



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

The ASSEMBLY met at the Assemby Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on **Saturday, the 21st November 1942**

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Raja G. C. High School, Sylhet

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*29. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of boys (Hindus and Muslims to be shown separately) who attended classes in the Raja G. C. High School, Sylhet, on the working days of the first fortnight of the month of September 1942 ?
- (b) Whether lessons were given to those boys who attended classes of the said school ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Muslim boys who attended or attempted to attend classes on those days were fined by the Headmaster ?
- (d) If so, what are the reasons thereof ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

29. (a)—The school was closed from the 1st to 7th September under the orders of the Managing Committee. During the remaining working days of this fortnight the attendance was as given in the statement laid on the table.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.29(a) asked by Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Date	Number of students who attended classes	
	Hindus	Muslims
8th September 1942	19	77
9th September 1942	20	66
10th September 1942	21	70
11th September 1942	31	77
12th September 1942	32	78
13th September 1942	Sunday	Sunday
14th September 1942	50	79
15th September 1942	69	83

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Will Government be pleased to state the source of their information?

†**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: We have got it from the Director of Public Instruction who must have written to the Head Master of the school and got this information from him.

Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:
*30. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is fact that the boys of the Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School assembled in an unlawful assembly during working hours on the public road before the school gate and put obstruction to the students and teachers who were willing to attend school on the 3rd, 5th and 7th September 1942 and on the subsequent working days till the 15th September 1942?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the son of the Headmaster of the said school was one of the members of the unlawful assembly?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:
30. (a)—No. On the days referred to many people were found on the roads near the school gates during school hours. Of them, some were putting obstruction to students and teachers of the said school against entry to the school compound. Some boys of the school might have got mixed up with those people.

(b)—No.

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken against those boys who joined with those who formed this unlawful assembly?

†**The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Government is not aware of the steps taken, but the Police must have found out the actual members of the unlawful assembly and must have taken action against them.

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Is it a fact whether the students who joined the unlawful assembly absented themselves from school?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It does not appear from the answer given that they were members of the unlawful assembly. The reply is "some boys of the school might have got mixed up with those people".

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Will Government take it from me that those who formed the unlawful assembly were all students?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not prepared to accept that statement from the hon. member in view of the report received from the local officer.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may we know what is the source of the hon. member's information?

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: I am a resident of the town, and I pass by the gate of the school more than once daily.

†Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister or by the hon. member concerned.

Educational buildings requisitioned by Government

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

*31. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of educational buildings in Assam that have been requisitioned by Government for purposes other than educational?

(b) The steps taken by Government to secure the release of these buildings?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

31 (a)—49 institutions including offices. A list of educational buildings so occupied is laid on the library table.

(b)—Educational buildings are allowed to be taken over by the Military only when all possible alternatives have failed and in such cases also Government makes suitable arrangements for the continuance of the classes of such schools in hired houses. As soon as the Military can make their own arrangements the buildings are released.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Has not any limit been fixed as to how long these buildings will be required by the Military?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No time has been fixed, but when the Military requisition any building it is for them to state for how long they will require the building and for what purpose.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, are we to understand that no time is mentioned when they apply for the occupation of these buildings? Are they for unlimited periods?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : When they request that a building should be made over to them they mention the period for which they want it.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Do Government take necessary steps to get these buildings vacated when the stipulated period is over?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir. Some of the buildings taken over are being vacated now.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Are Government aware that the Aided Government High School at Palasbari has also since been occupied by the Military?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I am not aware of that, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Will Government be pleased to enquire if it is a fact that the school has been occupied and a building is required in Palasbari and if it not be possible to make over some other building, as there is no other place which can be used as a school?

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

Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*32. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of teachers serving continuously, in the Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School for more than (i) five, (ii) ten, (iii) fifteen and (iv) twenty years?

(b) The names of those teachers?

(c) The reasons for which these teachers have been kept in the same school for so many years?

(d) Whether some teachers in the said school have regular money lending business in the town?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

32. (a)—(i) Three

(ii) Five

(iii) & (iv) Nil.

(b)—A statement is placed on the table.

(c)—In the interest of the public service.

(d)—No.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.32(b) asked by **Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury**.

Names of teachers	Period of service rendered in the school
1. Babu Sanat Kumar Roy	... Over five years.
2. Maulavi Muhammad Ali	
3. Maulavi Md. Serajul Islam	
4. Pandit Jitendra Nath Bidyabhusan	... Over ten years.
5. Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterjee	
6. Babu Probhat Chandra Sarma	
7. Maulavi Makhlis Ali	
8. Maulavi Ali Farid Ahmed	

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Will the Government be pleased to state what public interests are involved in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The answer is there. I cannot elucidate it further.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: It is a matter of opinion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know what the "interests of public service" are ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That cannot be explained. It is in the "interests of the public service" as I have put it there.

Memorandum on Elementary Education and Government's responsibility

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*33. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, has received a "Memorandum on Elementary Education and Government's responsibility" submitted by Rai Saheb K. C. Das on the 5th October 1942 ?

(b) If so, whether Government have given any consideration to it ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

33. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re : Goalpara Loan Office Limited and the Debt Conciliation Board**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI** asked :

21. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Srijut Sabharam Choudhury, the Chairman, Goalpara Debt Conciliation Board, was a Director of the Goalpara Loan Office Limited at the time of his appointment and continued to be so till recently ?
- (b) The number and amount of shares he still holds as a share holder of that Loan Office ?
- (c) The number of cases, stating the amount involved in each case, of that Loan Office that came up before him for conciliation since its inception till September, 1942 ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Board holds its sitting in a house in the private compound of the Chairman ?
- (e) The amount of monthly rent paid for the house ?
- (f) The number of menial staff engaged by the Board and the amount of their wages ?

22. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of salary or allowance received by each Member and the Chairman of the Goalpara Debt Conciliation Board since its inception till the month of September, 1942 ?
- (b) The number of cases that came up for conciliation with the amount involved in each case since the month of January, 1942, to September, 1942 ?
- (c) How many debts during the above period have been conciliated by consent of parties or otherwise disposed of *ex parte* and by the intervention of Board inter parties ?

23. (a) Will Government be pleased to state how far the benefits accruing to the debtors by the establishment of a Debt Conciliation Board at Goalpara have been availed of by the Debtors ?

(b) Do Government propose to abolish the same on a consideration of its achievements up to date ?

(c) Do Government propose to institute an enquiry to find out the respective numbers of creditors and debtors who approached the Board for conciliation of debts ?

24. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the copies of the diary of the Chairman, Goalpara Debt Conciliation Board, from January to September 1942 showing the nature and the amount of work done by him ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Office of the Goalpara Debt Conciliation Board, is situated within the homestead compound of the Chairman ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the consideration on which the Chairman is given a remuneration of Rs.5 per day ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

21. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—Government have no information but will enquire into the allegations against the Chairman of the Board.

(e)—Rupees 20 per month.

(f)—One peon with a pay of Rs. 12 a month.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** With regard to questions (a), (b), (c) and (d) the reply is "Government have no information but will enquire into the allegations against the Chairman of the Board". In that case will Government require me to repeat the question by another notice, or will Government supply the information of their own accord?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The information will be called for and supplied to the hon. member.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will it not be necessary for me to give notice? If I have to give notice, I would ask the Hon'ble Minister now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That will be done without any further notice from the hon. members.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

22. (a)—Government have no information about the total amount of allowances received by each member and Chairman of the Board. The Chairman and the members of the Board draw their allowances under rule 55 of the Debt Conciliation Rules.

(b)—One hundred and one cases involving a total amount of Rs.33,898-10-1 were instituted up to the end of August 1942 and there were 96 cases involving Rs.38,997-5-11 pending from the previous year. The total number is therefore 197 cases involving Rs.72,896 up to that time. The figures for September 1942 have not yet been received.

(c)—The number of cases disposed of by the Board under different Sections of the Act from January 1942 to August 1942 are as follows:—

Section 7(1) Dismissed for want of jurisdiction			Section 12(1) By agreement			Section 14 Dismissed as no amicable settlement reached		
No.	Amount involved		No.	Amount		No.	Amount	
	Rs.	a. p.		Rs.	a. p.		Rs.	a. p.
26	10,556	11 10	83	27,017	10 8	43	19,492	6 2

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Will it matter very much, Sir, if the Government make an enquiry as to the figures, and supply me with the information?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government thought that that information would not serve any public purpose, so they did not supply that information. But if the hon. member thinks that this information is necessary in public interest then they will call for the information and supply the same to the hon. member.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** May I request the Hon'ble Minister to supply with that information along with those to question No.21 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Very well, it will be done.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

23. (a)—Government find that the debtors have taken advantage of and are getting benefit from the Debt Conciliation Board at Goalpara.

(b)—Government have no such intention at present.

(c)—No.

*The speech not corrected by the hon. member.

24. (a)—Chairmen of the Debt Conciliation Boards do not submit any diary of their work to Government. Government get a monthly progress return from each Board.

(b)—Government have no information. The Board sits in a rented house. Enquiry will be made

(c)—The Chairman gets a daily allowance of Rs.5 under rule 55 of the Debt Conciliation Rules. As he does the work he is entitled to the allowance admissible under the rule.

Appointment of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

25. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners appointed from the Bar as well as from the retired officers ?

(b) Whether they are aware that 1st class B.Ls. are appointed on probation in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) on Rs.175 to work in the Judiciary under the Hon'ble High Court ?

(c) The reasons for appointing these temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners on Rs.400 per mensem ?

(d) Whether the appointing authority ascertained the previous income of officers so appointed on Rs.400 per mensem ?

(e) Whether they propose to call for a report from the District Judges on the merit and quality of works of these officers ?

(f) How many permanent Extra Assistant Commissioners had previous training in civil works in the province ?

(g) The reasons why they were not allowed to perform this work and new appointments made in their places ?

(h) Why a separate Judiciary on Rs. 150—50/2—500 was not created ?

(i) Whether they are aware of the fall in the number of criminal and civil cases ?

(j) Whether they propose to inquire of the number of cases disposed of by each of the retired officers during the last nine months of their re-employment and also the average number of cases disposed of by a full-fledged magistrate at the same station ?

(k) Whether they propose to call for a certificate of fitness in respect of these re-employed retired officers at an interval of every six months ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

25. (a)—Ten and four respectively.

(b)—This will be evident by a reference to the Civil List of Bengal. We have no separate Judicial Service in Assam, and the appointments were not made in the course of a regular recruitment for permanent purposes.

(c)—To meet a temporary shortage of Magistrates, by releasing those employed on civil work for magisterial and executive duties.

(d)—No. The salary was fixed in order to attract experienced and competent lawyers, who in the mean-time would have to face a loss of practice which might take time to make up. The appointments are temporary.

(e)—This is always done.

(f)—There are 38 Extra Assistant Commissioners with experience as munsiffs.

(g)—For the reason given in answer to question 25(c).

(h)—Government have got to reach a final decision on the separation of executive and judicial functions and the creation of a separate judicial service.

(i)—Government are aware that the amount of work fluctuates. Recruitment cannot depend on a state of affairs that may be quite temporary.

(j) & (k)—Government are making enquiries on these points.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire of the Hon'ble Premier why there have been a sudden shortage of Magistrates ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On account of extreme increase in number of different executive cases due to war.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Could not that shortage be filled up by promoting subordinate officers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This very question was put yesterday and I replied. However, I may reply again that it could not be done because we wanted officers to take up judicial work immediately, and not by promoting Subordinate Service officers who had no experience of judicial work, and if it were done, the administration of civil justice would have suffered.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier how the Government were satisfied with the experience and competence of those lawyers who have been appointed as Magistrates ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards experience, if I remember aright, Government wanted lawyers with 10 years' practice to apply. And as regards competence, the selection was made by the Public Service Commission after having interviews with the candidates.

***Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI**: Is it a fact that the application of the candidates had to be sent through the District Magistrates concerned who enquired as to the experience of the candidates in the local courts ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of this and I require notice.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I ask the questioner that there is nothing to suggest that the recruitment from the Bar had not its desired effects ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: We are in doubt about the competence and experience of those who have been recruited on such high salary of Rs.400.

Grant-in-aid to Derai High English School

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

26.(a) Is it a fact that Government have sanctioned a grant-in-aid to the Derai High English School in the Sunamganj subdivision ?

(b) If so, why the authorities of the aforesaid school have not yet received the grant-in-aid ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

26.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The grant-in-aid bills upto September last have been regularly passed by the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts. The bill of October is payable in November 1942.

"Grow more food" Campaign

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

27. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken up any planned programme to popularise the 'Grow more food' Campaign ?

(b) If so, what progress has so far been attained in the said Campaign ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

27.(a)—Yes. The Campaign consists of—

- (1) Propaganda through the Agricultural Department and all Government Departments and members of the public who come into contact with cultivators, to increase the area under crops, first dealing with the *Aus* or *Ahu* paddy, then *Sail* or *Sali* paddy, then *Rabi* crops including Pulses and Potatoes.

Direct approach was made to more than 3 lakhs of cultivators by the Agricultural Department Staff alone.

- (2) Provision of extra temporary agricultural staff for facility of work.
- (3) The seed storage and distribution scheme. This provided for the purchase and distribution of seed to cultivators who were willing to expand their area, or to those who were without seed.
- (4) The Rice Irrigation (Small Projects) Scheme.
- (5) The distribution of improved rice varieties in the Tea Estates.

(b)—The first forecasts of rice crops have been received from District Officers. The results show that there was an average increase over the previous year in the area of the *Aus* or *Ahu* crop by 13 per cent. Unfortunately early flood damaged part of the crop in the Assam Valley.

For the *Sail* or *Sali* crop the forecast show that there is an average increase in the area by 11 per cent. The crop is generally good having had no special set backs. The increased yield as compared to the previous year is 5,192,040 maunds in terms of cleaned rice or 17 per cent. over this crop of last year.

GRANT No. 22.

(41.—VETERINARY)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg to move that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.2,32,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '41—Veterinary'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.70,590.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.2,32,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '41.—Veterinary'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.70,590."

