

771

**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 Thursday, the 14th March, 1940.

P R E S E N T.

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, ten Hon'ble Ministers and 91 members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Line System Enquiry Committee

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*158. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The sum spent for each member who worked in the Line System Enquiry Committee ?
- (b) The total sum spent for the purpose ?
- (c) The date on which the said Committee submitted its recommendations and report ?
- (d) What steps, if any, have Government taken to give effect to the said recommendations ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

158. (a)—The information is as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury	519	0	0
2. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.	515	5	0
3. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia	...	391	9 0
4. Srijut Sarveswar Barua, M.L.A.	...	...	518 1 0
5. Srijut Kameswar Das, M.L.A.	...	...	424 15 0
6. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf, M.L.A.	...	...	414 1 0
7. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari, M.L.A.	...	...	390 12 0
8. Mr. F. W. Hockenhuill	...	...	381 8 0
9. Mr. A. G. Patton	...	...	367 8 0

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know why in this case, the figures were not given in a tabular form which was the usual practice ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That is not known to me ; probably this was considered more convenient.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, it has been the practice that whenever a statement is short it is printed along with the answer, but when a statement is long it is printed separately in a tabular form and placed on the table.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a short statement ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, there are only nine figures.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is to the advantage of the hon. member that he has got the answer in this form.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

158. (b)—The attention of the hon. member is drawn to the reply given to starred question No. 93(d) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at the March 1939 session of the Assembly.

(c)—First week of February, 1938.

(d)—Government are not prepared to accept *in toto* the Resolution published by their predecessors on the 4th November 1939 and are considering what changes are desirable.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I enquire when Government will arrive at a decision with regard to the recommendations of the Line System Enquiry Committee ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Very soon.

Treatment of diseases in the Public Health Dispensaries

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

- *159. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether Malaria, *Kala-azar*, Yaws, Influenza, Diarrhoea, Leprosy and eye diseases are treated in the Public Health Dispensaries ?
 - (b) Whether the Public Health Doctors are allowed, when called, to treat the patients of these diseases in their homes with remuneration ?
 - (c) If not, whether the Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Department are allowed to treat these cases with remuneration when called by the patients in their homes ?
 - (d) If so, for what distinctive qualifications this differential treatment is made ?
 - (e) Whether the Retrenchment and Resources Committee recommended the amalgamation of the Public Health Department with the Medical Department ?
 - (f) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

159. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—No, because they are debarred from private practice.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—The question of qualifications does not arise. The Department is meant for certain special purposes and it is, in the interest of the public considered, desirable not to distract the attention of the staff by allowing private practice.
 (e)—Yes.
 (f)—On grounds of economy.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to (b), are not the public health dispensaries for treating these diseases generally, located in out of-the-way places from the town ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Yes, Sir, in most of the cases.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: With regard to (e), may I enquire whether Government is going to amalgamate the Public Health Department with the Medical Department ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The matter is one of consideration of Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to (b), Sir, if any patient is unable to come to the dispensary, should the doctor not attend him at his home, when called ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: If that is a *kala-azar* case, in which the Public Health Department is concerned, certainly the doctor will go and attend.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: In case of other diseases ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: That depends on the seriousness of the case.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it meant that in case of all serious diseases these doctors are allowed to go and attend the patients at their homes ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Generally, Sir, the Public Health doctors are not allowed any private practice, but if there is any serious case and the doctor goes to attend the patient at his home, Government won't have any objection to that.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Does that mean, Sir, that in serious cases, these doctors are allowed private practice ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I don't say that, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are they willing to serve without any remuneration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I have said that the Public Health doctors are not allowed private practice, so the question of remuneration does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble Minister has said that in case of serious diseases, these doctors can go and attend the patient at his home. May I know whether in that case they will charge any remuneration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I never said that in all serious cases these doctors are allowed to go, but if any doctor goes, Government will not take any exception to his visit.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I then take it that Government will not also take exception if these doctors are given some fees ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: That question does not come in.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are they legally allowed any fees ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: No, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: If a doctor is called by a patient, who is unable to come to the dispensary on account of the seriousness of his disease, and the doctor goes and attend him at his home, and if any remuneration is given to him, how will Government look upon it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: From the answers that have been given by Government, it appears that such a case never came to their notice; so the question that is now put becomes a hypothetical one. When such a matter will come up before Government they will consider it. If any payment is made to the doctor, whether Government will tolerate it or not becomes a hypothetical question. Government have said that unless such a case actually comes up before them, they are not in a position to give any opinion. That is the sum and substance of the answers given.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What I want to know is that if in case of a serious disease, these doctors go and attend the patient at his home, whether it is objectionable on their part to accept any fees, if offered.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I will detail the Government policy for my hon. friend. These Public Health officers cannot ordinarily enjoy the right of private practice, and therefore they cannot legally charge any fees. But if, on account of the seriousness of any case and the inability of the patient to get any other medical aid, the Public Health doctor goes to his home out of humanity, he cannot charge any fees for his visit. But if the patient out of gratitude pays him anything, Government would not know of it at all.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then the question arises that if the doctor refuses to go, in the circumstances detailed by the Hon'ble Premier, there is no law to compel him to do so.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend will give us any specific case that in the circumstances detailed by me, a Public Health doctor refused to go and treat the patient at his home, we will seriously take that officer to task.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I very much thank the Government for that, but if even in case of a serious disease a doctor does not feel the urge of humanity.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Government expect that every doctor will take into consideration the particular facts of each case, *i.e.*, he should not be oblivious to considerations of humanity.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: So, is it meant that in case of Public Health doctors humanity demands that they should go and not be paid for, while in case of doctors of the Medical Department they must be paid for ! why ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid, from the way in which questions are being put, it seems that we are really discussing the matter. Next question.

Resignation of the then Hon'ble Minister Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali from the membership of the Karimganj Municipality and the Karimganj High Madrasa Committee

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

- *160. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The exact dates on which the then Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, tendered his resignation of the membership of the Karimganj Municipality and the Karimganj High Madrasa Committee ?
 - (b) To whom he sent his resignation letters and on what date or dates ?
 - (c) The date of meetings and the number of resolutions by which his resignation was accepted by the above-mentioned bodies?
 - (d) The basis of the answer to Starred Question No. 141 given by Government in the Budget Session of 1939 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

160. (a) & (b)—The resignation of the municipal seat was reported to have been tendered by wire, dated the 17th March 1939 but as it was alleged not to have been received, a letter was subsequently sent on the 20th May 1939 to the Chairman. The desire to resign from the Madrasa Committee was expressed—though not by a formal letter of resignation—on the 3rd December 1938 and this was communicated to the Director of Public Instruction on the 21st December 1938.

(c)—The Board accepted the resignation on the 14th June 1939, *vide* Resolution No. 2 of the ordinary meeting. The question of accepting the resignation from the Madrasa Committee did not arise as it was reconstituted after excluding the name of the then Hon'ble Minister in May 1939.

(d)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question 141 wherein it was clearly stated that the information had been obtained from the Hon'ble Ministers concerned.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know from whom these answers were obtained ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already replied in 160(d) that the information had been obtained from the Hon'ble Minister concerned.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: That answer was with regard to question 141 asked by me in the last budget session of 1939, but I want to know from the Hon'ble Premier the answers to questions 160(a), (b) and (c).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I enquire of the hon. member what purpose the replies will serve now. The hon. member who was in the Cabinet then is not in the Cabinet now ?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: In reply to question No. 141 which was asked by me in the last budget session of 1939 I was told that the hon. Khan Bahadur had resigned on the 17th March, but now we find that he had not actually resigned till the 20th of May

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. member want from Government now ?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I want to know whether that statement was correct.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has got the statement of the present Premier and the statement of the outgoing Premier. What more does he want?

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I want to know whether that statement was a true one?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall not allow this question.

Revenue derived from fisheries during the last five years from the Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

*161. (a) Is it a fact that in the Barpeta Subdivision, the fisheries form an important source of revenue to the Government?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue derived from fisheries each year during the last five years from the Barpeta Subdivision?

(c) Is it a fact that the boundaries of these fisheries were fixed long ago, when the courses of the rivers were almost uncertain and the beels were very extensive?

(d) Is it a fact that most of the rivers have since taken definite courses and that the beels have narrowed down greatly?

(e) Is it a fact that extensive areas of most of these fisheries have changed their character altogether and now form agricultural areas of the Subdivision?

(f) Are Government aware that owing to the aforesaid circumstances many cases of boundary disputes arise amongst the lease-holders of the fisheries every year involving losses and troubles to them?

(g) Do Government propose to take early steps to lessen the chances of such clashes amongst the lease-holders of the fisheries by having the boundaries of the fisheries refixed as warranted by the altered circumstances and by having maps and the fishery registers of the subdivision corrected in the light thereof?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied

161. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The amounts of revenue derived from fisheries for the last five years stand as follows:—

1935-36	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.58,613
1936-37	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.67,862
1937-38	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.59,667
1938-39	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.47,154
1939-40	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.49,669

(c)—Yes, but the courses of some of the rivers are uncertain even now.

(d)—Yes, in some cases.

(e)—Yes, portions of certain fisheries.

(f)—There were a number of cases of boundary disputes in previous years.

(g)—For dearth of officers the work cannot be undertaken at present.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Do not the Government find that the revenue is decreasing from year to year ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : It is apparent from the answer.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : The answer to (g) is that "for dearth of officers the work cannot be undertaken at present". May I know what is the idea of the Government as to the ultimate cost involved herein ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : It is estimated that a Sub-Deputy Collector will take about 3 months time to fix the boundaries, and as there is a dearth of officers in the Sub-Deputy Collectors' cadre, and as the problem in Barpeta of the line system is more acute, Government cannot undertake that work just at present.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : What has a Sub-Deputy Collector to do with the line system ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, they are usually employed for this purpose.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May I know whether the Sub-Deputy Collectors have generally nothing to do with the policy of the line system and evictions are generally to be carried out by the Subdivisional Officers or the Deputy Commissioners ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, they have a good deal to do with the line system.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May I know what is the nature of work they will have to do ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is a new question again.

Transfer of Rani Guidiluea from Shillong Jail to Manipur State Jail

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*162. Is it a fact that Rani Guidiluea has been transferred from Shillong Jail to Manipur State Jail ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

162.—No, but to the Jail at Aijal.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Is it a fact that she was made to walk along while she was escorted to Aijal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : That is a new question.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Why was it considered expedient to transfer her from this Jail to the Aijal Jail ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The order was passed by His Excellency, the Governor of Assam.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Removal of names of educated Congressmen from the list of Jurors during the Civil Disobedience Movement

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

162.(a) Are Government aware that the names of many educated Congressmen were removed from the list of Jurors during the Civil Disobedience Movement ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state their names ?

(c) Do Government propose to enlist them again as Jurors ?

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

162.(a)—Government cannot obtain anything to indicate that this occurred, despite enquiry in all districts. The lists of jurors are only preserved for three years.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Re combating of the disease of the *Pan* plants in Assam

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

163. Will Government be pleased to state the steps, if any, Government propose to take in order to combat the disease of the *Pan* plants in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

163.—Government appointed a Mycological Assistant to combat the disease temporarily for six months in 1938 and to study the problem in Surma Valley in detail. Government propose to examine the question more thoroughly as soon as possible.

Reduction of the subvention granted to this Province by the Niemeyer Award

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

164. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Subvention granted to this province by the Niemeyer Award is going to be reduced by the amendment of the Order concerned ?

(b) If so, to what extent will this province be affected thereby ?

(c) Whether this Government was consulted beforehand in this matter ?

(d) If so, what opinion, this Government submitted in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

164.(a) & (b)—No, the annual Subvention of 30 lakhs granted to this Province by the Niemeyer Award is not proposed to be reduced but it is understood from the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Member of the Government of India that the prescribed percentage fixed under section 138 of the Constitution Act by the said Award so far as the distribution of the proceeds from the Indian Income-tax Act is concerned, has been amended. The exact effect on the finances of the province cannot be seen till a copy of the amended order has been received.

(c)—Yes, a telegram was received on 16th November 1939 containing a somewhat different proposal to that which has apparently been given effect to.

(d)—This Government raised no objection in view of the fact that the Central Government proposed to give the Provinces a reasonable share in the War time increase of Income-tax receipts and also wanted funds to bear additional burden thrown on the Government of India by the War, the necessity for the successful prosecution of which is of paramount importance.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA : Do the Government realise that the proposal coming from the Secretary of State implies some reduction in the subvention ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, the subvention is fixed at Rs. 30 lakhs and that is not being reduced.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What was the uppermost consideration in the minds of the Cabinet—whether the considerations of the War or the interests of the province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Interests of the province, of course.

Re-survey work to examine and settle the boundary between Tezpur and Golaghat

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA asked :

165. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount that has been spent by Government to carry on re-survey work to examine and settle the boundary between Tezpur and Golaghat ?
- (b) Whether the said re-survey work has been completed by now ?
- (c) The reasons of re-survey of the boundary between Tezpur and Golaghat ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

165.(a)—Rupees 270.

(b)—Yes, except that 2 or 3 boundary marks have yet to be erected.

(c)—The proper administration of the two districts concerned, particularly as regards the assessment of graziers near the joint boundary.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA : May I know Sir, who performed the re-survey work ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : A Sub-Deputy Collector, I think.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No. 19

(38.—MEDICAL—*contd.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical will now have to reply to the cut motion No. 1* moved by Rev. L. Gatphoh on the 12th March last.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I saw the cut motion I could not understand what might be the grievance of the hon. mover of the motion. I thought, Sir, that the grievances were that there were not sufficient dispensaries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. If I quite understand him aright, I found his grievances are that there are certain places in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills where there is no dispensary and in some places the dispensaries are too far from the thickly populated villages. Now we find, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district, Government have got no less than 9 dispensaries. Besides that we are aiding seven more dispensaries maintained by the Welsh Mission and the Roman Catholic Mission. So, Sir, the total number of dispensaries comes to no less than 16.

I admit that there are certain places where dispensaries could not be started and it is very difficult for these people living in those places to get medical aid from the dispensaries which are considerably far away from their places. Sir, in the Jowai subdivision there is a dispensary at Jowai and the other is at Nongtalang. Sir, there was another dispensary at Ampani which was started but the number of patients attending the dispensary was very small. Besides that the doctor there was not very popular and, as a result of that the dispensary had to be closed. Now it is under consideration of Government if they can start another dispensary at Sutnga. And I can assure the hon. member that we shall see if we can provide any money in the next year's budget for starting a dispensary there.

Sir, about the subsidised dispensaries, I find that under the scheme for subsidised Medical practitioners, two dispensaries were allotted for the Khasi and Jaintia Hills but not a single one was opened so far. I shall be glad if the hon. mover can suggest places where they could be started and if all the conditions laid down in the scheme are fulfilled and a doctor available, we shall certainly take up the two dispensaries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. I hope with this assurance, the hon. mover will be pleased to withdraw the motion.

Rev. L. GATPHOH : In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

* 1 That the provision of Rs. 2,68,708 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the policy of Government in providing medical relief to the people in the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills.)

CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : May we know from the Hon'ble Premier if there is any truth in the rumour that the Secretary of State for India has been injured by a Muhammadan ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I just now saw, Sir, from the Reuter's telegram that in a crowded meeting at Caxton Hall, London, an Indian who has given his name as Mahommed Singh Azad, fired shots. I think there is some mistake in the name ; for a Muhammadan would not be a Singh. But the name given in the telegram is that.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It may be Muhammad Din Azad.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Whatever it is, this man shot and killed Sir Michael O'Dwyer instantly and injured the Secretary of State Lord Zetland and two other gentlemen, I think one is Sir Percy Sykes and another as I said, Sir Michael O'Dwyer has been killed on the spot. And so far as Lord Zetland is concerned the bullet simply grazed the arm. If my friends want, I can give the contents of the telegram which is on my table in the room.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Since the matter has been mentioned, I think we must express our regret that such a thing had happened. It was really a dastardly act, no matter what the motive of the man was.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am very glad that you think that we should express our profound regret and horror at this dastardly attack and condemn the action of this miscreant. I suggest that we should formally record the Assembly's sense of horror at the happening and send a telegram. If you yourself, Sir, be pleased to move it formally we can agree to send telegram in proper terms to the Secretary of State.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : On the information that has just now been given here to the effect that a man in a meeting in London shot at the Secretary of State and several other gentlemen, killing Sir Michael O'Dwyer on the spot and injuring several others including the Secretary of State, Lord Zetland, now on behalf of this House I express our sense of horror and disgust at this dastardly act of a man who calls himself an Indian. We do not know of the motives that prompted the man ; but whatever might have been his motives such an act of a man who calls himself to be an Indian must meet with the highest condemnation from all Indians who genuinely feel proud of their culture. I think we should send a telegram to the Secretary of State expressing our feeling of disgust at what had happened and our sympathy to all involved in this outrage.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : On behalf of my party, Sir, I associate myself wholeheartedly with all that you have said.

