

MUTUALBANDAI

1. The first object of the Mutualbandai is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
2. The second object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
3. The third object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
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7. The seventh object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
8. The eighth object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
9. The ninth object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...  
10. The tenth object is to provide for the relief of the poor and distressed in the district of ...

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

1. Mr. W. H. ...  
2. Mr. ...  
3. Mr. ...  
4. Mr. ...  
5. Mr. ...  
6. Mr. ...  
7. Mr. ...  
8. Mr. ...  
9. Mr. ...  
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11. Mr. ...  
12. Mr. ...  
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14. Mr. ...  
15. Mr. ...  
16. Mr. ...  
17. Mr. ...  
18. Mr. ...  
19. Mr. ...  
20. Mr. ...  
21. Mr. ...  
22. Mr. ...  
23. Mr. ...  
24. Mr. ...  
25. Mr. ...  
26. Mr. ...  
27. Mr. ...  
28. Mr. ...  
29. Mr. ...  
30. Mr. ...



**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 18th November, 1943.

**PRESENT**

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

**Panel of Chairmen**

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

1. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,
2. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett,
3. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury, and
4. Mr. C. Goldsmith.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Grant of concessions to Ministerial and other Government officers**

Maulavi **ABDUR RAHMAN** asked:—

\*1. (a) Are Government aware that the ministerial as well as all subordinate officers of Government are very much hard hit owing to the economic crisis and abnormally high prices of necessaries of life?

(b) Is it a fact that from different organisations of these officers representations were submitted to Government seeking redress?

(c) What action Government has taken on those representations?

(d) Are Government aware that low paid Government officers cannot make their two ends meet with the scanty salary they receive?

(e) Do Government contemplate to evolve a scheme to keep these officers content?

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

1. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The following concessions have so far been granted—

(i) extension of the period of recovery of the evacuation advance from 12 to 24 instalments;

(ii) recovery of house building advance at half the previous rates;

(iii) grant of dearness allowance to Government servants drawing pay up to Rs.120 per month in Shillong and Rs.90 in the rest of Assam



(iv) grant of rice at concessional rates to Government servants and their families drawing pay up to Rs.300 per month in addition to dearness allowance ;

(v) grant of free rations to Government servants drawing pay up to Rs.200 per month in lieu of dearness allowance and rice concession.

(d)—Government are aware that their low paid servants must experience considerable difficulty owing to the present high prices.

(e)—The rates of dearness allowance have already been once revised and subsequent concessions have been given in the form of cheap rice or free rations in order not to increase the spiral of inflation which all such increases in wages tend to produce. These concessions are already costing Government upwards of 20 lakhs of rupees per annum and it is difficult for them to find any more at present.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the present arrangement with regard to the free distribution of commodities? In what way they are being distributed now?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: By grant of free rations to Government servants drawing pay up to Rs.200 per month in lieu of dearness allowance and rice concession.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister name the articles?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I believe it is rice, mustard oil, *atta*, sugar, *dal* and tea.

†Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি বলতে পারেন free ration এ গভর্ণমেন্ট সার্ভেন্টদের যে চাউল দেওয়া হয়েছে সেই চাউল মানুষের খাদ্য না গরু ঘোড়ার খাদ্য?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: আপনার এই মত থাকতে পারে। যখন দেখা গেছে যে এই চাউল শিলঙের সকলেই খাইতেছেন, সেরূপ মত যে সকলেই পোষণ করেন তা আমি মনে করিনা।

†Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : আমি দেখেছি এই চাউল এত খরাপ যে মানুষ কোন দিন এরকম চাউল খেয়েছে বলে মনে করিনা; এবং আগাম এবং বাংলায় যে এরকম চাউল পাওয়া যায় সে সম্বন্ধে আমার ধারণাই নাই। এ সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি বলেন?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: এটা একটা Question of opinion. এই চাউল সম্বন্ধে সকলেই এই মত পোষণ করেন না।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister is taking himself the rice that is available in the controlled shops which is fit for consumption by cattle?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, I am taking that rice which is supplied from the controlled shops.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that there is general discontent as to the quality of this rice?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: As I said there is discontent.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will Government try to remove the discontent by supplementing better kind of rice?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Government is trying to get better rice.

### Sunamganj Dhangar Union

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

\*2. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state—

(a) Whether the "Sunamganj Dhangar Union" passed a resolution asking Government and the Municipal Board, Sunamganj to supply them rice at Rs. 5 per maund, Dal, Mustard oil, Salt, Chili and other food-stuffs at pre-war price, to pay dearness allowance to females at the same rate at which it is granted to males and to supply them standard cloth?

†Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.



- (b) If so, whether Government has done anything to meet their demands ?  
 (c) Whether Government are aware that the "Dhangars" of Sunamganj have been almost fasting and cannot continue their work in this period of food crisis ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

2. (a)—Government have not received any such resolution.  
 (b)—Does not arise.  
 (c)—No.

#### Kawergola Government Reserve

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

- \*3. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state—  
 (a) Whether the cultivators of Bhanubil in South Sylhet Subdivision have applied for opening the Kawergola Government Reserve near Konagao and Changao for cultivation ?  
 (b) If so, whether definite orders have been passed for opening the said Reserve ?  
 (c) If not, why not ?  
 (d) Whether Government propose to open this reserve immediately for cultivation to facilitate the Grow-More-Food Scheme ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :—

3. (a)—No such application has been received by the Forest Department.  
 (b)—The question is not understood as there is no such reserve as 'Kawergola' in South Sylhet Subdivision. If Rajkandi reserve is meant, the Divisional Forest Officer has already been advised to allow people to cultivate suitable low land, if any, inside the reserve, the forest villagers being given preference.  
 (c)—Does not arise.  
 (d)—In view of reply under 3 (b), the question does not arise.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: May I know on what conditions lands are leased out to cultivators ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On the general conditions under the Land and Revenue Regulations.

