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**Proceedings of the Twelfth 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 8th March, 1943.

**PRESENT**

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-five Members.

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

The following new Member was sworn in :—

Rai Sahib Daulat Chandra Gohain—(in the room of the late Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua, M.L.A.)

**Panel of Chairmen**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I now announce the names of the hon. Members who will constitute the Panel of Chairmen for this session :—

1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee,
2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman,
3. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis, and
4. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Recreation Club Scheme**

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY** asked :

\*1. (a) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, has started a movement under the name of "The Recreation Club Scheme" ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Director of Public Instruction urges upon the Muslim boys to visit Hindu *Tirthas*, places of worship of a particular nature strictly prohibited by Islam ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Muslim Members of the Assembly urged upon the Government to withdraw the scheme at once ?

(d) Do Government propose to withdraw the Recreation Club Scheme at once ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I will reply on behalf of the Hon'ble Education Minister who is engaged now in the Upper House.

1. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Except a 'Short notice' question asked by the same hon. Member during the November 1942 session of the Assembly, Government received no representation urging the withdrawal of the scheme.

(d)—Government see no reason to withdraw the scheme but if the hon. Member points out any feature or activity under the scheme which is likely to offend the religious feelings of any community, Government will be glad to consider and drop such feature or activity from the scheme.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** What is the scheme, Sir?

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Recreation Club Scheme.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** This is only the name of the scheme. I want details.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Although, technically I think this question does not arise, I will only be too glad to help hon. Members, with your permission.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is better that the whole thing be placed before the House

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Aims and objects of the scheme—it is a non-political, non-communal and non-sectarian body. Its aims and objects will be:—

- (i) to encourage extra-mural activities amongst students with the co-operation of teachers and officers of the Education Department,
- (ii) to foster inter-communal harmony by bringing brotherly love and feeling amongst students of different communities,
- (iii) to promote amongst students a spirit of social service,
- (iv) to encourage dignity of labour and promote practical arts and crafts,
- (v) to encourage cultivation of music and other fine arts amongst pupils,
- (vi) to provide facilities for physical culture,
- (vii) to arrange for lectures for diffusion of useful knowledge,
- (viii) to establish libraries and organise study circle,
- (ix) to undertake the organisation and co-ordination of Recreation Club activities in other parts of the Province, and
- (x) to take such other action as is incidental or conducive to any or all of the aforesaid objects.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Is it not a fact that the Director of Public Instruction issued a circular asking the Muslim boys to visit Hindu *Tirthas*?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The original scheme did contain that part of the programme, but it has been dropped. I will give hon. Members the routine of the Recreation Club just now. Its activity is limited to Saturdays of the month. First Saturday—recitation and spoken English; second period—general knowledge; third period—Handi-work or scout-craft; fourth period—Red Cross and Hygiene. Second Saturday—Current topics, memory testing, Littleman's lecture with special stress on spoken English, dictation. Third Saturday—Biographies of heroes and saints of all communities to promote inter-communal harmony,

Dramatisation and spoken English, story-telling, debate and project post office, Legislative Assembly and Council, etc. Fourth Saturday—Current topics and spoken English, gardening and Scouting, Air Raid Precautions work. These are the activities of the recreation club at the present moment.

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** Is it within the knowledge of the Government that it affected the religious susceptibilities of any particular community?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The original scheme urged upon students to visit shrines of different communities. The idea was to introduce a spirit of catholicity. But from certain quarters, objections were raised that Muslim students should not and could not go to visit the shrines of the Gods and Goddesses of the Hindu mythology, and that part of the scheme has been dropped.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Has it been dropped?

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

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** What is meant by inter-communal harmony?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It is perfectly obvious. The biographies of heroes and saints of all communities will be discussed, so that one community will know about the life and activities of the saints and heroes of the other community. That may induce inter-communal harmony.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Sir, is it not a fact that by "inter-communal harmony", the culture of one community is going to merge into the culture of another community?

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

(A voice:—It is a matter of opinion.)

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** Do the Government support the scheme in its present form?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The present programme, I have already read out to the House.

### Scarcity of small coins

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** asked:

\*2. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received representations from the Karimganj Pleaders' Bar Association regarding scarcity of small coins and especially copper coins throughout the whole Province?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI** replied:

2.—Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué on this subject issued by Government on 13th February 1943.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** May I know, Sir, what are its contents?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** If the hon. Member desires, we will place a copy of the Press communiqué on the Library table.

**Scarcity of food-stuffs in Karimganj subdivision**

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** asked :

- \*3. Will Government be pleased to state —
- Whether they are aware of the scarcity of food commodities in the subdivision of Karimganj ?
  - If so, what steps have been taken to remove these difficulties ?

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

3. (a)—Government are aware that there is a scarcity of some food-stuffs in the Karimganj subdivision like other places of the Province although staple foods are available everywhere.

(b)—Government are trying to get supplies and sell them to the public at reasonable rates.

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** May we know from the Hon'ble Premier whether they have been able to stop the export of rice and paddy from this subdivision ?

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

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** With regard to answer (b), may we know what fruits the efforts of the Government have borne ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** As I mentioned in the last Session during which the hon. Member was unfortunately absent, by the efforts of the Government, we brought commodities like sugar, salt, dal, atta and flour which are not produced in this Province, from outside. If I remember aright, we had spent for this purpose a sum of one crore 86 lakhs of rupees which represents probably about seven lakhs of maunds of food-stuffs being brought in this Province.

**Grant of allowance to dependants of the war-prisoner, Manfar Ali**

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI** asked :

- \*4. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, recently received any application from one Fatima Khatun of Post Office Charkhai, Police Station Beanibazar, Karimganj, stating that her husband Manfar Ali has been detained in Germany as a prisoner of War and that she and her five infant children have no means of livelihood at all and that consequently they have come to the very verge of death owing to continuous starvations ?
  - If so, what step the Deputy Commissioner has taken on it ?
  - Whether any relief has since been granted to her ?
  - If not, why not ?
  - Whether they propose to take early steps to give necessary relief to this and such other helpless families of this Province ?

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

4. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—A gratuity of Rs. 40 from the Assam War Fund was sanctioned and sent to the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, for payment by way of immediate relief. Particulars of the petitioner were sent to the Comptroller, Assam, for issuing pension payment orders. Particulars regarding the dependants of the war-prisoner, Manfar Ali were sent to the Shipping Master, Calcutta on March last. No balance of the wages due to him has yet been received for payment to his family.

(d)—The question does not arise.

(e)—Yes. Steps are always taken to give immediate relief to families of deceased or detained seamen in need by granting gratuity from the Assam War Fund. In addition to this, steps are taken to effect payment of any balance of pay, etc., received from the Shipping Master and submission of particulars where a pension is ordered by responsible authority.

#### **Appointment of a Professor in the Sylhet Murarichand College**

**Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS** asked :

\*5. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any Professor has been appointed in the place of Mr. N. C. Seal of the Sylhet Murarichand College ?

(b) If so, what is the name of the person and what are his qualifications ?

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

5. (a)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

#### **Chairman of the Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board**

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** asked :

\*6. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The reason for replacing the official Chairman of the Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board by non-official ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the appointed non-official Chairman was not recommended by the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that some representations were submitted by the public as well as by some local Members of the Assembly protesting against the appointment of the present Chairman of the Debt Conciliation Board ?

(d) The reasons for appointing this particular gentleman as the Chairman, Karimganj Debt Conciliation Board ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI** replied :

6. (a)—There was a shortage of Government officers, and it was also the policy of Government that so far as may be, such Boards should be presided over by non-officials.

(b)—No.

(c)—The only protest against the appointment of the present Chairman was received from the hon. Questioner himself to whom the matter was explained in a demi-official reply from the Revenue Secretary.

(d)—He was a candidate for the post who was in every way well-qualified.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

( To which answers were laid on the table )

#### Kunjamayee Girls' Middle Vernacular School

**Babu BALARAM SIRKAR** asked :

1. (a) Are Government aware that one Kunjamayee Girls' Middle Vernacular School, consisting of girls from Scheduled Castes, has been started at Srigouri in the Karimganj subdivision, Sylhet, from 1937 ?

(b) Are Government aware that the said school is suffering a good deal due to want of grant-in-aid from Government ?

(c) Do Government propose to provide necessary grant-in-aid for the said school in the Budget of 1943-44 ?

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

1. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government will consider the case as far as funds permit.

#### Rate of toll at the Dhubri Ferry

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN** asked :

2. (a) Are Government aware that the lessee of the Dhubri ferry charges people at annas two for crossing the river by country boat ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to reduce the charge at Dhubri and bring it at par with other places ?

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

2. (a)—Yes.

(b)—According to the Schedule of tolls fixed by the Government the lessee is entitled to charge lower class passengers a toll not exceeding as. -/2/6. The rate of as. -/2/- charged by the lessee for crossing the Brahmaputra in a country boat is reasonable.

#### Post of Miri Sub-Inspector of Schools

**Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI** asked :

3. (a) Is it a fact that the post of a Miri Sub-Inspector of Schools has recently been created by Government ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they have sanctioned the post permanently ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to make the post permanent ?

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

3. (a)—If by the word "recently" is meant "the year 1939", the answer is in the affirmative.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government will consider the proposal in due course.

### **Grant of dearness allowance to the Primary School teachers and teachers of aided schools**

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR** asked :

4. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they propose to give the primary school teachers and the teachers of aided schools of all grades an extra allowance for dearness of food-stuffs ?

(b) If so, whether any additional grant will be made from provincial revenues to the school authorities concerned for the purpose ?

(c) If not, whether they propose to issue orders to the effect that these teachers should get an advance of three months' pay to be recovered in small monthly instalments ?

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

4.(a), (b) & (c)—The whole question of giving dearness allowance to the teachers of primary and other aided schools is under the examination of the Government.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Sir, the reply is that the whole question of giving dearness allowance to the teachers of primary and other aided schools is under the examination of the Government. May I know from Government how long it will take them to finish up the examination ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : The matter has been taken up by the Education Department and it is now under discussion with the Finance Department. As the hon. Member knows, it is a very complicated question. In the first place, the teachers of the primary and other aided schools are not Government servants and therefore they are not entitled to the dearness allowance granted by Government. The fact whether the Finance Department will agree to make exception in the case of the teachers of the primary and other aided schools cannot be foreseen.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Have not Government received various representations from many Local Bodies requesting Government to make contributions to these Local Boards for granting dearness allowance to the teachers of these Boards ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : Yes, Sir, we have received representations not only from Local Bodies but also from the Associations of Teachers for such a help. As I said, the matter is under the consideration of the Government. There are not only the school teachers but there are other staffs such as Compounders, Doctors, Clerks, etc., of the Local Boards. If we can know that the Local Bodies are willing to come to the help of their own servants, then Government will probably consider the case for a contribution from Public Exchequer.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : If any Local Board goes to Government with a request to give them some loan for the purpose of granting dearness allowance to their employees, then will not Government concede to their request ?



