

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 Saturday the 20th March, 1943.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair; the ten Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock Section

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV asked :

*49. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the special reasons for appointing Mr. L. K. Handique, a B.Sc. in Agriculture, to the post of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock Section ?

(b) Is it a fact that this is an expert post mainly concerned with research and experimental work for the improvement of livestock ?

(c) If so, what are the research publications of Mr. Handique on Livestock ?

(d) Are Government aware that Indian Dairy Diploma is regarded as essential for holding the post of Deputy Director of Livestock in other provinces in India ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether candidates with high British University or Indian University qualifications, viz., holders of Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees applied for the post ?

(f) If so, why any of those candidates was not appointed to this expert post ?

(g) Is it a fact that Mr. R. C. Woodford, who holds an Indian Dairy Diploma was appointed to the post of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock ?

(h) If so, why candidates with similar qualification and 10-15 years' experience in this Livestock section were not preferred to Mr. Handique ?

(i) Is it a fact that Mr. L. K. Handique was appointed substantively as the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Upper Assam Valley, in 1941 and that this post and the post of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, are both in Class I, Assam Agricultural Service, with similar pay and status ?

(j) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Mr. Handique was brought to Shillong and appointed to this post ?

*50. (a) Is it a fact that there are two full-fledged cattle-breeding farms in the Province each located at Khanapara and Sylhet and that the main work of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, is confined in these two farms ?

(b) Is it a fact that the work of Livestock is closely connected with the works of the Veterinary Department and Animal Nutrition section which are also located at Gauhati near the Khanapara Cattle breeding farm ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to transfer the headquarters of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, to Khanapara farm or Gauhati ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Animal Nutrition section with the laboratory is attached to the Khanapara farm and the Physiological Chemist concerned with this work resides at Gauhati ?

*51. (a) Are Government aware that Mr. R. C. Woodford as the Deputy Director of Agriculture Livestock, was in charge of the Upper Shillong farm and he used to stay in the farm for the proper supervision of work done there ?

(b) If so, why Mr. L. K. Handique, the present Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, does not stay at the Upper Shillong farm ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Upper Shillong farm has been placed under Mr. R. C. Woodford, Director of Agriculture, soon after the appointment of Mr. L. K. Handique as the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock ?

(d) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

49. (a)—The Public Service Commission considered him the most suitable of the applicants.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Nil.

(d)—No. This is not the case.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—For the reasons stated in reply to Question 49(a).

(g)—Yes.

(h)—For the reasons stated in reply to Question 49(a).

(i)—Yes.

(j)—For the reasons stated in reply to Question 49(a).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire from Government whether there was any expert of Agriculture Department present before the Public Service Commission to give his opinion, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have no information, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, is it a fact that an expert of the Department or the Head of the Department concerned is sent by the Government when candidates are interviewed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I want notice for the Question, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Whether it is a general rule Sir, or not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: There is no general rule, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government kindly enquire and let us know whether any expert was present there ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has asked for notice.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

50. (a)—Yes, there are two full-fledged cattle breeding farms at Khanapara and Sylhet and the main work of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, is confined to district work distributed over the whole Province in addition to that in these two farms.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No, as accommodation in the plains would be a complication at present.

(d)—Yes.

51. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Because Mr. Woodford still stays there.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Mutual arrangement for convenience of work. Pyrethrum cultivation has been added to the farm and the Director of Agriculture himself supervises.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know, Sir, whether Government was satisfied with the mutual arrangement of work ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Yes, Sir.

Raising of Assistant Head Masters of High Schools and Assistant Superintendents of Normal Schools to the Gazetted Status

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*52. Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the following resolution passed in the tenth Session of the Assam Educational Conference held at Shillong in May, 1940 ?

(D) "This conference reiterates Resolution No. 6 (Service) passed in the 9th Session of the conference held at Sylhet in 1935, viz., Resolved that the Director of Public Instruction be requested to move the Government to raise Assistant Head Masters of High Schools and Assistant Superintendents of Normal Schools to the Gazetted Status as they enjoyed before".

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

52.—Government see no sufficient reasons for giving effect to the resolution.

Reconstitution of the Text Book Committee

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*53. Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the following resolution passed in the tenth Session of the Assam Educational Conference held at Shillong in May 1940 ?

(B) "This Conference reiterates Resolution No. 19 (Professional) passed in the 9th Session of the Conference held at Sylhet in 1935, *viz.*, Resolved that the Director of Public Instruction be requested to reconstitute the Text-Book Committee in such a way that two-thirds of the total number of seats may go to the members of teaching and inspecting lines in a fair proportion".

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

53.—Government have decided to reconstitute the Text Book Committee and the intention underlying the resolution will be borne in mind.

Appointments and promotions in the Assam School Service

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*54. (a) Is it a fact that appointments and promotions in the Assam School Service are now made on valley basis ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the introduction of this new principle of promotion in the Assam School Service ?

(c) Are Government aware that it will effect the interest of a very large section of officers in the Assam School Service, and will undermine the efficiency of the Service ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the names of those officers whose claims to promotion have been superseded since the introduction of this new principle of promotion in the Assam School Service ?

(e) Are Government aware that most of them are reputed teachers of more than 25 years' standing ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether classes I and II of the Assam School Service are Provincial Services ?

(g) Is it a fact that Mr. Lais, the then Divisional Inspector of Schools, moved Government to change the newly adopted policy with regard to promotion of officers in the Assam School Service ?

(h) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken in the matter ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate to make good the loss to these officers whose legitimate claims to promotion have thus been superseded ?

(j) If not, why not ?

(k) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article under caption "Line system in Secondary Education" published in the "Sylhet Chronicle" in its issue of the 25th January, 1943 criticising the policy of Government in the matter of appointments and promotions in the Assam School Service and referring to the grievances of a teacher of high qualifications ?

*55.(a) Is it a fact that Babu Srish Chandra Gopta, B.A., B.T., at present Assistant Master, Shillong Government High School, has submitted a representation to Government for the grant of a personal pay to him in view of his supersession by as many as six junior officers ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on it ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

54. (a)— This is being done since the time of the Congress Coalition Government who introduced it.

(b)—It was necessitated by the introduction of Vernacular as the medium of instruction in all Schools by the Calcutta University.

(c)—Some Officers have no doubt been adversely affected by the introduction of this policy but Government cannot accept the statement that efficiency has suffered thereby.

(d)—1. Babu Ramani Mohan Chakravarty.	Assistant Head Master in Class II.
2. Babu Dakshina Charan Tapadar.	” ”
3. Babu Surendra Chandra Bardhan.	” ”
4. Babu Rasamay Purkayastha	” ”
5. Babu Kedar Nath Chaudhury.	” ”
6. Babu Srish Chandra Gupta	Assistant Teacher in Class III.
7. Babu Hari Mohon Dev ...	” ”
8. Babu Harendra Kumar Bhattacharyya.	” ”

(e)—Yes

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—No action was taken in the absence of a Ministry functioning then.

(i) & (j)—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(k)—Yes

****Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Regarding Question (h), Sir, will Government consider the point now when there is the constitutional Govern-

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, the matter is under the consideration of Government.

****Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** With regard Question (k), Sir, the reply is 'Yes'. From this I mean that the attention of Government has been drawn to the article. May I enquire whether the Government admit of the criticisms made against them ?

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

****Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN :** Whether any such injustice has been done with regard to promotion of some of the teachers, Sir ?

****Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.**

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: By the reply 'yes' Government do not admit any of the allegations made in the news paper.

****Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** What is the Government opinion, may we know, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The matter is under the consideration of Government and Government is not in a position to give any opinion.

****Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Whether the Government admit or deny the allegation that as many as 6 junior officers have been promoted superseding the claims of others ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That is a fact, Sir : it is admitted that some officers have no doubt been adversely affected.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

55. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Defalcation in the Earle Law College

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*56. (a) Is it a fact that there was a defalcation of rupees twenty thousand (Rs. 20,000) in the Government Earle Law College, lying undetected for several years ?

(b) Is it a fact that during the tenure of service of Mr. S. K. Dutt, the present Principal of the said College, a sum of Rs. 7,500 was embezzled by the Clerk-Librarian, Srijut Muktaadhar Sarma ?

(c) If the replies to Questions (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what steps did Government take either to secure the conviction of the culprit or to recover the money thus defalcated ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether any explanation about this defalcation was obtained from the present Principal of the Earle Law College ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether this incident was mentioned in the Annual General Report on Public Instruction by the Director of Public Instruction, Assam ?

(f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

56. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to Question No.24(a) (Unstarred) by Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

(b)—A sum of Rs.4,922 was embezzled during the tenure of the present Principal Mr. S. K. Dutta.

(c)—The full amount has already been recovered from the culprit and he has been dismissed from service though he was on the verge of retirement and is deprived of the pension.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No.

(f)—Because the matter was then under enquiry on the orders of Government and until full information was obtained no mention in the report of the defalcation was considered necessary.

Number of Sub-Deputy Collectors at present doing the work of Magistrates

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*57. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Sub-Deputy Collectors at present doing the work of Magistrates in the Province ?
- (b) How many of them are B.Ls. and how many of them are first and second class Magistrates ?
- (c) The period for which they are working as Magistrates ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that Government works are now suffering for want of First Class Judicial Officers ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that Magistrates exercising First Class power are now being taken away for other Government works ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to promote the Sub-Deputy Magistrates doing mostly judicial works as Magistrates ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

57. (a) to (c)—A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the names of the Sub-Deputy Collectors at present doing the work of Magistrates with the period from which they are working as Magistrates

Name of Sub-Deputy Collectors working as Sub-Deputy Magistrates	Present station	Period for which they are working as Magistrates	Remarks
1. Srijut Ramananda Choudhury, 1st Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Sub-Treasury Officer.	Goalpara ..	From November 1935 up till now.	
2. Maulavi Majidur Rahman, 1st Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Sub-Treasury Officer.	Golaghat ..	From May 1936 up till now.	
3. Srijut Shailadhar Rajkhowa, 1st Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Tezpur, from January 1943.	From October 1940 up till now.	Prior to his transfer to Tezpur he was Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Treasury Officer at Jorhat.
4. Srijut Krishna Ram Medhi, 3rd Class.	Nalbari Circle.	From July 1941 up till now.	In charge of Nalbari Circle. Does occasionally petty criminal cases sent to him.

Name of Sub-Deputy Collectors working as Sub-Deputy Magistrates	Present station	Period for which they are working as Magistrates	Remarks
5. Babu Pyari Mohan Bhattacharyya, 1st Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Treasury Officer, Sitchar.	Silchar ..	From September 1940 up till now.	
6. Babu Kamini Kumar Nath, B.L., 2nd Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate.	Dibrugarh..	From October 1940 up till now.	Did A.R.P. work for sometime.
7. Maulavi Saiyid Mustafa Ali, 3rd Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Sub-Treasury Officer, Karimganj.	Karimganj..	From May 1942 up till now.	
8. Maulavi Md. Abdul Gafur, B.L., 3rd Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Sub-Treasury Officer, Habiganj.	Habiganj ..	From April 1942 up till now.	
9. Mr. M. Wiscott, 2nd Class ..	Tura ..	From November 1940 up till now.	
10. Maulavi Saiyid Aoiad Hussain, B.L., 1st Class Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Treasury Officer.	Dibrugarh ..	From May 1942 up till now.	Prior to his transfer to Dibrugarh he was the Chairman of the Debt Conciliation Board, Karimganj, where he did also certain amount of criminal work.

(d)—The great and rapid growth of miscellaneous executive work has led to the cadre being found inadequate for present needs.

(e)—The cadre is a joint one for Magisterial, Executive and (in the Assam Valley and Cachar) Civil Judicial work. The members have always both Magisterial and Executive work to do, and there is thus no question of officers being taken away from the one to the other.

(f)—No: it would not be fair or proper to single out for promotion from the junior service those officers who happen to possess Magisterial powers and to be employed on Magisterial work. They are considered together with others for promotion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Does Government consider that the Sub-Deputy Collectors who are B.Ls. are fit for the purpose of promotion exclusively for Judicial work?

****The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have replied to that, Sir, already. I said that it would not be fair or proper to single out for promotion from the junior service those officers who happen to possess Magisterial powers and to be employed on Magisterial work. They are considered together with others for promotion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Whether the fact that they are doing Judicial work efficiently, is not considered as a special qualification for promotion before other Sub-Deputy Collectors?

****The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I don't think so, Sir.

****Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** Without impairing the Judicial Service could not the B.L., Sub-Deputy Collectors be appointed to do the Magisterial work?

****The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This is entirely a new Question, Sir.

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

Re-employment of retired Officers

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*58. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the present age and date of retirement of each of those officers who have been re-appointed as Magistrates by Government after their retirement ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which these officers have been appointed ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government did not hold medical examination as to the fitness or otherwise of those officers before their re-appointment ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

58. (a)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the age and date of retirement of officers re-employed as Magistrates.

Name	present age (calculated upto 15th February 1943).	Date of retirement
1. Maulavi Md. Ataur Rahman	56 years 5 months	18th January 1942.
2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Md. Chaudhury	56 ,, 3 ,,	10th November 1941.
3. Rai Bahadur Durgeswar Sarma	58 ,,	18th February 1940.
4. Srijut Umanath Gohain	57 ,, 1 month	16th January 1941.
5. Babu Biraja Kanta Ghosh	58 ,,	10th February 1940.
6. Maulavi Lutfur Rahman	58 ,, 10 months	19th April 1939.
7. Maulavi Amanat Ali Khondkar	57 ,, 4 ,,	16th October 1940.
8. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Md. Mahmud..	56 ,, 9 ,,	12th May 1941.

