

Maharajah Educational Conference, in which this question about the constitution of a Madras Education Board will also be considered.
 Bahu Bahin Das mentioned about the allotment of scholarships for scheduled caste boys. We are revising the scholarship rules, and I shall reply to his question.

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

MR. JOHANN D. MARAK: Sir, my suggestion is that while other primary schools are getting their building grants we are not getting any. We have more than 200 primary schools in the Gode Hill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please take his seat.
 The Hon'ble Kisan Babbar Maharaj SATTUR RAHMAN: The matter will be enquired into and steps taken.

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

MAHARAJ ABHUL HARI 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. member 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The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.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 1912 to the 25th March 1913 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred from the 1st April 1912 to the 25th August 1912, will amount to Rs. 12,01,000 (twelve lakhs and one thousand) in respect of the head 'Education—Other than Expenditure'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 25th August 1912 is believed to be about Rs. 26,43,080."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday the 25th November, 1912.

A. K. BARUA: The 25th January 1913.
 (The dates through which the Assembly has been adjourned.)

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 in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on
Monday, the 23rd November 1942.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Requisition of some villages for Military purposes

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*34.(a) Is it a fact that some villages in the district of Cachar were
required for Military purposes ?

(b) If so, what compensation do Government propose to pay for
those who have been or will be rendered homeless ?

(c) What compensation do Government propose to pay for the crop
on which the people concerned depended for their livelihood ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

34.(a)—No villages have been required by Military. But certain lands
within certain village boundaries have been requisitioned for Military purposes.
This includes lands in Tea Garden Grants.

(b)—Compensation for houses and for crops requisitioned is paid
according to the current valuation as assessed by the Deputy Commissioner
according to the practice followed under the Land Acquisition Act. Com-
pensation for the land has been paid in some instances and the question
whether lands are to be finally acquired or requisitioned for a period is yet
to be decided in the majority of cases.

(c)—Where land containing crops has been requisitioned the crop
has been valued at its market value as at the time of reaping. It appears
that the average value works out at Rs.100 per acre for rice crop. Other
crops including trees have been valued and paid for at their standing value.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : As regards No.34 (a), Sir, are Govern-
ment aware that certain tea gardens which have had their lands either acqui-
sitioned or requisitioned are still not only not compensated but in many cases no
formal requisition or acquisition has been made, and cases have been pending
since February last, in which not even maps or records have been prepared nor
compensation made ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN** : Govern-
ment are not aware of the allegation made, but they will make an enquiry into
the matter and steps would be taken to expedite the payment of compensa-
tion.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister.

***Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Are Government aware that land actually requisitioned is occupied by the Military authority?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Government are not aware of it.

***Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: What is the remedy in such cases?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: No specific instances have been brought to the notice of Government, but Government will make an enquiry and do the needful.

***Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Are Government aware that the lands used for dwelling purposes are converted into brick fields by the Military authority and only rent is paid by way of compensation?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Government are not aware of that, Sir.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN**: Are Government aware that lands are being included for the expansion of the Srimangal-Teliapara Road and crops are being damaged by earth-cutting?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: No, Sir.

Names of places bombed by Japanese

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

*35. Will Government be pleased to state the names of places in the province where bombs were dropped by the Japanese and the nature and extent of the damage caused thereby?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

35.—Government are not in a position to disclose facts which might be of value to the enemy.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will Government be pleased to state the total casualties of the civil population caused by those bombings?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In the three raids the total casualties were 26 including Military and Civil, and out of which ten died.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: What about the raids at Manipur and the death rates there?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This question relates to the period during which the Ministry did not come into office. We have answered of recent happenings and not of Imphal.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It is reported that many labourers were killed by bombs dropped at Dinjan. Do the figure 26 include those labourers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: From the report that I have got, I find that the total casualties did not exceed 26 by recent raids on the aerodromes.

Gazetted holidays for educational institutions in Assam

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*36. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The dates that were declared as Gazetted holidays for educational institutions in Assam in the last week of August and the 1st fortnight of September 1942?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School remained closed on days other than Gazetted holidays during the aforesaid periods ?
- (c) If so, what were the reasons thereof ?
- (d) The number of days during the 1st fortnight of September 1942 on which the Head Master of the said school remained absent from the school and the reasons therefor ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

36. (a)—The 27th August and the 2nd September 1942.

(b)—Yes, from the 25th to the 29th August 1942.

(c)—Emergency necessitated closure of all the High Schools at Sunamganj including the Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School during the period mentioned in (b). The order of such closure was passed by the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj.

(d)—From the 10th September to the 12th September 1942, the Head Master was absent at Sylhet where he was required to go to meet the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, to discuss an important matter arising out of the strike.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: What was the emergency for which the school was closed for 4 days by the order of the Subdivisional Officer ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: The details are not known to Government, but Government presume that there was a trouble outside which necessitated the closure of the school.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Is it a fact that the trouble was inside the school ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Government are not aware.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Will Government make an enquiry about it ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Government have no reason to disbelieve the report. If the hon. member alleges that the trouble was inside the school, enquiry will be made.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: What was the report, Sir ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: I have already said that according to the report, the school was closed under the order of the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN**: Has the Subdivisional Officer passed the order as President of the school committee or as a Subdivisional Officer ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: As Subdivisional Officer.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Did the Subdivisional Officer close the school out of his own accord ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: Before the disturbance there was a circular that schools should be closed by the District and the Sub-divisional Officers if there were a necessity.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: May I understand that the authority could not meet the situation without closing the school ?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN**: That is a matter of opinion.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Supply of uniforms and bonus to Civic Guards of Tea Gardens**Mr. A. WHITTAKER** asked :—

28. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Civic Guards on tea Gardens, who have been on continuous duty since April last, have not yet been supplied with steel helmets ?
- (b) Whether in certain cases their worn-out uniforms have had to be renewed at the expense of the Garden Managers owing to the fact that no cloth was available ?
- (c) Is it a fact that the Guards were declared efficient in December, 1941, and that the bonus of Rs.10 promised to each of them has not yet been paid ?

29. Is it a fact that no cloth is available for uniforms for A.R.P., workers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

28. (a)—No. A request has not in fact been made until recently for such a supply to be made. A consignment of steel helmets is however expected shortly and Government are ready to consider an allotment to those Civic Guards of the tea Gardens who are likely to need such protection.

(b)—Government have received no communication on the subject for the arrangements

(c)—The understanding was that the cost of training would be borne by the managements, and no request for the remuneration suggested has been received.

29.—It is a fact that supplies of khaki cloth for the A.R.P. staff have been inadequate and much delayed.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Premier is it not fair to assume that had there been adequate inspection of the Civic Guards, all these grievances would have been brought earlier to the notice of Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is the question arising either from the replies or from the original question ? Certain information about Civic Guards were required and I have given them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I point out that the gist of the answer given to my question was that the Government had no information. On the otherhand is it not reasonable that when these Civic Guards were doing industrial and Government work, the normal function of Government is to see that these duties are performed properly ? Had that been the case, undoubtedly Government would have been in a position to give the information.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, this question does not arise either from the question or from the answer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Government do not deny that they have made no inspection.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is entirely a new question to which you have, Sir, given a ruling.

Imposition of collective fines

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :—

30. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The specific acts of violence, or sabotage committed in each of the towns or Mauzas of the Province where collective fine has been imposed ?
- (b) The amount of damage caused in each of the said areas ?
- (c) The steps taken by Government to find out the actual culprits and the reason for failure to trace them ?
- (d) The basis on which the amount of collective fine had been determined ?
- (e) The basis on which assessment of such fine on individual resident has been made ?
- (f) Whether any caste, community or section as such, has been exempted from payment of such fine ?
- (g) The procedure followed for realisation of these fines ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

30. (a) & (b)—A list showing the details asked for has been placed on the Library table, where these are readily available, but it may be observed that it is not necessary to cite specific acts or specific amounts of damage done for the imposition of collective fines.

(c)—This is a matter of police investigation, and it is not possible for Government to give details. There have however been a number of instances in which the assistance of the local public by way of giving information has been inadequate.

(d)—According to the District Magistrate's judgment of the respective means of the persons assessed.

(e)—This depends upon the material available, e.g., whether there are municipal assessment lists, chaukidari assessment lists, revenue rolls, etc., in the particular instance.

(f)—Government issued instructions that communities, classes, sections or individuals who have taken no part in the actions for which the fine is imposed and have opposed the subversive and mischievous Civil disobedience movement which is responsible for such actions, should be exempted, and District Magistrates are following these instructions.

(g)—The procedure followed hitherto has been distraint of moveables : the question whether Government should take further action in accordance with the procedure for recovery of arrears of land revenue or magisterial fines, which are both applicable to the recovery of such fines, in the few cases where distraint of moveables has not been completely successful, is under consideration.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In reply to (a) and (b) it is said "A list showing the details asked for has been placed on the Library table, where these are readily available, but it may be observed that it is not necessary to cite specific acts or specific amounts of damage done for the imposition of collective fines". Why is this not necessary and why is it not possible to cite specific acts of violence as well as amounts of damage done ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already on the floor of this House very recently stated that the amount of collective fines imposed is on the basis of certain formula and it has no connection whatsoever with the amount of damage done.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: How are we to determine whether the collective fine is justified at all without knowing what was the specific acts of violence done in a particular locality?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: About specific acts of violence I have already laid down in the list that has been placed on the table.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it necessary to fine in all specific acts of violence?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I presume that my hon. friend wants to know whether the extent of damage has any bearing on the fine imposed. I have already stated that it has got no relation.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I want to know whether collective fines are justified for the acts of violence.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sufficient materials have been given in the columns of the list and my hon. friend will be in a position to find out whether the fines were justified or not in each case.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This, Sir, being a matter of police investigation, is it not necessary for Government to give details, there being a number of instances in which the assistance of the local public, by way of giving information, has been inadequate? Do not the words 'local public' include the members of all the communities?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I need not define 'local public'; it is all embracing.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government please state whether in each case the inhabitants of all the communities were fined?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is entirely a new question, Sir.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: With regard to (c)—it is said in reply "There have however been a number of instances in which the assistance of the local public by way of giving information has been inadequate". Do we understand, Sir, that there have been cases in which collective fines have been imposed though the assistance had been adequate?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes Sir. Adequate assistance was given but they were in sympathy with the sabotage done.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if the people of the locality in the cases where collective fines were imposed refused to co-operate with the Government in finding out the culprits?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is the report, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether in those cases where culprits were apprehended, collective fines were imposed or not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If through the assistance of the local public, neighbouring culprits have been arrested, no collective fines have been imposed.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether the decision of imposition of the collective fine is made before the police investigation is complete?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. If the police fails to find out any trace or clue leading to the detection of the

culprits even after a reasonable time, say about a week, and the local people do not like to help, then alone, collective fines have been imposed.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know what time is generally allowed to the police to find out the real culprits?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Normally one week's time, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that in Dhubri the decision to impose collective fines was arrived at almost immediately after the occurrence took place?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, my hon. friend is under a misapprehension. The Deputy Commissioner recommended the imposition of fine but the decision rests with the Government and the Government did not pass orders till more than a fortnight of the occurrence.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that on the fifth day of the occurrence, people were served with notice that they have been fined so much?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That was the case in which the Deputy Commissioner misread the instructions issued. That was corrected immediately the matter was brought before me.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that the Deputy Commissioner recommended the imposition of fine the next evening after the occurrence?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. We did not receive any such recommendation. It was five days after the occurrence that the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner was received here.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that at Dhubri, collective fines were imposed before the official order of the Government was communicated to the Deputy Commissioner?

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

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that notices have been issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, stating that the damage of the Sub-Deputy Collector's office is due to the act of incendiarism and calling upon the public to explain why suitable action should not be taken against them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware, Sir. I have not received any such communication up till now.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether any investigation was made by any expert in the cases of the incidents of Dhubri and Gauhati and particularly in Gauhati that the incident was not due to the fusion of the electric wire as the building there was a thatched one?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, when the whole house had been set on fire at a time what expert opinion can find out that there was a fusion of electric wire.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are not Government aware that the fire broke out from the top of the house and not from the sides and so, is it not a strong case in favour of the contention that this can be due to an accident?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have already stated, Sir, I have not got the detailed report of the Deputy Commissioner as yet. We have got only a telegraphic summary.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir. May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that in most of the cases, fire has always started on thatched houses by kerosene soaked arrows being shot into the roof?