There are 3 cut motions, but I think it should be better to take up Cut Motion No. 2 which seeks to raise a discussion about the veterinary policy of Government, and in this cut motion other hon. members may take part.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,523 under Grant No.22, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers at page 170 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,32,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

By this motion I want to place before the House certain grievances of the public with regard to the Veterinary Department. Sir, in every subdivision there are only two or three poorly equipped veterinary dispensaries. These dispensaries are to serve numbers of Parganas, thanas and villages. By these small number of dispensaries the purpose of the Veterinary Department is not served. Cattle mortality is almost a daily occurrence and when a requisition is sent to the Veterinary Assistant he says that he is engaged elsewhere and cannot divert his attention to a particular place. Owing to this reason, large number of cattle die every year without treatment. Though there are some Veterinary Field Assistants, their number is not adequate. Almost every year we the members of different localities bring this matter to the notice of Government, but the position is not improved. My aim of moving this motion is to draw the attention of Government to this state of affairs. Now there is a movement of 'Grow More Food'. Every hon. member knows that without plough cattle the cultivators cannot plough their lands and so they cannot grow more food. So I urge upon Government that they would take immediate steps to see their way in order to increase the number of dispensaries in every subdivision, and if possible, to appoint more veterinary doctors and Field Assistants. Now, Sir, the Field Assistants though doing useful work, find a great deal of difficulty in their work. They are appointed on a pay of Rs.25 and they are to tour at least 10 days every month for which they are only given Rs.5 as allowance which does not at all cover the cost. I draw the attention of the Government to this also. If the allowance is increased, I think, better work can be expected and they will work more efficiently (*hear, hear*).

I want to bring another matter to the notice of the Government. Some time ago there was an advertisement in the *Assam Gazette* to the effect that Government wanted to appoint some clerks in the office of the Director of Civil Veterinary Department at Gauhati and they invited applications from the Muslim candidates of the Surma Valley. Accordingly some candidates submitted applications and two applicants from Maulvibazar got appointment letters. I am told, Sir, to the utter disappointment of the candidates, that when they had gone to join their posts they found that some others were appointed in their places, one of whom was not a Muslim, and it is regrettable to know that they were told that some Honourable Minister recommended for those candidates. If it is a fact, Sir, I think nothing is more regrettable than this. I bring this fact to the notice of Government for redress and I hope every hon. member of this House will support my motion. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.8,523 under Grant No.22, Major head—41.—Veterinary, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers at page 170 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,32,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion. The cattle is the only valuable asset of the poor peasants for whom we, almost every day, cry on the floor of the House. Sir, it does not require any speech or explanation to convince this. But after a great deal of

hesitation, I rise to support this because when I find before my very eyes that even the peasants, the owners of the cattle, are dying every day uncared for, I doubt whether any useful purpose will be served by crying for the cattle. Sir, on the floor of this very House for the last six years we have cried for more dispensaries but to what effect ?

My hon. friend has rightly ventilated the grievances of the Field Assistants. Sir, if we simply engage a few Field Assistants and if we do not care about their conveniences how can we expect that they will work with their heart and soul so that the people for whose benefit they have been employed may derive some benefit. Sir, a few dispensaries won't solve the problem, may be the reply from the Government Benches, but, Sir, just to ameliorate, to some extent, the precarious condition that are so very evident, I think, it is high time that the Government will take up the matter, and make some real improvements in this Department, with right earnest, without any further delay. With these words I support the motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion. When this Department was first started, everybody was doubting its valuable work. Formerly, in the rural areas people preferred the treatment of the diseases of the cattle by country quacks to the Veterinary Surgeons. But the whole idea has now been changed and the Veterinary Department has become very popular. Of course it has not reached perfection for which everybody desires, but we cannot say that it is running on a wrong policy. When the Department was first started, the Superintendent used to get a salary of nearly Rs.1,700 per month but there were no workers to go about in villages as we have now in the Field Assistants. The Department showed a remarkable progress during the regime of the last Director of Veterinary Department, namely, Rai Saheb Srish Chandra Ghose, in whose time this system of having ordinary rural workers was started. The brunt of the whole work during epidemic is done by these Field Assistants and my friend, the hon. mover, has rightly pointed out that they have been very poorly treated. Their salary is Rs.25 per month and they have to meet the travelling expenses out of that meagre salary.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They get Rs.5 as travelling allowance, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Rs.5 is hardly sufficient for travelling expenses particularly in this province. If we want real work I urge that Government should do something to ameliorate the condition of these Field Assistants

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on one particular aspect of this matter. We have got only two dispensaries in each subdivision and a vast area is covered by each dispensary. The serum is to be imported from Calcutta. It takes some time to reach the dispensary and if the doctor travels a long distance to work, this serum loses its potency in the transit. I hope this question will receive attention of the Government.

***Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, মাননীয় মকবুল হসেন চৌধুরী পশু চিকিৎসা সম্বন্ধে যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন তাহা আমি সর্বান্তঃ করণে সমর্থন করি। গভর্নামেন্ট যে Veterinary Field Assistant রাখিয়াছেন তাহারা কি গভর্নামেন্টের propaganda র জন্য না অন্য কাজের জন্য ইহা আমাদের জানা দরকার। আমার বাড়ীর নিকট একজন Field Assistant আছেন তাহার নিকট প্রতিদিন দলে দলে লোক আসে কিন্তু তিনি বলেন যে তাহার নিকট ঔষধ নাই। শুধু মানুষ গিয়া কি করিয়া পশুর চিকিৎসা করিবেন? যদি Field assistant দিয়া কাজ করাইতে হয় তাহা হইলে

তাহাদের যথেষ্ট ঔষধ দেওয়া দরকার। তৎপর গরু চিকিৎসার প্রতি যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট যথেষ্ট দৃষ্টি না দেন তাহা হইলে আনাদের দেশের চাষীরা হাল চাষ বন্ধ করিয়া দিতে বাধ্য হইবে। আজ আসামে যে পরিমান সৈন্য আনা হইয়াছে তাহাতে তাহারা একদিকে গরু প্রচুর সংখ্যায় গ্ৰাস করিতেছে আর অন্য দিকে যদি এইভাবে গরু মরে তাহা হইলে আসাম সমুদয় কৃষিকার্য হইতে বঞ্চিত হইবে। সেই জন্য আনি আশা করি যে গরুর চিকিৎসার প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্ট যথেষ্ট দৃষ্টি দিবেন।

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion (*hear, hear*) because the reason given is to raise a discussion about the policy of the Government towards Veterinary Department. Now, what I have just heard from the hon. members, it seems that they are not against the Veterinary policy of the Government but they are against certain defects which they see or certain discrepancies in the working of the system and for the fact that in certain places enough money has not been provided. Therefore their contention is that more money should be provided. At present, there is also dearth of proper medicines in some places. Now, seeing the time and looking into the difficulties of the Government, I don't think this motion is in order because by this the members want to criticise the policy of the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The policy of making inadequate provisions?

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: In substance, they are not against what Government is doing and also they are not against the appointment of Veterinary Assistants in certain areas. They are against because enough money has not been provided. As for my own area, I can say, Sir, that there are few Field Assistants who are helping not only in my case but all round they are doing quite good work. Therefore I can endorse what Government have been doing towards the Veterinary Department; of course, there is still much room for improvement but this is not the way in which Government should be blamed.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to have to take up the time of the House again, but I cannot refrain from making one or two observations concerning the trend which this debate has taken. It occurs to me that it may be divided into two distinct halves, the first half dealing with the curing of diseases, and the second half dealing with increased payment to Veterinary Officers.

To deal with the first point, I submit to this House that in fact there is machinery existing in this province at the moment for the performance of a far more useful task than the curing of diseases, namely, the prevention of diseases. We have indisputable proof in our own industry, that a Cattle Improvement Association whose members are keen on the performance of that task can do far more good for the cattle of this province than any amount of operations by the Veterinary Department in the curing of diseases. So much for that, Sir.

The second point is with regard to the pay and allowances of officers. I say it certainly is best to adopt a policy in this matter which is wise and fair to all concerned. If you pay a man well you are entitled to expect from him a high standard of work. That is why we have always opposed the employment of numerous low paid officers. We feel that we are never likely to get fair dividends from low investments. I do not wish for a moment to say that the mere fact of paying a man highly will make him more efficient, but I do say, however, that if you pay him properly his supervisor's hold over him is increased and he is entitled to expect a performance of work in ratio to the higher pay. In other words, Sir, our aim is towards efficiency before anything else. I do urge upon Government the necessity of increasing the Veterinary Department's keenness and to encourage the departmental activity in all such branches as will tend to the prevention of disease and the improvement of the health of the cattle.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time of the House. As regards Field Assistants, I should say that in the Mangaldai subdivision there is one Field Assistant and whenever any person goes

to him, he cannot be found in the dispensary and when found, he cannot render any help to the people coming to the dispensary, so I do not know what utility is served by the employment of such Field Assistants.

Again, Sir, in the Mangaldai subdivision there are two Veterinary Dispensaries, but, Sir, the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons almost always remain on tour and the people coming to them from a distance of 10 or 12 miles for medicines do not find them in the dispensaries and so people cannot take any medicine. Year before last, I moved a cut motion regarding a dispensary to be opened at Dalgaon and Government gave me an assurance that the dispensary would be opened at Dalgaon but to my disappointment, up-till now Government have done nothing of the sort. So I urge upon the Government that they will take some steps to open a dispensary at Dalgaon.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Goldsmith had very nearly struck the nail on the head when he said that although the main purpose of the hon. mover of this cut motion was to raise a discussion about the Veterinary policy of the Government that was lost sight of during the debate. This question about the Veterinary services has become a hardy annual and I am very glad it has become a hardy annual. If the representatives of the people do take an interest for prevention of diseases and for treatment of diseases of cattle, the mainstay of the population, namely, cultivators would be much benefited. But before we can criticise Government we must remember that the Veterinary Department is really a dual controlled department, *i.e.*, excepting in certain places where Government have got its own Veterinary Dispensaries, the rest of the province is served by an arrangement whereby the Local Boards have to start dispensaries for which they have to find a portion of the expenditure and Government finds the other portion. So long as this policy remains it will be very difficult for Government to open new dispensaries; for even if Government wants to open new dispensaries in rural areas at present—here I am at one with hon. members—and we approach local bodies to pay their share, the local bodies plead inability on account of paucity of funds.

This is one aspect of the question. Next, on account of a short sighted policy before the introduction of the Reforms from 1937, very few students were deputed to the Belgachia Veterinary College, where we send our stipendiaries. In 1937, representatives of the people here urged upon us to start more dispensaries, but we found that we had no trained veterinary officers of the province. We immediately took steps to send a very large number of stipendiaries to the Belgachia Veterinary College. We gave scholarships to 9, but the Bengal Government could not give us seats for more than 6. I took personal interest in one Hindu student and wrote to the authorities there to provide him with a seat. We wanted to train 9, but with the greatest difficulty we obtained 7 seats. From the next year the Bengal Government reduced this number, and the number of seats for Assam is 4 now. The stipends were so distributed, that representatives from each community could avail of the veterinary courses in the College. Some of the students failed in their examination and we lost a valuable year. In this way we were handicapped for we have not got many regularly passed veterinary students to take up the work, even if we tried to increase the number of dispensaries in the province.

The greatest difficulty was found that as there is only one veterinary surgeon in a subdivision, half of his time is spent in the interior, and people coming from a distance for diagnosis and treatment or for a repeat of the prescription find that the Veterinary Surgeons not available because he had gone to the interior. In order to give some temporary relief, the previous Ministry over which I had presided thought of entertaining a class of veterinary staff of the same nature as compounders. We call them Field Assistants. We must remember that these Field Assistants are not trained in the veterinary science in any college or school. They are trained only to give injections, so that at times of epidemic they could give relief to the Veterinary Assistants and help them in giving injections to the cattle.

If the Veterinary Field Assistant in any particular locality said that he could not prescribe any medicine, he was perfectly justified. That is the business of the regularly passed Veterinary Surgeons. Therefore, we cannot expect these Field Assistants to do a service for which they were not trained, and I am glad to hear that they have been refusing to prescribe medicine in place of the regularly passed Veterinary Surgeons. My hon. friend had urged that increased allowance should be given to these Field Assistants. Pursuant to their desire we in 1942-43 put on the Budget an increased allowance, which is from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10, but that Budget could not be introduced before the House. There was a bureaucratic or dictatorial administration in between and all that came to nothing. We will remember this when we frame our Budget for 1943-44.

My hon. friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury has spoken of the deterioration in the serum when it is used in the interior. To preserve serum we require cold storage, and it is difficult to provide cold storage in our subdivisional Veterinary Surgeons' headquarters. We have arranged in some localities to preserve vaccines and sera which are necessary for the treatment of human being. We will see if vaccines and sera necessary for cattle disease could not be kept in cold storage along with the medical departments, so that when a Veterinary Surgeon requires it he may take it from there.

Lastly, Sir, one other point has been raised by Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury about certain appointments in the office of the Director of the Veterinary Department at Gauhati. I am at one with him that if certain people after due advertisement and due selection received their appointment letter and went to join, found the post already filled up, it is unfortunate. I am glad the hon. member brought this to my notice. Yesterday I asked him to give a demi-official letter, so that I might enquire at once. I have not yet received the demi-official letter. Probably it will be forthcoming to-day from the hon. member. In the meantime from partial enquiry, I have come to learn that one Muhammadan from the Assam Valley has been appointed—whether temporarily or permanently I do not know—on the basis that he had twice officiated in this office and that his temporary service in the office should not be overlooked. The other I am told has been filled up by one representing Tribal people. However as soon as I get the letter of complaint from my hon. friend, I will make a thorough enquiry and see that justice is done.

I hope, Sir, I have placed sufficient material before the House to come to the conclusion that whatever may have been the policy of Government about the Veterinary service, we have tried our level best from 1937 onwards to increase its efficiency, to improve its adequacy, and also we are considering whether more benefit could not be given to the people through this department by introducing cheap vaccines, that is goat tissue vaccines, which have reduced very considerably the cost to the Government, and, therefore, to the people and which have increased the percentage of recovery from disease and prevention of epidemic to a very large extent.

