

Continued from the other side of the page. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting held on the 10th of the month. The names are given in the order in which they were called upon to speak. The names are given in the order in which they were called upon to speak. The names are given in the order in which they were called upon to speak.

1841

Continued from the other side of the page. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting held on the 10th of the month. The names are given in the order in which they were called upon to speak. The names are given in the order in which they were called upon to speak.

**Proceedings of the Thirteenth Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India
Act, 1935**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 11 A. M., on Thursday
the 25th November, 1943

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble
Ministers and fifty-six Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Re Aided High School Teachers

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV asked :

*26. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial note about the grievances of Aided High School teachers regarding the low scales of their pay published in the *Sylhet Chronicle* of the 26th October 1943 ?

(b) Do Government propose to give rice at a reduced rate to teachers of Aided Schools especially in urban areas and permit partial withdrawal of their Provident Fund deposits by the Aided School teachers as recommended by the Calcutta University ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

26. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The subject of giving extra grant-in-aid to the Aided Institutions for meeting the grievances and demands of their employees is under the consideration of the Government.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV : So far as the last part of question (b) is concerned, what action do Government propose to take ?

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

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : When can we expect a decision ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : As I have said the other day, probably within two or three months.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Do I understand that they will receive no relief within two or three months ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is so.

Re Officers of the Assam Educational Service, Class II

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*27. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any memorial from some of the officers of the Assam Educational Service, Class II ?

(b) If so, what action Government have taken or intend to take on that memorial ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

27. (a)—Only an advance copy of one memorial sent by one lecturer has been received by Government.

(b)—Government is awaiting receipt of the original through the proper channel.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will Government come to any decision on this subject before the Budget of the next year is prepared ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I hope so.

Re Aided High School Teachers

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*28. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representation from the Aided School teachers of the two Valleys for helping their institutions with extra grant-in aid and other facilities similar to those granted to Government employees ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken or intend to take to improve their lots ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

28. (a)—Yes.

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

Meetings of the Assam Communications Board and Tea Rates Road Fund Sub-Committee

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*29. (a) Is it a fact that no meetings of the Assam Communications Board have been held during the past twenty-four months or more ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the date on which the last meeting of this Board was held ?

*30. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that no meeting of the Tea Rates Road Fund Sub-Committee have been held for a very long time ?

(b) The date on which the last meeting of the said Sub-Committee was held ?

(c) Who are the conveners of the meetings of the (i) Tea Rates Road Fund Sub-Committee and (ii) The Assam Communications Board ?

(d) Whether there is any rule or convention for calling these meetings ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

29. (a) & (b)—The last meeting of the Communications Board had been held on 29th November 1941

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know whether the meeting was held ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If the hon. Member comes to the next question, I think, he will find the answer there.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

30. (a)—Yes.

(b)—4th June 1941.

(c)—The Chief Engineer who is the Secretary of the Board, is the convener of the Tea Rates Roads Fund Advisory Sub-Committee ; and the Joint Secretaries of the Communications Board, those of the Communications Board.

(d)—A meeting of the Board is usually to be held every year. For the greater part of the year 1942 the constitution had remained under suspension. Since then due to the War, Government have adopted the policy of doing nothing which is not inescapable, and in this connection a reference had already been made to the members of the Communications Board and as the majority of them do not see the necessity of holding a meeting of the Communications Board, Government have decided not to hold a meeting this year. The Tea Rates Road Fund Advisory Sub-Committee is an advisory body to the Communications Board, and it seems little use to hold a meeting of this Sub-Committee unless its recommendations can be put up to the Communications Board and be approved of by that Board, which is not possible.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact, Sir, that the majority of the members who do not want meetings are officials ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Probably not. If I remember aright there are 25 members in the Board including 7 or 8 officials. There are 17 non-officials and out of them the majority, I think, are not in favour of meetings.

Re Travelling allowance drawn by the Hon'ble Ministers

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*31. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the Hon'ble Ministers during the period beginning from 1st April 1943 to 31st October 1943 together with the dates, places and purposes of their visits ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

31.—A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY EACH OF THE HON'BLE MINISTERS DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING FROM THE 1ST APRIL 1943 TO THE 31ST OCTOBER 1943.

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Period of Tour	Places visited	Purpose	Amount
1st Apl. 1943 to 5th Apl. 1943.	Sunamganj .. ..	.. National War Front	Rs. a. p
18th Apl. 1943 to 20th Apl. 1943.	Calcutta and New Delhi ..	.. ference. Government business	Con- 108 7 0
10th May 1943 to 13th May 1943.	Cherrapunji .. ..	.. Ditto ditto	.. 577 12 0
			.. 45 10 0

Period of Tour	Places visited	Purpose	Amount	Rs. a. p.
6th June 1943 to 9th June 1943.	Sylhet	Government business	..	82 8 0
13th June 1943 to 22nd June 1943.	Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar, Dibrugarh, Sabua, Dooria Tea Estate, Golaghat.	Ditto ditto	..	310 10 0
10th July 1943 to 17th July 1943.	Sylhet, Hailakandi, Silchar, Karimganj.	Ditto ditto	..	150 10 0
8th Aug. 1943 to 13th Aug. 1943.	Gauhati, Basbari, Dhubri	Ditto ditto	..	143 10 0
26th Aug. 1943 to 31st Aug. 1943.	Sylhet, Sherpur, Ajmiriganj	Ditto ditto	..	102 10 0
4th Oct. 1943 to 19th Oct. 1943.	Calcutta, Delhi	To attend Food Conference, etc.	..	614 15 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Finance</i>				
3rd Apl. 1943 to 9th Apl. 1943.	Gauhati, Nowgong, Dibrugarh, Nadua, Dikam, Makulbari, Titabar, Golaghat.	Inspection .. ..	..	309 6 0
8th June 1943 to 16th June 1943.	Sylhet, Gauhati, Goalpara, Lakhipur	Grow More Food Campaign ..	..	204 6 0
14th July 1943 to 16th July 1943.	Gauhati, Nowgong, Dabaka Road ..	Duty .. ..	..	102 8 0
28th Aug. 1943 to 31st Aug. 1943.	Sylhet	Ditto .. ..	..	82 8 0
19th Sep. 1943 to 24th Sep. 1943.	Sylhet, Silchar, Kumbhirgram, Badarpur, Duarbund.	Inspection .. ..	..	158 2 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Education and Public Works Department</i>				
1st Apl. 1943 to 5th Apl. 1943.	Sylhet, Sunamganj	Sunamganj National War Front Conference.	..	107 8 0
20th Apl. 1943 to 2nd May 1943.	Nowgong, Dibrugarh, Nadua, Jorhat Dooria Tea Estate, Kakajan, Titabar.	Inspection of Educational Institutions.	..	288 13 0
11th May 1943 to 18th May 1943.	Cherrapunji	To attend a Prize Distribution Meeting.	..	271 14 0
2nd Aug. 1943 to 5th Aug. 1943.	Gauhati, Palasbari	Inspection of Educational Institutions and Public Works Department works.	..	71 0 0
6th Oct. 1943 to 22nd Oct. 1943.	Dehradun, Delhi, Aligarh	To attend Central Educational Board, Food Conference in Delhi, and visited Aligarh University.	..	689 11 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Revenue</i>				
28th Mar. 1943 to 16th April 1943.	Sylhet, Sunamganj	To attend National War Front Meeting.	..	210 10 0
13th June 1943 to 23rd June 1943.	Sylhet, Karimganj, Sunamganj	Grow More Food Campaign	..	122 8 0
14th July 1943 ..	Nongpoh and back	Inspection .. ..	..	9 6 0
31st Aug. 1943 to 20th Oct. 1943.	Sylhet, Sunamganj, Chhatak	Inspection .. ..	..	55 5 0
(From 31st Aug. 1943 to 16th Oct. 1943, on private business—Not charged.)				
<i>Hon'ble Minister, General</i>				
16th Apl. 1943 to 26th Apl. 1943.	Gauhati, Golbil, Kokrajhar	Inspection .. ..	..	161 6 0
9th June 1943 to 17th June 1943.	Nowgong, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Tengakhat.	Grow More Food Campaign..	..	282 4 0
8th Aug. 1943 to 15th Aug. 1943.	Dhubri, Basbari, Kokrajhar	Government business	..	151 2 0

Period of tour	Places visited	Purpose	Amount
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Medical</i>			
			Rs. a. p.
1st Apl. 1943 to 5th Apl. 1943.	Sylhet, Sunamganj	Government business ..	108 7 0
10th May 1943 to 13th May 1943.	Cherrapunji	Ditto ditto	45 10 0
13th June 1943 to 22nd June 1943.	Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Dooria Tea Estate.	Ditto ditto	312 1 0
26th Aug. 1943 to 31st Aug. 1943.	Sylhet, Sherpur, Ajmiriganj ..	Ditto ditto	92 14 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Co-operative and Industry</i>			
1st Apl. 1943 to 28th Apl. 1943.	Sylhet, Sunamganj, Karimganj, Nowgong, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh.	Inspection	425 10 0
30th May 1943 to 8th June 1943.	Gauhati, Nalbari, Garali, Goalpara	Inspection	208 4 0
13th June 1943 to 20th June 1943.	Nowgong, Tezpur	Ditto	149 12 0
10th Sep. 1943 to 17th Sep. 1943.	Nowgong, Jorhat, Titabar	Ditto	210 0 0
1st Oct. 1943 to 18th Oct. 1943.	Gauhati, Nowgong	Ditto	49 6 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture and Veterinary</i>			
1st April 1943 to 18th April 1943.	Sylhet, Silchar, Sunamganj, Golaghat	Inspection	266 1 0
8th June 1943 to 20th June 1943.	Golaghat, Sonari, Dibrugarh, Tengakhata.	Ditto	388 2 0
25th Aug. 1943 to 8th Sep. 1943.	Calcutta, Delhi	To attend Food Conference in Calcutta and Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in Delhi.	516 12 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government</i>			
19th May 1943 to 23rd May 1943.	Sylhet, Hailakandi	Inspection	90 0 0
13th June 1943 to 17th June 1943.	Sylhet, Silchar, Hailakandi	Grow More Food Campaign ..	143 14 0
6th July 1943 to 8th July 1943.	Delhi	Attended Food Conference ..	56 4 0
<i>Hon'ble Minister, Civil Defence</i>			
11th Apl. 1943 to 9th May 1943.	Sylhet, Silchar, Calcutta, Delhi ..	Inspection of A. R. P. Works in Assam and discussed with the Hon'ble Member, Civil Defence of the Government of India regarding India's financial help to the province for A. R. P. purposes.	700 8 0
12th June 1943 to 22nd June 1943.	Sylhet, Maulavibazar, Habiganj ..	Grow More Food Campaign, and A. R. P. Works.	183 8 0
23rd Aug. 1943 to 2nd Sep. 1943.	Sylhet, Sherpur, Ajmiriganj ..	A. R. P. Works and attended National War Front Meeting, etc.	149 8 0

†Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know the nature of Government business the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical had to do at Ajmiriganj ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: I think, Sir, it is in connection with the National War Front meeting. One of the primary functions of the Hon'ble Ministers is to keep in touch with the public opinion and as there was a huge gathering at Ajmiriganj it was appropriate for the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical to go there.

†Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: May I know why all the Hon'ble Ministers did not go there ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: They were represented by their Colleagues, Sir.

†Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: In what way the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical performed her duty ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May, I reply, Sir ? I was present there both as Head of the Cabinet and as Leader, National War Front. From a long time people of the Ajmiriganj side were complaining to me about the dearth and scarcity of rice. As a matter of fact when rice was selling at Rs. 30 per maund at Sylhet, it was selling at Rs. 40 at Ajmiriganj. So, when the huge concourse of the people started a water rally there in order to take advantage of boat race, I readily agreed to go. It has been questioned why the Hon'ble Medical Minister went there. One of the functions of the village defence party of the National War Front and the volunteers thereof, is to organise first aid parties and as the Hon'ble Medical Minister is requested to lend the services of Government Doctors to instruct the volunteers, in first-aid methods, her presence in such meetings are necessary. In the National War Front meeting, in the forenoon there was a gathering of about five thousand people. I explained to them our rice policy and also heard from them how rice has become scarce. The Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet who had attended this meeting explained that any quantity of rice that is sent to Ajmiriganj is only partially utilised by the people and the rest is smuggled away to Bengal as the border of Bengal is only half a mile from the Inspection Bungalow of Ajmiriganj. So I took advantage of the huge concourse of very nearly a lakh of people who gathered there at the time of the boat rally and spoke to them that I will ask the Deputy Commissioner to send to Ajmiriganj a sufficient quantity of rice, provided they give assurance that they will consume it themselves and there will be no smuggling out of the Province. I told the people that as soon as the Deputy Commissioner and also the local officials will go back to their headquarters, rice will be sent to Ajmiriganj. I also told the people and their leaders, rice will be sent to Ajmiriganj. I of Assam people and not smuggled to Bengal.

These are the reasons why I went to Ajmiriganj, not to enjoy the boat race but to do propaganda work on behalf of the people and also to see that rice is provided to them, and the Hon'ble Medical Minister also went along with me for the same purpose as she went to some other places in the Valley, such as Golapganj and Sunamganj and also to Nowgong, where National War Front rallies were held.

†Maulavi Muhammad MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Did the Hon'ble Medical Minister deliver any speech in the meeting ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: She did not deliver any speech but she had discussions with the leaders of the public and the leaders were apprised of what she was proposing to do.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know why the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Revenue and the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Civil Defence have boycotted the Assam Valley Districts ?

†Speeches not corrected by the hon. Members concerned.

†The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I know what does the hon. Member mean by "boycott"?

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I mean why they have not paid a single visit since the assumption of office.

†The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I may tell the hon. Member that I have visited twice.

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: After April 1943?

†The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: There was no occasion for visit, Sir, after April 1943.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire.....

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: My question has not been answered in full, Sir.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Since the assumption of office, I have thrice visited that Valley. I propose to make an extensive tour again during this cold weather as necessity arises.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire of the Hon'ble Premier what particular business they had to perform at Sherpur during their journey to Ajmiriganj from 26th to 31st August?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We got down there to see the market that was being held, in order to get first-hand knowledge of the price and quality of rice that was being sold there.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Could they not do that on their way to Ajmiriganj as they happened to pass through that place?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: While going to Ajmiriganj, there was no market held at Sherpur, so we did not stop there. But on the return journey we found that a *hat* had sat and people were buying and selling various articles. So we got down from the boat and stopped there for a while in order to get in touch with the people of that locality to have a first-hand knowledge of the price and quality of rice that was sold there. I also got down to see a market that was being held at a place called Lamakazi about 12 miles from Sylhet.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire whether Habiganj is outside the jurisdiction of any other Hon'ble Minister except the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Civil Defence Minister and the Hon'ble Medical Minister?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: No, Sir.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Then why have they not paid any visit to this unhappy Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: When the Hon'ble Premier, the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Defence and the Hon'ble Medical Minister visited the Subdivision, there was no occasion for other Ministers to visit.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that most of the Hon'ble Ministers have not gone to the Subdivision of Habiganj? I may name the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Industries, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and the Hon'ble Minister, Judicial.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, it is a fact.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Why? Is it outside their jurisdiction?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: It is not outside their jurisdiction, but it has not been possible for them to go there yet. They may go in future.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: As for myself, since 1940 I had four times gone to that Subdivision.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Where, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Twice to Habiganj, once to Nabiganj and once to Shaistaganj.

