. Would it not be better, I ask all reasonable men, to encourage industry in them and at the same time come to their help by giving better method of cultivation and by giving facility for starting agriculture with improved seeds, manuring and irrigation? Sir, that is my idea of helping the *raiya*s. If anybody holds a contrary view, he is welcome to it, but I can challenge that my idea of helping cultivators will be found more valuable and more profitable to the country. We have got concrete examples before us. We have got a peasantry from the industrious immigrants. They never claim any remission of land revenue. As a matter of fact they want more land and they are willing to pay double the land revenue which is now paid by the indigenous cultivators. That shows that these people employ improved agricultural methods and they get far greater return from the agricultural land than the indigenous cultivators can ever hope to get. It is up to hon. members of the House to choose between the two whether to help our cultivators by remission or to help them to get more or to bring more resources within their grasp so that they get more return from their agricultural holdings. Another thing in this connection is that I have been accused by my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition that it appears from my speech that I am against remission through the file of 1932-33, he would have found that it was on my report that the then Governor, late Sir Michael Keane, agreed to a remission of 3 annas in the rupee. This remission was increased to 5 annas in the rupee by my first administration in 1937. Yet to paint the same man as being against remission is nothing but a mockery of truth. Sir, my learned friend said that the ideal of the Congress organisation or Congress administration is to see that there is the same level of incidence of taxation between the rich tea planter and the ordinary cultivator. Well, I commend this ideal to the notice of every member of the House but I should say that in this he was not quite correct. There are tea gardens—I myself am a very small tea planter and I can say from personal experience therefore, that there are tea gardens which pay the same rate of revenue as for ordinary cultivation. I think the representative of the Indian Tea Industry in this House at least from the Assam Valley will bear me out that out of the Indian tea garden owners very nearly 50 per cent. have opened tea gardens on lands which pay ordinary *Kheraj* rate. Therefore, it is not quite correct to say that all tea gardens enjoy a special rate of land revenue. It will be correct to say to this extent that those tea estates which are very nearly a century old, when Assam was termed a wilderness of jungle, when outside capitalists had to be invited to open virgin land, then some concessional rates were given to them. If it were in our power, we would have tried to take away that concession, but they are all fee-simple grants and therefore we are debarred from escheating from them the concession which brought them to Assam to invest a huge capital and which is responsible for what little prosperity Assam enjoys. Sir, the Leader of the Opposition began his speech by saying that he was in an awkward position because he had to use both the weapons of attack and defence. So far as I have taken notes of his speech, I found that his speech was on the matter of defence and he was defending the measures which he had inaugurated during the 14 months of his administration. He spoke much about the prohibition of opium and experiment which he started in two subdivisions. I congratulate him for having the courage to initiate this as an experimental measure in the most opium addicted parts of the country. I thank him for bringing

in a large number of Congress volunteers to help him in this matter of propaganda and vigilance. With him, Sir, I join in extending my words of praise to those self-less workers and to those medical men who gave their best in order to make this experiment a great success. If I have taken time to judge by results and not to be carried by enthusiasm I hope hon. members would give me credit for my convictions. Here I have got some materials from the speech of my hon. friend in support of my belief. My hon. friend mentioned that although there are nearly 10,000 registered opium-eaters in these two subdivisions, he got as many as 14,000 applications for treatment for getting rid of the evil habit from them. It leads us to tarry a little and find out what happened thereafter. If the 10,000 registered opium-eaters and another 4,000 secret or unregistered opium addicts were so full of enthusiasm to get themselves cured of the drug habit and therefore they showed a very welcome determination to get rid of the evil, then how can the smugglers flourish and how can they bring in smuggled opium for sale to this province against our excise law, against all morality and against all consideration of humanity? The very fact that there has been a large number of detection which my hon. friend has described as abnormal detection clearly shows that there are some people amongst those who applied to him for medical treatment still subject to the opium habit. Therefore, it is much better to consolidate one's position before trying to extend it to outside the area of this experiment. My learned friend who was very enthusiastic in saying that a spirit of moral regeneration has come in the people but at the same time it required extreme vigilance on the part of the Excise staff as well as the Congress organisers to see that the addicts who have been cured do not lapse again into that habit. Does it prove, therefore, Sir, that the moral enthusiasm and regeneration and the economic betterment which has been the concomitant of this successful experiment have led the addicts to give up the habit? All these arguments which have been advanced by my hon. friends on the Opposition benches lead me to an appreciation of the real position as to how things are going on, and in this, I am being supported by the very Officer whom he selected for carrying this experiment to a successful issue. That Officer said that the century old habit of a nation cannot be removed by one stroke of pen. In spite of what I have said, Sir, I have not discarded this experiment of prohibition simply because it has been inaugurated by the Congress-Coalition Ministry. I have no prejudice against this experiment, but I will surely be guided in my action by the results which I expect from this experiment by next year.