(Starred questions Nos.4—9 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali were not put and answered as the questioner was absent)

#### Food Conference at Shillong

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

- \*10. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The names of persons who were invited to attend the recent Food Conference at Shillong ?  
 (b) Who was the non-official member invited to that Conference from the district of Darrang to represent the cause of that district ?  
 (c) Whether the Report of the Conference will be made available to the Members of the House ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

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



STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION No.10(a) ASKED BY MAULAVI BADARUDDIN AHMED AT THE NOVEMBER SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, 1943.

Names of persons who were invited to attend the recent Food Conference at Shillong—

1. The Hon'ble Prime Minister.
2. The Hon'ble Finance Minister.
3. Mr. Satyendra Mohan Lahiri, M.L.C., Gauhati.
4. Mr. A. Whittaker, C.I.E., M.L.A., Shillong.
5. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali, M.L.A., Jorhat.
6. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman, M.L.A., Sylhet.
7. Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, M.L.A., Sunamganj.
8. Mr. B. N. Mookerjee, M.L.A., Sylhet.
9. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin, M.L.A., Gauhati.
10. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., Habiganj.
11. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, M.L.A., Sunamganj.
12. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya, M.L.A., Silchar.
13. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, M.L.A., Dhubri.
14. Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, M.L.A., Gauhati.
15. Srijut Ambicca Giri Roy Chaudhury, General Secretary, Jatiya Mahasabha, Gauhati.
16. Srijut Biresh Misra of Sylhet at present of Gauhati, President, Assam Communist Party, Gauhati.
17. Mr. Sarat Ch. Bhattacharyya, M.L.C., Shillong.

(b)—None was invited from Darrang.

(c)—The hon. Member is referred to the Press Note dated the 25th August 1943 published by the Publicity Officer to the Government of Assam. No full record of the proceedings was made as the discussion was free and frank.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Will Government please state what quantity of rice and paddy was exported from the district of Darrang after the export was stopped?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is entirely a new question and I am not ready to answer it. I require notice.

#### Civil Court of Mangaldai

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked:

\*11.(a) Are Government aware that the civil court of Mangaldai is going on the out a Munsif since the beginning of August last and that the litigant public have to come to and go back from the court with their witnesses from date after date due to adjournment of their cases and that since then no fresh civil suit has been entertained in that court?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a dearth of Extra Assistant Commissioners with power of Munsif for the civil court of Mangaldai?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

11.(a)—Government are prepared to accept the statement of the hon. Member in respect of the period from 13th August 1943 to 28th September 1943.



(b)—The previous Munsif Mr. Deka gave over charge on the 13th August 1943. He was to have been replaced by Maulavi Azizur Rahman, Extra Assistant Commissioner, but it became necessary to alter this arrangement and post this officer as Assistant Director of Land Records. Another officer was posted to Mangaldai, but the latter asked for and has to be given leave on medical certificate, resulting in further delay. On 28th September 1943 the powers of a Munsif were conferred on Maulavi Aminul Haque, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Mangaldai. Another officer has also since been posted to Mangaldai.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Are Government aware that the new gentleman who has been invested with the powers of Munsif is not aware of the ordinary rules and procedure of the Civil Court?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not a proper question and need not be answered.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Are Government aware that many complicated civil suits are pending for disposal at the Mangaldai Civil Court?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This is an entirely new question, but I would accept it as a statement of fact by the hon. Member.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: Will Government see that some experienced hands are posted there?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The suggestion will be considered.

#### Muslim Education Conference

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

\*12. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Muslim Education Conference was held recently at Sylhet under the auspices of Government?

(b) If so what were the decisions of that Conference?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

12. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A copy of the proceedings embodying the decisions of the Conference is laid on the Library table for the information of the Members.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he has brought the decisions of the Conference to action?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: One of the main recommendations of that Conference was to appoint an Expert Committee to revise the curricula of the Madrasas. The Expert Committee had already been summoned from October last, and its decisions will be under consideration of Government soon. We are taking action on other recommendations of the Conference also.

(Starred question No.13 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

#### Introduction of rationing of food-stuffs in the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

\*14. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they intend to introduce rationing of food-stuffs in the Province?

(b) If so, from which date?

(c) Whether the rationing will operate throughout the Province?

(d) The names of food-stuffs which will be rationed?



\*15. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to open registers immediately in villages throughout the Province with a view to record (i) the name of each cultivator (ii) the area of his land under paddy cultivation (iii) quantity of crop when harvested (iv) number of members or dependants in the family of each cultivator below and above 12 years of age ?

(b) If not, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ascertain the real food position of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

14. (a)—Yes, in all towns where there is a Municipality.

(b)—Government intend to introduce rationing with effect from 1st January 1944.

(c)—*Vide* reply to 14 (a).