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In which year?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: In 1940.

†Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: It appears from the statement that the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, drew Rs.90 for inspecting Sylhet and Hailakandi, Rs.143-14-0 for visiting Sylhet, Silchar and Hailakandi in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign and Rs.56-4-0 for attending the Food Conference at Delhi. How that could be, Sir? Is Delhi nearer to Shillong than Sylhet, Silchar and Hailakandi?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think I should explain the position. For my tour to Delhi as a member of the National Defence Council I do not draw anything from this Government as my travelling allowance and daily allowance are paid by the Government of India. I stayed there for two or three days more to attend the Food Conference on behalf of the Hon'ble Premier and for those days I only drew halting allowance.

Payment of Members' salaries during suspension period of the Constitution

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked:

*32. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what decision they have made regarding the payment of the Members' salaries for the period for which the Constitution remained suspended?

(b) What was the opinion of the Advocate General of Assam in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

32. (a)—Government decided after consulting the Advocate General, not to proceed in the matter.

(b)—Government are not prepared to quote the advice given by their legal advisers.

†Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will Government be pleased to consider the question of bringing a Members' Emoluments (Amendment) Bill for the payment of this salary?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said that Government decided after consulting the Advocate General, not to proceed in the matter.

Allotment of Standard cloth to the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*33. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The quantity of Standard Cloth allotted to the Province of Assam for the year 1942 or 1942-43?

(b) The quantity which was actually received?

(c) The quantity of Standard Cloth allotted for the year 1943, or 1943-44?

(d) The quantity which has been received upto the 31st October 1943 and what was the allotment for this period?

(e) How these cloths have been disposed of (figures to be shown Subdivision by Subdivision and for the two years 1942 and 1943 separately)?

(f) The price paid by this Government per pair of such Sarees and Dhoties and the price realised by Government from the buyers per pair of such Sarees, Dhoties (figures to be shown Subdivision by Subdivision and for the two years 1942 and 1943 separately)?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sayid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

33. (a)—1,42,400 yards or 120 bales.

(b)—The full allotment was received and distributed.

(c)—2,93,38,450 yards from 1st February 1943 upto 31st January 1944.

(d)—The quantity despatched upto 31st October 1943 is 6½ million odd yards but the actual quantity received to-date is not available. It is being collected and will be supplied to hon. Member on receipt. There was no specific allotment upto the 31st October 1943, but the allotment upto 31st July 1943 was 49,90,000.

(e)—They are being distributed to indigent persons through Government agencies such as Sub-Deputy Collectors, Sub-Registrars, and Sub-Inspectors of Schools, etc., as decided by the Standard Cloth Advisory Committee. Figures of issues have not been received from all Subdivisions.

(f)—Copies of schedule of prices showing the Mill Price and the Retail Prices are placed on the Library Table.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : With regard to (e), may I enquire on what considerations the allotment of cloth was made in respect of individual cases ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There was no allotment made for individual cases, but the Government of India has laid down that no person should receive more than 8 yards.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Was there any qualifying condition that such and such persons or bodies only should get standard cloth ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, it was meant for the poor, but we did not lay down any standard because it is expected that the Sub-Deputy Collectors and other officers mentioned in my reply will know who are poor.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : How was "poor" defined or specified ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have already said that Government did not lay down any standard of poverty.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact that in the Surma Valley districts people who were paying chowkidari tax at the rate of annas 6 per year were only considered to be qualified to receive standard cloth ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If my hon. Friend mentions this as a statement of fact I will take it that such a standard may have been laid down by the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officers concerned.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Was that standard adopted by the Deputy Commissioner at the instance of the Government ?

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Are Government aware that there are people who do not pay chowkidari tax because of their extreme poverty ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think, there are, and they must get standard cloth as they come within the class for whom this cloth is meant.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Will Government please make an enquiry to ascertain whether those people, who were not in a position to pay chowkidari tax, did receive standard cloth ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will surely bring this to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, but I heard aside from the remarks of Maulavi Mabarak Ali that such people did receive standard cloth in his subdivision.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know from Government who selected these distributing agencies in the subdivisions—whether Government or the Advisory Committee mentioned by the Hon'ble Premier ?

† Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The Standard Cloth Advisory Committee recommended that private agencies should not be employed for the distribution of standard cloth, but it should be distributed through Government agencies. We therefore left it to the Deputy Commissioners to employ any Government agencies as they thought fit.

Re Textile Inspectors and Textile Superintendents

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

- *34. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether they have created certain temporary posts of Textile Inspectors and Textile Superintendents ?
 - If so, what are the total number of posts of each of these classes sanctioned and filled up up till now ? (Figures to be shown community by community.) ?
 - Whether it is a fact that no one from among the Ahom Community has so far been appointed to any of these two classes of posts ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

34. (a)—Government have created some posts of Textile Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors but none of Textile Superintendents.

(b)—There were 20 posts, 9 of Inspectors and 11 of Sub-Inspectors, which have been filled by candidates from the various communities as shown in the list laid on the table.

List showing number of posts of Textile Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors appointed from various communities in the Province.

Surma Valley Muslims :—
Inspectors—2.
Sub-Inspectors—2

Assam Valley Muslims :—
Inspectors—2
Sub-Inspectors—2

Surma Valley Caste Hindus :—
Inspector—1
Sub-Inspector—1

Assam Valley Caste Hindus :—
Inspectors—2
Sub-Inspectors—2

Assam Valley Schedule Castes :—
Inspector—1
Sub-Inspector—nil.

Surma Valley Schedule Castes :—

Inspector—nil.
Sub-Inspector—1

Tribal (Hills) :—
Inspector—nil.
Sub-Inspector—1

Tribal (Plains) :—
Inspector—nil.
Sub-Inspector—1

Indian Christians :—
Inspector—1
Sub-Inspector—nil.

Ahoms :—
Inspector—nil.
Sub-Inspector—1

(c)—No. One candidate from the Ahom Community has been appointed as a Sub-Inspector, as will be seen from the list laid on the table in reply to question 34(b).

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN : May I enquire of Government whether they are prepared to consider the cases of suitable Ahom candidates for appointment as Textile Inspectors to the posts yet to be filled up ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Every community will receive consideration according to its ratio.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Venture schools taken over by Government or Local Boards

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

46.—Will Government be pleased to state the names of those Venture Primary Schools which are attended mostly by the children of *ex-tea* garden labourers and taken over by Government or the Local Boards in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, during the year 1942-43 ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

46.—No Venture school was taken over by Local Boards with Government grant during the year 1942-43 and Government have no information about schools, if any, taken over by the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Local Boards out of their own funds.

* Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : May I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether he received a list of some Venture Schools in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, which I submitted to him some time in the month of March with the note that those schools were needed to be taken over by the Local Boards

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The question relates to the year 1942-43, but my hon. Friend is now referring to the year 1943-44. I do not remember to have received any list from him. If the hon. Member gives me a list of the Venture Schools he has in mind I shall certainly look into the matter.

Government Textile Scheme

Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

47. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How the Government Textile Scheme will be worked out ?
- (b) What amount has been sanctioned for this purpose ?
- (c) How many Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are going to be appointed to work out the scheme ?
- (d) How many of them have already been appointed ?
- (e) Who appointed those officers ?
- (f) Whether these posts were advertised ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- (h) The names of such Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors already appointed and the community to which each of them belongs ?
- (i) How many more such appointments will be made in near future ?
- (j) Whether these new posts will be advertised ?
- (k) What is the salary of an Inspector and that of a Sub-Inspector ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :
47. (a)—The Textile Control Scheme is to be worked in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India's Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control Order), which is a de-hoarding and anti-hoarding measure, aiming at making cloth and yarn available to the public at reasonable prices. The Director of Industries, who has been invested by the Central Textile Commissioner with some of his powers is the Provincial Authority in charge of this control. He is also working *ex-officio* as an Additional Secretary to Government in this behalf for the sake of administrative convenience. Under his general supervision, the District and Subdivisional Officers have been made responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Control Order and a special staff of Textile Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors has been placed at their disposal to help them in this.

*Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.

(b)—Rupees 21,267 has been sanctioned for the present. This and any further expenditure will be met from the income, expected to be approximately Rs. 2 lakhs, from licenses under the Assam Cotton Cloth and Yarn Dealers Licensing Order, which has been passed as a supplement to the Control Order.

(c) & (d)—Nine Inspectors and 11 Sub-Inspectors have so far been appointed. It is proposed to appoint some more officers of both ranks, but the number has not yet been decided.

(e)—Government made the appointments with the concurrence of His Excellency the Governor.

(f)—No.

(g)—More than 120 applications from suitable candidates having been received and the appointments being extremely urgent, there was no need and no time to advertise the posts.

(h)—A list is given below.

SURMA VALLEY MUSLIMS :—

Inspectors :—1. Maulvi Sirajul Islam Chaudhury.
2. Mohammed Abdullah.

Sub-Inspectors :—1. Maulvi Ohid Ghazi.
2. Maulvi Caucab Adil Chaudhury.

ASSAM VALLEY MUSLIMS :—

Inspectors :—1. Maulvi Seraful Hussain.
2. Kazi Saifuddin Ahmed.

Sub-Inspectors :—1. Nawab Rahat Hussain.
2. Maulvi Rafiqueuddin Ahmed.

SURMA VALLEY CASTE HINDUS :—

Inspector :—1. Babu Jogesh Chandra Nath.
Sub-Inspector :—1. Babu Rajendra Chandra Dey.

ASSAM VALLEY CASTE HINDUS :—

Inspectors :—1. Srijut Sushil Chandra Dutta.
2. Srijut Bhabani Kanta Bhuyan.

Sub-Inspectors :—1. Srijut Krishna Kanta Dutta.
2. Srijut Promode Kumar Chaudhury.

ASSAM VALLEY SCHEDULED CASTES :—

Inspector :—1. Srijut Jugal Kumar Das.
Sub-Inspector :—NIL.

SURMA VALLEY SCHEDULED CASTES :—

Inspector :—NIL.

Sub-Inspector :—1. Babu Akshay Kumar Suklabaidya.

TRIBAL (Hills.) :—

Inspector :—NIL.

Sub-Inspector :—1. Mr. G. R. Smartson Ropmay.

TRIBAL (Plains) :—

Inspector :—NIL.

Sub-Inspector :—1. Mr. Basanta Kumar Langthasa.

INDIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY :—

Inspector :—1. Mr. Ronald Goldsmith.

AHOM COMMUNITY :—

Inspector :—NIL.

Sub-Inspector :—1. Srijut Nobin Chandra Buragohain.

(i)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies to (c) and (d), above.

(j)—Government have upto date received about 400 applications from suitable candidates of all communities and more applications are daily pouring in. It will perhaps not be necessary, therefore, to advertise the post.

(k)—Inspector Rs. 150 per mensem.
Sub-Inspector Rs. 80 " "

Posts of Sub-Inspectors of Supplies

Srijut JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked:

48. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Sub-Inspectors of Supplies in Lakhimpur District and the community to which each of them belongs ?
(b) Whether the posts have been distributed according to the quota fixed by Government for the representation of various communities in public service ?
(c) If not, on what basis they have been distributed ?
(d) Do Government propose to ask the District authorities to fill up appointments according to the quota fixed by Government in future ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

48. (a)—There are 6 Sub-Inspectors of Supply in Lakhimpur District and they belong to the following communities :—
Muslim—2. Tribal Kachari—1
Ahom—1. Kaibarta—1.
Bania—1.

(b)—Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d)—Appointments are made by Government with due regard to communal representation on a provincial basis.

Functions of the Food Committee

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

49. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What are the functions of the Food-Committees ?

(b) Whether it is an advisory body to the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-divisional Officer concerned ?

(c) In matters of difference of opinion between the Food-Committee and the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer whose decision prevails ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

49. (a)—They will advise the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer on all matters connected with distribution of food and other essential commodities including Standard Cloth and enforcement of Control measures.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The responsibility for any action taken will remain with the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer concerned whether on the advice of the committee or against it.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : With regard to (b), may I know whether the recommendations of the Food Committees are binding on the District and Subdivisional Officers concerned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : They are not exactly binding. The question itself asks whether it is an advisory body to the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer concerned, and the reply is 'Yes'. That means that it is an advisory body and it is up to the District and Subdivisional Officers to respect the recommendations or not. But I doubt whether in actual fact any Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer would dare to flout the opinions of the Food Committees when most of the Members will be representatives of both the Houses of the Legislature.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : What should be the relation of the Subdivisional Officers to the Food Committees of the Subdivisions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The reply is already given under 49 (a). "They will advise the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer on all matters connected with distribution of food and other essential commodities including Standard Cloth and enforcement of Control measures".

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Who should preside over the meetings of those committees ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We have not actually directed that Government officers should be Chairman at these meetings, but for the purposes of carrying out the recommendations of those committees—as executive action shall have to be taken by the Government officers—probably the committees themselves will ask the officials concerned to preside.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : If the Subdivisional Officers decline to work in the Food Committees as Chairman can they be forced to do so ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not prepared to answer a hypothetical question. If any such specific instance comes to light I shall only be too glad to look into the matter.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Is the Subdivisional Officer bound to act according to the advice of the Food Committee ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have already replied to that question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Who is the competent person to convene the meetings of the Food Committees ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think, Sir, these Food Committees will elect their own Secretaries and Presidents. If there be a Secretary he will convene the meetings, or they will form their own rules for a monthly or a fortnightly meeting, providing also for emergency meetings when situation so demands.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Do not Government realise the difficulty of these Food Committees sitting independently without any Government officials, as in that case they cannot be supplied with any records relating to specific food-stuffs ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We realise, and therefore we have asked the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to be in these Food Committees.

*Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Are Government aware that the Chairman of the Food Committee in the Garo Hills is an official ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think, up till now everywhere the Chairman is an official.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know when these Food Committees were started ? Was it long ago ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think these were started in certain areas from the 1st November ; but gazette notification will appear very shortly.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Are these committees functioning already ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : In one or two places.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Are Government going to issue instructions to the Subdivisional Officers and District Officers, so that they may co-operate with this body and preside over meetings ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If this be the wish of hon. Members, we will issue orders to that effect.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : What is the status of these bodies ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I cannot understand what is meant by status. They are advisory bodies and the acceptance of their recommendations will lie with the administrative departments concerned.

*Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ : I heard from the Hon'ble Premier the word 'essential commodities'. Does that include kerosene ?

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Will Government issue orders to District and Subdivisional Officers that decisions of these Food Committees will be taken in the form of proceedings ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Surely, minutes will be recorded of the proceedings.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know where these Food Committees are constituted ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not sure, where. Some of the hon. Members during this session mentioned about these Food Committees being constituted with the Subdivisional Officer as President.

*Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : There is one at Karimganj.

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

Economic Advisory Board

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

50. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Their relation with the Assam Economic Advisory Board ?
- (b) Whether their policy on economic questions from time to time is determined by or framed on the basis of decisions arrived at the Board's meetings ?
- (c) Whether the decisions of the Board are sent to the Press for publication ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that the decisions of Boards similarly constituted in other Provinces are published in the Press ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :
50. (a)—The Economic Advisory Board was constituted under the order of Government with official and non-official members to advise Government on the question of co-ordinating supply, distribution and transport within the provincial resources.

(b)—In determining their policy on economic question Government give due consideration to the recommendation of the Board.

(c)—No.

(d)—This is an advisory body and their decisions are subject to acceptance by Government and hence they are not sent to Press.

(e)—Government have no information.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether the members of the committee were nominated by the present Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. Some of them who were recently put in the committee were nominated on the advice of the Ministry but the main committee, I mean the Advisory Board was constituted before the Ministry came into existence.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Was the communal question taken into account in nominating this body?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I cannot say because it was constituted before I formed the Ministry.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know, when the Hon'ble Prime Minister revised the list, he took the communal question into consideration?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There was no revision of the list. Only one Member, Rai Bahadur Rameswar Lal Saharia, Member of Legislative Council, failed to attend most of the meetings and he was replaced by Babu Satyendra Mohan Lahiri. There was a request made to me from different sources from Members of Legislative Assembly that as the question of supplying Bengal with *Boro* crop was before the Advisory Committee some member from the *Boro* growing areas should be co-opted to this Advisory Board. Instead of co-option, we requested His Excellency the Governor to nominate Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, as he hails from Sunamganj which is a *Boro* growing area.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is this a permanent body, or will it continue till the War lasts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I cannot say off-hand how long this committee will continue but probably it will continue so long as the food situation remains as it is either here or in the neighbouring province of Bengal, conditions whereof have repercussion in this province.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Has this body an official majority?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. This body has representation from various departments. Some of which can only be represented by officials, for example, for the Military Department none but officials can represent. Again, the Railway Administration and the Steamer Companies are represented by their own officials but there is quite a large body of Members of the Legislature to place the case of the people before this Board.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are the questions of this committee decided by a majority of votes?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It has never come to that, Sir. Whatever recommendations have been arrived at were arrived at unanimously.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Who presides over the deliberations of this Committee?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: His Excellency the Governor.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Who functions as Secretary of this Committee?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. A. Whittaker, M.L.A.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether Government have the power to dissolve the existing Committee?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Ministry can recommend the dissolution of this body and reconstitute a new body, but the Ministry has not felt the necessity for that.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that during the last Budget Session opinions were expressed that the Economic Advisory Board of the Province has not the popular sanction behind it?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Certain criticisms were levelled against that body but the House as a whole did not accept that opinion.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As regards (d) and (e), Sir, has not Government seen that the proceedings of the Economic Advisory Body of the Government of India are published in the paper?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Only that portion which is issued to the press by that body itself.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Have not the body, the Economic Advisory Board, any authority to publish their proceedings in the papers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Often times our Publicity Officer placed before the public, some of the recommendations of the Economic Advisory Board which have been accepted by Government.

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I mean to say that the proceedings and recommendations of the Advisory Board, whether they are accepted or not are published by the Government of India? Why is not the same procedure followed in this Province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will consider this question, Sir.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now the voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1943-44 will be taken up. Discussion will continue upto 3-30 p. m.

Supplementary Demand No. I—25—General Administration

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 25,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944 for the administration of the head "25—General Administration."

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	24,18,600
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for :—	
M(b).—Civil Secretariat—Publicity Department	43,080
Deduct—Grant-in-aid by the Government of India for the Song Publicity Organisation	—17,780
Total	25,300

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. *Non-contract contingencies*.—A sum of Rs. 25,000 is required to meet charges for license fees, batteries, aerial and earth wires, additional loudspeakers and other installation equipment, etc., for community radio receivers which are to be installed in selected places of the province for the purpose of broadcasting A. I. R., B. B. C., programmes and other educative and entertainment programmes, etc., for the benefit of the public. The Government of India have under Lease-Lend Procedure obtained a number of wireless sets from the U. S. A. and have allotted 65 such sets to this province on payment of out-of-pocket expenses only, such as freight incurred by the Government of India. In other provinces community receivers have proved

*Speeches not corrected by the hon. Member.

popular as have the few already working in Assam. This is a great opportunity of bringing important rural centres in direct contact with the sources of central publicity material. Moreover, if a transmitting station is established in Assam, much good could be done in the way of spreading education and brightening village life through community receiving sets.

2. It is proposed to establish a Song Publicity Organisation in Assam. Soon after the formation of the Department of Information and Broadcasting Government of India, an experiment was made in doing propaganda of all kinds for the uplift of the rural areas through songs and poems. It was thought that this method would prove most effective in a country where for centuries the nobler emotions of the people had been roused and developed through the medium of songs. The scheme has proved an unqualified success in places such as Delhi, the Punjab and the U. P. It will give a long desired scope for the expression of local talent. The Government of India are bearing the full cost of the scheme and the Assam Government have agreed to administer an organisation on an experimental basis and though the full cost will be met by the Government of India, the charge must for technical reasons appear in the provincial Budget and as it was not included in the original Budget this has now been entered as a Supplementary Demand. The scheme is likely to come into operation by the end of this month and a sum of Rs. 17,780 including the pay of the Song Publicity Organiser and his staff for the rest of the year is required.

3. *Allowances and honoraria.*—A conference of newspaper editors of the province and Press representatives was held in September last to discuss matters relating to the food situation. The arrangement was much appreciated and furnished valuable contact between the journalists and the Government organisation. The newspaper editors had to be given travelling allowance for their journeys and a sum of about Rs. 300 was spent for the purpose.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 25,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1944 for the administration of the head—25.—General Administration.”

The hon. Members will please note that we are to continue discussion of the Supplementary Demands upto 3-30 p. m. and we have got 8 Demands to dispose of. Of course to each of the Demands there are some Cut Motions. I am not fixing a time limit for each of the speeches on Cut Motions, but I would request hon. Members to see that their speeches be not unnecessarily long, so that we may finish the business of the disposing of the Supplementary Demands within the time allotted.

The first Cut Motion is in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 43,080 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head.—M(b).—Civil Secretariat—Publicity Department, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs. 100 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 25,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I want to move this Motion with a view to criticise the Publicity Department which is now working in the Province. At the beginning of the establishment of this Department, we were of opinion that this Department should be more in touch with our rural population. It is not very much necessary that the publications of this Department should be supplied to the people of town areas, for the reason that the people of town areas are generally in the habit of reading Newspapers, periodicals and other things by which they can get first hand knowledge of what is going on in the Province and in the world. Sir, so far as I remember, even during the last Budget Session, there was criticism that this Department should see their way to supply first-hand information to our village folk and as for myself I cannot admit that the desire of the House has been given effect to even after those criticisms were made. Now I find that some improvement has no doubt been made, if I do

not admit that, then I will not be telling the truth. But I should say that this sort of improvement will not be of real use to the people for whom it was meant. Very recently I have also noticed some posters being hung up here and there; I have also noticed that a poster has been hung up within the compound of the Legislative Assembly; in these posters our Hon'ble Prime Minister has been shown as if he is asking for the co-operation of the public in general. (laughter.)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There is nothing to laugh.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Of course, Sir, it is very happy that our Hon'ble Prime Minister in that poster has been asking for public co-operation. But it should be considered whether this sort of poster is of real use to our common people. These posters in English have been hung up mostly in towns only. At the very beginning we have told that this sort of propaganda should not be monopolised by the educated people alone; it is all the more necessary that propaganda work should be carried on in an easier manner with a view to secure the co-operation of the common people. What I consider is that pamphlets and other periodicals and weekly and fortnightly papers should be published bearing all the news with regard to the policy of the Government regarding war measures, supply measures and all other necessary policies which are the burning matters of the day. As far as practicable the village people should be burning with all these periodicals and pamphlets. These papers may be sent to the Primary School Teachers either once in a week or in a fortnight with instruction that they should call all the leading villagers on a certain date and read out all the news to them. This is one of my suggestions.

Then Sir, broad-casts which are now being made in town areas are mainly with regard to the war measure. We desire that this broad-cast propaganda also should be made in connection with the supply and other policies of the Government. With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 43,080 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—M(b).—Civil Secretariat—Publicity Department, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 25,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

I think, Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy's Motion is also to the same effect.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: There is a mistake, Sir. It should be 'song' and not 'some'. However, Sir, I am not going to move it†.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:—Very well.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is too late in the day for all of us here to raise a discussion about the utility of this Department. Practically in all the provinces, we have got the Publicity Departments. Practically we found, Sir, that the Department was not functioning well, but the beginning of this Department is functioning at present is rather hopeful and we can say in which properly conducted and Government do not let this Department starve, in that case it will do a great deal of benefit to the public. Sir, it has been hinted in the House about the wireless station in Assam. This point was raised in the explanatory note about two years back and it is high time that we should not be satisfied with the hope of having one but we say that we must have one, if possible, during the current year. As regards the number of sets that has been mentioned here, I shall appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to get some more sets from the Government of India free of cost.

†2. Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY:—

That the provision of Rs. 43,080 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—M(b).—Civil Secretariat—Publicity Department, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44 be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 25,300 do stand reduced by Rs. 100. (To criticise the action of some publicity organisation of Government.):

Sir, the activities of this Department should not be limited to only war propaganda but it should make propaganda for cleanliness, improvement of agriculture, mass education and other beneficial measures like these.

Sir, I think that in our Province there should be a Press Advisory Board. The Central Government has already got one. May I know from the Hon'ble the Premier whether any one from this Province represents us in that Advisory Board? If not, will he kindly take steps so that our Province also may be represented there? As I have said before, Sir, that unless the Department is properly fed, it will be of no use and there will be rather heart-burning in some quarters, of course reasonably and rightly.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Press in England is regarded as the fourth Estate. In these days the policy of the Government is moulded and dictated by the public opinion and again public opinion is moulded by the Press. The Press is the most valuable machinery by which we can place our grievances before the Government. We were in urgent need of a Publicity Department which could help Government to keep in touch with the grievances of the public and carry it to the notice of Government. We are glad, Sir, that a Publicity Department which is the youngest Department of Government is doing splendid work in the Province.

I had an occasion to visit the Publicity Office yesterday, and I was very glad to find that everything in that office had been kept in neat order. I made elaborate enquiries and found that all newspapers were studied in that office and Press cuttings were regularly submitted to the Government for perusal and necessary action. I found also that Press notes are regularly issued on subjects of public importance in Assam. This is very good. Correct and reliable information in all subjects is essential for the welfare of the Province. The Department is very young and there may be some defects in the work but we cannot agree with my Friend that it is only for this reason that the Department should be abolished. He may suggest some method by which the work of the Department may be improved.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of information, Sir. Will the hon. Speaker the Dewan Saheb please say what are the first, second and third Estates in England?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not necessary.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, normally speaking I should have condemned this Cut Motion but as this Cut Motion gives me an opportunity to publicize my Publicity Department, I welcome this Cut Motion. But my labours have been very much lessened by Messrs. Mookerjee and Haji Dewan Saheb. They have given the certificate which is due to this Publicity Department. It is really a very infant Department. When I got notice of this Cut Motion, I had to rub my eyes for the very frank short explanatory note given by my Friend. He says "The purpose of the Demand is not understood and the general public derive no benefit".....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: There are two clauses, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If any gentleman does not understand what this Department is and what it is doing, then how all at once, he can come to the conclusion that it is no good? This is a state of mind which is beyond my imagination.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I have qualified it, Sir, and said that the general public derive no benefit.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, although he does not understand, he says the general public derive no benefit.

Sir, as usual, my hon. Friend started at a tangent from his own short explanatory note of the Cut Motion. I did my level best in my explanatory note to tell the House why I have to come before them with this Supplementary Demand. We had very recently convened a conference of all the Editors who publish papers in the Province and also of the Press Representatives of the different Dailies of Calcutta who

have got their offices here. We had a very heart to heart and frank discussion. Those gentlemen who came from the mufassil were paid travelling allowance. A sum of Rs.300 is required to meet their bills. The experiment has proved so successful that the Representatives of the Press themselves pressed that we should have quarterly conferences of this nature. Whether it would be possible to discuss with them every quarter any important Government measure I doubted, but, I promised that at least once in a year or as soon as I formulate a new policy which ought to be explained to the public, I would take the help of such conferences. I think, Sir, that is a move in the right direction and I will have the blessing of the House to that endeavour.

The next item I have explained is that we are going to have a Song Publicity Organisation in this Province. The Government of India have started such a department and they are prepared to spend some money in this Province also, if we organise such a Publicity Department. The Central Organiser of Song Publicity came all the way from Delhi to Shillong to explain the scope of that organisation. He also told me that Assam has been allotted a sum of Rs.48,000, and if we can develop our Song Publicity in a proper manner that sum will be placed at our disposal. From him, we got the report that in the Punjab and the United Provinces, this has been of great influence for the general welfare of the public. It is well-known not only, in the Assam Valley but also in the Sylhet District that there are village bards who generally give some notables of the village or sometimes they put in verse the efforts of either the village people or of the Government for the welfare of the community. These songs often times impress the village folk to a very great extent. Therefore, Sir, as the money is coming from the Central Government we want to experiment with song publicity.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. How many officers will be there for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We will have two organisers for the two valleys—one for the Assam Valley, one for the Surma Valley, because in the Assam Valley the songs will be mostly in Assamese. Advertisements were issued and some 300 applicants have already applied. I have selected 36 out of these and they will be interviewed by the Central Publicity Officer himself. He was to have arrived on the 22nd November and the candidates were asked to appear before him. But unfortunately, that gentleman had to postpone his arrival in Assam to the 1st of December and the candidates are awaiting to be interviewed and selected by him.

The next item which is the biggest item, Sir, is the question of wireless sets. That too I have tried my level best to explain. The Government of India has obtained this on the Lease and Lend Programme and everyone who had followed what articles are available on Lend and Lease Basis must know that they should be of a nature that will increase our war efforts and war resistance. Therefore, Sir, if these wireless sets are set up in this Province, we will have to do some war propaganda work. I agree with most of the hon. Members who have spoken on this Cut Motion that we should not limit ourselves to tell the people what we are doing about the war efforts but we should take the opportunity of imparting simple hygienic, economic and other matters to our people for their uplift and benefit. As a matter of fact, with our propaganda vans and loud-speakers, we have already started this work and any one who hears the propaganda vans in Shillong will learn that this propaganda work is first started with the propaganda song, which not only gathers a crowd but gives some kind of relaxation to the hard-worked people and also gives them war news and finally informs them about any measures of Government which have been started for the benefit of the people. More-Food Campaign which is looming large in all the deliberations of this House, are often times mentioned through these loud-speakers.

My Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman has fallen foul of the fact that I am caricatured in a poster. It was not my seeking, but the Publicity Officer insisted upon a poster of that nature saying that it would be of great help to our cultivators. Maulavi Abdur Rahman rightly criticises that the statement given in the poster is in English and there fore will not be understood by the village people. Arrangements have been

made, not only by the Publicity Department of the Government of Assam, but also by the National War Front Organiser, to reproduce this poster with the statement underneath in Bengali and Assamese and they will be issued to the villagers so that they would understand my point, *i.e.*, I seek their co-operation.....

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The photograph is very bad, Sir, in the poster.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SADDULLA: Any way I can be recognised in that picture and I will be satisfied if this serves any useful purpose. I do not care for.....

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY: Why there in the poster the thumb is so prominent? (*Laughter.*)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: When I said in the Press Conference that I wanted their help I pushed my fore-finger to the front.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: We hope, Sir, we shall have no rule of the thumb. (*Laughter.*)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have now left the Publicity Department in the lurch. We have now posted Mr. Hayley as whole-time Publicity Officer of the Province and have relieved him of his other duties which were very heavy as Under-Secretary in the Home Department. Formerly, he was in charge of both the functions and therefore he could not give his full attention to the Publicity Department. Now as his sole business is publicity, I can tell you that his very breath is nothing less than to pour out all his energies to this work and he is doing his level best to properly disseminate, not only the war news, but also any good news for the benefit of the people of the country and news about hygienic rules, scientific methods of cultivation and also proper methods of marketing are being told to the people in the rural areas. It was mentioned that instead of spending money on posters we should have invested this in newspapers. For the dissemination to the villagers, the publicity points that may be appreciated by our people, are written down by the Publicity Department and used to be sent to the Districts where there are publicity organisers under the District Officers. Formerly the Publicity Officer used to send lots of these to the Deputy Commissioners to be distributed by them. But it has been decided that, as the National War Front organisation publishes two vernacular papers, one is called "Surma Upattayaka" and the other "Bhabissyat Assam" in this Province, the points of talk that need to be sent out from the Publicity Department, are now published in those vernacular papers. So, instead of duplicating our efforts, we have rather co-ordinated the propaganda work of the Publicity Department and the National War Front.

Lastly, Sir, I quite agree with Mr. Mookerjee that Assam should have a broad-casting station as early as possible. I remember to have pressed for this some 18 months ago and even now this matter is being considered by the authorities at Delhi. They have not said 'nay' to it, but they have placed before us certain difficulties not of a technical nature but about impracticability in securing the machinery that will be necessary. If we get the receiving sets now we are sure to have a broad-casting station either now or immediately after the war; this would surely be very helpful in imparting knowledge to our village people. So, I think, instead of Government getting a censure by way of a Cut Motion, we should have been encouraged, like Mr. Mookerjee, by insisting that we should have more sets rather than limiting ourselves to 65.

I am glad, Sir, a very observant and literary critic, I mean Haji Dewan Ahbab Chaudhury, is satisfied that remarkable and splendid work is done by this Publicity Department. My Friend Mr. Mookerjee has insisted that we should request the Central Government to have a representative from Assam in their Press Advisory Board. I will consider this suggestion. Sir, one difficulty that looms before us is that we have no daily paper or Press and unless we have a daily paper, the Press is not supposed to be complete. Therefore, as we have got a few weekly papers only we are not supposed to have a sufficient Press to claim representation in the Central Publicity

Board. Sir, I will bear in mind the suggestions. After this lengthy statement, I hope I have been able to satisfy Mr. Abdur Rahman with matters which dispels in his original idea that the purpose of the Demand is not understood by him. As I have now given sufficient materials for understanding it, I hope he will kindly withdraw his Cut Motion.

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member has got leave of the House to withdraw his Motion.

(After a pause.)

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next Cut Motion is that of Babu Nirendra Nath Deb. His *Motion is not in order. The matter he wants to discuss is *sub-judice*. There is another difficulty. It also cannot be discussed under this Demand, which has nothing to do with "penalisation" of newspapers.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I beg to move Sir, that the total provision of Rs.25,300 under Supplementary Demand No.1, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the Publicity Department was first started with Mr. Eahia Khan Chaudhury, a member of the Provincial Civil Service as Publicity Officer. He has, as far as I could judge, the necessary proficiency in the language of English and he is equal to, if not better than, the average of the Indian educated people. He was familiar with Hindustani and Urdu. He is a Bengali speaking Muslim and on account of his long association with the people of the Assam Valley Districts he could speak and understand Assamese almost as well like any Assamese. Sir, his salary was the usual salary of an Extra Assistant Commissioner *plus* an allowance of Rs.200 per mensem which was swallowed up by the high house rent which has to be paid in Shillong and by his conveyance charges. In spite of best efforts that one could make for him that allowance could never be raised because Government was suffering from stringency of funds at that time. We had an Assistant Publicity Officer, a fairly senior pleader named Srijut Ganga Ram Chaudhury who was appointed on a salary of only Rs.150 per month and as soon as the 93 regime came into operation that post of the Assistant Publicity Officer was retrenched on the same ground of stringency of funds. Now, Sir, when money became easier and the Government of Assam somehow came to be in funds Eahia Khan Chaudhury was not remembered and Ganga Ram Chaudhury was completely forgotten. The salary which we are now paying for the present Publicity Officer who is a member of the Indian Civil Service perhaps represents the total amount of budget on this account in the year 1941-42. Sir, people are wondering why this has been done. They find no reason but they guess that the reason which has prompted the Government of Assam to place a senior marketing officer of the Burma Oil Company in charge of the Assam Transport Department (*ear, hear*), the same reason which has prompted the Government to place a company which is incorporated in England, in sole charge of purchase of paddy in Assam is the reason for this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I don't know why the hon. Member is introducing all these things.

*3. Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.25,300 under Supplementary Demand No.1, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To censure the Government for penalisation of "Sylhet Chronicle".)

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, we must not forget that the present Publicity Officer is a member of the Indian Civil Service. I am told, Sir, and I am told from a very reliable authority that these members of the Indian Civil Service when they are born in England, they are born like ordinary human beings, *i.e.*, they used to suck their mother's breast, they used to go to schools and colleges like ordinary boys but as soon as they are appointed to the Indian Civil Service and as soon as they land in India they are by a curious process metamorphosed into so many heavenly beings. There is nothing that they do not know. Without reading a single page of law and without appearing before any Court they could at once become Sessions Judges and High Court Judges and even Director of Public Instruction. Probably the House knows that Sir Archdale Earle was once the Director of Public Instruction and Mr. Driver was also an Inspector General of Police. Before he had seen a single tea plantation perhaps a member of the Indian Civil Service could become the leader of the whole European Planting Community! Look at the advantage of becoming a member of the Indian Civil Service. All these *jabardast* planters of Assam who have, so to speak, established a second Raj in Assam, are now being led by one who once adorned the Indian Civil Service.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will please come to the point.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The point is this: I do not know the author, probably, I am quoting unconsciously—"that in India the omniscience and omnipotence of God—the Almighty Father—comes next to the Indian Civil Service officers". It was perhaps this idea that actuated the present Government to place a member of the Indian Civil Service in charge of the Publicity Department. Sir, what is the innovation which this important officer has introduced? You have probably heard of "Hayley's Comet" which appeared in 1911. I do not know what relationship there is between the author of the Comet and our Publicity Officer Mr. Hayley. Now we have heard of 'Hayley's Kite' and that 'Hayley's Kite' is a creature of the Publicity Department. The Hon'ble Ministers are gaping at me probably they have not seen this "Kite" and do not believe me, but, Sir, it is a fact. There is a kite which is maintained by the Publicity Department of the Government of Assam. It is not a paper kite, it is a kite of huge size, it is a kite made of cloth, it is a kite which requires a dozen men or a whole A.V.T. van for transportation from place to place. The idea is that in its long tail information is to be written and when it is flown up in the sky people are to read the messages from that tail. That is the innovation which has been introduced by the Publicity Department which is in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. Now, I understand, I do not know how far it is correct, that the Department has come with a request for a large grant of money so that field glasses will be purchased by the Department and distributed among the English knowing people who will read through the glasses the news and the information given in the tail of the kite and then explain to the people who do not know English. Sir, this kite had cost the Government about 3 to 4 thousand rupees and what information this kite has been able to give is not known to me but is known to some hon. Members of this House and to the Members of the Government. I do not understand whether this kite drops its tail every night and comes with a fresh tail next morning, because if any important news is to be given next morning a fresh tail has to be attached every morning so that fresh information can be given. I ask if the House is still of opinion that this Department is not run with extravagant expenditure without any benefit to the people? Sir, I do not wish to touch on that point of Hon'ble Premier's portrait, because it has already been commented upon. If the Hon'ble Premier had been in charge of the finance portfolio we could have understood the reason of publication of this caricature. Is it because he refused to pay for the field glasses which were intended to be purchased by the Publicity Department? But, Sir, he is not in charge of the Finance Department. It is difficult to understand what is the motive of the Publicity Department in publishing this caricature of the Hon'ble Premier. The Hon'ble Premier is fortunately or unfortunately living like a Fakir and he has at present no *undermahal*. If he had an *undermahal*, probably his access to the *undermahal* would have been debarred. After publication of this portrait, Sir, I do not wish to dilate upon this point further because it seems the Hon'ble Premier has himself approved of the portrait and my inference from his attitude is that it was made to his order.

Next I come to the accuracy or inaccuracy of the information given from ...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is to discuss the top-heaviness of the Department.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I believe I have already said enough on top heaviness. The top heavy kite is an ample proof of that. I am citing only one or two instances. In a Press Note sometime ago an appeal was made that the growers of food should not try to hoard their food-grains but sell them at a moderate price, because the Government was taking steps to reduce the price of agricultural implements and other commodities which the agriculturists may require and therefore they should part with the produce which they have in their possession. That was a misleading statement; that was not correct. We have heard from the Hon'ble Prime Minister in reply to a question put by Mr. Marak that the Provincial Government have not taken any step in this direction and that they are unable to take any step. Sir, this is a disastrous and most mischievous propaganda that one could imagine of. It had a disastrous effect on the poor villagers who had been persuaded to sell their produce at a lower price in expectation of getting other necessities of life at lower prices.

The second inaccuracy which I would like to point out is this. A false assurance was given as regards the amount of standard cloth. But that all these figures are incorrect will appear from the figures which have been given to-day by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in reply to a certain question.

Then, Sir, as regards the recommendations of the Economic Advisory Board, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said this morning that those recommendations of the Economic Advisory Board which were accepted by the Government were allowed to be published, but up-till-now not a single recommendation of the Economic Advisory Board has been published by the Publicity Department. I would ask— I would not use the expression 'challenge'—the Hon'ble Prime Minister to give me the information in the next Session whether and when any recommendation of the Advisory Board in course of this year was published by the Publicity Department.

Sir, the propaganda van, which is known in the plains districts as "মিছা কখাৰ গাড়ী", as soon as the van arrives the children come up and say, here goes the "মিছা কখাৰ গাড়ী", *i. e.*, the van which propagates lies, only gives out the propaganda speeches of certain individuals, but no correct information is given. It was said that *Gur* was selling at annas 7 a seer, but you could not get it at anything less than Re. 1-4-0 a seer. Yet the মিছা কখাৰ গাড়ী will say that it is selling at annas 7 per seer, but you won't get it anywhere at that price.

I therefore submit, Sir, that the Department ought to be made less top-heavy, if it has to serve any useful purpose.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 25,300 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 1, of the list of Supplementary Demands for grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Cut Motion was a very modest one; the cut was for the lowest figure of Re. 1. But that Cut Motion has been ushered into our discussion by means of a very tall, humorous, mischievous and uninformed criticism. I would not follow in the footsteps of my hon. Friend and discuss the *undarmahals* of either the Cabinet Members or even of the hon. Member himself.

The first point which my hon. Friend wanted to discuss was the alleged top-heaviness of the Publicity Department as at present constituted. My hon. Friend who was a Minister at the time the Publicity Department was started knows full well that the first Publicity Officer was Mr. Eahia Khan of the Provincial Civil Service. He was assisted, in spite of his being a Bengali-speaking gentleman of the Province, by one Assamese Assistant Publicity Officer and another Bengali Officer who, though not styled at the time as Assistant Publicity Officer, was really the Assistant Publicity Officer for Bengali language. In short, there were three Officers. My hon. Friend

had stated that Mr. Eahia Khan received his grade salary of the Provincial Civil Service *plus* a special allowance of Rs. 200 per month. He knows full well what the grade pay of Mr. Eahia Khan was then, or any reference to the Civil List will show that. The pay of two Assistant Publicity Officers *plus* the emoluments of Mr. Eahia Khan at the time is exactly the same as the emoluments of Mr. Hayley, the full Publicity Officer *plus* his Bengali Assistant, who still continues. Therefore, Sir, the myth of the top-heavy administration has been blown off.

The next point that my hon. Friend raised is that this Department issues misleading information with the idea of getting best advantage—I don't know of what—for the Government or for anybody else. My hon. Friend has placed three examples before the House. His first charge is that one of the Press Notes which the Publicity Department published was meant to persuade people to sell rice under false pretences, *viz.*, “you sell rice cheap; Government is arranging to give you other necessities of life including agricultural implements cheap.” I wish my hon. Friend instead of indulging in humours did give us certain facts. Now where was the misinformation in that statement? I mentioned on the floor of the House that this Provincial Government had got no power whatsoever to reduce the price of iron materials because iron and steel are controlled by the Central Government. But I told the House, in reply to Mr. Marak's question, that we expected that nails, which were specifically mentioned in the question, would sell cheaper because the Government of India have definitely promised that they would release certain quantity of iron and steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements including nails, so that they might be sold cheap to the public. I think, Sir, the Press Note gave the true state of things, and was not trying in any way to raise false hopes with the idea of getting rice cheap. May I ask for whom was the rice meant which the cultivators were asked to sell cheap? Government is not blind. The Government are trying their level best to give the cultivators fair and reasonable price for their agricultural produce; they have placed an agency to buy the surplus rice and paddy which the cultivators want to sell.