Sir, as I have taken the task of replying to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will take first the speech from his lips. My hon. friend who was in-charge of Education has given us considered suggestion about education. He has spoken about University and has said that on no account he will support a University which will be a replica of the Calcutta University. Of course, when more elucidation was wanted it was not vouchsafed, but I have got here with me a pamphlet of a scheme for 1940-41 of the Assam Congress-Coalition party. That party constituted a Sub-Committee on Education which sat with the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Education, the Deputy Leader of that group, a veteran of the type of Srijut Kameswar Das and one whom I do not see here, Mr. Bhuban Chandra Gogoi, a gentleman who has dedicated his life for spread of education and also Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. I shall quote their conclusions—"it was thought desirable to shelve the question of a separate University for Assam for the present." The Committee recommended an increase in the number of Post-

Graduate scholarships and award of scholarships for studies in foreign countries. Sir, now we find the same leader of the Congress party criticising us for making no provision for a University. His opinion, last year, was that the question of a University should be shelved for the present.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, may I be permitted to say a word or two in this connection by way of explanation ?

Sir, our position was very clear. We thought with that finance that it should be better utilised for the spread of primary education and of University education at that juncture and the present Government proposed to do otherwise.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am obliged for the personal explanation that he has given. Of course, he was deterred, while in office, from taking up the question of University for paucity of funds and he believed that education ought to be broad based and that whatever money we can spare should go for spread of primary education. Yet he is prepared to bless us if we can produce a scheme for University in spite of the paucity of funds.

He has complained, Sir, that mass literacy scheme which was inaugurated by him has not been given effect to by us simply because it was initiated by him. But, Sir, the fact is otherwise. We took action on his scheme so long our own scheme was not ready. He said, Sir, that the idea behind the mass literacy campaign was the spirit of self-sacrifice, probably thereby he means the self-sacrifice of our educated unemployed youths. We saw the same matter in a different light. We thought, Sir, that it was too much to expect of the youths, who are clamouring for employment now, that they will have the patience to continue at their own expense for a couple of months the teaching of the adult with the ultimate idea of being paid at the rate of four annas per head. We thought, Sir, that that scheme was impracticable and that the desired object cannot be achieved by that means. I am glad to learn from my hon. friend to-day that his idea was also to utilise the services of village school teachers. It appears, Sir, that our scheme is like his, because in our scheme also we propose to utilise, so far as practicable, the services of the village school teachers by giving them a reasonable allowance per month. He also complains, Sir, that the Wardha scheme has been shelved by us because it was they who inaugurated that scheme. He has also made a fling at the present Ministry inasmuch as he has said that probably the scheme has been shelved or dropped because the Muslim community have objected to it. Sir, my Hon'ble Colleague the Education Minister was not deterred by any such idea but was guided in this matter by our experts who were sent by the Congress Coalition Ministry themselves to study the working of the scheme at its fountain head. Our Director of Public Instruction—Mr. Small—along with the two Inspectors of Schools—Srijut S. C. Goswami and Dr. Gupta—was deputed not only to get idea of the theory of the scheme but also to inspect the actual working of it in different schools. After spending about three weeks in this pursuit, they returned to the province and submitted an illuminating report. They say that our old system is far better than the scheme that goes by the name of the Wardha Scheme. If we have not provided any money for expenditure to start schools on the basis of the Wardha Scheme, it is on account of the non-recommendation by our experts who had first hand knowledge of the theory and actual work. My Hon'ble

Colleague the Education Minister prompts me to say that this report was seen by the late Education Minister and the order that he passed on it is the word "Seen". (Laughter.)

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On a point of explanation, Sir. The fact is that I might have seen the recommendation. But before I saw it, I had passed an order providing Rs.40,000 for that purpose for as many as 20 schools in the province—one school in each subdivision.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the latest explanation of my hon. friend does not help us very much. It is admitted that our local experts, the Head of the Education Department as well as the Inspectors of Schools, refused to recommend the introduction of the scheme in the province and we followed their advice. If we have committed any sin, Sir, in this respect, we have committed it with the best of motive and intention.