Mr F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Will Government take it from me that in many places in the Golaghat Subdivision where burning has occurred that arrows

have been found on the spot and bows too, thus showing that burning arrows have indisputably been used to start these fires ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes Sir, in certain cases notably in the district of Sibsagar, houses were set on fire by some miscreants shooting arrows into the roofs from a distance with kerosene soaked rag afire.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, as regards question No.30 (f), if collective fines were imposed only when assistance from the local public is not forthcoming, how does the Government presume that there is a section of the local public who are innocent or who are fit to be exempted ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have discussed this question in detail on the cut motion about collective fines and I have got nothing more to add.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are Government aware that in some part of Nowgong district, collective fines were realised before any notifications were published in the Gazette ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes Sir, only in one case it was so ; but Gazette notification is not necessary. Government orders are sufficient if they reach the Deputy Commissioner before realisation or levy of fine.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, the Demands for Grants should be taken now.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before we begin with the business, may I point out that the time granted for Jails and Co-operative is very inadequate? May we expect that the time saved from the question hour should be allotted for Jails and Co-operative?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, the time we have got from the question hour will be allotted to these demands; but the hon. member should remember that to-day is the last day for discussion of Demands for Grants and that just at 4 P. M. guillotine will be applied. So, the hon. members should try to economise the time at their disposal as best as they can and see that the important cut motions only be discussed.

Censor of Assembly proceedings by Press Officer.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before we proceed with to-day's business, may I be permitted to make a statement? I understand that speeches of certain members of this House have been censored by the Press Officer, particularly my speech as well as some portions of a speech of one of the Hon'ble Ministers. I contend, Sir, that where the proceedings are not conducted within closed doors, the constituency has every right to know what its representative has said in this House so that they can either support or dissociate themselves from their representative's view point. I submit, Sir, as the proceedings are not held within closed doors, all our speeches ought to be permitted to be published.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I accept what the hon. member has said, but I should inform the House that the speeches that are said to have been censored and have not been allowed to be published in newspapers will certainly appear in the proceedings of the House we publish under the Rules and I don't know if anybody can censor the publication of the proceedings of this Assembly in so far as the publication under the Rules of the Assembly is concerned. If the Press Officer censors the publication of any of the speeches of the members through news paper, I am quite helpless; but so far as the publication of the proceedings by the Assembly is concerned, I think no body can come in my way and censor such publication.

GRANT No. 19

(38.—MEDICAL)

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: 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. 11,78,400 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "38.—Medical". The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 5,21,176.

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. 11,78,400 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "38.—Medical". The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 5,21,176."

There are some cut motions, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury may move his motion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,826 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment,—(a)—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.

Sir, my intention in moving this cut motion is to bring once more to the notice of the Government the pitiable condition of the Civil Hospital building at Sunamganj. The building is a very old structure constructed perhaps some 40 years back; it is dilapidated and no amount of repair can set it right. There is no operation theatre attached to the building; the rooms are dark and ill-suited for the purpose of a Medical Hospital. The Sunamganj Local Board is not in a position now to spend a capital sum for the construction of the building. The Chairman, the Sub-divisional Officer and the Medical Officer tried their best to raise a public fund but mainly due to the economic depression, they failed. The Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur, Maulavi Sayidur Rahman were pleased to visit Sunamganj in the early part of the year 1940 and they were kind enough to visit the Civil Hospital. They realised the urgent necessity of reconstructing the Hospital building. The Hon'ble Prime Minister was kind enough to record in his note that it would be seen whether a suitable grant can be provided in the next year's budget. That was, Sir, in the year, 1940. I again approached the Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty who was in-charge of this Department for the grant and he was kind enough to call for plan and specifications of the building which were supplied by the Local Board. The Board also agreed that out of a sum of Rs.15,000 that would be required for the building, if a sum of Rs.10,000 can be provided by Government, the Board would meet the balance of the expenditure from its own fund and by local subscription. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty was kind enough to assure me that the project would be included in the budget of the year, 1941-42; but unfortunately, soon that after, the Ministry resigned and the matter had to be dropped. May I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble Prime Minister would come to our rescue and the Hon'ble Minister incharge of the Department would be kind enough to provide this amount if not in this year's budget, at-least in the next year's budget. 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. 2,826 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment, (a) Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110."

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am quite in sympathy with the hon. mover of this motion. If money cannot be provided in this year's budget, we shall try to provide it in the next year's budget provided the Local Board and the public also contribute handsomely towards the reconstruction of the Hospital building.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister. After hearing what she has said, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the 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.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,838 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment,—(a)—Superintendence, Sub-head—3.—Allowances and Honoraria at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.

Sir, I have tabled this cut motion to criticise Government with regard to the inadequacy of the dearness allowance that has been provided for the Government servants.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it with regard to Government servants of all ranks or of the Medical Department only?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am going to make it clear. I am for all the employees.

This is not the case only with the Government servants in this Department alone. The principle has already been accepted by the Government that it is of urgent necessity that dearness allowance should be given to the low-paid Government servants of all the Departments. In the Punjab, I find, Sir, that an amount of Rs. 5 has been allowed to those who draw their salary up to Rs 15; Rs. 6 to those who draw up to Rs.20; Rs. 7 to those who draw up to Rs. 30; Rs. 8 to those who draw up to Rs. 40; Rs. 9 to those who draw up to Rs. 60 and Rs. 10 to those who draw up to Rs. 100. In our case, so far as I know Rs. 3 have been given to those drawing up to Rs. 30; Rs. 5 to those drawing up to Rs. 60 and Rs. 6 to those drawing up to Rs. 80. On this very floor of the House, the Hon'ble Premier has admitted that the cost of living has greatly increased. All of us know that the price of food-stuffs and clothes have increased beyond any measure. In some cases the prices are even three times of the former price. Sir, in some cases the Government officers are to pay subscription towards the War Fund. In some cases they are to guard the records of the Government at night over and above their usual duties. In all fairness, I think, the Government should consider the cases of their servants, at least of those who are drawing their salary up to Rs. 250. Sir, when the principle has been accepted, I do not like to take up any more time of the House on the same. I hope the Hon'ble Premier will give us hope that he would consider the case of all those for whom I have already requested him. In this connection, I beg to remind that in the past when there was a cut it was for all.

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. 1,838 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment,—(a)—Superintendence, Sub-head—3.—Allowances and Honoraria at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110."

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I oppose this motion, because this motion is to criticise the Government policy with regard to the inadequacy of dearness allowance that is being paid to Government servants. The sufferers are not only the Government servants, but also the public. Then again, this is a motion concerning the Government servants of the Medical Department. This will involve the Government servants in all the Departments.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already stated that.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I know; but it is to be seen whether it is a question of possibility or impossibility.

The question of funds should be taken into consideration, because there is the paucity of funds. So it is not possible for the Hon'ble Minister concerned and for the Cabinet also to meet all the demands which would be satisfactory to all the Government servants. For this reason, I think it is impossible for Government to meet the demand. So I oppose the motion.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Sir, this concerns the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So, the Hon'ble Finance Minister will reply.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this motion has been moved with particular reference to the Medical Department, as my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has said, the policy involved applies to all the Departments. He has raised the question and rightly—that because of the increase in the cost of necessaries of life, Government servants—particularly low-paid Government servants are suffering hardship. I submit to the House that the Government have not been unmindful to the difficulties of their employees, particularly low-paid employees. As far back as 1940, when signs were manifesting then, that the price of necessaries of life was rising, Government sanctioned dearness allowance to employees drawing pay including and up to Rs. 30 at the rate of one anna in the rupee, if the price of rice goes up to 8 seers in the rupee and two annas in the rupee, if the price of rice went up to 6 seers in the rupee. This was conditional upon the price rising and being maintained at that level for three months. When price actually rose, Government at once granted dearness allowance to their employees. That was in the year 1941 (July).

Then, Sir, as soon as the Ministry came into office this year, they took up the question of dearness allowance when the Government of India gave increased dearness allowance to the employees of the Central Government. As has been pointed out by Mr. Mookerjee they gave at some particular rate for Shillong. They gave it to those drawing up to Rs. 30 at the rate of Rs.4 per month. Then from Rs. 30 to Rs. 80 they gave at the rate Rs. 6 per month. For the rest of Assam, the rate was Rs. 3 per month up to Rs. 30 and Rs. 5 up to Rs. 60. Mr. Mookerjee referred to the case of the Punjab I think, Sir, a comparison with other provinces is not relevant to this question, because we have not got the resources which the other provinces have. This increase of the dearness allowance has caused an increased expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs to Government. Then, Sir, it is not only in this matter but in other ways also, Government are trying to relieve the hardship of their employees. When after the bombing of Imphal, there was something like an exodus from Shillong, Government granted evacuation advance to their employees and on representation made by the employees, Government allowed them to repay this amount in very easy instalments. Similar concession was granted to those who had taken building advance.

Then, again, Sir, in some cases Government have given special pay to their employees who are serving on the Indo-Burma Road or in the Ledo area, where, because of either the arduous nature of the duties or unhealthy nature of the localities they are entitled to special pay. By all these I do not mean that Government have done all they should have done for their employees. I quite realise the hardship from which our employees are suffering these days. I myself in the budget speech said that the fixed salary earners were very hard hit by this rise in prices and having that in my view, about three weeks ago, I asked the Finance Department for certain figures relevant to this matter. But the House must realise as my hon. friend Mr. Marak has pointed out that with the deficit of 7 lacs and with the ever increasing demands from every side it is not possible always for Government to do what they should like to do. But I can assure the House that Government yield to nobody in their desire to alleviate their hardship and with that end in view, we propose to re-examine the question. More than this

Sir, I cannot say and I hope, with this assurance that the matter will be re-examined with all the sympathy, the hon. member will withdraw his motion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the matter will be considered with all possible sympathy, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 33,135 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment—(a)—Superintendence, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.

My object of bringing this motion is to raise a discussion about the scarcity of medicine in the dispensaries. I shall be very brief. We live in rural areas and there are dispensaries few and far between. You know perfectly well that our village people do not get medical aid whenever they require and there are very small number of dispensaries in the villages of the district, of Sylhet, especially in the subdivision of Sunamganj. Now, throughout the whole district cholera has broken out and whenever the patients go to the dispensary, the reply is given by the doctor that there is want of medicine and proper treatment cannot be undertaken. Not only for cholera, even for fever, quinine also is not available. I have heard from the Chairman of the Sunamganj Local Board that he was advised to utilise *chirota* in place of quinine and cinchona in the dispensaries under his Board. Sir, if this state of things continues, I think, people will die without medicine and without treatment. I want to know how Government want to meet this situation and remove the scarcity of medicine in the dispensaries.

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. 33,135 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment—(a)—Superintendence, at page 136 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 110”.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I think cut motions Nos 3 and 4 cannot come under the head “Medical Establishment, Sub-heads (a) Superintendence” but should properly come under “Contingency—Medical Stores”. Sir, of course, I do not wish to stifle discussion under these cut motions but I thought I would just point this out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All the same it is a cut on the whole grant.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in course of my observation the other day on certain cut motion on the Public Health Budget, I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the inadequacy of the grant which has been made to the Subsidised Dispensaries for medicine. I also incidentally referred to the inadequacy of the salary which is given to the medical officers in charge of these dispensaries. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister said anything in reply to my observations. What she said was not audible. If she is pleased to say anything to-day, will she speak loudly so that I may have the benefit of hearing her. I think she should use the microphone which was originally meant for her.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As Babu Bipin Behari Das has got a cut motion* No.4 for substituting Homeopathic medicine in place of Allopathic medicine, he may also speak on this motion.

*4. Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 33,135 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence, at page 136 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,78,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To draw the attention of Government to replace Homeopathic medicine in place of Allopathic medicine which are costly.)

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my last year's budget speech I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the fact that due to the rise in the price of Allopathic medicine it would be desirable to open Homeopathic dispensaries in rural areas. Generally, there are very limited number of Allopathic dispensaries in such area and the local people have to depend for their treatment on Government or Local Board dispensaries. But so far my information goes almost all the dispensaries are now going on practically without any medicine and as such the poor people are not getting any real relief from these dispensaries. We heard the other day in this House and have also seen in the Gazette that thousands of people are dying of cholera in the various parts of the province, but no adequate relief could be given to the people. In these days, Homeopathic treatment is very popular among the masses and if this Homeopathic treatment is given proper scope, I think, it will be more popular and the people will get more relief and much money of the Government will be saved because it is a very cheap system of giving relief to the poor people.

I think, it is well known that in many diseases Homeopathic medicines give excellent results. Except in case of some diseases like malaria and *kala-azar*, where this treatment is not so effective, Homeopathic treatment is not only effective in most cases but is also very cheap. Therefore, I would urge on Government to establish some Homeopathic dispensaries as well as training schools, so that our poor people may get effective relief at small cost.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I only want to add Ayurvedic and Unani medicines in this connection. If it is really impossible to procure Allopathic medicine, in that case Homeopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani medicines may be introduced by Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as by cut motion No. 4, a question of policy has been raised, I rise to reply on behalf of Government... ..