Mr. BAIDYANAYH MOOKERJEE : I think, Sir, the whole House associates and there is no need for separate speeches.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Because we are always suspected.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I should think, Sir, that when the Chair himself has spoken, it is not necessary for individual members or groups to speak.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : But we are always suspected.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : You are not suspected of violence.

(The House agreed to send the telegram).

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT NO.19

(38.—MEDICAL—concl'd.)

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs. 3,23,164 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head—(a).—Ordinary Dispensaries (total), at page 138 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

The object of the motion is to urge upon the Government the necessity of the establishment of some more dispensaries in Chunarighat and Bahubal thanas.

Sir, the boundaries of these two thanas are very big and both the thanas comprise a population of about 1,40,000. The area is so big that from north to south it will be about 28 miles, but to the utter disappointment of us all there are only two dispensaries—one in each thana. The number of patients treated annually in each dispensaries will be from 20,000 to 25,000 and the grants that these dispensaries are receiving from the Local Board are very scanty indeed. The Local Board cannot pay more than Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 annually towards the cost of medicine and this insignificant amount does not help the dispensaries even to supply the patients with coloured waters. The quinine is not properly given to the patients. From the last few years I am crying hoarse that at least two more dispensaries—one in each thana—should be established. In 1937, I remember, I put several questions and the reply I received was that Government would consider about the matter. Then again in 1938 I moved a similar motion at least to be satisfied with the establishment of two subsidised dispensaries but still I was only getting some assurance. In the last budget session, so far I remember, I put several questions and also a cut motion was moved and I got the similar assurance. This time I have come up again before this House with the hope not to get such assurances but a sincere and honest assurance from the Government. This being a vast area and there being only two dispensaries which are very small to meet the adequate demands of the people, I would again urge upon the Government to give their serious consideration to the matter and establish at least two subsidised dispensaries there—one in each thana, in no time. With these words, I would again request the Hon'ble Minister that he would look to my grievance which is an old one and will give me an honest and sincere assurance. I therefore move that my motion be accepted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.3,23,164 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head- B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head (a)—Ordinary Dispensaries (total) at page 138 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.”

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Sir, I think, the hon. mover of this cut motion has made it clear in his comprehensive speech that there is a necessity for two more dispensaries, one in Chunarighat thana and one in Bahubal thana. I gather from the hon. mover that these two places are very thickly populated.

I think it was proper on the part of the Habiganj Local Board to take up this question. I find the percentage of money that is being spent by the Local Board for medicinal purposes is not very high and, I think, if the Local Board concerned was earnest in this matter, they might have found

some money for the purpose. I think, Habiganj is a place where there is not larger number of big roads to be maintained by the Local Board. So I think the Local Board can divert some more funds towards medical aid.

Leaving aside that question, the hon. mover is pressing for two subsidised dispensaries to be opened there. I may point out to the hon. member that the scheme for subsidised dispensaries was adopted in the year 1938 and Government sanctioned on the whole 27 dispensaries for the whole of the province, and the share for the district of Sylhet was 5. I find from the list that the district of Sylhet has already got their number. I can give the names of the subsidised dispensaries already started in that district. They are as follows:—Haripur in North Sylhet, Kunagaon in South Sylhet, Khalemukh Bazar in Karimganj, Inathganj in Habiganj and Selbaras in Sunamganj. I find that only one subsidised dispensary has been started in Habiganj subdivision. The district of Sylhet was entitled to 5 dispensaries and it has already got that 5. I can inform the hon. member that this scheme is in an experimental stage now and if we find that our experiment is successful we can come forward with a proposal for increasing the number of subsidised dispensaries. Sir, it is well-known to the hon. members that we have raised the subsidy to these subsidised dispensaries and we hope that people will be more attracted to that and there might be more demand for such dispensaries. And we hope in future we may come forward with a proposal before the House for increasing the number. In that case, we can certainly give best consideration to the request of my hon. friend the mover of the motion. I can give him quite an honest assurance as he wants an honest assurance, and with this assurance I hope the hon. member will withdraw the motion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Am I to understand that there is a proposal to open some new dispensaries this time from the next year's Budget?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I do not know exactly whether there is any definite proposal for opening new dispensaries.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I understand that for want of qualified doctors' some dispensaries could not be opened. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister that if I can satisfy him with a qualified doctor and with a proper site, will he at least transfer one such grant to one of the thanas in questions?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: That will be certainly considered, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: After what I have heard from the Hon'ble Minister, I do not like to press my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.79,503 under Grant No.19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head—(a).—Ordinary Dispensaries—4.—Contingencies (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I intend to move this motion with a view to raise a discussion about Government's indifference towards advancement of Ayurveda and the Ayurvedic system of treatment.

The Ayurvedic system of medical treatment is said to be the oldest. Sages say that it has been in existence since 2000 B.C. This medical system is not only an ancient one, but there was a time when it spread not only within India but it spread almost in the major parts of the vast continent of Asia. Sir, from Dr. Keith's history of Sanskrit Literature we find

that Susruta was equally famous with Charaka. "Moreover, Charaka—acquired fame beyond India. For in the 9th and 10th centuries, he was renowned both in Combodia in the east and Arabia in the West." It is now recognised by learned Western scholars that Susrata, one of the sages of this medical system, happened to be the first person to declare that mosquitoes were responsible for malaria. In the past this system served mankind well. And I can boldly say that even in these days of allopathic supremacy the Ayurvedic system has a lot of things to teach to the world.

Sir, the theory of বায়ু পিত্ত কফ *Bayu-Pitta Caugh* (wind, bile and phlegm) or the doctrine of the three humours of the human body—the preponderance or derangement of which is said to cause diseases—shall have to be studied and benefited by the modern world. Sir, we are all dazzled with the discovery of vitamins and we find that the vitamins are going to be added day after day. But Sir, we have not cared to know that our ancient sages discovered the vitality-giving and disease-curing properties of all eatables and foodstuff, and that branch of the science is known as “*দ্রব্য-ভুগ*” *Drabyagun*. If we really study the Ayurvedic theory in the light of modern system, most probably we will learn far better about this food value of our eatables than we learn from the vitamin theory. The Ayurveda has given the world another system called নাড়ী-বিজ্ঞান (*Narhi-Vijnan*) a system of ascertaining the degree and nature of diseases by feeling the pulse which system also shall have to be studied. Again Sir, medicinal herbs and plants play an important part in Ayurvedic system but unfortunately the western system does not seem to fully recognise the usefulness and efficacy of these medicinal herbs and plants which Nature has provided for the benefit of mankind. Now Sir, should such a useful system of treatment be neglected as we are doing at-present? Fortunately the attention of Western scholars has been drawn to this useful medical system and I am glad to find that some of the Allopathic Doctors have begun to practise the Ayurvedic system. In this province, of Assam this Ayurvedic system is practically wholly serving our people. Our Assam Rajhas were very much in favour of this system and they encouraged and patronised it.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is the hon. member relevant, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He is trying to impress upon Government the necessity of paying special attention to Ayurvedic System. The hon. member will please finish soon.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: But as soon as the British Raj was established here, the Ayurvedic system began to lose its importance. The allopathic system was not only foisted upon but the Ayurvedic system was practically neglected.

As soon as I came to this Assembly I attempted to draw the attention of the Government towards this system of medical treatment. In August session of 1937, I put a question asking whether Government had done anything to encourage this system and the reply to my question 261(b) was that Government had practically done nothing except that they granted two scholarships to two sons of a certain Kabiraj to study in the Berry-White Medical School. I was surprised to hear that sons of Kabiraj were sent to Berry-White Medical School with the hope of encouraging the Ayurvedic system of treatment. I also put a question asking whether the Government will establish an Ayurvedic Institution at Gauhati but the reply was that they were unable to consider the question of establishing a Medical School for want of funds.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will please finish.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I now urge upon the Government that they should help Ayurvedic institutions liberally; they should open subsidised dispensaries; they should help Local Boards and Municipalities in establishing Ayurvedic dispensaries. They should also establish a State Faculty of Ayurvedic medicine. And in particular they should give a liberal grant to the Assam Ayurveda Vidyapitha at Gauhati.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the hon. member ought to resume his seat. It is not proper that the hon. member should continue even when he was pulled up twice by me.

The cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.79,503 under Grant No.19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries, Sub-head—(a).—Ordinary Dispensaries—4.—Contingencies (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100”.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I fear I cannot agree with all what the hon. mover has just said. I am in perfect agreement with him when he says that our modern systems of medicine are founded on the Ayurvedic system, but when he says this system died because of the advent of the British, I fear I must cross swords with him. It is generally admitted that the particular system of medicine of which the hon. mover is so staunch a protagonist is probably the most ancient form of all medical sciences (*hear, hear*). Whilst, Sir, that is true, it is equally true that it stands to-day where it stood five thousand years ago. It has not progressed. The difference between it and ours is, that ours has advanced, and as time passes, it moves further and further ahead.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Sir, first of all I want to thank my hon. friend Mr. Talukdar for bringing this motion and thereby giving me an opportunity to speak something of the Ayurvedic System of Medicine. My hon. friend from European Group has said that our system is an old one of 5,000 years ago and that their's is a new one and an improving one. Sir, I know it fully well that, when this discussion would come up, our European friends would say that they do not know anything of this system. So, Sir, I would like to give them a history of the system for their information.

Sir, the history of the Ayurveda can be traced to the very remotest past. The earliest mention of the medicinal use of plants can be traced in the Rigveda which is one of the oldest repositories of human knowledge, recorded between 4500 and 1600 B.C. In this work, mention has been made of some plants and their effect on the human body. In the Atharva Veda the uses of the drugs are more varied. It is in the Ayurveda, which has been considered as an *Upa veda* (a supplementary studies to the Vedas) that the definite properties of the drugs have been stated in elaborate detail. The Ayurveda is the very foundation stone of the medicinal aspects of the Science of life and the art of healing. The date of the Ayurveda has been fixed by some western scholars somewhere between 2500 and 600 B.C. These eight divisions of Ayurveda were followed by the “Saraka” and “Susruta”. About the date of the latter a great dispute has prevailed but it cannot be later than 1000 B.C. In this work anatomy and surgery have been described in detail and it includes also a comprehensive chapter on medicine. It has also described a successful pestice operation, caesarian dissection removal of flat nose and replacement of it by an artificial nose and the removal of black skin and replacement of it by white skin.

Charaka, written a few years later, deals more with medicine and is complete in itself. It has given a very comprehensive view of purgatives and emetics and a remarkable description of the *Materia Medica*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may tell the hon. member that the claim of the Ayurveda is not at all in question. Every cultured and educated man knows what the Ayurvedic System is. The only question is whether Government is prepared to encourage it and the hon. member may speak on that.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Well, Sir, the simple medicines are so beautifully arranged under 45 heads and the method of administration of drugs so carefully explained that with a challenge it can be held before the world that it is in no way inferior to those in use at the present time. Sir, to support the statement I would like to mention the name of Dr. Wise. He mentions two systems of Hindu surgery, nine systems of medicines, three of *materia medica*, one of *posology*, one of pharmacy and three metallic preparations. From this my European friends may fully understand the strength and dimensions of the scientific knowledge of ancient India.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I ask the hon. member to resume his seat. The Government has to reply.....

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: I shall only speak one or two sentences more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Every hon. member here will admit the efficacy of the Ayurvedic system of medicine.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: The glory of the past has not faded, Sir, and it is due to the self-less sacrifice of some eminent Kabirajas. In the treatment of pneumonia, typhoid and some other diseases the Ayurveda has specialised. So, Sir, the remarks of my European friends are not at all supported. The other provinces of India are supporting and developing this system. So I do not see any reason why this Government should not try to develop it.

The Hon'ble Maulvi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I am replying on behalf of Government. We are obliged to the hon. mover of this cut motion, for the House has learned something of *Drabyagun* and *Narhibignan*. We have also very patiently and very interestedly heard the history of Ayurveda from one who is an exponent of that great science, namely Kabiraj Srijut Ghanashyam Das. Nobody, as you have already remarked, Sir, has disputed the fact that Ayurveda is a great science. I think my hon. friend, the last speaker, did not listen to what Mr. Blennerhasset has said. He gave the greatest certificate that could be given to Ayurveda when he admitted that the foundation of all the improvements in allopathy is found in the Vedic pharmacopia and that allopathy has derived its inspiration from Ayurveda.

So far as the policy of this Government is concerned, it is not merely to help the Ayurvedic system but also that other system known as the Yunani system. We propose, if possible, to start subsidised dispensaries where treatment will be given under these two indigenous systems. If my hon. friend the mover of this cut motion has the idea that the Assam Government should help some institutions where Ayurveda is taught, we will surely look into the matter. From past records we find, Sir, that the previous Government refused—I have seen an order of the then Hon'ble Minister to that effect—to help such institutions. I find, Sir, the then Secretary of the Department advised the then Minister that they should wait till the institution showed signs of life. This refers to an application from Srijut Taranath Chakravarti, Secretary of the Ayurvedic Mahavidyapith. The order the then Minister passed is the only word 'seen',

and on the basis of that recommendation of the Secretary, a reply was sent that unless the institution shows some little more of life, no grant can be given. But after the discussion here and the assurance that this Government will be willing to help deserving institutions, both Ayurvedic and Unani, I hope the hon. mover will see his way to withdraw his motion.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Is it the Assam Ayurvedic Vidyapith at Gauhati ?

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

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAWDHURY : May I know, Sir, whether the Government are willing to encourage that Unani System along with the Ayurvedic System ?

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has already said that. It seems the hon. member did not follow.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, in view of the assurance given I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,77,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical."

The motion was adopted.

Grant No.21

40.—Agriculture

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,08,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,08,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture."

There are as many as 25 cut motions. Now from the time that we have got from the question hour, I allot another half an hour more to this demand. It is a very important demand ; so we shall continue up to 2-30 with this demand.

On an examination of the cut motions I find that it would be proper to allow Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya to move his cut motion. He wants to criticise the policy of Government with regard to this Department. Each of the other cut motions seeks to criticise one or other aspect of such a policy. By allowing Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya to move his cut motion, I shall really be asking him to start a debate in which other hon. members may take part and put forward their own views with regard to particular aspects of the policy which they want to criticise. That will be convenient so that all particular aspects of the policy may be discussed on the floor of the House.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs 24,687 under Grant No.21, Major head—40. Agriculture, Minor head A.—Direction, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment—Detailed head—Clerks, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by

Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,08,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, agriculture is one of the principal planks in our nation-building activities. As we have seen, the Budget shows no policy, no programme, and, curiously enough, we find that only a provision of Rs.4,160 has been made under the head new schemes in Agriculture as against Rs.29,600 in the current year's budget, and that a paltry sum for the appointment of a dozen of demonstrators. Sir, if we criticise the Government for such poor provision, the only reply that comes from Government is the paucity of funds. In the course of our discussion on the Education Budget, the Hon'ble Premier utilised the current year's deficit as a suitable peg to hang his defence on. Sir, the current year's deficit is not to be met from next year's revenues and the financial position of a province is to be judged not with reference to revenue receipts and revenue expenditure alone, but capital receipt and capital expenditure shall also have to be taken into account. If we calculate both our capital and revenue income and expenditure, then our deficit of the current year comes up to about 7 lakhs. If this is met from our opening balance of 27 lakhs which will, therefore, be reduced to 20 lakhs. Now Rs.4,160 has been provided for demonstrators, as if the last word has been said on the scheme and research of agriculture which await the propaganda and demonstration only. The other day, in reply to a question of mine regarding citrus fruit scheme, it was elicited that the scheme is stationed in a place where there is no orange plantation, although this is principal citrus fruit of the province. Orange gardens are in a dying condition and the fruits are deteriorating. So this matter demands of serious attention from the Government and a careful examination under the citrus fruit scheme which should be experimented in some of our orange growing area.