My learned friend Mr. Bardoloi has spoken much about the model village scheme and also about the idea behind it. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, while trying to refute my assertion that he did not spend any money out of the provision made for drainage scheme and model village scheme, quoted two instances from my previous budget speech to show that I also promised something on the floor of the House but did not see them carried through. One of those schemes was the model village scheme. The model village scheme which was initiated by me, Sir, meant to inculcate the same spirit of self-help which my hon. friend Mr. Bardoloi wants to see in our people. I remember, Sir, that, in the fateful September, 1938, we had actually appointed people who would be in charge of these model villages. Within four days of this appointment, we resigned, and, as soon as my friends in the opposite took the reins of office, they at once countermanded those orders, and they wanted to produce their own scheme. I say, Sir, they must have conceived some better scheme, and therefore, they provided twenty-five thousand rupees in the Budget. Am I wrong in mentioning that fact that a scheme, which was very near fruition, a scheme to carry out for which people were actually appointed by us, was stopped by my friend? Provision was made for the scheme which they adopted, but nothing whatever was done. Am I wrong in placing these facts before the House? Even taking for granted that I did not do what I said on the floor of the House, do two wrongs make one right? What prevented my friends who conceived their better model village scheme from carrying it out to the finish before the time we accepted office? By the time we got ourselves free from our preoccupation of framing the Budget we have started operations on the scheme. There was only two months left of the year.

Any way, Sir, we have noted down the principles laid down by the Congress Coalition Ministry for their own model village scheme and which Mr. Bardoloi has just now enunciated. These are inculcation of self-help, development of all manner of industries, entire work to be placed in the hands of a Committee, and the workers to be *ex-officio* Secretaries. We have adopted, or had all these points in our previous scheme, and we have also adopted these very salutary principles in our present scheme. We have very naturally put the supervision to the District or Revenue authority—I mean, the Deputy Commissioner—because we want that these model village activities should get assistance from the officers of various nation-building departments and a co-ordinated authority cannot be had in all the localities. Therefore, the District Collector or the District Magistrate, who is the Civil head of District, has been put in charge of seeing that these model village schemes do function properly, that people learn a bit of self-help, that people within the jurisdiction of the areas of these centres take up some subsidiary occupation to augment a little of their income.

Sir, my learned friend had also mentioned two or three things, which, he says, we have dropped. One such matter he mentioned is the programme of having a canning and preserving of fruit department. This subject is not new, for I can inform the hon. members of this House that I myself urged this matter nearly 22 years ago before the Trade Commission that came to Assam somewhere in 1918 and presided over by late Sir Rajendra Nath Mukerjee. There are private parties at work even now. I can mention one instance in Shillong itself. A band of Missionaries belonging to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission comes from Lucknow every year during the fruit season in Shillong for canning and preserving of fruits. They sell their products not only in Shillong, but also outside. I have before me a scheme for the last three years of a private party who wanted to start a canning industry at their own cost. I think, I am giving out no secret when I say that I myself wanted to introduce this as a cottage industry on a small capital and I was helped in this by some Government officers who brought for me details of all the machineries that are necessary for canning. The only difficulty that the scheme encountered was the question of tin-containers which a certain tin plate factory in India could not give at a cheap rate. So, this question has already engaged the attention not merely of Government, but also of outside public, but I doubt whether training of some youths on such a small scale would bring any appreciable result. Any way, Sir, I will note down the suggestion made by him and see if anything can come out of it. As I mentioned, I have studied the subject more thoroughly and carefully than my predecessor. I do not know where he wanted to send our youths for training. Has he any idea where such canning industry is in vogue in India? I wait for a reply if any be forthcoming.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV : I am ready to reply. As far as I know, there is a canning centre at Allahabad run by the Fruit Growers' Association in the United Provinces.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : This is only for jam and jelly. I think the best in India is the Madhu Canning factory in Bombay. But they specialise in canning mangoes. Our problem is canning pineapple, pears and oranges.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : There is a canning and condiment company in Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : As I have said, the scheme of canning, in which I took a particular interest, will not be lost sight of if any benefit to the country can be got out of it.