**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** That is a hypothetical question but I am prepared to reply, Sir, in order to make the position clear. If any Local Board comes up with a proposal of taking loan and if they propound a sound scheme to repay that loan within a reasonable time, then Government will surely sympathetically consider such a prayer.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Should not the Government consider the desirability of finding out some ways to grant some dearness allowance to these poorly paid teachers?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Government have got absolutely no responsibility for the emoluments of the Local Boards' staff.

### Seed-loans to flood affected people of Sylhet

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR** asked :

5. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount that yet remains to be recovered from the people of the district of Sylhet to whom seed-loans were granted after the last flood?

(b) Whether they are aware that the crops for which the seed-loans were utilised were destroyed by another flood and the borrowers could derive no benefit from the loan?

(c) Whether they are aware that, this year also, there has been a general failure of Aman crop, and the outturn of the Sali crop has been very poor, in the district of Sylhet?

(d) Whether Government propose to write off the whole amount of loan?

6. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received a representation from Babu Jatindra Mohan Sinha Choudhury of Indeswar in the district of Sylhet, stating that the paddy crops in his part of the country are destroyed every year by flood, and requesting Government to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent such devastation?

(b) Whether they have made any inquiry into the matter?

(c) If so, with what result?

(d) If not, whether they propose to make any inquiry and take necessary remedial measures in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI** replied :

5. (a) & (b)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to his own starred question No.57 at the last Session of the Assembly. The total amount of Agricultural loans (including seed-loans) outstanding in the Sylhet district at the end of the year 1941-42 was Rs.8,79,911. There is no information how much of this was given out in the short period intervening between the floods of May and June 1941.

(c)—No such information has been received. On the contrary, the second forecast of the winter rice crop published by the Agricultural Department on 31st December 1942 gave figures tending to show the opposite of the allegation made in the question.

(d)—No.

6. (a)—Government have received numerous representations from the gentleman named.

(b) & (c)—Government have undertaken no general enquiry since that of 1929, when a Committee of experts examined the question of floods in both Valleys. The hon. Member is referred to their Report.

(d)—No further enquiry is under contemplation at present. When the new Embankment and Drainage Division of the Public Works Department is in full working order, schemes for amelioration of floods will be examined by them.

### The Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** asked :

7. (a) Are Government aware that "The Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941" was referred to a Select Committee and that the Committee submitted their report ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what has become of the fate of that Bill ?

(c) Do Government propose to proceed with the Bill to give it a final shape ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI** replied :

7. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The Bill is being proceeded with in this Session of the Assembly.

### Remission of land revenue to flood affected people of Lakhipur Thana.

**Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN** asked :

8. Will Government be pleased to refer to replies given to unstarred question No. 12 asked by me during the November Session of the Assembly, 1942 and state whether Government have issued any instruction for adequate remission of land revenue to those people of the Lakhipur Thana, whose crops were damaged by flood ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI** replied :

8.—Government have not issued any instruction for remission of land revenue in the area in question. If the hon. Member refers to remission of rent for damage of crops by flood, the question will be considered by the Mechpara Wards' Estate on the merits of each individual case.

### ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Adjournment Motion *re* indiscriminate assault by *lathi* on political prisoners in Jorhat Jail.

**The Hon'ble the Speaker** : I have got notice of an adjournment motion from Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg leave of the House to move for an adjournment of the House to discuss question of urgent public importance of recent occurrence.

Sir, I may be permitted to read out the Motion :

"That this House do now adjourn to consider a matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence, namely, indiscriminate assault by *lathi* on political prisoners by police in Jorhat jail on the evening of 24th February 1943."

Sir, on 2nd March I was at Gauhati and rumours were ripe that in Jorhat jail about 150 political prisoners were assaulted either by police or by military and that the condition of some of them was rather precarious. I could not accept that rumour as correct because I knew that after the prisoners were locked up it was rather difficult for anybody to get inside the barracks and assault any prisoner. But on the following morning I received two letters. I read these letters.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Nothing appeared in the press ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** Although the incident occurred on the 24th February, nothing has appeared in the press up till now. It is written by one Ajit Kumar Sarma.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Who is he ?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** He introduces himself in the letter.

"My dear Sir,

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the eldest son of Srijut Debeswar Sarmah, M.L.A., and I feel it my duty to write this letter to you.

On the 24th evening last the police made a violent *lathi* charge in the Jorhat jail as a result of which about 150 persons are reported to be injured. Out of these about 30 are reported to be seriously injured and the condition of three are reported to be precarious. It is very reliably understood that Messrs. Gopinath Bardoloi, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Debeswar Sarmah, Raje dranath Barua, Siddhi Nath Sarma have wired to Sir Saadulla about the situation, but no action seems to have been taken up till now. I think, your presence is very urgently required here. Please try to obtain permission to see the prominent persons in the jail and kindly try your best to come here as soon as possible."

This letter was written by Srijut Ajit Kumar Sarma.

Then I received another letter from Titabar. Titabar is about 12 miles from Jorhat. This letter is also dated 27th February 1943.

"চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়া,

অনুগ্রহ কৰি যোৰহাট জেলত কি ঘটনা ঘটিছে চাই যাবহি বুলি আশা কৰিলো, যোৰহাট জেলত জালিনওয়ালালবাগৰ পুনৰাভিনয় ঘটিছে বুলি কলেও বাঢ়াই কোৱা নহয়। ২৪-২-৪৩ তাৰিখে যোৰহাটৰ জেলৰ বান্ধনি ঘৰ এটাৰ চলত কেনেবাকৈ জুই লগাত যোৰহাটৰ পৰা Armed Police গৈ নিবন্ধ নিঃসহায় নিৰ্দ্দেশী Political prisoner বোৰক অতি ভীষণ ভাবে মৰ-ধৰ কৰি আহেগৈ। তাৰে কেই জন মানৰ অৱস্থা অতি শোচনীয় বুলি ঘানাক য়নুককৈ জানিব পৰা গৈছে। অত্যাচাৰী গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ঘটনাটো লুকুৱাবলৈ বিশেষ সতৰ্কতা অৱলম্বন কৰিছে। অতি দুঃখ আৰু লাজৰ বিষয় দেশবাসীৰ পূজনীয় গোপীনাথ বৰদলৈ, দেবে শ্বৰ শৰ্মা, কৃষ্ণ নাথ শৰ্মা, নীলমনি ফুকণ আদি দেশ-নেতা সকলেও সেই নৰপশুহঁতৰ দ্বাৰা আঘাত হৈছে।"

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member will please translate this letter in to English. The trouble unfortunately is that no reporter for the regional languages, Bengali, Hindusthani and Assamese, is present

to-day. So, it will be difficult for this Department to arrange correct reporting of anything which would be spoken in one of these languages. So, I would request hon. Member to hand over the letter to the other reporter so that this may be taken down.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I will translate the portion which I have read out, into English. It is addressed to me. It says: "I hope you will please come and see what has happened in Jorhat jail. It will not be an exaggeration to say that in Jorhat jail there has been re-enactment of Jalianwalabagh. On the 24th February somehow there was fire on the roof of the cookshed in Jorhat jail and armed police from Jorhat came and assaulted unarmed political prisoners in a violent way. Out of them the condition of some is said to be precarious. The oppressive Government have taken careful steps to suppress this incident. It is a matter of great sorrow and shame that the honoured leaders of the country, Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi, Srijut Debeswar Sarmah, Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma, Srijut Nilmoni Phukan and others have also been injured". The rest of the letter is a comment on the incident.

This letter is written by one Karuna Kanta Das.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Who is he?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I do not know, Sir. This letter was sent to me by post. Both these letters were opened by censor.

Sir, on receipt of these two letters I wired to the Hon'ble Prime Minister as follows:

"Harrowing reports about assaults on political prisoners Jorhat jail 24th February greatly agitating public mind. Your immediate visit solicited. Please also permit me interview Gopibordoloi and other Assembly members there."

I sent this wire on the 3rd March to which the Hon'ble Premier replied on the 5th which reached me on the 6th. The reply was as follows:

"Jorhat jail incident being enquired by Deputy Commissioner separate enquiry by yourself cannot be permitted. Premier."

It seems to me that there was some misunderstanding about my intention. So, I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the following day:

"Your telegram dated the 5th March 1943 in reply to mine of 3rd instant came to my hands yesterday.

If you will kindly refer to my telegram again you will find that I made two requests therein—one that you visit the jail immediately and the other that you permit me to interview Mr. Gopi Bardoloi and other M.L.A. friends there. But since you construe it as a desire to hold an enquiry I drop the latter idea. May I now request you to permit me to see Mr. Bardoloi only. On hearing from you I shall proceed to see Mr. Bardoloi as soon as possible. Since you will not be able to leave Shillong now may I request you to depute Hon'ble Minister, Jails, for an immediate visit. I shall be grateful for an immediate reply".

I received a reply from the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the following effect:

"Your letter of 7th March (to-day) has been handed over to me just now and I hasten to reply immediately.

Immediately on my return from tour, I received a telegram on 3rd March from Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali to come to Jorhat or depute Hon'ble Minister (Jails) to proceed there in connection with the jail incident. I

consulted Hon'ble Minister (Jails) who informed me that there is no necessity of going as Deputy Commissioner was holding a judicial enquiry.

On 5th March a letter addressed to me by Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi, Maulavi Fakhruddin Ahmed and other M. L. A. security prisoners was put up to me wherein I was requested to come up personally and the letter was dated 25th February. I am speaking from memory as the file is not with me now. A similar letter was addressed to the Hon'ble Minister (Jails) by them.

In view of the ensuing Budget session starting from tomorrow and as Deputy Commissioner is holding a judicial enquiry, we have refrained from proceeding to Jorhat. I have asked for a detailed telegraphic report from the Deputy Commissioner and on receipt thereof, I will decide, if either of us should visit Jorhat jail immediately.

I have considered your request for permission to interview Mr. Bardoloi. You know the rules about interview with security prisoners are strict and in this matter we have to follow Government of India's instructions. Your interview will mean a curtailment of Mr. Bardoloi's family member's interview and unless Mr. Bardoloi agrees to this, I am unable to agree to your request."

So, that is the position, Sir. I have asked the House to give its permission to move this Motion by which I intend to censure the Government. My reasons for doing this are: First of all, although the incident took place on the 24th of February nothing has appeared in the press till now. The whole affair has been suppressed. We do not know up till now what is the condition of the prisoners who were assaulted and what was the reason for such assault. I have read out a letter from Srijut Karuna Kanta Das in which it was mentioned that even persons like Mr. Bardoloi and other Members of the Legislative Assembly did not escape.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think this will do for the time being.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Then, Sir, it is stated that the information about the incident must have reached the Government on 25th of February. If no such information was sent on the 25th of February it is clear that the local authorities wanted to remove all trace of evidence. They wanted to suppress the real facts of the incident to the Government. That also is another reason why the Government should be censured.