As regards the Animal Food Nutrition Scheme, the problem of cattle food is very acute in our Valley where there is no grazing Reserve and no other grazing lands. The scheme should be studied with special reference to the conditions obtaining in the Surma Valley and the scheme should be tried somewhere there.

About sugarcane, so far as I know, in our valley, improved variety grown is only 15 per cent. of the total cultivation. I do not know what is the condition prevailing in the other valley. Other provinces have improved their cultivation of sugarcane, but we are still tied down to the old variety of cane and old system of cultivation and manufacture.

As regards cotton, my friend Babu Nirendra Nath Dev referred to it in his budget speech. Heavy rainfall is regarded as a drawback for the cultivation of long staple cotton. So far as we know, the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills have successfully grown long staple cotton nearabout their Mill and I think there is still scope for research and experiment in at least the medium staple cotton. I think some efforts might be made in this direction.

As regards 'pan' diseases, in reply to a question to-day, the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to answer that the Mycologist was appointed for six months only. That clearly shows that there is no scheme behind the appointment. If the disease of the 'pan' is to be combated, a Mycological Department ought to be started at once to carry on a systematic work in the field to save from utter ruin our 'pan' dealing community of the province.

As regards other items of our cultivation, Sir, we have got very little to boast of except paddy and jute. The mustard oil and pulses used in our homes are supplied from Bihar, our tobacco is supplied from northern Bengal. If Bihar and Bengal refuse to supply our agricultural necessities where do we stand then? From our utter helplessness and dependence on other provinces we can clearly stress upon the fact that there is immense

scope for improving the agriculture of this province. But, as I have said, very little money is spent on this important nation-building department. I think, Sir, with richer exchequer this year, Government could have easily spent a higher amount for agricultural improvement. If pressure on land is heavy, intensive cultivation will have to be resorted to by the people, but how intensive cultivation can be carried on will have to be shown by the Department. After all, Sir, we are laymen, we are not expected to give schemes off hand in course of seven minutes in connection with cut motions. But what we expected Government to do was that they ought to have come before us this year with a definite scheme for the Department, so that we could expect that in five or ten years' time, this province would be self-reliant so far as its agricultural necessities are concerned.

Sir, with these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.24,687 under Grant No.21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Clerks, at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,08,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, গাৰ্বলীয়া বাইজেই অসমীয়া জাতিৰ মেকদণ্ড স্বৰূপ। অসমীয়া মানুহৰ শতকৰা ৯৫ ঘৰ মানুহ খেতিয়ক আৰু কষিয়েই জীৱিকাৰ প্ৰধান সৰল হৈ পৰিছে; কিয়নো, বৈজ্ঞানিক আৰু যান্ত্ৰিক আৱিষ্কাৰ আৰু শিক্ষিত জাতিবিলাকৰ সজ্বনক শোষণ প্ৰণালীয়ে এই দেশৰ পুৰণি ধৰণৰ কাৰি কাৰবাৰ, শিল্প আদি লোপসাধন কৰিলে। এই দুৰ্গতিৰ মূল কাৰণ হৈছে পৰাধীনতা, বিদেশী শাসন আৰু শোষণ।

ওপৰ ভাৰা (top heavy) শাসনেই এই দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ প্ৰধান আৰু প্ৰথম বিঘিনি, দ্বিতীয় হৈছে ৰাজকৰ্ম্মচাৰী বিলাকৰ হৃদয়হীন নিদাক্ষণ উদাসীনতা আৰু লগে লগে কৰ্ত্তব্য হীনতা।

ইত্যাদি কাৰণতে দেশত ৰাজনৈতিক আন্দোলনে ক্ষিপ্ৰ গতিৰে প্ৰজাৰ মন অধিকাৰ কৰে আৰু ফলত দেশত তুন শাসন সংস্কাৰৰ প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন হয়। কিন্তু হলে কি হব? গাৰ পোচাক বদলি হৈছে, কিন্তু পোচাক পৰিধানকাৰী সকল সেই একে দৰেই আছে।

কৃষি বিভাগৰ ডিৰেক্টৰ, এচিষ্টেণ্ট ডিৰেক্টৰ, ডেপুটী ডিৰেক্টৰ, ইন্স্পেক্টৰ, ডিমনষ্ট্ৰেটৰ কোনো বকম বিষয়াৰ অভাব নাই। কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যকালত ঠন্ ঠন্ মদন গোপাল (laughter)। সেই মান্ধাতাৰ অংমোলৰ সকলো প্ৰণালী চলিছে— অথচ ওচৰৰ দেশৰ অহুকৰণ কৰি সকলো তৰপৰ বিষয়া নিযুক্ত কৰা হৈছে।

খেতিৰ ঘাই সম্বল গৰু আৰু ম'হ। সেই গৰু ম'হৰ বৃদ্ধি, উন্নতি, ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা "ধান খালে ধান খালে" চট্‌ফট্‌ ধৰফৰ কৰি কৃত্ৰিম অহুৰাগ দেখুৱাৰ বাহিৰে একো দেখা নাযায়। যদি সেয়ে নহয় বুলি কোনোবাই কব খোজে, তেন্তে মই কওঁ হয়, তেওঁ

একোকে নেজানে নহলে বাইজৰ চকুত ধুলা মাৰিব খাজে । দ্বিতীয়তে যি কৃষি কৰিব সেই কৃষি বাণপানী বা খবৰ (drought) মুখৰ পৰা বক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাই প্ৰধান কাম ।

এই দুটা কাম প্ৰথমে হাতত লৈ টকা খৰচ কৰি যেতিয়া স্থিৰ নিশ্চয় হল যে কৰা খেতিৰ কোনো ভয় নাই তেতিয়া অসংখ্য বিষয়া উন্নত প্ৰণালীৰ যত্নপাতি, সাৰ, মাটি পৰীক্ষা আদিৰ নিমিত্তে আৱশ্যকীয় যথেষ্ট বিষয়া নিযুক্ত কৰা হৈ যুগুত, নহলে অনথক অৰ্থনষ্টৰ বাহিৰে একো নহয় । সেই নিমিত্তে মই এই বিভাগত বৰ্ত্তমানে উচ্চ পদৰ কৰ্মচাৰী নিযুক্ত কৰা বেয়া বুলি কৈ আহিছোঁ । আৰু ১৯৩৭ চনত মই কৈছিলোঁ যে সাধাৰণ খেতিৰ নিমিত্তে আন আন দেশৰ খেতিয়ক আনি মাছে মাছে বহুৱাই কৃষি কৰাব আৰ্হি দেখুৱালে ভাল হয় । সেইদৰে গো-পালন শিক্ষা দিবও পাৰি ।

ফল বাগান, একটোল ফাৰ্ম কৃষি ফাৰ্ম কৰা আজি বহুত দিন হৈছে, কিন্তু সাধাৰণ খেতিয়কে তাৰ কি উপকাৰ পাইছে আমি নাজানো । কুহিয়াৰ আৰু আনাৰস খেতিকে সদায় আঙুলিয়াই থাকে । মই শোধো—এই কুহিয়াৰ আৰু আনাৰসৰ খেতি কৰি কিমান মানুহ চহকী হৈছে ? আৰু যদি সেয়ে হয় তেন্তে টকাত ১০ অনাৰে পৰা ১০ অনাটলৈকে খাজনা মাফ দিব লগা হৈছে কিয় ? (laughter.)

দীঘল আঁৰ (long staple) কপাহ, নানান ফলৰ কলম আদি কিমান introduce কৰিছে আৰু সাধাৰণ মানুহে কি উপকাৰ পাইছে ? চাধা ধপাতৰ খেতি এটা অতি আৱশ্যকীয় খেতি । মলা ধপাত, চিগাবেট আদি চাধাপাতৰ পৰা কৰা হয় । আমাৰ দেশত চাধাৰ খুব ব্যবহাৰ হয় আৰু চাধাৰ গছো খুব হয় । কিন্তু কৃষি বিভাগৰ পৰা এই খেতি প্ৰচলন কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে সমূলি চেষ্টা কৰা হোৱা নাই । সেইদৰে এনেকুৱা বহুত বৰমৰ খেতি আছে যিবলাকৰ পৰা খেতিয়কে সোণকালে দুই চাৰি মাহৰ ভিতৰতে টকা পইচা পাব পাৰে । তেনেকুৱা বিলাক খেতিলৈ মন নকৰি কেৱল তেনেকুৱা কিছুমান খেতি introduce কৰা হৈছে বা পৰীক্ষা (experiment) কৰা হৈছে যিবলাকৰ পৰা সাধাৰণ খেতিয়কৰ একো লাভ হোৱা নাই । আমাৰ দেশত সন্মতিৰ বাগান private enterprise দ্বাৰাই বহুত মানুহে কৰিছে । তাৰ নিমিত্তে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বাগান (farm) কৰি পইচা খৰচ কৰা অনর্থক বুলি ভাবো । আমাৰ দেশত private enterprise ৰ পৰা মানুহে যি কাম কৰে সেই বিলাক কৃষিবিভাগ বা অন্না ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ মানুহে খালি “হয় হয়” কৰি মাজতে বাহাদুৰী লব খোজে আৰু প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে তেওঁবিলাকে নিজে এনেকুৱা একো কাম কৰি দেখুৱাব পৰা নাই যিবলাক আমাৰ মানুহে অনুকৰণ কৰি লাভমান হৈছে । একে ঠাইতে এটাৰ্তকৈ অধিক খেতি কেনেকৈ কৰিব পাৰি সেই বিষয়ে একো চেষ্টা কৰা নাই । মই জানো বোৱা খেতি যেতিয়া পোকে খায় আৰু সৰিয়হ খেতি ভূমি তিতা গছে নষ্ট কৰে তেতিয়া খেতিৰ expert সকলক যদি সোধা হয়, তেওঁবিলাকে কোনো বিধান কৰিব

নোৱাৰে। এজন মানুহে নগৰত নাৰিকল গছৰ খেতি কৰিছিল। সেই নাৰিকল গছ-বিলাকত পোকে ধৰাত মুছৰা পৰি যাত্ৰলৈ ধৰিলে। তেতিয়া কৃষি বিভাগৰ বিষয়া সকলক সোধাত সিবিলাকে কোনো ভাল উপদেশ দিব নোৱাৰিলে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will finish.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: অৰ্থচ এজন সাধাৰণ খেতিয়কে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দি নাৰিকল গছবোৰ বক্ষা কৰিলে। এই বৰম উচ্চ বিষয়াৰ নিমিত্তে টকা খৰচ কৰি কৃষি বিভাগৰ পইচা নষ্ট হৈ কৰা হয় মাথোন—তাৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ উন্নতি হব নোৱাৰে। মই সেই কাৰণে পুনৰ দঢ়াই দঢ়াই কওঁ যে আমাৰ দেশত বাণপানী, খৰ ইত্যাদিৰ পৰা খেতি বক্ষা কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে আৰু গৰু ম'হৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে টকা খৰচ কৰি তাৰ পিচতহে বিষয়াসকলৰ নিযুক্তিত খৰচ কৰিবলৈ দিহা কৰিব লাগে। প্ৰথমতে বিষয়া বৃদ্ধি কৰাত টকা খৰচ কৰিবলৈ দিয়াটো মই ভাল বুলি বিবেচনা নকৰো। সেই কাৰণে মই এই motion টো সমৰ্থন কৰিলো।

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my politics and the politics of the present Members of the Cabinet are poles asunder, but in my speech on the general discussion of the Budget I purposely refrained from raising big constitutional issues and tried to give some constructive suggestions as to how the agricultural wealth of the province might be improved, and I am very thankful to the Hon'ble Premier for the kind words he said about my suggestions. I am also to thank Mr. Whittaker, who I see is absent just now from the House. He was very kind to consult me about the Central Cotton Committee and its affairs, and to write to me that he has asked Mr. Griffith of the Central Assembly to find out what is the contribution of this Province towards the Cotton Cess which goes towards the maintenance of the Central Cotton Committee, and he has told me that the Tea Association will try to induce, through the Government, the Central Cotton Committee to undertake some work in this province, and I shall feel my labours fully rewarded if I can induce the Government, or at least the Tea Industry, to take some interest in the matter and induce the Central Cotton Committee to take up some work in this province.

Sir, as I said, I purposely refrained from raising any of those big issues, and tried to meet the present Government on their own ground, I will try to give one or two more ideas, and I shall be thankful to the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister if he will see that something is done in regard to these things, and if Government will not do anything in the matter, I won't be surprised if the tea planters take up my ideas. Sir, the last issue of the "Current Science" Magazine gives us the information that after much experiment it has been found that the *Tung* plant can be cultivated very profitably only in Bihar and Assam. And so far the attempt at cultivating *Tung* in Assam has been only on an area of about 1,200 acres by private enterprise. Sir, this *Tung* plant is used for the extraction of Tung Oil, which is the only oil that can be used successfully for varnishing aluminium, aeroplanes, and it is really a very fancy price, for it is used for varnishing and I am told that it can fetch a very fancy price, for it is used for varnishing and the current issue of the "Current Science" gives suggestions as to how this Industry can be

improved, and I would earnestly request the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister to see that the Government gives inducement to youngmen of this province to undertake this cultivation. If the Government cannot undertake this cultivation I hope the tea planters will take it up.

Then, as regards the general policy of the Agriculture Department I think I had enough of discussion on the matter, in my Budget speech. As regards the Marketing Department the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla was kind enough to give us some information how this Department is assisting the fruit-growers by finding a good market for them in Calcutta. The main task, I understand, has been the grading of the fruits and this has been very helpful to the growers inasmuch as it has raised the price of their commodity and found a good market for our fruits. But so far as I know, in comparison with other provinces we have given disproportionate attention to this Marketing Department. Ours is not an exporting province. We are only an importing province as yet. So, I think that instead of giving so much attention to the marketing side now we would do better to give more attention to the producing side of the thing, and that is where our immediate attention is demanded. And as regards the producing side, it is not only a few things—there are a number of things which, with some encouragement from the Government, the people could take up very easily, and these would bring much wealth to the province and much profit to the growers. (*Hear, hear.*)