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Before the Hon'ble Premier replies want to inform him that in Tura, quinine is sold very cheap. If the name of that Company could be known, the public would have been benefited much in these days of acute shortage of quinine. The Catholic missionaries are selling quinine very cheap at Tura.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am very sorry, Sir, if on account of my complaint about the Hon'ble Minister's voice I have deprived the House of the opportunity of hearing her, I would withdraw my remark if she would agree to speak.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: That is not so, Sir. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister has said, a question of policy has been raised and so he is pleased to reply on behalf of the Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri is waiting to hear the voice of our Medical Minister he will get enough opportunity in other cut motions. It is on account of the fact that cut motion No. 4 of Babu Bipin Behari Das has raised a question of policy, I have undertaken to reply on behalf of Government.

Sir, we all realise that we are living in abnormal times, and unfortunately for India the pharmaceutical trade is in its infancy. India therefore, depended for most of the medicines upon either the Continent of Europe or America. Now, owing to the international situation and stoppage of shipping, we have had no such imports, and the few manufactories of drugs in India are our sole source of supply of drugs. But the quantity produced, in spite of expansion in some cases of 400 to 500 per cent. in the capacity of these factories, has not been able to meet the demand of the whole of India. There is therefore, a great scarcity of most medicines and our dispensaries have accordingly suffered. Neither the Government nor the Department sat idle. They sent their officer to buy such

medicines as were available in Calcutta. That is how we tried to replenish our stocks, but even the Calcutta market stocks have to run dry and we could not get the entire quantity we wanted to buy.

As regards quinine, I mentioned in the House only a few days back that the Government of India held a conference. It was stated then that the Government of India could supply the whole of India for three years if the provinces reduced their annual consumption by 25 per cent. Therefore, in some dispensaries we had to reduce our ration of quinine; that is why my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has complained that the doctors advise taking *chirota* in place of taking cinchona. As every one knows, *chirota* is an indigenous medicine which has got practically the same efficacy as a febrifuge as quinine; both are equally bitter, cinchona may be bitterer. Any way, his complaint is not merely of quinine but of other drugs too. We are doing our level best to replenish our dispensaries as much as possible.

Next, Sir, my hon. friend Babu Bipin Behari Das said that he wants that the Allopathic system should be replaced by Homeopathic system. The word he used is "replaced" in the short note to his cut motion. I think my hon. friend wants that Homeopathy should also be recognised as one of the systems of treatment, and the deficiency in Allopathic medicines should be supplemented by giving Homeopathy Government recognition and support. We are at one with him. We have also taken note of the remark made by, I think, Mr. Baidya Nath Mookerjee that Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine should also be recognised and patronised by Government. We have taken up this question and we hope in the next Session we shall be able to come before the House with a scheme for recognising all these systems of medicine, and shall see whether our countryside cannot be provided with medical treatment of one system or the other.

My hon. friend Mr. Marak has given us a piece of very interesting information that some missionary societies are issuing quinine tablets very cheaply at Tura. But, Sir, our information is otherwise. I think most hon. members have seen in the Press—I read in the papers recently that in Bombay, the price of quinine had gone up to such an extent that one pound was selling at over Rs. 200. I would be glad if Mr. Marak gives a little more detail as to whether it is quinine proper and whether it is some philanthropic and humanitarian society that is distributing quinine tablets so cheaply,—distribution, he said, was done through "missionaries". But if it is a commercial concern who are really selling quinine at such cheap rate, we shall be the first to buy the entire stock. Lastly, my hon. friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri wanted to enquire from the Hon'ble Miss Dunn what action she proposed to take or had taken to increase the subsidy to Doctors and subsidised dispensaries for augmenting the sum for medical stores. I think it would have come very well from her lips that she had taken the wind out of the sails of my friend Mr. Chaudhuri for even before the statement had been made here, the Cabinet had, at her instance, decided to increase the amount of subsidy to the Doctors from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 (Srijut R. K. Chaudhuri—*hear, hear.*)

The suggestion to increase the grant for medical stores will be considered favourably for we know that the prices of all medical stores have gone up very high and the present grant is inadequate.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, in view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Premier, 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. We have reached the time limit even after giving more time from the question hour, so I will now put the whole demand.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I only require some five minutes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have already given 10 minutes more, and I cannot allow more time.

I now put the substantive 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 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 11,78,400 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '38.—Medical'. The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 5,21,176."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 21

(40.—AGRICULTURE)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : 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 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 12,58,800 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "40.—Agriculture". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 2,93,669.

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. 12,58,800 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '40.—Agriculture'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 2,93,669".

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,774 under Grant No. 21, Major head—10.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 111, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,58,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 111.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak a few words on the "Grow more food" campaign of the Government of Assam. This is a new project, and as such needs some amount of discussion. Perhaps the hon. members are aware that the Government of India initiated this campaign in last April, and it urged upon the Provincial Governments the necessity of organising a vigorous drive to increase production with the intention of an adequate supply of food and other essential requirements both for the Army and Civilian population.

Unfortunately at that time, there was no Constitutional Government in Assam, and no immediate steps could be taken to implement the scheme. It is really gratifying that the present Government took the earliest opportunity to launch the campaign in Assam.

In the current year's budget a sum of Rs. 5,65,000 has been provided for the purpose. The amount is intended to be spent in seed storage and distribution and in purchasing rice and irrigation projects.

Sir, Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, to whose credit goes the scheme of "Grow more food" campaign, stated in his inaugural speech that the Provinces should be required to grow more food and fodder by replacing such crops,

the export value of which was considerably reduced—bringing cultivable waste land under the plough, increasing the productivity of land by greater use of manures, and also by giving other concessions to the cultivators, such as concessional irrigation rates, supply of seeds and agricultural loans on a larger scale.

It appears, Sir, that the Government of Assam have started with only two of the many items envisaged by the scheme. A component part of the scheme is the bringing of culturable waste land under cultivation. The success of the scheme will depend to a very large extent on this aspect of the matter. We would wish to know what arrangements the Government are making to throw open more areas to the agriculturists. The Governments of Bombay and Madras, have already set examples by releasing large tracts of Government reserves. The question of deforestation of some forests which are yielding no revenue to Government may also be considered in this connection. A sympathetic and liberal land policy of the Government will ensure a quick success of the scheme. The question of agricultural loans should also engage the attention of the Government.

The Central Food Advisory Council which met recently at Delhi recommended to the Provincial Governments to initiate a planned drive to increase vegetable products on all available strips of land in the vicinity of urban areas, as a part of the "grow more food" campaign. I would wish to know what steps the Government of Assam propose to take on the recommendation of the Central Food Advisory Council.

Though a huge sum of Rs. 5,65,000 has been provided under the scheme, the Government propose to recover a sum of Rs.3,30,000 as value of seeds from the agriculturists, so the net expenditure under the scheme will amount to Rs.2,25,000. We do not know, Sir, whether anything would be realised for the loan of the agricultural pumps. If it be so, the sum will go further down.

In this connection we will like to know whether the pumps have already been indented,—whether these are at all available in the market.

Sir, the arrangement of seed supply made by the Government is far from satisfactory. Here I want to speak a few words about the supply of potato seeds.

Government proposed to buy potato seeds to the extent of 35,000 maunds, the average cost price being Rs. 8 per maund of which Rs. 6 was to be realised from the growers. The seeds were to be distributed as follows:—

	Maunds
Upper Assam Valley	10,000
Lower Assam Valley	10,000
Surma Valley	15,000

So far our information goes, Upper Assam has received its requirement. Lower Assam has been supplied about 8,000 maunds out of 10,000. But the poor Surma Valley! It has received up till now less than 3,000 maunds of seed potato. There was a sudden rise in the potato market. The price shot up from Rs. 6-8-0 to Rs. 10 per maund. At present, a scarcity of table as well as seed potato prevails in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills which is the greatest producer in Assam.

The main reason for this shortage is lack of control on export. Here at Shillong, the Government of Bengal were allowed to purchase 25,000 maunds of potato under the very nose of the Assam Government. We hear Sir, the Government of Bengal want to buy more.....

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I am just finishing, Sir. The Government of Bengal want to buy more in the Shillong market and their agent is still waiting. Why did not the Government stop this drain in time?

As matters stand now, every one would like to know how the Government wish to meet the situation in the Surma Valley. The cultivators are waiting for the seeds with their lands ready. How does the Government propose to get this supply of seeds; or do they propose to shut down the potato section of the Grow More Food Campaign in the Surma Valley? We want a frank statement on this very important matter.

Any way, all exports must immediately be stopped and the potato dealers at once licensed to bring down the level of price. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 3,774 under Grant No. 21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 111, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,58,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 111.”

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, before taking up the points that have been advanced by my friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury I will just place a few figures before the hon. members showing the extent of this drive for growing more food in the province which has been initiated by the Agriculture Department long before the Ministry came into existence and which the Ministry has subsequently taken up. Government among other things proposed to have a seed storage and distribution scheme. According to this scheme, originally they wanted to deal with seeds, *i.e.*, improved varieties of *boro* paddy—1,100 maunds for distribution to the raiyats, *Sali* or *sali* paddy seeds 2,000 maunds, pulse crop seeds which had to be imported from outside the province, 13,300 maunds, potato seeds 44,000 maunds, vegetables 1 lac packets. The total cost of this scheme was in the neighbourhood of 4,85,000 and odd. Then in order to popularise these seeds to our cultivators, the following concessions were proposed: that for pulse seeds Government will realise only half of the cost price. Then as regards potato, Government purchased price to be charged subject to a maximum of Rs. 6-8-0 per maund, Government meeting all freights and extra charges. Then for vegetable seeds also half price to be charged. Then the rice irrigation small project scheme: the object of this scheme was to increase the yield of rice by increasing the water supply to the field. Government propose to give half the cost of making bunds, dongs and *khals*—total grant was Rs. 57,000 for this scheme.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it for pumps?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is for the cost of making bund or *khal*. I am coming to the irrigation pumps.

The scheme also includes distribution of improved rice varieties in tea estates as already stated by my hon. friend. The total grant allotted by Government for carrying out this scheme was some Rs. 5,65,000 of which Rs. 3,36,000 and odd is to be recovered from the raiyats, *i.e.*, a sum of Rs. 2,28,900 was to go in concessions. Since then the scheme had been varied a little and as the hon. member has just now mentioned that the potato scheme has been reduced to supply 35,000 maunds of seeds. We tried also to introduce growing of wheat, barley, peas and gram but unfortunately wheat seeds inspite of our best endeavours could not be had from the Punjab or the United Provinces and we had to give it up. There had also been a rise in the price of seed potato. The price at which Government had to buy ranges from Rs. 6-1-0 to Rs. 12-10-0 per maund of seed. It is agreed, as my hon. friend has stated, that out of the requirement of the Upper Assam Valley very nearly 3/4th of the seed potato has been supplied. For the Lower Assam Valley also, about 3/5th has been supplied and the balance has got to be supplied but to quote my friend's words 'poor Surma Valley' has got only about 3,000 maunds of seed potato although the allotment made for that valley was 15,000 maunds. This is not due to any partiality of the Agriculture Department or the Ministry for the Assam Valley or any step-motherly attention towards the Surma Valley but

the Agriculture Department informed the Government that the season for potato cultivation started one month later in the Surma Valley than in the Assam Valley. In Surma Valley the land is covered with silt and is available after the *haor* water recedes.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Everywhere there is no *haor*, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: But potato is generally grown in the banks of the *haors*. Generally *haor* water recedes to the winter capacity towards the end of November and in the scheme it is mentioned that the Surma Valley required the potato seeds by the first week of December whereas potato seeds in the Assam Valley was required by the first week of November. As the cultivators have got no storage arrangement, it was thought that if seeds were supplied in the Surma Valley earlier than is required, then the seeds will deteriorate and therefore Government thought that they would procure all the seeds necessary for the Surma Valley by the first week of December. When it was found out that the price of seed potato has gone up over Rs 12 per maund Government took measures to bring the price level down to a reasonable and fair price for the cultivators and Government have since made arrangement with a trader to supply to Government at an f.o.r. rate of Rs. 10 per maund. If the concession which.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Who is the gentleman, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: For about a period of 15 days he has been appointed. He is Rai Bahadur Jiban Ram Geonka, the biggest potato dealer in Shillong.