I will now try to point out why I should be allowed to move this Motion although some sort of judicial enquiry may be going on. If the Hon'ble Judicial Minister had telegraphed on 25th February it was his incumbent duty either to visit the Jorhat jail himself or to take the advice of the Hon'ble the Premier who was in Tezpur. The Hon'ble Premier was entirely kept in ignorance about this incident. The Chief Secretary who deals with such papers ought to have informed the Hon'ble Premier forthwith and if the letter from Mr. Bardoloi and others which must have been received in Shillong on 27th February contained a special appeal, by the hon. Members of this House who have been detained in jail, to the Hon'ble Premier to visit the jail and see things himself, and if it was communicated to the Hon'ble Premier either by the Hon'ble Judicial Minister or the Chief Secretary, I am confident that the Hon'ble

Premier would have gone from Tezpur to visit the jail and see things himself. Now, what do we find? After the Hon'ble Premier came back to the headquarters what the Hon'ble Judicial Minister did? He said that a judicial enquiry had been set on foot and that it was not necessary to go there. I want to know what sort of judicial enquiry was set on foot. Was it not necessary for the Hon'ble Minister to go to Jorhat jail to see how the wounded prisoners were fairing? I want to know who is to conduct a judicial enquiry? The Hon'ble Minister-in charge of Jails knows very well that there cannot be introduction of Police or Police cannot be admitted to jail without the permission or consent, *i.e.*, orders of the Deputy Commissioner. If the officer who ordered the Police to go inside the jail at night and charge the prisoners with *lathis* holds a judicial enquiry is it not a farce, Sir?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member is not to argue.  
**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, if the Hon'ble Minister be so indifferent to the political prisoners how could he be so indifferent to the appeal that was made by them that he did not even inform the Hon'ble Premier about this and he, on the other hand, dissuaded the Hon'ble Premier from going to the Jorhat jail on the ground that there was a judicial enquiry? With these words I submit that the House do now adjourn to consider the censure Motion.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will concede two points that the hon. Member has referred. One of which is of public importance and I have also conceded that it is of "recent occurrence". But I contest every other statement made by my hon. Friend the Mover of this adjournment Motion. As I wrote to my hon. Friend, the Deputy Commissioner is making a Judicial enquiry himself into this unfortunate incident.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** May I ask the Hon'ble Premier one thing? He admits that the incident is of public importance and of recent occurrence. Will it not be better then to discuss the whole Motion? I am disposed to hold that the Motion is in order. So, if the Hon'ble Premier does not object, then the Motion can be moved at 3 p.m.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** What I do urge is, whether a discussion on the floor of the House of a Motion relating to a matter which is being judicially enquired into, is in order?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is being judicially enquired into?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** That is what I am going to speak. The statement made by my Friend is not correct. In the first place, it is not the cook shed that was set fire to, but it is the workshop or paddy husking shed which was set fire to, by some miscreants within the jail and that is admitted by no less a person than the *ex*-Congress Premier Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi and *ex*-Finance Minister Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. They said that the fire was, with the help of the jail staff, put out. But during the melee people rushed out and tried to look at the *tamasha*. After the fire was put out, the prisoners were asked to go back to their own barracks but they refused. So, they had to be pushed back into their own wards.

According to Mr. Bardoloi's letter some people were introduced into the jail who had no uniform and these people were said to have belaboured the political prisoners. What the Deputy Commissioner has reported is that, as the people — the prisoners, refused to go into the barrack, some help of police was taken by the jail staff and then the incident has resulted and in this, unfortunately, people on both sides were injured. In the incident, amongst the political prisoners there were two fractures, one case of fractured teeth, and about 10 fairly serious injuries (head blows, etc., all of which are simple hurt) also 63 minor hurts. That is the Deputy Commissioner's report on the occurrence that took place after night-fall on the 24th. The Deputy Commissioner sent a wire to the Commissioner who was at Dhubri, about this incident, on the 25th and the Commissioner's wire to Chief Secretary on the subject was received on the 27th February. I read the Commissioner's wire; "Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat wires 25th February begins disturbance took place amongst political prisoners Jorhat jail last night. In suppression of it two prisoners sustained fractures and seventy-eight simple injuries. Am holding judicial enquiry". The Deputy Commissioner is making an enquiry whether the people assaulted were those who refused to return to their barracks or whether the jail people were within their rights in inflicting some violence, and whether they could introduce people from outside. I have not got any detailed report but this is the first intimation of this occurrence that came to the knowledge of Government at Shillong. Sir, the letter addressed to me and to my colleague the Minister-in-charge of Jails was sent by the Security prisoners who are there, viz., Srijuts Gopinath Bardoloi, Bishnuram Medhi, Debeswar Sarmah, Rajendranath Barua, Mahadev Sarma, Maulavi Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Srijuts Krishnanath Sarma, S. ddhinath Sarma and Maulavi M. Tayyabulla, the President of the Provincial Congress Committee. This letter was dated 25th February and on the same day the Superintendent of Jail sent it to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner forwarded it on the 26th February with a comment that an enquiry is being held, and the matter came to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Colonel H. E. Shortt and he sent it to the Chief Secretary on the 3rd March. Then I find that the Chief Secretary endorsed it on the 5th March to me. Before this, the first person from whom I learnt on 3rd March about this, was Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali who wired me as "Come yourself or send Minister-in-charge Jails". So, I discussed this matter with the Minister-in-charge and we came to the conclusion that when there was a judicial enquiry being held by the Deputy Commissioner.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is there nothing to show on what exact points the judicial enquiry is being held?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** There is nothing to show though, it is evident that the enquiry is regarding the incident of assault.

So, there was no indifference on the part of the Hon'ble Judicial Minister nor on my part, but we are only awaiting the report of the judicial enquiry into the incident, and I may assure the learned Leader of the Opposition that if, on the receipt of the Deputy Commissioner's report, we find that the situation is such as to demand our presence, either of the Hon'ble Judicial Minister or of myself, we will make no hesitation to go to the spot immediately in spite of the session being on. I read a portion of the letter sent to me by my hon. Friends whose names I have already mentioned: "The necessity for the alarm is said to have occurred by an alleged fire which is said to have caught the eaves of the paddy-husking ward—a

spot which cannot be easily reached from outside". Another portion of the letter is, "we have this day sent the following telegram which we hereby confirm:— 'Last evening between seven fifteen and eight the political prisoners in this jail were brutally and indiscriminately attacked with *lathis* while eating in the dining hall and sitting in wards, unprovoked and without justification. Over a hundred received injuries, of which forty were serious. The assaulting party consisted of a large number of men without uniform, led by jail jamadars. Many yet lying unattended. Request presence speedy steps and impartial enquiry" This telegram I have not received nor is it in the file.....

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** That is my complaint.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This may be due to Telegraph Office where it might have been censored. That Department is not in our control and is a Central Department. I am therefore in the same position as the hon. Member. But this letter I received on the 5th March though it is dated 25th February because it had to come through Superintendent of Jail, Deputy Commissioner and Inspector-General of Prisons and from him to the Chief Secretary. With the permission of the House I may read the remaining portion of the letter along with the postscript of letter of my hon. Friend Maulavi Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed:—

"We take this opportunity to acquaint you with such facts as have come to our knowledge even as prisoners in jail. At about 7 p.m. when it was quite dark an alarm was raised with sounds of whistles and gong. After some minutes there was quiet for a while; but after which a large number of men armed with *lathis* without uniform, some of whom could be identified by those beaten, were rushed inside the jail by some jail officers. They soon began belabouring, assaulting with *lathis* brutally and indiscriminately and with kicks the political prisoners who were sitting inside their various wards and some of whom were taking their meal in the dining hall. The sound of beating, screams and wailings of the victims could be heard from even the Detenus Ward.

The necessity for the alarm is said to have been occasioned by an alleged fire, which is said to have caught the eaves of the paddy-husking ward—a spot which cannot be easily reached from outside. The fire is not traceable to any damage to the eaves of the house which is unscathed. The alleged fire is said to have been at a time when all the prisoners, non-political as well, are said to have been outside. The assaulting party was introduced inside the jail when admittedly there was no fire and the prisoners had taken to their wards after the alarm. Yet it is not known why the assault was directed and conducted by the jail jamadars and warders and other men against the political prisoners only inside their wards, while they were sitting, lying down on their berths or were eating in the dining hall.

The total number of persons according to our estimate, who received injuries were about 181. Out of whom about 12 received serious injuries on head, about 28 are suspected to have sustained injuries on chest, ribs, back and abdomen, and about 35 with other injuries of different parts of the body causing them unable to move. Many of the injured remained unattended till some time in the morning.

We do emphasise that the political prisoners gave not the slightest cause for provocation at any time or in any manner, remained completely non-violent before, during and after the assault and maintained perfect restraint throughout.



It is needless to say that political prisoners as all other prisoners are entitled to protection of their lives and their bodies in custody of any Government. Government may not like their political opponents and they are doing all that is possible to put them down ; but we feel, you will agree with us that those who have the least claim to any human feeling should not allow their opponents to be put inside a cage and be brutally treated as we have been done on the 24th evening. It is in consideration of this fact that we request you to come immediately, judge the situation first hand and cause an impartial enquiry to be made into the whole affair."

Copy of the same letter has been sent under separate signature to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Jail. It is dated 26th February 1943—8-30 a.m. The original letter is dated the 25th. There is a postscript in the handwriting of Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed :—

"In the letter addressed to Premier which was handed over hurriedly by us to the Deputy Commissioner personally before 1 p.m. when he came to our ward, the total number injured was shown as 181. This was due to duplication of counting and later it was 151, details of which with names of those injured were handed over to the Deputy Commissioner in the afternoon. The correction may therefore be supplied to the Premier as well."

This list has not been forwarded. As I have already said, from the Deputy Commissioner's report, "The Prisoners' list of casualties shows 151"—This is dated the 26th. "Of these 71 have no traces of hurt according to the Doctors. There were two fractures, one case of fractured teeth and about 10 fairly serious—head blows, etc., all of which are simple hurts, also 63 minor hurts."

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether any non-political prisoners were allowed in the melee.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I have not got any further detailed report beyond what I have read out.

From this letter of our colleagues who are unfortunately now security prisoners, it is abundantly clear that they themselves did not see the actual beating. They simply heard it from the detenu's ward which was in a separate block. What they have written is merely from hearsay. The Deputy Commissioner has mentioned that he has started a judicial enquiry. And as judicial enquiry is being held, I do not think it will be proper for the House to discuss this motion at all. The point that I stress is that I am as patriotic as my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition, and I am obliged to him for the very kind and graceful remarks which he made regarding me. If it is found that the jail authorities did commit excesses, everyone will be meted with due punishment. The detailed report of the Deputy Commissioner has not yet arrived. I think it is coming. I further asked him to send a telegraphic report, but he has simply replied thus. It was received yesterday. The Deputy Commissioner's telegram is this :

"Evidence still being recorded. Grave charges against the Jail staff. Please confirm you wish me to report before finish judicial enquiry."