Before I close, I would make an earnest appeal to the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to call a conference of his subordinates and of some other experts to discuss what particular items of agricultural produce we can take up very profitably immediately. In view of the outbreak of war in Europe, we are told that a great opportunity has come to India to improve her agricultural and industrial wealth, and it is high time that our province and the Government should rise up to the occasion and see what immediate steps should be taken in the matter. We have given a remission of fifty per cent. to our peasants because they are not able to pay their land revenue, but as our Prime Minister was telling us—it is not the real remedy of the disease. If the peasants are not able to pay their revenue it must be because they are not producing enough or because they are not getting proper price for the produce. So the first duty of the province ought to be simultaneously with giving some temporary relief by way of revenue remission to see that their agricultural wealth of the province and the price improve. Whatever may be our differences as regards big issues, we are all of one opinion that the agricultural wealth of the province should be improved. With this object in view I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to have a small conference of experts to try to solve all the problems in this connection and I think that it will be the very appropriate thing to do just at this moment.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আসাম প্রদেশের.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: বক্তৃতা একটু সংক্ষেপ করবেন, অনেক মেম্বার আছেন যারা এ সম্বন্ধে বলতে চান।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: কৃষকের সমস্যা দেশের প্রধান সমস্যা। ইহাতে যদি সময় নির্ধারণ করা হয় তাহা হইলে বিশেষ বলিতে পারিব না।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : অনেকেই বলতে চান । প্রত্যেকেই কিছু কিছু বলবেন । আপনার যা বলবার আছে বলুন ।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : কয়েক মিনিট বেশী দিলে ভাল হয় ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আচ্ছা, আপনাকে ৭ মিনিট দেওয়া হল ।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : কৃষি বিভাগের জন্ত মাত্র ছয়লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে । অথচ কৃষকদের শান্তি রক্ষার জন্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট পুলিশ বিভাগে প্রায় ৩২ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় মঞ্জুর করিয়াছেন । বর্তমান কৃষকদের ঘরে খাবার নাই, পরিধানের বস্ত্র নাই, রোগে ঔষধ নাই—এমতাবস্থায় তাহারা দৈনন্দিন চরিত্রহারা হইয়া গিয়াছে । জীবিকানির্বাহ করিতে না পারিয়া বা খাইবার না পাইয়া, যদিও আত্মহত্যা করা মহা পাপ বা চুরি করা মহা পাপ তাহা তাহারা ক.িতেছে । চুরির সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হইতেছে ; গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি উন্নতিমূলক কৃষি শিক্ষা দিতেন তাহা হইলে পূর্বে যে পরিমাণে শস্ত উপার্জন হইত, এখন বেশী হইতে পারিত । ছুংথের বিষয় কৃষকদের উন্নতির জন্ত চেষ্টা না করিয়া কৃষকদের শান্তি রক্ষার জন্ত গভর্ণমেন্টে ক্রমশঃ পুলিশ বিভাগের খরচ বৃদ্ধি করিয়া যাইতেছেন । আমার মনে হয় পুলিশ বিভাগের ব্যয় কম করিয়া সেই পরিমাণ টাকা কৃষি বিভাগকে দেওয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের একান্ত কর্তব্য । কৃষকের উন্নতির জন্ত চেষ্টা করিতে হইলে বর্তমানে প্রত্যেক থানায় অন্ততঃ এক একটি করিয়া আদর্শ কৃষি ফার্ম (farm) স্থাপন করা একান্ত আবশ্যিক । বিহার বা অছাছ প্রদেশে গভর্ণমেন্ট কৃষি ফার্ম স্থাপন করিয়া কৃষকদিগকে কৃষি-শিক্ষা দান করিতেছেন ; কিন্তু আসাম গভর্ণমেন্টের সেদিকে মোটেই লক্ষ্য নাই । ১০০ বৎসর পূর্বে কৃষকেরা যেভাবে কৃষিকার্য্য সমাধা করিত আজও সেরূপেই করিতেছে । বিহারে কুশিয়ার চাষ বৃদ্ধি করিয়া তাহারা যেরূপ লাভবান হইতেছে, আমার মনে হয় আসাম প্রদেশের বিভিন্ন জেলায় বিভিন্ন থানায় যদি সেরূপ কুশিয়ার চাষ করিবার জন্ত কৃষকদিগকে শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইত তাহা হইলে তাহারা পাট চাষ হইতে বেশী লাভ করিত । এক বিঘা জমিতে যদি কুশিয়ার চাষ করা হয় তাহা হইলে এক হাজার মণের চেয়ে বেশী কুশিয়ার জন্মিতে পারে । গান্ধারী বলিয়া এক রকম কুশিয়ার আমি বগুড়া প্রভৃতি জেলায় দেখিয়াছি । সেই কুশিয়ার একবিঘা জমিতে এক হাজার মণেরও বেশী জন্মে । যদি প্রতি মণ কাঁচা কুশিয়ার চার আনায় বিক্রি হয় তাহা হইলে এক হাজার মণের দাম ২৫০ টাকা হয় । পাট চাষের জন্ত যে পরিমাণ টাকা খরচ হয় তাহার চেয়ে কুশিয়ার চাষের জন্ত অনেক কম পরিমাণ টাকা খরচ হয় । ছুংথের বিষয় গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট বহু আবেদন নিবেদন করা স্বত্বেও, যেখানে জল বেশী হয় সে রকম জায়গার জন্ত মাত্রাজে এক রকম কুশিয়ার আছে তাহার চারা অ'জ পর্য্যন্তও দিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই । বাঙ্গালী কৃষক যে সমস্ত অঞ্চলে বাস করে সেই সমস্ত অঞ্চলে পানীতে যে সমস্ত কুশিয়ার মারা যায় না সেই রকম চারা দেওয়া দরকার । আমার অনুরোধ গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রত্যেক থানায় একটি করিয়া আদর্শ ফার্ম স্থাপন করিয়া কুশিয়ার চাষ কি প্রকারে করিতে হয় তাহার শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং বিভিন্ন প্রকারের কুশিয়ারের চারা প্রদান করিয়া কুশিয়ার চাষ প্রবর্তন করুন ।

তাহার পর কৃষকদিগকে যে সমস্ত বীজ দান করা হয় সে সমস্ত বীজের ভিতর অনেক ক্রটি রহিয়াছে। কি প্রকারে কৃষিবিভাগ বীজ সংগ্রহ করেন আমি জানি না—মাড়োয়ারী দোকান হইতে বা অত্র প্রদেশ হইতে সংগ্রহ করিতে পারেন। সেগুলি বীজের ১০০ মণের ভিতর প্রায় ২২ মণ খারাপ হয়; কোন কোন স্থলে শতকরা ৫০ মণ পর্যন্ত খারাপ হয়। ইহার জন্ত কৃষিবিভাগের প্রতি আমি বিশ্বাসহারা হইয়াছি।

তাহার পর ডিমন্স্ট্রেটর অত্যন্ত কম। ধুবড়ীর South Bank এর প্রায় ৮ শত ২৫ বর্গমাইল জায়গার জন্ত মাত্র ডিমন্স্ট্রেটর একজন। তিনি সাইকেল নিয়া একবার শালমারায় যান আর একবার জমাদারহাটে যান। তাহার সাইকেলে যাওয়াস্বাসা ছাড়া আর আমি কিছুই দেখি নাই। প্রকৃতপক্ষে যদি কৃষকের উন্নতি করার জন্ত কৃষিবিভাগের আকাঙ্ক্ষা আছে তাহা হইলে প্রকৃত পন্থা অবলম্বন করুন; শুধু কাগজে কলমে যদি এই ডিপার্টমেন্ট রাখার ইচ্ছা থাকে তাহা হইলে স্বতন্ত্র কথা। তাই আমি আশা করি ঐ রকম ব্যবস্থা না করিয়া স্থায়ী ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিবেন। ইহাই আমার বক্তব্য।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, বর্তমান বাজেটে কৃষিবিভাগের জন্ত যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে এবং বাজেট speech এ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কৃষিবিভাগ সম্বন্ধে যাহা বলিয়াছেন তৎপ্রসঙ্গে আমি শুধু পাটচাষ সম্বন্ধে এবং বর্তমান কৃষিবিভাগের কর্তৃপক্ষ কৃষিবিভাগের উন্নতির অর্থে যাহা করিয়াছেন সেই সম্বন্ধেই বলিব।

আসামের ব্রহ্মপুত্র ভেলীতেই পাট চাষ অধিকাংশ হয়। এবং রিপোর্টে দেখা যায় প্রায় ৫০।৬০ লক্ষ মণ পাট আসাম দেশ হইতে ভিন্ন দেশে রপ্তানি হয়। পৃথিবীতে বাঙ্গালা এবং আসাম ছাড়া অত্র কোথাও সেরকম পাট উৎপন্ন হয় না। বাঙ্গালা দেশে উন্নত ধরণের পাট চাষের ব্যবস্থার জন্ত বহু রকম ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে এবং গভর্নমেন্ট হইতে অনেক কমিটি বসিয়াছে। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আসাম হইতে এত লক্ষ মণ পাট বিদেশে যায় এবং সেই পাটের duty হইতে অনুমান ১৪।১৫ লক্ষ টাকা আসামে আসে—বোধ হয় অত্র কোন কৃষিজাত শস্তের দ্বারা আসামের এত আয় হয় না—কিন্তু তবুও এই পাট চাষের উন্নতির জন্ত এযাবৎ আসামের কৃষিবিভাগ হইতে কোনও ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। এমন কি উন্নত ধরণের পাট চাষের জন্ত ভাল রকম বীজ আছে কিনা বা কোন সময় বপন করিতে হইবে বা কি ভাবে বপন করিতে হইবে আসামের কৃষিবিভাগের কর্তৃপক্ষ তাহা জানেন কিনা এবং এবিষয়ে তাঁদের জ্ঞান আছে কিনা আমি তাহা ভাল করিয়া জানি না। আমি অনেক ক্ষেত্রে ইন্স্পেক্টর এবং ডিমন্স্ট্রেটরকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিয়াছিলাম যে বাঙ্গালা দেশে কি ধরণের পাট ভাল উৎপন্ন হয়। তাহারা বলেন যে বাঙ্গালা দেশে যাহারা পাটের চাষ করে তাহারাই তাহা ভালরূপে জানে—আমাদের সেদিকে লক্ষ করিবার প্রয়োজন নাই। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে দেশের গভর্নমেন্টের পাটের চাষ হইতে ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা আয় হয় সেই গভর্নমেন্ট নিজের দেশের উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা কেন করিবেন না? এবার কৃষিবিভাগের ডিরেক্টরের সহিত আমার সাক্ষাৎ হইয়াছিল। তাহাকে আমি

জিজ্ঞাসা করিয়াছিলাম যে বাঙ্গলাদেশে যে সব উন্নত ধরণের পাটের চাষ হয়—যেমন বোম্বাই, কাইকাবোম্বাই, তোবা পাট, নেশী পাট ইত্যাদি, সেই সব ১নং, ২নং, ৩নং, ৪নং ভাল পাটের বীজ বাঙ্গলা দেশ হইতে আনিয়া দিলে আমাদের দেশের কৃষকেরা উন্নত ধরণের পাটের চাষ করিতে পারে কিনা? তখন তিনি উত্তর দিলেন “আমার এবিষয়ে বিশ্বাস হয় না”। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করিলাম যে সে রকম পাট হইবে কিনা, তিনি উত্তর দিলেন আমি বলিতে পারি না”। শুধু গভর্ণমেন্ট আনারস বা কমলালেবু বা টমেটো বা সব্জি, ফল ইত্যাদি, যাহা শুধু বড় লোকের বগান সাজাইতে, কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে তাঁদের মনস্তৃষ্টির জন্ত করিয়া থাকেন, সে সমস্ত ফল উৎপন্নের জন্ত এত টাকা খরচের ব্যবস্থা না করিয়া, যে পাটের দ্বারা গভর্ণমেন্টের এত লক্ষ টাকা আয় হইবে তাহার জন্ত টাকা খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা করাই অগোণে কর্তব্য এবং পাটের চাষ আরও যাহাতে ভাল রকম হয় তাহার চেষ্টা করা প্রয়োজন।

আমাদের এরকম বহু কৃষক আছে যাহারা ডিরেক্টর, ডিপুটি ডিরেক্টরের চেয়ে ভাল রকম পাটের চাষ জানে। (Laughter.)

কিন্তু তাহারা যাহাতে ভাল বীজ পায় সেই ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেন্ট যেন অগোণে করেন, এবং যে কতিপয় স্থানে ডিমন্স্ট্রেটর বা ইন্স্পেক্টর আছেন তাহারা যেন কৃষকদিগকে উৎসাহ এবং উপদেশ দেন, এমন ব্যবস্থা করেন যাহাতে তাহারা ভালরূপে শযা উৎপন্ন করিতে পারে। তাহা না করিয়া, অনেক ক্ষেত্রে দেখিয়াছি গোয়ালপাড়ার একজন ইন্স্পেক্টর বলিয়াছেন যে—আলুতে লাভ হইবে না, এক বিঘায় মাত্র ১০ মণ জন্মে। কিন্তু আমি নিজে আলুর চাষ করিয়াছি—আমার ৩/৪ বিঘায় ১০০ মণ হইয়াছে। তাহারা এইভাবে লোককে নিকংসাহিত করেন। বোর ধান অগ্রহারণ মাসে নিতে হয় এবং পৌষমাসে চারা পুতিতে হয়। কিন্তু কৃষি বিভাগের এরকম শৈথিল্য যে ঠিক সময়মত বীজ দেওয়া হয় না। যাহা চৈত্রমাসে বুনিতে হয় তাহার বীজ দেওয়া হইবে বৈশাখ মাসে। আলুর বীজ লাগাইতে হয় কার্তিক মাসে, কিন্তু বীজ দেওয়া হয় মাঘ মাসে। কাজেই ফসল কিছুই হয় না। (laughter) যেখানে লাগবে আশুধান কিন্তু তাহারা দিবেন অল্প রকম ধান। ডিমন্স্ট্রেটর লিখিবেন ইন্স্পেক্টরের কাছে, ইন্স্পেক্টর লিখিবেন ডিপুটি ডিরেক্টরের কাছে এরকম করিতেই তিন মাস চলিয়া যায়। বাস্তবিক কাগজে কলমেই কৃষি বিভাগের নীতি রহিয়াছে। (laughter) এটা প্রকৃত সত্য—মিথ্যা নয়। উচ্চপদস্থ বর্তমান কর্মচারী যাহারা আছেন তাহারা যাবেন যেখানে মোটরের রাস্তা আছে—যেখানে মোটর লইয়া যাইতে পারেনা রাস্তার ধারে আবাদ হয় না,—আবাদ হয় ভিতরে—কৃষি পল্লীতে। কিন্তু সেখানে যাইতে কষ্টসহ্য করিবার—তাহারা অবসর পান না। ইহা বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় সন্দেহ নাই। তাহারা যদি সে রকম ব্যবস্থা বা কৃষকের উপকার করিতে না পারেন তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেন্ট থেকে তাহাদের পিছনে এত টাকা কেন খরচ করা হয়? বর্ষার সময় ডিপুটি ডিরেক্টর গোয়ালপাড়া গিয়াছিলেন। আমি বলিলাম—চলুন প্লাবিত কৃষি অঞ্চল দেখিয়া

আসুন। তিনি বলিলেন—“আমি মোটর গাড়ীতে যাব”। আমি বলিলাম পাহাড়ের রাস্তা দিয়া মটর যাবে, তথায় গাছ আর জঙ্গল, তথায় বর্ষায় ডুবে নাই, বা কৃষকদের আবাদ নষ্ট হয় নাই বা জলের মধ্য দিয়া কেমন করে মোটর নিয়া যাবেন। আপনি যান নৌকা করে—যেখানে কৃষকের জমি ডুবিয়া গিয়াছে সেখানে গিয়া দেখিয়া আসুন।” তিনি বলিলেন আমার ভয় পায় আমি যাব না। বাস্তবিক তিনি নৌকায় গেলেন না। (laughter) এরকম যদি অবস্থা হয় তাহা হইলে এই বিভাগের ভার কৃষকদের হাতে দিলেই তাহারা নিজেদের ব্যস্থা করিয়া নিবে। এই রকম অফিসারের পিছনে গভর্নমেন্টের এত টাকা খরচ করিবার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই। (laughter)।

Mr. A. F. BENDALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from all the speeches one is impressed by the importance of agriculture to Assam. Tea is an exalted form of agriculture. All planters are interested in the various cultures connected with mother earth and we feel Government lose a great opportunity in not taking advantage of the great number of people interested in this work who would be only too willing, I am sure, to put their little knowledge at the disposal of the Demonstrators who are sent round from the districts. I have to confess that I have never met a Demonstrator. Garden labourers with land in tea estates and those who after their retirement from the tea estates have taken up lands in villages together comprise a very big area. From my observation I find that their methods are still very primitive and they have yet to learn quite a lot. We would be quite willing to offer demonstration plots to the Government authorities and would take a scientific interest in the experiment for the benefit of not only our own garden labourers but the villagers who are our neighbours. I would like to invite the Agriculture Department to enquire into this and see what they can do not only for the propagation of different types of paddy but also for other crops so that we could give some useful advice on those subjects that will be helpful to the cultivators. But as far as the ordinary cultivators go, they show little initiative and we should like to press for demonstrations of new crops. There are certain periods of the year when crops other than paddy can be cultivated. We should like to see a big revolution in the matter in that respect. I can assure Government that the tea industry would give every co-operation if they are consulted on this and allied matters.