(b)—The principle is plain, that when district staffs require re-inforcement for emergent and temporary increase of work on a large scale, the need should be met so far as possible by retaining the services of officers recently retired under the normal rules, and who are fit to continue at work.

(c)—No: medical examination is only required on first entrance to Government service, in order to minimise non-effective charges.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Were Government satisfied at the time of making appointments of these officers that they are medically fit to hold over charge of responsible work ?

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

(Starred Questions Nos.59-60 were not put and answered as the Questioner concerned was absent)

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

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

*Re. Food grain stockists***Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

44. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How the food grain stockists will lose their stocks as mentioned in the Government leaflet No. 34 (হারাইনে নিজেবাই ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইবেন) ?
- (b) Whether Government is apprehending food riots in this Province ?
- (c) Whether Government apprehend that the aforesaid stocks will be looted by rioters or by the Japanese aggressors or whether Government contemplates to snatch foodgrains away from stockists ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

44. (a)—The hon. Member will observe that the words he quotes are a conditional clause and has been removed out of its context. There are numerous ways in which loss might be caused—fall in price, rotage, deprecations of rats, etc.

(b) & (c)—No, but this should not obscure the harm done by the anti-social act of hoarding of foodgrains for future profiteering. Government do not propose to indicate in advance what action they will take or will not take, for the protection of the public.

Political prisoners detained in Sylhet Jail**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY** asked :

45. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of political prisoners now detained in the Sylhet Jail ?
- (b) Whether any family allowance has been given by Government to all such prisoners ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

46. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why no allowance has been given to the mother of Radharanjan De, a Security Prisoner now detained in Sylhet Jail ?

(b) Are Government aware that the family of said Radharanjan De are almost starving at present ?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj to make special enquiry about the present economic condition of the family of the aforesaid detainee ?

47. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to constitute a special Committee for deciding the rate of allowances for political prisoners detained in Jails all over Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

45. (a)—Government do not propose to publish the names or numbers of Security prisoners in particular Jails.

(b)—Family allowances have been given in respect of four Security prisoners of the Sylhet district.

(c)—Family allowances are given on demonstration, on the reports from districts, that they are necessary.

46. (a)—On enquiry it was found that before his detention he had not been an earner but dependent on others for his livelihood.

(b)—No.

(c)—A further enquiry will be made, in order to ascertain if the position has changed in any way.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Question No.46(a)—The reply is "on enquiry it was found that before his detention he had not been an earner but dependent on others for his livelihood." Are Government aware that one of our colleagues, I mean, Sir, Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy employed him as his Secretary and used to pay him Rs.25 a month?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My hon. Friend will find from the reply to this Question that I am making a further enquiry.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

47.—No.

Clerical Establishment in the office of the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI asked :

48. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there was any vacancy in the clerical line in the Office of the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur since 1941-42?

(b) If so, how many and in what Departments?

(c) The names of persons appointed in those vacancies and the communities to which each of them belongs?

(d) Whether there was any candidate from the Miri Community?

(e) Whether any principle has been formulated by Government to give preference to candidates belonging to the unrepresented communities?

(f) If so, whether the local authorities strictly follow the said principle?

(g) Whether there is any Miri clerk now in the office of the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur?

(h) If not, do Government propose to appoint Miri Clerks in future vacancies?

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

48. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Four. One permanent post in the Subdivisional Officer's office, two temporary clerkships in the Civil Food Supply Department and one temporary typist.

(c)—

Names of persons	Nature of posts	Community
1. Srijut Tileswar Gohain	Permanent	Ahom.
2. „ Premanath Goswami.	Assistant Depôt Clerk (temporary).	Caste Hindu.
3. „ Sakumar Datta	Food Supply Accountant (temporary).	„
4. „ Bhaba Kanta Das	Typist (temporary)	„

(d)—For the permanent post there was only one Miri applicant, then serving as an Excise Jamadar.

There were three Miri applicants for the post of Food Supply Accountant, two being undermatic and therefore ineligible.

There were no Miri candidates for either of the other two posts.

(e)—Hon. Member's attention is invited to rule 307(3) of the Assam Executive Manual.

(f)—There is no reason to suppose that the local authorities do not follow the said principle.

(g)—No

(h)—Yes, if suitable qualified candidates are available.

Opening of Agricultural farm units

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

49. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they propose to open agricultural farm units in different districts in the Province?

(b) Whether they are aware that the agriculturists do not get real help from the Demonstrators and Agricultural Inspectors who generally remain in offices in the town?

(c) If so, do Government propose to depute the Demonstrators and Inspectors to work in the village farms?

(d) Whether any constructive and effective scheme has been taken up by Government at present to improve the agricultural condition and the growth of farm industries in the Province?

(e) If so, how and in what way?

(f) Whether Government propose to build up a feature of planned research for agricultural purposes?

(g) Whether Government propose to engage the services of a number of agricultural technician-experts in the process of vernalisation of plants and seeds and artificial insemination of cattle?

(h) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

49. (a)—No. There are already six Departmental Seed Farms and seven Experimental Farms under the Department of Agriculture. Agricultural experiments and research are carried out in the Experimental Farms and improved types of seeds are grown and multiplied in the seed farms. These are considered sufficient for present purpose.

(b)—It is not a fact. Most of the Agricultural Demonstrators are stationed at rural areas and the Agricultural Inspectors who are generally stationed at towns spend an average of about 200 days in a year on tour in rural areas.

(c)—The Question does not arise.

(d) & (e)—The Agricultural Department exists for the improvement of agricultural condition of the Province by all means at its disposal. It is not understood what other effective scheme is meant. The meaning 'farm industries' is also not quite clear. If farming industry is meant, it is covered by agriculture. To give an idea of the benefit derived by cultivators from the activities of the Agricultural Department, the following figures may be seen for 1941-42.

Area under improved crops (acres). ... Paddy 89,393, Sugarcane 15,098
and Jute 23,498.

Number of improved bulls issued and
maintained by the Department in the
Province 424, who serve about 12,000
cows a year.

(f)—The Department of Agriculture is at present carrying out various researches on improvement of rice, jute, sugarcane and potatoes, animal nutrition, animal breeding etc. Some of the research schemes are approved and financed partly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The other items of research work are planned and executed by duly qualified officers of the Agriculture Department. It is not understood what else is meant by planned research.

(g) & (h)—Experiments on vernalisation could be carried out by the officers of this Department, if necessary, but any results achieved in other parts of the world are not considered to be capable of being extensively utilised by our cultivators. Hence not much attention has been paid to it.

Artificial insemination is still in the experimental stage and is resorted to for making use of males of high pedigree belonging to breeds developed for special purpose such as milk, meat production, draught etc. Government do not consider it worth while to spend money on this.

It requires a degree of control of animals which is not found in India at present.

Land Records Establishment in the district of Sylhet

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

50. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many posts of *Patwaris* and *Amins* are there at present in the Land Records Establishment in the district of Sylhet ?
- (b) How many posts are required to be filled by Scheduled Caste candidates according to the quota allotted to each community ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

50. (a)—Number of recorders in Sylhet is 76
 (b)—Scheduled castes would be entitled to nine posts if qualified candidates were forthcoming when vacancies occurred ?

Scheduled caste Sub-Registrars of Surma Valley

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

51. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) How many Sub-Registrars belonging to the Scheduled caste communities are now serving in the Surma Valley ?
 (b) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a list showing their names, father's names, place of residence and the name of particular caste they belong to ?
52. (a) Is it a fact that Babu Beni Madhab Das of Latu, Karimganj subdivision, Sylhet, has been appointed as a Sub-Registrar on the ground that he belongs to one of the scheduled caste communities ?
 (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what particular scheduled caste community he belongs to ?
 (c) Will Government be pleased to state whether before his appointment any enquiry was held as to whether the said Babu Beni Madhab Das really belongs to the Scheduled caste community ?
 (d) If not do Government propose to enquire in the matter now ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

51. (a)—Three.

(b)—The particulars are as follows :—

Name	Father's name	Residence
1. Babu Madan Mohan Das...	Late Murari Chand Das.	Telihaor, Sylhet Town.
2. Babu Umesh Ch. Das ...	Prakash Ch. Das ...	Village Khalachara, P. O. Karimganj.
3. Babu Beni Madhab Das ...	Behari Lal Das ...	P.O. & village Latu.
<i>Caste—</i>		
1. Kaibarta.		
2. Patni		
3. Sutradhar.		

52. (a)—Yes. That is one of the grounds.
 (b)—Sutradhar.
 (c) & (d)—Government were led to believe that the candidate belongs to the Scheduled caste community, but will make a further enquiry.

Sylhet District Registrar's Establishment

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

53. Will Government be pleased to state--

- (a) How many clerks and Moharers are at present serving in the Sylhet District Registrar's Establishment ?
 (b) How many posts are required to be filled by Scheduled caste candidates according to the quota allotted to each community ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

53. (a)—57.

(b)—6·84.

GRANT No. 20.

40.—AGRICULTURE.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.14,40,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture.'

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,40,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head 40.—Agriculture".

There are as many as 18 Cut Motions. The first Motion stands in the name of Mr. Mookerjee. I think this may be moved.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.49,716 under Grant No.20, Major head- 40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise Government with regard to their policy of Agriculture Department. Sir, every civilised Government in this world counts upon Agriculture as the basic foundation for building up national prosperity. To agriculture we owe not only our food but also those essential raw materials which go to feed the industries. The present world struggle between the Axis and the Allies is primarily a contest for mastery over raw materials. The word 'lebensraum' is nothing else but a camouflage for the forced acquisition of countries 'flowing with milk and honey'. If Africa and Asia would not have existed on the globe today there would have been hardly any prize worth fighting for and the European races would have surely lived in a Christian way in amity and peace, each digging its own land for feeding its own people.

The prosperity of India really lies in its tropical sun and rain and the potentialities of mother earth. The fact that we still exist as a race today, in spite of continuous devastation and exploitation of centuries, is mostly due to our inexhaustible agricultural resources. Rob India of her agriculture and you can kill her.

Assam represents all the typical agricultural conditions of India and can be logically termed a continent. The topographical and other climatic

extremes with other intermediate conditions as are found in the Province, are in no small measure, responsible for the diversity of crops that can be raised. Hardly a crop can be named that cannot be grown successfully in some parts of the Province or other. Such is Assam we happen to live in and yet there is appalling poverty through the length and breadth of the country. Watch the children in any village and you find the marks of poverty wrought on their innocent faces. Their sunken eyes, broken cheeks, pigeon-breasts and spindled legs will make you look towards heaven for help. These are the potential men of future, men who will have to brave the sun and the rain in the field so that you may get your food.

Sir, we have been expecting of Government very long to increase the experimental farms in the Province. But what do we find to-day?

If better quality of seeds, the seeds which can yield more, are not introduced, the Grow-More-Food Campaign will be a failure.

As far as the demonstrators are concerned, Sir, it is their duty to enlighten the people about the process of cultivation. If better seeds are used and people know how to plough the lands and at what distance and at what number the plants should be transplanted, I think the produce can be increased without making any extra expenditure, and sometimes the expenditure may be less. In most cases we find that the distance of plantations is rather bigger than it is necessary and in place of two or three, four plants, sometimes 15 to 20 plants are bundled together and then transplanted in the field. Then again, Sir, the fields are not properly levelled and in case of draught the crop of those portions of the plot which are a little high, suffer at the time of rains, and the water destroys the crop of those portions which are a little low. So far as the works of the Agricultural Inspectors and Ins-tructors are concerned, we do not find any improvement.

Sir, a cattle nutrition scheme was started three years ago, but what do we find? Though a qualified man was appointed he does not get proper equipment and as a result practically he cannot do anything. For food we also require fodder for our cattle. The amount of money allotted for training of students in agricultural colleges has, as we find, been decreased this year instead of being increased. Last year it was 6,200 rupees and this year it is Rs.4,440. Then, as regards agricultural training for unemployed youth, the amount of money for this purpose, instead of being increased, has also been decreased. The favourite special rural uplift scheme has already breathed its last. In the cattle farm also, Sir, we find that no improvement has been made. Nothing has been done so far as cultivation of cotton is concerned, and for the cultivation of lac no effort has yet been made. It is high time for Government to realise that they should try to get good quality of wheat seeds for our cultivators and should not waste any more time to impress upon the minds of the cultivators that this is an important foodstuff, as we now feel so much difficulty for the scarcity of flour and Atta. Sir, the Government should take measures to introduce Soya bean cultivation in our Province. This is a stock the usefulness and nutrition of which, I think, are hardly necessary for me to impress upon the hon. Members of this House. To be plain, Sir, this Department, as it stands to-day, is really a joke. I find in the Budget that one Assistant to the Director of Agriculture and another Deputy Director of Agriculture will be employed this year. I hope, Sir, that, after the Government have heard so much on the floor of this House, when they make these appointments, they will pay their proper attention, so that the right men are placed in right places.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.49,716 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40. Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

There are many Cut Motions in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, but when he is absent Mr. Palmer may move his Motion.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.12,627 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I wish to draw the attention of Government to a very important product which appears to have received insufficient attention. I speak of tobacco. Experiments have been carried out which proved that this product can be grown in this Province very easily and also that a very good quality of the Product can be produced. There is no question that the wealth of this Province would be increased if this industry could be started in a large way. I say in a large way because it appears to us that the Agriculture Department introduces experiments of various crops that can be grown, but after that nothing happens. We should like an assurance that Government will take this matter seriously and will produce some scheme whereby this product can be made to benefit the wealth of the Province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.12,627 under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Mr F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.12,627, under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to criticise the failure of Government to provide reliable Agricultural statistics.