(d)—Rice, Atta, Flour, Wheat, Sugar, Salt, Dal and Bread.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about the rural areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It will not be possible to ration the entire Province. We are making a start with the urban areas.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think this will more appropriately come under question No. 15.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: What are the varieties of Dal supplied ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think we are supplying three varieties, viz., Mosur, Arhar and Chana.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So far as question No. 14 is concerned, I want to know what arrangements Government propose to make so far as rural areas are concerned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I was stating, Sir, that we are taking these measures for the urban areas at present, and if we succeed and get proper support and co-operation from the public, we will try if suitable rural areas also can be brought within the scheme of rationing.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Are Government aware that there is considerable dissatisfaction throughout the Province owing to the fact that imported foodstuffs seldom get beyond the subdivisional or district towns ? They seldom reach the villages in reasonable quantities, quite apart from rationing.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That has not been the general complaint. There have been occasional cases when the entire amount of commodities sent to villages have not been sold to the public at the controlled rates, some having found their way to the black market.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What arrangements will be made for the time being for the rural areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Nothing can be done excepting that the Deputy Commissioners have selected people whom they consider reliable to sell Government imported foodstuffs in the rural areas.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

15. (a)—No. Government have reliable record about (i), (ii) and (iii) in temporarily-settled areas, but in permanently-settled areas these cannot be collected without settlement operations. As for (iv), to ascertain the figures a fresh census operation will be necessary. In view of the experience of the decennial census such an operation will be very costly and will take an amount of time, which may make the utility of the figures nugatory owing to altered circumstances of the time.

(b)—Food position can be ascertained from the statistics available and report from local Government officers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not possible to have the figures through the Sarpanches without incurring any extra expenditure ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government feel, Sir, that such a report from the Sarpanch will not meet the requirements suggested in this question. In the first place, the Sarpanches have not got the staff under them to measure area of land under paddy cultivation, also to weigh the quantity of crop harvested. These two things the Sarpanches cannot report. They can only give the names of the cultivators and the number of dependents, as reported by the cultivators themselves.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that at present there is no record on which Government can rely so far as cultivable areas are concerned in the Surma Valley?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We get a report both from the Revenue Officers as well as the Agriculture Department. From that report Government collect their statistics.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that opening of registers as proposed by my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee will create panic and misunderstanding in the minds of the villagers?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is a question of opinion; however, a reply may be given.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is doubtful what will be the reaction of the public to the opening of such registers. With due propaganda and in suitable areas, people will probably co-operate. In certain interior areas, however, where Government propaganda cannot reach, the effect may be as stated by my hon. Friend, the Haji Sahib.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Anything new may create panic in the minds of the already panic-stricken people.

#### Opening of Colonies for beggars.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked:

- \*16 (a) Are Government aware that the Province of Assam has been flooded with beggars from the neighbouring provinces?
- (b) Do Government propose to open some colonies for beggars in different places of the province where abundant waste land is available to provide them with works and food?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

16. (a)—Government are aware that a great many beggars have come into the Province from Bengal but no estimate of numbers is possible.
- (b)—Government are endeavouring to accelerate the settlement of land with landless immigrants but preference will be given to those who came earlier to the Province. There is no lack of work on military projects for all who are sufficiently able bodied to work, and those who are not strong enough to work on such projects are not likely to have the necessary physical strength for opening new lands for cultivation.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Supply of funds and seeds to cultivators

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

1. (a) Are Government aware that due to the inability on the part of people to employ labour now-a-days at high cost most of the culturable lands in the Province will remain uncultivated this year?
- (b) Do Government propose to take special steps to supply cultivators with funds and seeds to grow more food?



The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

1. (a)—No.
- (b)—Yes.

### Settlement of land with landless immigrants

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

2. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a recent Press Note stated to have been issued by the Government of Bengal to the effect that the Government of Assam have provided 3 lakhs of landless immigrants with lands in Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. A. Whittaker, M.L.A., as representative of the Government of Assam, has recently stated to the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Bengal, that the Government of Assam have provided 3 lakhs immigrants with lands ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many Bengali immigrants have been provided with land in Assam during the year 1943 ?

3. Will Government be pleased to refer to the Resolution published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 25th August 1943, regarding land settlement policy and state when they propose to give effect to the scheme mentioned in that Resolution ?

4. (a) Are Government aware that lakhs of Bighas of land are lying waste in different districts of Assam Valley ?

(b) Are Government aware that extreme hardship is caused to the landless people of the Province due to abnormal rise in prices of foodstuffs ?

(c) Are Government aware that there are lakhs of landless people who are ready to take up cultivation of food crops provided land is made available to them ?

(d) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to settle land with the landless immigrants in order to encourage the "Grow More Food Campaign" ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

2. (a)—Government have not seen the Press Note but only an extract from a newspaper reporting it, which says that land "will be provided", not "has been provided".

(b)—No.

(c)—The information is not available and would take too long to collect.

3.—Effect is already being given to the scheme.

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Although no census of landless people has ever been made, Government consider that this number is fairly large.

(d)—Government are already taking steps.

### Commercial Carrying Company

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

5. (a) Are Government aware that passengers to and from Shillong have to undergo much inconvenience and hardships for procuring tickets for seats in the bus service of the Commercial Carrying Company ?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to remove these difficulties ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

5. (a)—Government are aware that from time to time large demands of an urgent nature from certain quarters on the Company have resulted in restricting the bookings for ordinary travellers, but believe that every effort has been made to give the public as little inconvenience as possible. No complaints have in fact been received.

(b)—Government have already brought the allegation to the notice of the Company and will certainly do anything that is possible to remove any legitimate grievance.



**Shortage of ploughing cattle**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

6. (a) Are Government aware that as a result of the demand on cows by the Military for eating purpose there is a shortage of ploughing cattle in the Province?

(b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent ploughing cattle and milch cows being taken by the Military for eating purpose?

The Honble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

6. (a)—Government are aware that there is an increased demand on the cattle of the province for work, milk and meat. They have no information that the demand falls particularly on cattle used for ploughing.

(b)—Government have already taken steps to ensure that a check is observed against the sale of working bullocks and all cows including those in milk.