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, যি হেতু আমাৰ আসাম দেশখন কৃষি প্রধান দেশ, এই কৃষি বিভাগে ইয়াত আমাক যে কিছু কাম কৰি দিব লাগিব—ই সৰ্ব্ববাদী সম্মত। বৰ্ত্তমান দেখা গৈছে আমাৰ শতকৰা ২৫ জন মানুহেই খেতিয়ক। আমাৰ যি কৃষি বিভাগ আছে ইয়াৰ পৰা এই খেতিয়ক সকলৰ উপকাৰেই হৈছে নে অপকাৰেই হৈছে মই সেই বিষয়ে নাজানো—এই নগ্নে অৱশ্যে বহুতে বহুত কথা কৈ গৈছে। সেই বিষয়ে মই নকণ্ড। এই বিভাগত আমাৰ সদস্য সকলৰ আৰু বাহিৰা মানুহৰ প্ৰতিনিধি লৈ এ'ল Advisory Board আছে আৰু সেই Board চাৰি বছৰৰ মূৰত এবাৰহে বহিব লাগে। এই তিনি বছৰৰ ভিতৰত মোৰ বিশ্বাস এবাৰহে বহিছে। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ বাহিৰে আৰু এবাৰো বহা নাই। আমি সেই সমিতিলৈ কিছুমান

suggestion দিছিলো যে শিবি ি াগে নতুন ধৰণৰ ভাল বীজ দিব নোৱাৰিলেও বা কৃষিৰ উঃকৰ্ষ সাধন কৰিব নোৱাৰিলেও আমাৰ পুৰণি যি আছে তাৰে ইন্দ্ৰ দেৱতাক তুষ্ট কৰিব নলগাতকৈয়ে যাতে খেতি কৰিব পাৰে তাৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰক—যি ঠাইত পানীৰ অভাৱত মানুহে খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাত দোং খান্দি আৰু যত জলাতন ঠাই আছে তাত খাল খান্দি পানী উলিয়াই দি কিম্বা যত অতিপাত বান পানী হয় তাত বান দি বা কিবা কৰি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে বা কৃষি বিভাগে খেতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰক।

যোৱা বছৰ উত্তৰ কামৰূপত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ উত্তৰ অঞ্চলত বৰষুণৰ অভাৱত খেতিৰ যি ছৰস্বা হৈছে, তাত যদি কৃষি বিভাগে কিছু টকা খৰচ কৰিলে হেতেন তেনেহলে খেতিয়কে সহজে খেতি কৰিব পাৰিলে হেতেন। কিন্তু এতিয়া ৰাইজৰ যেনেকুৱা ছৰস্বা দেখিছো, গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে famine relief দি খেতিয়কক ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হব। ৰোগৰ সৃষ্টি হোৱাৰ অ গতে ৰোগ যাতে নহয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰাই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ প্ৰধান কৰ্তব্য বুলি ভাবো। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ উত্তৰ ফালে যি বিলাক নৈ আছে তাৰ পৰা খাল খান্দি পানী নিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে খেতিয়কে কেতিয়াও বৰষুণৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি থাকিব নালাগে। আৰু কিছুমান দ ঠাইত যেনে বৰপেটা অঞ্চলত পানী ওলাই যাবলৈ কিছুমান খাল খান্দি দিলে আৰু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বান পানীয়ে খেতি নষ্ট কৰিব নোৱাৰকৈ কিছুমান বান্ধ দিলে কৃষকবিলাক কেতিয়াও ছৰস্বাত পৰিব লগা নহয়। সেই কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এই Boardৰ যি সকল সভা আছে সিবিলাকে ৰাইজৰ দুৰ্গতি দেখি সময়ে সময়ে যিবিলাক suggestion দিয়ে সেই suggestion মতে যেন গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়ি আহে। এই কথাৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very small sum has been provided for this year for economic development of rural areas. The present Government spent in the last two months a sum provided for in the last year's Budget in opening rural development centres. The sum was to be spent for supplying agriculturists with improved seeds, improved implements and instructing them to adopt improved methods of cultivation and for taking preventive measures against flood and other disasters which cause failure of crops. But I do not know for what parts of the province this sum has been spent. So far as my part of the province is concerned nothing has yet been done. I remember that a centre was going to be opened at Sachna, but ultimately I knew that it was not opened.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: May I be permitted to correct the hon. member? It has already been opened.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: The Agriculture Department should be prompt in having the works of embankment and drainage done by the new Department.

Provisions have been made in this year's Budget for the formation of an embankment and drainage division. But an amount of Rs.10,000 only has been kept for expenditure in projects. This is certainly an insignificant sum for the urgent works which are required to be accomplished immediately throughout the whole of the province. Adoption of preventive measures

against failure of crops due to flood, owing to no-subsidence of water from the fields, due to dearth, *i.e.*, want of water, should have been the immediate activities of the new Department. Embankments are required to be constructed to check floods, canals are required to be dug, river beds to be dredged and Sluice gates to be constructed in embankments to let water out of the cultivating fields. Sometime it happens, Sir, subsidence of water does harm to fields which are comparatively on a higher level. For such places arrangements should be made either for irrigation pumps or making pools by constructing small earthen Bunds.

Selection of places is another problem. The people who are the immediate sufferers should be consulted ; reports of the Sub-Deputy Collectors sometimes become very unsatisfactory and unreliable. I was once asked by Government to give a list of projects required to be taken up by Government, in the Sunamganj subdivision. I prepared a list from the information I could gather then, with my letter No.29, dated the 22nd April, 1938 which was written in reply to letter No.135/1475-E., from the Deputy Secretary, Government of Assam in Education and Local Self-Government Departments. One of the projects in that list was for the construction of an embankment with a Sluice gate on Ratlakhhal under police station Dharampassa. After a good deal of agitation by the people concerned an earthen Bund has been constructed in which cultivators assisted Government both physically and financially. But unfortunately no arrangement was made for outlets. Hence more than half of the *boro* area remains uncultivated. The Government has also admitted that it is so in reply to my question 105 asked on the 5th March, 1940. The cultivators concerned tried their level best to bring their *boro* fields above water level by digging a big deep canal. But they succeeded in cultivating only a small area this year. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, has informed me in his Memorandum No.6110-J., dated 26th January, 1940 that the Executive Engineer, Sylhet Division, has been asked to depute an expert for the purpose of cutting a common *khal* for drainage in the Hail Haor. But digging of the *khal* and closing the mouth every year before the flood season, will be an impossible task of the villagers. In the working season they will not be able to spare much time and labour for the purpose. So, Sir, Government should at once take up the construction of a *pucca* Bund with a Sluice gate. In the meanwhile the Agricultural Department should assist the cultivators in closing canals. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now what has been said has been said of the working of the Department purely in its agricultural aspect. As with agriculture the cattle of the province is inseparably connected, I wish to say a few words regarding these unfortunate animals. Sir, ours is an agricultural country ; about 97 per cent. of the population live in the rural areas and about 90 per cent. of them are agriculturists. The improved methods of agriculture by mechanical means or by improved types of implements are really unknown in our province without which regeneration of our country is impossible. This improvement of cattle is really a very important problem. The cattle is not only used for milk supply of which there is a great need in our province, but they are also extensively used for the purpose of cultivation. Till now Government have however not been giving as much consideration for the improvement of the cattle as they ought to have given. There are about 60 to 70 lakhs of cattle in the province but from the budget provision it is clear that the provisions that have been made are quite insufficient to effect any improvement whatsoever. The method adopted to improve the cattle is by means of cross-breeding of local

cattle with imported bulls and by cross-breeding with their issues the local cattle. For this purpose Government have some farms, jail dairies, notified reserves, village breeding centres. These village breeding centres and notified reserves are no doubt giving some relief to the villagers in the rural areas. But their number is small and they are also situated near the towns. So the people in the rural areas do not get the benefit out of these farms. From the jail dairies also people in general get very little benefit. As regards the village breeding centres, I do not exactly know its number that are in existence at the present moment but I think in 1937-38 the number was only 16—9 centres in the Surma Valley and 7 in the Assam Valley. Even if it be 20 the number must be considered as quite insufficient for the purpose of improvement of the cattle in the whole Province. One centre comprises only a number of villages. In Assam there are so many villages. So you can well imagine how the numerous cattle in the province can be improved by this slow progress in the matter of introduction of new village breeding centres. As regards the notified reserves, their number is also small—I think not more than 7 or 8. These reserves also should be increased and sufficient facilities given to the graziers as well as the general public to effect improvement in their cattle. It is extremely regrettable that the provision for this purpose is quite inadequate showing the utter lack of care and attention of the Government. Cut motions are moved from year to year, debates after debates take place but ultimately no actions are taken on them. Even assurances are not acted upon. With these remarks, I support the motion moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p m.

After lunch

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister how long he will require for his reply on this motion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : So many points have been raised that at least 20 minutes will be required for reply. Ten minutes may be given to hon. members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right. From the cut motions I find that four gentlemen who have got some motions standing in their names have not taken part in the debate. If they like they can speak.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Sir, before lunch we were discussing the problem of jute in this province. Last year also we had discussed the same problem. If the statistics available just now are correct, about 2 lakhs of maunds of jute are annually exported from Assam to Bengal and passed as Bengal jute. The first point I want to urge upon the House is the question of marketing. Our jute has not found a good market in Assam and for that the Agriculture Department or the department of Marketing is responsible. All the jute that goes from Assam has got to pass as Sarisabari, Sirajganj jute. And the worst of it is that we lose a lot of our jute duty on account of this. This will be evident from the fact that we get 62·5 as our share, from the Central Government, of the jute duty. Only 6 per cent. of the total yield of jute in Bengal and Assam has been said to be the yield from Assam—and the growing of Assam jute is not inconsiderable. The figures shown are, to my mind, not correct, because the statistics that could have been collected by checking are not available, because the checking department is not in existence now. Formerly the

exports through the Brahmaputra were checked from Dhubri downwards, but that is discontinued and all the jute that goes to Bengal for getting better market there is passed as Bengal jute. This applies both to the price as well as quality. In Bengal, Sir, they have got a jute restriction scheme, their Marketing Department is also very efficient and the cultivators in Bengal get much more yield than their brother cultivators in Assam.

The point was raised by my hon. friend, Maulavi Matior Rahman, that the Department of Agriculture is not doing as much as it ought to do for jute cultivation ; because jute in Assam is one of the principal crops and a lot of profit could have been given by distributing jute seeds from certain centres either at Goalpara or Nowgong, so that the total yield of jute that we get would have been much more and the yield in point of duty would have been double of what we get just now. So my point, Sir, is that the Agricultural Department or the Marketing Department should see their way to get better marketing facilities in order that our cultivators may get a better yield from their labour.

Then again, Sir, about seed distribution, the Agriculture Department should be alert to see that from two different centres of principal jute-growing areas the seed is distributed and some grading arrangement also is made. That will give them an idea of the better quality of jute and induce them to make experiments as to what quality of jute is likely to get better price. These are the points, Sir, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, regarding general agriculture I heard some hon. members' speeches who were deadly against the maintenance of the Director, Deputy Director, etc., of the Department. But I would like to point out to hon. members that the present system of cultivation is not perfect and cannot be considered perfect and that there is considerable scope for improvement. For this reason we are trying to improve our method of cultivation, not only in regard to grains, but also in regard to fruits as also their preservation and to introduce some kind of scientific plantations as in Florida and Sanfrancisco where tree yields fruits all seasons of the year and each branch of a tree in different seasons, and by injection system fruits can be kept for some length of time, etc. These the ordinary cultivators do not know. So we should not ask the Government to do away with these establishments.

Now as regards lac, I am now a member of the governing body of the Indian Lac Cess Committee and I attended its meetings on the 2nd and 3rd February 1940. Sir, the cultivation of lac is an Indian monopoly. In America they tried for many years to cultivate lac, but they were unsuccessful. In our country it is grown over a very wide area including Assam and Burma. But Assam produces the least quantity. The chief areas of cultivation are Chota Nогpur, the Feudatory States of Orissa, the Central Provinces and a few adjacent areas in Bengal and the United Provinces. The principal area produces 90 per cent. of lac. Chota Nagpur alone is responsible for 50 per cent. of India's annual output of lac. Federated Malaya State, Indo-China and Siam produce a small amount of lac. Even the greater portion of this finds its way to India *via* Calcutta for manufacture into shell-lac. The annual production of lac in India varies between 800 thousand to 1 lakh

600 thousand maunds and the export of shell-lac comes to about 400 thousand to 800 thousand cwt. which are valued at approximately 2 to 2½ crores of rupees at the present time.

Now, Sir, my point is this that this lac industry is a most paying industry and our greatest problem, not only in Assam, but throughout India is poverty and unemployment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will finish. The Hon'ble Minister is to reply.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: One word, Sir. The shell-lac industry provides a good deal of employment to many people, viz., the producer, the cultivators, the brokers who convey the ready material to the consumer. So, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture as well as the Hon'ble Minister for Industries to look into this matter so that Assam may be doing something. My request to the Hon'ble Ministers is to look into this matter of lac industry and cultivation. Thus shell-lac industry is of great importance to India, etc.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I want to make a simple suggestion. Probably till 1918 the Agriculture Department and the Veterinary Department were under the same Director and it was with the appointment of an Indian Director of Agriculture that the Veterinary Department was separated into an independent department leaving the Live Stock Branch with the Agriculture Department. The Co-operative and Industries Departments were subsequently added to Agriculture Department. Later on the Industries and Co-operative Departments were separated, but the Live Stock Department remained with the Agriculture Department as before. I suggest that if the Agriculture and the Veterinary Departments be placed under the same Director, probably it will not only be economical but will also be efficient. The Agriculture and Veterinary Departments being akin, I think the Government should consider whether these two departments may be profitably amalgamated. Or if this is not possible the Livestock Department, I think, should be separated from the Agriculture Department and placed under the Veterinary Department. In that case the Veterinary Investigating Officer as well as the Johne's Disease Officer will find it more convenient to deal with livestock. With these words, Sir, I submit the suggestion for the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank all hon. members who have given their valuable suggestions for improvement of agricultural activities in this Province of Assam. My hon. friend, the mover of the original cut motion, Mr. Aditya, will excuse me if I do not follow his Charvakian policy of “ঋণং কৃত্বা যতং পিবং” or you must take *ghee* even by borrowing. He said, Sir, that Assam being an entirely agricultural country—95 per cent. of the population being agriculturist, we should not think of our deficit, but expand the activities of the Agriculture Department. I am at one with the latter part of his statement that we should do our level best to help the agriculturist in the matter of their getting a greater amount from mother earth and also a better return for their agricultural produce. But when he says that in order to give this much-needed help to the agriculturist we should borrow, I do join issue with him.

Sir, the Agriculture Department has come in for a large measure of criticism of not doing much. I agree with those on account of paucity of funds, every possible help to be given to the *raiya*s could not be given. But I think, it will be idle to say that the Agriculture Department lives on paper only. I have got some figures to show that the Agriculture Department

has done some good to the cultivators. In order to better the conditions of our cultivators, we must help them not only with better seeds, improved methods of cultivation, rotation of crops, manuring as well as irrigation also, and as certain hon. members have suggested, we should also try to improve his primitive implements and give them better bullocks. In every direction the Agriculture Department has given its attention and has done some amount of good to the *raiyats*. Sir, to begin with giving improved seeds, as paddy is the staple food of our people, special attention has been given towards improving paddy seeds and Government have started three farms for experiment and in these they grow heavier yielding varieties. The Karimganj Farm, which is the oldest farm, has produced 28 varieties of *Aus*, *Sail* and *Amon*. The Titabar Farm has grown 8 varieties and Habiganj Deep Water Paddy Farm has grown 6 varieties. Thus, all told, the Agriculture Department is responsible for introducing 42 new varieties of paddy and about 3,000 maunds of improved seeds are available to the cultivators. As regards sugarcane we have only one farm.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether these varieties are experimented by private cultivators ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend the *ex*-Minister for Industries were here, he could have said what amount of cultivation is being done near the Akbarpur Farm with improved seeds. But, I think, my friend Mr. Aditya will be able to help me if I say that the whole countryside is growing paddy with improved Government Farm seeds. The Jorhat Farm has issued 10 varieties of high-sucrose content sugarcane, and about 1 lakh 73 thousand sets are distributed from this farm.

Similarly, Sir, for potato we have got the Upper Shillong Farm which has experimented and recommended 50 varieties of potato, and, as my hon. friend Maulavi Matior Rahman said, these varieties give an increased outturn. The Upper Shillong Farm distributed about 800 maunds of seed potato.

Sir, as regards jute, we have not got our own farm, but as I mentioned on an earlier occasion in this session, we buy improved variety of seeds from Bengal, and we issue annually about 80 maunds of this kind of seed to the jute growers of our province. It is the Agriculture Department which is responsible for introducing it. Sir, another crop cultivation which was not known to the indigenous population of this province is now practised in almost all the districts; *kheseri*, *sonamug*, *mushuri*, gram and peas, both Pusa and ordinary varieties, etc. are now produced. Similarly, in certain places wheat, linseed, ground-nut and tobacco have been introduced and about 300 maunds of seeds for these products are annually issued by the Agriculture Department.