The figures supplied by the Agriculture Department, Sir, have become notorious for their unreliability; they are not accurate. But at a time like this when reliability of statistics is of such vital importance to the conduct of business and to the marketing of the crops of this Province, we do trust that Government will take heed to see that greater attention is paid to accuracy. We feel no diffidence in saying that greater attention really must, in future, be paid to the accuracy of these statistics. I may exemplify my criticism by a few instances. For instance, recent evidence has lent ground for suspicion that District Officers have rather boasted their lent More-Food-Campaign efforts by putting in very optimistic preliminary forecasts of the probable outturn of their areas, and then have subsequently fore-cast from motives of a desire to keep more food within their areas, either natively, feeling a little nervous of the effects of their previous forecasts, or have whittled down their original forecast—I mean their previous optimistic forecasts. Such a state of affairs must, I think, be condemned, and I do trust, Government, in future, will take such care that this cannot be repeated. The state of affairs, I have just referred to, might be mitigated, to some extent, by more cutting experiments. There is room for doubt as to the proper control of these experiments, and we would like to see more

of them done properly controlled. If it would help the Government in any way, I feel quite sure that the Tea Industry will be perfectly willing to conduct cutting experiments properly controlled within its own areas, and their results for the purpose of assisting Divisional or District Officers might be furnished to indicate some reliable statistics to them.

My next point, Sir, is that usually the final forecast is provided very late. For example, the final forecast of this year was not published until the 14th of March. That date is far too late to assist anybody in basing a buying policy, and we do trust, in future Government will help us by publishing, if possible, the final forecast much earlier.

My next point is that such wide variations exist between the preliminary forecast and the final forecast as to make it impossible to believe the preliminary, or on the other hand impossible to believe the final. We only have to refer to the final forecast, and compare that with the first forecast, of the rice or paddy outturn for Sylhet this year. The tremendous discrepancies which exist do trust, Government will in future, see that these very serious discrepancies are properly attended to, and that, in fact, it never occurs again.

Then, Sir, the remarks column of this forecast. We see such stereotyped and humdrum remarks as "weather unfavourable for planting" or something of the kind, and that goes on time after time. These remarks, for the most part, bear no relationship whatsoever to the weather reports that appear in the Gazette. We feel, the remarks and the weather reports should bear some resemblance to each other.

That is all I have to say, and I hope my remarks will be taken more in a spirit of helpful criticism than that of destructive criticism.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.12,627 under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.50,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(d)—Purchase of rice irrigation pumps in connection with grow-more-food, at page 143 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Make it Rs.100.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Very well, Sir, I make it Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by moving this Cut Motion, I want to urge upon the Government the necessity of more vigorous work with regard to Grow-More-Food Scheme. After the scheme was introduced in this Province, the officers were making schemes for development of particular areas, but so far as I know, all the areas could not be touched. First of all the Department could not make any survey of the whole Province about the lands that may be brought under cultivation, and therefore, some localities were benefited by the scheme and some were neglected. I would ask Government to look into these facts and see their way to spend money everywhere (*hear, hear*) to see where the scheme can work and where the cultivators can expand their cultivation.

With regard to irrigation pumps I have got to say a few words. For some time past, by these irrigation pumps, cultivators were growing *Boro* crop in *Aman* lands. But the rules of Government are so strict and the expenditure that is required to be made by the cultivators is so prohibitive that even where these are essentially necessary the cultivators refrain from procuring these. I bring one fact to the notice of the House that in 1941 some people of Salla thana applied for two pumps to the Agriculture Department. The conditions imposed by the Department were so rigid that the poor people could not fulfil the conditions and they went without expansion of their cultivation. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will look into this question and see his way that the rules are framed in such a manner as the cultivators may benefit by them.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I would just like to know what were the conditions that proved so difficult for the cultivators?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: The conditions were: They were to pay Rs.125 in advance, and over and above they were to pay Re.1-8-0 or so as expense per "kear" to Government. Pumps were to be taken from Fenchuganj at their own expense. That is why the cultivators could not fulfil the terms, and could not expand their cultivation.

As for cinchona cultivation, I want to put forward a suggestion. We have been hearing about the cinchona cultivation and the manufacture of quinine but during the course of six years of this reformed Administration, we could do very little. So, I request Government to procure the seeds of cinchona and distribute them to the cultivators in areas which may be found suitable for this cultivation and the products they may be pleased to purchase and manufacture quinine therefrom.

Mr. Mookerjee has spoken about the Demonstrators and I do not like to repeat the same. I find from the Budget under discussion that a post of Agricultural Chemist has been created in Class II of the Gazetted Rank and that the initial pay of the same post was fixed as to fill up the post of the Chemical Assistant by promotion. I have no objection to approve of this post but I feel strongly that this important post should be filled in by an advertisement so as to have the best man available for the post. I find from the recent publications in the Newspapers that the Chemical Assistant is a relative of some of the high officials. I do not grudge it but he is an ordinary B. Sc. while the previous incumbent was a D. Sc. I cannot understand how the present incumbent would be given even the officiating chance. However, I do not want to dilate upon the matter any more. What I do hope is that at the time of filling up vacancies in the Agriculture Department with regard to such posts, Government should consider the whole situation threadbare and will only fill up these vacancies with most competent and qualified men. With these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.50,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—40—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(d)—Purchase of rice irrigation pumps in connection with grow-more-food, at page 143 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.14,40,000 under Grant No. 20. Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 139 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই চলতে মোৰ Cut Motion সম্বন্ধে কেই আমাৰমান কব খোজোঁ। বৰ্তমান কৃষি বিভাগে যি ধৰণে যি সময়ত seeds বিলায় সি একেবাৰে হতাশজনক। আসাম উপত্যকাত মাহ, গৰিয়হ আৰু বান প্ৰধান কৃষিজাত উৎপন্ন বস্তু। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও সম্প্ৰতি কুহিয়াৰ আৰু আলুখেতিত খেতিয়ক সকলে বিশেষকৰূপে মন দিয়া দেখা গৈছে।

কৃষিবিভাগে প্ৰায়েই অসময়ত seeds বিলায় আৰু কেতিয়াবা গেলা-পচা seeds বাইজক বিলোৱা দেখা গৈছে। ইয়াৰ উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কব খোজোঁ যে যোৱাবাৰ মাহৰ seeds অভাৱত আৰু সময়মতে কৃষি বিভাগৰ seeds নোপোৱাত বহুত খেতিয়কে মাহৰ খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। মাহৰ খেতি কৰাৰ দিন হৈছে ভাদ মাহৰ শেষ সপ্তাহৰ পৰা আহিনৰ ১২/১৩ তাৰিখলৈকে। খেতিয়কে ইয়াৰ ভিতৰতে মাহৰ খেতি নকৰিলে কোনো প্ৰকাৰেই স্ববিধা নহয়। কিন্তু আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগে আহিন মাহৰ ১০/১১ তাৰিখ বা তাৰ পিচতহে মাহৰ seeds বিলোৱা আৰম্ভ কৰে। এই কাৰনে মই কব খোজোঁ যে মাহৰ seeds অন্ততঃ ভাদ মাহৰ আগ ভাগতে বাইজক বিলাব লাগে।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ আহধান বোৱাৰ বতৰ হৈছে মাহ মাহৰ শেষ সপ্তাহৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি ফাগুণৰ গোটেই মাহ আৰু চ'ত মাহৰ প্ৰথম সপ্তাহ। বিশেষকৈ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু সোৱন-শিৱী নৈৰ পাৰৰ মাটিবোৰত সেই কেইমাহৰ ভিতৰত কৰা হয়। কিন্তু আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগে আহধানৰ seeds বাইজক বিলাবৰ কাৰণে ফাগুণ মাহতহে বিচাৰ কৰিছে। গোটেই ফাগুণ মাহটো আহধান বোৱাৰ সময় কিন্তু সেই সময়ত কৃষি বিভাগে seeds ৰ কাৰণে টোপনিৰ পৰা মাত্ৰ সাৰ পোৱাহে দেখা যায়।

কৃষি বিভাগে এইটো মনত ৰখা উচিত যে আহধান বাৰিষা বতৰত সংগ্ৰহ কৰা হয়। গতিকে খুব সাৱধানে seeds ৰাখিব লাগিব। যদি গেলাই-পচাই কিছুমান seeds ৰাখি বাইজক বিলায় দিয়ে, তেন্তে seeds নগজিব আৰু তাৰ দ্বাৰা বাইজৰ অনিষ্ট কৰা হব। ইয়াৰ ফলত কৃষি বিভাগৰ ওপৰত বাইজৰ আস্থা নোহোৱা হব।

কৃষি বিভাগে যোৱাবাৰ শক্তি অনুসৰি আসাম উপত্যকাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক আলুৰ seeds বিলাইছিল। কিন্তু দেখা গল যে ২/৩ ভাগ seeds নগজাত খেতিয়ক সকলৰ নৈথৈ অনিষ্ট হল। এনে ধৰণৰ seeds যদি কৃষি বিভাগে বিলায় তেন্তে খেতিয়ক সকলে কেনেকৈ সেই বিভাগৰ ওপৰত আস্থা ৰাখিব? আশা কৰোঁ কৃষি বিভাগে সময়মতে ভাল seeds গোটাই ৰাখি বাইজক জনাই দিব যাতে seeds ৰ কাৰনে বাইজৰ কোনো অস্ববিধা নহয় আৰু seeds অভাৱত বা অসময়ত seeds বিলোৱাৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ মাটি পৰি নাথাকে।

[Srijut Karka Dalay Miri, M.L.A., while moving the Cut Motion spoke in Assamese and pointed out the difficulties the cultivators had to face for late distribution of seeds by the Agriculture Department.]

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.14,40,000 under Grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 139 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100. *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100”.

Now discussions on these Motions will proceed; and I may tell the hon. Members that the discussion on these Motions will continue up to 12-15 A. M. The time gained from question hour will be distributed as follows:—15 minutes to Grant No.20, 15 minutes to Grant No. 23 and 15 minutes to the last group of Grants *i. e.*, 24, 31 and 34.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the statistical side of the Department is concerned, I hope it has evoked sufficient condemnation from Mr. Blennerhassett and so I will not like to deal with that aspect of the matter. I submit, Sir, that heavy responsibilities lie on the shoulder of the Minister for Agriculture. On him rests the responsibility of feeding the Province, and now that he is going to get a substantial grant from the Central Government, I appeal to him to see that something more useful is done by the Agriculture Department. Sir, in this connection I would like to touch on some points. Various suggestions have been made as to how we can improve our agriculture just at the present moment. One of the suggestions was to bring in more lands under cultivation, but I don't think, Sir, that suggestion will be very much practical, because we find that a huge number of population are leaving their agricultural field and going to take up military contract works by which they can earn more. Sir, this has handicapped agriculture greatly and in view of this, I don't see there is any use trying to bring in more lands under cultivation. We should rather try to intensify whatever cultivation there is already instead of bringing in more lands under cultivation and with that end in view we should try to supply our cultivators with good qualities of seeds, not the seeds which the Department is just now supplying by purchasing from the market. The Hon'ble Minister himself admitted yesterday that 20 per cent. of the seeds might be useless and the actual experience of the cultivators is that even more than that is absolutely useless. So, instead of buying seeds in the open market Government should try to supply good quality seeds from their own farms at Titaber, Jorhat and other places. So far as my information goes, the tea gardens utilised good quality seeds from Government and I think they can now help Government by giving some of their own stock of good quality seeds. (Mr. A. Whittaker :—I quite agree, Sir.). I think the Government might approach the tea gardens to help them with good quality seeds.

Then, Sir, there is the difficulty about manures ; there has practically been no manuring of the fields for years together. The Central Food Advisory Council suggested application of two manures, *viz.*, the oil-cake and compost. The tea gardens are consuming the whole of the oil-cake manure available in the Province. I would like to appeal to them to forego this manuring for their gardens for a year or two, for utilising the same in the paddy fields, as paddy is more important than tea just at the present time. I hope they will agree to this.

As regards compost, so far as I could gather from the Government of India Information series, I think, it is quite possible to produce it in our Province. The water hyacinth and the jungle reeds of Assam will be of great help in this respect ; the chemical process is also very simple. The Department should try this method of converting water-hyacinth and jungle reeds into compost.

Then, Sir, there is the great difficulty about cattle. Very unfortunately the Military have been taking away cattle in large numbers for their consumption and this has been a great handicap so far as our cattle power is concerned. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh advised the Central Food Advisory Council to request the Military authorities not to take cows and bullocks below the age of 10 years, neither the cows which give milk or are carrying. I think, Sir, that the Provincial Government might as well request the Military authorities, in this Province, to see that their contractors do not supply them with bullocks and cows that might be useful for cultivation and milk production. There is another

difficulty about cattle, Sir, and that is the very great scarcity of fodder. In our district, and I understand in Assam Valley also, people have sold away their entire stock of fodder at fancy prices, five or six rupees a maund, to the Military. The people who did not think of the future, now find themselves in great difficulties. Whatever they might have done in the past, I think, Government should come to their help now. I think the Department should introduce Napier grass and other fodder in order to save our cattle from total destruction.

Then, Sir, so far as the Surma Valley is concerned, practically for the last twenty years, we are getting no *Amon* crop because of frequent floods visiting our valley. Huge areas are being flooded away year after year and we get a very small portion of what we used to get previously. The only remedy for this danger is intensification of *boro* cultivation and that requires irrigation. Now that the Government is going to get some funds from the Government of India I would request them to lay emphasis on this aspect of the things and try to bring in more areas under *boro* cultivation. The present season is over now, but Government should be doing something from now for the next year. Projects may be taken up for converting fisheries into *boro* areas without causing much detriment to fish. There was some dispute over fishery lands in the Dhakadakshin area in the district of Sylhet. It was found that if the proprietors of fisheries could be persuaded we could get huge areas under *boro* cultivation without much labour and expenditure of money. If necessary, I think, Government should be ready to come to the help of the cultivators by means of legislation for this purpose, as fish is certainly not as urgent as paddy is just now.