My learned friend mentioned that he wanted to provide 20 stipends for our students in the Bengal Veterinary College. I have not seen the file. Probably he is correct. I must admit that he is correct. But he forgets to mention one thing. We have not got any Veterinary College of our own. We have to depend for admission of our students upon the Belgachia College run by the Bengal Government. They charge a *per capita* contribution from us on each student. But even in spite of this, we cannot secure more accommodation than what they give us. Although we curtailed the number of stipendiaries from 20 to 10, Bengal Government have refused to give us accommodation for even 10. They say they can give us only 7 seats. Therefore, we will be compelled to reduce the number from 10 to 7. These facts ought to be borne in mind before one criticizes that what one Government proposed to do has not been carried out by succeeding Government. Sir, I hope I have given enough materials on the points raised by my friend, the Leader of Opposition, for consideration of the House and I have taken up very nearly an hour in referring to the points which he raised and which deserved the fullest discussion in the House.

Sir, I will briefly touch now on the points raised by various other members in this House. If I do not mention names, my hon. friends will excuse me because I do not want to take much time and I want to condense what I have got to say on general lines.

One hon. member who is not celebrated for suavity of his manners thought that it is time that I should either visit a nursing home or mental hospital because he is accustomed to think in terms of treatment as he comes from that profession and thinks that he can prescribe medicine to all and sundry. I think he has given his medication to his Leader when in office. Perhaps one of his own group is not satisfied by his presence or by his knowledge of the Ayurveda and therefore one hon. member from the same group has taken us to task for not helping the Ayurvedic Vidyapitha which has been recently started at Gauhati. I can assure that hon. member that we do think that our indigenous system of medicine both Ayurvedic and Unani ought to be encouraged by Government and we shall leave no efforts to come to the aid of any such genuine institution. I may go one step further and say that if we have suitably trained people, we can start subsidized dispensaries where the treatment will be either Ayurvedic or Unani.

The major portion of the criticisms, Sir, especially from the Opposition benches centered round the provision made for the Ministers as well as Parliamentary Secretaries. So far as Ministers are concerned, Sir, I am pleased to note that my friend the Leader of the Opposition has been candid enough to say that the salary which he drew owing to the mandate of Congress policy was not sufficient to make himself live not to speak of in dignity even in comfort. He will excuse us if we do not follow the policy that Rs.500 should be the maximum pay for Government servants in India. So long as the officers in the provinces are drawing a higher scale of pay, I think, it will be best for the Ministers to have a salary which I am perfectly sure will not keep them in luxury or comfort but will make them independent of thinking of other means of livelihood. As regards Parliamentary Secretaries, Sir, I am in the happy position of having one of the colleagues of the late Government with me and I have heard what was planned by my predecessors for entertaining Parliamentary Secretaries. If I have torn a leaf out of their programme, they can have absolutely no cause for grievance. Very grim remarks were made that I am going to start a very high and fat salaried batch of officers the Parliamentary Secretaries. If the hon. members will turn to the Budget provisions, they will find that according to my proposal a sum of Rs.300 will be paid to each of the Parliamentary Secretary, if appointed. Out of this Rs.300 each hon. member gets Rs.100 as member's salary and therefore the additional cost will be only Rs.200 per month. If in the opinion of my colleagues on the Opposition bench this is a very high or fat salary, of course they can draw their own conclusion from the standard laid for them by the Congress Party but no thinking man in the House will say that we are giving a very big salary to our proposed Parliamentary Secretaries. Then it has been criticized, Sir, that the money which we proposed to pay to the Parliamentary Secretaries would be very well utilized for the purpose of improving some nation-building departments. I can assure my hon. friends that the nation-building departments have not suffered at our hands and will not suffer in future. We will make every provision that, we think, will be necessary for the purpose of improving the condition of our masses.