We have done our level best to buy all the seeds that are necessary for the Surma Valley and the Surma Valley will get its full quota of seeds at a reasonable price.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I tell the Hon'ble Premier that the Surma Valley people have already started growing potato and they have almost finished. In other years by the month of 'Agrahayan' new potato come out in the market. This year it was delayed because there was rain in the first part of November

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Government goes by the report of the Agriculture Department and they said that in the Surma Valley potato seeds are to be supplied by first week of December.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: But not so in Habiganj.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is the report Sir, and that is the scheme.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: At least in my village not less than 5 to 7 thousand maunds of potato is grown. This is a renowned village. Potato in the Habiganj subdivision grow abundantly. This village has already brought in new potato in the market.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Well Sir, probably there are 2 crops of potato in the plains as we get 2 crops in Shillong. The earlier crop is grown by what is known as the Satgaon potato seed—Satgaon is near about Maulvibazar and probably this Habiganj village gets the seeds from there. This Satgaon seed is locally available but for extensive cultivation and bigger crop we have introduced Khasi potato which is called the Windsor variety and is now exported daily from Shillong to Sylhet.

My hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri quoted about the programme which was mentioned by the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar in his speech. It needs no argument to say that if we want to increase the production of food-stuffs it can be increased in three ways: firstly by extension of all areas of cultivation which would necessitate utilisation of every inch of

cultivable waste land available, the second by disforestation, *i.e.*, forest reserves which are not covered with any forest produce should be disforested and thrown open to cultivation ; next the method of intensive cultivation, *i.e.*, by the use of improved variety of seed and by manuring, produce a bigger quantity of crop than is normal, and the third is by means of irrigation.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir, is it not possible to grow more food by introducing all season crops wherever suitable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, we have tried not only to increase the area for *Aus* and *Sali* paddy cultivation but we are trying to introduce seeds of rabi or winter crop. Question of manuring is very difficult just now, for every hon. member conversant with tea industries knows that imported manure is not available and at the same time the price of manure has gone up very much. As I have mentioned they have tried their level best to distribute as much quantity of improved seed for paddy as available to Government.

As regards irrigation pumps, there are a few already in possession of Government which are working in various parts both in the Surma Valley and in the Assam Valley and the Government is trying to buy a few more, but though costly they are not available in Calcutta.

My learned friend last mentioned that there is a lack of control on price of exported paddy from Assam and he also complained why the Bengal Government was allowed to buy potato seeds from the Shillong market. In the beginning of the season, Assam was flooded with enquiries from outside the province for supply of seed potatoes and I have seen enquiry from distant Mysore Government whether Assam Government would supply potato seeds. The Government of Bengal also wired to us for supply of one and a half lac of potato seeds and for co-operation in this respect. Some private Bengal firms also wrote to Shillong traders for seeds and one local trader showed me the correspondence. I have seen a document with my own eyes—an enquiry for a supply of 1,75,000 maunds of potato seeds from Shillong. Our own requirement for the province was in the neighbourhood of half a lakh of maunds of which 35,000 maunds was to be included in our Grow More Food Campaign and 15,000 maunds was kept for the private traders.

Now the position of the Assam Government is rather difficult, for we get some of our supply of sugar, dal, atta, etc., from the Calcutta market and generally through Bengal we have to bring our purchases. Many times the Controller of Bengal Prices was hesitating to supply of food-stuffs on the ground that we will be depleting their stock which is available only for Bengal and they wanted a guarantee from the Assam Government that they would see to its replacement. If we had opposed Bengal buying seed potato in Assam then the transit of our foodstuffs through Bengal would have been jeopardised, therefore we told them that if the Bengal Government would not compete with Assam then they will be able to buy seeds for them through our Agricultural Department. Assam Agricultural Department asked for tenders and whatever seeds were available was shared between the two Governments. Up till now the Bengal Government have bought only 25,000 maunds of seeds, *i.e.*, 1/6th of what they wanted. Since then the price has gone up to over Rs.12 per maund and they have withdrawn their officer who was deputed in this connection recently. That is the position why we allow Bengal Government to buy seed potato in Shillong. They did not inflate the price, but they always bought through the Assam Agricultural Department.

Sir, I am very much obliged to Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhuri for giving us this opportunity of placing before the House in what line the "Grow More Food Campaign" was moving. Now it has been very satisfactory to know, Sir, that through the efforts of this campaign the areas under *Aus* crop has increased according to our forecast by 13 per cent., but unfortunately the early flood in the Assam Valley damaged the crop and the yield is estimated at 68 per cent. of

normal against 77 of last year. Even so there was practically the same quantity of total crop as compared with the previous year in terms of cleaned rice. For the *Sail* or *Sali* crop the forecasts shew that there is an average increase in the area by 11 per cent. and the crop is generally good, having had no special set backs. The increased yield as compared to the previous year is 51.92,040 maunds in terms of cleaned rice or 17 per cent. over this crop of last year.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information, Sir. As regards the Grow More Food propaganda in our locality it is nil, Sir. We do not know how it is made. May I request the Hon'ble Premier just to enquire from the officers whether they go to the villages, call meetings of the local *Matabbars* and try to make a success of the propaganda work.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I may be permitted to reply to this question of propaganda. It was proposed to carry propaganda through the Agriculture Department and also members of the public who go to the agriculturists to advise them to increase the area, and to grow *aus sali* and *rabi* crops including pulses. Direct approach was made to more than three lakhs of agriculturists by the Agriculture Department.

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI. In view of the assurance given, 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.

Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed to move his cut motion.*

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: That has already been discussed, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.9,65,131 under Grant No.21. Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 156 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,58,800 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, I have tabled this motion to criticise the Government with regard to their Agricultural policy. Agriculture is the most important of all our nation-building activities. We have heard just now about the activities of the Government in so far the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is concerned. But, Sir, I am sorry that I do not find any thing to convince myself that something has been done according to our suggestions given on the very floor of the House last year though they were accepted by the Government as constructive. Sir, we wanted more experimental farms and it was admitted by the Government that they also felt the necessity and they would do their best to remove the grievances. But, Sir, nothing has been done in this direction. Utility of manure should be taught to the peasants. Sir, we hear that the Government has stored seeds but if the seed depots are not easily available to the cultivators, which is only possible by opening sufficient number of seed depots, the desired result will not be derived; those who are far from the seed depots will not derive the benefit. I draw the attention of Government to this point also.

Then, Sir, as regards *pan* disease. I made suggestions to the Hon'ble Premier last year and I heard that he had appointed some special officer to eradicate this evil from the Surma Valley. But we have not heard anything about the

*Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED to move.—:

That the provision of Rs.3,774 under Grant No. 21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Director, at page 157 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,58,800 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

(To raise a discussion about the failure of Government to supply potato and gram seeds to Surma Valley adequately.)

result that has come out of the research of that special officer. The same havoc is being continued in the *pan* creepers. No provision for economic development of rural areas has been made. There is no sign of improvement in special rural uplift scheme. What about better type of bullocks ?

Then, Sir, as regards sugar cane. We see that nothing has been done in this direction also to increase the area under sugar cane. No special or extra provision has been made for this purpose, why this slackness, specially when people are crying for sugar.

Then again, Sir, as regards jute we heard last year from the Hon'ble Premier that it had been decided by the experts that the Chinsurah variety of seeds is the best. But we do not know what step has been taken by the Government to popularise this variety of seed among the cultivators. Only surveying and restriction of cultivation will not help.

Then, Sir, as regards cotton, it is needless to point out either to Government or to any hon. member of this House about the necessity of growing cotton in this province.

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.9,65,131 under Grant No.21, Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 156 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,58,800 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, as regards the disease of *pan* my Mycological and Entomological assistants are still working and as regards sugarcane I forgot to mention that Government have arranged to issue two lakhs of seeds of improved variety of sugar-cane throughout the province from the Jorhat Sugar cane Farm. We cannot give more. All these criticisms which have been made by my hon. friend should better be placed before the Advisory Board of Development for agricultural section, and, if they consider that all these should be done then the Department will at once take them up.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : As I could not make clear all the points in favour of my motion for want of time, it is better that after hearing the Hon'ble Premier I should 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.

Then I put the original motion before the House. 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.12,58,800 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "40.—Agriculture". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.2,93,669.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.24

(43—INDUSTRIES)

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : 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.2,57,400 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "43.—Industries". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.90,200.

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.2,57,400 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '43—Industries'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.90,200.

Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury to move his cut motion*.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I will not move, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury to move his cut motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.6,966 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—A.—Industrial Development, Sub-head—1 —Pay of Establishment at page 179 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 2,57,400 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, while we criticised the last budget we were told that the Government would improve the Department but, I am sorry to say, Sir, that the Government has not yet seen their way to provide more money to make improvements in the Department. When some of the Hon'ble Ministers paid a visit to Lucknow, I raised the question here and I received the reply that the question should wait the result of that visit. That is, they would bring forward some supplementary demands for the development of the Department. But I find no sign of that kind in the present budget. Now, in this critical time the development of Industries in the province would certainly bring something to the cultivators. Government have posted some Demonstrators, here and there. But only posting of Demonstrators will not do. This Department is practically doing nothing in the Surma Valley.

There are some Demonstrators in some places but the cultivators are not getting adequate benefit from them. If the Demonstrator is asked, he says that he is not getting proper money from the Government. I therefore bring this fact to the notice of the Government with the hope that they will take this into consideration and try to provide more money when they frame their next year's budget.

Then, Sir, I come to sericulture. So far as I know there is no organisation in the Surma Valley about sericulture. It will be interesting to know that the offices of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture are located at their own homes; Superintendent perhaps remain in the district of Sibsagar and Assistant Superintendent in Nowgong. They are living in their own homes and holding their offices in their porticoes and the Farm is practically run by the low-paid officers. In the Surma Valley, there is no activity of this Department. I bring this fact also to the notice of the Government by way of this cut motion and I hope they will try their best to extend the activities of this Department in the Surma Valley also. In the present budget, there is a provision in the shape of contribution to All-India Planning Committee; by this contribution, I do not know what benefit is derived by the province. I would request the Government to enlighten this House, by what way we are being benefited by this contribution from the All-India Planning Committee. With these few words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI to move:—

That the provision of Rs.6,966 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—A.—Industrial Development, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Establishment at page 179, of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.111, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,57,400 do stand reduced by Rs.111.

(To raise a discussion about the Industrial Development of the country.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.6,966 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—A —Industrial Development, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Establishment at page 179 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,57,400 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this motion I like to offer some concrete suggestions to Government.

My first point is the improvement of fishery. As regards fishery, nothing has been done. Sir, when our present Hon'ble Premier was the Opposition Leader, he gave several suggestions. Last year while speaking, on this subject I took advantage of his experience as expressed in his speech. I repeated the suggestions to his Government and I was given to understand that as far as practicable they will be given effect to. Sir, as regards this industry, I think, there is sufficient scope for improvement and Government should try their best to give proper attention to this Department.

Then as regards curing of skins, I heard, Sir, that there is a class of people called '*Rishis*' in the district of Sylhet and Cachar, who know this work well and the suggestion from our Hon'ble Premier was that it would be better on the part of the Government if they could send some persons to these *Rishis* just to learn the curing of the skins, in that case the price that will be fetched by our raw skins in Calcutta market will be at least four to five times higher than they are fetching at present. But I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in this direction also.

Sir, as regards tanning, I should say that when curing of the skins is not receiving the proper attention, it is useless for me to say anything about tanning. Let the better process of curing be adopted first and then tanning may also be given proper attention that it deserves.

As regards soap manufacturing, I want to bring to the notice of the Government that we find that this industry is practically coming to an end in this province ; Government should therefore do something towards this industry. The main ingredients are not available. They should see that they are available. Sir, I requested the Government to make economic survey of the province but we do not find anything in this direction also. My hon. friend the mover of this motion has already mentioned about sericulture. Sir, we find that six new appointments have been made, but we do not know whether Surma Valley will derive any benefit out of it. As has been stated by my hon. friend, I should say that Government should no longer neglect Surma Valley so far as this Department is concerned and they should try to introduce the activities of this Department in Surma Valley also. Muga industry is also being neglected.

Sir, as regards Bell-metal, we find that it is there where it was before. We find nothing new in the budget. Sir, I think it will not be out of place to mention here that we are in need of experts in this Department. Sir, if we really want to improve this Department, we must have experts.

As regards hosiery, and match manufacturing, nothing has been done. It is going on as before. These also require pointed attention.

Then, Sir, to solve the unemployment problem I think, it is the duty of the Government to industrialise the province in a proper way. The real need of the province is a well thought out extensive and ambitious scheme of industrialisation. Sir, wealth of a province is not the gift of heaven ; we

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE to move:—

That the provision of Rs.25,923 under Grant No.24, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—A.—Industrial Development at page 179 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,57,400 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To criticise Government with regard to their Industrial policy.)

have got everything in this province and we are to create wealth by our works. We have got natural resources, minerals, mines, power and good lands for cultivation, all sorts of raw materials but due to want of proper energy on the part of human beings (by the term 'human beings', I include both Government and the people) we are suffering so much to-day. Sir, only some improvements here and there in the Departments of agriculture and industry will not serve our purpose. More agricultural products would hardly be of any use in enhancing the wealth of the province unless they go hand in hand with the industrialisation; if we really want to improve the conditions of our province, we must try to industrialise our province systematically and in a proper way. Sir, I shall mention only one thing more. As regards the total amount spent last year,—the actual for 1941-42 was Rs.2,73,321; and this year we find Rs.2,59,900 only have been budgeted; instead of increasing the amount, I find that the amount has been decreased which is most regrettable.