With these few remarks, I would again request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to try to activate his Department a little more usefully.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse all the suggestions given by the previous speakers, and particularly the very important points brought forward by the hon. speaker who has just spoken. Fodder and pasture are the two very serious problems facing our cultivators to-day. As has been pointed out by the previous speaker, due to war emergency fodder has been indented from all parts of the country; even from the month of *Agrahayan*: fodder and straw were taken away at fancy prices. Our cultivators did not know whether they should preserve their fodder for cattle or dispose it of at cash price.

I would now like to make a few general observations with regard to this Department. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to get rid of the top heavy administration in this Department.....

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: What is meant by the phrase "top-heavy administration"?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am just going to show that. Under the new schemes in this Department, I find in the Budget that permanent provisions are going to be made for certain high salaried posts, *viz.*, provisions for the appointment of a Chemist, a third Deputy Director and so on. I do not understand what is the necessity of making permanent provision for a third Deputy Director. Is it expected that these high-salaried officers would go to our cultivators and make propaganda to them? I think, provision for smaller posts is more necessary, so that these officers may mix with our people and give them proper guidance. It is lamentable that our cultivators are suffering a lot for want of proper advice, and provision should have been made for more field assistants; the number at present is not sufficient to cope with the demand.

Even to-day I notice that one hon. Member put several questions that the Field Assistants and Inspectors are not found to give proper guidance to the people.

With regard to the Grow More Food Campaign, Sir, I have got one suggestion to make. If Government is very much earnest to see the result of this Campaign, I do advise them that they should appoint a special officer or a special committee for the purpose of making a thorough enquiry throughout the whole Province to see where suitable lands are available. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members who have been outspoken in their criticism which exhibits their anxiety for overhauling the various activities of the Agriculture Department. I can however say this much, Sir, that the policy adopted by us is a well-thought-out one, well-thought-out in the sense that it is not merely a theoretical policy but is based upon the possibility of its application to varied economic problems that face us. I shall try to meet, Sir, the various points that have been raised in this debate.

The "Grow More Food Campaign" has received the pointed attention of the hon. Members and at the outset I request them to bear in mind that this Campaign has been started in an abnormal situation and very hurriedly and certain difficulties and set-backs are inevitable. Transport difficulties were mainly responsible for untimely distribution of seeds. For example, seeds purchased in the North Bank for Goalpara could not be booked to Gauhati and had to be fetched by country-boats and bullock-carts. Again while cultivators at Fakirganj and Ghagmari were anxious to get *Ahu* and *Amon* seeds, several maunds of such seeds, already purchased, were lying unbooked at Pathsala Station. In several areas we tried to purchase seeds locally, but they were not always available.

With regard to the question of manure, Sir, chemical manures are scarcely available now-a-days and the price of oil-cakes is exorbitant. Tea gardens are experiencing lot of difficulties in procuring oil-cakes and other chemical manures. But in spite of these difficulties the Campaign is being pushed with great vigour and I am glad to mention here that we have not lagged behind other provinces in our drive. Money has been provided for seed and manure distribution schemes and I assure the Hon'ble House that all efforts will be made to procure the best possible seeds and distribute them in time. We already have a scheme for the improved production of seeds and we propose to put it into action this year. The scarcity of chemical manures and oil-cakes will be counter-balanced by the greater attention that cultivators will be encouraged to pay to the preservation of cow dung and preparation of compost and water-hya-cinth ash. A handsome sum has also been provided for procuring bone-meal.

With regard to the complaint of my hon. Friend Mr. Karka Dalay Miri I have to inform him that we distributed nearly 5,000 maunds of *Ahu* seeds in that locality in this month and for Dhubri South Bank we will make special arrangements to send *Ahu* seeds at an early date.

With regard to the other point regarding irrigation, Sir, this is receiving our special attention. Rice irrigation pumps are not available even if we leave aside the problem of getting oil-fuel to run them. Hence we are devoting our entire efforts for the Bund and Dong irrigation projects. We have about sixty irrigation projects already in hand, mostly in the Sylhet district. A sum of Rs. 3½ lakhs out of the total allotment for the Campaign will be devoted to the irrigation project and this will not only

bring about increased production to meet the present emergency but will also have a lasting beneficial effect.

With regard to the matter raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Dev regarding working bullocks and milch cows, this is fully appreciated by this Government and negotiations will be carried on with the Military authorities to prevent their slaughter.

Then regarding fodder crop, it is also realised that there is fodder scarcity due to requisition by the Military of paddy-straw or what is commonly known in Assamese as *Nora*. We shall try to meet this emergency by inducing the cultivators to grow other fodder crops such as Napier grass and Guinea grass.

My hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman raised the question of pasture land. There is adequate number of such grounds, so much so that some are of opinion that the existence of too many pasture lands is responsible for the disinclination on the part of the cultivators to grow fodder crops.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Where ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: In the Assam Valley. Increase in the area of such lands will be inopportune at the present moment when lands are needed for cultivation under the "Grow More Food Campaign". However, the Pasture Bill which has been introduced is being circulated for eliciting public opinion and we shall formulate our policy when the same is received.

For all these works, the staff, specially the subordinate staff, is going to be greatly strengthened. Apart from several new Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors we are going to have as many as 150 Kamdars.

Sir, on the whole I may say that Government will spare no pains to take full advantage of the financial help which is being offered by the Central Government in order to increase the production of food-stuffs. My Hon'ble Colleague, the Finance Minister, explained the scope of the Campaign in his Budget Speech and I need not repeat it. It is too early to judge the results of the Campaign, but the ground has been well-prepared and I am confident of very fruitful results.

Mr. Mookerjee referred to the question of Agricultural education. Government is fully alive to its importance. We are giving agricultural training to unemployed educated youths annually at the Sylhet and Jorhat training classes. Provision of stipend is there for Assam students to study agriculture outside the Province. This year we have provided for only two stipends for training at the Agricultural College because we have at present in this Province six unemployed qualified candidates. We will however try to provide more money next year.

Several projects for an Agricultural School had to be dropped in the past owing to financial stringency. The present time, when cost of materials and implements will be tremendous, if they are available at all, is not suitable to start such a school. We shall however consider the case of establishing it as soon as circumstances permit.

With regard to tobacco cultivation, Sir, the Agriculture Department has been for many years distributing small quantities of Rangpur and other types of tobacco seeds amongst hill cultivators with the object of introducing this crop. The largest tobacco growing centre in Assam is the area of Dhubri where conditions are similar to those of the well-known tobacco tracts of Coochbehar and Rangpur. The establishment of a small Tobacco Research Station together with flue curing apparatus for that area is under consideration.

Now coming to the question of cotton cultivation, Sir, the Agriculture Department made trials for several years with long staple variety in North Cachar Hills and Khasi Hills with the object of ascertaining whether this type of cotton could be successfully grown. The results in all cases were a complete failure.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Whether the experiment was made only on the paper or in the field, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA : The results in all cases were complete failure and as a result it has been decided to confine our attention to the improvement of indigenous cotton varieties. The position with regard to short staple cotton is that during the current year the Economic Botanist is conducting a survey of the local types and collecting samples of them which may be seen in the Botanical Section of the Jorhat Laboratory. Amongst them some are most promising types, especially from the Garo Hills. The next step will be to exploit these selected types to produce pure improved seed. For this purpose action is already under way in conjunction with the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the establishment of a small cotton research station in the Garo Hills. The Economic Botanist, Assam, is a member of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and attended a meeting in Bombay last month. He was given every hope that the Committee would provide funds for a great part, if not for the whole, of the required expenditure. It is understood that a research station which has been operating under the aegis of the Indian Central Cotton Committee for some years in the Chittagong Hills Tracts with the same object, *i.e.*, research on indigenous short staple types, is shortly closing down and the Committee are therefore more inclined to resume this work in Assam. Experiments with long staple cotton are now confined to the plains of Assam and 40 or 50 varieties are under study at Jorhat.

Now, with regard to lac cultivation, Sir.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Was there any mention about lac cultivation ?

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : I have mentioned lac cultivation, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA : Sir, with regard to lac cultivation, Government have not failed to explore the potentialities of its cultivation in the Province. A marketing survey of lac has been prepared and sent to the Government of India in January 1939.

The scheme for lac demonstration and improvement prepared under the aegis of the Lac Research Institute, Namkum, Ranchi, was sanctioned by the Government in 1942-43 but it had to be postponed due to the necessity for war time economy. We hope to revive it as soon as circumstances permit. The scheme provides for two lac supervisors and eight lac demonstrators. We have however one lac demonstrator and an hon. Member of this House, Mr. Jobang D. Marak, has been appointed a member of the Indian Lac Cess Committee to represent Assam.

A proposal for licensing traders in lac is under consideration with the object of obtaining better prices for the producers.

Mr. Blennerhassett has referred to the unreliable statistics of this Department. Sir, the question of reliable statistics has drawn the pointed attention of the hon. Members. It should however be borne in mind that the system of compilation of agricultural statistics is laid down by the Government of India to which all provinces and states conform. As regards the method of collecting the statistics, I shall read out the relevant paragraph from the Government of India publication named "Estimates of Area and Yield of Principal Crops in India". It is said here, Sir.

"The estimates for Assam relate to all the districts in which the respective crops reported on are grown to any extent. For all districts the information is received from District Officers. The areas of crops except cotton and tea are collected by the Land Records staff for the temporarily-settled plains districts and the plains portion of Garo Hills and those for the Hills are based on estimates revised quinquennially by the District Officers except in the case of forecast crops for which estimates have to be made annually. In the permanently-settled tracts of Sylhet and Goalpara the areas of jute are reported by the village choukidari panchayats. For other crops except cotton and tea the areas are estimated in Sylhet by the Deputy Commissioner on the basis of the population figures and the surveyed areas of the temporarily-settled parts of the districts....."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. Is that the direction from the Government of India or is it not how it is done? These are two different things, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: We are following the instructions of the Government of India, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: "In Goalpara they are obtained from the Zeminders. Tea statistics in all districts are supplied by the tea garden managers and proprietors. The areas of cotton are obtained in Cachar from patwaris for the plains subdivisions and for the North Cachar Hills estimate is made by the Subdivisional Officer; in Sylhet information is obtained from the Collector of Dao tax, in the Garo Hills from hill mauzadars, in Nowgong from the Supervisor Kanungo of hills sub-circle, in Sibsagar and Goalpara from Mandals or other village officers, in Khasi and Jaintia Hills from dolois and sirdars, and in the Naga and Lushai Hills from intelligent chiefs. The figures are checked only in the temporarily-settled tracts by the circle Sub-deputy Collectors; in the permanently-settled districts of Sylhet and Goalpara there is no real check at all. The estimates of outturn are based on the normal yield obtained from the results of crop-cutting experiments."

It is admitted by the Government of India and by all the provincial Governments that the statistics hitherto collected are inadequate and the present emergency has focussed attention on the question. Action by the Government of India is expected. It must be recognised that extension and elaboration of these enormous masses of figures will be a very expensive affair. Even under the present sketchy system, not less than 200 officers are concerned in the preparation of one single crop forecast. We shall however make all possible efforts to see if an improved method may be adopted towards accuracy of these figures.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: What about the revision of rules with regard to supply of irrigation pumps, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: I have replied to that, Sir, to the effect that irrigation pumps are not available at the moment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Mookerjee press his Motion?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yrs, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.49,716 under Grant No 20, Major head 40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Mr. Palmer press his Motion?

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.12,627 under grant No.20, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will Mr. Blennerhassett press his Motion?

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.12,627 under Grant No.20, Major head—40 —Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 140 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.14,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1"

The Assembly divided.

AYES—16.

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|---|--|
| 1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 9. Mr. N. Dawson. |
| 2. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 10. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis. |
| 3. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 11. Mr. C. W. Morley. |
| 4. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. | 12. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 5. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. | 13. Mr. P. Trinkle. |
| 6. Srijut Purandar Sarma. | 14. Mr. A. Whittaker. |
| 7. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. | 15. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| 8. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. | 16. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |
| NOES—26. | |
| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 12. Rai Sahib Doulat Chandra Gohain. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. | 13. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali. | 14. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 15. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 16. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 17. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 18. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 19. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. | 20. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. |
| 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. | 21. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. |
| 11. Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain. | 22. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| | 23. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| | 24. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| | 25. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| | 26. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri. |

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri and Srijut Karka Daloi Miri may withdraw their Motions with the leave of the House. I hope the hon. Movers have got the leave of the House to withdraw their Motions.