Like my hon. friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, I must say that this department was very greatly popularised by the untiring zeal and effort of our *ex-Director* Rai Sahib Srish Chandra Ghosh. I do hope that our present Director, who is a man of this province, and who has got a very high English qualification, will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor and will make the department even more efficient and will extend his wide knowledge for the benefit of the people of Assam.

May I request the hon. member, after all these facts have been placed before the House, to withdraw his censure motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, 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 the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 2,32,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '41.—Veterinary'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 70,590."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 5 (10 FORESTS)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : In the absence of the Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali, I beg leave of the House to move :

That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 10,48,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "10—Forests". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 3,69,179.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 10,48,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '10.—Forests'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 3,69,179."

There are three cut motions. The first stands in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,76,215 under Grant No. 5, Major head—10—Forests, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and Works at page 50 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,48,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.

Sir, by this motion, I wish to raise a discussion about the new project undertaken by the Government for plantation of cinchona in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

The scheme is a laudable one and the Government is to be congratulated for the venture. But the very small sum provided leaves us in despair and we wonder whether the Government is really earnest about the project.

The cultivation of cinchona has a history of its own. The plant is a native of South America. It was introduced to Europe in the 17th century by the Countess of Cinchon—the wife of the Viceroy of Peru and it derives its name from the lady. It came to India probably by the middle of the 19th century and cultivation was undertaken in the Nilgiris and the Darjeeling Himalayas, under Government agencies. Of late, the Government of Bengal have successfully extended their cultivation and are expecting a good yield by the Russian method.

Sir, not long ago, we used to have our supply of quinine from Java. But the far eastern situation will prove a barrier to import from that direction. We are already feeling the dearth of quinine in the province which is infested with malaria. So it is all the more necessary that we engage all our attention to the cultivation of cinchona.

From a report published by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it can be seen that a normal altitude for cinchona plantation should be between 3000—5000 f. with adequate rainfall—(say about 60 inches per year). Such land with suitable climate may be found in many places in Assam. The Wilson Committee that was appointed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to explore the possibilities of cinchona cultivation in India stated in their report that there were immense possibilities of cinchona cultivation in Assam so much so that Assam could meet the demand of the whole of India.

Unfortunately the Government of Assam did not act upon the recommendations of the Committee.

As regards the cultivation in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, it is rather curious that a small sum of Rs. 8,000 has only been provided for the purpose. We do not know what the Government want to do with this sum. It is not even sufficient for a very small beginning.

To start with, at least one hundred acres of land should be aimed at and it will entail a minimum expenditure of one lac of rupees.

Further, the Government should have in view the starting of a factory for extracting alkaloid from cinchona bark. We want detailed information from the Government about this project. With this view I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 2,76,215 under Grant No. 5, Major head—10.—Forests, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and Works at page 50 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 10,48,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.”

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion. Last year I moved a similar motion and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forests Mr. Rupnath Brahma gave us the assurance that from the next year there would be a regular scheme and they would proceed according to that scheme. Now I find that I cried in the wilderness. Sir, it has already been stated by the hon. mover that a very paltry sum has been allotted for this purpose. I do not know how much of it has been spent as the price of seed and how much for actual cultivation and for what area. Sir, as regards the necessity of quinine to a large extent the price of quinine has increased. It has increased beyond any measure of estimation. Formerly we used to get our supply both from Java and a little portion of it from India Government. Sir, supply from Java has been stopped. After the enquiry made by Mr. Wilson it was found out that Assam has got sufficient land suitable for cinchona plantation and the produce of Assam can meet the demand of the whole of India. I think the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Department will kindly take up the matter in right earnest so that we may see that a sincere move has been made in this direction. With these words I support the motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Planting Community I wish to support this motion, and to share the general disappointments at the slowness of the progress made with the scheme, following the recommendations of the Wilson Report. Here is a case where the Government of Assam should have thought big and should have thought quickly. On my present information, Sir, they seem to have done neither. As the time is not too late, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will be able to give some assurance to this Assembly and the interests outside that in dealing with the Public Enemy No. 1, *viz.*, malaria, the province of Assam will at least contribute to increasing

the resources of quinine not only for our own province but for the whole of India.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assam Government, especially the Ministry, are quite keen about increasing the area under cinchona plantation in Assam. They studied the Wilson Report; as soon as the report was published about two years back, they consulted both the Forest Department as well as the Economic Botanist, Dr. Nandi, and obtained reports from both. A scheme was formulated, and it was remarked that unless we could plant quite a large area—to begin with, at least 100 acres as suggested by one of my hon. friends—a small plantation was of little use. A big sum was found to be necessary. If I remember aright—I haven't got the papers (it is unfortunate that the Hon'ble Minister in charge is ill and files cannot be traced)—I am speaking from memory—to start a hundred acre plantation a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs was found necessary. As this sum could not be procured from our current revenues, we wanted our officers to draw up a more ambitious programme not merely for plantation but also for extracting alkaloid and then to push on the scheme on borrowed capital, if necessary. Before we got such a report last year the Ministry resigned, and therefore the present budget has made a provision of only Rs. 8,000 to carry out some improvements in the existing plantations. The hon. members may have probably heard on the floor of this House that a new experimental station has been opened at about the 20th mile on the Gauhati-Shillong Road. In order to carry out some experiments by the Forest Department this modest sum of Rs. 8,000 has been put in the budget.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, I believe the experiment was made long before.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The first experiment in the Khasi Hills was made about 40 years ago on a small scale in the Cherrapunji side. Since then, after the report of the Wilson Committee, the Forest Department has started another experimental station in about three acres of land about 20 miles down on the Gauhati Road. It is with a view to carry out some improvements to this experiment that this small provision has been made. I can assure the hon. members that I will spare no pains in getting both the Agriculture and the Forest Departments combined for giving us a complete scheme not only for extending plantation up to a minimum area of hundred acres, but also to enable the Assam Government to procure the necessary apparatus for extracting alkaloid from the bark. In this connection I can mention that the Wilson Report said that not only the Khasi Hills, but also the State of Manipur has got suitable areas for cinchona cultivation.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: There are areas in Garo Hills too.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I don't remember about Garo Hills at the present moment. I am obliged to my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali for informing us that Garo Hills is also suitable for this purpose.

So, I will ask the departments concerned for a comprehensive scheme, and this is the only assurance I can give to my hon. friends. I mentioned in connection with the general discussion of the budget that formerly it was thought that alkaloid could be extracted only after 44 months but my Hon'ble Colleague the Minister-in-charge of the Medical Department says that the Russians have invented a method of extracting in 18 months. We are trying to learn the secrets of that method. Assam probably will ultimately compete with Bengal, rather not compete but supplement the supply of quinine to the country, as we get only a small supply from the Mungpoh plantation in Bengal.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, are we to understand that there is no scheme before the Government at present? During the last Budget Session we got an assurance that the Government were trying to draw up a complete scheme. After that they got 10 months' time. Was not that time sufficient? May we know when we can expect the scheme?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend was absent from his seat when I said that we had a scheme for extending the area of cultivation only and not for extracting alkaloid. We want a comprehensive scheme not only for extension of the area of cultivation, but also for setting up apparatus for making quinine. Therefore, a complete scheme is not before the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, can we expect the necessary provision in the next year's budget?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That has got to be seen. This is only the revised and supplementary budget for 1942-43. My hon. friend ought to wait and see the next year's budget.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May I ask the Hon'ble Premier whether the file on this case, when he demitted office, left any suggestion as to the scheme which ought to have been brought forward? What I am really concerned about is this: is it the responsibility of the 93 Administration that we have got this miserly sum of Rs.8,000 for dealing with what I regard Problem No. 1 in the Public Health Administration of the province. I want to pin down the responsibility for this miserly and inadequate sum for dealing with a problem which has been before the House, to my knowledge, for the last three years.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: All I can say is that in the Forest Department there was this scheme for extension of cultivation. When we demitted office the file was at that stage, and I am not responsible for what the 93 Administration did or did not. The small sum now provided is necessary for carrying out some improvements in the method of cultivation.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In view of the importance of the question I ought to announce now that when this motion is put, I shall object to its being withdrawn. I think this issue ought to be pushed and pushed as far as we can push it in the Assembly, for to provide a paltry sum of Rs.8,000 to deal with the problem shows lamentable lack of imagination.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This will do, I think.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier to the effect that an elaborate scheme will be prepared and more money provided in next year's budget, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. member leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I beg to object to the withdrawal of this motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, before you put the question, I would like to point out that this is a censure motion. Will it be proper for the House to censure the present Ministry for the insufficiency or inadequacy of provision which was made at a time when they were not in office?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Ministry is not responsible for the inadequacy of the grant and if the motion is carried then the Ministry will know how to act on this censure.

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

“That the provision of Rs.2,76,215 under Grant No. 5, Major head—10.—Forest, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and Works at page 50 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,48,500 do stand reduced by Rs.110.”

The Assembly divided.

Ayes—13.

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| 1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 8. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 2. Babu Bipin Behari Das. | 9. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 3. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 10. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis. |
| 4. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. | 11. Mr. C. W. Morley. |
| 5. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | 12. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 6. Srijut Purandar Sarma. | 13. Mr. A. Whittaker. |
| 7. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. | |

Noes—26.

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| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 13. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 14. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 15. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 16. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 17. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. | 18. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. | 19. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya. |
| 8. Babu Kalachand Roy. | 20. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. |
| 9. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. | 21. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| 10. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. | 22. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| 11. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. | 23. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| 12. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury. | 24. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |
| | 25. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| | 26. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari. |

The question was negatived.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,76,215 under Grant No. 5, Major head—10.— Forest, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and Works at page 50 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,48,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this motion as stated in the order paper, is merely to draw attention of the Government to the need for charcoal supplies for gas producer vehicles. As we all know, Sir, the army demand for petrol has made petrol for ordinary provincial transport and other vehicles very short, on account of which the possibilities are that gas producer plants of all forms may shortly be very popular in the province not only for vehicles, but also perhaps in industry as well, for use in prime movers. The charcoal industry could be very profitable to the Forest Department and while we have no doubt at all that Government is fully awake to the possibilities of charcoal, we do hope they will take this grand opportunity for increasing not only the revenues of the Forest Department but also as a means of employing people who very well might be engaged in this very useful national work.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:—

“That the provision of Rs.2,76,215 under Grant No 5, Major head—10.— Forest, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and Works at page 50 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,48,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government is perfectly alive to the subject which has been raised by my friend, Mr. Blennerhassett, about charcoal for producer gas installation. The Divisional Forest Officer, Lakhimpur, is arranging for manufacturing charcoal against this demand. As regards the general question, it has been found impossible for the Forest Department to undertake to manufacture best quantities of charcoal against an unknown demand, and this is a matter which I propose to take before the Transport Board as soon as it gets going. The supply of fuel is already becoming a vital problem in view of the tea garden requirements owing to the apprehension of coal shortage and very considerable demand by the army. As the yield of charcoal from fuel is roughly only 20 per cent. it will be realised that the problem is one of considerable magnitude. Whatever may be the problem, as soon as we get a sufficient number of demands, we will see whether the demands cannot be made by charcoal produced from fuel wood of our forests. It will, as Mr. Blennerhassett has said, not only bring some revenue to the Forest Department but also be of great benefit to the province, for charcoal producer gas may again mobilize our motor transport.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: With this assurance, Sir, I do not wish to press my motion.

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.6,79,321 under Grant No.5, Major head—10.—Forest at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.10, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,48,500 do stand reduced by Rs.10.

Sir, in this motion I want to raise a discussion about the conduct of the forest officers. While I say forest officers, by this I do not mean to deal with the conduct of the high officials. So far my complaints go, they are against the subordinate officers such as Forest Guards, Foresters and Rangers. These people have got constant touch with the general mass and whoever goes to remove forest produce, he alone knows how much he is penalised by these officers. Even a Guard receiving Rs.18, thinks himself to be the master of the locality and he inflicts on the

poor labourers with heavy penalty by realising money in an illegal way. Such complaints are very often received from the poor people. If through mistake, a labourer forgets to carry with him the permit, which is generally taken from the Government for removing forest produce, he would not be let off, unless he pays something to the Guard who remains in vigilance.

Then again, Sir, the cultivators who graze their cattle on the open Forest Reserves which are meant for pasture land, the forest officers, would not allow them to graze their cattle unless they get two pice from the owners of cattle. This sort of complaints are very often made even in the form of petition to the immediate superior officers but to no effect. Then again, Foresters, where there are no Rargers, remain in charge of particular beats do immense mischief to the people by way of realising gratifications. This is not a complaint for the first time; this sort of allegations were very often demonstrated on the floor of this House. In my subdivision I find, these complaints brought some effective result but now it does not exist. For the last few days, I know prosecutions on false and flimsy grounds are coming in great number and when these poor people are prosecuted they are not let off without heavy fines from Rs.10 to Rs.30. This is very heart-rending.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is the hon. member in order, Sir? He is complaining against the magistrate.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir. Magistrates believe the evidence of one Forest Guard flouting the evidence of 5 or 6 labourers

I would like to raise another point. It is regarding the levy of royalty. On payment of usual royalty, people are allowed to remove forest produce on permit system from Government reserve forests. People are made to pay something more and I don't know to whose coffer it goes, whether it goes to the Government coffer or it is consumed by the Forest Officers. But I am told by hundreds of labourers that they are being treated like this. All these points should be very seriously looked into by the authorities and unless the Government come to the rescue of these poor labourers, these poor people will be continued to be harassed in this way.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: May I know from the hon. mover whether the officers concerned issue receipts when they realise royalty?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Ordinarily not, Sir.

In this connection I may point out to the Government one very vital thing in the shape of amendment of the Forest Act which is too old. It is absolutely necessary that the amending Bill which Government brought some months back should soon be enacted into law. So far as I remember it was passed by the Lower House. I do not know what the fate of that Bill has become. If that Bill could have been enacted as law some sort of relief would have been given to the poor labourers who are engaged in removing the forest produce. I again draw the pointed attention of the Government to these grievances not only of one particular place but of the province as a whole. I also draw the attention of the Government to see their way to enact that piece of legislation as early as possible. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.6,79,321 under Grant No.5, Major head—10.—Forest at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.10, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,48,500 do stand reduced by Rs 10".