Sir, industrial loans to private enterprisers should be given more liberally, and more agricultural products that we expect to get out of grow more food campaign should be utilised in such a way that poor cultivators may derive the real benefit.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may now finish his speech.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, with these few words I support the motion moved.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I wish to take part in this debate in order to bring to the notice of the Government one aspect of the matter. It will be admitted that for the proper development of industries in the Province, Government should give assistance by way either of grant or loan. New inventions ought always to be encouraged by suitable grant, and new industries also should be started with the help of generous grants from Government. Under the present rules there is no provision for making a grant for this purpose. I would ask the Government to consider the desirability of making grants and to make provision in the next budget for grants in order to assist new enterprises. Now, Sir, the only help that any new industry gets is by way of a loan and if a party wants to take a loan, Government want proper security from them either in the shape of landed property or of some other security. Further the Government demand some interest and want to realise the money at all costs. This is not the way to foster the industrial enterprises. I have seen the Government encouraging people to get the necessary training. They give them scholarships, so that they may get the training, but when they come back they are not assisted in any way with the result that I found persons who had got a diploma in weaving or bell-metal industry working as a clerk either in a Sub-Deputy Collector's office or the Deputy Commissioner's office. This is the result of Government's apathy to give suitable grant for the encouragement of new industries and to be more liberal in the matter of granting loans or in realising them. At the present moment personal security is not recognised by Government in the Industries Department. I hope the complaint will receive due attention of the Government.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion very strongly. But I do not think that the sericultural industry alone should be specialised as it is worded in the motion.

Mr. Chaudhuri has said that some sort of training should be given. I may point out to the Government that paper industry is quite possible in the Garo Hills without undergoing a training course. Here is a sample of paper we are making in the Garo Hills. This has been made of bamboo by a Garo boy. He has not been trained anywhere. So we want only a small capital from Government in the shape of an Industrial loan so that we can proceed with this industry. So I hope Government will kindly consider about this special industry in the Garo Hills, because bamboo is plenty, and paper can easily be prepared.

One thing about sericulture in the Garo Hills. Wild trees grow there in great number where this industry could be made. They are plenty there.

I have mentioned of this fact last year and the Hon'ble Premier had promised to see to this ; but nothing has been done up to now.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, it is proverbial that a country grows more wealthy with the development of its industries. If its industries can be fully developed the country will become wealthier. But the poor provision which our Government makes in the Budget shows the great apathy on the part of Government. A very meagre amount is being provided in the Budget to improve matters. The amount provided is being spent more for the maintenance of the staff of officials. What do we need in this Department? I will make some observations with regard to this. Our cultivators have not got sufficient work to do during the whole year. It was urged upon Government on several occasions that some sort of arrangement should be made by Government for their subsidiary occupation so that they may get some occupation at the time of their leisure. While I speak of subsidiary occupation, I may mention here that Government may introduce a scheme to introduce some home industries. I need not describe what home industries mean. It was also urged on the floor of the House that tannery should be introduced in the province. The scheme should be considered by Government. That tannery should be introduced in the province was discussed in this House, but I find that Government have paid no attention to that. Then, as has been suggested by Mr Mookerjee, match factory and hosiery and other things may also be introduced. Moreover, the small industries which can be introduced as home industries do not involve a big amount. Government know fully what sort of home industries can be introduced. What is more needed here, as has been suggested by some of the speakers is that there should be a planned scheme before Government. But they have got no plan whatsoever. We want more skilled and expert hands. This point was also urged by Mr. Mookerjee that this department is suffering from a shortage of expert and trained hands.

Then I remember, Sir, our present Director of Industries addressed some of the members of this House and said that hat manufacturing industry can be developed in this province and urged on them whether some of them were willing to take up that industry in their hands. The other day I had an occasion to consult the Director of Industries, but he said that no response had been received from any big concerns of this province and why—for want of fund? We should not believe that there is no financier in this province, but there is want of properly trained men. I also heard from the Director of Industries that from the Central Government he received demands for supply of goods for war purposes because the Central Government think that Assam being a resourceful province many things could be done. But to the expectation of the Central Government, Assam is not paying any response. With these words, I urge upon the Government that they should pay more attention to this very important Department.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

After lunch

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot allow more than three minutes to the hon. member, as we have only ten minutes left for this grant.

Mr. BENJAMIN CH. MOMIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when my friend has tabled this motion for discussion about the industrial development of this province, I as a representative of a district would like to say my views on this subject. My friend Mr. Marak has already spoken on the subject. The present

situation of this province shows that our province is not at all self-sufficient of cloth and other commodities. We have always to be dependent on other provinces although we have some raw materials by which the province could dispense with the requirement. Sir, this province is spending lots of money on this department yearly, as the figures show. But I am afraid whether the Government or the public are getting proper return out of it. One weaving demonstrator is posted at Tura but I learnt that he was not allowed to go to the villages owing to paucity of funds. I think the Government will be able to spare or grant some amount as fixed allowance to the demonstrator and use him for wider demonstration. In this difficult time when people are not getting ready yarn I think it is high time for the Government to appoint many spinning demonstrators in the districts where cotton is grown.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am afraid I must ask the hon. member to stop now.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the discussions raised under this motion are really not relevant, while I thank those hon. members who have made constructive criticisms. Those hon. members who criticised Government for not starting big scale industries are quite wide of the mark. This Department is concerned only with small industries. In the line of small industries, we have been doing our level best to give training to as many people as we can in cottage industries so that they may be able to start home factories on a small scale.

The first criticism that has been levelled is that a decreased provision has been made in the budget. The saving has been explained at page 59 of the Budget Memorandum. It is due to the fact that we are saving some money in salaries ; for example, Rao Sahib Sundaram, who was our Weaving Superintendent, was deputed to the Government of India ; he was drawing salary at the maximum of his scale. In his place we have appointed a man who draws much smaller salary, and quite a big amount has been saved on this account only. In this way, Sir, I find that the decrease of provision by Rs.31,000 has been explained at page 59 of the Budget Memorandum.

Now, Sir, we have been accused of having no planned programme for the Industries Department. I refute that charge because we have got a programme of our own. We have trained people in the manufacture of washing soap, we have trained people in the manufacture of paper, we have trained people for hosiery, and we have also sent a man for learning improved bell-metal manufacture. My hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee had been kind enough to quote my suggestions as Opposition Leader. I can assure him that I would try my best to implement every one of them. Government have appointed a Fishery officer with headquarters at Sylhet who goes throughout the province giving advice to people how to rear fish and how to increase fish production. He has submitted a scheme for development of his Department which is lying with the Director of Industries at the moment. We were also on the point of appointing a student, who was trained at Government expense at Jallunder, for teaching how to cure raw hides and skin, to our *Rishis* and *muchis* but unfortunately owing to the Ministerial crisis in December last, the appointment could not be made.

There are in various towns small hosiery mills. At Gauhati, the Pioneer Mill was opened by me ; a Hindu youth who was trained at Jallunder has started that mill. But unfortunately the yarn scarcity has proved a stumbling block and we are going to his aid as far as possible.

My hon. friend Mr. Chaudhuri raised the point that students who have been trained should be helped with industrial loans. Sir, we have made provision for giving industrial loans, but as I mentioned on an earlier occasion, the Industries Department are not advancing their own money. As it is the general tax-payers' money Government demand some kind of security for safeguarding the repayment. Formerly when we advanced loans, security by way of immovable property only was accepted. But in order to help the hosiery mills of Assam, I

have for the first time allowed the stock in trade and the machinery to be sufficient security when they are worth the value of the advance made. I am glad to hear from my hon. friend Mr. Marak that some of their youngmen had started making paper. If my hon. friend requires any help he should approach the Director of Industries with a proper application who will surely try to come to the aid of those youngmen.

My hon. friend Mr. Abdur Rahman was wide of the mark, when he said that Government should start a tannery which is a big industry. But I am at one with him that we should try to make a start in button making. Excepting in Jessore, I do not know of any other factory where buttons are made. In Jessore they use sea shells, whereas in Assam probably we shall have to use cocoanut shells to make buttons.

Lastly, Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee stated that we have put a round man in a square hole and that we must have an expert as head of the Department. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that we can not think of any expert who would fit the whole, because this Department consists of so many subjects that there cannot be one man who is an expert in all the subjects. A man who is an expert in tannery will prove a hopeless failure in weaving; similarly a man with a knowledge of weaving, will be a hopeless failure as a fishery expert. Therefore we have got an officer in our Director of Industries with an all round knowledge of administration who is helped by experts in each branch. I therefore think that this Department instead of getting a censure ought to get commendation.

Sir, the Director of Industries was sent by me many times to push our silk fabrics—Assam Pat and Muga—so that they may be utilised for parachutes, for which there was a great demand for silk, but because the authorities thought that Muga was too heavy for parachutes cloth, he was sent to get the silk yarns tested in the Cawnpore Technological Institute on the strength of the material. But they would not examine it. So the Director had the tensile strength of Muga and Pat tested at Alipore Test House and their report is that our Muga and silk yarns are the strongest.

We are doing our best to start new industries like *sola hat* factories, of which two have been started in Goalpara district. If any hon. member knows where *sola pith* can be got in appreciable quantities, a note to the Director of Industries will be enough for him to proceed to the spot for the purpose of starting further factories because he has got a definite order to supply two lakhs of these hats to the Military.

(A voice :—What about sericulture, Sir ?)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Unfortunately, the Surma Valley people have not taken to sericulture in the same way as the Assam Valley people, yet we have put two demonstrators—one in Karimganj, and the other in Maulvi Bazar—in Karimganj we have got a gentleman by the name of Jalalul Haq Chaudhury, and at Maulvi Bazar, Abdus Sattar—and we hope that these two gentlemen will be able to instruct the local people in sericulture, and if we find that they have done their duty well by way of propoganda and the people take to it, we will help the movement in Surma Valley as far as possible. There is a proposal for increasing the expenditure on this subject and if we find that other demonstrators are required we shall be glad to supply them.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: In view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion, Sir.

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. 2,57,00 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "43.—Industries." The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 90,200."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 13

(28.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS)

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 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 5,51,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 2,51,885.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The time for this grant is up to 2.30. The time saved from the question hour has been almost utilised, but I have kept a few minutes reserved for the demand on "Co-operation".

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. 5,51,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 2,51,885."

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Under Grant No. 23.—Co-operation, there is only one motion, in my name. I will not move that motion, and therefore some more time may be allowed under this head.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: After the demand has been moved any hon. member can speak on it. The whole demand may be opposed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,59,539 under Grant No. 13, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 5,51,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Sir, I have tabled this motion to criticise the Government policy with regard to the treatment of security prisoners, political and undertrial prisoners. Sir, I shall be very brief.

As regards the classification of prisoners, most of the political prisoners have been placed in "C" Division, and there are very few—who have been placed in "B" Division. As regards interviews, the procedure is so strict that it is very difficult for the relations and friends of the prisoners to know about their exact condition, moreover this cannot be ascertained either from newspaper or any press note or from any other agency.

Sir, as regards classification, I shall cite only one example, *re* one of our hon. colleagues, the grand old gentleman, I mean Srijut Shibendra Chandra Biswas, who was placed in "C" Division, but afterwards, Sir, I do not know through whose intervention, he was transferred to "B" Division. Sir, I think that at least the members of this Hon. House should be placed in "A" Division so long as there is no such definite charge against them which justifies this kind of treatment.

Sir, if we look into the budget, we will find that provision for ration is not at all encouraging. Sir, it has been admitted by Government that the number of jail population has increased to a great extent. So far Tezpur jail is concerned, I have got this information (subject to correction of course) that convicts are to take their meals in shifts—in 4 or 5 shifts—and it so happens that the last batch cannot get their meal sometime even once in the morning. Sir, there is shortage of utensils and that is why this thing occurs. Last year, Sir, the cost of rations was Rs.1,57,000; this year it is Rs.1,63,000. The population has increased, at the same time we all know about the price of food stuffs. Sir, we always hear the complaint that they do not get good food and from the budget figure I think there is sufficient ground to presume like this from outside but those who have got personal knowledge—some of them who came out after being released told that the food was really very bad. As regards hospital also you will find that last year they spent Rs.15,426 and this year the provision is only Rs.14,000. It is also well known to all the hon. members of this House that the price of medicine has immensely increased. As regards clothing and bedding of prisoners, last year Government spent Rs.26,000 but they have made a provision of Rs.21,000 for this year when, Sir, the prices of these commodities have increased in all these cases. I cannot understand why instead of increasing these amounts they have been decreased. So it necessarily follows that they are not at all mindful about the conditions of the prisoners. The other day I spoke about the allowance of the security prisoners. I request the Government again today to look into this matter sympathetically and I hope Government will do justice to all whom I have mentioned. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 2,59,539 under Grant No. 13, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 5,51,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.”