That there is a grave charge against the jail staff is evidenced from the last telegram. So in view of the circumstances and in view of the Deputy

\*Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

Commissioner's telegram that there is a grave charge against the jail staff and that he is holding an enquiry and that evidence is being recorded, at this stage I do not think it will be proper that an Adjournment Motion should be discussed in the House.

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** May I know if it is a regular judicial enquiry and if the persons injured are allowed to represent their case through lawyers and whether it will be an open judicial enquiry, as judicial enquiries are always held ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This suggestion I can send to the Deputy Commissioner by wire. I do not know whether the political prisoners who have been assaulted want to be represented by lawyers. If it is an open judicial enquiry, the Deputy Commissioner must have allowed this. I can send a wire to the Deputy Commissioner saying that if the political prisoners want to be represented by lawyers, they may be allowed.

**\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** One point, Sir. From what has been said by Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri we find that so far as he is concerned he is perfectly correct. Will the Hon'ble Premier say on what point he is incorrect ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I shall take the statements one by one. On the 25th, Deputy Commissioner's telegram went to the Commissioner. The Commissioner sent a wire to the Chief Secretary which was received on 27th February.

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I should say, they must have received it on the 25th. If they have received it on the 25th then they are guilty of not taking action. If they have not received it then the local authorities have suppressed this fact.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The Deputy Commissioner is under the Commissioner ; he sent a wire to the Commissioner who was not at his headquarter but was out on tour to Dhubri. From Dhubri he repeated that telegram to Government. Then again about the political prisoners, they sent a wire on the 25th which we did not get. As a matter of fact my Hon'ble Colleague in charge of Jails has been severely criticised of being apathetic but up till now we have not received that telegram. Then the letter which the security prisoners sent on the 25th and which left the Jorhat Superintendent's Office on the 25th probably had to be called back from the Deputy Commissioner on the 26th for a postscript in the hand of Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed correcting the number of injured. So it left Jorhat on the 26th but on what date it reached the Inspector-General of Prisons, I do not know. I saw his endorsement to the Chief Secretary dated 3rd March and the Chief Secretary put it up to me on the 5th March.

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** That is not an incorrect statement.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My hon. Friend knows much better than myself the Jail regulations according to which this report had to come through the Superintendent, Deputy Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Prisons. My hon. Friend also knows the dilatoriness of the Secretariat procedure and therefore his presumption is not correct. My hon. Friend has placed before the House what he had learned from his correspondence but I should like to say that one of the correspondents used a very unparliamentary language in his private letter but we must give due consideration to the anxiety of the son of our colleague, Srijut Debeswar Sarmah. He said that people were very seriously injured and he thought that his father might have been hurt and my hon. Friend also stated that our friends Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi and Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed had also been assaulted but this was not a fact. Therefore I say that the statement made by my hon. Friend is incorrect.

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** May I request the Hon'ble Premier to see that the inquiry is expedited and that the report comes as early as possible, *i.e.*, during the course of this session?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** If it comes and if my hon. friend desires then I will read out the report to the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. member propose to do after this assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier?

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Sir, if it is an open and regular judicial inquiry and if the parties are allowed to be present and represented by lawyers if they so desire then I will not press this Motion at this stage; but if it is not a regular judicial inquiry and not open to the public and if it is tried by the Deputy Commissioner who has already submitted his report, then I beg to submit that I will have to press the Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then am I to understand that it is conditional?

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. Apart from the fact that the hon. mover tries to enforce a condition on Government, may I speak a word on behalf of the Members. I do not see how anything more can be said after 3 o'clock this afternoon than what has already been stated. The mover has stated what he knows and the Hon'ble Premier has also stated what he knows. Why should the House waste an hour of its time this afternoon with a heavy programme in front of us to-day when nothing more can be said?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I cannot say that. Has the Hon'ble Premier got anything more to say?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have already stated that, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will the judicial inquiry be an open inquiry?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Sayid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am perfectly willing to send a telegram to the Deputy Commissioner saying

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\*Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

that if any party wants to be represented by lawyers they should be allowed to do so but I do not want to direct him that he should hold an open inquiry in Court as there may be demonstration and disturbance of public peace.

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** At this stage I do not wish to proceed further, but after the report is received, I may be permitted to bring up this Motion again on the result of the report as well as on the way in which the inquiry is made.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Does the hon. Member want an assurance from the Chair?

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am afraid, the Chair cannot give that assurance. Am I to take it then that the hon. Member does not press his Motion?

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Can we not postpone the discussion till the report is received?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, this cannot be done. When the Hon'ble Premier gives an assurance that the persons will be given an opportunity to be represented by lawyers, it is for the hon. Member to consider whether he should act upon this assurance. If the hon. Member wants to move a fresh Motion on any other dates, as he says, on the results of the inquiry, I shall then see whether I can allow such a Motion on the facts that would be placed before me; but I cannot give any assurance in advance now. Therefore, I think the hon. Member should decide what he would do at present. Am I to take it that he does not press his Motion?

**\*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, Sir, I do not wish to press my Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is not necessary for me to decide whether the Motion is in order or not, as the hon. Member does not press his Motion.

#### Condolence on the death of Srijut Sonaram Dutta and Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has again been my painful duty to rise up on a matter of condolence for since we last met, we have lost by the cruel hands of death at a premature age, one of our colleagues, Srijut Sonaram Dutta. Although we differed in our politics, I should like to say that Srijut Sonaram Dutta was a highly educated man. He sought to serve his country according to his light; his contribution to the debate of the House has been very few, but he endeared himself by his genial and unassuming manners with everyone. I propose, Sir, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow.

While I am on my legs, mourning the loss of one of our friends in Assam it is my duty also to mourn the loss of an all-India figure, I mean, the sudden and untimely death of the late Premier of the Punjab, Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. Everybody knows that he was not only a Premier who administered the province on broad principles and who tried to unite all the communities in his Cabinet but also lately inaugurated the scheme of inter-communal harmony. He was better known as a Soldier-Premier of India. He had, inspite

\*Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

of his multifarious duties, in the discharge of administration of the province, occasion to go twice to the Near East for the love of his Punjab soldiers who were fighting for the cause of India's freedom. Indeed, his loss is a loss to India, to the cause of independence for India and to the cause of inter-communal harmony. It is in the fitness of things that his young son has been included in the Punjab Cabinet. I hope the House will agree with me to send a message of condolence to the Hon'ble Major Shaukat Hayat Khan to convey to the bereaved family.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** On behalf of my party, I heartily associate myself with all that has been said by the Hon'ble Premier about the two distinguished gentlemen who have met with premature death.

Srijut Sonaram Dutta had during the short span of his life distinguished himself as an earnest patriot and for his devotion to duty. On account of his failing health he was spared from imprisonment. This has enabled him to spend his last days in the midst of his near and dear ones. We all mourn his loss.

As regards Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, we always remember with kindly feelings what he has done for establishment of communal unity in the Punjab and but for his efforts Punjab during the last 5 years might have shown a more unpleasant spectacle. Really Punjab under his able administration showed real progress and we all mourn the loss.

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I should like to associate the Members of my group with every word which has been said by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI:** Sir, on behalf of the party I represent, I fully associate myself with all that has been said by the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the two distinguished personalities who died in the prime of life.

As regards Srijut Sonaram Dutta I personally feel the loss, because besides his political career he was a colleague and a fellow student of mine in the Presidency College, Calcutta. He distinguished himself as the Secretary of our party and made himself known to all by his amiable behaviour and excellent method of approach which endeared him also to all other Members of this House. The cruel hands of death has taken him away and I also wish that my party's condolences should be sent to the members of his family including his young wife and children.

As regards the other personality, though we differed from him in politics, it must be admitted by all that Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan was one of the greatest men of India and by his work has strengthened the name of India in the eye of all. I join whole-heartedly in the condolence Resolution proposed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I also share the sense of loss and feelings of sympathy expressed by the Hon'ble Leader of the House and other hon. Members touching on the death of late Srijut Sonaram Dutta and Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, the late Premier of the Punjab.

The late Srijut Dutta was one, who by his selfless, silent and devoted work for the cause of the country, acquired a notable place in the politics of this Province. He was a young, promising worker, and although, as the Hon'ble Premier said, there was not much contribution to the debates of the House from him, I at least was looking forward to the day, when certainly the House would have got much from him, knowing as I did, that he was a brilliant scholar of the Calcutta University and belonged to the well-organised

Congress Party in the House. His death has been a premature one and the House is poorer to-day by the loss of such a Member of great promise.

As regards Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, although he was the Premier of the Punjab, he acquired such a distinguished place in all-India politics by his able stewardship of the affairs of the administration of the Punjab, and by his views on many burning questions of the day, that it is quite in the fitness of things that we in this House should also be expressing our sense of loss and sorrow at his death. It was greatly creditable to him that ever since the inauguration of the New Constitution he was very ably conducting the affairs of administration of the Punjab smoothly and continuously, when such a continuous and smooth running of the New Constitution could not be maintained in all these years in the other provinces of India. That was indeed remarkable and that showed what a man of influence and ability he was. I endorse every word that has been spoken about him. Certainly India is poorer to-day by the death of such a distinguished son of hers. I would ask the hon. Members to rise in their seats and observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to these departed souls.

(The hon. Members rose in their seats).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** On the last occasion we had also a condolence motion on the death of several distinguished personalities, of whom the late Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua and the late Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua M.L.A., were two. We have received replies from the son of the late Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua and also from Srijut Ramesh Chandra Barua son of late Srijut Rajani Kanta Barua. They have expressed their gratitude and thanks for the expression of condolence by this House, that was duly communicated to them.

**Governor's message communicating allotment of days for the presentation of Budget, general discussion of Budget, Voting on Demands for Grants, etc.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am now announcing the following message received from His Excellency the Governor:—

"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 78, section 79, sub-section (2) of section 80 and section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and in pursuance of Rules 13, 15(1), 16(1), 17, 18(1), 18(2) and 19 of the Assam Legislative Assembly (Governor's) Rules, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the Statement of Estimated Receipts and Expenditure of the Province for the year 1943-44 and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof and for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1942-43 and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Legislative Assembly during its March Session, 1943, namely—

- |                          |       |  |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Monday, the 8th March    | ... } | Presentation of the Budget for the year 1943-44 in the Legislative Assembly.   |
| Tuesday, the 9th March   | ... } | 1. General discussion in the Legislative Assembly.   |
| Thursday, the 11th March | ... } | 2. Discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 of the Act, |

22 ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' [8TH MAR.  
BUSINESS

Friday, the 12th March ...	Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1942-43 in the Legislative Assembly.
Monday, the 15th March ...	Voting on Demands for Grants in the Legislative Assembly. 1. Further Demands for Grants, if any. 2. Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1942-43. 3. Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1942-43.
Tuesday, the 16th March ...	
Thursday, the 18th March ...	
Saturday, the 20th March ...	
Tuesday, the 23rd March ...	
Saturday, the 27th March ...	Placing of the authenticated schedules of authorised expenditure before the Assembly.