**Staff for "Grow More Food Campaign"**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

7. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Assistant Inspectors and Demonstrators appointed in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign"?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

7.—Four Assistant Agricultural Inspectors have so far been appointed—one in each of 3 Deputy Director of Agricultures' circles and one in Jowai. There is no post as "Demonstrator" under the "Grow More Food Campaign" but 145 Kamdars equal to the status of Demonstrators have been appointed—50 in Upper Assam Valley, 50 in Lower Assam Valley and 45 in Surma Valley.

**Seizure of paddy and its distribution**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

8. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many maunds of paddy were seized by Government till now in Dhubri Ghat ?

(b) How many maunds out of this confiscated paddy have been sold by Government ?

(c) How many maunds out of this paddy have been distributed to the local people ?

(d) Who were the agencies through whom the said paddy was distributed ?

9. (a) Are Government aware that owing to considerable delay in disposing of cases in connection with confiscation and seizing of paddy at Dhubri the people are put to much trouble and hardships ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps for the speedy disposal of these cases ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

8. (a)—83,176 maunds 32 seers.

(b)—2,290 maunds 9½ seers.

(c)—36,771 maunds.

(d)—The distribution of the above paddy was made under the supervision of the Extra Assistant Commissioner in-charge, Supplies, Petrol Rationing Officer in-charge of Rice and Paddy Control and the Sub-Deputy Collector, Relief, South Bank.

9. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This Government have moved the Government of India to make the cases summarily triable and their reply is awaited.

### Fines in connection of removal of paddy from Assam Valley to Bengal

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

10. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of fines imposed and collected upto date by Government in connection with the removal of paddy from Assam to Bengal in the Assam Valley ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

				Rs.
10.—Total amount of fines imposed	...	...	...	35,099
Total amount of fines collected	...	...	...	31,481

### Supply of paddy to Governments of Bengal and India

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

11. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total quantity of paddy supplied by the Government of Assam to the Government of Bengal and to the Central Government during the year 1943 ?

(b) Whether the Government of Assam before undertaking to supply paddy to Bengal or the Central Government as the case may be considered the existing stock of paddy in the Province sufficient for the needs of the people of the Province ?

(c) If so, whether they brought this fact to the notice of those Governments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

11. (a)—Total quantity of paddy supplied by the Government of Assam to the Government of Bengal from 15th September 1942 to 15th May 1943 was 1,11,091 : 35 maunds and to the Central Government—Nil.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

### Average price of rice in different parts of the Province

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

12. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rate at which rice was sold in different parts of the Province during the months of April and May, 1943 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the price of rice is gradually on the increase ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken to stop the rise in the price of rice ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

12. (a)—The average price of common rice per rupee sold in different markets of the Province in April and May 1943 are shown below :—

Districts and Marts	April		May	
	Sr.	ch.	Sr.	ch.
Cachar	2	14	2	2
Hailakandi	3	8	2	12½
Sylhet	2	9	2	3
Sunamganj	2	14	2	10
Habiganj	2	13	2	5
Karimganj	3	0	2	5
Maulvibazar	2	15½	2	4
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	2	10	1	12
Jowai	3	2	2	8
Kohima	NO		MARKET	
Aijal	5	0	5	0
Dhubri	2	12	2	4
Goalpara	3	0	2	6
Gauhati	2	10	1	12
Barpeta	2	13	2	0
Tezpur	3	8	2	0
Mangaldai	4	0	2	4
Nowgong	3	12	2	8
Jorhat	2	8	3	0
Sibsagar	NO REPORT			
Golaghat	3	0	3	4
Dibrugarh	3	5½	2	0
North Lakhimpur	5	8	4	8
Sadiya	4	4	3	9
Balipara	4	0	3	8
Tura	2	10	1	14
Imphal	THERE WAS NO MARKET			

(b)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(c)—The matter is receiving the closest consideration of Government.

#### Rent suits and certificate cases filed by Mechpara and Bijni Raj Court of Wards' Estates

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

13. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of rent suits and certificate cases filed by the Mechpara and Bijni Raj Court of Wards Estates during last one year ?

(b) The total amount of remissions of rent sanctioned by these two Estates during the last one year (figures to be shown separately for each Estate).

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

13. (a)—Total number of rent suits filed by the Bijni Estate last year. 764

Total number of certificate cases filed by the Bijni Estate last year. 1,388

Total number of rent suits filed by Mechpara Estate last year. 377

Total number of certificate cases filed by Mechpara Estate last year. 187

(b)—Total remission sanctioned by Bijni Estate last year. Rs. 56,104

Total remission sanctioned by Mechpara Estate last year. Rs. 23,781



### Cyclone havoc in Goalpara District in April 1943

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

14. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of damage caused by the cyclone that occurred on the 29th April 1943 in Goalpara District ?
- (b) Whether they have got any information regarding the extent of damage caused by this cyclone in Dhubri South Bank ?
- (c) What steps were taken by Government to grant relief to those who have suffered from this cyclone in that area ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

14. (a)—Considerable damage to property particularly house property was caused by the cyclone in Dhubri covering a distance of 8 miles in length and 3 miles in breadth.

(b)—In the South Bank, the storm swept over the villages Ghagmari, Berka-khali, Chalakura and other villages. A large number of dwelling houses belonging to the villagers were blown down. A large portion of the proposed Hamidabad College building under construction was also reported to have been levelled to the ground.

(c)—A sum of Rs.500 was granted as a measure of relief from the discretionary grants of the Hon'ble Minister Finance and Hon'ble Minister Revenue.

### Appointments made in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara and Mechpara and Bijni Raj Wards' Estates

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

15. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of appointments made in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara and Mechpara and Bijni Raj Wards Estates during the last one year ?
- (b) How many of these appointments were made from Muslim community and how many from others ?