Sir, I do not for a moment say that what we are doing is sufficient, but as I have already said, we are handicapped by the paucity of funds which has compelled us to extend further activities of the Agriculture Department. Now, production is one thing, but the chief difficulty arises at the time of marketing, and in order to help our agriculturists a Marketing Department has been started with a grant from the Central Government. So far our Marketing Officer has issued 28 reports on a variety of subjects like linseed, wheat, wheat products, tobacco, banana, pineapple, ground-nut, hides and skins, besides rice, orange, coffee, mustard, potato and every kind of things. From my personal experience, Sir, I can say that this Department was, at least in my time—I am speaking of the year 1928,—

responsible for introducing a kind of paddy which was never grown before in Upper Assam. I remember distinctly that when there was a very heavy flood just after *sali* seedlings had been transplanted in the Sibsagar subdivision, learning of the depredation and the extreme hardship of the people, I at once went with my Director of Agriculture—Rai Bahadur Radha Nath Phukan held charge of this Department at that time—to that place, and with the help of the Deputy Director of Agriculture we introduced *Aus* paddy seeds, which were imported from Kamrup. This paddy had never been grown in the Sibsagar subdivision before. We did not stop there; we also introduced winter crops like peas and other things so that those who could not grow *Aus* could get a small amount of money by growing these *Rabi* crops. So, Sir, we are moving in the right direction, but we are hampered by paucity of funds.

Then, Sir, in order to give a slight source of income to our cultivators we have introduced different items, such as poultry farming and sheep breeding. The other day we had a suggestion for horse breeding from my hon. friend Mr. Talukdar. The livestock section of the Agriculture Department is introducing a new variety of duck, called the khaki coloured Campbell variety, which is reputed for its egg-laying power. I am told that this variety produces almost 350 eggs in a year.

Sir, suggestions have been made that the Agriculture Department should not confine itself to mere rice, paddy, potato, etc., but it should also help the people to introduce or to cultivate new kinds of money crops. For example, my hon. friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev has suggested the cultivation of *tung* and long staple cotton. Sir, my friend has probably read about that in a recent issue of the Current Science, but I may tell him that *tung* has been experimented in Assam for a large number of years. If I remember aright, the pioneer in that direction was Mr. Withers, a tea planter, once a member of the old Council, who introduced *tung* cultivation in his tea garden. Since then, various tea planters have been growing *tung* seeds in their own tea plantations. My hon. friend Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta has covered a considerable area in his own tea garden with *tung*. He was kind enough to give me some seeds for experimenting in my own little garden and I have also cultivated a few acres of it. So, in the Assam Valley this cultivation is not a new thing. I don't know about Surma Valley (*A voice*: About 1,200 acres in the Surma Valley are under cultivation of *tung* seeds). Sir, my hon. friend has suggested that we should help some of our unemployed educated youths in growing this crop. I am told by my Hon'ble friend, the Minister-in-charge, that recently he passed orders on two applications for land to grow *tung*, one from Dr. Triguna Sen of Karimganj and one from a gentleman of the Assam Valley. In this way, Sir, whenever we have found enterprising people, we have tried our best to help.

Now, as regards irrigation, we can only say that we have made a small provision of Rs.10,000 for the next year. If this proves beneficial to the cultivators, I can assure the hon. members that the provision will be increased as demand increases.

Then, turning to the point that has been raised by my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali, that attempt should be made to check the flow of Assam jute over the border to Sarishabari. We will consider his suggestion. Sir, I know that quite a large quantity of Assam jute goes over to Sarishabari and passes by that name, because of all places of Bengal, Sarishabari has got the best reputation for jute, and the name itself fetches better price.

Sir, the last point that has been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Jobang D Marak, who is on the Central Lac Cess Committee, is lac. Lac is grown only in the hilly parts of the Mikir Hills, and also to some extent in the Garo Hills. If training our youth in lac growing proves beneficial to the Province, surely we shall try to help them. There is a Laboratory and a Research Institute at a place called Namkum near Ranchi. The Secretary, who was a lady, visited Assam somewhere about 1932. She toured through the lac producing parts of our province and made certain recommendations. Since that time, on account of the depression that set in, the price flopped down heavily and the hill people discontinued growing it. Now, however, in connection with the industrial development due to war we will take up this question, and see if somebody could not be trained at Namkum so that he may be able to induce the people to take it up as a side occupation.

As regards cattle, hon. members are aware that for the purpose of not only to improve the milk strain but also trying to rear up a heavier draft bullock we started two farms—one at Khanapara and the other at Sylhet. Unfortunately the prevalence of Johnes disease in these farms we have stopped issue of cattle to the rural areas therefrom, but as soon as these farms are proved to be free from the disease, cattle will again be issued, and with the help of the Livestock Association which has been started with funds from the Centre, there will be an improvement in our cattle, but the enormity of the task will be realised when I say that the total number of cattle in the province is nearly half a crore.....

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : On a point of information, Sir. Is not the fund exhausted ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It may have been exhausted, but the Association is being helped by Government as well as some charitably minded people.

The other day in my budget speech I adumbrated a scheme which is being enquired into by our Minister for Agriculture. I am glad to find that a journal of repute, the Planters' Journal of Calcutta has noticed that scheme and has made a good suggestion that if we try to introduce tractors probably those for whom this experiment is made will not be able to benefit themselves by the scheme. A suggestion has been made in that article that we should try to introduce an improved indigenous plough which has been invented by the Bengal Agriculture Department — that plough is called "Sobkam" plough. I have not seen this plough with my own eyes, but when I next visit Calcutta I shall make it a point to see whether that plough will suit the small cattle that we have got. The Ministry have done their best in the little space of time before the framing of the Budget. It will not be untrue if I say that our Ministry functioned from December only, and at that time the Budget was very nearly completed, and we have not had time to evolve the agricultural improvements that have been suggested.

I have already discussed the question of activities of new methods of agriculture, of new seeds, and we shall again discuss the matter with our Chemical Botanist, Mr. Nandi, when he comes up again after the session is over, so that with his help and with the help of Dr. S. K. Mitra, who is now the Director of the Department, we will be able to place before the country some improved schemes for improved cultivation.

We know it is essentially necessary, as has been suggested by my hon. friend Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, to have model farms in each district...

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : He said in each thana.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : He said *thana*, but that will be much too ambitious, and so I said district. What we want is intensive cultivation on our holdings that will give more agricultural produce. We will be on the right lines, and I am very thankful to the hon. members of the tea industry who, through Mr. Bendall, suggested that they were willing to give land for the purpose of demonstration if we want demonstration plots in the paddy-cultivating areas of tea gardens. These demonstrations have been going on for a long time, and as our Demonstrators are being gradually appreciated, we have made a small provision for increasing their number.

I again thank hon. members for giving valuable suggestions for extending the operations of our Agriculture Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. member wish to withdraw his motion ?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : I do not wish to press the motion, and ask for leave of the House to withdraw it.

The motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,08,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

The motion was adopted.

GRANT No.24

(43.—INDUSTRIES)

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,11,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "43.—Industries".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,11,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "43.—Industries".

There are 12 cut motions. The first cut motion is in the name of Babu Nirendra Nath Dev.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV : Sir, the party leader says that Mr. Aditya is to move his motion first, and that I am to support his motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The motion is to criticise the general policy of the Department, and as all the other motions are almost on the same lines, if one motion is moved the other members will be able to take part in the debate.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.28,356 under grant No.24 Major head — 43.—Industries, Minor head — A. — Direction Charges, Sub-head — 2. — Pay of Establishment, Detailed head — Clerks, at page 173 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,11,300 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

I could hardly persuade myself to believe that the Hon'ble Finance Minister would be so unkindly disposed towards a Lady Minister who has taken charge of this important portfolio of Industries. I am inclined to think that the confiding simplicity of her nature was taken advantage of by him and when she goes deep into the files she will find that her confidence has been misplaced.

Sir, the total provision for Industries is only Rs.2,46,000 including the amount charged. This charged amount goes towards the salary of the Director of Industries. The sum left after deducting the charged amount is Rs.2,11,00. With this amount at the disposal of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, I do not know how it will be possible for her to improve the industries of this province. It seems that the provision for the Industries Department has been dwindling from year to year. In the last Budget for instance, the total provision was Rs.2,76,000 and this year we see that it is reduced to Rs.2,56,000.

For new schemes also the provision made in the new Budget is Rs.5,540 whereas in the current year's Budget it is Rs.14,275. So the provisions are being reduced year after year to a ridiculously low figure. The other day, I referred to the provision made for education in the United Provinces and other provinces. The Hon'ble Premier in reply quoted figures of the pre-autonomous days and tried to show that no credit was due to the Congress Ministry, for their education budget in the United Provinces. Here also I am tempted to quote the budget figures for the United Provinces. In the United Provinces, in the year 1939-40 the budget provision for Industries comes up to Rs.30,00,000, the exact figure is Rs.29,36,425 and the amount charged is Rs.22,035. To anticipate the Hon'ble Premier, I would quote the figures for 1935-36 which is the last pre-autonomy year. The corresponding figures for Industries in the United Provinces, in that year were Rs.11,16,990 plus non-voted Rs.41,145. In the Punjab also the budgetary provision for Industries is Rs.2,14,62,000 in 1939-40 and there is no charged amount here. When you compare the ratio of revenue to the allotment in Industries in those provinces, we will find in what a hopeless position we are here. Sir, we pay direction charges in Assam to the tune of Rs.69,000 against the total disbursement of less than two lakhs, whereas in the United Provinces, they pay near about a lakh as direction charges for a total of Rs.30,00,000 in this Department. Of course, we have a Civilian Director and we have to pay more. But we would not have grudged this payment if the Government had provided sufficient funds for the Department to work. It comes to this that we are maintaining a lion and feeding him with a rabbit. That is certainly not fair.

About new schemes this year, we note that rearing of fish will be tried as a cottage industry. I do not know how rearing of fish can be experimented as a cottage industry. I am not aware if any scheme has been put forward to the Government for pisciculture. One Inspector may be appointed for that purpose. But my point is that as Government have not yet been furnished with any scheme for the propagation of fish in the province, they will be putting the cart before the horse. As regards *ghee*, I do not know what tangible improvement will be made in the manufacture of *ghee* that will be undertaken by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. But I am sure the question could not be dealt with provincially. It may be that some dealers or graziers of a particular locality will benefit by it but it will not tackle the needs of the province as a whole. These are the only two new schemes of which the Department can boast of this year.

Just a while ago when we were discussing the Agriculture Budget, the Hon'ble Premier referred to the shortness of time during which he had to prepare his Budget. But although he pleaded inability to put in new schemes, he was quite alert in cutting down the schemes which were already provided for in the Budget by the Congress Ministry. If hon. members would refer to the schemes on Industries that were incorporated by the Ministry

that resigned, they would find that various schemes such as training in handicrafts, tannery, etc., were put forward by the old Ministry for an all-round development of small industries of the province; but everything else has been cut out and only fish and *ghee* remain to the credit of the Department now. Some hon. members have already referred to the war time conditions prevailing in the country. It is really high time that we should take advantage of the situation and develop our industries in the province. This province is certainly not suited for big industries in view of the difficulties of supply of fuel and power and also on account of marketing difficulties. But it is pre-eminently suited for cottage industries and we naturally expected that the Industries Department with the help of the Finance would give some schemes for taking up medium size industries. We are really disappointed that no such scheme has been shaped and the Ministry likes to satisfy the province with fish and unadulterated *ghee*. But whether this fish and *ghee* alone would serve for the breakfast of the province it is for the House to say.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.28,356 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—A.—Direction Charges, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Clerks, at page 173 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,11,300 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Industries will kindly excuse me for any harsh language that I may have to use in connection with this cut motion. I wish, I could have spared her Department from any attack. But this is so vitally connected with the future development of the province that I feel it my bounden duty to say a few words about the working of this department in our province. My hon. friend, Mr. Aditya, was saying that the Department has been in charge of a lion, and that is my complaint too and I begin with that. As for the Agriculture Department, we have got an officer with special qualifications in agriculture and he has been in the service from the bottom. For the Education Department we have got an educational expert who has been in the Department for a long time. In the Veterinary Department likewise we have got an expert in veterinary matters. In the Engineering Department we have got an expert engineer and so on. But as for the Industries Department, an Indian Civil Service or a Provincial Executive Service man on the verge of retirement, is put in charge of the Department and since the creation of this Department the post of the Director of Industries has been a sinecure and a prize post for the high salaried officers. Sir, we have shown a lamentable lack of imagination so far in not giving this Department to the charge of a properly qualified and properly trained officer. We can expect nothing from this Department so long we do not put an industrial expert in charge of the Department.

Sir, as regards money, Rs.69,000 goes towards direction charges of this Department. In the Budget Memorandum at page 60 we find, that there are three sections, *e. g.*, industrial education, industrial development and sericulture in charge of the Director of Industries. These three departments the Director of Industries has to control. As regards the two departments, industrial development and sericulture, we can put them in the hands of the Director of Agriculture. So far as industrial education is concerned, I find that the Government in their resolution published in the Gazette of 28th February last says that the two institutions at Jorhat and Sylhet produced 65 qualified students in the last few years and out of this 65, only 10

so far have been employed in service or in private business and so the Government thinks that it is high time that we should consider whether this expenditure of over half a lakh of rupees for these two institutions is at all worthwhile. If the position has come to that, and if we are to close down those two institutions I think, there will be very little left of industrial education. Even with these institutions, I submit, this department could very well be transferred under the Director of Education and the other two departments, *i. e.*, industrial development and sericulture could very well be placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture and by arranging matters like this we can save at least Rs.69,000 for the purposes of industrial education and industrial development. If we could, by transferring this Rs 69,000 towards scholarship, train some of our young men in industries in foreign countries and in other provinces of India, we could have done some solid service to the country.

My hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee raised in the Public Accounts Committee the question of the possibility of starting a chemical laboratory with the sum of Rs.3,000 to Rs.4,000 which year after year we are giving to the Bengal Government towards the Chemical Examiner's fees and when the suggestion was made that we should have a chemical laboratory of our own in the province, Colonel Phipson, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, said that with the present staff it would not be possible to have the work done and that we would require an expert for the purpose. This, he said, would be a very costly thing. So far as the expert is concerned, I agree with the Colonel, but when he says that it will be a costly thing I do completely disagree with him. Sir, we have got to tell these gentlemen that we are not going to do things in these old ways any more. We have had enough experience in the meanwhile to know that Indian specialists on scientific subjects are equally if not more efficient now-a-days—and they cost much less. So it is high time that we should seriously consider whether we cannot stop this amount of Rs.3,000 to Rs.5,000 going to another province and divert the amount to the present laboratory in the Pasteur Institute and start a nucleus of a chemical laboratory there. There is an abundant supply of raw materials in our province and most of them could be made highly profitable if properly analysed chemically. I understand, the Excise Department also has to send some money to Calcutta and Gajipur for testing drugs. We could have taken up all these works and saved a big amount if we had started a chemical laboratory of our own in the province, placing the same in charge of qualified Indian. I submit, with this Rs.69,000 we could have done a lot of things. My hon. friend, Mr. Marak, was talking about lac industry in Assam. As far as my experience goes, our producers in this province if they want to export lac have to pay a freight for 16 seers in every maund for nothing. If we had a chemical laboratory of our own stick lac could easily be turned into seed lac and this freight for 16 seers in every maund could be saved. Moreover with the outbreak of war, the lac industry has got a very good opportunity and in fact our lac might fetch a good price if we could avoid sending raw lac in this way. During the pre-war days our producers did not get more than Rs. 6 or 7 per maund of lac. The European war has opened an opportunity for the lac industry. Some chemical treatment and some small machineries are all that is required to help our people in this industry to get some more money out of it. Our Hon'ble friend, Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury, was a member of the Drug Enquiry Committee and I hope he remembers that it was the recommendation of that Central Drug Enquiry Committee that every province should have its own chemical laboratory for testing drugs before giving certificate,

to the drugs that are imported and also to the drugs that are manufactured within the province. I think, we should have our own chemical laboratory very soon otherwise the markets of this province will be dumped with all sorts of spurious drugs which are rejected by other provinces. From all these, I consider that it is high time that a chemical laboratory should be started in the province and that steps should be taken immediately to that end. With regard to industrial development, we have seen that the Government of India has already proposed to start an Industrial Development Board and I think they desire that the Provincial Governments should also have their own Development Boards. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Industries to consider whether we should not have an Industrial Board in our province like that of Government of India and find out what possibilities there are for making improvements in the industrial wealth of the province. Before I resume my seat, I would again appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to see if he cannot accept my suggestion that—if we are not going to have a real industrial expert at the head of affairs it is high time that we should divide the work of this Department between the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Public Instruction and thus save at least this Rs.69,000 for some solid work.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words, because I found my hon. friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev angry with the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Certainly not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : He found fault with the Director of Industries because he is not an expert. Is it necessary that an expert should be appointed as Director to work out the policy? Does my hon. friend want that a carpenter or a weaver should be the Director of Industries? Though we the members are not experts in industries, still we can criticise and put forward suggestions before the Government and similarly the Director simply brings the policy of the Government to work, and I think no expert is necessary at all. What we want with regard to industry is expansion of industrial scheme throughout the length and breadth of the province as there is much scope for its expansion in this province. But our Industries Department cannot go beyond the scope of the cottage industry and there is the difficulty, but still I think Government can expand the scheme of home industry throughout the whole province. Government have, up-till now, limited their work only to certain areas and I suggest that they take other areas in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar and bring out some industrial schemes there. Many peasants pass their time without doing anything in the rainy season as the areas are low-lying and remain water-logged. Any schemes of industry which would be successful there may be tried and I put this suggestion before the Government with the hope that they will soon take this into consideration and exert their energies towards this matter. But, I must say, that I do not share the sentiment expressed by my hon. friend Mr. Nirendra Dev. With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমাৰ এই প্ৰদেশত ঘৰুৱা শিল্পৰ বিশেষ সুবিধা থকা সত্ত্বেও উক্ত বিষয়ৰ উন্নতিত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট একেবাৰেই উদাসীন। আসামত পাট, মুগা, এৰি, কপাহ আদিৰ খেতি আৰু তাঁতশাল থকা সত্ত্বেও আসামৰ গাওঁ ভূই বিলাক দিনে দিনে ইমান দুৰ্দশাগ্ৰস্ত হৈ গৈছে যে তাক দেখিলে আচৰিত হব লাগে। চিলটীয়া এজন মুছলমান পুলিচ অফিচাৰে য়োক এদিন গুৰিছিল—“আপোনা-