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

SHILLONG :  
The 22nd February 1943.

A. G. CLOW,  
Governor."

Hon. Members have just now come to learn that His Excellency the Governor has fixed 9th and 11th March (*i. e.*, 2 days) for the general discussion of the Budget. It will be somewhat difficult for me to fix a time limit, if necessary, for speeches until and unless I know how many Members desire to take part in the discussion on a particular day. I would therefore request the leaders of party groups to give the names of their party Members who desire to speak on the subject on different dates to the Assembly Department before 4 P. M. today.

**Allotment of days for private member's business by the Hon'ble Speaker.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** In pursuance of Rule 17 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the following days for Private Members' Business during the present session of the Assam Legislative Assembly :—

Saturday, the 13th March } Thursday, the 25th March }	1. Private Members' Bills. 2. Private Members' Motions and Resolutions.
Friday, the 26th March	Private Members' Motions and Resolutions.

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

**Satement Re : Course of Government Business**

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :**  
With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement about the course of Government business during this Session.

2. The Government business which is to be taken up today is shown in the day's agenda, a copy of which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail it again. If the Motions for taking into consideration of the Assam Finance Bill, 1943, and the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941 are accepted by the House today, we propose that these Bills be considered clause by clause on the 22nd March and then to move that they be passed.

3. On the 12th March, we propose to have the Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1941, considered clause by clause and then to move that the Bill be passed. On the same day, we also propose to introduce (1) the Shillong Execution of Decrees Bill, 1943 and (2) the Shillong Attachment of Salaries Bill, 1943 and then to move that these Bills be taken into consideration. If the Motion for consideration of these two Bills are accepted by the House on that day, we propose that these Bills be considered clause by clause on the 22nd March and then to move that they be passed. On the 22nd March we also propose to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942, and then to move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. If the Motion for taking into consideration of this Bill is accepted by the House on that day, we propose to have it considered clause by clause on the 27th March and then to move that it be passed.

4. We also propose to move a Motion regarding extension of the period of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme for the year 1943-44 on the 27th March and to take up any unforeseen and unfinished Government business after the disposal of Government business allotted for that day.

**Committee on Petitions relating to Bills**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I will now announce the names of the hon. Members who are to constitute a Committee on Petitions during this Session.

Under rule 112 (1) of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current Session of the Assembly :—

1. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
2. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
3. Babu Bipin Behari Das, and
4. Srijut Hirsingh Deuri.

Under the Rules, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

**House Committee**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then I announce to the hon. Members of the House that under rule 126 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the current Session of the Assembly.

1. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
2. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
3. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
4. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis.
5. Mr. C. Goldsmith and
6. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.



Presentation of the Budget for 1943-44 and Budget Speech of the  
Hon'ble Finance Minister

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I beg to present the budget estimate for the year 1943-44. Barely four months have elapsed since in November last, I presented the revised budget for 1942-43. The general background of condition of the province which I then described continues unchanged in its broad and principal outlines. War conditions still pervade the atmosphere and the problems that they brought in their train still continue to influence and determine actions of the Government and their policy. Some of these problems have even assumed an aggravated form. Though we happen to be luckier than some of the more-distressed provinces, food situation absorbs anxious thought of the Government. To meet the situation, provision has been made for increased expenditure intensifying the "Grow More Food Campaign" and for bringing more land under cultivation. The problem of the supply of food-stuff is being energetically tackled. Increase in the cost of living involved hardship to our low paid employees, which the Government have tried to mitigate by increasing the scale and range of the dearness allowance previously granted. With the starting of the Provincial Transport Organisation, for which money was voted by the Assembly in the last session, there has been certain alleviation of the transport difficulties, though we have still a great leeway to make up. As regards the general political conditions in the province, the unrest and disorders that followed the arrest of the Congress leaders have considerably subsided, largely due to the preventive punitive measures taken by the Government. Saboteurs, however, are still active, directing their attention towards tampering with railway lines, causing derailment of trains, with consequent loss of limbs and lives of innocent travelling public. Strict vigilance by the Military and Civil Authorities in active co-operation with the public has however succeeded in restricting the scope of such nefarious activities. Intrepid action of the Royal and the American Air Forces such as the crushing defeat recently inflicted on the Japanese raiders in North East Assam, have up till now saved the province from serious devastation due to air raids, though precautionary measures adopted for the protection of our civilian population make a heavy drain on our resources. In spite of

this heavy expenditure which is being met without recourse to new taxation, Government have not been neglectful of the needs of the nation-building departments, in whose interest a number of new schemes involving large recurring and non-recurring expenditure have been embarked upon.

### Actuals 1941-42

It is customary to present with the Budget estimate of the next financial year, the Accounts of the Actuals of the previous year and the Revised Estimate of the current year. In presenting the Revised budget for 1942-43, in November last I gave the figures of Actuals for 1941-42. It is hardly necessary to repeat them once again. I propose therefore to deal with the revised estimates for 1942-43 and the budget estimates for 1943-44.

### Revised estimates

I now proceed to deal with the Revised Estimate for 1942-43. The year started with an opening balance of Trs.79,77. The revenue receipts were estimated at Trs.3,33,73, which with capital receipts of Trs.6,36,37 made a total of Trs.9,70,10. The expenditure against revenue was estimated at Trs.3,67,23 and capital expenditure at Trs.6,29,64, leaving a closing balance of Trs.53,00. A revenue deficit of Trs.33,50 was also anticipated. The revised estimates put the revenue receipts at Trs.3,44,34 and revenue expenditure at Trs.3,53,86, leaving a revenue deficit of Trs.9,52. The large decrease in the revenue deficit is fictitious to the extent of Trs.26,23, owing to the transfer, as a result of the recent decision of the Government of India of the expenditure on the "Food Purchase Scheme" to a capital expenditure head. Even the revenue deficit of Trs.9,52 does not reveal the true position, as it is a result of a carry forward to the next year of a sum of ten lakhs paid as advances to the contractors by Forest Department for supplies to the Defence Department, counter-balanced by extraordinary receipts of Trs.3,34 from collective fines and the Motor Transport Organisation scheme, less in the case of the latter, an expenditure of Trs.43 on running expenses. The real revenue deficit is thus estimated to be Trs.2,43.

The important variations have been explained in pages 9 and 10 of the Budget Memorandum, which has already been supplied to the hon. Members.

Capital receipts show an increase of Trs.3,96,94, of which Trs.1,34 is due to the necessity of issuing Treasury Bills and taking ways and means advances from the Reserve Bank to

cover the operations connected with the Food Supply Scheme, and the balance under "Debt and Deposit" heads which are covered by similar debits on the capital expenditure side. The capital expenditure is also up by Trs.3,97,53 for reasons stated above. While we have allowed for the repayment of all our ways and means advances by the Reserve Bank, the repayment of 30 lakhs against 8 lakhs of Treasury Bills is being taken this year. The latest actuals indicate that the lag for the "Food Supply Scheme" will be about 50 lakhs. With Excise revenue also dropping, it has been necessary to enable the Province to carry on its ordinary day to day administration, to issue Treasury Bills for a further sum of Rs.30 lakhs.

### Budget estimates for 1943-44

The revenue receipts for 1943-44 is estimated at Trs.3,64,20 against the revised estimate of Trs.3,44,34 and the revenue expenditure is estimated at Trs.3,72,29 leaving a revenue deficit of Trs.8,09. As this includes Trs.1,00 on account of collective fines and Trs.1,01 on account of net receipts from motor transport organisation, which are not normal sources of revenue, the real revenue deficit is estimated to be Trs.10,10.

Capital receipts are estimated at Trs.6,75,88, against the revised for the current year of Trs.10,33,31, or a decrease of Trs.3,57,43, as detailed below:—

- (i) Trs.50,00, as the issue of the Treasury Bills will be lower,
- (ii) Trs.54,00, as it is estimated that ways and means advances to the extent of Trs.50,00 only would be necessary for the lean months of the year.
- (iii) Trs.2,46,50, under "Remittances within India" as it is expected that debits and credits through the Reserve Bank will be more normal during the Budget year.

Capital expenditure is estimated at Trs.7,00,89 against Trs.10,27,17, in the revised. The estimates under most heads follow receipts, except that provision is made for repayment of outstanding Treasury Bills of Trs.50,00 and with more efficient working it is anticipated that the time lag on the "Food Supply Scheme" will reduce the outstandings on this account to Trs.25,00. The Loans and Advances are down by Trs.4,08, which is due mainly to no provision being necessary for evacuation advances in the budget year. The closing balance on the 31st March, 1944 is estimated to be Trs.43,29.

The Sinking Fund for the repayment of the loan of 50 lakhs, floated in September, 1940 amounted to Trs.6,56 at the end of 1941-42. A further sum of Trs.3,88, including interest on previous investments, was invested in 1942-43. The sum of Rs.4 lakhs, including interest, is proposed to be invested in the budget year, making a total of Trs.14,44. The unfunded debt of the province which on April, 1942, amounted to Trs.1,16,16 will rise to Trs.1,21,24 on 1st April, 1943.

### Land Revenue

Having given a general account of our budgetary position, I shall now deal with some of the more important aspects of our main heads of receipts and expenditure. To begin with Land Revenue, as foreshadowed in my budget speech in November last, complete withdrawal of the land revenue remission will begin to be operative in the revenue year which commences on 1st July, 1943. Full effect of the withdrawal of remission however will be realised in the financial year, 1944-45.

As a relief in case of poverty of the ryots or local calamity we have since November, 1942, sanctioned further remissions of Rs.3,230 in land revenue and Rs. 320 in local rates. This makes up the total remissions sanctioned from the beginning of the year to Rs.15,200 in land revenue and Rs.1,700 in local rates.

In regard to relief for distress caused by floods Government have, since November last, sanctioned further sums of Rs.5,500 for agricultural and seed loans, Rs.9,700 for gratuitous relief and Rs. ,200 for test relief works. The total amounts sanctioned from the beginning of the year are Rs.77,500 agricultural and seed loans, Rs.29,700 gratuitous relief and Rs.3,200 test relief works.

Further Government have since sanctioned the remission of the outstanding agricultural loans in the Assam Valley to the extent of Rs.69,000.

The question of land settlement in connection with the important grow-more-food campaign is engaging the serious attention of Government and it is hoped that by orderly and systematic settlement of waste lands the needs might be fairly met.