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion. Sir, there are provisions in the Forest Manual for removing and utilising forest produce in the Garo Hills by the natives of the district which are still, I think, in force. I am again going to point out to the House and to the Hon'ble Minister concerned that the rules and provisions are being neglected and disregarded by the forest officers there. The hon. mover is blaming the lower

grade forest officers, but the Divisional Forest Officer and the Deputy Commissioner do also sometimes interfere.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir, Is the hon. member in order in referring to the Garo Hills ?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I speak not only of the Garo Hills but in general, Sir. I may be allowed to bring one particular matter, Sir. These rules which I am referring just now also apply in the case of Garo Hills. Sir, one of these forest officers, I can name him, once arrested a person and seized his *dao* and other things for collecting fire wood. Then after some days he was called by the officer and let off with his *dao* and axe but not the fire-wood collected by the arrested person.

This year large number of bamboos were extracted from the Garo Hills in connection with the war for making mats, etc. No royalty was given to the Nokmas concerned. So, they are doubly losers. No more bamboos have been left for their use. I hope the Government will look into these matters so that people may not be losers. With these words, I support this motion.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody who has been in this House for any length of time can say that the hon. mover is not a strong advocate for removal of bans against the taking of forest produce by villagers. I for my part frequently have had occasion to oppose his suggestions and I regret that once again I have to oppose him, but this time, Sir, on the grounds that we object to the cutting down of any revenue available to the province at a time when every pice is needed for National Defence and Civil Defence and all kinds of things connected with them I oppose any motion which might tend to the reduction of revenue in any form at the present time.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the gravamen of the charge levelled by my hon. friend Mr. Abdur Rahman is that the lower grades of the Forest staff resort to illegal exaction from those people who go to extract minor forest produce from the forest. In his opinion if the Forest Bill which the previous Ministry introduced has been passed into law, this would be cured. I can tell him at once that the Forest Bill only sought to remove the presumption of guilt now in force about forest produce contrary to the ordinary jurisprudence that a man is to be presumed not guilty so long as offence is not brought home to him. Therefore, that piece of legislation would not have any effect upon the corruption which my hon. friend has narrated before the House. It is rather a pity, I am very sorry to hear the narration from my hon. friend that we the Indians specially the Assamese have gone down so low in our character that neither the Government Officials nor the public can get away from the temptation of taking bribes and offering bribes. The remedy cannot be sought by increasing the Supervisory Staff or by putting a Police man every where alongside the Forest Guard or the Forest Ranger to see that they cannot make illegal exactions. Even annas 8 used to suffice for Forest menial, now with the addition of Supervisory staff, one rupee is required because it will have to be shared by both the Forest menial as well as the Supervisory staff. So I will request my hon. friend to approach our own people with request that they should on no account offer any bribes and if any one of the menial staff or the subordinate staff tries to exact any illegal gratification they should keep witness and immediately bring the matter to the notice of the responsible Government Officers so that action may be taken. My hon. friend admitted that things in the Habiganj Subdivision have improved greatly but he has made a general charge about the conditions in the rest of the province and it is very difficult for Government to devise any means of preventing such unsavoury things but if my hon. friend will give me an instance of a specific case, I will at once start an inquiry and if I can get evidence that such Forest Officers

are torturing the poorer section of the people, I will try to see that due punishment is meted out to these Officers at once. Beyond this, Sir, I cannot see any remedy and my hon. friend has not also made any suggestion what steps can be taken by Government to remove this blot from our national character.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Just a word, Sir. I think, the people would get at least some relief if the burden or onus of proof of guilt lies with the accused.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has no right to reply.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble Premier can say all these.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If the Bill has already been passed, in this House, Sir, it will be your duty to send it to the Upper House and then it can be discussed there.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: After hearing the statement of the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member has got leave of the House to withdraw the motion. The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The question is :

“That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.10,48,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head ‘10.—Forests’. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.3,69,179.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 6.

(11.—REGISTRATION)

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.1,56,200 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head “11.—Registration”. The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.64,821.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.1,56,200 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head ‘11.—Registration’. The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.64,821.”

There are no cut motions, therefore I am putting this as a question before the House.

The question was then put and adopted.

GRANT No. 14.

(29.—POLICE)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of

payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.26,56,700 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of head "29.—Police". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.11,07,811.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:—

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.26,56,700 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "29.—Police". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.11,07,811."

There are several cut motions.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Cut motions Nos.4, 5 and 6 are same.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, they are same. Motions Nos.4 and 6 stand in the name of Mr. Lewis.

Practically, object is the same, so it will do if one cut motion is moved.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Sir, as regards Motion No.2, I think the hon mover may also speak on the motion to be moved by Mr. Mookerjee because it appears that the gentleman he names in his motion was a member of a procession.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to move my *motion at present because I think, I shall get an opportunity to discuss about it after hearing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's speech which he will deliver on the 26th.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, that will be a better course. I think, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali may also follow this course, because that particular incident will come up along with the discussion that will be raised by Mr. Mookerjee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Specific instances may not be mentioned during my statement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali may move his motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 41,413, under Grant No.14, Major head—29—Police, Minor head—B—District Executive Force—(a) District Police, Sub-head—1—Pay of officers at page 100 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, one Maulana Bashir Ahmed is a respectable Maulana of Jamait-ul Ulama and he was the Principal of a Madrassa. Sir, very recently one day he was arrested by the Police and brought to Sylhet. Of course, I do not remember the date of his arrest. I also do not know under what charge he was arrested. I heard that he was arrested under the Defence of India Rules.

*1 Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee to move—

"That the provision of Rs.24,763 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A—Superintendence at page 99 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101. i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To raise a discussion about the conduct of the police and military in the matters of dispersing peaceful procession and in realising collective fines, etc.)

Sir, my object in moving this motion is to discuss how he was brought under arrest and how he was dealt with by Police Officers. Sir, I don't want that a criminal should go with impunity but an innocent man should not be punished. So, I want to discuss whether the Police Officers were justified in their action. This question should be decided in this House. I only like to point out that this Maulana was taken to Sylhet Thana and he was not even allowed to perform his 'Namaj'. He was not allowed to remember the 'Allah' even when he was taken to Jail as he was gagged.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: What was the rank of the Officer?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I don't know that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information Sir. Did the incident take place at Karimganj or at Sylhet?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: The incident took place both in the Golapganj Thana and at Sylhet.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: I am afraid the statement he makes is heresay?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the source of the information? The question is, did the Khan Bahadur test this information?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: The statement was made by a reliable gentleman and a letter was sent to me by a friend of mine.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Then, not by the Maulana?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, whimsically the officer took off the turban of a Constable and gagged the Maulana with a part of it. He was not allowed to pray, nor to utter Allah-ho-Akbar.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.41,413, under Grant No.14, Major head—29—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force—(a) District Police, Sub-head—1—Pay of officers at page 100 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700, do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I wanted to know full details of the alleged incident. That is why I prevented my friend Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali from "gagging" the hon. mover of this cut motion. My hon. friend has not given me the details which I wanted to know. In the first place the short note which he submitted along with the cut motion mentions that this motion is to raise a discussion about the gagging by Police of one Maulana Basiruddin Ahmed who was arrested recently at Sylhet—I think it will be Sylhet town—from Bhagha, Golapganj, Sylhet and for not allowing him to utter Allah-o-Akbar. From this short note it is difficult for me to find out whether this shouting of Allah-o-Akbar was at the time when he was arrested at Golapganj thana or whether it was when he was marched to Sylhet, for Golapganj is at a distance of about 10 or 11 miles from Sylhet. Then again my hon. friend has stated to-day that the said Maulana Saheb was prevented from even saying his prayers. By prayer I take it that my friend is referring to Namaj. There were certain questions put to the hon. mover whether he was an eyewitness to the occurrence. He said, Sir, that he heard from a reliable person and received a letter from a friend of his. But, Sir, I have gone a step further because on the 6th of the current month I went to the Sylhet Jail and spoke to the Maulana personally and asked him whether he had any complaint to make against any one because I found that he was an elderly man with a very long beard and his presence among very young political prisoners drew my attention. He was a striking figure, and I enquired if he had any complaint to make either against the Jail staff or the Police. He said that he had absolutely no complaint.

If I am right, my information is that the Maulana Saheb has been acquitted recently. If this gentleman was really prevented from saying his prayers as alleged by my friend, he would have told me because I distinctly asked him whether he had any complaint to make about the Police or the Jail authorities or any body else.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He might be incorrect. I may enlighten the Hon'ble the Premier a little bit. I am a resident of the Sylhet town. I also heard like this that while he was being brought from Golapganj to Sylhet he was not allowed to utter "Allah-ho-Akbar". This he was prevented from, as stated by my hon. friend, by putting some portion of the *pagree* inside the mouth of the Maulana. The explanation that was given shows that the Maulana was not allowed to utter "Allah-ho-Akbar" because the Muslims of the locality might assemble and rescue the Maulana Sahib. (*Interruption*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am very grateful, Sir, to my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee and to you for allowing him to make the statement because his statement utterly crushes the case put forward by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. He said that the occurrence took place at Golapganj whereas Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee says that he was prevented from uttering "Allah-ho-Akbar" when he was being escorted by police from Golapganj to Sylhet. If he was prevented from uttering any slogan in order to attract a huge crowd, I think the police people took a quite reasonable attitude. The question that he was gagged by the turban of another man does not stand to reason because the Maulana Sahib always kept a turban on his head.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Most probably the police officer did not dare to touch him.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: And he got somebody else's turban?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I heard that they took the turban of the constable. In all fairness, the Hon'ble the Premier should not accept some portion of my statement which will suit his purpose and disbelieve the other. What I heard, in all fairness, I have stated.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: All I will say is, as two hon. members of this House have heard that the Maulana was gagged by the *Pagri* of the constable—am I correct? And the location has also been changed—is that correct?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: My information is that he was gagged in the police station, Sylhet.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This is a third case that has been propounded now that the gagging took place in the Sylhet police station.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: In any case, the gagging took place while he was in police custody.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I want to help not only my hon. friends but also to see that the police staff do observe the ordinary rules and regulations and behave decently and I will never like a Maulana to be gagged like this. But before I could ask for an enquiry, I want to know where the occurrence took place. I have heard three stories: one is that the gagging took place in Golapganj, the second is that it took place while the Maulana was in police custody between Sylhet and Golapganj and the third is that the Maulana was gagged in the Sylhet police station. Unless I get definite facts, how can I ask for an enquiry? In spite of all these discrepancies, because the Maulana is a learned man and a member of the Jamait-Ul-Ulema, I will ask the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet to make an enquiry and report. If a constable gags a man by his own turban, he infringes the rules because on no account he can remove his turban from his head. Therefore, I will see that the constable is punished provided that the man was really gagged by the turban of the police constable.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.12,61,800 under Grant No.14, Major head—29—Police, Minor head—B—District Executive Force—(a)—District Police, at page 97 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this motion, Sir, is to draw the attention of Government to some strange procedure which has been going on, to my knowledge, in the subdivision whence I come with regard to the appointment of special guards for railway protection duties. At the outset, I desire to say that we, the garden managers, desire to co-operate with the Government in every way possible in these matters, but we do ask that such arrangements as shall be made may be made reasonably. I would just like to recount the kind of things that is going on in our district. A Police Constable on one occasion, at the instance of the local Mandal, nominated five garden labourers of a garden adjacent to the railway to be on duty from the hours of 7-30 p.m. to 4-30 a.m. every day. It was made clear in the warrant with which they were presented, ordering these duties to be performed, that they would not receive any pay or remuneration. I may say, Sir, that we do not bother for a moment about this; we do not mind that aspect of the case at all. They were told that they would get their livelihood by means of working in the garden on the following day. Well, Sir, it is evident that a man working from half past seven at night to half past four in the morning is not in a fit state to perform his duties on the following day. Or alternatively, after a day's work in the garden, he is not fit for the task of watching the railways during the night. Moreover, Sir, we do not know who is to supervise these special constables, or under whose jurisdiction they are supposed to operate. And we do urge, if it comes to the matter of making them into, as it should be, an efficient force, that it is necessary to give them some kind of status and authority, and we also think it is necessary for them to be given some kind of uniform or some distinguishing badge whereby they may be known to other people. Otherwise, we do not see how their duties can be well carried out.

We are perfectly willing, Sir, to appoint a number of people, to put them on a roster from which they may be drawn to perform their duties in rotation. But we do not desire that any unnecessary hardship should be inflicted upon the special police. All the same, we still say that we absolutely agree with the principle of their appointment. I hope Government will see their way to remedying these complaints.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.12,61,800 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29—Police, Minor head—B—District Executive Force—(a)—District Police, at page 97 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700, do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to my hon. friend Mr. Blennerhassett for bringing to the notice of Government the action of some of the police officers regarding this matter, which is quite new to me. This has not been reported either from the district or by the Inspector-General of Police. On the other hand, we have recently issued definite instructions to our district officers how portions of railway line passing through a village or a garden are to be patrolled. I hope with the

issue of these new instructions, this kind of garden patrol will be withdrawn, and action will be taken according to the new scheme which my hon. friend will come to know from the District Magistrate soon. In the meantime I will ask the Inspector-General of Police to look into the condition of the Golaghat subdivision as stated here.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : Thank you, Sir. In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier I desire leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : Sir, I do not desire to move motion No. 4†, but I will ask your permission to move motion No. 6. They are the same, the only difference being in the amount of the cut which is proposed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does Mr. Whittaker agree ?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : I do not wish to move my *motion in view of Mr. Lewis moving his.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : Sir, I beg to move, that the provision of Rs.12,505 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—F.—Railway Police—(a), Supervising Staff—at page 104 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my reason for asking your permission to withdraw motion No. 4 and to move motion No. 6 is in view of the remark made by the Hon'ble Premier the other day that he had received no information about pilferage on the railways except from a question by one member ; that question stands in my name. Sir, when a member of the public trusts his goods to a public carrier he is entitled to have a reasonable expectation that those goods will arrive safely at their destination. Admittedly, the movements of railways now-a-days are subject to very serious delay, but delay does not excuse half the consignment or a portion of consignment only arriving. And because consignments are delayed on the way, I consider it is the time when the Railway Police, one of whose major jobs is to look after goods in transit over the railway, should exercise additional care. I think possibly the Hon'ble Premier would wish me to give a few representative instances. In one case, a consignment of mosquito nets was booked upto a certain station for the use of the evacuees coming through. Only half the consignment arrived.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I shall be obliged if my hon. friend will give the name of the station from which the consignment was despatched and the station to which it was despatched.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : I think I can give the name of the station, as I was on duty there at the time. The receiving station was Dimapur. There was another consignment of boots which failed to arrive. I agree that Dimapur is an exception for many reasons.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : And what is the name of the station from which the consignment was booked ?