The Hon'ble Maulvi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

15. (a)—Total number of appointments made last year was—

1. In the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara	...	...	25
2. Bijni Raj Wards' Estate	...	...	15
3. Mechpara Wards' Estate	...	...	3

Muslim. Others.

(b)—1. In the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara	13	12
2. Bijni Raj Wards' Estate	7	8
3. Mechpara Wards' Estate	1	2

### Grant of land in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign"

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

16. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How much land has been given up till now to the landless people in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" ?
- (b) How much land in different districts of the Province has been given to the landless people during the last five years ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that many of these landless people died in the course of the last two years due to starvation and owing to lands not having been made available to them ?
- (d) If not, whether Government propose to make enquiries in the matter ?
- (e) Whether Government have formulated any scheme of settling lands with the landless people in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" ?
- (f) If so, whether Government have taken any steps to give effect to that scheme ?

17. Are Government aware that there are at present about 4 or 5 lakhs of landless people in Assam Valley ?



18. (a) Are Government aware that the financial condition of the Raiyats at present is worse than what it was when land revenue remission was granted previously ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to restore the remission of land revenue now ?

19. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount of fees collected up till now in connection with the "Development Scheme" from the landless people for submitting petitions for lands ?

(b) Whether Government have provided the applicants with lands ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to take immediate steps to refund the money realised from the applicants as fees ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

16. (a) & (b)—Information is not available nor can it be procured from districts as District Officers have no means of knowing whether the persons who applied for land have any land elsewhere or not.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

(e) & (f)—In connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" several reserves have been thrown open to cultivation but it is impossible to say whether they have been settled only with landless people or with other applicants as well.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The reply is "Information is not available nor can it be procured from districts as District Officers have no means of knowing whether the persons who applied for land have any land elsewhere or not." Is it relevant to the question, Sir ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It is impossible to see how it is not relevant.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The question put was: "How much land has been given up till now to the landless people in connection with the "Grow more Food Campaign" ? And "how much land in different districts of the Province has been given to the landless people during the last five years" ?—The reply is almost in the negative—Information is not available nor can it be procured from the districts. I must say that there must have been some kind of records. Why it is not possible on the part of Government to give accurate figures ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The reason has been given, Sir. If the hon. member reads out the whole reply he will find out the reason.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly explain it to me ? What does he mean by 'elsewhere' ? Is it within the Province or outside the Province ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Within the Province or outside the Province—it may mean both. It will be confined to landless people.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Does not the question seek for information as to whether any figure will be available ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: We have said that it is not possible to make this figure available at this stage.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government maintain a register to show how much land they possess ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: In connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" there is no separate register.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Whether there is any such column in the application form that applicant should mention whether he has any land already under him or not ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I do not think.



Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that Government do maintain a register to show how much land they possess?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Government maintain a register.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Whether any Government land has been settled?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That follows from the reply that Government land has been settled.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that those who applied for Government land have got the land without any consideration being paid whether the man already possesses any land or not?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Will the hon. Member make himself more explicit?

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My point is that—are we to understand whether those persons who applied for land got the land without any consideration being paid on the fact whether they already possessed any land or not? That is whether those who had previously had land have also got and those who had not already held any land have also got it.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Parcelling out of further lands depend upon whether the applicant had any other land and if he had whether that was sufficient or not.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case, Sir, what was the basis? Whether those who have not got any land got it or not? If the answer is in the affirmative in that case the question of the hon. Member is not properly answered. Those who applied, some of them had no land and some of them had some land. In that case the reply to the question is not quite to the point.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government do not maintain a register of the kind that is visualised in the question.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case how many landless persons have got land can be easily ascertained.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It must depend on the consideration of the officers parcelling out the land.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So many landless persons got so much area should be mentioned in the register.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: If it is desired that a column should be added, I will take steps to do that.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Can Government deny that they did not settle any land in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign" in the Province to any landless people.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: They must have settled land with landless people.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

17.—Government have no information. No census has been taken of landless people.

18. (a)—Government hold the contrary opinion.

(b)—Does not arise.

19. (a)—The information is not available as applications were received in connection with the Development Scheme from many people who are not landless and further more the Deputy Commissioners were given powers to exempt applicants in cases of need from paying the prescribed fee. The total number of applications received was 74, 586.

(b) & (c)—No. The object of the fees charged for applications was to defray the cost of the Special Development Scheme Officer's pay, the pay of his staff, his travelling allowance, the printing of his report and the pay of officers subsequently appointed as Colonisation Officers. All these expenses have been incurred and Government do not see any reason to refund the fees paid.

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

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



**Dhubri Ghat Ferry**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

20. (a) Are Government aware that the lessee of the Dhubri Ghat ferry, uses country boats for carrying passengers from one bank of the Brahmaputra to the other in rains ?

(b) Do Government propose to ask the lessee to engage steamers for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

20. (a) & (b)—This became necessary owing, in the beginning, to inability to obtain a properly surveyed steamer, and later, when such a steamer had been obtained to inability to obtain coal. A steam vessel has been plying since 24th September 1943.

**Grants-in-aid to Madrassas in the Barpeta Subdivision**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

21. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of grants-in-aid given this year to the following Madrassas in the Barpeta Subdivision :—

(i) Langla.

(ii) Halapagri.

and

(iii) Dekhiajuli.

(b) Whether they have received any representation regarding raising of grant-in-aid to these institutions ?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken to increase the said grants ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

21.—(a) (i) Rs.30 per mensem recurring with an addition of Rs.5 per mensem recurring and Rs 50 non-recurring for this year.