### Provincial Excise

Since the Assembly met last time, there has been a further decrease in the receipts from country spirit due mainly to facilities for transporting raw materials to the distillery being much restricted. These difficulties have affected our revenues

and over which this Government have no control. We have recently sanctioned an increase in duty in retail sale price of country spirit, but this is not likely to counterbalance the loss. The question of further increase in duty and retail sale price is being examined by the Excise Department. So far as foreign liquor is concerned, an increase in revenue has already been recorded. The question of increasing the license fees and the duty on India made foreign liquor, to be in line with the neighbouring province of Bengal, is now under the consideration of this Government.

### General Administration

The work thrown upon the official cadres continues to mount, particularly in the spheres of supply, price control and military requirements. It has been a great problem how to enable the services to meet this burden. Under this head, the services of two officers of the Secretary of States' service have been obtained from Burma, and two young officers are also to undergo training in this province. Besides these, only one clerk from among the evacuees has been entertained. Almost the entire extra burden has had to be covered by the employment of men within the province. Besides the ordinary recruitment, which means the promotion of two Sub-Deputy Collectors to the Provincial Service and the recruitment of two officers to the Senior and seven to the Junior service, arrangements have been made to recruit even temporary members of the senior service from the Bar, and sixteen temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors, half from the subordinate services (including the clerical) and half from the public. These Sub-Deputy Collectors are badly wanted to fulfil the following functions (a) relief of experienced Revenue Officers so that the latter can be engaged on the recording of requisitions for Military purposes and assessment of compensation—the prompt payment of which is such an essential matter of interest to the public, and (b) miscellaneous work particularly in developing the supply system. In order that their experience may be made available to the public service at this time of emergency Government have been employing three retired holders of listed posts who belong to this province's cadre and one who is of the province but belonged to the Bengal cadre, and a total of three retired Magistrates and two retired Sub-Deputy Magistrates. Another retired officer holds the appointment of Private Secretary to the Premier. There has been some murmuring, no doubt, at the departure from established practice in re-employing retired officers, but the above figures indicate how small are their numbers compared with the extent to which Government have had to draw on the open market.

### Police

The budget shows a large increase under various heads for additional police entertained on account of war requirements. It is satisfactory that the Central Government have agreed to meet the whole cost of "Railforce" the body of armed police entertained for the purpose of protecting the lines of communications of the Army. Many of the other items are difficult to distinguish from normal experience of the Force, and it must not be overlooked that in the view of the Government of India our ordinary police staff was much below the standard of other provinces and unable to meet all the requirements which naturally arise in an emergency like the present, when Assam is in the limelight. The principal item is the increase in the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department, which experience showed to be essential and for which the approval of the House was sought last November. As against the increased expenditure that will fall on the Province, which will be about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lakhs, it is possible that we shall be able to set the waivure or the reduction of the provincial contribution towards the Assam Rifles.

The Police Department has had to meet the general expansion of work in all directions with a very small increase in superior staff. One officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police was borrowed from Burma, and one from Madras. The need of more officers to supervise the enlarged force is such that the House is being asked to increase the provincial cadre by four Deputy Superintendents, two of them being obtained by promotion. This will be the only commitment of a permanent nature. The mobility of the force, which is essential in present day condition is being improved by the provision of a total of 25 motor vehicles and by the purchase of bicycles. There are also improvements in armoury and it is intended to provide mofussil police stations with a minimum of arms by requisition so that they may not again be placed in such a vulnerable position as when some police stations were attacked by determined crowds last year. As regards the conditions of services of the Forces, who have deserved so well for the well led and disciplined part displayed towards the Civil Disobedience Movement, the budget contains one item only, the provision of kit allowance for the subordinate officers: this is an item which has for many years been an annually repeated demand crowded out by more insistent claims of various departments.

## Jails

The necessity of detaining not only prisoners convicted of offences connected with the Civil Disobedience Movement but also a considerable number of lesser persons who are known to be taken part in this movement but against whom it was difficult to obtain evidence such as is required by the courts has placed a great strain on the jails. Temporary accommodation has been provided for a total of just over 800 persons. Hitherto 701 were convicted for political crimes, while 205 have been detained in preventive custody. Only 29 persons are under restrictions of any kind. As a result a great strain has been placed on jail accommodation and also on jail discipline. It is regrettable that some persons who by their position should be deemed responsible have been guilty of fomenting indiscipline in the jail. Latterly some prisoners have been prepared to give undertakings for the future and have been released.

## Administration of Justice

The present term of the Advocate General will expire on the 7th August, 1943. It is anticipated that there may be further extension of this term. Consequently his and his establishment's full year's pay and other expenditure connected with the maintenance of his office has been provided.

There is no likelihood of establishment of a High Court for Assam in the near future. Consequently, this Government has renewed the agreement with the Bengal Government, to share the services of the Calcutta High Court for another term of five years on the same terms as before.

The copyists, typists and mappists attached to the courts were representing to Government for increased remuneration. It was not possible to do anything for them so long. Having regard to the fact that these ill-paid officers are hard hit by the present economic depression and that the surplus accruing from the copying department is sufficient to give them extra remuneration, Government have submitted a scheme for sanction of the Assembly for inclusion in the Budget. They have also submitted another scheme for giving increased fees to the pleaders employed by the Crown to remove their longstanding grievance.

## Forest

The most noticeable feature is the item in both revised and budget for the surcharge on minor forest produce supplied to Defence Department. This would not have been obtainable

had not the Department undertaken the labour involved in consolidating demands and placing orders, and had not additional staff been employed.

The estimates of receipts in the Budget proceed on the conservative basis of assuming that exceptional War orders will not be repeated to the same extent as in the recent past but the surplus even thus is most satisfactory and the Department will be fully loaded with work.

In the light of experience during this period it has become clear that the retention of an adequate superior staff to meet great changes in demand for forest produce such as have resulted from the War is most essential. Assistance obtained from evacuated personnel consists of one officer of the Indian Forest Service, another for a short time, three provincial service officers of whom one has already gone, one ranger, three deputy rangers and three foresters, from Burma or the Andamans. As it is, the Indian Forest Service is rapidly diminishing, and while rules for the new Assam Forest Service (Class I) have been issued during this financial year, it has become a problem how to fill this service with competent men. Government are therefore considering anxiously whether the cadre must not be somewhat increased, and whether more appointments both by direct recruitment of candidates for the Superior College course and by promotion should not be made.

### Education

Even amidst the overriding demands of war situation, Government have not allowed themselves to deflect from the policy of steady and gradual expansion of education, in its stages, throughout the province. A very large number of new schemes included in the Budget under the "Education" bear eloquent testimony to that.

For the expansion of primary education in the rural areas provision has been made for a sum of Rs.40,000 (recurring) to enable the Local Boards to take over a large number of Venture primary schools awaiting financial assistance from Government of which  $\frac{1}{6}$  will be spent in plain tribal area for spread of primary education amongst tribal people. Besides, a provision of Rs.5,000 (Non-recurring) and Rs.10,000 (recurring), total Rs.15,000 has been made for direct grants to non-Government primary schools, most of which will not be able to continue their existence without such aid. There are many venture secondary schools for boys and girls which are craving for grants and are deserving of help. To provide maintenance grants to such new schools to be brought into the Aided list and increased grants to some existing schools and also



for giving building and equipment grants, we are asking the House to sanction a sum of Rs.25,000 namely Rs.12,500 recurring, Rs.12,500 non-recurring. For the encouragement of madrassa and tol education we have provided Rs.10,000 and Rs.6,000 respectively, for new grants and increased grants to deserving madrassas and tols. The Sanskrit college at Nalbari requires an increased grant up to Rs.250 a month and a non-recurring grant of Rs.7,477 for acquisition of land and for construction of buildings. Provision has been made for some additional college scholarships for girls who take up science course as well as for 5 middle scholarships for plains Tribal girls and 30 additional primary scholarships for plains tribals. A Muslim Educational Conference is proposed to be held to discuss on the question of reorganising the present system of madrassa education, which was started 25 years ago, and for this Rs.3,000 has been provided. The Text Book Committee has collected fees from the authors and publishers who submitted text books for approval. Out of these accumulated fees a sum of Rs.12,000 has been budgetted for expenditure for the preparation and publication of departmental text books on different subjects for use in primary and secondary schools. This amount, therefore, does not mean any burden on the Provincial Revenues but is set off against the receipts of the Text-Book Committee during the last few years. For the strengthening of the female inspecting staff two additional posts of assistant inspectresses of schools are proposed to be created and this is necessary in view of the growing demand for girls' education. Similarly, subordinate inspecting staff is to be strengthened by the provision of two sub-inspectors and three assistant sub-inspectors. Provision of Rs.9,000 has been made for science teaching in aided high schools and for building grants to some of the aided high schools. The collegiate education needs greater provision for strengthening the staff on such subjects as Assamese and Bengali, Islamic Department and Mathematics and English. Provision has been made for equalising the status of lecturers and professors in the two Colleges. Murarichand College needs affiliation in Biology and Zoology up to the I. Sc. standard and a modest beginning will be made if the grant provided for the purpose in the budget schedule is sanctioned.

There are some of the urgent and indispensable minimum requirements of the department of Education in the non-excluded areas. A few schedules have been accepted for the spread of education in the excluded areas as well.

In spite of the difficult financial position of the province the House will no doubt be gratified to find that provision has been made in the Budget for new schemes the ultimate cost of which will be Rs.2,88,807. Government have been always alive to the necessity of expansion of the educational expenditure but due to the inevitable expenditure in other departments and the limited provincial resources, it has not been possible to do more.

### Agriculture

For 1943-44 this Government originally provided a sum of Rs. 6,20,000 in the provincial budget estimates in order to continue the "Grow More Food Campaign" during the coming year. Since those estimates were prepared the Government of India has taken up the question of increasing the production of food-stuffs still more urgently and has addressed all provinces with an offer of financial help, if required. Acting on the presumption that this financial help, will be forthcoming, we have now prepared estimates amounting to a total of Rs.16 lakhs which includes the Rs.6,20,000 provided by us. We propose to obtain the balance of Rs.9,80,000 from India and are asking for an outright grant, but we cannot at this stage state what will be the outcome. The value of the concessions it is proposed to grant to cultivators amounts to over Rs.6 lakhs, the recoveries being fixed at 75 per cent. in case of rice seed and 60 per cent. in the case of pulse seeds, oil seeds and potatoes.

A notable development in these estimates is a provision of Rs.3,20,000 for the rice irrigation (small projects) or *Bund* and *Dong* irrigation. We consider that this is not only one of the best means of increasing the yield of our paddy land immediately to meet the present emergency, but it will also have a beneficial effect which will last for many years. These projects will be confined to small works such as can be done by the cultivators themselves. Larger works are provided for through the Embankment and Drainage Division under the Public Works Department, while these small *bund* and *dong* projects will be undertaken by the Agricultural Department with the assistance of the Revenue Department officers. Government propose to provide half the cost of each project, the other half being provided by the cultivators in the form of labour. In each case a local committee will be formed to help to combine the people in the common effort and to settle local disputes.