The next point was about standard cloth. There too, Sir, there was no inaccuracy. We have been promised by the Central Government times without number that standard cloth has been ordered to be issued from the mills manufacturing them, and we were asked to give the centres where this cloth would be sent and were also asked to send our indent. Accordingly we sent our indent long ago, and we expected every day that standard cloth would come. I mentioned day before yesterday that we have up-till-now received about 3 million yards of standard cloth. The quantity that has been allotted to us has also been given out by me this morning. We are expecting about 6 crore yards which has been allotted to us, but of which only about 3 million yards arrived in Assam, and 5 million yards are in transit. The Press Note from Mr. Hayley's Department could not exactly say on what date this consignment would arrive in Assam. Nobody nowadays can give any assurance about the date of arrival of any consignment which is brought by rail. Even the Railway people are unable to give one any assurance.

Lastly, Sir, my hon. Friend has styled the propaganda van as “নিছাকথার গাড়ী”, or “the van of false statement.” Well, there is a certain section of the people—I hope they are not very large—who think that propaganda means only নিছাকথা. They cannot conceive that propaganda and publicity can be given of true facts. Therefore no wonder if intelligent people like Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri thinks that propaganda is only of false materials and that the children either of his household or neighbourhood will style it as “Misa-Kathar Gari” and that “Misa Katha” has only emanated from it. The speakers of this van said that the price of *Gur* has been controlled by Government and have fixed the price at annas 7 per seer as Government is also controlling the price of sugar. If sugar is selling at annas 8, as *Gur* cannot be sold at a higher price than that, but, unfortunately, in their greed to have some *Pithas*, such as pan-cakes and other sweet things people by their demand that the price of *Gur* higher than sugar. Normal by price of a commodity goes up when supply is far less

than the demand. The propaganda van only speaks of what the Government had decided, and, therefore, they did not state any untrue facts when they stated that the controlled price of *Gur* is fixed at annas 7.

The main point, Sir, about this Cut Motion is the question of top-heaviness and I only request every hon. Member of this House to look into the Civil List to find out the grade-salary of Mr. Hayley, who is a member of the Indian Civil Service and to find out what was the salary drawn by Mr. Eahia Khan Choudhury at the time when he was the Publicity Officer of this Government.

Mr. Chaudhuri in order to develop his arguments in a humourous way had recourse to draw upon his imagination and had to fly himself away from his legitimate course. He referred to Messrs. Steel Brothers and to the appointment of Mr. Adamson, but it will be giving out no secret when I say that Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri himself was so impressed by the intelligence, energy and keenness to do good work of Mr. Hayley who was having his Survey training at a place called Jhalukbari that he along with my Hon'ble Colleague to my right recommended that if anyone is to be brought here as Under-Secretary we must give a chance to Mr. Hayley. Against the practice of not appointing an Under-Secretary who has not 5 or 6 years' service to his credit, Mr. Hayley was appointed which was an exception, in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Chaudhuri and my Hon'ble Colleague who pressed me hard to bring Mr. Hayley to Shillong. Mr. Hayley took their photographs and pleased them so much.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Has he got a camera ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He had a camera at the time. Mr. Hayley while he was pre-occupied with his duties as Under-Secretary began to collect every bit of information, particularly of importance, from the war point of view, prosecution of the war, war efforts and also other general topic of the Province. He kept a big collection of cuttings. There is a Press conference held by the Chief Secretary every Friday in Shillong. In those Press conferences Mr. Hayley produced the cuttings and discussed them and got the approval of these members of the Press Advisory Board that if these are placed before the public these will give them good news and ultimately will come to their benefit. So Mr. Hayley without being in charge of the Publicity Department took all these troubles to do some benefit to the Publicity Department and naturally after Mr. Eahia Khan had to go on leave on medical grounds—he was so over-worked that he broke down his health and had to go on leave—Mr. Hayley took up this Publicity work with the assistance of Mr. Chakravarty Ayyengar, my Personal Assistant. When we found that the work of this Department was growing by leaps and bounds and Mr. Hayley could not manage his work both as Under-Secretary of the Home Department and also doing propaganda business, we had to make him the sole Publicity Officer of this Province. He has been experimenting on various types of publicity. My Friend places various obvious facts before the House that Mr. Hayley was born in England and he tried to push the kind of publicity he had seen in England, namely, publicity by means of kites. Mr. Hayley did experiment in Shillong with a kite having some slogans and in performing this Mr. Hayley had to spend some money. Whether it was 2 or 3 thousand rupees I do not know. I have seen Mr. Hayley's kite flying in Shillong race course where there is a good concourse of people. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri has introduced a bit of joke in saying that the Government of Assam is investing in a big number of binoculars so that people can see what is written on the tail of the flying kite. I think, Mr. Chaudhuri had forgotten his childhood days when he used to fly kites. I myself did. It is very difficult to decipher what is written on the tail when the kite flies because the tail always flutters in the breeze. After all this experiment, it has been found that though the kite may be an important factor of propaganda in England where the breeze may not be so strong and rainfall may not be so heavy as in Assam, it had been found that it not suitable to the conditions of this Province, and I have put a stop to all such expenditures.

Some of the hon. Members mentioned about different slogans. These slogans bring very concisely to the notice of the people what is going on in the country, what is expected of them. The slogans which were hung in different centres about the Grow More Food Campaign, about the evil results of sabotage to communications speak for themselves, and any one who has noticed this will be convinced that these serve some good and useful purpose.

Sir, I can assure Mr. Chaudhuri that knowingly or consciously the Publicity Department would not publish before the people any untrue statement or any misleading information causing any ruinous result to the people at large.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs.25,300 under Supplementary Demand No.1, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Re-1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.25,300 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The question was negatived.

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.25,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration'".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.2.

27.—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.21,894 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice."

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	8,17,800
II.—Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	
C.—Administrator General and Official Trustee	21,894

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Various sums of money have been found on the dead bodies of refugees from Burma who made their way into Assam through the north east corner of the Province. In the absence of names or of any particulars, it was found impossible to trace any of their next-of-kin. It was, therefore, decided with the approval of the Government of India to credit the amounts to provincial revenues under the "XXI—Administration of Justice" and to sanction an equivalent grant to a fund called the Refugee Orphan Trust Fund. Up till now Rs.21,894 has been credited to provincial revenues for which a corresponding grant is necessary from provincial revenues. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a sum of Rs.21,894.

Sir, the reasons for this Demand have already been stated in the explanatory note and I don't think, I need state anything more.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.21,894 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.21,894 under Supplementary Demand No.2, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.2, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.21,894 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, I wish to raise only one point. It will appear from the explanatory note that various sums of money were found on the dead bodies of refugees from Burma and that they could not be paid to their relatives because the identities of these people could not be found out. My complaint, Sir, is that this state of things has arisen because Government have failed to give necessary publications. In fact photographs of the deceased persons should have appeared in the papers and also sent to the various thanas because we know that even now the relations of the refugees are suffering from great economic distress and that they do not know whether they are entitled to any money and where from this money can be obtained. Therefore, Sir, Government ought to have taken resort to more effective publicity measures about this Refugee Orphan Trust Fund of which we come to know for the first time after seeing this explanatory note. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister will please tell the House what measures he has adopted to give publicity to this Fund. Nothing whatsoever has been published through the Publicity Department of the Government of Assam as to who is in charge of this Fund, who administers this Fund and what sort of people can get relief from this Fund. Nothing has been published in any paper or in any poster about this. In fact, Government have failed to give publicity in this matter and therefore the distress of the relations of the refugees remain unalleviated. The relatives of the refugees who can get relief from this Fund have not been able to avail themselves of it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.21,894 under Supplementary Demand No.2, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.2, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.21,894 do stand reduced by Rs.2."

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion has objected simply to the fact that publicity could not be given at the time of the discovery of the sum of money that were found on the dead bodies of refugees. Sir, the procedure that has to be followed in such case is clearly laid down in the Section 7 of the Bengal Regulation V of 1799. The hon. Mover has stated that there ought to have been some advertisement about this but I can tell the hon. Member that in that Section of the Bengal Regulation, it is stated that to give such advertisements, some particulars regarding the identification are necessary. Sir, it has been stated in the explanatory note that even the names of the dead bodies could not be known and no other means of identification were available at that time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about taking photographs as has been suggested by the hon. Mover?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That was also perhaps not possible at that time. The hon. Members know to what extent the time was abnormal at the time when the refugees were coming down from Burma. Sir, on the grounds which I have just stated before the House, advertisements were not possible.

Then Sir, as regards the second point, *i.e.*, Refugee Orphan Trust Fund, I should like to tell that I don't find in what way the money will be given to the deserving persons. From the file, it appears that there is one Burma Refugee Organisation and I think, Justice Braund is in charge of this. In the file I have got nothing further than this and if any hon. Member wants to know anything in detail on this subject, he may possibly have that information from the Officer who is in charge of this Organisation. With these words, I think, the hon. Mover will see his way to withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs. 21,894 under Supplementary Demand No.2, Major head—27.—Administration of Justice, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 21,894 do stand reduced by Rs. 2".

The question was lost.

The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 21,894 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head "27—Administration of Justice".

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Supplementary Demand No. 3

29.—POLICE

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 15,263 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head "29—Police".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	32,15,000
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	
B.—District Executive Force—	
(a) District Police—	
1. Pay of establishment	5,952
2. Allowances and honoraria	1,996
3. Contingencies	3,773
K.—Works—	
1. Original works	3,542
Total ...	15,263

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. There is at present a patrol post at Chabua subordinate to the Tinsukia Police Station. This outpost has now within its jurisdiction very important installations and there has been a large influx of personnel including foreign labour. In view of the abnormal situation described above which prevails in the Tinsukia jurisdiction and its neighbourhood it is high time that the Chabua patrol post should now be raised to the status of a full-fledged Police Station; as otherwise the very large volume of activity throughout Dibrugarh and Tinsukia thanas makes it almost impossible to provide adequate police supervision. It has also become necessary to split up the Police Inspector's circle at Tinsukia into two—one at Tinsukia and the other at Margherita. An additional staff of one Sub-Inspector and eight constables for Chabua Police Station and one Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and one constable for the Margherita Circle is necessary and they have already been entertained from the middle of September 1943 in anticipation of the vote of the Assembly.

The ultimate cost of the proposal would be as follows :—

			Rs.
(1) Chabua Police Station	...	...	5,345 (recurring).
			165 (recurring) from 2nd year.
Non-recurring	...	...	Nil.
(2) Margherita Circle	...	...	4,354 (recurring).
			73 (recurring) from 2nd year.
Non-recurring	...	...	Nil.

During the current year, an additional sum of Rs. 7,700 will be required for the purpose as shown below :—

			Rs.
1. Pay of establishment	...	...	2,995
2. Allowances, etc.	...	...	440
3. Contingencies	...	...	723
4. Works	...	...	3,542
Total			7,700

2. There has for a considerable time been a public demand for more Police outposts in Shillong and also for improvement in the speed at which measures are taken for the investigation of ordinary crime, such as larceny and burglary. It has also been brought to the notice of Government that Police patrols are inadequate at times of excitement such as have occurred in recent years. The town has greatly grown with a population of various origin, owing to war time changes, and the existing Police staff has been completely outgrown in a very short period of time. In order to deal effectively with crime in Shillong and also to ensure proper control over the people of different races living in close proximity in the town, Government propose to sanction with effect from the 1st December 1943 an additional staff of two Sub-Inspectors of Police and four constables, unarmed branch for the Shillong Police Station and also two Head Constables and thirty-one Constables, all in the unarmed branch, for a Police outpost to be opened at Laitumkhrah, Shillong.

The ultimate cost of the proposal would be as follows :—

(1) Shillong Police Station—				Rs.
(Recurring)	...	...	...	4,341
(Maintenance of kit from 2nd year)	...	...	...	110
Non-recurring for buildings	...	...	...	12,324
(2) Laitumkhrah Police outpost—				Rs.
(Recurring)	...	...	...	13,309
(Maintenance of kit from 2nd year)	...	...	...	1,095
Non-recurring for buildings	...	...	...	37,676

The necessary buildings for the proposed staff are estimated to cost Rs. 37,676 for the construction of buildings including cost of land, etc., at Laitumkhrah and Rs. 12,324 for the Sub-Inspectors' quarters at Shillong Police Station but Government have decided to postpone the construction of buildings till the prices of building materials and labour fall, if it is possible to house the staff meantime in hired houses.

During the current year an additional sum of Rs. 7,563 will be required for the purpose as shown below :—

	Rs.
1. Pay of establishment	2,957
2. Allowances, etc.	1,556
3. Contingencies	3,050
Total ...	7,563

The various sums that are needed both for recurring and non-recurring expenditure are shown in the Motion itself and in the explanatory note. I have given sufficient materials to hon. Members to come to a decision why this Supplementary Demand has to be placed before the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 15,263 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1944, for the administration of the head “29.—Police”.

I would ask the other Hon'ble Ministers to move their respective Demands. My idea is to have all the other Demands moved before I ask the hon'ble Members to move their Cut Motions and speak on them.

Supplementary Demand No. 4

37.—EDUCATION (OTHER THAN EUROPEAN) *

THE HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.48,342 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “37.—Education (Other than European)”.

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	43,90,500
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
1. University Education, Assam Government Arts Colleges—	
4.—Contingencies—Non-contract	12,814
2. E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys—	
4.—Contingencies—Non-Contract	16,778
3. F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools—	
2—Non-recurring grants	12,500
4. N.—Direct grants to Non-Government Special Schools—Recurring grants	6,250
Total ...	48,342

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. The additional grant of Rs.12,814 is needed for payment of rent of houses hired for the messes for the students as well as for the accommodation of a part of the Cotton College, the buildings of which have been taken over by the Military Authorities.

2. The additional amount of Rs.16,778 is required for payment of rent for the buildings hired for the accommodation of the (1) Cotton Collegiate School, Gauhati, (2) Jorhat Government High School and (3) Nowgong Government High School and the attached hostel buildings owing to the taking over by the Military Authorities of the said buildings.

3. The additional sum of Rs.12,500 is required for giving non-recurring grants to certain non-Government Secondary Schools, as the provision was left out through oversight.

4. The additional amount of Rs.6,250 is required to meet the commitment already made in giving increased grants to some aided Madrasas and aids to new Madrasas. Through misunderstanding less provision was made in the Budget.

Sir, I have already explained in the explanatory note why this money is necessary. It will be found from Nos. 1 and 2 in the explanatory note that this sum of Rs. 12,814 is required for payment of rent of houses and Rs. 16,778 is required for payment of rent for the buildings of several schools. Now one point I might explain to the House that the rent for these buildings are being realised by the Public Works Department and are credited to Government as receipts but this amount that will be paid as rent is to be shown as expenditure and will be adjusted at the end of the year. These sums will be adjusted and it will be found that the amount which is being realised from the Military Authorities for the occupation of buildings is much higher than the amount which is being paid as rent for other buildings for the purpose. I may inform the House that rent for hiring out buildings for Cotton College Hostel—rent for Government revenue for Military occupation of the buildings is Rs. 2,942-9-0 and rent for alternate accommodation is Rs. 869-14-0 per month. Similarly for the occupation of the school we are receiving a rent of Rs. 751-1-0 per month for Jorhat School and Rs. 680-10-0 for Gauhati School and we are paying for the alternative arrangement only Rs. 415 and Rs. 473 per month respectively.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know Sir, who is getting the surplus—the Education Department or the Government as a whole?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That forms part of the provincial revenues.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That an additional sum of Rs. 48,342 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “37—Education (Other than European)”.