Opium

সকলৰ এই ফালৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ খাজনাৰ কাৰণে মাটি নিলামত যায় কিয় ?” মই শুধিলোঁ—“ আপোনাৰ সেই দৰে সোধাৰ কাৰণ কি ?” তেখেতে কলে—“ আপোনা সকলৰ ইয়াত প্ৰত্যেক মানুহৰে নিজা মাট বাৰী আছে আৰু প্ৰত্যেক ঘৰত তীব্ৰ শাল চলে আৰু গোটেই পৃথিবীত নোহোৱা মুগা, এৰিৰ পেতি আছে আৰু তাৰ উপৰিও পাট, মেজাৰুৰী আৰু কপাহ প্ৰচুৰ পৰিমাণে হয়। এই ভেলীত ধান পেতি অইন ঠাইতকৈ বেচি হয়। এই অগ্ৰাণ্ড ঠাইতকৈ মাটিও সাৰুৱা এই বিলাক দেখি শুনিয়েই আচৰিত হৈ আপোনাক শুধিলোঁ।” মই কলোঁ—“অপুনি কোৱা কথা সম্পূৰ্ণ সত্য”। অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ইমানবোৰ সুবিধা থকা স্বত্বেও অসমীয়া মানুহৰ এই দুৰ্গতিৰ কাৰণ একমাত্ৰ কানি।

“ কেপা কানি বিহব শেষ,

কানীয়াৰ নাই জ্ঞানৰ লেশ ;

হাঁয়, হাঁয় কি ঘোৰ ক্লেশ,

কানীয়াই খালে আসাম দেশ। ”

আৰু কানি বৰ বিহব দৰে এটা বিহ বৃটিছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দৰে এটা সুসভ্য গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে গাৱেঁ ভুঁয়ে দোকান পাতি প্ৰচলন কৰি আছে—ইয়াতকৈ লাজৰ কথা একো হব নোৱাৰে। তাতোকৈ লাজৰ আৰু দুখৰ বিষয় বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ ভিতৰত চাৰ মহম্মদ চাছলা চাহাবে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী হিচাবে লগত শ্ৰীযুত বোহিনী কুমাৰ চৌধুৰীৰ দৰে খাঁটি অসমীয়া মানুহহেই কংগ্ৰেচ যুক্ত মণ্ডলীয়ে একেবাৰে কানি উঠাব খোজা নীতি বদ কৰি……

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member will do well not to dilate upon that. He must speak to the point under consideration.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : এদিনলৈ হলেও কানি দোকান খুলি কানি চলাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা (*laughter*)। তাতোকৈ আচৰিত কানিৰ গ্ৰাসত একেবাৰেই পোত খাই থকা বেকওয়ার্ড ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলে উক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সভাত যোগদান কৰা আৰু তাৰ ভিতৰত হুজনে মন্ত্ৰী সভাত থাকিও উক্ত নীতি সমৰ্থন কৰা। গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যদি এই আসাম প্ৰদেশখনৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ সঁচাকৈয়ে মন থাকিল হেতেন তেন্তে এই প্ৰদেশত প্ৰাকৃতিক বিবোৰ সুবিধা আছে নিশ্চয় তাৰ সুবিধা ললে হেতেন। বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে আমাৰ এই প্ৰদেশত থকা প্ৰাকৃতিক সুবিধা বিলাকৰ সুবিধাটলৈ দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ চিন্তা কৰা দুৰৈত থাকুক নিজৰ পেট ভৰোৱাতহে ব্যস্ত থকা দেখা গৈছে।

আমাৰ এই খেতি আৰু শিল্প প্ৰধান দেশ খনত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কৃষি আৰু শিল্প এই দুটা ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট কেৱল মানুহক দেখুৱাই ভুৱা দিবৰ বাবেই কৰিছে তাত সন্দেহ নাই। এই দুটা ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টত বেচি দৰমহাৰ উচ্চ কৰ্মচাৰী দি টকা অপব্যয় কৰাত বাজে একোলাভ হোৱা নাই।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He is speaking on agriculture.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The difficulty is that I cannot understand the language. The hon. member should remember that the motion relates to the department of Industry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I could understand some portion of his speech and I say that he is launching a general discussion of budget instead of industry.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: মই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক দোষ দিব নোৱাৰোঁ। কাৰণ কৰ্মচাৰী নিযুক্ত কৰি সেই সকলক বান কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা নিদিলে কাম কেনেকৈ কৰিব? তাৰ প্ৰমাণ স্বৰূপ শিল্প বিভাগৰ চেৰি কাল্‌চাৰ আৰু উইভিং ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট এই দুয়ো ভাগতে ডিমন্‌ষ্ট্ৰেটৰ একেবাৰেই কম আৰু সেই ডিমন্‌ষ্ট্ৰেটৰ বিলাকক কাম কৰিবলৈ সজুলি আৰু সুবিধা যিমান লাগে সেই মতে দিয়া হোৱা নাই। গোলাঘাটত উইভিং ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ ডিমন্‌ষ্ট্ৰেটৰ মাত্ৰ এজন। সেইজন ডেবগাৱঁত থাকে আৰু তেওঁ যোৰহাটতো কাম কৰিব লাগে। এজন মানুহৰ পক্ষে দুখন চৰ্ভিভিজনত কাম কৰা সম্ভৱ হব পাৰেনে? সেই দৰেই চেৰিকালচাৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টতো। অথচ জাপান আৰু অন্যান্য দেশ বিলাকে এই শিল্পৰ উন্নতি কৰি বিশেষকৈ চিন্ধৰ স্থতা কাপোৰৰ পৰা কত লক্ষ লক্ষ টকা আমাৰ ইয়াৰ পৰাই নিব লাগিছে তাৰ অন্ত নাই। আমাৰ ইয়াতো তাতকৈ উন্নতি কৰাৰ স্থল যে আছে তাত অলপো সন্দেহ নাই। তাৰ প্ৰমাণ শিৱসাগৰত শ্ৰীযুত বিমলা প্ৰসাদ চন্নিহাই নকটাপিত আৰু লাকোৱাত খাদিৰ centre কৰি সামান্য সাহায্যেৰে যি উন্নতি কৰিছে তাৰ পৰা বহুত গাৱঁৰ মানুহে উশাহ পাইছে। তেখেতে মুগা হতাৰ কাৰবাৰ কৰি গাৱঁৰ মানুহক যিটো উদগণি দিছিল, যদি ধনৰ সহায় ভালকৈ হ'লহেঁতেন তেন্তে সেই কাৰবাৰৰ পৰা গাৱঁলায়া ৰাইজৰ এটা ডাঙৰ উৎসাহ বাঢ়িল হেঁতেন।

মিকিৰ পাহাৰত এৰি আৰু কপাহ খেতি সম্প্ৰতি আছে যদিও গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে মিকিৰ সকলক যি সুবিধাৰ দৰ্কাৰ তাক ভাল মতে দিয়া হলে আজি মিকিৰ সকলক যি দুৰ্গতি দেখা গৈছে তেনে নহ'ল হেঁতেন। মিকিৰ পাহাৰতো পাট খেতিৰ প্ৰচলন কৰিব পৰা সুবিধা বহুত আছে। মই বিশেষকৈ বান পানীৰ উপদ্ৰৱ হোৱা ঠাই বিলাকত এৰি, মুগা, আৰু পাট খেতিৰ প্ৰচলনৰ বাবে ১৯৩৮ চনত কেইটামান প্ৰস্তাৱ দি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক হ'নাইছিলোঁ। তাৰ ফল স্বৰূপেই হব পায়, মাজুলিত পাট পোহাৰ যত্ৰ অলপ হৈছে। শ্ৰদ্ধাস্পদ গড়মূৰীয়া সত্ৰাধিকাৰ প্ৰভুৱেও আৰু বৰ এলেক্সি সত্ৰাধিকাৰ প্ৰভুৱেও উক্ত বিষয়ে যত্ন লোৱা বিনে জানি সুখী হৈছে আৰু তেখেত সকলক আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছোঁ। চেৰি কাল্‌চাৰ

চুপাৰিটেণ্টেণ্ট শ্ৰীযুত বমানন্দ শৰ্ম্মা ডাঙৰীয়াক মাজুলিত কৰা যত্নৰ বাবে পত্ৰবাদ জনাইছোঁ আৰু তেখেতক এৰি, মুগা, পাট, মেজাঙ্কৰী আদি খেতি কৰাৰ সহজ প্ৰণালী আৰু তাৰ পৰা লাভ কিদৰে হয় সকলো বাইজৰ মাজত বহুল প্ৰচাৰ কৰিবলৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সুবিধা দিব বুলি আশাও কৰিলোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will finish.

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: আৰু এক মিনিট Sir.

বিশ্ববৈশিষ্ট শিল্প বিভাগৰ ভাৰ মহিলা মন্ত্ৰীৰ হাতত পৰাত ইয়াৰ বিশেষ উন্নতি কিছু হ'ব বুলি আশা হৈছিল। কিন্তু তথৰ বিয়য়, বাজেটত শিল্পৰ উন্নতিৰ বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা দেখা নগল। শিল্পৰ উন্নতিৰ বাটত আৰু এটা বাধা আমাৰ ভদ্ৰলোক আৰু মহিলা সকলে বিদেশী চিক্ৰ আৰু কাপোৰ ভাল পোৱাটো আশা কৰোঁ। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহাশয়ই আমামত হোৱা এৰি, মুগা, পাট, মেজাঙ্কৰী আদি নিজে পিন্ধি ধৰুৱা শিল্পৰ উদগণি দিব আৰু ভাৰতৰ দ্বিতীয় মহিলা মন্ত্ৰীৰ নাম ৰাখিব।

Maulvi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the point raised in criticising Government that a technical expert should be at the head of the department is not a new point. In fact, I have been criticising for the last few years that to put a non-technical man at the top of the Department of Industries is nothing but a sheer waste of money. My hon. friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has argued that it is essentially necessary that a highly educated man should be placed at the head. His argument was that it is not always necessary that a technically trained man should be put at the top. But I think, Sir, that it is essentially necessary that a man having technical knowledge in industry should be placed at the top of that department. Unless the man at the head is fully trained in that particular department and has the necessary technical equipment and unless he is in full possession of knowledge as to the necessity of that industry, I do not think he can put a well-thought out scheme before the Government.

Sir, it has been our experience for the last few years that the department is getting no expansion in any branch of the cottage industries. It was said before the House that there should be an expansion of the tanning industry. It is no doubt a very good industry, which is very profitable and which will supply one of the necessities of the people and which as such deserves expansion. But so far no such scheme has been developed by the departmental authorities. Again, Sir, there is the Weaving Department which is now functioning in the province with a very slow progress. It is probably known to many hon. members that the Weaving Department has done splendid work in Eastern Bengal. But in our province, Sir, for want of raw materials our weavers cannot manufacture good kinds of cloth. It is the general cry that at the time of their necessity they cannot get the necessary raw materials. So many weavers have to give up their profession. The number of weavers in the province is not small, but there is regular want of raw materials as there is no stock maintained either by Government or private individuals. In this connection I may suggest, Sir, that a co-operative weaving association may be started in the province so as to enable the weavers to take up weaving business.

Again, Sir, there is the soap industry, and some other small industries. The soap industry was started on an experimental basis and an officer was appointed by the Government for the purpose. But this officer could not be utilised for a considerable period of time at a place and a number of students had to go away for want of proper coaching. Even by writing to the departmental authorities the officer could not be retained in a place in order to finish the training of students in that particular area.

If we have to take up an industrial business, let the Government come forward with some well planned scheme so as to give proper facilities to the people of the province in those particular branches and after that let them take up another branch. If we handle so much at a time with little funds at our disposal, we cannot achieve much success.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member should finish.

Maulvi ABDUR RAHMAN : Certain criticism has been made by the hon. mover that the amount allotted in the budget under this department is a very scanty one. It is true, Sir. But we do not generally look to the resources of the province and make this sort of criticism in regard to almost every branch. While going through the demands under so many heads we have made a similar criticism and we have always got the reply of paucity of funds. With these observations, I draw the attention of the Government to my suggestion.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN : Sir, I rise to support the motion. This Industries Department like the Agriculture Department which has been highly criticised by this House is also maintained for show only. In the list there are no new schemes, except very small ones and they have only been useful for criticising or vilifying one community as against the other (*Hear, hear.*) Sir, the remarks I speak of were made against a particular community who are peaceful traders settled in Assam many long years ago.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think those remarks have been dropped. Why should the hon. member take them up again ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Who is the officer responsible for it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is already admitted that these remarks were wrong and they have been withdrawn. There is no necessity to harp on them again.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN : Has any explanation been called for from the officer concerned ? Sir, if I am correct, my resolution was passed on the floor of this House in the year 1938 recommending that the Government should appoint a committee of experts to find out new resources for starting big industries. But since then, nothing has been done on that recommendation. Steps should have been taken by this time for starting some big industries like paper, cement or jute mills as other provinces have done. My friend Mr. Aditya has already pointed out that our Industries Budget is on the decline ; but the Government should note that the uplift of the province depends on the development of the industries of the province. But there is always that question of paucity of funds. This paucity will not be solved unless this question of industries is solved. Funds will be available if Government takes loan from the open market, because this will not only solve the unemployment question, but will also enrich our finances to a great extent.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an admitted fact that the economic development of the country could not be expedited without industrial development. It is really a sad

thing that three years of the life of this Constitution have been spent, but we could not proceed on this line. Assam is endowed by nature with sufficient materials. But how far we should proceed is a matter to be thought of because we are not experts. As already suggested a committee of experts should be invited and they should be asked to survey the raw materials of the province. We have enough materials for industrial development. We have agricultural products, animal products, forest products and mineral products. As regards agricultural products, I can mention jute. Mr. Abdur Rahman said that so far as Durrie Weaving is concerned, at Sylhet there is one factory which is not much patronised. But I am afraid that for want of Government help, they could not do much. As regards animal products, we can think of tannery. I can say that there is a number of families in our part who have made immense progress so far as tannery is concerned. The Gossainagar cobblers have done much. I think Government should see whether they can help these people. As regards the forest product, I can mention *agar*. Our forests are giving us sufficient quantity of this. And as my friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev has mentioned, there is enough scope for the development of this industry. As regards mineral products are concerned, I can mention oil and cement, etc. These are large scale industries and there should be co-ordination with other provinces. The Central Government has already started a Central Board for the development of big industries. As regards big industries these should not be left with one province alone ; there should be co-ordination with other provinces. The Government should not leave the department in the hands of one lay gentleman. There is war. This is a very opportune moment and we should not lose time. If money is needed, there are my friends coming from the business community.