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, I rise to support this motion dealing with treatment to security prisoners, to political prisoners and also to undertrial prisoners who have been arrested in connection with any offence connected with political movement. As regards security prisoners it is very difficult for us to know how they have been actually treated—whether the rules that have been laid down for their treatment have been followed or not. That in one instance such a rule has been disregarded—I know very well—that is with regard to grant of interviews. If I remember aright rules permit interviews to security prisoners but no interview was granted to either friends or relations so far as security prisoners were concerned. I for a long time brought this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and he was pleased to reply that the interviews have been banned under the instructions of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: For the first month only, Sir.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: In that letter there was no mention of the first month, Sir, or anything. On that, I wired to the Member of the Government of India stating that interviews have been prohibited under definite instructions of Government of India. To that I received a reply forwarding a copy of a letter from the Home Member to the Government of India to say that the Government of Assam has agreed to grant interviews in those cases where a prisoner has been detained for more than a month. From that letter I could understand that the responsibility of refusal of the interviews rested with the Government of Assam. Be that as it may, Sir, I applied for an interview with Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi who, as the Hon'ble Prime Minister knows, is a very close and personal friend of mine. As a matter of fact we have

been brought up together from our childhood. I wired to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, just a week before this Assembly sat so that I could personally ascertain what his condition was as there was lot of rumours about his present condition of health but that interview was refused. In the letter which was forwarded to me from the Government of India, no distinction was made between a friend and a relation and the discretion of granting interview entirely rested with the Deputy Commissioner; but the interview with Mr. Bardoloi was refused to me. Sir, such a course of action does not help Government or public at all because all sorts of gossips get afloat when people do not know the actual condition of the persons whom they respect and love. We know that Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi and Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, members of this Assembly, went to Bombay to attend the meeting of the Congress Committee. When they returned they were arrested but when they were actually arrested and where they were located no body knew. I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to let me know where Mr. Bardoloi was located but, Sir, I received no reply to that. The whole matter was left in such a mystery that when it was rumoured that Srijut Bardoloi was arrested at Dhubri and was coming to Gauhati by steamer his wife waited at Pandu station for more than a day to get a glimpse of her husband because it was not known where he was. Even after I heard that Srijut Bardoloi was arrested I wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister but I got no reply. I do not know, Sir, what purpose was served by keeping all this as secret? What purpose was actually served by not allowing his friends to see him? Everybody knows that when on the last occasion he was imprisoned, he was released before the expiry of the period of his sentence on account of his illness and during the present time whether he is free from any illness Government only knows. What contribution he has made by moving round the whole province in order to ensure a proper food supply to the people Government know full well. There was a lot of correspondence between him and the Chief Secretary regarding the problem of food supply in the province. He went to Bombay and came back to the province; but he was arrested and sent somewhere before he had spoken a single word or before he had taken part in any political movement. Sir, I submit that this policy is most objectionable both from the interest of the public as well as from the interest of the Government. Government would deserve being criticised for all sorts of things which they are not guilty of.

Then as regards the classification of political prisoners, Sir, it has been done in a very haphazard way. It is a disgrace to put a venerable gentleman like Sibendra Bubu's standing in 'C' Division. The Magistrate who has put him in that division ought not to be allowed to remain in that service, because it must have been an act of pure grudge or jealousy which had actuated him to have put that respectable gentleman in 'C' Division. No Magistrate can possibly say that he does not know Mr. Sibendra Chandra Biswas. So nothing but a sort of private grudge must have been responsible for putting that gentleman in that division. I have also drawn attention of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, as well as the Hon'ble Minister here in charge of Jails of some instances which were very glaring, viz., one B. Goswami, M.A., a son of very respectable land holder in Assam has been put in 'C' Division. I spoke to the Deputy Commissioner personally about this, and another youngman named Biswanath Goswami who is an undergraduate, a 4th year student also has been put in the 'C' Division. There must have been numerous other instances. Why I complain of the 'C' Division for political prisoners is that the food supplied in the jail is far from satisfactory and is very unsuitable for a man of that standing. The Gauhati Jail is over-crowded and the clothing supplied to the prisoners is scanty, *marvat* which is never used by us is supplied. Neither oil, nor ghee and milk as is prescribed is given. The *ata ruti* that was supplied before has also been stopped now on the ground of rising of price.....

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

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Only one minute more I require, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, the hon. member's time is up. He should stop now.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be very brief in my reply as the time is short. First I shall speak regarding the security prisoners. Hitherto we have received no complaints from these security prisoners themselves except in certain matters such as correspondence, interviews and newspapers. As soon as they were brought to the notice of Government, Government took up the matters and they are now framing certain rules which will provide some concessions to these prisoners on those matters.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is there any definition of the term "security prisoners" ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think the hon. member knows it. Now, Sir, as regards classification of political prisoners it is done according to rules that are laid down in the Jail Manuals and it is done according to the education, social status and the mode of living of the prisoners. And generally the trying Magistrates put the convicts in different classes according to their discretion. Whenever any case is put up to Government it is given due consideration. Probably the case of Mr. Sibendra Chandra Biswas did not, as far as I remember, come up to Government and no complaint in this respect was also received. However, whenever genuine specific grievances are brought to the notice of Government, they will be duly considered in so far as they are within limits and bounds of existing rules.

As regards other matters which were raised by the hon. mover concerning supply of cloths at Tezpur Jail, I shall look into them and proper steps will be taken ; where necessary and whenever necessary I may personally go to the places to gather first hand knowledge and see what best can be done.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the Hon'ble Minister in charge gives us the assurance that he will personally look into the matter, 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.

No other cut motions will be taken up ; I have only 15 minutes time.

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.5,51,500 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.2,51,885."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 26

(50.—Civil—Works—Excluding tools and plant and establishment)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: 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 1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.38,63,100 (amount of the revised

Estimate) in respect of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.8,02,203.

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.38,68,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.8,02,203.

There are some cut motions. We shall discuss this Demand up to 3 P. M. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed to move his cut motion.

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.34,129 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary roads at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 110.

By this cut motion I like to bring to the notice of the Government the great hardship caused to the general public by the levy of toll at the rate of two pice per head on the Manu bridge near Maulvibazar Town. The public are grateful to the Government for the construction of this bridge but the levy of toll at this rate is a great hardship in these days of economic depression. So I appeal to the Government to reduce the rate of toll to one pice per head and also I would like to know from the Government when they intend to make this bridge toll-free.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 34,129 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed head—1.—Ordinary roads—at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 110."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There is a similar motion* in the name of Maulavi Abdul Aziz. Of course he makes a general question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think Maulavi Abdul Aziz should also speak on this motion.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: I want to draw the attention of the Government to the levy of ferry-toll in all Public Works Department ferries at the rate of two pice, *i.e.*, six pies per head, which is a great hardship to the people in these days of general depression. Sir, in these days of general rise of prices of food-stuffs, and general economic distress of the people, the rate is rather very high specially for those people who are living on both sides of the river and who have daily occasions to cross over every time as their needs require.

I like to draw the attention of the Government to the local board ferries and to the municipal ferries. The rate there is one pice per head. Compared with the Local Board and Municipal ferries the rate of the Public Works Department ferry is very high and this is affecting very much the travelling public and the litigants.

*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 17,45,656 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B—Repairs, Sub-head—2.—Communications at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To criticise Government for realizing ferry charge at the rate of two pice which is a hardship.)

There is another point about the rate, Sir. I understand that the rate is realised at 3 pice after dusk. I am told that at about 9 or 10 at night they even demand 4 pice per head. So I request the Government to modify the rules in this behalf and bring it to the level of one pice in accordance with the rate prevalent in the Local Board and Municipal ferries. With these words, Sir, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support Mr. Naziruddin Ahmed's motion; as regards the Manu bridge at Maulvi-bazar, Sir, this project, I mean the bridge, was built from the money that was received from the Government of India as our share of petrol tax, so in my opinion there should not be any tax at all (*hear, hear*). It must be toll-free. Not only this bridge but other bridges also which have been built by the money that was given to this province by the Central Government as our share of petrol tax, should be made toll-free immediately, Sir. We have already been taxed once and if something is built by the amount of that tax I don't think in all fairness the Government has got any right to tax us again. So, Sir, I think that the Government should make this Manu bridge as well as other similar bridges toll-free. With these words, I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government that at Shewla ferry in the subdivision of Karimganj, the toll is realised at two pice at day time and more than two pice at night by the lessee. I hope Government will kindly look into this matter. With these few words, I support the motion of my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Aziz.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Sir, I have every sympathy for this motion. But the thing is that the scheduled rate of toll for each person at the rate of two pice is prevalent over all the Public Works Department ferries in Assam and this scheduled rate has been fixed since a long time. Since 1929 it has been in force. Of course this matter was considered as late as 1941 and the Government Notification of 7th November 1941 again laid down that the rate of toll should be two pice per each person in all Public Works Department ferries. But it is a fact, Sir, that the scheduled rate is lower in the Local Board and the Municipal ferries. I beg to assert that these Public Works Department ferries are much better maintained than any of the Local Board or Municipal ferries. As hon. members know, Public Works Department supplies marboats to the lessee and sometimes they also supply Motor engines for the speedy crossing of the marboats. They also maintain a staff so that the passengers may not be inconvenienced. So I do not see any reason why, Sir, the toll should be reduced but if it be the general wishes of the members of this House that this question should be reconsidered, then I am prepared to re-examine the matter. There has been an allegation that in some ferries after dusk, a toll of more than two pice is realised. If any specific instance can be brought to the notice of the Government, I shall look into the matter.

***Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it not a fact that the rate of three pice fixed by the schedule has been accepted by Government? (*Some voice:—Yes*).

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I am sorry, I was not aware of it, Sir. If that be the rule, I have got nothing to say.

***Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** Another point, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is not correct in saying that this rate of toll was introduced as early as 1929. It was introduced many years later than 1929.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I have got the paper here from which it appears that the rate has been prevalent since then.

Now as regards the Manu Bridge, I should say that this is a major bridge, the length being 440 feet and it was constructed out of the Petrol Fund. Government held that toll should be levied on all major bridges constructed out of the Petrol Tax Fund and that crossing will be free only when the receipts will total the cost of the bridge. Before tolls were levied on the Manu bridge, the question was very carefully examined and Government decided (it was 93 Administration then) that two pice should be levied. Of course, there is an exception in the case of Keane Bridge; under special circumstances, the rate has been fixed at three pice per head. Now in the case of Khowai Bridge, I find, my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman is interested but I can tell him that it has been made a toll-free bridge. Now as regards Manu Bridge, I can tell the members of the House that I will be prepared to re-examine the question.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** What about Sylhet Bridge, Sir?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I have not understood the question.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** We want to know why a toll of three pies is realised per person at Sylhet.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAIYDUR RAHMAN:** There is no question about the reduction of toll on the Keane Bridge; only the question has been raised about Manu Bridge.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** What about the bridge about which Maulavi Abdul Aziz has spoken?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** That, Sir, I have replied that the whole question will be re-examined. As regards Manu Bridge, I am prepared to reconsider this question and this I have already replied to the hon. member.

Now, Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Government, I think, the hon. mover will feel inclined to withdraw his motion.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, what about the bridges which have been constructed with the Petrol Tax Fund? I think these bridges should be opened to the public free of any charge. As regards this point, I think the Hon'ble Minister will enlighten us whether they will reopen that question also.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** This is a major question, Sir, and it involves a change of policy. I cannot give any assurance on behalf of the Government.

***Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ:** Sir, is it not a fact that a toll of three pies is realised on the Keane Bridge?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Yes, a toll of three pies is realised on the Keane Bridge.

***Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Is Government aware that more than one anna is realised from each person in some ferries under Gauhati?

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I do not think any of Public Works Department ferries charge so much.

***The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. What does the hon. member propose to do?

***Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED:** In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the 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.

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.3,63,833 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications,

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

at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

Sir, Karimganj station road is a very important one. It is a portion of Cachar Trunk road and also a portion of Karimganj-Patharkandi road. Sir, motors both of civil people and military people and buses, cycles and rikshaws pass on this road and the pedestrians have no other roads to travel over, some motor accidents already took place for heavy traffic. For this reason, Sir, I urge upon the Government that this road should be extended and widened. I hope Government will consider about this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved.