A few figures will show the scope of the campaign. The estimates for seed distribution include 31,000 maunds of paddy seed, 16,600 maunds of pulse seeds, 35,000 maunds of potato seeds, 37 lakhs sugarcane setts, 3,000 maunds of oil seeds and 2,000 maunds of wheat and barley seeds. The area which will be affected (including irrigation) is 4 lakhs acres and the estimated increase of food-stuffs will be about 76,000 tons or 20 lakhs of maunds.

Naturally this large increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department will entail a large increase in staff. One Assistant to the Director, 2 Assistant Deputy Directors with 5 Inspectors for the irrigation works, and 10 agricultural inspectors with 150 men of the agricultural demonstrator class for the general district work will be required.

### **Co-operative Department**

In Co-operative Department provision has been made for the continuance of the temporary staff of 10 inspectors with their clerks and peons sanctioned during 1941-42 under the scheme for rehabilitation of the co-operative movement. The Department is at present concentrating its attention on the recovery of assets of the Co-operative Societies and in making enquiries with a view to weeding out hopeless societies and clearing the ground for new societies to be organised. The efforts of the Department have already resulted in an improvement in the collections of the Central Banks and the Primary Societies. The question of granting loans to the Central Banks and the Provincial Bank will be considered if their position shown improvements during the year.

### **Industries Department**

The Budget of the Department of Industries contains provisions for the requirements to carry on the normal activities of the Department. It includes a provision of Rs.6,000 for grant of subsidies to individual industrialists and a few youths of the province who are unable to start industries for want of funds. As a result of the requests made by this Government for the training of students from Assam in the Railway workshop at Kanchrapara, the Railway authorities have recently selected two students from this province for admission into the workshop. Provision has been made for the cost of their training. The temporary durrie weaving section which was started in the Surma Valley Technical School in 1935-36 entailing an annual expenditure of about Rs.1,000 was abolished with effect from

January, 1943, as the scheme did not prove a success. It is unfortunate that none of the passed students took to the industry for the introduction of durrie weaving in the province as a profession.

### **Medical and Public Health**

In view of the demands made by the Military on the available medical personnel and the conditions of Provincial finance only a few new schemes have been provided in the Medical and Public Health budget. The present rate of monthly subsidy of Rs. 35 to the subsidized doctors of dispensaries was not only found inadequate but unattractive to draw the right type of practitioners and the Government have therefore made provision to raise the subsidy to Rs. 45 per mensem. Provision has been made for an assistant surgeon in the Public Health Department for the district of Lakhimpur, which was the only district without such an officer in the plains. The services of this officer will also be utilized to improve the teaching of hygiene in the Berry-White Medical School. In the Mikir Hills area a new public health dispensary for treatment of lepers is proposed to be opened for which provision has been made.

### **Supply**

Recently Government have established a new Department of Supply, in charge of which is Mr. Marar who has had practical experience of dealing with the problem of food supplies as Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

A few figures may be given to indicate the magnitude of the operations which Government have undertaken in respect of food supply. Up to December our agents had purchased and despatched nearly seven lakhs of maunds of food-stuffs—rice, flour, atta, salt, dhal, gram, sugar, ghee and mustard oil and 812 bales of cloth. The value of these commodities comes to nearly 65 lakhs of rupees. Districts had received nearly 5 lakhs of maunds worth over 40 lakhs and had credited forty-one lakhs of rupees into the Treasuries. Our agents for indigenous supplies had purchased up to 15th January over two lakhs of maunds of paddy, rice and mustard oil.

### **Motor Vehicles**

There is nothing requiring much comment under the revenue and expenditure heads, except that they hardly bring out the fact that motor traffic is rapidly diminishing owing to

petrol rationing and the difficulty in obtaining new vehicles or spare parts. In fact the progressive deterioration of the vehicles registered in this province, both in numbers and in condition has already reached a perilous level, particularly in view of the strain now thrown on the rail and river services. Government have taken time by the forelock in acting on recommendations of the Central Government and appointing an experienced officer as Provincial Motor Transport Controller, and also entering upon a motor transport organisation scheme, on a quasi-commercial basis, the details of which will be found at pages 26 and 188 of the estimates. This scheme has already produced the following concrete results upto the end of January :—

A total of 325 vehicles have been obtained from Military releases, and 217 of these had been assembled for reconditioning. They were obtained at a total cost of one lakh, and will be worth far more when reconditioning is complete. A workshop with staff has been built up at Dooria in Sibsagar district and already seventeen vehicles had been reconditioned at the end of the month. Fifty new lorries had been obtained from the War Transport Department, and a promise of a further 140 for immediate delivery is under execution. Thirty vehicles have been fitted up experimentally with gas producer plants. The total fleet which it is expected that the Organisation will be able to operate amounts to 370. It will be seen that the receipts from it exceed the expenditure. While this may seem optimistic large orders have already been received for the use of the transport, and the first job had been executed at considerable profit before the end of January.

### **Public Works**

In the Public Works Department, the usual activities of the department had to be greatly curtailed on account of difficulties in obtaining materials due to war situation. This partly accounts for the decrease in the demands for grants for original works. This however does not necessarily mean reduction in the volume of work. On the contrary enormous improvement is being carried out to important roads at the instance of Military authorities the cost of which is being charged direct to the Defence Head.

Owing to recent political disturbances considerable damages have been done to roads, bridges and buildings. This together with the abnormal rise in the prices of materials and wages of labour accounts for the increase in demand for repair grants from Trs.28,28 in the current year's Budget and Trs.28,27 in the revised Budget to Trs.28,93 in the next year's Budget. A provision of Trs.50 has been made under original works for the reconstruction of some of the buildings burnt down by the saboteurs.

Extra officers and staff had to be recruited to cope with the increased works thrown on the Department on account of large Defence projects undertaken at the instance of the Military Department and to a smaller extent for construction work for A. R. P. purposes. These and additional posts of Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department, and Superintending Engineer created last year have been continued as the amount of work to be carried out on behalf of the Military is not expected to be reduced.

Necessary provision for these extra officers and staff has been made in the 1943-44 Budget. This will not, however, throw any extra burden on the resources of the province as although their pay and allowances, etc., are charged in the first instance to the provincial Budget, the increase on this account in the establishment charges will be more than counterbalanced by recoveries proposed to be made from the Central Government.

The Sylhet Division has been for long on a temporary basis but owing to the improvement and opening to traffic of the Sylhet-Shillong, Sylhet-Sunamganj and Surma Trunk Road (West) (Sylhet-Sherpur-Maulvibazar-Srimangal-Teliapara-Shaistaganj) the charge of this Division has become very heavy and there is no possibility of abolishing it. It is, therefore, proposed to make this Division permanent and bring the temporary office staff of the Division on the permanent establishment. A separate schedule for the purpose has been submitted for the vote of the Assembly.

The Public Works Department works in the Garo Hills had been transferred to the Tura District Fund from 1st April 1942, and the staff have been employed on the military projects at Ledo Base Camp and India-Burma Road. It is now proposed to take back the Public Works Department works from the District Fund from next year and necessary provision has accordingly been made in the Budget.

Owing to the urgency of the work on the India-Burma Road and the inadequacy of staff to carry on with the works connected therewith the activities of the Embankment and Drainage Division which was started in 1940 had to be suspended during last year and the officers and staff employed on the India-Burma Road. It is proposed to revive this Division from next year and provision has accordingly been made in the Budget.

The actual functioning of the Division will, however, greatly depend on obtaining instruments as the levels have been taken over by the Military Department and only a few clinometers are now available. All necessary instruments will therefore, have to be purchased.

### **Recruitment for War Services**

It may not be out of place to refer to figures of recruitment to the Armed forces which will indicate how wide are the opportunities now opening to our young men. Every week a selection Board sits and interviews some 20 candidates for emergency commissions. On a rough average about one-third of these are given a further interview by the Central Interview Board appointed by the Government of India, and some one-third of these are accepted for Military training. Meanwhile in the months of October to January over 2,500 men of Assam were recruited in the forces, four-fifths of them to combatant ranks. A technical recruiting office was opened at Shillong on the 15th of January, and between the 1st and 25th of February it had recruited 78 young men to technical employment including 18 to the Indian Air Force; which is offering such a fine chance to the youth of the country not only in military employ but also in the civil life of the future. Over four hundred lads have now been trained as technicians and nearly 400 are under training in institutions of the province. No longer can Assam be called a non-martial province.

### **Dearness Allowance**

The scheme for the grant of dearness allowance was introduced with effect from 1st August 1942. Since the Assembly met last the Government have found it necessary to revise their

rates owing to the sharp rise in the cost of living, and granted the following increased rate with effect from 1st January 1943.

(i) **Shillong**

	Rate of allowance
(a) Government servants drawing pay of Rs. 30 or below ... ..	Rs. 5 per mensem.
(b) Government servants drawing pay between Rs. 31 and Rs. 80 inclusive ... ..	7 Ditto.
(c) Government servants drawing pay between Rs. 81 and Rs. 120 inclusive ... ..	9 Ditto.

(ii) **Rest of Assam**

(a) Government servants drawing pay between Rs. 30 or below ... ..	4 Ditto.
(b) Government servants drawing pay between Rs. 31 and Rs. 60 inclusive ... ..	6 Ditto.
(c) Government servants drawing pay between Rs. 61 and Rs. 90 inclusive ... ..	8 Ditto.

This scheme is estimated to cost Trs.9,94. These new rates commit the Government to an extra expenditure of Trs.3,03 per annum, but it was not possible to provide for this increase in the Budget, as the decision was made after the Budget had been framed.

In conclusion I offer my grateful thanks to Mr. Patton, Mr. Jones and the staff of the Finance Department and also to Mr. Dennehy, Mr. Mehta, Mr. Dhar and Mr. Phukan for the assistance I received from them.

**Adjournment**

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



*After lunch***Presentation of the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts  
for the year 1941-42**

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I beg to present the Auditor General's Reports on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts for the year 1941-42.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The House will be able to discuss the Reports on the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts for the year 1941-42. Any hon. member who may like to speak may speak on the subject.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, on other occasions Accounts were first placed on the tables of the hon. members and on a subsequent date we discussed it.

So far as the 1941 Budget session was concerned, I particularly remember that it was discussed on some other date. Before, the ruling from the Chair was that one should get the Report of the Public Accounts Committee but this year, Sir, no Report has been placed before us.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If the hon. member sees any difficulty to discuss these Accounts then I am disposed to give time.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** I have no objection to the date of discussion being postponed to a later date. There was no Public Accounts Committee during the suspension of the Constitution.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, may I know whether any Committee was appointed by His Excellency or not?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** I cannot say off-hand.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Then, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enquire? If there was any Committee, will he kindly supply us the Report of that Committee?