Supplementary Demand No. 5

39.—PUBLIC HEALTH

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,79,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “39—Public Health.”

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	8,88,100
II—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A—Public Health Establishment—	
(a) Superintendence and other establishments—	
Non-contract contingencies	25,000
Contract contingencies	4,000
C—Epidemic Diseases—	
(a) Malaria	2,50,000
Total ...	<u>2,79,000</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—Public Health Establishment—Superintendence and other establishments—Contingencies. The extra amount is due to unusual demand of vaccine lymph in connection with mass inoculation of the people against small-pox infection. It is also due to abnormal increase in prices of calves.

C.—Epidemic Diseases—(a) Malaria—The extra amount is required to meet the cost of quinine which the Public Health Department is required to purchase in a very large quantity for supply to all classes of consumers in the Province, under the present system of controlled supply of quinine. Consumers who used to obtain their supply direct are now supplied from the Provincial stock at Shillong or through the Government agent appointed by the Government. The expenditure will be recovered by sale of the quinine.

Sir, the sum of Rs. 25,000 under Public Health Establishment is required for prevention of small pox and with regard to the other sum of Rs.2,50,000 the explanatory note is sufficient, and I may add, Sir, that part of the sum will be recoverable from the sale of quinine.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.2,79,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "39—Public Health."

Supplementary Demand No.6

47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY :—On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.3,514 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	1,00,300
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
B.—Labour	3,514

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. The Government of India have instituted a scheme for preparing cost of living indices throughout India in respect of industrial labour in which they undertake to contribute 50 per cent. of the total expenditure to be incurred on Provincial staffs. Some delay has been caused by discussion as to the inclusion of plantation labour in the scheme. The Government of India have finally expressed certain difficulties at present in including plantation labour, and as the scheme is now in operation elsewhere in India, it has been decided, subject to final approval of the Government of India to have three centres at Gauhati, Tinsukia and Silchar for collection of statistics for the purpose. For the execution of the scheme the services of four Investigators and one Statistical Assistant will be necessary for the present. The cost of pay, travelling allowance of these officers as also of the Labour Commissioner and Assistant Labour Commissioner, printing of forms, stationery, contingencies, etc., amounts to Rs.9,164 per annum. In addition, Rs.360 will be required as honoraria to clerks of the Deputy Commissioners' offices for collecting price figures at the three centres. It is still hoped that the scheme can be utilized for the purpose of estimating cost of living in general. The total cost of the scheme will, therefore, be Rs.9,524. The Supplementary Demand has been prepared on the basis of appointment with effect from the 1st December 1943. Half the cost will be borne by the Government of India.

The details of the cost are as below :—

	Rs.
1. Pay of establishment	1,140
2. Allowances, etc.	1,131
3. Contingencies	358
Total	<u>2,629</u>

2. Due to increased work in the Office of the Labour Commissioner, Assam, consequent on entrusting him with the work of operating the Workmen's Compensation Act, an additional grant of Rs.885 is required for an Accountant on Rs.135 per mensem, two lower division clerks on Rs.55 per mensem each and a typist on Rs.50 per mensem for three months during the current financial year. He is already responsible for payment of compensation to the Indian Tea Association and Tea Districts Labour Association labourers engaged in Government projects in field service areas and Government consider it important to ensure that the interests of minors are adequately protected by investing the sums payable on their behalf in the first instance and making lump payment only after due enquiry into their needs. The discharge of compensation cases has hitherto been done by Deputy Commissioners but it can no doubt be more efficiently and appropriately carried out by the Labour Commissioner.

The purposes for which the Supplementary Demand is necessary has been stated Sir, in the explanatory note and it is not necessary for me to add anything further.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 3,514 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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".

Supplementary Demand No. 7

43.—INDUSTRIES

THE HON'BLE DR. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA :— On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.20,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs.2,41,500.

II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—

A.—Industrial development	Rs. 20,500
----------------------------------	---------------

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.9,006 during the current year, to be met from the accumulated savings from the Government of India grant for development of hand-loom Weaving Industry in the Province, for expansion of the marketing section. As the expenditure could not be foreseen, no provision was made in the current year's Budget.

(b) Government also sanctioned the continuance of the appointments made in connection with the war supplies and it is estimated that the expenditure during the current year will amount to Rs.11,500. No provision was made in the current year's Budget for this, as the expenditure could not be foreseen.

So a Demand for supplementary grant of Rs.20,500 is necessary for both purposes. This does not affect the Provincial Revenues as the expenditure will be met from the grants received from the margin allowed by the Central Supply Department to cover departmental overhead charges.

Sir, the reason for coming forward with the Supplementary Demand has been clearly explained in the explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 20,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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."

Supplementary Demand No. 8

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 of Rs.12,934 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs.1,74,800
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
A.—Direction :—			
Pay of officers	...	...	Rs. 3,984
Allowances and honoraria	...	...	2,000
		Total	5,984
B.—Superintendence—			
Pay of establishment	...	...	4,620
Allowances and honoraria	...	...	1,750
Contingencies	..	...	580
		Total	6,950
		Grand Total	12,934

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. While making the appointments of the Assistant Director of Industries and the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies it was anticipated that the excess expenditure could be met from the savings in the current year's Budget but in consequence of the expansion of the Departments and strengthening of the staff, the provision under 'miscellaneous contract contingencies' has proved to be inadequate and the savings previously anticipated will have to be utilised for the purpose. Further as the appointments are likely to be continued, provision for 8 months is required. Hence a Supplementary Demand for a grant of Rs.5,984 is necessary.

2. Government have also sanctioned the appointment of ten additional Inspectors of co-operative societies with their staff for supervision of the consumers co-operative stores, which are being started throughout the Province with a view to solving the difficult problem of equitable distribution of food-stuffs and other essential commodities to the general public. The estimated expenditure for 3½ months of the current year comes to Rs.6,950. As this expenditure could not be foreseen, no provision was made in the current year's Budget. Hence a Demand for supplementary grant of Rs.6,950 is necessary.

The reason for coming forward with this Supplementary Demand is clearly stated in the explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum of Rs. 12,934 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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 Motion under Demand No. 8 is moved. Now we should take the Cut Motion under Demand No. 3. It now appears that the Demand No. 3 is for two particular purposes. But here the Cut Motion raises a general question about it. I do not know how far this question can be discussed properly. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury may move his Motion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.5,952 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a).—District Police, Detailed head—1.—Pay of Establishment, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.15,263 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My sole object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the high handed action of the Police officers that is being witnessed from day to day in various parts of the Province. Wherever we happen to go, the same tale is repeated in some shape or other.

The reputation of the Police force in our country was never good. At present it has further deteriorated. For the last few years there appears to have been a slackening of control over our Police Administration. The result has been very disastrous for the civil population. The indifferent and non-interfering attitude of our executive has emboldened the general ruin of the Police officers. Over and above there are the special powers under the Defence of India Rules. These Rules have supplied fuel to the caprices and *zulum* of the guardians of law and order. The Police Raj that is reigning supreme in the Province is all powerful and omnipotent. They perpetuate all kinds of villainy with impunity.

There is no offence in the Indian Penal Code which some of the officers will hesitate to take recourse to. At the slightest pretext they are too apt to apply third degree measure—not to extract confession of the crime—but to squeeze money out of the unfortunate victim. Bribery, corruption, assault, looting—these are the general virtues of our ordinary Police Officers who does not know that thieves thrive under police protection? The criminal tribes carry on their usual trade at police connivance.

The instances of illegal gratification extracted by the Police are so common and so extensive that people no longer clamour against it. These have already been recognised as their legitimate dues.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not the Annual General Budget we are now concerned with. Therefore the hon. Member should confine his speech to the specific points he wants to discuss without criticising any question of policy.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The Demand is for a Supplementary Grant under Head—Police—and for the establishment of the District Executive force.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But I do not know how far I can allow the hon. Member to go on in this way.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, may I know for a moment what is the purpose of these machines, the microphones. I know for a moment have defective hearing and these machines are kept for the benefit of such people. So I do not know how they are going to be utilised.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. Member do not utilise the machines what can I do? It is very easy for the hon. Members to make use of the microphones.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I appeal to the generosity of the hon. Members.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI: I am sorry for the generalisation of my remarks. There might be some exceptions. There might be Police Officers who strive to work honestly. I frankly apologise to them. But they are only the exceptions and the exceptions only prove the rule.

Sue a Police Officer, if you dare. You will realise the consequences. Ultimately your true case will fail and you will be victimised and police vengeance will track your steps for days to come.

I admit, Sir, the recent incidents of Rangia under the Sachna Police Station are uppermost in my mind. Two other Members of the House as well as myself witnessed the havoc created by the Police Officers at that poor village. Only two specific cases instituted by two individuals are before the law Courts. But what about the rest? Who is going to undo the wrong done to the innocent villagers? The Hon'ble Prime Minister has already informed the House that he will order for a departmental enquiry. I only wish that the enquiry be conducted by a high impartial officer and the offender brought to book. But what I wanted to say is this that the incident at Rangia is not an isolated affair. This is one of the hundred of such incidents that are reported against the Police from day to day.

Is it not time to take drastic steps to reorganise and re-model the Police Administration of the Province? I do hope that the Hon'ble Minister will take adequate

measures without further delay to overhaul the Police Department so that the Department may justify its claims to be called the guardians of law and order and not its breaker.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.5,952 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a).—District Police, Detailed head—1.—Pay of Establishment, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.15,263 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words about the police highhandedness. Since my arrival in Shillong I have received 5 telegrams which I will read to the House. One telegram runs thus: "Six Tea garden labourers and Labour Union workers arrested unnecessarily harassment just before Grow More Food conference at Patharkandi. Pray intervene. Satya Datta, Secretary, Communist Party" After sending this telegram he himself went to see the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj at Patharkandi Dak Bungalow. He along with four other workers were arrested. I have got.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member may only mention that there were so many arrests. He cannot discuss rightness or wrongness of the arrests.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : The second telegram runs as follows: "Sylhet District Secretary Satya Dutta four party members organising Grow More Food conference arrested while coming out Dak Bungalow Patharkandi interviewing Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj move authority."

I got the third telegram from the District Communist party saying "District Communist Secretary Satya Dutta, Nirmal Das, Haridas, Mankumar, Bijoy party members organising Grow More Food conference arrested just after interviewing Sub divisional Officer at Patharkandi please intervene—Rohini Das Communist Party." I think this telegram has been sent also to hon. Mr. Mookerjee, Hon'ble Maulavi-Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury and Hon'ble the Premier.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, I have received all the three telegrams and I have placed them with the Hon'ble Premier who has told me that he is taking action on these telegrams.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Any other telegram?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : I have got a telegram from my father which runs as follows: "Jamalganj publicly declaring us all as dacoits. and arresting indiscriminately people warrants issued in Inathnagar case. In order to elude detection real dacoits arrange collaboration with colleagues impartial investigation by special police on deputed from Shillong—Kailas."

Now the officer-in-charge of Jamalganj is trying to implicate many persons in the Inathnagar dacoity case. He has arrested persons of our own village and my father has also written to Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury about this. If keeper of peace becomes the breaker himself how can the liberty and prestige of the people be protected from such officers?

Another telegram reads as follows: "Bishnu Bora arrested Friday Defence rule connection recent speech Grow More Food inhumanly treated by police—Ruhit".—He has been released on bail. He came here and he has informed me that he was bound by rope and dragged to the thana with handcuffs on and he was kept in a filthy lock-up.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy has said that I received a letter from his father. I have received a letter from Rai Saheb K. P. Das who is an old respectable gentleman. He wired to Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy and after that wire was sent what happened he has narrated in his letter which is as follows: "Officer-in-charge Jamalganj has begun his operations with a vengeance as you are aware from the telegram sent to Karuna. I have been selected as the prime victim. My dependants and servants are being pounced upon and arrested and marked out for arrest. You can well imagine who is the person who pulls the wire from behind the purdah."

About this officer of Jamalganj I think some complaint was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister but I don't know whether any action was taken. I simply ask the Hon'ble Premier to look into the matter immediately and as soon as possible to remove the officer from that place in the interest of both the public and the 'daroga' himself.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: It is an admitted fact that there is highhanded action of Police generally. I reported to the Tura Sadar thana Police Officer some profiteering cases against some shop-keepers of Tura Bazar and the matter was referred to the Police Inspector who suppressed the cases saying that there were no evidence to prove them. Enquiries were made without informing me and in my absence although I had reported the fact with my own knowledge, and sufficient witnesses to establish cases against the profiteers. And another instance, Sir, one man bada thana to give evidence, one of whom, Singeram Sagma was wrongly assaulted very severely and his money purse, containing some amount of money, was snatched away by the Police and they kept it in the Thana. This case is *suo judice* now. These instances clearly show the highhanded action of the Police

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection, before the Hon'ble Premier replies, I would like to know how long these Police Stations as explained in the explanatory note, will be there?

Another point which is not clear to me is this. It has been stated here in the explanatory note. "The ultimate cost of the proposal would be as follows:— (1) Chabua Police Station—Rs.5,345 (recurring) ; just below that Rs.165 (recurring) from 2nd year. (2) Margherita Circle—Rs.4,354 (recurring) ; just below that Rs.73 (recurring) from 2nd year". These are not quite clear to me, how the cost (recurring) will be so little.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Can I speak on this Motion, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will give an opportunity to the hon. Member to speak.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have very rightly ruled that in a Supplementary Demand Cut Motions should not raise the question of policy, and in spite of your bringing this to the notice of the hon. Members many times in all the three Cut Motions which we have now been discussing, the speakers spoke of the general policy and did not confine themselves to the Supplementary Demand. Every one of those Motions related to what took place in that unfortunate village Rangiya tall. I call it Rangiya tall because there is another matter is *sub judice* and should not be discussed on the floor of the House. Therefore when we are now faced with this stumbling-block my hon. Friends started importing questions of general policy in their speeches.

Sir, I will not take the time of the House in replying to those charges made by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury where he says that there is general abuse of power by the Police force and that there has been slackening in the Police control and the Police are now under the protective wings of the Defence of India Act or Rules and that bribery, corruption and assault are the order of the day and that thieves are thriving under the protection of Police. All these doubts must be dismissed from the minds of the hon. Members and I strongly repudiate the insinuations which he has made. He himself felt that he has indulged in wide generalisation and therefore he was compelled to check his eloquence by saying that there are also honest Police officers and he has finally admitted that he had tarred every Police officer with the same brush. Sir I mentioned before the House that whatever be the result of the criminal cases that are now pending, I would hold a departmental enquiry and I can assure my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury that enquiry will be held by a high and responsible officer of the Police Department and if any Police officer is found to have abused his power he will be properly and suitably dealt with. Beyond that I will not say anything.