†4. Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS to move :—

That the provision of Rs.41,143 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—F.—Railway Police at page 98 of the Budget be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700 do stand reduced by Rs.41,143.

(To draw attention to the increasing and serious amount of pilferage on the Railways.)

*5. Mr. A. WHITTAKER to move :—

That the provision of Rs.41,143 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—F.—Railway Police, at page 98 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700 do stand reduced by Rs.41,143.

(To draw attention to the serious and increasing amount of pilferage on the Railways.)

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Calcutta, Sir.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: Then, Sir, the case of a consignment of chickens and ducks which had been sent up from some place in Sylhet district to Tinsukia. This consignment was escorted by an attendant whose job it was to give food and water to the birds. At Lumding where transshipment was necessary, the attendant saw a number of the hens being taken out of the crates by some people who jumped out of a train which had just come in. An appeal to the station authorities was made, but no action was taken, and the consignment arrived at Tinsukia with 30 hens or so short.

In another case, a case of tinned butter was despatched from Calcutta either to Tezpur or to a station near it—I am afraid I do not know the name of the station. It took an extraordinarily long time *en route*, and on arrival appeared to be intact. The case was opened and the tins inside did not seem to be entirely right. One was opened and was found to contain sand and stones instead of butter. All the tins were the same. Enquiries were made, and it was found that the case had lain at a wayside station for six weeks.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: War-time butter!

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: And the last case, Sir, concerns a consignment of medical stores which was booked off by a doctor from, I think, Panitola or round about there to Manipur Road. He supervised the loading of the stores into the wagon himself and he put his own seal on the wagon. On arrival at Manipur Road it was found that the wagon was sealed not with his seal but with the Railway seal. On being opened, the cases again appeared to be intact. He was dissatisfied and insisted on examining them then and there. It was found that in a number of cases certain M. and B. drugs and an amount of quinine had been extracted *en route*.

I think, Sir, these few instances are representative, and will show that the complaint I make that the Railway Police do not appear to be doing their job efficiently is justified.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.12,505 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—F.—Railway Police, (a)—Supervising Staff—at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,56,700 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am at one with my hon. friend Mr. Lewis when he says that a consignor of any parcel or goods by a public carrier expects that his goods will arrive at their destination intact, but he himself realises that in these difficult times when the transport system has been quite disorganised and consignments are being detained,—not through the fault of the Government, but on account of some special military reason—in some wayside stations and left there for six weeks, it will be difficult for the Railway Police to guard over them for the simple reason that there are shortage of Police. As hon. members are aware, the Railway Police are divided into two parts. One portion of the staff, which is very meagre compared with the length of the Railway line in the province, is charged with the duty of maintaining order on platforms, while it is the duty of the other portion to see that no pilferage and no sabotage is done either to the goods in transit or to see that no damage is done to the railway line. But I am sorry to inform the House that the force that can be maintained with the funds that are given to us by Government of India is much too small. They have no doubt realised the inadequacy of the provision and have urged the Government of Assam to increase the number of the police force for operation on railways. Things have not been going on well and in spite of our best efforts we cannot get a readymade and trained force immediately, but action has been taken to recruit as many men as we could and they are being trained and will be placed on duty very shortly when I hope pilferage will dwindle down—I cannot say that it will become non-existent—and pilferage will be stopped by this Police force to a large extent.

Of the instances given by Mr. Lewis nobody can say anything as regards the first and third instances because the consignments started from a station beyond the province's jurisdiction. Unless it can be said that when the consignments entered the provincial boundaries they were checked and found intact, this motion will not be in order. Nobody can say whether the pilferage occurred before the consignments entered the boundaries of the province or after that. But in the other two instances given by my hon. friend where the places of origin and destination are within the province's boundaries, it is perfectly relevant to state them. As regards the consignment of chickens, it was no ordinary pilferage. It appears that some high-handed persons jumped from one train standing on the platform into the train carrying the consignment of chickens, which had just arrived, and took away by force some 30 hens.....

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : On a point of information, Sir, is not the Railway Company liable for such pilferage ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir, they would be liable if it could be proved that the consignment was lost, or a part of the consignment was lost, through their negligence. In this case of the hens, it appears that it was a case of public and deliberate looting. I do not know why the Police, or the Railway authorities, at Lumding, which is a big railway junction, did not take any action whatever. If my friend Mr. Lewis will give me the date on which the occurrence took place I will institute an enquiry.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Can the hon. member enlighten us whether the culprits were civil or military men, Sir ?

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : I may tell that they were military people.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Whether they were military or civil we are not concerned so much. After all, this is an act of high-handedness or day-light robbery committed on a public railway platform. If I know the details, I will surely get an enquiry made against the offenders. If they were military people, I will bring this to the notice of the Military Commandant.

Now as regards the medical stores. I do not know anything about this pilferage and my hon. friend has not given us details whether the entire wagon was full of medical stores only.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : It contained only medical stores, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If it is a fact that the wagon contained only a consignment of medical stores from that particular consignor he was entitled to put his own seal, but if the wagon were meant for many people then surely he could not put his seal but the railway seal would be there. It is a sad case of pilferage—probably it contained valuable medical stores such as quinine and other materials for dispensaries which were meant for either the military or refugees. In any case, Sir, I will bring all these instances to the notice of our Superintendent of Railway Police and ask them to keep a sharper eye so that pilferage may be stopped, if not stopped altogether, number of such flagrant cases at least may be minimised.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier I beg to withdraw my motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.26,56,700 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head ‘29.—Police’. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.11,07,811.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.20.

(39.—Public Health)

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I beg to move that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.8,16,300 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "39.—Public Health". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.3,05,946.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.8,16,300 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '39.—Public Health'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.3,05,946."

I may tell the House that we wish to discuss this demand upto 3 p.m. and after that I wish to take up other Grants.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.8,583 under Grant No.20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers—Detailed head—Director of Public Health, at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,16,300 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

Sir, last year there was a long debate on the Public Health policy of the Government of Assam. It was pointed out in course of the discussion that no action was taken by Government on the defects pointed out in the successive annual reports. At the end of the debate Government gave a full assurance that the Department would be thoroughly overhauled and the defects removed.

But we are sorry to find that no action has been taken up till now to improve the Department ; what is worse, it has deteriorated.

In Assam, the Department of Public Health is playing a roll of secondary importance to the Medical Department—in fact it is a corollary to the latter Department, although the Public Health Department is charged with the duties of village sanitation, water-supply and economic development of rural areas. The reverse is the case in the European countries. It is no denying the fact that this Department is receiving a step-motherly treatment from the Government from its very inception.

The expenditure under this head has been curtailed in the current year by Rs.36,000. The explanation offered in the Budget Memorandum is far from satisfactory. The large income derived from the sale of serum and vaccine should have been spent in expanding the Department.

The Public Health Establishment of the Government is really very poor. We have got practically no public health units. We have no health visitors or Sanitary Inspectors. The Government have not as yet been able to provide any lady doctor or midwife.

A very small sum is being annually spent for public health propaganda. No contribution or grant has been made by the Government to the local bodies or social service associations for the purpose. No grants to local bodies have been provided for anti-malarial work.

In the present year, a serious cholera epidemic has broken out in all the subdivisions of the Sylhet district. The big congregation of labour folk in particular

places of military activities has tended to spread the disease. Harrowing reports have been received from Luba, Salutikar and Chhatak area, in the Sylhet district. The ordinary epidemic units have been requisitioned for military service. Many of the Epidemic Dispensaries have been closed down. As a result the Department is at a great handicap to combat the disease. We would wish to know what steps the Government are taking to meet the situation.

We want that the Public Health Department should be an independent body. We are waiting for the day when district and subdivisional Public Health Officers should be appointed so as to undertake the rural utility works on a large scale and in an organised basis.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I must draw the attention of the hon. member that cut motions Nos.2 and 3 stand in his name. I think it is better for him to raise those points also which he wants to discuss in this connection.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : As regards *No.2 I will not move it but as regards No.3 I may be allowed to move separately.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.8,583 under Grant No.20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers—Detailed head—Director of Public Health, at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,16,300 do stand reduced by Rs.110.”

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to add a few words in support of the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri. Sir, last year it was pointed out to the Government that the Assam Pure Food Act should be amended in such a way that the imperfection in the Act which had made its operation impracticable should be removed. But, Sir, nothing has been done. Sir, this Act is only in the statute book. It is something like a dead letter. I don't find the reason why Government is so very callous about this Act ; its non-application has created serious danger to the general health and welfare of all the communities of the province. Sir, in 1941-42 we find the actual amount that was spent is Rs 9,27,000. This year the budgetted figure is Rs.8,16,300. Sir, while we got assurance from the Government that they would try their best to make improvements in this Department, but in actual practice we find that instead of providing larger amount, the amount has been decreased this year. What is really required is more men at the bottom. We want more propaganda. There is some provision for vaccination. It is well and good. Sir, we require all these, but I think prevention is better than cure. If we can go on with the propaganda work successful, if we can make people understand the real value of cleanliness and sanitation, I think, that will be a right move in the right direction.

Then, Sir, about water-supply in the rural areas. Many people die due to want of good drinking water. Nothing has been done in this direction. It is going on as usual. Sir, dispensaries are few and far between in the rural areas and the few that are there are not stocked with sufficient medicine. It is no wonder that people should die in thousands due to want of medicine and proper propaganda.

Sir, in the week that ended on the 31st of October 1942 there were about 1,300 cases of cholera out of which about 700 died. What we find from the report published in the Gazette of November 18th 1942—Return for the week ending 7th November 1942—is that in Silchar there were 50 cases of cholera of which 23 died. I am just reading only the cases of cholera.

*2. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move :—

That the provision of Rs.1,003 under Grant No.20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(b)—Public Health Propaganda, Sub-head—1.—Establishment, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,16,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the necessity of introducing effective propaganda as a preventive measure for epidemic diseases).

Hailakandi	...	...	...	43 cases	21 died.
North Sylhet	...	...	...	380 ,,	192 ,,
South Sylhet	...	...	...	10 ,,	5 ,,
Karimganj	...	...	...	88 ,,	39 ,,
Habiganj	...	...	...	47 ,,	33 ,,
Sunamganj	...	...	...	337 ,,	176 ,,
Shillong	...	...	...	1 ,,	1 ,,
Jowai	...	...	...	4 ,,	4 ,,
Dhubri	...	...	...	273 ,,	156 ,,
Goalpara	...	...	...	33 ,,	22 ,,
Gauhati	...	...	...	42 ,,	30 ,,
Barpeta	...	...	...	79 ,,	51 ,,
Tezpur	...	...	...	44 ,,	22 ,,
Mangaldai	...	...	...	24 ,,	20 ,,
Golaghat	...	...	...	13 ,,	5 ,,
North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	7 ,,	5 ,,
Garó Hills	...	...	...	9 ,,	5 ,,

What we find, Sir, is that practically throughout the province the cholera epidemic has broken out. What our Government is doing? So far Sylhet is concerned, I know, Sir, when the local officers of Sylhet wanted assistance from the Director of Public Health in the shape of a few more doctors just to cope with the situation, the reply that was given by the authorities here was that they were short of doctors. Sir, the other day the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave credit to this Department; that he was very pleased that 33 per cent. of the doctors of Public Health Department were supplied to the Military. Sir, if out of 1,634 cases 904 people died in one week only by cholera alone we can well understand how this Department is trying to cope with the situation either by preventive measures or when the disease appears, by treatment. Sir, though I know that no useful purpose will be served by my crying, still just for the sake of humanity and only on humanitarian ground I appeal before the Hon'ble Ministers that they may take care of all these facts and try to save the lives of those poor people whose representatives they are. Ministers are enjoying their days here at Shillong, while the poor people are dying like cattle in the villages. Sir, with these words, I support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement which has been made by my hon. friend on the right should set the Government thinking. It reveals indeed a very deplorable state of things. We all know, Sir, that the interest of our Public Health greatly suffered during the last summer and rainy seasons. One of the reasons was that a large number of persons qualified in medicines were attracted by better emoluments and salaries given by the Military Department.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: They were rather compelled.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Another reason was that a large number of Doctors had to be requisitioned for the purpose of attending to the Burma evacuees who passed through our province. So, Sir, a large number of people died in villages from preventable diseases due to the want of Doctors, and we cannot say that, that state of things will not recur. So, the Government should be fore-warned and fore-armed. Government must make some provision to substitute the Doctors when they go out for extraordinary duties. In this connection I would request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Health to give her attention to the indigenous method of treatment, namely, Aiyurvedic and Unani treatments. Now, Sir, when the allopathic Surgeons and Doctors are requisitioned for different purposes, would it not be better if at this time, to introduce Homeopathic, Aiyurvedic and Unani treatments just to help the people in the interior. In this connection also, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the moribund condition of the subsidised dispensaries. The subsidised dispensaries were doing useful work and promised to do much more useful work in future. But Sir, as a small pittance of only Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 is given as salary to the Subsidised Doctors, it is very difficult to get Medical Officers to be in-charge of subsidised dispensaries. So I ask Government to consider if it is not the time to increase the salary of the Doctors who are in charge of these subsidised dispensaries. I should also remind the Hon'ble Minister that the price of medicines has considerably increased in the meantime and it is difficult to manage the dispensaries with a small allowance of Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 which is granted from year to year. Now I urge upon the Government the necessity of improving the subsidised dispensaries because these Doctors will be able to render a very substantial help to the epidemic units when they move in the villages. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take notes of all these things and shall see that extra expenditure in this connection be met by re-appropriations in this year. Government should also make some provision in the next budget for it.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is absolutely incorrect to say that the department has deteriorated in any way. In spite of the war conditions and financial stringency, this department has not been slackening in its effort to cope effectively with the epidemic that has unfortunately spread throughout Assam. Criticism has been levelled that expenses in this department have been cut down. If the hon. members will care to refer to the Budget Memorandum, they will find the reasons for any curtailment of expenditure and will find that much has been saved under salaries. To say that Government is indifferent to good water-supply to villages is also incorrect. I may especially point out that there has been an increase of expenditure on water-supply.