"That the provision of Rs.3,63,833 under Grant No.26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110."

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think, I should oppose this motion. (*Laughter.*) I consider that the hon. mover has been very ambitious, rather extravagant in his demand at this time of the year. If the hon mover had known the real fact about the Public Works Department's general condition, I am sure, he would not have brought this matter before the House. I will just give an instance. There was a breach of 30 ft. on the Gauhati-Shillong Road during the month of August last and that breach still remains un-repaired and un-bridged. We have been passing through this road only through the courtesy of the Military Department who have constructed a sort of semi-permanent bridge over it. Now, Sir, during all these days what happened? The House will be astounded to hear that whereby placing three or four planks, the vehicles could have easily passed, all those days, the mail had to be carried *via* Sylhet. I say, Sir, that even two or three men could have carried the mails but that was not arranged for and everybody in Public Works Department sat quiet and dumb and nothing was done. If the Hon'ble Minister had heard the curses which the passengers uttered he would perhaps never have come out of his house. Knowing all these things, why my hon. friend is so ambitious as to make his demand? That is my objection, Sir, against his motion.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of information. Was this breach due to an act of sabotage?

(No reply was given.)

***Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** On a point of personal explanation. Perhaps the hon. member does not know that some accidents took place on this road.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The argument of Mr. Chaudhuri is that when one grievance remains unredressed, why another grievance should be put before the House for obtaining redress.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the widening of this road was never suggested before in this House. On a reference to the proposal for improvement of provincial roads for inclusion in the programme of road improvement we do not find it at all. As has been said by Mr. Chaudhuri, the widening is no more necessary than innumerable similar projects. This department cannot take up this work. In any case, as the matter has been brought to my notice I shall look into it.

***Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI:** As the Hon'ble Minister has promised to look into the matter, 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.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 34,129, under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor Head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed Head—1.—Ordinary Roads at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, when the contract to ply motor lorries on the Sylhet-Shillong Road was given to the United Motor Transport Company a hue and cry was raised throughout the province. In this House also hon. members including my humble self protested against the action of the Government for giving a monopoly to an outsider company. At that time we were told that the province will not be loser for this and consideration will be made of the people of the province by the Company while making appointments. After establishing their business in the province the Company, I am told, is removing all the employees of the province. The other day I heard that only one Muhammadan of the province is under their employ and all others have been removed from the service. The case of the Hindus is the same. Formerly there was a Committee to look after the interests of the people of the Province with regard to the Commercial Carrying Company. Perhaps the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department was also a member of that Committee. But with regard to this Company, there is no Committee to look after the interests of the children of the soil. The Company is doing what it likes. They are bringing incumbents from Bengal and are not looking to the interests of the people of the province. I bring this matter to the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge so that he may look into the affairs and see his way to remove the grievances of the public. If the Company does not act up to what the Hon'ble Minister orders, I think the Company should be brought to book in a proper manner. 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. 34,129, under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor Head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed Head—1.—Ordinary Roads at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I wish to add only one sentence. I support the motion. I have full sympathy that the inhabitants of the province should be employed there. In this connection I beg to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that not only they are removing the inhabitants of the Province from Company's service, but they are trying to take their office towards Bengal. The station was previously located in the town of Sylhet but now the station has been removed to the other side of the river near the railway station. People who come here to Shillong have to send their luggages there and their servants are to travel there by crossing the river. They are to hire a taxi or a rickshaw to be back again. The distance is no less than a mile. So I hope Government will take note of it. They should immediately order the Company to have a booking office in the town of Sylhet.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. members for bringing this grievance before the House. I assure the hon. members that the discussion in this debate will be forwarded to the Company and further steps will be taken to see that the inconveniences are removed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion on the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister.

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

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I do not like to move the next motion* standing in my name.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir. There are two motions† in my name, and I would like to combine both.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may simply say that the whole grant be reduced.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Very well, Sir. I beg to move that whole grant be reduced by Re. 1. The object of this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the very unfortunate state of affairs—one which I think, will command the sympathy of all the members of the House particularly as the North Bank is largely unrepresented in the present, House.

There are three serious difficulties about communication on the North Bank. The first one concerns the Railway, and is relevant, because the Public Works Department are the Railway Department of the Government of Assam. The facts are briefly that a breach occurred between Rangiya and Rangipara on the 26th of June. That breach was not repaired until the last week in October. The Government of Assam pays the Government of India in the Railway Department an annual sum by way of subsidy. For a space of four months there was no running of any passenger train and no mails were able to be carried on this route. According to the information I have received, the Railway made very little attempt to assemble materials there in time. The number of labourers employed was far too few for the job, and there was great delay before metal could be brought to the site. * *

The second difficulty which is more important to my hon. friend, the Minister of the Public Works Department, concerns the Trunk Road. In the Trunk Road, there were breaches in several places. * * *

I submit, Sir, there is a very serious case for Government in the Public Works Department to examine. Not only is the public convenience, Sir, at stake, but the cultivators, particularly in North Lakhimpur subdivision, have been very heavily penalised by these breakdowns. In the first place they were unable to get their crops out of the subdivision with the result that even today prices of agricultural produce in North Lakhimpur are cheaper than in any other place in the province. * *

With these remarks I commend my motion to the consideration of the House and particularly, Sir, to the sympathetic consideration of the Hon'ble Minister

* 4. Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 1,48,639 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications, Detailed Head—6.—Motor Tax Projects—(ii)—Local Board Roads at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the failure of Government in making a grant to the Sunamganj Local Board.)

† 5. Mr. A. WHITTAKER to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 3,63,833 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, minor head—A.—Original Works—(b)—Communications at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To draw attention to the prolonged breaches in the Railway, the abandonment of the river steamer service and the dangers if this is to be used as an Evacuation Route.)

6. Mr. A. WHITTAKER to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 3,63,833 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works—(b)—Communications at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,68,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To draw attention with particular reference to the North Bank of the Brahmaputra to the prolonged breaches in the Railway, the abandonment of the river steamer service and the danger if this is to be used as an Evacuation Route.)

in charge of Public Works Department, who throughout this session has shown most commendable courtesy in meeting the suggestions that have been made from all sections of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion.

"That the provision of Rs.3,63,833 under Grant No. 26, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works—(b)—Communications at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the wholer grant of Rs.38,68,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to the hon. mover for bringing forward certain grievances from which the people living in the North Bank of the Brahmaputra are suffering. I must say that this year was an unprecedented one and there were unprecedented happenings due to acts of God and due to sabotage.

The breaches in the railway on the North Bank were acts of God and beyond human control. So far as this Provincial Government is concerned they have no control over the Railways, but I believe the Railways had done their best to restore traffic as early as they could. The situation has been brought to the notice of the Government of India. Our Chief Engineer saw the Secretary, Communications—Sir S. N. Roy and the Chief Commissioner of the Railways at New Delhi in July 1942 and placed his views before the Government of India and the Railway Board and pressed for facilities of better river communication. The steamer service between Dhubri and Pandu was started as a result of that representation.

* * * * *
As regards the breaches on the North Trunk Road, that was also an act of God.

Many breaches on the North Trunk Road occurred during the rains at various times and by the time one was repaired another occurred. But all possible attempts were made to deal with the breaches as expeditiously as possible. Marboats were kept in the breaches for crossing of pedestrian traffic.

* * * * *
So, we are considering these matters and I hope, on these assurances, my hon. friend the mover will feel inclined to withdraw his motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard quite a lot about the acts of God, but I would like to remind the Hon'ble Minister that God still helps those who help themselves; and on the assurance that he will reinforce Providence's efforts for the next year, I should like to withdraw this motion.

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

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

Now I am putting the question. 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.38,68,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)." The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.8,02,203."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.23

(42.—CO-OPERATION)

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: 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.1,66,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "42.—Co-operation." The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.60,009. 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.1,66,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head " 42.—Co-operation." The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.60,009."

There is a cut motion, and the hon. member said he was not going to move it.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I intended that the time would be allotted to ' jails,' but as it has not been possible to do so, I would like to move my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Very well, but there was another procedure to speak on this motion without moving it. We have got only 10 minutes' time on this grant.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.17,851 under Grant No.23, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—2 —Pay of Establishment at page 174 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.111, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,66,100 do stand reduced by Rs.111.

My intention is to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Government. Sir, since our last discussion of the subject, it appears that the Department has not shown any improvement, in spite of appointment of some additional staff in 1941-42 for rehabilitating the co-operative movement. The same moribund condition prevails ; the central banks have not as yet been able to stabilise their position ; for want of proper education and training in co-operation the societies could not make their existence felt amongst the masses. In every week's gazette we find society after society is going to liquidation. To make the movement a success a comprehensive scheme should be evolved and bigger sums under this head should be provided. 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.17,851 under Grant No.23, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub head—2.—Pay of Establishment at page 174 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.111, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,66,100 do stand reduced by Rs.111."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I rise to support the motion. Sir, we heard last year that Government was trying to evolve a scheme by measure of which they would start anew their endeavour to rehabilitate the movement and accordingly had appointed a man. But I find that though the same temporary staff is continuing in their work nothing tangible has been found out as yet in order to bring this Department out of ruin.

Sir, last year the grant to co-operative societies was Rs.5,600 ; there has been a small addition this year ; from Rs.5,600 it has gone up to Rs.6,000. Last year we were told that a lakh of rupees had been kept for helping these societies for giving loan, but, Sir, to our utter disappointment we find that the money was not spent, it is still there this year also. A sum of Rs.1,20,000 has been allotted this year—shown under the head "Loans to Co-operative Societies," but, Sir, if money is allotted only to give us hoax and not spent for the purpose it is meant for, what is the use of such budgeting ? Sir, the Money-lenders' Bill

going to be passed, and I think it is more necessary now than before and it is the moral and bounden duty of the Government to give proper attention to this department. Sir, I hope the money that has been allotted this year will be spent in full, and the amount should also be increased in next year's Budget. The Government should not keep the amount in the pages of the budget only, and next year they should not come and say that the money could not be spent for some reason or other. Sir, it is absurd to say that money cannot be spent for this department. It is a department where money is the only concern, and it is ridiculous and amazing to suggest that Government could not spend the budgeted amount. I hope Government will give us sincere, real and honest assurance that they will take up this Department in right earnest; otherwise it is better for them to get rid of the Department. Either nourish it properly or abolish it soon.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am at one with the hon. members when they deplore the pitiable condition of the agricultural credit societies in Assam, but I think they are not justified in criticising Government in the matter of adoption of policy for rehabilitating the Co-operative Department in Assam.

Sir, I have to point out to the House that there are mainly three reasons which have led to the deterioration of the agricultural credit societies in Assam. The first is the mismanagement on the part of the managing bodies which is greatly responsible, secondly, inadequacy of staff to supervise the management, and the third factor is the deplorable economic condition of the agriculturists. Everybody in this House knows that for economic crisis, for some years in the past the poor agriculturists, for whose benefit these Co-operative Societies are meant, were enjoying land revenue remission to the extent of 50 per cent. in some cases. This Department is meant to do good to these poor agriculturists mainly in the shape of giving loans to them, so that they may purchase their cattle and other implements, etc., to carry on their cultivation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister is misleading the House by saying that all the peasants were getting remission of land revenue and to the extent of 50 per cent. in some cases. He should state the facts correctly regarding these things.....

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I said *in some cases, i.e.*, for "Pattas" up to Rs.12 as revenue, the remission was 50 per cent. and I am quite correct.

Sir, it has been said by one hon. member, that in spite of some recent appointments in the Co-operative Department for better supervision, there has been no improvement. Sir, this Co-operative movement has arrived at such a condition that no remarkable improvement can be seen in a year. Yet it is satisfactory to find that collection of the overdues with some Central Co-operative Banks under the management of the newly appointed agencies has improved a good deal.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But where is the initiative?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The initiative is there already. We have adopted the rehabilitating scheme. By the end of December last or some time in the month of January Government completed the appointment of 10 Co-operative Inspectors and some additional staff, who were placed in different smaller circles after splitting the existing circles so that there may be better and closer supervision. Some Co-operative Inspectors have also been placed in charge of some central co-operative banks for better management, and they have been advised to give proper attention to the agricultural societies also.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: On a point of information. The other day we heard from the Hon'ble Minister that the management of some of the co-operative central banks has been taken in their hands. May I know how the Government propose to liquidate the outstanding amount of those banks?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: No central bank has yet been liquidated. The managing bodies of some of the central banks whose collections of overdues are very poor and whose management was inefficient have been superseded, and departmental officers have been put in their charge; official and non-official agencies have also been appointed so that collection may improve.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: What procedure is followed in case of realisation of debt when a bank goes into liquidation? Is interest collected?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The whole procedure cannot be explained off hand and that question does not arise now as no Central Bank has been liquidated up till now. The procedure for the realisation of dues of a liquidated society is that the recoverable assets have to be recovered as far as possible by the liquidator and then calculating the irrecoverable assets and the liabilities of the society the liquidator fixes contribution to be paid by its members.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The Government has to admit that the management of certain Banks was taken over by the Government. I want to know how Government is managing them.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The management was taken over for more efficient management under the newly appointed agencies.