(ii) Rs.30 per mensem recurring with no new grant.

(iii) There is no Madrasa of this name in the Barpeta Subdivision.

(b)—Yes for Langla only.

(c)—Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

**Teachers of Primary Schools under the Dhubri Local Board**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

22. (a) Will Government be pleased to state for how many months the pay of the Primary School Teachers under the Dhubri Local Board has remained unpaid ?

(b) Is it a fact that as the pay of teachers of Primary Schools under the Dhubri Local Board was not increased by the Board, the teaching staff do not work and many of these schools are at present about to be closed ?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to increase the pay of these Primary School teachers and issue orders for the regular disbursement of their pay ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

22. (a)—Information received in September last shows that payment was not made only for one month, *i.e.*, August 1943.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government are already bearing 60 per cent. of the expenditure in connection with payment of dearness allowance to those Boards' Lower Primary Teachers at the rate of Rs.3 per mensem which are coming up to bear the remaining 40 per cent. In view of this, the question of further increase does not arise, orders are however being issued for regular disbursement of their pay.

**Re: Supply of Kerosene to the dealers of Mayang Mauza**

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

23. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) From which of the Burma Oil Company Petrol Pumps, either of Ouwgong or of Gauhati, the dealers of the Mayang Mauza obtained their supply of Kerosene before the civil supply officers were appointed ?



- (b) Whether any kerosene by tins or gallons was allowed to any wholesale or retail dealer of that mauza within the months of April, May and June 1943 ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to lay on the table a statement showing the names of dealers and the quantity of kerosene issued to each of them from the pumps of Nowgong or Gauhati in the course of the said three months ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that before the appointment of supply officers, the said Mayang Mauza people used to get their kerosene from the operation centre of Gauhati ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the civil supply officers of Nowgong after making some allotment of kerosene from Nowgong for Mayang on 18th May 1943 in favour of Shahed Ali and others refused them any more supply in their subsequent application dated 14th June 1943, and referred them to the Gauhati operation centre to obtain kerosene for the inhabitants of Mayang Mauza ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the civil supply officer of Gauhati also refused them supply of kerosene ?
- (g) If so, why ?
- (h) From which of the district operation centres the people of Mayang Mauza will now get their supply of kerosene ?
- (i) Whether immigrant dealers will get any wholesale or retail supply agency ?
- (j) If so, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the supply officers concerned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

23. (a)—From Gauhati Burmah Oil Company Depôt and also from local dealers of Gauhati.

(b) & (c)—Kerosene licenses were issued to those dealers of Mayang according to the quota to which they are entitled under the Government Directive from April 1943. Thus two dealers namely Bhomsing Sudanmal and Dr. Surendra Nath Das have been given wholesale and retail licenses for 58 tins of kerosene oil monthly from Ex-Burmah Oil Company Depôt, Gauhati. Four other dealers namely Abhoy Chandra Kalita, Rajat Chandra Das, Arjun Chand Das, Satish Chandra were given licenses for retail sale for 26 tins of Kerosene oil monthly to be drawn from Gauhati dealers. These people sell oil at Mayang Hats. Five more dealers namely Armitlall Anath Lall, Sherali Fakir, Rajbali Bepari, Ganada Lal Saha and Mahadew Lall were given retail licenses for 26 tins oil monthly for sale at Mayang Mauza. Three men namely Abdul Khair Md. Hussain Nagar, Sabedali were given sub-dealers licenses for 18 tins of oil monthly, to be drawn from Bhomsing Sadanmal. These three came with applications forwarded by Supply Officer, Nowgong. There is some more oil left with Bhomsing Sadanmal and Dr. Surendra Nath Das for distribution to sub-dealers. Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, has been informed by Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup and requested to issue sub-dealers license.

(d)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to 23 (a) above.

(e)—Yes, as the area was found to be outside the jurisdiction of Nowgong agents.

(f)—No. The applicants were given licenses for oil.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Persons to whom licenses were issued from Gauhati will draw oil from Gauhati.

(i)—Choice of wholesalers and retailers is made in accordance with the Government Directive and in accordance with the needs and convenience of different areas. Communal considerations are not ordinarily taken into account.

(j)—No, as from replies to question 23 (c) it will be seen that immigrants have been granted licenses.



**Export of foodgrains from the districts of Assam Valley**

Mr. **JOBANG D. MARAK** asked :

24. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the export of foodgrains (*i.e.*, rice or paddy) is allowed from the other districts of the Assam Valley which have been omitted from notification No.SD.177/43/81, dated the 18th August, 1943 and published in the *Assam Gazette Extraordinary*, dated the 19th August 1943 ?
- (b) Whether any merchant or trader residing within the District of Garo Hills is allowed to import rice from other *Provinces* outside Garo Hills ?

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

24. (a)—Yes. [The notification referred to is about export from Assam Valley to Surma Valley and there is no bar on such export from Garo Hills to Surma Valley.]

(b)—Other Provinces do not allow export of rice to Assam including Garo Hills but from other parts of Assam import to Garo Hills is permissible.

**Price of nails, etc.**

Mr. **JOBANG D. MARAK** asked :

25. (a) Are Government aware that the price of nails is Rs.6 per seer now as against five annas the pre-war price ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the control of prices of nails is within the powers of the Provincial Government ?

(c) What is the justification of the Government action to reduce the price of rice and paddy from 5 times to three times and at the same time not reducing the price of nails, etc., which is more than 12 times what it used to be ?

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

25. (a)—The rates vary and may be as mentioned by the hon. Member in some parts of Assam.

(b)—No.