Then as regards the five instances cited by my Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy, I have received four of the telegrams mentioned excepting the one that has been sent by my Friend's father and in none of them there is any justification to say that the Police acted high-handedly or in irregular manner. All the telegrams which I received from the Communist Party of which my Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy is the leader, said that garden labourers were invited to take part in a Grow More Food conference that was arranged and these people have been arrested. My Friend cannot say anything nor in the telegrams which have been sent to me there is any mention except the fact that these people have been arrested on the eve of a meeting. The same is the case with the arrest of another worker of the same party. He was arrested while he was going out of the residence of the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj. All these matters my hon. Friend the energetic leader of the Communist Party Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy had told me privately at my residence. Yesterday he wanted to bring his other friends of the Communist Party on a deputation to me, but I had to refuse as I had some other engagements. But without any previous arrangement my Friend arrived at my place with three workers of the Communist Party this morning and I gave him a hearing in this matter. All the matters were placed before me and I said that I would enquire and take every allegation into consideration. Why he has again brought these matters before the House I do not understand, knowing full well that these are not relevant. My Friend also told me this morning that the gentleman Bishnu Bora who was arrested at Dibrugarh came here yesterday and wanted to see me, but as I was otherwise engaged he could not see me and had to go back. My Friend admitted that this man although arrested under Defence Rules, had been given bail and he ultimately came to Shillong to consult my Friend and if possible to see me. Does it show that the Police acted in any way high-handedly? They must have other information by which they had to take recourse to arresting them and bringing them before the Court of justice. Without knowing anything can anybody say that the Police acted high-handedly? The last telegram that I have not received is about his father. I know Rai Sahib K. C. Das. He was a responsible Government official, now under retirement. He is a gentleman of great influence in the locality and if the Police out of grudge for the activities of his son wanted to take vengeance and if my Friend can give me evidence that without participating in any activities this gentleman has been harassed by the Police—and I doubt whether the Rai Sahib will take part in these party factions because he is an old man of nearly 80 years—I will take the strongest possible action. But I cannot act on bare statements. They must be backed by reliable evidence.

I come last to the question and the very relevant question raised by my Friend Mr. Mookerjee. I have tried to explain this question in the explanatory note and to explain the question raised by my Friend I have got to reiterate what I said in the explanatory note. "There is at present a patrol post at Chabua subordinate to the Tinsukia Police Station. This outpost has now within its jurisdiction very important installations and there has been a large influx of personnel including foreign labour. In view of the abnormal situation described above which prevails in the Tinsukia jurisdiction and its neighbourhood it is high time that the Chabua patrol post should now be raised to the status of a full-fledged Police Station; as otherwise the very large volume of activity throughout Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Thanas makes it almost impossible to provide adequate police supervision. It has also become necessary to split up the Police Inspector's circle at Tinsukia into two—one at Tinsukia and the other at Margherita. So the additional staff is required for Chabua.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: For how long?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: So far as the Chabua station is concerned, I can say that as long as the area is full of Army installations and a large number of foreign elements, the station will be kept as a full station. Once these personnel leave the neighbourhood, the post may again become a patrol post.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then, it is a temporary measure.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, as regards the other point I think my hon. Friend has already understood that it is on account of splitting of Inspectorate circle an additional staff is necessary at Margherita. Then, Sir, nobody can question the necessity for an outpost at Laitumkhra, which is the eastern-most quarter of the town. There are a number of people living in that side and there have been one or two stray cases unfortunately of clash between the civilians and the Military. It is to keep a posse of Police Officers in that locality, to curb such undesirable activities, that it has been found necessary to start an outpost in that area of Shillong.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the provision of Rs.5,952 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—29—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a)—District Police, Detailed head—1.—Pay of Establishment, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.15,263 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The question was negatived.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.15,263 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—29—Police, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.15,263 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, before the House accepts any Supplementary Demand very strong and cogent reasons must be given by Government to establish that the expenditure for which they are asking the sanction of the House could not be anticipated at the time of framing the regular Budget, and they must also establish that they cannot wait till the next regular Budget is passed. Now, let us examine this Demand from that stand point. It has been admitted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that it is on account of certain clashes between the Military and other people that an outpost is necessary at Laitumkhra in the town of Shillong. We should be convinced that establishment of such an outpost would really mitigate the danger about which I was going to speak in connection with this Motion. Not to speak of an outpost, there is a regular Police Station in the Police Bazar area of this town. Have the Police succeeded in protecting the civil population of Shillong in the Police Bazar and Mawkhar areas, not to speak of other parts of this town? If the present Police force, which is fairly a large one located in the Sadar thana here, are unable even to check the oppression by some soldiers and officers in the Police Bazar area, what use there is for spending money for an outpost at Laitumkhra? The same result will follow and the money which will be voted will be a sheer waste. I do not wish to mention names, but the incidents of respectable ladies and gentlemen and honest shop-keepers being harassed and handled in the Police Bazar and Mawkhar areas are numerous. For obvious reasons I would not disclose names, but I have it on reliable authority that only about 10 days ago a lady and a gentleman (they were father and daughter) went to the Burrabazar, and the lady (both were Indians) was literally dragged by two soldiers in the presence of the father (*shame, shame*); the father intervened with the result that he received serious injuries. This is an incident of only ten days ago, and if the Hon'ble Prime Minister wants to know I could tell him who were the parties.

Then there are numerous instances where shop-keepers have been molested by the soldiers. The soldiers entered the shops, selected things and had gone away with those articles without making any payment, and when payment was demanded by some of the bold shop-keepers they were roughly handled. Such instances also I can give to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, and the incidents took place in the Mawkhar area on the Gauhati Road.

Sir, less than a month ago on the Gauhati Road a cash box belonging to a shop-keeper was taken away forcibly by some soldiers. When it was subsequently recovered it was found to have been broken open and the contents removed, but the culprits have not yet been traced. So, I ask, Sir, what is the use of any Police force if they cannot give any protection to the civil population? When you go to any Police Office the first

question he will ask "Can you identify these soldiers?". The reply in most cases from honest persons is "No, I can't", and there the duty of the Police ends. They cannot prevent, they cannot detect and they cannot apprehend the offenders of this class. I think it is less than 10 days ago, an incident of a very serious nature occurred in Nongthymmai of which I have some personal knowledge. There was an Indian shop-keeper who was living with his family there. He had purchased some potato in the locality, and he was believed to be in possession of some money. At about 3 O' Clock in the morning two or three non-Indian soldiers knocked at his doors. The owner of the house did not open the door, as he suspected some trouble because in some Khasi houses in that locality there was burglary before, and the burglars and dacoits were soldiers. So they took care to remove the family by the back door. Afterwards the door was broken open and two or three soldiers entered the house. They demanded money which was refused. Then they assaulted the man very severely. One severe blow was given on the temple and a dagger was thrust on the jaw. The jaw actually came out I heard from the person who attended—I heard this from the doctor who had gone to the patient. The Police was informed that very night. The Police enquired whether they could identify the assailants; they said they could not identify the assailants. So far as the police duty was concerned, there it ended. In the meantime private medical aid was taken. That is an invariable position, the duty of the Police is finished as soon as you say that you cannot identify the offenders.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If these incidents occurred in the very nose of the Police and whether they can do anything to the soldiers?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It is not far away from the Police Station. I could multiply such instances; but I will state one more of it. A villager's land was requisitioned by Government for Military purposes and all his valuable trees were cut down and removed and damage was done. When he came to see what was actually the position, he had with him two lemons and some plantains. The officers asked him to part with these things for two pice. He refused. He said that he had brought it for a relation of his. On this he was assaulted on the road and not satisfied with it the assailants actually dragged him into the camp and detained him there for some time till other officers came in and released him. Sir, he complained in the Court. I told him that he could not possibly identify the culprits because all these European soldiers looked alike to Indian eyes. He said that he could identify because he was there a long time. But still nothing was done in that case. I say we should be very careful in complaining. Why waste good money on things which you really cannot remedy? It is useless. This is one of the evils of the war. You cannot put a stop to this war. You cannot put a stop to this sort of things also. We have got a very well-disciplined army, well-fed, well-housed, very impatient to fight. They are not given exercises. They must be given regular exercises. This is a sort of exercise and a sort of pastime. I cannot say anything more on that point. If I comment adversely on Military activities I am likely to be put into difficulty because they will say that I have been interfering with war efforts. I only give this humble advice to the Government that money is useful to everybody and Government of Assam is not so rich that it can squander money; so it is better that they do not spend money on this. If you want more Police to protect Military stores at the particular place you have in your mind because Military Police cannot protect it alone, then spend money on it. Do not spend money on the Police for protecting civil population. You cannot protect. You do not protect. What is the use of spending that money? I have several times in this House, after the introduction of Provincial Autonomy and before the introduction of the Provincial Autonomy, drawn attention to very serious incidents that took place of which Police were the perpetrators. Have you heard of a single Police Officer being punished or disciplinary action being taken against a Police Officer because a member of the public had complained? From the beginning there is a law—a peculiar law in India that if a complaint is lodged against a Police Officer in the Court no Court is allowed to summon the Police Officer to the Court at once. It lays down that a first class Magistrate should first of all hold an enquiry and then if after enquiry the case is made out then only the Police Officer can be summoned. If a complaint is made to-day by any-

body against the Hon'ble Prime Minister he can be immediately summoned to Court but not a daroga, who is under him, if an allegation is made against the daroga—this will have to be scrutinised. A first class Magistrate will have to go to the locality. Then a report will have to be made and then the Police Officer can be summoned or else the complainant will be prosecuted under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code and the inevitable result is a prosecution of a Police Officer is section 211 against the complainant. This is my experience in the Bar—that is the experience of Mr. Whittaker when he was a Magistrate and it is the experience of all.

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

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am not at all satisfied, Sir. I want to speak more. Sir, one thing I only want to say is that, since the police system was introduced in India about 80 years ago there have been changes. Man may have come and man may have gone but the integrity, the value and quality of the Indian Police have remained constant. The observation of Justice Straught of the Allahabad High Court, the observation of Justice Phear of the Calcutta High Court still hold good to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Therefore the Police cannot protect people against Military operation.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That is quite so. Unless you are prepared to correct the Police they will not be useful. Britishers have introduced civil service in India of which they are proud. It has got its own merit. The Britishers brought their system of communication in India of which any country should be reasonably happy as they say. But have the Britishers introduced British Police system in India? Have they tried to bring it to the level of British Police? No, they could not on account of an inherent difficulty. The inherent difficulty is this. When you employ ordinary Police force to quell a peoples' movement, the constable is patted on the back because he is able to thrash a leader of the people. You cannot find fault with them when they take little pride and when they do a little 'Julum'. The Inspector-General of Police, the Governor of Province and the Administrator of a province are grateful to our Police for their unfriendliness and cowardliness in dealing with the leaders of the public and they pay this gratitude by patting on their back and by conniving at all the faults which the Police may commit. This is the reason why we have never dared to criticise the Police report. In fact we never had the right to do so before. That right came in 1921 when a regular Council was established; but at that time what happened? The Police was reserved subject.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is going too far. He is not confining himself to the point he wanted to discuss.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Allright, Sir. If I have gone too far away from the point, the Police in India has gone further and further away from performance of the duties. (*Laughter*).

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sincerely regret the necessity which compels me to oppose the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. In doing so I hope, the House will not mistake me for what I am not; I am not a friend of the Police. I do not think there are many friends of the Police in this House. Sir, I have heard even the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is in-charge of this Department speak against Police. In this particular case, however, I rise to support the Motion moved by the Hon'ble Prime Minister because I find that a part of the purpose for which this Demand is made is to convert the Chabua Petrol Post at Dibrugarh into a full-fledged Police Station and also to split the Tinsukia Inspector's circle into two circles—one at Margherita and another at Tinsukia. Sir, I think that most of the Members of this House and another idea of this part of the Province. I had recently been to that side and I may tell the House that this place has changed beyond recognition. Close proximity of some projects to the people of this place, have made the conditions of their civil life insecure. A strange population have been thrust there in the midst of poor and innocent villagers and it is imperatively necessary to.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He is also going too far.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, this is a Cut Motion by which a reduction of Rs. 2 only has been suggested. Although the main Motion is not to be argued now, hon. Member may briefly discuss it.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAİN : The rural population of this place, Sir, are to be protected from the personnel of the projects and the labour employed by them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Whether protection can be given is being questioned by Mr. Chaudhuri.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAİN : Yes, Sir, the reason for which I am opposing the Motion of my Friend Mr. Chaudhuri is that the rural people must be protected from the strange people who have been thrust there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is practically no difference between the statement of the hon. Member and that of Mr. Chaudhuri. Mr. Chaudhuri also said that the rural people must be protected. He only says that the arrangements that are being made by Government will not protect the people.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAİN : Sir, if the Police at Dibrugarh is reinforced, they will be able to protect the lives and properties of the rural population from being molested by the new comers and the labour employed by them. With these words, Sir, I beg to oppose the Cut Motion moved by Mr. Chaudhuri.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put a question to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. We have heard from Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri that 'Julum' is being committed over the civil people by the Military personnel. I want to know from the Hon'ble Premier whether the civil Police has any authority to oppose the Military people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Allright.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Cut Motion of Mr. Chaudhuri is a modest one because a reduction of Rs 2 only has been suggested. But, Sir, I should like to say that the entire burden of his speech was for the total refusal of the Demand. He started by saying that before we pass any Demand of a supplementary nature, this House should scrutinise whether this could not be foreseen at the time when the normal Budget was placed before the House. He also wanted to stress the fact that our Police is not good, and therefore there is no use in spending the money at all. On both these accounts I would have expected a Motion for a total refusal of the entire Demand but I have been spared that position.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That can yet be done.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir, but I know my Friend Mr. Chaudhuri is very consistent. He has given notice of a Cut Motion of Rs. 2 only in order to focus attention of the House to the very unfortunate—shall I be very wrong if I say, very few—clashes between the Military personnel and the Police and the civil people. Sir, he wants that Government should undertake remedial measures and I think, he will be the first one to give credit to the Police and also to Government if they have attempted to do so. My hon. Friend Mr. Surendra Nath Buragohain has just now mentioned that a strange people from a strange climate have been thrust upon the Province of Assam on account of the enemy being just at our eastern gate. These people, for reasons other than described by my Friend Mr. Chaudhuri have sometimes come into clash with the civilian people. The cases that have come to the notice of the Police have been duly taken up and investigation ensued and complaints were lodged against the suspected people.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : On a point of information, Sir ; I hope my Hon'ble Friend will excuse this interruption. Have any cases in connection with motor accidents and other assaults been sent up to the Court ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will reply to my Friend's query in course of my reply to his general statement. The Police had taken up the cases against the Military and in almost 99 per cent. of the cases, the complainants could not unfortunately identify the persons who were supposed to be the culprits. It is common knowledge to all the lawyers and even to the laymen that jurisprudence requires that a man must be proved guilty by evidence before he can be convicted. Here not only no evidence of anyone participating is available, the very fundamental of the question, *i.e.*, the identity of the culprit cannot be ascertained. Can the Police be blamed? If without any proper enquiry, if without complainant's identifying the culprit, any suspected person is sent up, what will be the result? It will be a sheer waste of public money and the case will fail.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We expect to prevent.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We expect to prevent! We have done our level best to prevent and in certain cases there has been clash between the Military and the Police because the Police wanted to stop any crime committed by the Military. In certain cases, there has been instances where police constables suffered from the injury due to assaults. The Local Government brought this state of affairs to the notice of the Military Administration and the Military has been good enough to post their own Military Police in different parts, at least of Shillong and in other places where there is Military personnel, so that they will implement the hands of the civil Police in stopping such crimes and where there is a crime, to see that the persons concerned are brought to book and given their due punishment.