I admit, Sir, that there has been a bad spread of cholera. This year it has been abnormally so, due to war conditions, infection from outside and ignorance of the people. The Public Health Department has done every thing possible to cope with the epidemic. I am glad, Sir, that my friend Mr. Mookerjee has referred to the question of propaganda and to mention that prevention is better than cure. I would request him and all hon. members to do a lot of propaganda and educate the people so that they will readily agree to taking inoculation before cholera has had time to spread and take its toll.

Speaking of steps taken by Government to combat the epidemic, Sir, it may be noted that Civil Surgeons in the different districts have been empowered to appoint extra Doctors locally to cope with the cholera epidemic.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Doctors available now?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Of course, Doctors are not readily available.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir, I am sorry to interrupt. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the students passing out from the Dacca National Medical School or other National Schools are not

allowed to work either under the Government or under the Local Boards? If such permission were granted, they might have been very useful now.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I have not got that information, but I shall make inquiries on this point.

With regard to the question raised by my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri about subsidised dispensaries, I may say for the information of this House, that we have raised the subsidies of the Doctors-in-charge of the subsidised dispensaries from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45. I think, Sir, I have met all the points raised by the hon. members.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: As has been pointed out by Mr. Chaudhuri, can we know whether Government will take this question into consideration and appoint the students coming out from Dacca National Medical School. They will be very fit persons, I think.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has already said that she will look into that question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: But that is a very vague reply, Sir. I may tell that the Government of Bengal has already ordered for the employment of those students under the District Boards.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. member press his motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: No, Sir. In view of the appeal made by the Hon'ble Minister for co-operation and propaganda, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We have been told that the Department has made progress and so we fail to understand why appeal should be made to us.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then does the hon. member object to the withdrawal of the motion?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I object to the withdrawal of the motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the question. The question is:

“That the provision of Rs. 8,583 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Director of Public Health, at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,16,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 110”.

The question was negatived.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I won't move my motion* No. 3. Only five minutes are left.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will put the main motion. The question is: “That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 8,16,300 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head—‘39—Public Health’. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 3,05,946.”

The question was adopted.

*3. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,05,612 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor head—C—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,16,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the utility of an annual grant of Rs. 20,000 to the Assam Medical Research Society).

GRANT No. 18

(37—EDUCATION—OTHER THAN EUROPEAN)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 42,01,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "37.—Education—Other than European". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 20,43,980.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 42,01,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '37.—Education—Other than European'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 20,43,980."

There are as many as 17 cut motions but there is one cut motion which wants to discuss the general educational policy of the Government. I think this may be taken up first. This is cut motion No. 3 standing in the name of Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 2,01,006 under grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 42,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Sir, by this motion I want to discuss the educational policy of Government. More than once, on this floor, we have urged upon Government to provide more money for the education of children, that is, for the expansion of primary education. But to my utter disappointment I find, that Government has been neglecting this; they are all along providing more money for higher education and less for primary education. Of course, higher education requires high provisions, but the policy should not be of neglecting the expansion of primary education. The Government have taken up the luxurious scheme of mass literacy, but they are not so much earnest as to push up the case of primary education. I bring this to the notice of the Government so that, in framing the next budget, they will come forward with more money for expansion of primary education.

Sir, in respect of appointments, we heard from Government that they were always in favour of efficient candidates. But I am informed that while making appointments, the Director of Public Instruction does not always take efficiency into consideration; on the other hand he considers the request of his friends. I will cite an instance in this matter. While Honours graduates and B. T.s were found available, the Department of Education appointed non-B. T.s even though some of these candidates were not found competent and suitable on previous occasions. I am told that recently some appointments have been made to please the fathers-in-law or uncles-in-law of some candidates, refusing to appoint competent B. T.s and Honours graduates. If things go on in this way, I am afraid only those who can approach the Director of Public Instruction with big "Suparish" will get the appointment, but not really deserving candidates.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Ministers are the big "suparish" makers.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: In making appointments, Government have also failed to consider the claims of different communities. I will prove this fact by quoting some figures, of course subject to correction.

I take up Assam School Service on Provincial basis first. I will give only a few figures and will not take much time of the House. Headmasters, School Service class I.—Total posts—24. Assam Valley Hindus 12, Muslims 1, Tribal nil, Ahoms 2, Surma Valley Hindus 6, Muslims 2, Tribal—(Khasi)—1.

Deputy Inspectors, School Service Class I—23 posts. Assam Valley Hindus 11, Muslim 2, Tribal 1, Ahom 1, Surma Valley Hindus 5; Muslims 3; Tribal 1 (Khasi). Out of the 3 Muslim Deputy Inspectors one is special. Assistant Head Master—School Service Class II, Total posts 21.

Assam Valley Hindus 9; Muslims 1; Tribal 2 (one Naga); Ahom 1; Surma Valley Hindus 8; Muslims nil; Tribal nil.

In respect of Assam School Service, Lower School Service and Ministerial posts, I propose to give a picture of the Surma Valley. First I give the number of posts. Assam School Service—Number of posts is 186. Percentage of communities—Muslims 53 per cent. In the Assam School Service they are entitled to 99 posts, but they are holding 89. In the Assam Lower School Service, they are entitled to 43 posts, they are holding 33. In the Ministerial service they are entitled to 22 posts; they are holding 21 posts. In the temporary Ministerial Service they are entitled to 6 posts; they are holding 5. Caste Hindus—percentage 24—entitled to 45, but they are holding 64 posts. Assam Lower School Service—they are entitled to 19, but holding 37 posts. Ministerial Service—entitled to 10—holding 11. In the temporary clerical job they are entitled to 3, but holding 5 posts.

Schedules Castes—percentage 10, entitled to 18 in the Assam School Service but holding 10 posts only.

Lower School Service—entitled to 8, holding 3.

Ministerial Service—entitled to 4, holding 5.

Temporary Ministerial Service—entitled to 1, holding 2.

Tribal—percentage 13.

Assam Education Service—entitled to 24, holding 21.

Lower School Service—entitled to 11, holding 8.

Ministerial Service—entitled to 5, holding 4.

Temporary Ministerial Service—entitled to 2, holding Nil.

"Others"—Nil.

This is the picture in figures I give before the House. I hope the Hon'ble Minister of Education who depends on figures will please be able to grasp the situation.

Recently, Sir, during the subversive movement started by some Congress workers—I do not say Congress, because some of my hon. friends denied the other day that the Congress is responsible for this movement—I found that many schools turned to be hot beds of subversive movement. Even the teachers of some schools were encouraging the boys to join the movement. It was also alleged that there were radio sets in some educational institutions and through those radio sets the students were supplied with information about the activities of the enemies, I mean the Axis powers. I do not know whether after getting my questions the Hon'ble Minister made any inquiry or not. If not, I ask the Hon'ble Minister to hold an inquiry immediately and see his way to stop such things.

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I have only one point and I have finished. To recognise the rights of women the Director of Public Instruction has appointed a lady member on the Governing Body of the Murarichand College, but that lady happens to be the wife of a Professor

who is also the Superintendent of a certain College Hostel. The members of the Governing Body have got power to visit the hostels and submit report, and this lady is to inspect the hostel of which her husband is the Superintendent. The professors have got their due representation in the Governing Body and by appointing this lady as member of the Governing Body the professors have been given more representation because here in this case the wife means the husband and the husband means the wife (*A voice*: Never). Because she cannot be expected to go against the interest of her husband. It was done by the Director of Public Instruction perhaps to oblige his former colleague, the husband of the lady member, ignoring the fact that there were many public spirited ladies in Sylhet who contribute much for the cause of women.

Sir, I have brought these matters before the House for the consideration of the hon. members and I hope that these facts will draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and he will try to remove all these grievances.

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. 2,01,006 under grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.42,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this motion not with the idea of destruction but with a motive of construction. Sir, I think, that educational institutions are deteriorating in Assam and until the Government, specially Sir Muhammad, realises that public services are national trusts for the country, Assam will degenerate into an asylum of inefficient. At least in this department there should not be any communal representation. In making appointment in this department merit and merit alone should be the criterion, and not the communal ratio which is the bane of this province. If the Government try to act according to the suggestion put forward by the mover of this motion, I think, before long rather after giving effect only to one or two suggestions the Government will come to grief. Sir, it has been stated by the hon. mover that the existing staff is not according to the communal ratio of the province and the present Director of Public Instruction has been made responsible for it. Sir, may I ask the hon. mover whether the figures shown by him are of recent appointments, and whether all these appointments were made by the present Director of Public Instruction? He has also been charged for appointing a lady as the member of the Murarichand College governing body on a flimsy ground.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Recent appointments.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The hon. member read all the figures of all the communities of all the posts that have been held at present in the School Service. Sir, now I like to remind the Hon'ble Education Minister of the assurance that we got last year with regard to the salary of the Assistant Lecturers.

Sir, it was admitted that they deserved increment and Government was considering the point but nothing has been done up till now—at least we do not know whether Government has made any move in this direction. Then, Sir, as regards the Lecturers, their scale of pay should be amended, and promotion should be made according to efficiency and seniority and not subject by subject as it is being done at present. Sir, I know of cases where a teacher is still working as a lecturer even after serving as such for more than 20 years whereas his student's student has become a professor in course of less than 4 years. It is the present rule that I object to. I don't mind if one man is put in charge of a particular Department, or he gets a special allowance for it, but why should promotions be made according to department and not according to seniority. By the present rule one man will retire as a Lecturer after serving for 25 or 30

years, while another man, after serving not even for four years, will become a professor. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will pay his attention to this, and will try to do justice.

Sir, as regards Sanskrit education, the other day I referred about it in my budget speech. The Sylhet Government Sanskrit College was started about 20 years back. At that time only three subjects were taught in the college, and even now the same three subjects are being taught though we tried our best to impress upon the Government the necessity of introducing one or two more subjects. Sir, now-a-days we can easily find a Pandit with both Sankhya and Vedanta titles. So, if such a man is engaged, both the subjects may be taught in the Sylhet Sanskrit College which is the only Government Sanskrit College in the province.

As regards the opening of Biology classes in the Murarichand College, as far back as 1940 I got an assurance on the floor of this House, from the Government that we would soon get it; the then Hon'ble Minister of Education was kind enough to go to Sylhet with another Hon'ble Minister for this purpose. Then also we were given to understand that from the next session our grievances would be remedied, but nothing has yet been done. Sir, I hope I shall hear from the Hon'ble Minister that he has not forgotten about it, and our grievances are going to be redressed from the next Session.

As regards the Botany Classes, Sir, the Murarichand College has got provision to teach Botany up to the I.Sc. standard; it should be raised to the B.Sc. standard without any further delay. There are only sixty seats in the Intermediate Chemistry classes. Sir, we brought it to the notice of the Government that it was high time that the seats should be increased, and I understand that there is a note from the college authorities to the effect that without incurring any extra expenditure, or a nominal expenditure they can cope with hundred students at present. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will kindly give a definite reply to this point also.

As regards the non-Government Arts Colleges, I beg to bring to the notice of the Government that public enterprise should get more encouragement. Sir, the other day I thanked the Government for a grant of six *bighas* of land in the town of Sylhet for the Sylhet Women's College; I repeat that again now; Sir, this has been a move in the right direction. Sir, both the newly started colleges in the town of Sylhet, *viz.*, the Madan Mohan College and the Sylhet Women's College, have applied to the University for affiliation up to the B.A. standard. The present grant in aid is very small; unless Government extend their helping hand there is no chance of maintaining these colleges at their present standard, not to speak of raising their standard. Sir, the same consideration is also applicable in the cases of Gurucharan College, Silchar and the Brindaban College, Habiganj. These two colleges also are in need of substantial grant-in-aid from the Government.

Sir, I am glad that the present Government have most sensibly got rid of the very dangerous idea of establishing a university in the province (A voice:—Question). I praise them that after all they have come to their senses. God help us!

Sir, as regards the educational institutions that have been requisitioned by the military authorities I think the hon. members will admit that our education is suffering a great deal on that account. It should be the duty of Government to see that at least the educational institutions are spared and the education of the students does not suffer.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we find in the budget under Grants to non-Government secondary schools a provision of Rs.4,500 for teaching elementary scientific knowledge in Aided High Schools for boys and girls, but nowhere in the budget do we find any provision for the proper training of teachers to teach these subjects. This leads us to the apprehension that the

Government in the expansion of their education policy are not paying sufficient attention to quality and efficiency in teachers. Sir, it is notable in the matter of health that only qualified experts are allowed to deal with the human bodily ailments. Also in the matter of cattle, as the Hon'ble the Premier told us this morning, they are very concerned about the lack of training facilities for veterinary officers. Yet in the case of the minds of our students apparently they are prepared to allow anyone to practise and are not concerned with providing facilities for the training of properly qualified teachers. I bring this aspect of the case to the very serious consideration of the Government.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only one thing to point out to the Government. When the primary schools were taken over by the Government in the Khasi Hills they were given both non-recurring and recurring grants. The primary schools in the Garo Hills were also taken over, but without any non-recurring grant. I mean without any provision for building, equipment or furniture, and a grant was given only for the salaries of the teachers. I have mentioned about this fact several times in this House, and pointed out that schools cannot be held outside in the open or under trees. This point was also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Education Minister, the predecessor of the present Hon'ble Education Minister. I have nothing to say about the appointment of this man or that man, but I do not agree with the hon. mover that promotion should be made according to seniority of service only and not by merit. In some cases we remember that sometimes some jumping over grades and classes is allowed (I could mention many cases, but that is uncalled for at present). We have some difficulty for the teaching of science, etc. in our High School at Tura because on account of this war some students had to take transfer from their schools to the Tura School. They were taking some alternative subjects and they complained to the Headmaster stating that they wanted to take science, but the Headmaster objected strongly and explained that there was no qualified teacher for the subject. So if the students were not in a position to follow the course, it was better for them to quit school and seek transfer elsewhere as this was a very sad thing for the guardians of the boys concerned. So in our Managing Committee meeting I made some cutting remarks that it was the duty of the Director of Public Instruction to see that the properly qualified teachers were sent to Tura. So I think when appointments are made only the cases of ordinary graduates should not be taken into consideration, but as the hon. mover has said, there should be special qualifications in teaching in different subjects. So I bring this point also to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, and I hope he will kindly remember the case of the Garo Hills.