The Motions were by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,40,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘40.—Agriculture’”.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 23

43.—INDUSTRIES

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The extra 15 minutes I granted for this Demand has been lost by the division. Now this Demand will be discussed upto 1 p.m. There are only 8 Cut Motions and we may ask Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri to move his Motion first and then Babu Nirendra Nath Dev to move his Motion.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,41,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “43.—Industries”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,41,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘43.—Industries’”.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,41,500, under Grant No.23, Major head—43.—Industries, at page 158 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,41,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, by this Motion I propose to urge upon Government for the expansion of the Department of Industries. After the out-break of the war its scope in Assam has been widened. But I do not think the Department has taken the advantage of the situation created by the war. There are trained men in this Department who are to go to various localities to give demonstrations, but they have not been given sufficient equipment for such demonstrations. Government have kept them in such a condition that they cannot undertake any tour in order to give essential demonstrations and that is owing to the fact that the rate of their travelling allowance is very low, and for these reasons they cannot be expected of achieving good results. If the Department take up the work in right earnest, I think, there would be some improvement. For the expansion of this Department Government should provide more money to appoint more officers so that every cultivator can come into touch with this Department and he can engage himself in weaving as well. Sir, there are hat manufacturing factories at different centres in the Province. There is a factory at Sylhet started by one Mr. M. Ahmed, M.A., LL.B., and, as I hear from Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman, this is working well. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Civil Defence paid a visit to that factory, but up till now for

want of encouragement it could not widen its scope very much. So I urge upon Government to see their way to widen the scope of Industries Department, as this is the only Department that can bring the cultivators money if they engage themselves in weaving or any other enterprise when they are free from agricultural labour.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.2,41,500, under Grant No.23, Major head—43.—Industries, at page 158 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,41,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.32,034, under Grant No. 23, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Education—(a)—Weaving Institutes (total), at page 160 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,41,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

It is very unfortunate, Sir, that the Industries Department is working practically without any plan even in these hard times. Sir, the Military authorities are getting some of their supplies manufactured through the Department of Industries of this Province. It is all very good, but the Industries Department should know that it is the civilian population of this Province who are paying for their existence and it is their primary duty to look after the needs and requirements of the people of this Province.

We have been hearing for a very long time about standard cloth. Could not the Industries Department, instead of buying standard cloth try to arrange yarn from some of the mills and distribute the same amongst weavers so that they can manufacture cloth locally? I am sure that if the Department could shirk all its lethargy it could do something for the weavers of the Province; and there is a huge possibility not only for weaving but also for spinning. It is high time now, Sir, that the Government should launch a vigorous propaganda for reviving spinning wheels. I think the Industries Department in collaboration with Agricultural Department can get some grant from the Central Cotton Committee for cotton cultivation in this Province and our local cotton can be spun in our own spinning wheels. It is no extravagant hope to expect our own cloth made on our own looms from our own cotton spun in our own spinning wheels. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will kindly try to spare a little more attention so that we may get our own cloth in our own Province from our own cotton, our own wheels, and our own looms.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.32,034, under Grant No.23, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Education—(a)—Weaving Institutes (total), at page 160 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,41,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

The discussion under the Motion which stands in the name of Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Choudhury under Grant No.23 may proceed now, and then the Hon'ble Minister will be called upon to give his reply.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. From the Budget we find that instead of getting any sort of encouragement this Department is being regularly neglected. There are 5 or 6 heads under this Department under which the money is spent. First comes the industrial development. What do we find there? Money budgeted last year was Rs.40,400 for Non-Excluded areas and Rs.1,400

for Excluded areas. What do we find this year ? From Rs.40,400 in the Non-Excluded areas, it has come down to Rs.33,842. For the other head, *viz.*, industrial education also, we find last year for the Non-Excluded areas the money provided was Rs.1,60,157 and for the Excluded areas Rs.1,600. The provision for this year for Non-Excluded areas is Rs.1,53,739 and for the Excluded areas Rs.1,135. Sir, these are the two major heads and what do we find here ? We find that instead of providing more money, the Government have allotted less money for these two heads.

Now, I come to fisheries. This is another branch of this Department. On many occasions, many hon. Members impressed upon the mind of the Government that they should pay special attention to this. If I remember aright, even when our present Hon'ble Premier was the Leader of the Opposition he also put this matter with a great deal of force to the then Hon'ble Minister. Sir, after two subsequent years what do we find ? Last year there was a provision of Rs.2,400 ; this year Rs.2,767 has been provided. This is the provision which we find in the whole of Budget for this Department. In the total last year the original provision was Rs.2,57,400 for Non-Excluded areas and Rs.2,500 for Excluded areas. But what do we find in the revised estimate ? I need not mention that. This Department was vigorously criticised ; there was a request that Government should take care to spend money which was provided in the Budget. But what do we find ? We find that Rs.2,59,900 was provided, out of which Rs.2,57,057 was spent. The allotment this year is Rs.2,41,000. This is how the Department is being treated by Government. Sir, there is raw material to begin with in our Province which requires mere initiative and some imagination. Our Government is lacking in this.

Sir, so far as the necessity of weaving is concerned, my hon. Friend Mr. Deb has expressed it very nicely. I think, it will be better and prudent on the part of the Government to have a reorganisation of the spinning and weaving section, and we got assurance also to this effect that they would do this. What do we find ? Nothing has been done in that direction. Small cottage industries are practically dying. During this critical period, when everybody is feeling the pinch due to scarcity of paper it was impressed upon the Government last time that hand-made paper industry should be encouraged by Government. But what has been done ? Nothing is found in this direction.

Sir, we heard that there were sufficient materials for match sticks and match boxes in our Province. All of us know what the present price of match boxes is. So with a little imagination and push Government can do much for the inhabitants of this Province.

So far as the industrial loans are concerned, I do not find anything provided in the Budget. Though in the Budget Memorandum I find that an amount of Rs.6,000 has been provided, yet after going through the Budget proper I do not find any amount against the item "Industrial loan."

Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Deb said that our Government is supplying some products to the Military. But so far as I know, our Government is supplying sola hats to the Military. Of course, I speak subject to correction. But instead of supplying sola hats, it would have been better on the part of the Government if they could provide cloths for the inhabitants of their own Province. Mere agricultural products will hardly be of any use unless the Industries Department co-operates. Times without number we have cried and cried in vain. The present time is the most suitable time for starting all these, and, hope Government will give up their slumber and will come out in right earnest to try to do justice to the people whose representatives they are.

With these words, I support the Motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government has been charged with lack of initiative and lack of intelligence.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not with lack of intelligence.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Very well, Sir, with lack of initiative. Activities of our Department of Industry, for the matter of that, would always mean cottage industry. It has been said that war has come to the advantage to make Indian industries profitable now; but I should say, that it is also a source of disadvantage, because in many matters, we find that for want of raw materials we have been much handicapped in many industries such as soap-making. Now-a-days it has become rather expensive and sometimes impossible to carry on for want of raw materials. Then, again, the willingness on the part of the people to take to new industries is becoming extinct day by day. The reason is: war has brought immense possibilities of earning money otherwise than by taking to cottage industries. People are making pots and pots of money out of the contract works.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is only as regards a very selected fortunate few, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: We are talking of the mass people rather than the fortunate few. The mass people, as a matter of fact, have been infected with the idea of making money—every bit of energy, every bit of intelligence is being used for earning money in whatever form or shape it may be, such as by making roads, buildings for the Military and by opening shops for the supply of war materials, etc. So, Sir, now there are very few people to take resort to cottage industries as has been mentioned by my hon. Friend. So, I hope, my hon. Friend over there would realise that war is also a source of great disadvantage.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must thank the hon. Members who have spoken on the Cut Motions for their very constructive criticisms. I was really surprised to find while listening to the Budget speeches that my Department remained untouched except of course that Mr. Mookerjee touched my Department by the way. Before I reply to the points raised by the hon. Members I want to place before the House the activities of the Industry Department and its general policy. At the first place, it has to provide facilities for training in different kinds of industries to the people of this Province and at the second place, it has to see that these people of the Province take to those industries on which they are trained. The activity of this Industry Department is mainly directed towards cottage industries. As we know, the major industries are the tea industry and the mineral oil in this Province and those on which we have to concentrate our activities are only the cottage industries. Among the various cottage industries which we have taken up, weaving and sericulture are considerably of greater importance to the Province and besides these, the other activities of the Department are directed towards soap-making, carpentry, electro-plating, bell metal, cane and rattan works, lacquer works, bakery and button making, etc. For the last mentioned four industries, we have given stipends to the students of the Province to go outside the Province to take up training. We have also provided facilities by holding peripatetic classes for different industries, which move about holding classes at suitable centres in the Province. Besides these, we have also got our

Institutes in both the valleys to impart training in different industries to the students who are admitted there.

Now coming to the matter of development of industries in the Province, I may mention to the House that we have made provisions in the shape of loan to be granted to the needy individual industrial concerns and also this year, we have provided Rs.6,000 in our Budget to grant subsidies to the needy and deserving individual concerns which take up these industries in right earnest. There was a mistake in the Budget that the amount of Rs.6,000 was shown against contribution towards the Government Emporium. This was subsequently corrected by a correction slip. I think, I should also mention that the provision for loan has been shown in the last page of the Budget. Formerly it was Rs. 20,000 but this year it has been allotted Rs. 15,000 only. These loans are being issued from year to year but we are sorry to inform the House that most of the industrialists who took loans to start industries, misspent the money. Many of them who gave a little start, failed in their activity because of the dearth of materials now-a-days.

The next point is that my hon. Friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has urged upon the Government to expand the activities of the Department. In reply I should say that we have been always trying to expand the activities of this Department. So far as the Sericulture Department is concerned, I should mention here that this Province has got the great reputation of producing special silk the like of which is probably produced no where. The staff of that Sericulture Department has been increased since 1937 by 200 per cent. up-to-now and also in the Weaving Department, we have been increasing the staff from time to time according to the requirements. There is still in our contemplation to increase the staff further in the Marketing Section. It has been also said that the war has created some opportunities which should be availed of for the development of the industries in the Province. In this connection it has been well said by my hon. Friend Mr. Amjad Ali that though the war situation has created some opportunities for the development of industries, yet it has brought about some disadvantages also. I have already said, Sir, that there is no major industry in Assam except tea industry and mineral oil. As we have got no iron, steel, leather, paper, chemical, cotton and other major industries in the Province, we could not take advantage of the situation created by the war. At the same time for development of the cottage industries there some difficulties have been experienced so far as the supply of materials and transport facilities are concerned. There has been great shortage of yarn and other materials and even the silk throwing plant which could be obtained after such a long time could not be installed up till now because of want of electrical fittings. It is lying useless in the Gauhati Weaving School.

Then Sir, as regards yarn my hon. Friend Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb has said that instead of waiting to have standard cloth from outside the Province, we could have manufactured such sort of cloth in our Province we could arrange for yarn. The matter to supply of yarn Sir, I may tell the hon. Members, has already been taken up by the Central Government and it is under their consideration now. There was a proposal to control the distribution of yarn to different Provinces and we gave our consent to the proposal of the Government of India but nothing has been done finally. As soon as that scheme is given effect to, *i.e.*, regarding the control of distribution of yarn to the different provinces by arranging with the mills, we shall be able to do a good deal in that direction. At present our Marketing Section is not sitting idle—they are in the meantime trying to make arrangement for the supply of yarn from the mills and so far as I understand, that yarn difficulty has to a certain extent been solved as they are now getting supply of yarn though not according to our full requirements.

Then, as regards sola hat manufacture, much has been said by my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee. He says that why should we go to supply sola hats to the Military and why should we not manufacture hats for our civil population instead?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not hats but cloth.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Then I am sorry, I could not follow the hon. Member.

As regards sola hat manufacture for Military, I like to mention here that we are getting the component parts from the Central Supply Department at a much cheaper rate than is prevailing in the market. The khaki cloth which we are getting at the rate of 9 annas six pies or so per yard, from them is being sold in the market at about Re.1-8. So, I don't think we can now take up the question of supply of hats to the civil population as the cost of materials in the market has gone up very high. We have taken up this industry not merely to supply the Central Government just to meet their present requirements, but we want also to continue this new industry even after the war is over. My hon. Friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has said that one educated young man, Mr. Mainuddin Ahmed Chaudhury, a pleader of Sylhet, has taken up the manufacture of hats at Sylhet. I know him personally to be an enterprising youngman, there are others also who have taken up this industry in Surma Valley. We shall certainly consider whether any aid can be given to them, when they come forward.

Sir, I am nearing the time limit and I think I have touched almost all the points raised by the hon. Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do the hon. Members want to press their Motions?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: I also desire the leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee refusing to grant leave, the motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.32,034, under Grant No.23, Major head—43.—Industries, Minor head—B.—Industrial Education—(a)—Weaving Institutes (total), at page 160 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,41,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,41,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '43.—Industries'."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

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

After lunch.

GRANT No.12.

28.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,88,400 be granted to defray the charges which

will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,88,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

There are Cut Motions. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy may move any of his Motions. Which one will he move?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No.1.*

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It appears this Motion is practically out of order. The hon. Member wants to censure the Government but he has put down the figures by which he wants to reduce the amount very very substantially. It appears to be an economic cut rather than a censure Motion.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Then let me move No.2.†

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is also a substantial amount. Very well, if the hon. Member wants to reduce it to Rs.100 then I can allow him to move the Motion.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I give precedence to Mr. Mookerjee.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.11,688 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.5,88,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to raise a discussion over the treatment of political prisoners in jails and their wrong classification and accommodation.

It is well-known that at present the accommodation in jails has become very meagre because a very large number of Congressmen have been put inside the jail as security prisoners or political prisoners and the number of under-trials have also increased to a great extent. Sir, not only their sleeping accommodation but also the space provided in the district jails for dining purpose is causing a good deal of hardship to the prisoners. It has been brought to my notice that at the time of dining at night the light that is provided at present is also most unsatisfactory. It is up to the Government to state before the House whether my information is correct or not. Further, I understand that political and security prisoners are hand-cuffed by the escort when they are taken out of the jail. This is really the most deplorable state of affairs. Sir, in Bengal supply of cooked food from outside is

* That the provision of Rs.5,12,772 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails (total), at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.79,672, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.5,88,400 do stand reduced by Rs.79,672.
(To censure Government for not releasing anti-fascist prisoners.)

† That the provision of Rs.5,12,772 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails (total), at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.772, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.5,88,400 do stand reduced by Rs.772.