I have been taken to task for mentioning that probably we shall have to take a loan of rupees fifty lakhs. I am tired of explaining that this is not of my seeking, that this debt was a legacy inherited from the previous

administration, *i.e.*, the administration previous to the inauguration of the Reforms, and if my hon. friends will not look to the explanations given, it is not my fault. There is a common saying that you can take a horse to the pond but you cannot make it drink. There are explanations galore in the Budget Memorandum, but if my hon. friends will either ignore these explanations or will suppress what is there, I am helpless. As regards this point, I cannot but refer to the remark which though innocently made by myself, had evoked a very vigorous reply from my hon. friend my predecessor of last year. He mentions that if I had been fortunate enough to get a loan of Rs.50 lakhs by Treasury Bill at 2½ per cent. it was due to his policy, or to the policy of his colleague in the Madras Government—he refers to the great C. Rajagopalachariar or who is particularly known as Rajaji. My hon. friend said that it was an item in the agenda proposed for the Finance Ministers' Conference which ought to have been held in January last but did not materialise. I can inform him that long before Rajaji tabled any such item in the agenda, the matter was discussed and very ably discussed by one journalist of very great fame, Mr. Rangaswami, in Indian Finance. So it does not stand that if I have been benefited I have been benefited by the action of the Madras Government in bringing pressure on the Reserve Bank.

Sir, I cannot but refer to three matters which are the burning questions of the day. The first one is the thorny problem of the remission of land revenue. This matter I have already detailed. I have also spoken at length my own re-action to the remission. I will again reiterate that every side of the question, the relief to the poor raiyats and the position of the provincial exchequer the ruling of prices and all other relevant factors will be considered by us at the time when the question of remission for the next year has got to be considered.

The next question is the vexed question of the Line System about which so many hon. members have spoken on the floor of the House. This Line System is only a subsidiary question to the main question of settling land with landless people. This principle of settling land with landless people has been accepted not only by the previous Government, but also by my predecessors the Congress Coalition Government. If I remember aright, the recommendations from the members of the great Congress party in the Line System Enquiry Committee went to the length of suggesting that individuals who had come to this province with the idea of making it their home up to January 1938 should be given lands, although the majority recommended that the limit of exception should be put at 31st March 1937. We were at the point of enquiring whether any land was available and could be settled, but at that juncture we resigned. The question was taken up by our predecessors, and they thought over the matter for long. The results of their deliberations were made public 13 months after their resumption of office. They have enunciated an elaborate principle whereby land to be settled, and on which, encroachments on the Line, if the number of encroachers were sufficient in number, to be ignored. I will put it to my hon. friends here—those who are interested—whether they would like the decisions of the Congress Coalition Ministry on this point. If they can make up their minds and say that they are satisfied with those decisions, I will at once take their word at its face value and pass orders to accept the orders of the Congress Coalition party. (*Hear, hear.*) If they are not satisfied with that, as in private talk they have expressed it to me in no unmistakable terms that they are not satisfied with that resolution, then they should give me the benefit of their advice. I think it has already been decided by this Ministry that the presence of the parties interested in this question will be taken advantage of by my Hon'ble Colleague the Revenue Minister,

and he would like to have a free and frank talk with members of all parties concerned in this question and then in the light of the observations made by them and the principles adopted by them, Government will at once come to a conclusion which, we hope, will satisfy both the tribal people and other groups. Here I would say again what I have already spoken in my Budget speech, that my policy—the policy of this Government—is that justice should be done to all. If any community in the province requires protection from the so-called encroachment they should have it.

At the same time we see the justice of the recommendations made by the Line System Enquiry Committee that if there is any available land suitable for these immigrants, these landless people should be given settlement provided of course that sufficient land is reserved for the natural expansion of the indigenous people (*Hear, hear*). I think, nothing could be more clear than what I have stated.

Sir, while I am on this question of protection for the Tribal people or the schedule people, I cannot but refer to another point which has been made by various speakers, namely, that there has been very inadequate provision for spread of primary education amongst the Tribal and other backward people. If hon. members had taken the trouble of totalling together the provision made for these so-called backward brethren they would find that the Budget has made provision for over Rs.18,000 specifically earmarked and mentioned for them. Sir, critics have forgotten that for the first time in the history of our educational system in 1937 it was my Government that earmarked a definite percentage of our new allotment for primary education reserved for them. Those hon. members, who were with me then from the Tribal Group, will remember that I reserved one-sixth of the total grant to be spent amongst the Tribal people and backward areas. That principle even now holds good in the Ministry that functions to-day. Therefore, one-sixth of those earlier grants over and above this Rs.18,000 which I say will be found interspersed in the different portions of the Budget represents the total provided for the spread of Primary Education for the local bodies and reserved for expenditure amongst these classes. (*A Voice: What about Scheduled caste?*) It may be Schedule in one area or Tribal in another area, the Tribal, Schedule and *ex-tea* garden men are all included. Therefore, Sir, we have made a provision for spread of Education among the so-called backward brethren to the extent of over Rs.25,000. ✓

Sir, before I close, I must thank my hon. friend from Habiganj, I refer to hon. Babu Nirendra Dev. When there were only invectives and ridicule and very vulgar remarks from the other speakers from the Opposition group, it was this new comer amongst us who made very good and reasonable suggestions aiming at constructive work in the province (*Hear, hear*). Sir, he has referred to various points and I will touch very briefly on two of them only.