Then, Sir, regarding the building grant, I press this claim very strongly. Primary education is free everywhere in the province except in the Garo Hills, where we have to pay for it in the shape of labour in erecting school buildings. So I bring this point also to the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in these extraordinary times the questions of the defence of the country and the protection of its people are matters of paramount importance. When it is a question of life and death it is certainly advisable to take extraordinary steps because while there is life there is hope. It was therefore not at all surprising that various Civil Defence Departments and steps to take special war efforts were started for the military operations. But my grievance is that the Education Department was made to suffer more than any other Department—more than it should have been allowed to suffer. Sir, in olden days we remember, that when a touring officer went round on tour, the *Daroga* would generally prefer to go to a *Pathsala*, the Sub-Deputy Collector would live in a Middle School—they never chose a High School for the purpose. But now we find that whenever a shelter is wanted by the Military they always prefer educational buildings. Sir, we have heard to-day on the floor of this House that as many as 49 educational buildings are

now in the occupation of the Military. I wonder why they should require these buildings because we know that soldiers are generally used to hardships and they are accustomed to live in camps and tents in the open, so why in these days the Military should require luxurious buildings is more than I can understand. Of course there might be some justification for them to require houses during the rains, but there is absolutely no justification for reserving educational buildings for them in dry weather and I hope that the Hon'ble Education Minister, who as I have heard has already moved in the matter, will take early steps to see that all these buildings are released as soon as possible. Moreover there is no justification for the occupation of the Cotton College now that a large number of the soldiers have already moved out of the town. I would ask, Sir, why should the Bungalow reserved for the Principal of the Cotton College be occupied by the Military people and not the Bungalow of the Judge, a single man, who occupies a two-storied house, and why not the Bungalow of the Commissioner who is also a single individual, and why not the bachelor Superintendent of Police's quarter or Bungalow? Why the buildings meant for the hostels be occupied whereas there are other houses available elsewhere? Sir, when the section 93 Government was going on we could have protested only in vain, but why are the same state of affairs continuing when there is an Education Minister in power. I hope the Hon'ble Minister of Education will take an early step to remove all these grievances.

Sir, I have seen that the police officers and other executive officers move with great facilities in their cars. There is no petrol restriction for the use of the police officers when they go to quell disturbances, or to beat and make *lathi* charges upon the people. But there is petrol restriction for the Director of Public Instruction—he cannot get petrol when he is required to go out on tour in the interest of public service and to go round to explain to the students to abstain from any subversive movement. Why not he, who is a member of the Indian Educational Service, is not given the same advantages and facilities and not shown the same courtesy as are given to other officers?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it the policy of the Government that the hon. member is speaking of?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I cannot say, Sir, what is the present policy of the Government and I cannot understand whether they are still going to follow the policy laid down under section 93 Administration or they would adopt a more liberal policy of spreading education. But I am only urging the Government that they should not follow that policy which was laid down in the intervening period and suggest that the educational officers ought to be treated with greater respect and courtesy and be given better facilities than other executive officers of the Government. So, Sir, I again urge upon the present Education Minister to give whole-hearted attention to this aspect of the matter.

Sir, the complaint made by the hon. mover of this motion is, as I understand, that the communal ratio was very much disturbed during the regime of the previous Ministry. I may say from the little experience that I gained while I was a member of that Cabinet that the communal ratio was never lost sight of in the Education Department, rather I must say to my shame and regret that the communal ratio was more religiously observed than it should have been desirable to do. Sir, it was illustrated in reply to a question which was put in the Assam Legislative Council sometime last year about this matter and it was pointed out that the Muslim community was over-represented in the School Service. As regards Assam Educational Service, I say this with all the emphasis that I can command that whenever there was a qualified Muslim candidate, his case was never lost sight of, rather attempts were made to get him in even at the risk of incurring the displeasure of the Public Service Commission by referring the question more than once to see whether he could be appointed as coming from an under-represented community. So I do not think that I committed any serious breach in this respect. And at the same time if I did

not adhere to the communal policy many members of the Assamese Hindu Community also might not have been appointed. Sir, if we strictly followed the policy of selecting candidates on the basis of merit then we could get much more qualified candidates from Bengal even at smaller pay. But we did not do that. No province would possibly adopt that when persons of requisite qualification were available.

Sir, as regards grievances about the appointment of Professors. Some Lecturers do not get promotion to the position of Professors especially in the English Department. At first there were 5 Professors in the English Department which afterwards were reduced and therefore the curious thing complained of by Mr. Mookerjee happened. Some qualified Lecturers in English who worked for more than 20 years have not been able to get promotion as Professors, whereas a new man recently appointed in a different Department gets promotion on account of there being a vacancy by retirement of a Professor. I think the best course to meet this grievance is to have more Professors in the English Department as in the past.

One more point, Sir, is about the book* which the Government wanted to publish. I have been requested by several members of this House, particularly by Mr. Mookerjee, to bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Education Minister. This involves a small expenditure—nearly Rs.1,200—and I hope the Education Minister will look into this.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: There is one aspect of the question which has been referred to by the hon. mover of the motion and Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri; there is also a motion dealing with it in to-day's order paper, and times without number we have on the floor of this House had occasion to debate the matter. I mean political activities in schools. Now, Sir, the early years of a boy should be spent in learning how to learn, and in school he should never be allowed to participate in political activities in any form until his mind is matured and until he can make up his mind, whether or not he wishes to participate in politics, and if so, on what side. Now-a-days we see small boys being coerced and cajoled, even in some cases being compelled by force into joining Congress political activities, and I can speak from my personal observation when I say that this is being done without doubt. Now, Sir, this to my mind is most deplorable and bodes nothing but evil to the future of the boys of the country. We do urge upon Government to raise such a ban against children taking part in political activities in schools as will for ever rid us from this menace.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I will try to place some grievances of the Muslim community alone. What Mr. Chaudhuri has just now stated in reply to the hon. mover that the Muslims were never disturbed in receiving their due quota, I make an open challenge to Mr. Chaudhuri and to the Government as well, to deny the correctness of the figures supplied by my hon. friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri. I heard him saying that the Muslims were never debarred from getting their due share in the Assam Education Service. Sir, the total strength in Class I of the School Service in the province is 50, 25 in teaching and 25 in the inspection. In the Assam Valley out of 15 officers there are only 2 Muslim Deputy Inspectors as against their due share of 2.85. In the Surma Valley out of 10 the figure is only 3 as against their due share of 4.26.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, Deputy Inspectors are not appointed direct. They are appointed on promotion and in promotion seniority and merit are only considered.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am coming to that, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not a fact that promotions are made simply on merit?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Both seniority and merit are considered.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Then, Sir, out of 25 Deputy Inspectors in the province only 5 are Muslims as against their share of 7·5. In the Assam Valley out of 15 posts only 2 are Muslims and in the Surma Valley out of 9 posts there are only 3 Muslims as against their share of 4·6. Thus out of 25, the Muslims are only 5 as against 7·75. In Class I, both teaching and inspection put together, we have in the Assam Valley 27 posts of which only 3 are Muslims as against 5·7 and in the Surma Valley out of 13 posts only 5 are Muslims as against their share of 9·2.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. Does the hon. member want that the present incumbent should be turned out and new recruitment should be made?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: It should be the look out of the Government, but we must get our due share.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of information, Sir. Is it the complaint of the hon. member that communal ratio of the Government is not being followed in the Educational Service?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In Classes I and II particularly, Sir. Then I come to Class II, Sir. In Class II, the Muslims are poorly under-represented both in the Assam Valley and in the Surma Valley. There is only 1 incumbent and one is an officiating hand. In the Surma Valley out of 8 posts the number of Muslims is nil, as against their share of 8·37. Now, I have placed the state of things in the Assam School Service for the Muslim community. I heard Mr. Chaudhuri, who had an opportunity to be in the Cabinet not long before, was telling my friend the mover of this motion that the figure under complaint as lodged before the House is not correct. But I will urge upon the Government to deny the figures which have been just now furnished and these figures are based on the 1941 census figures. The Muslims are sure to get more appointments in this service. Sir, the complaint or charge which the hon. mover has made against the Director of Public Instruction has been opposed by Mr. Mookerjee. Sir, I do not like to lay stress on any particular officer but my grievances or charges are very serious and very genuine and these are against the Government as a whole. I hear that Muslims are trying to get their due quota in Classes I and II of the Assam School Service, but I don't know what difficulty there are on the part of the Government not to accede to the legitimate demands of the Muslim community as regards getting their due share in these services. I heard Mr. Mookerjee pointing out that whether the existing incumbent should be thrown out. I don't mean that. But what we want is to get our due share. It is the look out of the Government to give our due quota.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Sir, a few points have been raised by my friend Mr. Chaudhuri about the occupation of certain educational institutions by the Military. I admit that Government should take care so that the Military should not take over educational institutions more than what is absolutely necessary. In this connection I beg to point out that if the soldiers—both Indian and European—who are fighting for the civil population and undergoing great hardship are not given some help, encouragement and comfort by the civil population, then they are not helping the war efforts. To withhold any building or any help from these people will be doing a great harm to the cause of our country. Therefore I do not support the sweeping remark that the educational institutions should not be left at the disposal of the Military. There are many countries to-day where people have to leave their home and hearth even for the sake of war. And supposing there is bombing here in Assam and if we do not spare our educational institutions will the teachers and students go on with their work in the class-rooms? The hon. member has not taken note of other factors: we are finding fault with the Military, but what about the students who have taken recourse to strike and stopped going to school. Did those hon. members who have influence over the public explain to the students that they were doing harm to themselves and to the country?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Does the hon. member mean to say that the educational buildings were given to the Military people because they anticipated the strike of the students ?

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: I say, Sir, that I fully agree with the hon. member that discrimination should not be shown in selecting Bungalows. Any building which the Military people require ought to be given without any consideration whether it is a building of an Indian Officer or an European Officer. No discrimination should be made in this regard.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I may be allowed to speak something on *motion No.1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, the hon. member may speak ; but I hope the hon. member will be very brief.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: We all know, Sir, that the Report of the Select Committee of the Assam University Bill was presented to this House but the consideration of the Report could not be taken up as the Ministry all on a sudden resigned and the Constitution was suspended. Sir, a huge amount of expenditure was incurred over this Bill and a Special Officer was appointed to draft it. His services were also retained during the deliberations of the Select Committee. All experts of University Education were invited all over the country to depose before the Committee and a big sum of money was spent over their travelling allowance. No doubt the Bill raised some controversial issue but the Ministry should realise that no serious legislation can be taken up without controversy. We the Mussalmans of the province are feeling very sore over the decision of the Government to drop the Bill. We do hope that a separate University for Assam should be established and that in no time. The continuation of the war should not be pleaded to be a hindrance. The Bill was introduced during the pendency of the war and the Council of Ministers which include the present Hon'ble Minister-in-charge knew full well that the war was going to continue for some years more. In the circumstances, Sir, we do hope that Government will take steps for getting the Bill passed as early as possible. With these few words, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not speak a word or two about the education of the labourers. Much has been said regarding the policy of the Government with regard to the Education of the mass, College Education and Secondary Education, etc.

Now regarding the education of the labourers, I have got a few points to say which I think, will be of interest to all. During Mr. Hockenhull's time it was an act of great kindness on the part of the authorities of the tea industry to have schools in every tea garden which are doing very well but at the same time, I should say that I am not very much satisfied with the progress of the schools in these tea-garden areas. It seems, Sir, there will be more progress in these garden schools if more care and supervision are given by the authorities where schools are located. I may say that it should not be thought that labourers are not good or intelligent enough ; if they are taught in right direction and in a good method, they are apt to grasp things as the members of other higher communities are able to grasp and appreciate. I visited some schools in my district and I found that the children were very energetic and some of them were also very intelligent. So, Sir, I should say that they should be encouraged in every respect.

*1. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move :—

That the provision of Rs.14,294 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Principals at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.42,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

(To raise a discussion about the fate of the Assam University Bill, 1941.)

Now, Sir, I should mention that in the tea-gardens, the labourers mostly come from Bihar, Madras, Central Provinces and other places whose languages are Hindustani, Tamil and Uria, etc., but the languages mainly taught in Assam Valley and Surma Valley are Assamese and Bengali which the children of the tea garden areas have to learn and it is not easy for them to grasp these languages properly. Of-course, it is quite necessary that they should also try to learn these languages, but in my opinion they should have a chance to learn as far as practicable their own language which is very common to all, *i.e.*, Hindustani. If a student can find that in some schools, he can learn Hindustani in addition to Assamese and Bengali, then in that case, he will not forget his own common Hindi language. He will get a chance to learn his own common language also there. After all, they want to have correspondences, letters and communications with their relatives in their homes. And so, Sir, I should say that some arrangements should be made if it is possible for the tea-garden children to learn their Hindi common language.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to say one more point and that is that in the schools they should be taught drill. As in other Government and Local Board Schools, the tea garden school children should also be taught drill for the sake of their entertainment and good health. I noticed to my great dissatisfaction that drill had not yet been introduced in Namgaon Tea Estate Tea Garden School and so I request the authorities of the gardens to try to introduce drill in every school and they should also have proper supervision over these schools. They should adopt some ways and means which will be helpful for the school children. With these few words, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: On a point of information, Sir. Will the hon. member please let me know which schools he visited where no drill is carried on?

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: I visited the school at Namgaon Tea Estate where no drill was taught to the boys of the Garden School.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: How many schools did the hon. member visit?