With these words, I draw the attention of the Government to the facts I have stated.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope the hon. mover of the cut motion will excuse me if I fail to produce a rabbit like a magician from my hat and flood the country with industrial projects. True to his name, the mover has made only destructive criticism while the following speaker, the "watergod" Babu Nirendra Nath Dev has made constructive criticism of this department. I am really at a loss what to say to the various criticisms that have been let loose on the floor of the House. I heard very eloquent condemnation of the fact that we have not got an expert as our Director of Industries. I have been complaining since the beginning of this session that our duty is to lay all facts and figures before this august Assembly. It is up to hon. members to read them, to digest them and to utilise them in any way they can. They know that our Industries Department is limited only to the cottage industries only. Our "industries" are weaving ; we have got a branch of sericulture. We have got two schools—the Jorhat Technical School and the Surma Valley Technical School—where we have got artisan classes for mechanics ; we have got motor class ; we have got carpentry class ; all included under "Industries". Sir if we were to accede to the request of these hon. members who want that an expert should be provided at the head of this Department, I think I will have to take their help to give us a superman who in himself will combine the expert weaver, the expert mechanic, the expert carpenter and the expert sericulturist. I think, Sir, the hon. member will search in vain for such a combination of qualities in one man. Therefore, we have got to have a man who has got knowledge of the cottage industries that are flourishing in the province—a man with administrative experience and if possible a man with imagination.

Sir, a little while ago one hon. member wanted to imbue this House with the so-called influence of *kani*, i. e., opium. Probably under that influence we have forgotten that at one time we had a listed officer—to use the words of my hon. friend Srijut Debeswar Sarmah, even a Sub-Judge—who presided over the combined Departments of Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries, and Co-operative Societies. (*A voice* : Not a Civil Surgeon?)

It was at that time complained that we should have decentralisation and should have experts presiding over different branches. Pursuant to that wish, Government have steadily gone from step to step, and have given expert heads to all departments excepting this department of Industries who, however, has got experts in all the branches of the Department to advise him. My friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev has said—I don't know how he made that slip—that the Head of this Department is costing the province Rs.69,000 (Mr. Nirendra Nath Dev : I said with establishment). Sir, the establishment includes all the officers of the Department including our experts in the Weaving Department, Sericulture Department, and in the two schools. Surely, we pay the scale of the Indian Civil Service to our present Head of the Department, Mr. Mehta, but we must remember that whether he functions as the Director of Industries or in any executive capacity somewhere else, the province will have to give his salary. Therefore, there is no getting away from the fact that the province of Assam has got to bear the cost of his salary, whether he be placed in charge of a district or in charge of this Department. (*A voice* : There may be some saving in future.) No, if it happens at all it will be at the time of our grand-children (*laughter*). Now, Sir, it is distinctly shown in our Budget Estimates that Mr. Mehta is in charge not merely of the Industries Department, but also of the Department of Co-operative Societies; not a pie of his salary has been shown in the Budget of the Co-operative Societies. Under audit ruling the entire sum has been shown under "Industries", which has swelled the figure of cost of direction under this Department.

Now, I come to the main point. My hon. friend Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin has referred to his resolution, which he had moved in the December 1938 Session and which was carried by the House. I am sorry to find, Sir, that the then Government staged the play of Hamlet without giving the character of the Prince of Denmark to my hon. friend, the sponsor of that resolution. I find, Sir, from the record of "the proceedings of a meeting of the Industrial Section of the Advisory Committee of the Assam Development Board, held in pursuance of the resolution of Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin, M.L.A., passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its December Session, 1938," the names of Mr. Rabindra Nath Aditya, Maulavi Abdul Aziz, Srijut Beliram Das and Srijut Dharsing Deuri from amongst the members of our Legislature. The Hon'ble Premier of that period, Mr. Bardoloi and the then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali, were present and addressed the meeting.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : On a point of information to the Hon'ble Premier. Mr. Brahmin was elected a member of that Committee, but he could not be present.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I cannot speak about what happened behind my back, but I am now speaking from the records.

A voice : He says he was not asked to attend.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : But I know definitely that he was elected to the Committee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :

Sir, I am not concerned whether Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin was invited or not, but I find from the proceedings that when even non-members were invited and joined the deliberations—I find the names of Mr. S. Purkayastha of Habiganj, Mr. Purnendu Kumar Sen Gupta of Vidyasram, Mr. Bimala Prasad Chaliha from Sibsagar—the name of Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin is absent, and he states that he never got any invitation to attend that Committee. Sir, my task has been very greatly lightened by the forceful speech that was delivered on that occasion by my hon. friend the then Premier. He said, Sir — I am quoting from his speech which I find in the file —“the question of big industries is necessarily inter-related with big capital, and it must be known that the province as a whole is poor in capital. Of course after we have been able to know our position in regard to these it will be possible to invite capital from outside. But what we have so far lacked is that we do not know where we are ; we do not know all our resources ; we are told that we are very rich in *flora* and *fauna*, but we do not know what they are. So any big industries or enterprise cannot be established. So far as big industries are concerned, a survey is essential and that survey cannot be done for want of experts. The survey shall have to be done by several experts. It is very difficult to foresee now and I consider it to be a difficult matter”. Later on he says, “what we are particularly concerned to-day is the development of cottage industries. We are, as I said just now, having certain industries in the province and only one industry that can be said to have run with some degree of organisation is the weaving. How these industries could be improved and developed will be for you to consider and give your advice”.

Sir, I have also got the resolutions that were adopted at that meeting, and which were evolved on the advice of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and the Hon'ble Premier of the time. The first resolution passed at the meeting says, “That the question of an exhaustive industrial survey of the province be deferred for the present till after the finding of the All-India Planning Committee and that all possible information be collected by the Department regarding the feasibility of introducing only a few selected industries in addition to the existing cottage industries”. Sir, as I mentioned, this meeting was held in March 1939, and we are now in March 1940, but up till now we have not got any information collected by the department regarding other industries. The second resolution says, “that a Sub-Committee comprising of Mr. Rabindra Nath Aditya be formed to re-examine the rules regarding the issue of industrial loans with a view to facilitate their issue and to examine the question of industrial finance. Resolved further that the rules regarding the issue of industrial loans in regard to the security of immovable property and reduction of rate of interest and also with regard to the extension of time for payment may be framed by the Government.”

The third resolution says, “Resolved that a scheme be prepared for the purpose of large scale production of *muga* and *endi* yarn and manufacture of cloth in a factory and for marketing the same in different places within and outside the province.”

The fourth resolution says, “Resolved that subsidies be granted at Rs.15 per mensem to passed students of recognised technical and industrial schools for the promotion of improved methods of production. Each student so entertained will have to run a small factory of his own at a minimum capital of not less than Rs.250 in selected areas. He should entertain 4 apprentices and maintain an attendance register and proper trading account in a simple

form to show the working of the concern which would be duly examined and certified by the Inspecting Officers of the Department of Industries."

The fifth resolution says, "Resolved that spinning and weaving classes be opened in girls' schools in the province and that the details be worked out by the Director of Industries. It was further resolved that 10 schools be taken up each year".

The sixth resolution says, "Resolved that Government be requested to consider the application of the All-India Spinners' Association for a loan favourably".

These are the resolutions which were passed by the then Government. We have been criticised that the fish and ghee which have been provided by us for the breakfast of our countryside.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Prime Minister need not refer to all these things.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Probably my hon. friends wish to discard it as they think it is adulterated ghee. But the ghee scheme was recommended by the previous Government.....

A voice: Are you sure that this time it will be pure?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, it will be pure this time.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, I do not want to press the motion and beg leave of the House to withdraw the same.

The motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,11,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head 43.—Industries".

The motion was adopted.

GRANT No. 13

(28.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,60,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,60,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1941, for the administration of the head 28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs 10,000 under Grant No.13, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A—District Jails, Sub-head—5.—Contingencies—(i)—Non-contract, Detailed head—Lump provision for Jail Reforms, at page 93 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,60,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, the object of my cut motion is to raise a discussion about jail reforms.

The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Jails seems to have become very glad by providing a sum of Rs.10,000 for reforms in jails; but in reality his idea of jail reforms seems to be very narrow. From the notes with regard to the new schemes, I can come to the conclusion that Government thinks that

reforms have been complete through insertion of only 8 items of small expenditure. To give relief to the prisoners from unlimited and shameful sufferings, more drastic reforms are necessary. I shall make an attempt to cite some instances.

As regards diet, the C Division prisoners get rice, *dal* or fish—(fish twice a week)—and a vegetable curry for each of the two main meals. For hard working prisoners the quantity and quality of fish and vegetables actually given are not sufficient. They do not get what, even according to the Jail Manual, they are entitled to have. Vegetables are produced by prisoners themselves, but they enjoy the worst shares of the vegetables. The Government should enquire and set things all right. Fish should be given to prisoners everyday and meat once a fortnight. Fruits such as mangoes, guavas, lemons, etc., are given in some of the jails of Assam. But the prisoners do not get the advantage of using them.

As to dining plates and cups, I am glad Government has ordered for the replacement of brass cooking pots in place of iron utensils. But iron plates and cups are to be replaced gradually. In my opinion they should be replaced at once. Prisoners experience great difficulties in using them. They take a considerable amount of time in cleansing and in cleansing them the prisoners take recourse to dishonest means for securing oil and peices of cloth. The round plates dance at the time of taking meals by the prisoners. Both of their hands are to be engaged—one in putting morsels to the mouth and the other in keeping the plate steady. So these cups and plates should be replaced by either enamel or alluminium articles.

As regards clothings at present one coat, one *jangia* and one *gamcha* are supplied to the prisoners. But these are not sufficient. In the washing day, if owing to rain the coat and *gamcha* are not dried, a prisoner has to sleep at night bare-bodied on blanket which pricks him and thus his sleep is disturbed, and so hard work next day also suffers. So another *gamcha* and coat to each of the prisoners are required to be supplied.

As to beddings, I have already told how inconvenient it is to sleep on blankets. A bed sheet should also be supplied. I understand Government has ordered for pillows, but mosquito curtains are essentially necessary to be supplied to each of the prisoners.

Latrines.—The shameful practice of passing stools in one place and of washing in a distant place must be discontinued. The persons serving as prisoners have not completely lost their right of being decent and civilised. They are to pass before other persons and jail officials almost in a naked condition. So this system should be abolished at once.

There are other reforms required to be made. I want to bring before the hon. members of the House one of them. Smuggling, stealing and bribery, etc. for which they are convicted outside are often committed by them inside the jail. An impartial committee should be formed by Government and after enquiry by that committee proper steps should be taken to stop all these corruptions inside the jail.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.13, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A—District Jails, Sub-head—5.—Contingencies—(i)—Non-contract, Detailed head—Lump provision for Jail Reforms, at page 93 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,60,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I rise to speak on this motion I feel that the portfolio of Jails and Convict Settlements is quite safe in the hands of my friend Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri who is a habitual jail-goer himself (*laughter*). He has experience

of jail life. He has also experience of jail portfolio during his regime of Ministership in the previous Ministry. He has to be sympathetic for the jail population more than anybody else. On the other hand, Sir, the jail can never be converted into a bed of roses, to make it a welcome place for the thieves and dacoits.

Ghani Labour.—Sir, it goes to the credit of the present Minister in charge of Jails that he has abolished the cruel system of *Ghani* labour during his regime of office in the previous Ministry, and had taken to other jail reforms.

Diet.—Sir, my friend the mover of the motion is fresh from the jail and he has suggested improvement of the jail dietary in the light of his recent experience. He has prescribed mangoes, guavas, cauliflowers, etc., for all the prisoners because the jail grows all these. But, Sir, he was a political prisoner and if all the prisoners, according to him, are to be treated with these, jail will be a more welcome place for thieves and dacoits (*loud laughter*).

Then about mosquito curtains, I believe it is not hard to supply them.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : They have been supplied already.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : So, Sir, the number of items that he has mentioned about jail reforms have mostly been complied with and I do not think that at this moment much of jail reform regarding their comfort is necessary. My hon. friend Mr. Marak says that the mosquito curtains have been supplied and he is a Jail visitor. (*A voice: At the cost of the prisoners.*) So the health of the population inside the jail is quite safe from mosquito bite also.

With these words, I like to oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to the hon. Mover of this motion as well as to the other hon. members that spoke on it, for throwing out certain suggestions for reforms in jails. As hon. members of the House are aware, I am very keen to introduce all possible reforms in the Jail—rather I will go a step further and say that I am rather an impatient reformist so far as jail reform is concerned.

Sir, as regards the complaint about diet, I may inform hon. members of this House that I had the privilege of visiting several jails recently and I have also had the honour of having been a political prisoner in jail sometime ago. All that I need say in this matter is, that the food now supplied is considerably improved since and is being constantly improved. Recently, Sir, a suggestion was put forward for improving the food and it was found that it would cost us Rs.56,000. Although it will be difficult to find out the whole amount, I hope to be able to introduce some more improvement in the food by making provision in the next year's budget; but for the present we have only provided for very urgent needs as far as our funds permitted.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : On a point of information, Sir, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the jail vegetables are also accounted for in this budget?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I could not quite follow the question. But first let me finish with what I have got to say in the few minutes at my disposal.

While we are considering about these reforms, another side of the picture is to be remembered by the hon. members of this House. There is now a general complaint that imprisonment in jails does not bring in much of rigorous work. After the abolition of *ghani* there is no way of giving hard

labour to the prisoners. And also one has got to be very careful in jail with certain class of prisoners. I would give an instance that has recently happened in Nowgong to show that we have a difficult class of people to deal with in prison. One prisoner, H. Barua, who went on hunger strike, put as his demand, that he would not give up his hunger-strike unless *swaraj* was granted as demanded by Mahatma Gandhi.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Under which section was he convicted ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: He was previously convicted but on this occasion he was only an undertrial prisoner. He had previous convictions for cheating. We wanted to release him on bail and tried to find out a bailer for him. His condition became so serious that he had to be removed to hospital and be given forced feeding. When his condition was thus reported, we ordered unconditional release to save his life. Since the police guards were withdrawn, I have received information to-day that he has absconded again. So one has got to be very careful in dealing with prisoners as a whole. Of course, the attention of the House has been drawn to the condition of these prisoners on account of the large number of political prisoners during political movements. So far as they are concerned, as the House knows, there is special treatment for A division and B division prisoners. Speaking about mosquito curtains being supplied to prisoners, I may inform the House that it is not possible for Government to incur an expenditure for providing mosquito nets to all prisoners. But under the present regulations, A and B division prisoners as also C division prisoners wherever possible are allowed to use their own nets. I have used the words "wherever possible", because it is very difficult to exercise proper supervision and control and watch during night time when the prisoners are inside the mosquito nets. Therefore, unless in some places barracks are reconstructed or unless wooden cots are actually supplied it is very difficult to allow an ordinary C division prisoner the use of mosquito nets.

As regards replacing the cooking utensils, we have already provided for it and we hope that in the course of the year we shall be able to replace the iron ones by brass ones. But it may not be possible to replace them by bell metal ones. It must be remembered that the brass vessels do not last as long as the iron vessels. Therefore, if we replace iron vessels it would be necessary to have more recurring expenditure on this head than we used to provide before.

Then hon. members must have also noticed that we have introduced some reforms in the matter of clothing and bedding also. These, as I know from my personal experience, will give a good deal of relief.

I again repeat my thanks to the hon. member who has brought this motion and I can only assure the House that all that is possible to do within the limited resources will be done.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I do not want to press my motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the same.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,60,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head 28.—Jails and Convict Settlements.”

The motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Friday, the 15th March, 1940.

Shillong :
The 4th May, 1940. }

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