(To criticise Government for not taking steps for keeping all political prisoners together either in a special jail or in their respective jails.)

permitted, whereas in Assam it is not permitted. I raised this point once before, but the Government though they gave us some assurance that they would consider the question have not done anything up till now on this point.

So far as sports for security and political prisoners are concerned, practically no facility is given to them.

As regards classification, this is made most whimsically. This point was also brought before the notice of the Government but I know it definitely that nothing has been done in this direction also.

In the hospital in jails, the accommodation is also very restricted and the patients there suffer a good deal for want of accommodation.

So far as the winter clothings are concerned, specially blankets, I know of one instance, in the Sylhet jail, where the prisoners suffer a good deal due to want of blankets.

And as regards the diet, Sir, I understand, that *sago* has been substituted by powdered rice. If this is the state of things, Sir, I think, the Government should consider whether these security prisoners who come from a very respectable status in the society should be treated in this way. Sir, so far as the policy of Government regarding the release of political prisoners and security prisoners are concerned, we want to hear from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge a definite answer.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs 11,688 under grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.5,88,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all let me impress upon the hon. Members of this House by repeating the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier the other day that jail is after all a jail and the prisoners there cannot expect to get the home comfort within the jail.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is for convicts, Sir, but not for those who have been imprisoned without any trial.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: My hon. Friend the Mover of the Motion Mr. Mookerjee has raised the question of congestion. I admit that there has been some congestion but we are trying our best to remove that congestion as far as possible and so far as classification is concerned we have got different classes of prisoners in the jail. We have got a class of prisoners who have been put into jail after proper trial and there are prisoners also who have been put there without any charge and trial.

As regards the convicted prisoners divisions are generally given by the trying Magistrates. It lies within the discretion of trying Magistrates.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Has not the Government anything to do with it, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I am coming to that, Sir. Whenever we get any particular case for placing a prisoner to a better class, we give all consideration that is possible.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Just now I have heard the Hon'ble Minister saying that the classification of the prisoner mostly depends on the trying Magistrates concerned but will he be pleased to inform me whether

any of the convicts from Habiganj have been placed in B division although they are people of high position in the society, *e.g.*, *Ex-Chairman* of the Municipality, lawyers etc. ? Why none of these prisoners were placed in B division ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, the Hon'ble Minister has understood it.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no information regarding the question raised by my hon. Friend. But if the statement made by him is correct, I shall certainly look into it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I seek an information, Sir ? It appears from the discussion that Government seems to be the approving authority of the trying Magistrates regarding classification but in cases where the Magistrates abuse their power and not exercise it judiciously and place a lesser man in A or B division what they will do.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have clearly replied to that, Sir, that whenever any deserving case comes up to Government due consideration is given.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Not deserving case but undeserving case.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That lies within the discretion of the trying Magistrates.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, some students have been placed in B division, but Sir, persons occupying high position of Habiganj have been placed in C division. It is reported some students of Karimganj, Sylhet and some other parts of the Assam Valley have been placed in B division ; so my question is whether the Hon'ble Minister will enquire into that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said that he will enquire into the matter.

Does the hon. Member press his Motion ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is :

“That the provision of Rs.11,688 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers (total), at page 83 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.5,88,400 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,88,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘28.—Jails and Convict Settlements’.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.25

50.—CIVIL WORKS—(EXCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT AND TOOLS AND PLANT CHARGES)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.37,90,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st of March 1944, for the administration of the head “50.—Civil Works—(Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges.)”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.37,90,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—50.—Civil Works—(Excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)."

There are about 8 Cut Motions. We have got 45 minutes for this Demand. Three minutes have already passed. I would ask Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury to move his Motion and I shall allow other Members to move their Motions giving 3 minutes each.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.37,90,900 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by this Motion I want to bring some inconvenience of the public to the notice of Government. On the roads of the Public Works Department motor buses run almost in all the subdivisions, but for want of seats public undergo a very great inconvenience. Even for important business a man from Sylhet cannot go to Sunamganj unless he waits for 2 or 3 days in order to procure a seat and during the last month of February I once tried 3 days for a seat for a friend of mine, but on every occasion the motor office informed me that they had lesser number of buses now and they could not provide a seat unless the gentleman concerned waited for some days. This is the condition, prevailing almost everywhere. I hope, Sir, that the Public Works Department will look into the matter and see that they can arrange more buses to run on the roads and see that more seats be allotted to the public. The Public Works Department is now extending their work to a large scale. But, Sir, I find from the Budget that rural areas are much neglected. Thanas of the Sunamganj subdivision are not connected with the subdivisional town. Local Board, for want of funds, cannot construct any roads. It is only the Public Works Department that can remove this want. They should construct roads in order to give facilities to the public and create a touch between rural areas and the town. I find, Sir, that the attention of the Department is limited to certain roads only. However, I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this. In certain parts of the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road I found that passage for water was unsatisfactory which causes great hardship to the cultivators because water cannot pass in due time and cultivators undergo a great loss. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will order for an enquiry and see that this inconvenience is removed and in future construction of roads they should make such arrangement so that water can pass easily and the cultivators are not in any way put to any loss.

Sir, we heard that in distributing contracts the Department did not consider the claims of the genuine contractors and personal considerations prevailed. However, I don't like to deal with the matter in detail. I simply draw the attention of the Department that in future while they distribute contracts they should take the fact into consideration.

With these words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:
"That the total provision of Rs.37,90,900 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Khair Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.5,53,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total),

at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to draw the pointed attention of Government to construct a bridge over the Sadakhali breach on the Sylhet-Cachar Trunk Road. It is well known that this road is very important but it is defective on this point as it has no bridge. It takes half an hour at day time and at night it takes an hour generally to cross this breach. I think the Public Works Department with some help from the Military Department, can take up this project and thereby remove a long-felt grievance of the public. It is very important.

I also urge upon Government to improve the portion of the Sylhet-Cachar Trunk Road between the Earle Bridge and the Karimganj Railway Station. This road serves the purpose of 3 roads, *viz.*, the railway station road, Patharkandi road and Sylhet-Cachar Trunk Road and this portion is much crowded. So, Sir, I only urge upon the Government to take up this at an early date and improve the road so that there may not be any difficulty for the passersby. I brought this matter in the last Session of the Assembly and the Hon'ble Minister promised to consider it, but up till today I find nothing has been done in this direction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.5,53,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total), at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1."

***Mr. N. DAWSON:** I beg to move that the provision of Rs.5,53,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total), at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving this Motion I want to draw the attention of Government to the state of communication in our side in the north bank. During the last rains we had the bitter experience. Four months of the year we were cut off entirely from the rest of Assam both by road and by rail and in the absence of any regular steamer service we are gradually cut off from the rest of the Province. Now, Sir, the rail is not responsible to the Government but the roads and bridges definitely are. I don't say the damage was preventible, but I say that no serious effort was made to repair the damage and even now much of the damage done during last flood season still remains unrepaired. Our apprehension is that it will face some chaotic condition this year again. Now, Sir, bad communications cause extreme difficulty to the public. They have aggravated the already severe food shortage. It has become impossible and in addition Government administration nearly broke down. The Deputy Commissioner could not possibly visit those places of his district. Incidentally, Sir, during this period postal communication was practically impossible for a fortnight. We received no mail whatsoever and parcel deliveries had to be taken by our own people. A letter from Shillong took 7 days to reach Tezpur. Now, Sir, as I have said, we have no steamer service now-a-days. Two years ago we had efficient steamer service. At present we have nothing. Therefore I urge upon the Government to do something to resume communication between the north and south banks and also re-establish the ferry service between Tezpur and Silghat. I hope Government will take it up soon. What I

*speech not corrected by the the hon. Member,

like to know is how far they have gone in this direction. It is no use providing a small launch to carry a few passengers. My suggestion to the Government is to resume the steamer service between the north and south banks of Gauhati.

Then again, Sir, there is the Kamalabari Road—a most important road. Here too Government ought to make a serious effort to make the road passable for the twelve months of the year. I think serious effort should be made to keep this road passable during the rains as it does during the cold weather. I should like to have an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, that this road will really be tackled as also the ferry service between Tezpur and Silghat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.5,53,000 under Grant No.25, Major, head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—A.—Original Works, Sub-head—(b)—Communications (total), at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.25,53,500 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs (total), at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My idea in tabling this Motion is to raise a discussion regarding the improvement of Sylhet-Fenchuganj-Brahmanbazar Road. The people of that part of the country and those who had any opportunity of going through that road know it very well that some portion of the road runs through some low land, where there is no embankment. I understand that some bridges are going to be constructed. My intention is that the places where the bridges will be constructed must be properly high and there should be sufficient number of bridges and the opening in the bridges must be such so that there can be easy flow of water. Otherwise the cultivators on both sides of this road will suffer a great deal.

As regards the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali, if a bridge is constructed over the *Sadakhali* breach it will improve the road and will remove the real *bonafide* difficulty of the people of that part of the area.

With these few words, Sir, I move my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.25,53,500 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs (total), at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,90,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 22,00,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs, Sub-head—2.—Communications, at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in bringing this Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the fact, as it appears to us, that there is a very great danger of this Province at the end of the war, being left with its roads generally in the condition they were in 5 or 6 years before the war. It is understood, Sir, that the Government of India, realising the very great damage done by the heavy military traffic, have given an undertaking that is being done by the heavy military traffic, have given an undertaking that is being grants to repair this special damage. This is very satisfactory now to make goes. But we cannot expect officials in Delhi to understand as far as it the seriousness

of the situation and the amount of the damage which is being done and it is therefore upto this Government to make quite sure that the Government of India do appreciate the serious situation. Roads, like houses, require foundations if they are to last. The most common method of providing foundation for roads is by the use of boulders or dressed stone. This is the best method, and in the long run probably the cheapest. In Assam, however, we have adopted another method—that of laying shingle year by year—thereby gradually acquiring a foundation. This spreads the capital cost over a number of years and is therefore suited to the unhappy finances of this Province. This shingling programme, Sir, in Assam was started about 13 years ago and it may be said that the Assam Trunk Road, for example, had an average of about 10 years of shingle at the time the war began, and it was just beginning to get something of a foundation. In the last 12 months, however, an enormous amount of military traffic, most of it consisting of very heavy vehicles, has removed most of the shingle and so undone the work of years. The present decision to lay or allot 5,000 cubic feet shingle per mile on the Assam Trunk Road is merely scratching at the problem. It may serve to keep the road open during the rains, though even this is not certain, but it certainly will not repair the damage that has been done. It is suggested, Sir, therefore that concurrently with this shingling programme the Government of India be induced to start to lay a proper boulder or dressed stone foundation on a, say, 10 foot strip of the Assam Trunk Road. I have particularly mentioned the Assam Trunk Road as I know it well, but I imagine the roads in the Surma Valley have been or are being damaged as much as those in the Assam Valley. Municipal and Local Board roads are also in a deplorable state but require rather different treatment. Most of them have some sort of foundation and it is the top dressing of water bound stone that has gone. They should be patched and given a thin top dressing of water bound stone and then if possible made water-proof with tar or asphalt. Unless this is done, the foundation will go and in the next cold weather the cost of repair will be considerably greater than it would be now. If some such treatment, as I have suggested, Sir, is not given to the roads of this Province now when the Government of India will pay, we shall be left at the end of the war, when the military traffic has gone from the Province, with the roads in such a bad state that for years there will be drain on the finances of this Province to keep them in reasonable repair, let alone to get good roads. It seems to us that the fact that Government of Assam have accepted this quite inadequate treatment of 5,000 cubic feet shingle per mile, shows that they cannot possibly have represented to the Government of India the real seriousness of the position in this Province. I therefore urge upon them to do so without delay before it is too late.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion move 1:

“That the provision of Rs.22,00,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs, Sub-head—2.—Communications, at page 109 of the Budget, be reduced by Re 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Train journey now-a-days is extremely difficult because of military passengers. Road journey also is equally difficult owing to military vehicles. I support Mr. Lewis fully when he says that heavy military vehicles are responsible for the horrible condition of the roads, at least in Upper Assam. The main road which we call the Assam Trunk Road is very badly affected under the pressure of heavily loaded big military lorries. I think my hon. Friends who have travelled on this Trunk Road will agree with me when I say that passengers and travellers

on cars, travel on this road with very great danger to themselves. Therefore, I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department to take up the repairs of this road as soon as possible, because I am sure that if repairs are not taken up immediately, it will be impossible to travel on this road when the rainy season will come in.

Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Dawson for mentioning the Kamalabari Road. Kamalabari Road is the only road that connects Tezpur with Upper Assam, and therefore if the Government wants to keep connection between Tezpur and Upper Assam, they should at once see that the repairs to this road are taken up because otherwise it will be very difficult for Upper Assam people to come to Tezpur.