Srijut BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: I have left a note of my inspection regarding the fact that drill should be introduced there.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Sir, I have got a cut *motion in my name. May I be allowed to speak?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Education Department should truly speaking be called the Nation-building department. It is education which moulds the character and the destiny of our future generation. It is not a static subject. In every country, the system of education changes with the changes of the world. The world of 1942 is not the same world as that of 1918. In the words of Tennyson "old order changeth yielding place to new". The present war which has been called the war of ideas has not only changed the territorial boundaries of the maps of the world, but it has also revolutionised our thoughts and ideas. The struggle for existence of the present age has become very keen and hard. We shall go if our education cannot prepare us for

*4. Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs.2,01,006 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.42,01,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To urge upon Government the necessity of forming a Muslim Education Board for Co-ordination of educational and culture amongst the Mussalmans of the Province.)

our future struggle. In this sense at least, Sir, our educational system has totally failed. In the words of Kipling

“Nations have passed
Away and left no traces
And History gives the
Naked reason of it
One single and simple reason
In all cases
They fell because their people
were not fit”.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarkar truly said in the Agra Convocation address—“In our education there should be scope for ambition and idealism in our young age, and reasonable security when we become old. The present system of education has not satisfied our needs.” It is truer in the case of our Muslim education in India in general, and in Assam in particular. After the Moslem empire fell in India, when the East India Company assumed the reins of administration in their hands, Moslem education was a neglected subject which received step-motherly treatment in their hands. Even now, Sir, the condition of Moslem education has not been much improved. It has only followed the old method which Warren Hastings adopted for the sake of his administration in India. But thanks to the revival of Moslem political consciousness after 1906 when All-India Moslem Educational Conference was held and the foundation of Moslem League was laid down at Dacca, Government revised their educational policy in India and was compelled to re-examine and to look to the interests of Muslim education.

As a result of this, Sir, Sadler Commission, Bees Committee, Earle Committee, Momin Committee, Moulabux Committee, Dacca University Committee and several other Committees were formed by the Bengal Government to make an enquiry into the general educational policy of the country, and remove the grievance of the Muslims.

During the last Congress administration when they threatened to annihilate the Muslim education and culture from the surface of India, Kamal Ajarjung Committee came forward to safeguard the interests of the Muslim culture and education in India. Even in our province, Sir, in spite of our vehement protests Wardha Scheme of education was introduced by the Congress Government, but thanks to Sir Saadulla, who in view of the fact that Muslims and other minorities did not want the system, withdrew the system in Assam.

Every nation and community have got a separate educational policy and ideal of their own. We Muslims who form a quite distinct and separate nation by our religion, culture, ideals and ideologies from other communities (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee—Pakistan in education).....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: So our educational ideals are also quite distinct and separate from the educational policy of other communities. We also support the view that every community should have their due share in our budget provision.

So, Sir, time has come when we should re-examine the present system of our Muslim education in our province which should be thoroughly re-organised and overhauled. So, we urge upon the Government the necessity of forming a Muslim education board for co-ordination of education and culture of Muslims of this province.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words in this connection.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have to call upon the Hon'ble Minister to reply. Very well, the hon. member may speak.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS : I am speaking of the Scheduled caste education. Hon. members of the House are well aware of the fact that the condition of scheduled caste in the field of education is very very bad. The scheduled castes are extremely backward in education, and unless special care is taken the condition of the scheduled caste people in the field of education cannot be improved. So, more facilities in the form of free studentship and scholarships both in the secondary and higher field of education should be given to the scheduled castes in the province of Assam. In the current year, a very inadequate sum of Rs. 25 thousand has been allotted for the spread of primary education but nothing has been earmarked for the education of the scheduled castes. Out of this grant again a portion will go to revive the lapsed grant of 1940-41 in the North Sylhet and Barpeta Local Boards. So if a good portion of what is left is not earmarked for the cause of scheduled caste in the primary stage, our case will be rather hopeless.

Similarly in the case of appointments also we see in the picture placed before the House by my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury that due share has not been given to the scheduled castes. So I appeal to the Government to see to the lot of the scheduled caste candidates in making appointments in the Education Department.

With these few words I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has objected to the principle of communal representation in educational services. I should go further and say that communal representation is not only objectionable in educational service, but in all services, because it affects efficiency as he says. But Sir, we live in a very unfortunate country. So long as there is more than one community in this province the question of communal representation will remain. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, we see daily on the floor of this House that we the members here stand on communal legs. And it is for this reason that the hon. mover of this cut motion has come forward with this motion and it is for the same reason that Mr. Mookerjee stood up to safeguard the interests of his own community.

Therefore I say that the only remedy to do away with communal representation is to try to see if all the communities could be brought into one community. Would Mr. Mookerjee try in that direction? If he thinks, that is not possible, he may study Mr. Jinnah's scheme to see if it provides any solution.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to all the hon. members of this House who have taken part in this discussion, for coming forward with criticisms both constructive and destructive against this Department. I am new to this office of Education Minister and I am anxious to know the merits and defects of this department and in that view of the matter I welcome all the criticisms that have been made in this House (*hear! hear!*). I would like to reply to the discussions in the order in which they have been raised.

The hon. mover of the motion began by complaining that the money that has been allotted for the education of children is quite inadequate. I admit, Sir, that the provision that has been made for primary education is not adequate. In this budget, Sir, you will find that money for primary education has been allotted under three heads. Rupees 1,25,300 has been allotted as provision for the Government primary schools, Rs. 10,36,775 has been allotted as grants to the local bodies for the expansion of primary education and a sum of Rs. 35,300 has been allotted as provision for grant to non-Government primary schools.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Has the grant for primary education been increased this time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No, Sir, I am coming to that.

In all Rs. 11,97,375 has been allotted for primary education, that is, out of an Education Budget of Rs. 42 lacs about 30 per cent. is being spent on primary education.

Hon. members will remember that when we prepared the budget of 1942-43 we already submitted a schedule for an additional grant of Rs. 50,000 for spread of primary education, but at that time the Ministry resigned and the 93 Administration came in. So the money was not allotted. When I assumed office again, I tried to put in an additional grant of Rs. 20,000 for expansion of primary education, but the Finance Department did not allow me to put that in. This time also I shall be trying to get a fairly big amount for primary education and I can assure the House that I shall try my level best to extort this amount from the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

It has been said that mass literacy campaign is hampering the cause of primary education. Of course we had a full debate on that point and we made it clear that we will not allow our primary education to suffer at the expense of mass literacy, and as I have already assured the House that I shall call a conference very soon to consider the whole question of education of adults and of children together and to reorganise the same so that with the money available to-day we can get more satisfactory results.

The next question that has been raised is that appointments are not made on efficiency. The hon. mover said that B.A.'s are being preferred to B.T.'s. I do not admit that this is the case. I would have welcomed the hon. mover to quote any instance in which recently any B.A. has been preferred to any B.T. Of course there was a question some time back whether B.T. should not be made the minimum qualification for entrance to the Assam Education Service but it was thought that there was some difficulty in laying down B.T. as the minimum qualification, for it will debar many members of the under-represented communities from entering that service if that be made the minimum qualification. But I can assure the House that while considering the claims of candidates within the same community, B.T.'s would surely get preference over the B.A.'s.

The next most important point that has been raised is about communal representation. Howmuchsoever we may denounce communal representation in the services, this communal representation has come to stay and it is the declared policy of Government, and I can assure the House that this communal representation will be strictly observed in the case of this department also. My hon. friend Mr. Rahman as well as the hon. mover showed that in classes I and II of the Assam School Service, Muhammadans were very much under-represented. I may tell the hon. members that the Government do not regard each class as a separate unit. In considering the question of communal representation, all the three classes of the Assam School Service are treated together and the percentage is calculated on the total number of the three classes of the appointments. As hon. members know, in classes I and II, appointments are made by promotion on the basis of seniority and merit.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of information: is it a fact that some school teachers are taken into the inspecting line in order to promote them to class I superseding the claims of class III officers in the inspecting line?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I do not know of any such case of promotion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: If any such proposal comes to the Department, will the Hon'ble Minister please take action so that such injustices may not take place?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, if such proposal comes up, I shall oppose it. I can assure the House that if in the total number of appointments any community is under-represented, steps will be taken to give that community its proper and adequate share.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: On a point of information. In connection with class II service, what is the period for which a teacher of class III should serve before promotion to class II, provided he is efficient?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There is no fixed period for promotion ; it depends upon the vacancies in class II ; as the vacancies occur, promotions are made according to seniority and merit

Now, as regards the hon. mover's complaint that many schools have turned to be hot beds of subversive activities, of course, we had some reports about the activities of students as well as teachers of some schools. We have already taken steps to set them right. As regards radio sets of which use is made, as the hon. mover complains, to obtain information from the enemy countries and disseminate it to the students, if the hon. mover kindly lets the Government know which particular case he has in mind, we will look into the matter.

Then as regards the appointment of a lady member in the Governing Body of the Murarichand College, I have no knowledge of the matter, but I am sure that this lady, apart from being the wife of a particular Superintendent of the Hostel, is also qualified to hold the post.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether this lady member represents the women community in the Governing Body ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Only last year, I think, the number of members in the Governing Body was raised from 9 to 11 ; in one of them a lady was appointed as a representative of the girl students, and in the other a representative of the staff was taken.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is there no public-spirited lady at Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The appointment was made long before we assumed office.

Then, Sir, I come to the points that were raised by Mr. Mookerjee. He referred to the salary of the Assistant Lecturers. Probably he knows that only a few days back Mr. Sarat Chandra Bhattacharya moved a resolution in the Upper House. I do not know the fate of the resolution ; probably it was accepted. In any case, Sir, while considering the resolution I took the matter again. My hon. predecessor proposed a scale of pay for the Assistant Lecturers which was not acceptable to the Finance Department. I am taking up the matter and I hope to give some relief to the Assistant Lecturers by raising their initial pay.

As regards his complaint that promotions should be made according to seniority and not according to the vacancies in each Department, I think, Sir, there is great force in his argument ; this question will receive my earnest consideration. About adding some departments to the Sanskrit College, I had been to Sylhet recently and it was impressed on me that another Department of Vedanta should be added to the college. If funds permit, we will consider this proposal sympathetically.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Both Shankya and Vedanta may be taught by one teacher ; that is the point I urged.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: At the time of my inspection they mentioned only about Vedanta. Very well, I shall consider the suggestion of my hon. friend.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I bring to your notice, Sir, that this is not a reply to the General Discussion of the Budget, and it is not necessary for the Hon'ble Education Minister to go over point by point. The whole question of the educational policy has been raised ; he should lump together all the criticisms and give out the policy. You ruled, Sir, with regard to cut motions, that the hon. mover and the Hon'ble Minister would each get seven minutes' time, while other members would get only five minutes. We have already continued for 30 minutes after 4 o'clock, and at the rate the Hon'ble Minister is going I am afraid we shall have to sit for another half an hour.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Having regard to the importance of the subject that is under discussion, I have given this latitude to the Hon'ble Minister, specially when he is so willing to reply to all the points raised.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As regards other suggestions made by Mr. Mookerjee they will also be considered sympathetically.

Now, one very pertinent question has been raised by him as well as my friend Mr. Chaudhuri regarding requisitioning of the educational institutions by military authorities. I am entirely at one with what has been said by Mr. Chaudhuri that education should not suffer even in times of War. After I assumed office I took up this matter, and we have already requested the military authorities not to take over educational institutions until all other possibilities have been exhausted, *i.e.*, to take them over as a last resort only. I have taken up the matter and I am asking for figures as to which institutions from which places have been taken over, for what period and under what arrangement. I can assure the House that I am moving in that direction to get the buildings released as soon as possible from the occupation of the Military.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the Hon'ble Minister will finish now.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Now, as regards the suggestions of Mr. Palmer and Mr. Marak, they will receive our best consideration. Mr. Blennerhassett referred to the desirability of directing school students to refrain from taking part in political activities. We are fully conscious of that aspect, and we are taking steps by issuing a circular that the students may not associate themselves in these subversive activities. (*Hear, hear.*) We have already issued a circular to the effect that students who are found to take active part in these political activities, will be debarred from service under Government in future.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, what about my special request for building grants?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: When money is available this request will be considered.

Then, Sir, discussion was raised about the Assam University. The University Bill, as all hon. members are aware, was sent for report to a select committee, and was to be presented before the House at the time when the Ministry resigned. This Bill was sent to me only last October, and I thought that as I had not had time and opportunity of going through the voluminous report, the time was inopportune to bring this very controversial Bill for the consideration of the House during this session, particularly when the House was so depleted, as also in the case of other Bills we have thought it unwise to bring them for the consideration of the House this session. And another consideration for not taking up this Bill is the question of finances. But if the House desires, and we have sufficient funds at our disposal, we shall see that this Bill is put through at an early date.

Another point has been raised by Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury that there should be a Muslim Education Board. In this connection a resolution is coming before this House to be moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury for the constitution of a committee for considering the improvement of Madrassa education in the province. I think we have had in Assam several Muhammadan Education Conferences before. In 1914 there was one; in 1916 there was one presided over by the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Saadulla; and another in 1930, presided over by the then Education Minister, Maulavi Abdul Hamid, and I think the time has come when the whole question of Muhammadan education will have to be reviewed by the Government, and Government is agreeable to call a conference called the

Muhammadan Educational Conference, in which this question about the constitution of a Muslim Education Board will also be considered.

Babu Bipin Behari Das mentioned about the allotment of scholarships for scheduled caste boys. We are revising the scholarship rules, and I shall remember his suggestion.

I think, Sir, I have replied to almost all the points.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, my suggestion is this that while other primary schools are getting their building grants we are not getting any. We have more than 200 primary schools in the Garo Hills.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please take his seat.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The matter will be enquired into and steps taken.

Now, as regards Mr. Sarwan. He made some suggestions regarding schools in tea garden areas. These suggestions also will receive our sympathetic consideration.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. mover has leave of the House to withdraw his motion.

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

The question is :

"That the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from the 25th August 1942 to the 31st March 1943 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.42,01,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '37.—Education—Other than European'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.20,43,980."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Monday, the 23rd November, 1942.

SHILLONG,

The 22nd January 1943.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.