As regards the allotment of one lakh of rupees that was not spent, as pointed out by Mr. Mookerjee, that money was meant for the issue of loan to the Provincial Bank. The position is that the Provincial Bank issues loans to Central Banks, and the Central Banks issue loans to Village Societies. The Provincial Bank did not come forward to take the loan and therefore the money could not be spent. So far as I remember, the Provincial Bank did not agree with some conditions of the loan.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then why this money has been budgeted this year also? What is the good of allotting this money when Government knows that it won't be spent.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: As I have said, there were some conditions attached to the loan, and they did not agree to some of these conditions.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Have they agreed this year, Sir? We want a fair reply.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The money is there, Sir, it is for them to say whether they want it or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. mover intend to do?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I object to the withdrawal, Sir. We have received no answer at all. The Hon'ble Minister has explained only the Land Revenue remission scales and other remaining things.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then the motion cannot be withdrawn. I will put the question. The question is:

That the provision of Rs.17,851 under Grant No.23, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—2—Pay of Establishment at page 174 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.111, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,66,100 do stand reduced by Rs.111.

The question was negatived.

I will now put the substantive 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 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.1,66,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head ‘42.—Co-operation’. The expenditure incurred from 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.60,009.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.25.

(47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Grant No.25—The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

***The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I think my name has been put there by mistake, Sir. The Demand will be moved by the Hon'ble Education Minister—Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** I beg to move, Sir, 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 1,05,600 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.37,339.

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.1,05,600 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.37,339."

There is only one cut motion

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.1,137 under Grant No.25, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient manuscripts, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,05,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:** May I point out to the hon. mover, Sir, that no provision has been made in this year's budget?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, but when this cut motion has been moved on the total demand there may be some criticism on the Government action for not making any provision for this.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, under the head "Preservation and Translation of ancient manuscripts" in the Budget Memorandum we find that this head represents the charges on account of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies in Assam and as Government could not make the publication of these thesis relevantly under this head they have put it under contingency grant.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Page ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Page 188. Detailed Estimates and page 56 of the Budget Memorandum. I bring it to the notice of Government that if any sum is to be provided for publication of thesis that should be at least relevant. Dr. Kakati and Dr. Bhuiyan are holding high office under Government and they are sufficiently rich and therefore Government should not take the charge of publication of their thesis. They can themselves publish or they can leave them with some firm for publication. With these words I commend my motion for the consideration of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.1,137 under Grant No.25, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient manuscripts, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies at page 188 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,05,600 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I shall speak only a few words. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge points out that as there is no provision under this head there should not be any cut motion. Sir, I shall take my stand on that as I like to criticise Government for not making any provision under that head.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What has the hon. mover shown? He has shown something.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : He has taken the opposite side.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, a work on sanskrit prosody called "Britta Manjari" written by Mahamahopadhyay Pandit Dhireswar Bhattacharyya Kaviratna of Kamrup cannot be published due to financial difficulty. Hon'ble Sir Muhammad said that he had been told by various scholars of repute that the book was a unique one in the history of sanskrit literature not merely in Assam but in India when this thing was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier. Sir, I have referred to his speech which was published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 29th May 1940, Part VI. The Hon'ble Premier also said that it would receive due consideration from the Government and Sir, a sum of Rs.1,200 was accordingly allotted for this purpose but unfortunately this has not as yet materialised. Now I urge upon the Government that this is a work which has received the commendation from various quarters and Government also took this up and promised to publish it. I think this is high time that Government should come forward with the money and see that this valuable work is published without any further delay.

***The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :** Sir, I find that this motion is being pressed on two different grounds rather contradictory. Of course as regards Maulavi Maqbul Hussain's contention I think I made it clear that money was provided in last year's budget for the publication of a book by Rai Bahadur Dr. Bhuyan. That provision was withdrawn on account of urgent needs and for economy. So this book is not going to be printed. (*A voice* :—at Government expense). Government allow publication of such interesting books at Government cost with some terms and conditions when the author expresses his inability and the thesis of which publication is demanded is an important one from public point of view. In such cases, Sir, the sale of the book is controlled by Government and the copy-right is not given to the author until the money is recovered. As I have already said no provision has been made in this year's budget under this head.

As regards the suggestion of my friend Mr. Mookerjee for publishing certain book, of course, that is a new suggestion which I shall have to examine and consider.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : From what has been said by the hon. mover and from what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister it appears to me that the motion was not in order. Therefore I am not putting the motion to the vote of the House. I am putting the main question.

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

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister concerned.

1942 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs. 1,05,600 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 37,339".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 31

(57.—MISCELLANEOUS)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: 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. 29,50,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head "57.—Miscellaneous". The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 1,87,649.

This appropriation has the recommendation of the Governor.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion 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. 29,50,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs. 1,87,649".

There are some cut motions. Is Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury going to move the cut motion in his name?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, up to what time you are going to allow the discussion?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is a lump allotment of time, *i.e.*, 15 minutes for several demands. Let the discussion proceed and if we reach the time limit the demand will be placed from the Chair.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 85,322 under Grant No. 31, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—I.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a).—Contributions, etc., Local Bodies at page 208 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 29,50,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200.

By this cut motion, I would like to raise a discussion about the financial condition of the Local Boards in Assam, specially in the Surma Valley due to short allotments made by the Government in the current year.

Sir, after the passing of the Assam Local Bodies Compensatory Grants' Act, the income on local rate, ferry tolls, pounds and judicial fines are not credited direct to the local fund but the income on these heads are appropriated to the Government treasury. Government, however, are required by this act to make a compensatory grant to the different local boards, on the basis of the actual receipt of the previous year.

In the current year, the boards have been faced with an abnormal situation, as the compensatory allotments have been substantially reduced on the grounds that the Boards received larger amounts in the previous three years than the actual income and Government wanted to adjust the account in one single year.

Sir, the Boards were at their wits' end to meet the situation. The Budget had been approved by the Government, expenditures had already been incurred under the Budget. How was it possible for them to meet this huge deficit. Sir, at present the Boards do not know where they stand and how can they meet their compulsory obligations.

The Budget of the Local Boards are framed on the figures supplied by the Government.

In the current year the compensatory grants to Sunamganj Local Board has been curtailed by Rs. 21,000, of the Habiganj Local Board by about Rs. 14,000, of the North Sylhet Local Board by Rs. 8,000. The South Sylhet and Karimganj Local Boards have also suffered though to a lesser extent.

Coming to the Sunamganj Local Board, how is it possible to run the administration of the Board with such a heavy blow to their budgetary position.

The Sunamganj Local Board adopted a resolution on the subject. It was sent to the Deputy Commissioner for forwarding it to the Provincial Government. After waiting for many months, we were obliged with the following reply from the Deputy Commissioner :

“As the Board is not earnest to improve its financial position by raising the local rate as advised from time to time, it has hardly a case in its favour and I do not see my way to move the Government either for any increased grants in lieu of local rates, etc., or for a special grant to it at this critical time. A reference is invited in this connection to my letter No.7729-J., dated the 11th May 1942.

I may, however, add here that all new expenditure should be rigorously controlled and all new schemes kept in abeyance, if possible”.

The letter speaks for itself. A similar reply was received by the Chairman, North Sylhet Local Board. Because of the fact that we did not see our way to increase the local rate, the Deputy Commissioner refused to send the representation to the Government.

This is the example of Self-Government we are enjoying under the Assam Local Self-Government Act.

I do hope, Sir, that Government would come up to help the Boards out of this extraordinary circumstances. With these words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.85,322 under Grant No.31, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—I.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a)—Contributions, etc., Local Bodies at page 208 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,50,100 do stand reduced by Rs.200.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words.. ..

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, just at 4 p.m., the House shall have to be adjourned, so there is no time.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I want simply to add that it is not unknown to the hon. members of this House who are coming from that side and they have also seen in the Government report what complaints have been made by the Deputy Commissioners about the increase of local rates. I may say that Habiganj Local Board long before adopted the suggestion of Government to increase local rates. But even that the Government did not see their way to insist on it. I do not know why it is so. Some other Local Board did not accede to the local regulations. I do not know how to make these things at this far end of the year. If the Government also do not come forward to help those Local Boards most of the undertakings of the Boards will remain unfinished. So, I hope Government will make some provision for them.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury is labouring under a misapprehension. Government is not making any short allotment to the Local Boards. Grant to Local Boards consists of general purposes grant and compensatory grant. The general purposes grant is of a fixed nature and has not been disturbed in recent year.

As regards the second grant, the compensatory grant, what happens is this. Every year from 1st April to 31st March the receipts of the Local Board are credited to the provincial revenues and in order to enable the Local Board to meet their normal expenditure Government goes on advancing to the Local Boards in quarterly instalment, such sum as is based on the actuals of the previous year. Naturally the money thus advanced by Government during a particular year and

the money that is credited to the provincial revenue do not coincide. So at the end of the year if Government has paid more, this is deducted from the next year share of the Local Board. If the Government has paid less Government replenish the Local Board. This is the procedure and Government does not keep back a single pie and this is followed even now. As regards Sunamganj Local Board I can say that taking last 4 years' total, the money, that is due to the Local Board, has been paid to the Board and not a penny is kept back.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MUFIZUR RAHMAN: Sir, regarding North Sylhet the Deputy Commissioner when asked about the local rate and ferry receipts gave figures for local rate about Rs.62,000 and for ferries about Rs.19,000 and the budget was framed accordingly and was passed by the authority, but the compensatory grant under these heads were given Rs.57,000 and Rs.15,000, thus about Rs.8,000 less than the estimate. Besides, on account of the rise in price of materials and labour repair of flood damages and maintenance of roads constructed from rural uplift and test relief funds were made over to the Board. For maintenance and repairs of flood damages, these cost the Board a heavy sum. By a resolution of the Board the authorities were requested either to make a special grant or to give a loan to run the Board, but the Deputy Commissioner replied saying that the Board did not see its way to increase the income by assessing 4 pies of local rate in the reserve and therefore the prayer would not be accepted. But it is not the opportune time for increasing the local rate. Under the circumstances the Board cannot run without a loan or special grant from the Government. So I request Government to look into the matter.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: At the end of the year if the advances that are given to the Local Board are excessive, Government naturally deduct it from the next year's compensatory grant. I do not know if any more is necessary for me to say because we do not keep any money belonging to the Local Board. I may add that at present we are not in a position to increase the requirement of all the Local Boards.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The reply is not up to the mark, Sir, and most unsatisfactory. So I do not wish to withdraw my motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is—

“That the provision of Rs 85,322 under Grant No.31, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—I.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a).—Contributions, etc., Local Bodies at page 208 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,50,100 do stand reduced by Rs.200.”

The hon. members who are in favour of the motion will please rise in their seats, and then those hon. members who want to remain neutral on the motion will please rise in their seats and those hon. members who are not in favour of the motion will remain in their seats.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: It appears that it is rather unkind to take division in this way.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have done it simply to save time of the House. I am never unkind to any hon. member.

The Assembly divided.

Noes—27

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|---|---|
| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 6. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 7. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 8. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 9. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 10. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin. |
| | 11. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |

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| 12. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. | 20. Mr. A. Whittaker. |
| 13. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar. | 21. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| 14. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. | 22. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| 15. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. | 23. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti. |
| 16. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis. | 24. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| 17. Mr. C. W. Morley. | 25. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |
| 18. Mr. R. A. Palmer. | 26. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| 19. Mr. P. Trinkle. | 27. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari. |

Ayes—7

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| 1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 5. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 2. Babu Kalachand Roy. | 6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 3. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | 7. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. |
| 4. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. | |

The question was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main question, before the House. 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 to the 24th August 1942, will amount to Rs.29,50,100 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head “ 57.—Miscellaneous ”. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs 1,87,649.

The question was adop ed.

I am putting the other Demand before the House.

GRANT No. 34

(Loans and advances bearing and not bearing interest).

“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.11,89,000 (amount of the revised estimate) in respect of the head “ Loans and Advances ”. The expenditure incurred from the 1st April to the 24th August 1942 is believed to be about Rs.4,11,573.

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 24th November, 1942.

Shillong,
The 23rd January 1943.

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