The first one that I will take is about cinchona cultivation. Here again, Sir, I must congratulate myself that our minds were working on the same lines. I won't say that our minds or our brains are great or small but our attention has been drawn to the same matter. For the information of the House I will mention this that about half a century ago the question of cinchona plantation in the province was taken up by the then Officer Rai Bahadur Bhupal Chandra Bose and a plantation was started near Cherrapunji. But either on account of defect in the soil or on account of the heavy rainfall there the plantation did not succeed and the Government did not make any further experiments in other areas. About ten years back the question was again mooted by the Central Government that each province should try and have a cinchona plantation of their own so that

they may produce their own requirements of the febrifuge. The then Assam Government started another plantation nearabout Nongpoh, the midway station between Shillong and Gauhati. I have not been able to visit this plantation yet but I have been assured both by the Forest Department and the Agricultural Department, that this plantation has shown very good growth. I had in the shortness of time been able to give only a cursory glance to the report of experts about cinchona plantation. The authority quoted by my hon. friend is reported to have suggested that Assam can very well have a plantation of over 30,000 acres. This observation of the experts has not been lost sight of by some enterprising people. I have within the last fortnight heard that a company in which some local people are also interested, I mean Assamese people, have applied for 1,000 acres of land within the Manipur State where they want to have cinchona and tung plantation. I had a discussion with our Economic Botanist whether we could not start cinchona plantation on a big scale. Hon. members are aware that the world is practically dependent upon Java for its supply of quinine. The only place in India where quinine is produced on a large scale and where there is a big plantation is at Mungpo nearabout Kurseong in Bengal. There is no reason why we should not start our own cinchona plantation. I have been told and I was amazed to hear that if we can have a thousand acres of plantation, the plant yields its bark in the sixth year and the province can have a fat income to the extent of about Rs.20 lakhs of rupees. As a financier, as well as one who has a genuine love for the province to better its resources, I will go into the matter very deeply and if I find that our local experts of the Forest and Agricultural Departments are correct in their estimates, I will very soon draw a scheme, select the sites and come to this august Assembly for voting supplies for starting it.

Mr. Dev was quite correct when he said that it is a shame for Assam that we have got to import rice. With a bit of intensive cultivation, that is cultivation on scientific methods and with improved seeds, the quantity of rice grown on the acreage that is now sown with paddy will be more than sufficient to meet all our requirements—nay there will be a surplus for export. Anyone who had looked into the jute cultivation must have noticed a vast difference between the growth of the plant from the indigenous seed and the improved seed which we import from Bengal and which goes by the name of Chinsura Green. I have myself walked round these fields and I have found that the growth of plants from these seeds is very nearly 100 to 150 per cent. more. And what is more beneficial to the cultivator is that the fibre from the local variety is red in colour which is detracting from the point of view of price realisation, but the Chinsura Green variety is not only long but is silvery and silky. The suggestion made by him about the activities of the Indian Cotton Committee, whether we cannot induce the authorities of that body to invest some of their cess money for improvement of cotton in Assam will receive my serious consideration. I had enquired about the possibility of cotton growing in the province with an idea of giving an extra trade to our cultivators. I was told that the cotton that is grown in the Garo and Mikir Hills are short staple and not suitable for producing yarn. They could only be used in making what are known as cotton blankets mixed with yarn of long staple. I am glad that my hon. friend has mentioned all these, but I have already taken note of everything that he has said.

My hon. friend Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf has drawn a vivid picture that the province has gained by a sum of 13 lakhs of rupees as a share of jute export duty through the labour of the immigrants and nothing whatso-

ever has been done for these people. I assure my hon. friend that the case of the immigrant areas will not be lost sight of when rural roads are taken up for development.