(c)—Government of India have announced their intention to control the prices of non-agricultural commodities gradually, particularly those required by the cultivator and for nails and other things such as agricultural implements, a quantity of iron and steel at controlled rates may be released.

Mr. **JOBANG D. MARAK** : Is it not a fact that this fixation of price of nails and irons is under the control of the Provincial Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir **MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : I have already attempted to reply to this supplementary question in reply to question No.25(c). Iron and steel are controlled by the Government of India and not by us. In the last Food Conference in Delhi this matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India and they have announced their intention to control the prices of non-agricultural commodities gradually, particularly those required by the cultivator and for nails and other things such as agricultural implements, a quantity of iron and steel at controlled rates may be released. Then probably the price of nails will come down.

Mr. **A. WHITTAKER** : Will the Hon'ble Minister state what machinery the Government of India have to control prices within the Province ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No details were discussed at the Conference. I fully believe that agricultural implements including nails would be allotted to the different provinces to be sold to cultivators at controlled rates.

Mr. A. WHITAKER: Does not the Hon'ble Minister believe that this will be yet another pious hope and that it will be quite ineffective as far as Assam is concerned?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I think along the same lines with my hon. Friend, but the matter is in the hands of the Central Government. Whether it will be translated into action or not is more than I can say.

### Posts of Kazis and Muslim Marriage Registrars

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

26. (a) Is it a fact that except in matters of salaries, the Kazis and Muslim Marriage Registrars are virtually treated as Government servants, so far attendance of office, maintenance of office records, etc., are concerned?

(b) Do Government propose to make the Kazis and Muslim Marriage Registrars as salaried officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

26. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

### Eradication of Water Hyacinth

Khan Bahadur Haji ABDUL MAJID CHAUDHURY asked:

27. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have prepared any scheme to destroy water hyacinth from the paddy lands?

(b) Whether any amount has been allotted for the removal of water hyacinth this year?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied:

27. (a)—No. Action in this behalf devolves on the Local Bodies under the Assam Water Hyacinth Act, 1926.

(b)—No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, do Government propose to prepare a scheme and to allot some money in the next Budget to eradicate this evil from this Province?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I have already stated in my reply, Sir, that the action in this behalf devolves on the Local Bodies under the Assam Water Hyacinth Act. Government also do hope that the public will also take up this in right earnest because it is felt by Government that they will not alone be able to eradicate this evil unless the cultivators themselves do their little bit in this behalf. So, Sir, I don't think that at this stage any scheme is necessary.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that due to the paucity of funds under Local Boards, they will not be able to take up this work?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, the only thing that is necessary is that the Chairman of the Local Boards can go to different parts of the country and induce the people to come and take up the work on a voluntary way.



Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, are we to understand that Government has no responsibility in this matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think, Sir, both the public and Government have the same responsibility.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know who is to take the initiative—whether the Government or the public?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I have already replied, Sir, that the Local Boards have been given power under the Water Hyacinth Act to take initiative in this matter.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Have not Government got any duty to see that the work is properly done?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Certainly, Sir, Government previously instructed once or twice all the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers to fix up certain dates for clearing water hyacinth and I think that was responded to by the people also.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Has anything been done anywhere in the Province during the current year?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I cannot think that nothing has been done this year.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What was done last year, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I have no definite information, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that nothing has been done either during the last year or during the current year? Will Government take some initiative so that some benefit may be conferred upon the poor cultivators?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think, the hon. Member's information is quite wrong. I have myself seen in course of my tour, that the cultivators were clearing water-hyacinth from their paddy fields.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is that enough? May we know whether Government themselves will take some initiative and help the people to eradicate this evil?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I have already replied, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government realise the necessity of clearing the water-hyacinth from the paddy growing fields?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: We do realise, Sir, and that is why we are anxious to see that the pest is removed as early as possible. We also seek the help of the willing public and other persons to take interest in this matter.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Cannot Government by a piece of legislation undertake this task?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: We have already got the Water-Hyacinth Act by which power has been given to Local Boards to take up this work.

#### Adjournment Motion on account of Malaria epidemic at Baniyachong Village

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., to discuss the serious malaria epidemic which is ravaging and devastating Baniyachong village.



Sir, it might have been seen by all the Members of this Hon'ble House in the press report what a serious calamity has taken place in Baniyachong, which is probably the largest village in the world, the population being about 40,000. Since the last few months, Malaria has broken out in that village in a very virulent form and the death roll is increasing day by day. If I am permitted to make a statement of monthly death roll, it will not only be alarming but it will be a dreadful matter to think of.

Now I am to convince the Hon'ble House that it is a definite matter of urgent public importance. Sir, that it is a definite matter of urgent public importance can be proved by the fact that the death roll according to my information is more than 7,000 up to now and that it is going to be increased by hundreds. According to a reliable report the death roll in the week ending 25th September is 999.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The hon. Member is making a mistake. The numbers are all of new cases and not of deaths according to report of the Assistant Director of Public Health.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the death rate has increased from the last part of September. According to that report the number of deaths during the week ending 25th September is 999, 2nd October 875, 9th October 1,126, 16th October 1,242 and 23rd October 1,136.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is to state briefly the facts and show how it is a matter of urgent public importance.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: It is a matter of urgent nature and it is still in the process and therefore of recent occurrence.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That expression is not in the Adjournment Motion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I think, Sir, that for the purpose of this Motion the figures I have supplied will be sufficient.