I am glad, Mr. Lewis has mentioned the Municipal and Local Board roads. The roads within the Municipality of Jorhat cannot be called roads now. These roads were surely never intended for these heavily loaded military vehicles. I do not know whether the Military or Public Works Department, or any other authority under the Government of Assam is responsible for the repairs of these roads. Municipality cannot afford to take up the repairs because it has no funds. May I however request the Government to take up the question with the military, because it is the military that has spoilt the roads, and I think if Government approach the military, they may take up the repairs of the roads within the Municipality also.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Mookerjee, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one fact. As regards the distribution of work for that road, very serious allegations have been made against the Chief Engineer of the Province in the Press in the Surma Valley. All the papers of Surma Valley have with one voice demanded a public enquiry into these allegations. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Civil Works will please look into the matter and see if the apprehension in the minds of the people cannot be allayed to some extent by enquiring into the matter. In the face of these serious allegations no Government can allow its officer to go on like this. Then as about the roads in the Municipal areas, I also join my Friend, Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali, and draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that roads in the Sylhet town are also deteriorating very much due to a very heavy military motor traffic in the town. The Hon'ble Speaker also knows the condition of the roads there. I hope the Public Works Department will look into this matter also.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of my Friend, Mr. Lewis and to endorse every word that my hon. Friend, Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali, has said with regard to the Trunk Road. The Assam Trunk Road is fast getting beyond repairable condition and if it is not seen repaired it will not be there to repair. May I remind the Hon'ble Minister that several projects on the recommendation of the Assam Communications Board—new projects—remain in abeyance? When these schemes were first shelved we were content with the excuse given, namely, that, due to the exigencies of the war, they had to be shelved for the time being. Now the war appears likely to be a protracted affair; may I ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that he will exert his special attention to these projects, and, if possible, devise some means whereby, any way, the most urgent of them may be taken up even now.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I will simply refer to the communication difficulty of the Goalpara people on account of the discontinuance of the steam ferry service since 1st May 1941. Tenders for the steam ferry service were called as early as 1940 and since then one Minister after

another has been dealing with the file of the settlement of this ferry. I do not know how long they will take to come to a decision. Let them not think of legislating over this any longer. For rains have set in and the crossing difficulty will increase by far.

So I hope they will be able to make an early settlement and put the steam launch on the run before the monsoon sets in.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard many of the hon. Members who have spoken on the poor condition of the Assam Trunk Road. I may inform the hon. Members of the House that through the intervention of the Military Authorities this road is going to be improved as a defence project now and we are going to have a metalled road from Bongaigaon to Jogighopa and *via* Goalpara to Kumarpara which is the junction of the Trunk Road with the Golaghat Road. This we are going to do very soon. So, I think, the question of repair for this road will not arise. As regards the damages done by the military authorities.....

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Will the improvement suggested by the Hon'ble Minister facilitate travelling between Jorhat and Dibrugarh by the Trunk Road?

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: Can the Hon'ble Minister explain what the proposal is as regards this metalled road?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It will be a gravelled road with tarmakadam.

As regards the damages done by the Military to Municipal and Local Board roads, of course my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Self-Government will look into the matter. But, I think, it will be better to send copies of these proceedings of this debate to the Military Authorities for taking necessary action in the matter.

Now I will reply to the Motions one by one. As regards the criticism that has been levelled against by one hon. Member that seats are not available in the motor buses, I should say that my Department is not responsible for this. I think it is a matter which the Hon'ble Premier will surely look into.

Then, Sir, as regards insufficiency of water-ways, I should tell the hon. Members that the Public Works Department before making any construction of roads, take care to see that sufficient water-ways are provided. If however the hon. Member can bring any specific case where the water-ways are insufficient, then certainly our Department will look into that matter.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:
Thank you.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN:
Then Sir, as regards the distribution of contracts, I think, there is already a circular that the children of the soil who are contractors should be given preference to others and that circular is acted upon now. As regards Sadakhil bridge, this project is already on the Road Improvement Programme. This project was estimated to cost two lakhs of rupees but now the cost will be, I think, three times more. But the project has never been recommended by the Communication Board and I would advise the hon. Member to approach that Board.

As regards improvement of the road between Earle Bridge and Karimganj Station, this question was raised by the same hon. Member on the last occasion. Since then a portion of that road is being improved as a defence project and the remaining portion is very congested and there are many

shop-keepers on both sides of the road. So it is doubtful if these shop-keepers will agree to give up their lands for widening of this road. I can only say that this matter will be looked into.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether this portion was acquired by Government first and what is the position now?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not in a position to enlighten my hon. Friend just now, but if he approaches me outside the Chamber, I can give him the necessary information.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: The House should know it, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It is a new question altogether.

Now my hon. Friend, Mr. Dawson, wanted to know what is the position about the establishment of a ferry between Tezpur and Silghat. In pursuance of what I said on the last occasion, the Government examined the possibilities of having a Mar Boat with a powerful engine, but it was estimated that the cost of that will exceed Rs.10,000. So the Department thought it advisable to ask the present lessee of the steam ferry at Gauhati whether he will be prepared to supply and run a steam ferry at the rates of tolls which are realised for the three other ferries of which he is the licensee. The letter was issued to him on the 2nd of February and reminders had been issued to him on 6th and 18th of March but no reply has been received.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: His licence should be cancelled.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Not, it is a new project. But if he does not agree to that, then Government will, I think, again examine the possibility of having a Mar Boat with a powerful engine and for the passengers, I think, Government may be able to use a motor launch which was hired by the Military for their use. I think, that can be obtained.

Now as regards the Kamalabari Road, I will refer the hon. Member to the proceedings of the sixth meeting of the Communication Board. Its cost was estimated at two lakhs of rupees, but now the cost will be three times more and moreover there is the difficulty of obtaining labour because on account of the most important project of the improvement of the Assam Trunk Road, labour has become very scarce now. So the difficulty of obtaining labour stands on the way even if the money be available for financing the project. I can assure the hon. Member that as soon as the conditions are better and labour is readily available, this project will be taken up.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the matter further if the Tea Industry endeavours to assist him in providing labour for that road?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I don't know whether the tea gardens will supply labour or not but our local officers report that there is the difficulty of obtaining labour for the purpose even if the costs be available.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. If the Indian Tea Association takes the responsibility of supplying labour, will Government be pleased to take up the matter into their hands?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Then the question of cost will arise (*laughter*). The estimate was previously made that it was to cost about two lakhs of rupees, but now the cost will be three times more. However if the House agrees to vote for this Grant, then I think there will be no difficulty.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: No, the House does not agree.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Now as regards the Motion of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, this concerns the Fenchuganj-Brahman Bazar Road. The hon. Member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

Then, Sir, as regards the Motion of Mr. Lewis I should point out that I am not a technical expert. Mr. Lewis has made a suggestion that the foundation of the road should be by boulders or by dressed stones at 10 feet. I can tell the hon. Member that I will place that suggestion before the experts of our Department and if that is found favourable, surely that will be considered.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean that efforts will be made to take up the repairing of the Trunk Road between Kamargaon and Dibrugarh?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The difficulty is this that our Assam Trunk Road specifications are intended only for 3½ ton lorries, but now lorries of heavier weights are being used and damages are caused. In order to repair these things we require the materials for the purpose. Gravel is very difficult to be obtained on account of transport difficulties.

Many of the lorries of the contractors have been requisitioned; there is no lorry available and so it is very difficult to transport gravels from the quarries to the roads. Then there is the difficulty of labour.....

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Cannot the Provincial Transport Authority take up the work of providing lorries for carrying boulders and metals?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If gravels can be transported, if labour is available and if road machineries are also available—they are also being requisitioned—then the question of repair may be taken up, I have placed the difficulties of the Department before the House. I can assure this much that in spite of these difficulties the Department will do their best to keep their roads in repair.

There is only one other point, *viz.*, the Jogighopa Steam Ferry Service. That matter is receiving my attention and I can assure the hon. Members that the service will be restored.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does any of the hon. Members want to press his Motion?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: On a point of information. Will the Hon'ble Minister welcome any of these Motions being pressed to a division to assist him in presenting his case to the Military Authorities because I believe there will be a unanimous vote from the House on this question?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I don't like to press my Motion, Sir.

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

Mr. N. DAWSON: I also beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: I will not withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the provision of Rs.22,00,000 under Grant No.25, Major head—50.—Civil Works, Minor head—B.—Repairs, Sub-head—2.—Communications at page 169 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,90,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Assembly divided

AYES—17

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Raja Ajit Narayan Dev. | 9. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 10. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 3. Babu Kamini Kamar Sen. | 11. Mr. N. Dawson. |
| 4. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. | 12. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis. |
| 5. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar. | 13. Mr. C. W. Morley. |
| 6. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. | 14. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 7. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. | 15. Mr. P. Trinkle. |
| 8. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali. | 16. Mr. A. Whittaker. |
| | 17. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |

NOES—22

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|---|---|
| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 11. Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. | 12. Rai Sahib Doulat Chandra Gohain. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali. | 13. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 14. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 15. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 16. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 17. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chudhury. |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 18. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. | 19. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. |
| 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. | 20. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. |
| | 21. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| | 22. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does any other hon. Member press his Motion?

(Several voices: No)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Members have leave of the House to withdraw their Motions.
The Motions were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,90,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head—50.—Civil Works—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges.)”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 22

42—CO-OPERATION

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,74,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “42.—Co-operation”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1, 74,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘42—Co-operation’”.

There are as many as 7 Cut Motions but the time allotted to this Grant is only 15 minutes. Is Mr. Mookerjee going to move his Motion? * (Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: No, Sir). Then who is going to move his Motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,74,800 under Grant No. 22, Major head—42—Co-operation, at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,74,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be very brief and shall only put what I have to say in a few sentences. I am sorry to say that though this Department was much criticised in the past, no improvement has been seen up till now. Almost in every week we read in the Gazette about the liquidation of certain societies and the Central Bank established on a co-operative basis is also a failure. I remember during the administration of the Congress Coalition Party a questionnaire was circulated with a view to reorganise the Co-operative Societies, but it only remained in papers; it could not materialise. After that some 3 years have passed, but no attempt has been made by this Government to bring about a new life to the Co-operative Department. Last November we brought these facts to the notice of this House and we were assured by the Hon'ble Minister, but I am sorry, that no attempt has been made by Government to revise the whole scheme and put the Co-operative Movement on a sounder basis. I draw the pointed attention of the Government to this again and with these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs. 1,74,800 under Grant No. 22, Major head—42.—Co-operation, at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,74,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

*That the provision of Rs. 36,691 under Grant No. 22, Major head—42.—Co-operation, Minor head—A—Direction (total), at page 155 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,74,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100
(To criticise Government for their policy with regard to Co-operative Department.)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I rise to support this Motion and in this connection I beg to say that even last year we were told by the Government that they were trying to evolve a scheme by means of which they would make a new endeavour to rehabilitate the Movement. But, Sir, from the Budget it will be found that nothing has been done in this direction. Sir, we appealed several times to Government to come forward with money to help the societies and thereby to help the cultivators, but the money that was allotted last year or year before last has also been reduced. Last year the allotment was one lakh and this year we find it only to be Rs. 25,000.

Now, Sir, as regards propaganda, Government admitted that due to want of proper propaganda this Department is so unsuccessful and Government promised that they would see that proper propaganda is made and the people can really understand the utility of this Department. But nothing has been done in that direction also. Sir, the Hon'ble the Premier admitted and he told us what was the root cause of the failure of this Department, and, if I remember aright, he said that it was our social customs—both of the Hindus and Muslims—that the money taken as loan from the societies is not used for the purpose for which they take it but they spend it for their social functions and he promised us that he would see that this root cause of the failure of this Department is removed by propaganda. But, Sir, nothing has been done in this direction. If the Government is determined not to do anything which will be of real use to the public, I think, Sir, Government should get rid of this Department. The fact that they are co-operating only in name and non-cooperating in action will not be tolerated any more by the people.

With these words, Sir, I support this Motion.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the co-operative Credit Societies had been passing through a state of rapid deterioration up till recent time. The liabilities were increasing, assets were dwindling. Collection of overdues was getting poor. As a result of all these, matured deposits and their other liabilities could not be paid which led to want of public confidence and an end to fluid resources. Though the condition of many of the co-operative credit societies still continues to be grave, as a result of the rehabilitating scheme taken up by Government a year ago, improvement has been noticed during the last one year of their activity with regard to the banks the management of which has been taken up by the Government agencies.

To explore ways and means and to improve the condition of the co-operative societies, the Co-operative Enquiry Committee had its sittings in 1941, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Premier. It was on the recommendation of that Committee that additional staff were appointed for the rehabilitating scheme.

The other recommendations of the Committee were that financial help should be given to the co-operative organisation by Government and that an inquiry should be held into the assets, liabilities and repaying capacity of the individual debtors of rural societies. On these recommendations Government decided to post pone action till the results of the appointment of the new Inspectors, who would mainly help the Central Banks to recover their realisable assets from the societies, had been watched for some time. Unless the Central Banks can be brought to a better footing, they will certainly continue to lose public confidence, and unless public confidence is restored, the Banks will be handicapped for want of fluid resources. So before the question of supplying

rural credit is taken up by Government, we have to wait and see the result of the rehabilitating scheme for sometime.

Then as regards the liquidation of certain societies which is of essential necessity. In the cases of those societies, for mismanagement where the liabilities are increasing and the collection decreasing, and the cost of establishment is on the other hand a burden, unless such societies are liquidated the liabilities will continue to increase in the shape of interest that has to be paid to the Central Bank and the depositors, which will be eating into the assets of the societies. Such societies have to be liquidated where there is no prospect of any improvement.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Will Government kindly enlighten us whether they have got passed Auditors—properly qualified Auditors?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: For these simple accounts, Sir, our Auditors are competent enough.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, none of them is qualified and they do not know even the rudiments of accounting.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, the opinion of the Department is that they are doing quite satisfactorily.

Then as regards giving assurance to rehabilitate the Department Sir, that has already been given effect to. We appointed 10 Inspectors last year in the month of January. They are working now and it is only a year from the reports it appears that the collection of overdues of the Central Banks the managements of which has been taken up by Government agencies for better management has improved a good deal.

As regards allotment of Government loan, it has been said that the provision made this year is comparatively smaller than that provided last year. As I have already said that unless we can bring the Central Banks to a better footing, to win public confidence, limited Government loan alone will not be able to improve matters as they will continue to be handicapped for want of fluid resources in the shape of deposits and share money for want of public confidence.

I have, Sir, clearly stated the position of the co-operative societies and banks of the Province and the actions taken by the Government to bring about an improvement. We have now to wait for sometime to see the results of the rehabilitating scheme.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member want to press his Motion?