Sir, I would touch upon the remarks made by my hon. friend Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh. I am really pained to hear that he and our friend Mr. Bideshi Pan Tanti had to suffer indignities at the hands of the Tinsukia Police. I can assure him that I will make a prompt enquiry into the allegations he has made. But I can tell him and he also knows full well that on account of the presence of oil refineries at Tinsukia, that area has been made a protected area under the Defence Ordinance. It is the duty of the Police to see that no one with any sinister motive can have easy access there. Of course, it is far from my mind that my hon. friend had gone there with any sinister motive. But the Police must behave politely with the public of the locality and they must perform their duties as servants of the people and not as masters. I will see that his appeal does not go in vain.

Lastly, Sir, if you will permit me, I will speak just two or three things mentioned by my hon. friend Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, in his very long speech lasting for more than one and a half hour. While I mentioned that by the creation of the Second Conservator of Forests there will be a saving, I qualified my statement by saying that under the present circumstances and so long Mr. Harrison of the Indian Forest Service remains deputed to the Central Government there would be a saving of about Rs. 22,000 annually. He has given me certain figures which, no doubt, he has got from a very reliable authority with whom now he is staying as a guest.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is not correct in saying that I got these figures from any officer. I will ask the Hon'ble Minister to mention the name of the officer. That is a serious insinuation and I challenge the statement. I am not staying as a guest with any officer. The officer, whom the Hon'ble Minister has in mind, has been out of station since I came to Shillong.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No insinuation whatsoever is made. If I were in the position of the hon. member I would have tried to get proper figures from any source and I was just going to say that the figures that he has given may be quite correct. But the fact remains if Mr. Harrison stays with the Central Government then we shall save the amount I have mentioned. And I am happy to tell the hon. members that the Inspector General of Forests values Mr. Harrison so much that he has already made proposals whether he could get further extension for Mr. Harrison's deputation period. For the present Mr. Harrison has been given to the Central Government for two years more. For that reason we shall save Rs. 22,000 annually in spite of the fact that there may be no ultimate saving by the abolition of the post of the Personal Assistant. Then he mentioned that I criticised or rebuked him for his estimating the proceed from the Amusements and Betting Tax at Rs. 1½ lakhs whereas the income from that source is only Rs. 47,000 and the realisation for the current year is only Rs. 32,000. He mentioned that his expectations should be realised if this tax is imposed on the Shillong Race Course. He knows full well that the enforcement of the Betting tax on the Shillong Race Course would not improve matters for us. I have taken action to have the Act introduced into this area. But as is known to hon. members, Shillong Race Course is situated in the Siem's territory and therefore Viceroy's consent for introducing this Act under the Foreign Jurisdiction Order shall have to be obtained. Again, that would not help the provincial exchequer because all the receipts will go to the Khasi Estate Budget.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Indirectly we may be benefited.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Thank you, Sir. Another point which my hon. friend mentioned is that there is the case of the Commercial Carrying Company avoiding the tax on lubricants and petrol. I have heard this in my private capacity, but no file of this nature has yet come up for orders. When it comes we shall take advice of our legal expert and if he says that the petrol purchased by this Company outside the province and brought into and used here can be taxed, surely they cannot escape taxation.

Now I come to the last word which my hon. friend Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said. Unfortunately I was not present here at that time, but one of my Colleagues who took notes reports that it was stated that when I left the province in 1938 and he took up the charge of Finance, the year ended with a deficit of 40 lakhs of rupees, but by the time when he left office and I took charge, there was a deficit of 18 lakhs only. What he wanted to say is that he has bettered the financial condition of the province. I must give the credit where it is due. His taxation measures are expected to bring about 25 to 30 lakhs of rupees but he cannot and ought not to have said without full explanation that at the time when I left the province I left him with a deficit of 40 lakhs of rupees. He knows that in October, 1938 a sum of 30 lakhs 65 thousand was paid to the Government of India by the Government of Assam in payment of the debt which was due to them and which they had lent us to wipe off the deficit of the year 1936-37. Therefore, Sir, the deficit was inflated to 40 lakhs as 30 lakhs odd rupees were paid from revenue receipt. The real deficit was less than Rs. 10 lakhs.

Sir, I will not detain the House any further but I must thank my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee for the very kind and unkind remarks he has made about me. Like some other member sometimes weeping or laughing he was also sometimes very kind to me and sometimes very unkind. If I do not refer to his speech it is because of my knowledge that it was a joint labour and one of the partners in that joint labour has chosen to remain silent.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11a.m. on Thursday, the 29th February, 1940.

Shillong,
The 30th March, 1940.

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

B. P. 1940