Sir, my Friend had interpolated an interjection by saying that has any case ended in conviction. In a very few cases, Sir, where evidence of the occurrence as well as good identification have been forthcoming, the cases have been taken up and in certain cases there has been punishment of the Military, but, again, my Friend ought to know that the Military have their own Tribunals, their own Martial Courts. In some cases, the accused person has been Court-martialed and dealt with by the Military Department.

I am sorry to hear, Sir, of some cases that came to the notice of my Friend—one 10 days ago in the Police Bazar and another of a very recent occurrence in Laitumkhra. None of these came to my notice, as nobody complained to me so far. If my Friend, having heard of these occurrences, immediately informed me, I would have done my best to start an enquiry and see whether I could get identification of the Military and bring them to book. But he thinks that his duty as a citizen is limited to fulminations on the floor of this House and I can well know the reason why he thinks discretion as the best part of valour.

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

“That the total provision of Rs.15,263 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head—29.—Police, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.2, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.15,263 do stand reduced by Rs.2.”

The question was negatived

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

That an additional sum of Rs.15,263 be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “29—Police”.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:

Supplementary Demand No.4. The first* Cut Motion stands in the name of Mr. Palmer.

*Motion.—

1. Mr. R. A. PALMER to move:—

That the provision of Rs.12,814 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), Minor head—1.—University Education, Assam Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—4.—Contingencies—Non-contract, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.12,814.

(To raise a discussion as to why the amount under this sub-head should not be paid by the Military.)

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the explanation given just now by the Hon'ble Minister I do not wish to move my Motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then Cut Motion No. 2* in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. I think, it is not in order at all

Then No.3* in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. That is also not in order.

Then No.4* in the name of Mr. Palmer. He is not going to move. No. 5* in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am not going to move, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then No.6* in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. That is also not in order.

Then No.7* in the name of Babu Nirendra Nath Deb.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: In view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Education Minister, this morning, Sir, I do not wish to move my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, No.8*. I think this is in order. Mr. Chaudhuri may move his Motion.

*Motions:—

2. Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs.12,814 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37—Education (other than European), Minor head—1.—University Education, Assam Government Arts Colleges Sub-head—4—Contingencies—Non-contract, at Page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grant for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

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

3. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the provision of Rs.12,814 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), Minor head—1.—University Education, Assam Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—4.—Contingencies—Non-contract at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demands of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the Educational policy of the Government.)

4. Mr. R. A. PALMER to move:—

That the provision of Rs.16,778 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), Minor head—2E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a)—Secondary Schools for boys, Sub-head—4.—Contingencies—Non-contract, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demand for Grants for 1943-44, be refused. *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.16,778.

(To raise a discussion as to why the amount under this sub-head should not be paid by the Military.)

5. Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.48,342 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the desirability of realising the amount of rent from Military authorities for occupying schools and college buildings, etc.)

6. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.48,342 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the attitude of Government with regard to the Mass Literacy Campaign.)

7. Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.48,342 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (other than European), at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To urge upon the Government the necessity of supplying rice at controlled rate to teachers of Non-Government Secondary Schools.)

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.48,342 under Supplementary Demand No.4, Major head—37.—Education (Other than European), at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.48,342 do stand reduced by Rs 2.

Sir, the Hon'ble Education Minister has been pleased to let the cat out of the bag this afternoon. For a long time I have been complaining that our education has suffered a great deal for unnecessary occupation in various cases of educational buildings by the Military Authorities. He has been kind enough, gracious enough to give us assurances and promises but, I am sure, for good reasons he has been unable to keep those promises or act up those assurances. One of the reasons which he has given out to-day is that the Government is regularly making profit out of these educational buildings. He has given figures and from those figures we find that a net surplus has been made from the rent which has been realised from the Military Authorities and that is why Government is so unwilling to request the Military Authorities to give up the buildings, where possible.

Sir, the original hope of the Hon'ble Education Minister may have been that he will be in a position to utilise this surplus for the benefit of his Department, but I am sure he has received rude snock in his expectation because the whole surplus has gone to the provincial revenues and probably I think almost certainly, a good portion of it has been spent for the Police Department.

Sir, I cite only one instance where the neglect of the Education Department in this respect cannot escape severe condemnation—that is with regard to the additional science laboratory of Cotton College. The idea was that a thatched roofed-shed would be constructed for providing additional classes but the present Principal, I think, pointed out to Government that it was unsafe to hold such science classes in a *kutchra* building with a thatched roof with the result that neither a thatched building has been constructed nor are the classes being held and thus the education is suffering. I submit, Sir, that I do not know the secret of the present method of war activities. Formerly, at the time of war the soldiers used to undergo hardship, they used to clear out jungle, live in trenches and fought with the enemy face to face. We heard of battles also in our ancient mythology. But now the whole method has been changed. The best of the houses and motor vehicles must be requisitioned and given over to the Military Officers. I do not venture to criticise all these things. The whole system of war has been changed. This much I can understand that at least in this cold weather, although the examinations are drawing nigh, why cannot some more important buildings be released by the Military people. Why the only Government college buildings in the Assam Valley cannot be kept apart for educational purposes? Sir, the miseries of the students who have been deprived of their accommodation in hostels are indescribable. They have no houses to stay. They cannot find any rented houses to accommodate themselves. When things are going on like this still they come for the pursuit of their education. So I submit that all the other important buildings of educational institutions of the Province should be released and made available for educational purposes.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to the hon. Member for bringing in this Motion, for this has given me an opportunity of saying what we are doing in the matter. The hon. Member's Cut Motion has been stated to be "to raise a discussion on the necessity of early release of educational buildings for educational purposes". The object of this since the assumption of Ministry I have been repeatedly making serious attempts to have the buildings released from the Military as early as possible. The hon. Member has said that Government has been unwilling to request the Military Authorities in this matter. But I repudiate that remark of his. Government is doing in its utmost to have those buildings released as early as possible. But it has not been found possible for the Military Authorities to release those buildings which they are now keeping for their own purposes.

One point that has been raised is about the *kutch* building that was erected some time back near the Science Laboratory. Sir, originally Rs.5,000 was provided by the Education Department for repairing that building. But on the representation by the Principal, as has been referred to by the hon. Mover, a sum of Rs.7,000 and odd was granted by the Government. Now this building will be on a semi permanent basis with corrugated iron sheets roofing. Orders to this effect have already been passed and the construction work will begin soon.

Another charge has been brought by the hon. Mover that Government is making a profit, but that is not so. Only some months back I had been to Gauhati to look for additional accommodation for having a hostel for the accommodation of the students. I have selected a plot near the Dighli Tank and now we are in correspondence with the owner of that plot of land for making arrangements to have the land leased out for some years. The money that will be available from rents will be spent in building a hostel as soon as possible.

Another point that has been raised by the hon. Mover is why the college building cannot be released. Well, Sir, I am glad to say that only last evening I had an interview with the Hon'ble Member for Defence who has come here, and I have insisted that this should be done, and I hope he will take some action in the matter.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, in view of what has just now been said by the Hon'ble Education Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member got the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

The Motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The question is:—

“That an additional sum of Rs.48,342 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “37—Education (other than European)”.

The question was adopted.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Sir, I do not understand clearly the Demand No.4. In item No. 3 it says that “The additional sum of Rs.12,500 is required for giving non-recurring grants to certain non-Government Secondary Schools, as the provision was left out through oversight.” This shows that it is a new provision. May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister is justified to approach for a new grant under Supplementary Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Supplementary Demand has been adopted. There was no provision in the original Budget through oversight.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: That was omitted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That was not provided in the Budget. So they are coming forward with this Demand on the ground that this is an expenditure beyond the expenditure covered by the Authenticated Schedule.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motions under Supplementary Demand No.5 may be taken up.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,50,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 5, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(x)—Malaria, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 2,79,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, the matter is very urgent and it requires immediate attention of the Government, considering particularly that it is a very peculiar case of malaria. An expert enquiry is very urgently needed to find out if quinine will at all cure this disease. Sir, I chanced to come across a copy of an English magazine very recently published from London in which it was reporting a discussion held about the effect of quinine in cases of malaria and such eminent authorities as Colonel S. P. James and others took part in the discussion. Some of the experts held, Sir, that quinine is not the surest

remedy for malaria. If the patient can stand a number of relapses he develops some sort of immunity from within and the patient thus gets only partial relief from quinine and that is only with regard to ordinary types of malaria. Colonel S. P. James holds the opinion, Sir, that some of the peculiar types of malaria are completely resistant to quinine. And in Baniachong and Lakhai Thanas there have been many cases, Sir, in which the patient faints all on a sudden. The fever sets in two or three hours after regaining of consciousness and rising upto an alarming degree all such cases have invariably been fatal. So Sir, I submit it is a very peculiar type of malaria and as such an expert enquiry is urgently needed to find out the exact specific for this disease. If quinine is not the medicine for this disease, Sir, there is no use wasting all this stuff of quinine for nothing. I expect fullhearted support to my proposal from all the hon. Members of this House, Sir, and I expect also the Government to accept my proposal.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, as the time is up I am putting the Question now.

The Question is:

Supplementary Demand No. 5.

‘That an additional sum of Rs. 2,79,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “39—Public Health”.

The Question was adopted.

Supplementary Demand No. 6.

The Question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs. 3,514 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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.

Supplementary Demand No. 7.

The Question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs. 20,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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.

Supplementary Demand No. 8.

The Question is:

“That a sum of Rs. 12,934 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain 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.

The Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942, be taken into consideration.

I am sure, Sir, that hon. Members have with them the copies of the amendments proposed. As you are aware, Sir, that the Government introduced their Bill of 1942 for the three main reasons, to cure certain defects which stood in the way of easy and speedy administration of the Act. In the first place it had provided liability of heirs and successors, etc. In the second place it attempted enforcement of attendance of the creditors, and in the third place for recovery of instalments of attendance of Bill as emerged from the Select Committee elected by this hon'ble House was accepted by the Assembly, and as the Bill as emerged from the Assembly was considered in the Upper House our elders thought it fit to make certain amendments touching section 2 of the Act only, whereas they accepted all other amendments

made by the Assembly. I will place before the hon. Members the amendments that have been proposed both by this hon'ble House and our elders. The first amendment that was sought and incorporated in the Bill by this House referred to section 2(t) of the Principal Act which runs: "Creditor" means a person to whom a debt is owing and includes a Co-operative Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912) and it also includes his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns; and the same section, in sub-section (e) "Debtor" means a person who owes a debt and who earns his livelihood mainly by agriculture, and includes his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns." These two sub-clauses were amended by the Assembly as follows:

In section 2 of the Principal Act—(i) at the end of clause (c) the following words, shall be added, namely:—

"and it also includes his heirs, administrators and assigns"; and further (ii) at the end of clause (e) the following words shall be added, namely:—

"and who
(a) is a raiyat or an under-raiyat, or
(b) cultivates land himself or by members of his family or by hired labourers or by Adhiars or Bargadars or Bhagdars; and includes his heirs, administrators and assigns".

The Upper House made amendments of these two sub-clauses and suggested as follows:—

In section 2 of the Principal Act for clause (c) the following shall be substituted namely:—

"Creditor" means a person to whom a debt is owing and includes his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns and it also includes a Co-operative Society registered under the Co-operative Societies' Act (II of 1912)'.
And for clause (e) the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"Debtor" means a person who owes a debt and who earns his livelihood mainly by agriculture, and includes his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns."

I think it has been possible for the hon. Members to appreciate the difference and the improvement that has been proposed by our elders. If the hon. Members will recapitulate the original Bill that was proposed by the Government and introduced and which went to the Select Committee, they will see that the amendments proposed by the Upper House are almost identically the same with those provisions in the original Bill. What the Upper House has done is to effect clarity and expansion of the scope of those provisions and after giving a very careful consideration to these two sets of amendments Government have come to the conclusion that our elders' suggestions are very helpful and would recommend that they be accepted by the House. It is now for the hon. Members to decide whether they should accept these provisions which offer very salutary improvement upon the existing provisions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942 be taken into consideration."

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Bill stated in this House that he had already under preparation another more comprehensive Bill and on this ground, he requested me to withdraw my Bill and I had to withdraw it. In the same manner may I request him, Sir, to withdraw his Bill and I think he should have no difficulty to concede to my request.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: This is not my Bill. This is the Bill which has emerged from the Upper House. Even if I had the enabling authority to withdraw the Bill, I would make a request to the hon. Member who has made the request to me, to say whether or not he thinks that this Bill proposes some very distinct and whole-some improvements upon the existing Act and whether or not it would be very much earlier in time that the provisions proposed will become law. I would submit, Sir, that the improvements that have been suggested in this Bill are real, urgent and salutary. They add to the expedition in disposal and there is no dispute that this helps in bringing the creditors quickly for conciliation before the Boards and

this also makes it clear that the heirs and successors, executors and assigns—all shall be liable for the liability of their predecessors. It will not be possible, I think, Sir, in the next Budget Session even which will not be less than four months hence to introduce the contemplated Bill. Then it shall have to go to the Select Committee because it is proposed to be a very very comprehensive Bill, indeed. Then after going through the process of the Select Committee, the Select Committee's report will be considered in this House. Then in the shape in which the Bill will emerge—I hope it will emerge in a very welcome way from this House—it will go to the Upper House and we do not know what our elders will decide. So the delay involved in this, taking the minimum time possible, would not be anything less than 12 months or so. Now, if the hon. Members decide to accept the amendments it will become law immediately. I think, Sir, that it is not merely advisable but also necessary that these urgent and important amendments should be accepted by the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942 be taken into consideration.”

The Motion was carried.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 P.M., on Friday, the 26th November 1943.

Shillong,

The 8th January 1944.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.