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY:** It is useless to press, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then the hon. Member is going to withdraw.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, I object to it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the total provision of Rs.1,74,800 under Grant No.22, Major head 42.—Co-operation, at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,74,800 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The question was negatived.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,74,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—42.—Co-operation”.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 24

47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

There is one Cut Motion. Is the hon. Member moving it ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir, as I have got a reply from the Hon'ble Premier the other day on the subject.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No other Member, it seems, is going to speak on the Motion.

Then I am putting the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 31

57—MISCELLANEOUS

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.3,44,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—"57.—Miscellaneous".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,44,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '57—Miscellaneous'."

There are 3 Cut Motions.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,500 under Grant No. 31, Major head -57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head —A.—Allowance to Terrorist and other State Prisoners, at page 183 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3, 44,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object of moving this Motion is to censure Government for not granting any allowance to Babus Radharanjan De and Jiten Kumar Shome, two security prisoners lodged in the Sylhet Jail.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to say that families of both these prisoners are at present passing their days in hardship. Both of them were the earners of their respective families. As regards Babu Radharanjan De, I was paying him Rs.25 a month till the time of his arrest. He would have still remained my secretary had he not been arrested in the month of September. Therefore I urge upon the Government to arrange for his allowance. More than one application has been made to Government but to no effect.

With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,500 under Grant No. 31, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Allowance to Terrorist and other State Prisoners, at page 183 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,44,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion as it will be found to-day, to raise a discussion regarding the insufficient allowance granted to the political prisoners and for not granting any allowance in most cases. Sir, my hon. Friend Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy has mentioned only about two cases. But I know of several cases where relations have approached me and narrated their deplorable conditions. Sir, one Srijut Nibaran Chandra Datta of North Sylhet applied for an allowance but nothing has been given by the Government as yet. As regards Radharanjan De, my Friend has already stated and I endorse his views. Sir, another gentleman Srijut Bonode Behari Chakravarty of North Sylhet, was the editor of the paper *Janasakti*. As regards his income it cannot take more than a few minutes to ascertain how much he was earning only from that particular source. and another person Dr. Homeswar of Kamrup also applied for allowance but he has not received any assistance from Government. Another gentleman from Kamrup Srijut Rajani Chaudhuri also applied to the Government but did not receive any assistance from them. One Miss Uma Chakravarty of Maulvibazar who was a School Mistress applied to the Government, but did not receive any assistance from them. Sir, I am mentioning only a few cases where it cannot take long time rather this can be finished in course of a few days to ascertain how much they were earning before they were arrested. Sir, there is another lady, Srijukta Usha Rani Chaudhuri, wife of Srijut Labanya Chaudhuri, about whom Government can find out in course of a few minutes. Before his arrest he was in Government service, but he resigned his post and subsequently he was arrested. Now as regards his income Government can find out easily, but she has not received anything as yet. Another gentleman Dr. Priyo Nath Sarma also applied, but he has also not received any assistance from Government. In two or three cases I understand Government has given some grant, but they are very small in comparison with their requirements—I mean for their existence—and I wish that those amounts should be increased. Sir, I think when those persons whose faults have not been proved by the Government and who have been kept inside the jail without any trial, it is the moral duty of the Government to see that their dependents should get something for their food and clothing.

With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BENODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.67,290 under Grant No. 31, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—1.—Contributions, Sub-head—(a) Contributions, etc., Local Bodies, Detailed head—Grant to Municipal Boards for general purposes, at page 186 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,44,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of introducing my Cut Motion is to urge upon the Government to bring to the notice of the Chairman, Municipal Board, Tezpur, to remove the grievances of the inhabitants of Lalmati Municipal Ward No. 1, which is a terribly backward area in Tezpur Municipality. Since 1939, there were agitations of the people of the Lalmati Municipal area for the extension of Urmson Road and for water supply. When I myself was one of the members of the Tezpur Municipal Board I put up their grievances before the Municipal Board and the Board passed in their Resolution

to extend the Urmson Road through Lalmati area and to this effect they elected a Committee in the year 1940 from among the members of the Municipal Board for survey and drawing up schemes and projects for the extension of the Urmson Road through Lalmati area. But to the great disappointment of the people, the Committee did not do anything till now regarding the matter and unfortunately soon after the Committee was formed about the month of September 1940, I had to come to Shillong in December of that year as I was appointed a Parliamentary Secretary.

Sir, in order to remind the Tezpur Municipal Board for removing the grievances of the Lalmati Municipal area, a petition to revive the grievances of the people of the Lalmati Municipal area was submitted by the people of that locality and myself on or about the 9th November 1942, but no step has been taken as yet to remove the grievances of the people.

So, Sir, if the Government would call for an explanation from the Chairman of the Tezpur Municipal Board they would come to know the Board's position in this matter. Sir, they might say "We have no money for meeting the grievances of the Lalmati people". But the Board has been spending lots of money for other parts of the Tezpur Municipal areas for roads and water supply and why the Board cannot spare any money for the poor people of Lalmati area. In Lalmati there are very poor people living. There is also a beggars' Serai house. These and other poor people are obliged to drink impure water from Khal or Beel.

The extension of the Urmson Road through Lalmati area is also badly needed for the people.

I request Government on behalf of the poor people of Lalmati area to grant a contribution to enable the Board for taking steps to remove the grievances of the people which are the extension of the Urmson Road and water supply.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of this House.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Sir, it is very unfortunate that Government is not giving much consideration to the cases of security prisoners and prisoners without trial though the Government has been moved oftentimes. These people never rebelled, nor waged war against His Majesty's Government. Even if they are kept under war regulations they can demand some consideration from Government and they should be allowed some allowances according to their family status. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister, to see that these poor people do receive due consideration at the hands of Government without much delay.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The Cut Motions Nos. 1 and 2 are to be dealt with by the Hon'ble Minister concerned, *i.e.*, by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Jails, and so far as No. 3 is concerned, it is to be dealt with by the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, I shall reply so far as Nos. 1 and 2 are concerned. On more than one occasion this question of granting allowances to the security prisoners was fully discussed in this House and I need not give any detailed reply.

As regards the Motion moved by hon. Friend, Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, the hon. Mover has laid very much stress on the case of Radharanjan De. It has been stated by Mr. Roy that this prisoner was working as Private Secretary to the hon. Mover. On an enquiry it has been found that before this prisoner entered the jail he was not an earning member and had no income of his own. He was dependent on others.

Regarding the cases mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, I may tell him that the number of such cases are gradually increasing now, and when we will get the report from the District Officers on these cases then we shall give due consideration and see whether any allowance can be given to them also.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand, Sir, that no report has yet been received though I understand that it has already been sent?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Nothing as yet is in hand.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly make an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I will have an enquiry made.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, the Cut Motion No. 3 relates to certain local matters. The hon. Mover of the Motion has given us to understand that this matter was agitated in the Municipality concerned of which he is also a member. He has also told us that the Municipality appointed a committee to look into the matter and he says that the committee did not do anything. I expected, Sir, to get some material from the hon. Mover, to give us the grounds under which the Municipality did not take any action in this matter. I think it is one of the bounden duties of the Municipality to arrange for water supply and if there is really any need for the extension of the road mentioned in the Cut Motion, I see no reason why the Municipality should not do it. In fact, Sir, I do not get enough material from the hon. Mover showing that the Municipality deliberately ignored that those two important grievances of the people.....

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that I approached the Chairman of the Municipality and he said that in these hard days he had no money.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Thank, you, Sir. He says that Government should make suitable contribution to this Municipality for the purpose. I do not know if the Municipality concerned has sent any petition for any such contribution or loan. If any petition comes we shall certainly consider. Before committing ourselves to anything we shall certainly look into the financial condition of the Board and if it is found that the Board themselves can take up those two projects I do not see any reason why the Board should come forward for assistance from Government. Any how, if the Board approach the Government for any assistance, they will certainly take up the matter in hand. Beyond that I cannot say anything further in the matter at this stage.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: May I request the Hon'ble Minister to call for explanation from the Chairman?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: About asking for an explanation, Sir, I can say that the Board is a self-governing body. So it is against the principle of Local Self-Government to do so, but if they neglect their duty, Government can take necessary action.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I enquire of the hon. Movers of the 3 Cut Motions if they like to withdraw their Motions in the circumstances with the leave of the House?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,44,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—57.—Miscellaneous”.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 34

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING AND NOT BEARING INTEREST

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “Loans and Advances”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘Loans and Advances’.”

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 1,51,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head Loans and Advances etc., Minor head B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Governments, Sub-head—Loans to Municipalities, Port Funds etc., Detailed head—Advances to cultivators, at page 193 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 5,68,000, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object in bringing this Cut Motion is to censure Government for untimely realisation of agricultural loans.

In the Sunamganj Subdivision of the District of Sylhet, the realisation of agricultural loans is going on in full swing now. Hon. Members of this House know that *Boro* harvest is now on. Many of the villagers are incapable of paying agricultural loans, but the officers are very zealous in realising these loans. I have got many instances and let me cite one. I sent a wire to the Hon'ble Premier for stopping realisation. I got a reply that no coercion would be used on the villagers. I got a telegram was borne by some Muslims of the village of Jamalgarh. I sent a letter to a gentleman at Jamalgarh enclosing a copy of Jamalgarh. gram. But I heard that that letter was intercepted by a clerk of the Deputy Collector. He was heard to say: “I have seized the letter of the Sub-Babu”. I asked that gentleman if he had got that letter. He refused. Sir, these officers are coercing the people in this way. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue orders at once to stop realisation of agricultural loans in the *Boro* areas at least. With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

That the provision of Rs. 1,51,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head—Loans and Advances, etc., Minor head—B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Governments, Sub-head—Loans to Municipalities, Port Funds etc., Detailed head—Advances to cultivators, at page 193 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 5,68,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard the Hon'ble Revenue Minister saying the other day in reply to a question that he advised his executives not to use coercive measures for the realisation of agricultural loans. From personal knowledge I can say that officers go to the locality and coerce people. My advice to the Hon'ble Minister is that all sorts of realisation should be stopped. This is a very abnormal time and Government should ask their officers not to go to the villages, but simply to issue notices for repayment of the loans. I may cite a concrete instance. A villager came to me and complained that his bullocks had been taken away. I could not make any further enquiry. I would again request the Hon'ble Minister that if he feels that there should be any action taken for the realisation of loans, he should advise his officers not to go to the villages but simply to issue notices.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : In our subdivision the realisation of loans has now begun. I hope that Government should stop it as the condition of the people is not at all satisfactory. They are undergoing financial difficulties owing to the fact that the prices of food-stuffs are very high and they are not in a position to repay their loans this time. It is about two years ago that they were granted this loan. They have not improved their financial position to repay it now. There is another difficulty. They have been given these loans jointly. If any one is in a position to repay these, he may repay ; but there are many others who cannot repay their debts. But Government officers realise their loans from this one person as he is responsible for others. This is very hard. This should be stopped. For this reason I request the Government to stop realisation now and postpone it for better times.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : My Hon'ble Friend, Maulavi Munawwar Ali, will reply to this.

***The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, I beg to say that, in consultation with some of the hon. Members of the Sylhet district, and in agreement with them, I have already issued orders that no coercive measures shall be used and I have added a rider to that that only persuasion shall be used. By persuasion, I mean, it is to be preceded by notice, as suggested by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman just now.

As regards the complaint that officers are over-zealous, my Friend could not substantiate the instance which he cited. He heard merely. He could not pursue as he had to leave that place. If a definite instance can be brought to my notice, I shall take adequate and immediate steps. I do not think, in view of the orders I have already issued, it is necessary for hon. Members to press further.

***Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that he had issued notices not to use coercive measures. The question is, if his instructions are not followed.....

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

***The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI:** If instructions are not carried out by officers, proper and suitable action will be taken.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion ?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No, Sir.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg to move, that the provision of Rs. 3,68,000 under Grant No. 34, Major head—Loans and Advances, etc., Minor head—B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Governments (total), at page 193 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 5,68,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

I tabled this Motion in order to criticise Government for their neglect as regards the granting of loans to Co operative Societies.

In 1941 we heard that though there was a provision of Rs. 1 lakh, if necessary, Government would come forward with more money. But finally we found that only Rs. 5,000 was spent. Last year, when the Budget was placed before this House during the month of November, Rs.1 lakh 20 thousand were provided and in the revised estimate also we found that that amount would be required. So, Sir, when the revised estimate also is justifying that demand *i. e.*, the amount which was originally budgeted *viz.*, 1 lakh 20 thousand rupees will be required, then why this year only Rs. 5,000 have been allotted. Sir, we want an assurance that Government will come forward with more money, if necessary.

As regards the loans to Local Bodies,—some Local Boards and Municipalities, may have applied and many more are contemplating to apply to Government for loans for improving their water work system and introducing other important new projects and I hope Government will help them.

(Here the time limit for voting on Demands for Grants was reached)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The question is :
“That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,68,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—A—Loans and Advances”.

The question was adopted.

Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the Economic and Political Situation of the Province

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am to announce to the House that the promised statement of the Hon'ble Premier to enable the House to take the present economic situation of the Province into consideration would be made on the 27th instant after the items of business fixed for that day are disposed of.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I distinctly remember, Sir, that the Hon'ble Premier said the other day that he would try to make a statement on both the economic condition and the political situation in the Province.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On an earlier day when I was asked to make a statement, I said that I would consider if I could make a statement on both economic condition and political situation ; but later on when I was pressed to answer definitely, I said that I would speak only on the economic condition.

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

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Monday, the 22nd March, 1943.

*Shillong,
The 30th April 1943.*

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