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I think, Sir, there was a Committee and the Report should be furnished to us. A Committee was appointed by His Excellency, the Governor.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, we did not get any Report.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then, I think, the discussion can be postponed. It will be taken up on a subsequent day and the date will be fixed up in consultation with the Hon'ble the Premier.

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

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Sir, I beg to present the following \*notifications under section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923:—

- (i) Notification No. L.M.L.-225/42/29, dated the 1st December, 1942,

\*See Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

(ii) Notification No. L.M.L.-225/42/30, dated the 1st December 1942.

**Election of a member to the Bengal and Assam Railway  
(A. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee**

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Sir, on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect one member to the Bengal and Assam Railway (A. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee in place of Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The motion moved is:

"That this Assembly do elect one member to the Bengal and Assam Railway (A. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee in place of Maulavi Abdur Rahman".

The question was put and adopted.

**Election of a member to the Bengal and Assam Railway  
(E. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee**

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: I beg to move that this Assembly do elect one member to the Bengal and Assam Railway (E. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee in place of Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The next motion moved is:

"That this Assembly do elect one member to the Bengal and Assam Railway (E. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee in place of Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal."

The question was put and adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: Under rules 1 and 2 regarding the procedure to be followed in holding such elections I fix 2 to 4 P.M. on Monday, the 15th March, 1943, for holding election to the Bengal and Assam Railway Local Advisory Committee, both A. B. and E. B. Zones separately. The voting will be in the Committee Room No. II between these hours. Members are requested to observe strict secrecy.

**Election of five members to the Central Text Book Committee**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

**The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do proceed to elect five members to the Central Text Book Committee.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: The motion moved is: "That this Assembly do proceed to elect five members to the Central Text Book Committee".

The question was put and adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Under rules 1 and 2 regarding the procedure to be followed in holding such election I fix 2 to 4 P.M. on Tuesday, the 16th March, 1943, for holding the election. The voting will be in the Committee Room No. II between these hours.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I beg to move that that this Ass mbly do elect seven members to the Public Accounts Committee under rule 102 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1943-44.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is: "That this Assembly do elect seven members to the Public Accounts Committee under rule 102 of the Assembly Rules for the year 1943-44."

The question was put and adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Under the rules, I hereby fix Thursday, the 18th March, 1943, as the day from 2 P.M.—4 P.M. for holding the election to the Public Accounts Committee. The voting will be in the Committee Room No. II between these hours.

#### The Assam Finance Bill, 1943

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I beg (i) to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1943; and (ii) to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The motion moved is: "That the Assam Finance Bill, 1943 be taken into consideration." When there is no debate over this question, I am putting this to the House.

The question is: That the Assam Finance Bill, 1943 be taken into consideration.

The question was adopted.

#### The Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now the Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali to move.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:** On behalf of the Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali I beg to move that the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** Sir, I think, it is rather a contentious measure.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, it is a very contentious Bill. Therefore the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge has got to deliver a speech and as he is not here now we should wait for him. I therefore adjourn the House upto 2-45 P.M. (The House was adjourned up to 2-45 P.M.)

After adjournment.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I owe an apology to you that I could not be here when you called upon me to move the Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I hope that will not happen in future.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** As a matter of fact, Sir, I was busy in the Upper Chamber in connection with a very important piece of business there. At the same time, I confess, Sir, I could not anticipate that the Lower House would speed up so quickly, and the Upper House would take so much time.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Very well.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941, be taken into consideration.

This Report has been with hon. Members for considerable length of time and I need hardly dilate upon the various changes that have been made by the Select Committee, but may briefly state that in clause 3 of the Bill, whereas in the original Bill the Tribunal is to consist of one member, three members have been suggested. This and the procedure of appointment and the tenure of office, etc., suggested in the Report involved the necessity of the republication of the Bill as reported by that Committee, and this was done. In the Schedule, the Select Committee suggested certain other items to be included. These are the more important changes that have been brought about in the Bill and these, along with other provisions of the Bill are for consideration of the House now. As I have already requested, I hope the hon. Members of the House will take the Select Committee's Report into their consideration now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved is: "That the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** I have a preliminary point to raise in connection with this Bill, and that is to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he is yet in a position to advise the Members of this Assembly as to what constitutes a revenue case. That was one of the knotty points which was presented to the Select Committee. None of the advisers, who appeared before the Select Committee, were in a position to say what was a revenue case; and the suggestion was made that a reference be made to the Government of India to secure their help in defining a revenue case. A further suggestion was made that the Governments of Bombay and Central Provinces, who have already Revenue Tribunal, might also throw some light on this question. May I ask, therefore, before any discussion takes place, whether the Hon'ble Minister can enlighten me?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** What I have been able to gather from the file, I may say that whatever information hon. Members want will be supplied during the consideration of the Bill when it is considered clause by clause. I do not think that is a question which will prevent a general discussion of the Bill as reported by the Select Committee. It cannot hamper the discussion of the Bill in any way, I submit. The Bill is there. What constitutes a revenue case and what does not constitute a revenue case is a question of legal opinion. We shall have to take into our serious consideration any legal opinion that comes up to us from time to time. I think this should or can in no way hamper the consideration of the Motion I have moved.

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** This is a Revenue Tribunal Bill and its object is to set up machinery for considering revenue cases. I do suggest that it is fairly important that we should know what a revenue case is and it is not a question which can be shelved until we consider the Bill clause by clause. If the Bill is to be discussed now in general terms, I suggest that the definition is an important preliminary to such a discussion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has stated that this is a question of legal opinion. In a Bill of this nature there should be a definition as to what a revenue case is. Otherwise, many difficulties may arise when the Bill will be passed into an Act and when that Act will be put into operation. With regard to Mr. Whittaker's point, I may say that during the course of the discussion of the clauses if any hon. member puts an amendment to give the definition of a revenue case that can be done.

While giving no definition Government has introduced a device of giving illustrations in the Bill of what would be revenue cases. These illustrations have been furnished in the schedule. The schedule does not exhaust the whole number of revenue cases. But I think the whole plan of the Bill is that without giving any definition of a revenue case, there has been given in the Bill a list of matters which may be considered revenue cases to come within the jurisdiction of the Revenue Tribunal. The enumeration may not be exhaustive.

**Mr. A. WHITTAKER:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to take part in this debate as the author of the only minute of dissent to this Bill. I would like to get from the Government of Assam a statement of their opinion as to the validity of the points dealt with in this minute of dissent. I hope that minute puts the case clearly. My point is briefly that the Government of Assam during the course of many years of administration have built up amongst their own Officers, a corps of persons with special qualifications and special revenue experience. I think the proposal to restrict the Presidentship of this Tribunal to a non-official will deprive the tax-payer of the value of that experience. It is well known that the most important part of an I.C.S. Officer's training is his revenue training and speaking for myself, I think the most interesting work of all that falls to an I.C.S. Officer is concerned with revenue and not with criminal cases. I would therefore suggest, Sir, that anything which robs the province of that experience which after all we as tax-payers have paid for, would be a mistake. I do not think that it is necessary that the President shall always be an official or that he should always be a non-official but I do suggest, Sir, that in times like the present when the Permanent-Settlement may be revised and very drastically revised, there will be a large range of revenue cases falling for decision which are not covered in the present schedule to this Bill. Those questions will be new questions and their solution will require expert knowledge. At such a time, I suggest that it would be desirable that the President should be an official with revenue and judicial experience, at other times, when there are no radical revenue changes impending, I don't think it is essential that an official should be its President. I therefore suggest, Sir, that there is a force in the views recorded in the minute of dissent and that the proposal made therein would be a help to Government. I suggest that the case for omitting the words "shall be non-official" is a strong one now and is likely to be stronger in the time when large changes in revenue administration and legislation are engaging public attention.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon'ble Leader of the Planting Group for the suggestions he has thrown out but, Sir, I must submit to you that his entire suggestion has been built on hypothesis on the assumption of unsettlement of the permanent settlement. Sir, if and when that contingency may occur, it will be, I think, possible for those that be in power to adopt means to cope with the situation if one such arises and I should have nothing to say either for or against the arguments in favour of unsettlement of the permanent settlement. That is not the question before the House and we do not know when that contingency may occur. At any rate, I can assure our hon'ble Friend Mr. Whittaker that the suggestions he has thrown out in this House, will be considered by the Government.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is :  
"That the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941 as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Members wishing to table amendments to the Assam Finance Bill, 1943 and to the Assam Revenue

Tribunal Bill, 1941, will have to do so in both cases before 3 P. M. on or before 18th March, 1943.

The hon. Members are aware that His Excellency, the Governor has allotted some days on which the voting on Demands will be taken up. As regards the time that will be allotted to each of the Demands, I have prepared a time-table and I would request the Leaders of the Parties to see that time-table and suggest to me by to-morrow before 11 A. M. what alterations, if any, are to be made in the time-table. The time-table will be available at the office and the Leaders of the Parties will be supplied with copies of the same also.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A. M. on Tuesday, the 9th March, 1943.

SHILLONG,  
The 1st April 1943.

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

### APPENDIX A

*The 1st December 1942.*

**No. LML.225/42/29.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following amendment in the rules published with Notification No. 1041-E., dated the 8th March 1924 :—

### AMENDMENT

#### ACCOUNT RULES—PART I

*Substitute* a comma for the full stop at the end of rule 20 at page 140 of the Assam Municipal Manual and *add* the following :—

“the liabilities being shown in a schedule in the following form :—

#### *Schedule showing the liabilities*

Actual outstanding on 1st April of the current year	Probable liabilities on 31st March of the current year	Liabilities on the date of submitting the draft budget	On what account	Reasons for non-payment	How proposed to be met	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

*Note.*—The columns 1-3 should include without fail all suppliers' and contractors' bills from the register of bills, all pay-bills outstanding for over one month and all bills for office supplies or other expenditure. The commitments should be stated in as many classes as necessary, explanation against each class being entered in column 5.

S. L. MEHTA,  
Secretary to the  
Govt. of Assam in the Edn. & L.S.-G. Deptts.

## APPENDIX B

*The 1st December 1942.*

**No. LML.225/42/30.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following amendment in the rules published with Notification No. 6122-L.S.-G., dated the 30th November 1925.

## AMENDMENT

## ACCOUNT RULES FOR SMALL TOWNS

*Substitute* a comma for the full stop after the word “sanction” in line 4 of rule 7 at page 308 of the Municipal Manual and *add* the following:—

“the liabilities being shown in a schedule as prescribed in rule 20 at page 140 of the Assam Municipal Manual.”

S. L. MEHTA,

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