Sir, I want to move this Adjournment Motion because I find that the Government are absolutely callous on the subject.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, there are two other Adjournment Motions—one in the name of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan and the other in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. Sir, would it not be better that these Motions be taken up together?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think that the point which Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan wants to make is that deaths are all from starvation. He does not speak of malaria. Mr. Mookerjee says both starvation and malaria are responsible for the deaths. Very well, it will be better if Mr. Mookerjee also says what he has to say.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, failure on the part of Government to prevent the death of a very large number of people due to starvation, malaria and other diseases in Baniyachong in the district of Sylhet.

Sir, my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman has stated about the havoc created by malaria. Sir, according to my information the number of deaths is much higher than the number quoted by my hon. Friend. Sir, very recently I have got the figures and from different sources. The figure is more than 9,000. The figure with the Government may be less. I am presuming this because the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical Department has just now moved her head clearly indicating that she is not willing to accept my figure. Death due to malaria may be less but death due to malaria, starvation and other diseases, *viz.*, diarrhoea and dysentery—all aggregating will be to the extent of nine thousand. Sir, the matter is of recent occurrence why of recent occurrence it is still continuing and I hope that there is no doubt in the mind



of anybody present here that it is a matter of recent occurrence and also of great urgent public importance because it is not that the evil is not there but the evil is still there and it is evident from the figures quoted by my hon. Friend that deaths which are daily increasing. Sir, Government may say and we also know that a few centres have been opened to give medicine so far malaria is concerned but the pitiest part of this is that the number of patients is so large and the centres are so few that it is practically impossible for those few doctors—after all they are human beings—to cope with the number of patients and the medicine supplied is only of one kind. In a few buckets there is some kind of mixture, supposed to be quinine mixture, and whoever comes, the mixture is given with a cup in the phial, or bottles of the patients. The doctors have no time to enquire even what is the disease and in this way even those who are suffering from diarrhoea and dysentery are also getting quinine mixture. Those who are suffering from malaria though they are getting quinine are not getting the proper dose. When some of them who are getting the proper medicine and are escaping from the hands of fever are not getting the proper diet—no barley is available, the price of sagu is exorbitant—most of the hon. Members who are present here will bear me out that they are not getting sugar or sugarcandy with their resources not to speak of the poor villagers. Sir, it has been said in various reports which I shall place before the House if I am permitted, and I will prove beyond doubt, that the number of deaths in the solvent family is very little whereas the number of deaths in the poor family is very great. Sir, it is commonsense that after suffering from such a disease if they do not get proper diet naturally there is the second or third attack and after that due to starvation when they become absolutely weak, lean and thin without any vitality, energy and strength left in them, they face death.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not to argue the case now.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Another point I shall mention which is augmenting the death is that there are very few able bodied persons who can help the poor people to get the dead bodies buried or cremated and in some cases the graveyard is the yard of the house and that is also causing a new kind of disease because of the bad smell which is coming out of the grave inside the compound. Sir, the condition is most pitiable and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will give us a full opportunity of discussing this matter and I hope that I shall get the leave of the House to have a full discussion on this subject which is so important from all points of view.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although there are defects in the wordings of both of these Adjournment Motions, I would not take shelter on any technical defects but I thank those hon. Members who have tabled these Motions for giving me a chance to speak on behalf of Government on the various remedial measures Government have taken. To be frank, I prefer Mr. Abdur Rahman's wordings in spite of the fact that he did not refer to one ingredient which an Adjournment Motion must contain. Both according to the religious scripture of my Friend—Brahmin religion—who has just spoken, and according to mine, nobody can extend the *Ayu* or longevity of a man and if one is destined to die, he will die according to the span of life. In spite of that belief of his, my Friend now wants to discuss, according to the wording in the Adjournment Motion, about the failure of Government to prevent the death of a very large number of people. I do not think any Government, whether the Government of Assam, or the British Government or the World Government has any power to change the destiny of a man. I think it will be better, Sir, if we take up one Adjournment Motion and if you fix a time we will place all facts about this matter. This subject is agitating the Press and the public; Government and the Public Health Department are also agitated as remedial measures failed to alleviate suffering to cure the disease as early as expected.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think both the Motions of Maulavi Abdur Rahman and Mr. Mookerjee are in order and when there is not much difference between these two Motions, I think, any of them may be taken up. The Motion tabled in the name of Mr. Mookerjee is better worded and gives all the



necessary points to be discussed and I decide that Mr. Mookerjee's Motion be taken and to discuss this I fix 3 P. M. of to-day. The other Motion standing in the name of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan relates to cases of deaths in two other districts and is of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence and in view of its urgency I would allow discussion of his Motion day after to-morrow. But he will have to table a fresh Motion eliminating the case of Baniyachong.

**Condolence on the Death of Duke of Kent**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have to inform the hon. Members that in response to the expression of condolence by this House on the death of Duke of Kent, the High Commissioner has sent a message from the members of the Royal family expressing thanks for the condolence message sent by this House.

**Governor's message re-allotment of days for presentation of the supplementary statement of expenditure, voting on demands for grants, etc.**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now I will read the message from His Excellency the Governor with regard to the allotment of days of business relating to the Budget—

"For the purposes of section 81 read with sections 78, 79 and 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and in pursuance of rules 18(1), 18(2) (a) and 19 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Governor's Rules, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, hereby appoint the following days, for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly, of the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1943-44 and for the subsequent stages thereof in the Legislative Assembly during its November Session, 1943, namely:—

Thursday, the 18th November—Presentation of the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

Thursday, the 25th November—Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants.

Monday, the 29th November—Placing of the authenticated Schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44.

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

SHILLONG:

The 12th November 1943.

A G. CLOW,

Governor. "

With regard to Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants to be taken up on the 25th November I am to inform the hon. Members that I have prepared a time-table allotting time for the discussion of different Demands. Leaders of various parties are to see this time-table and to inform me before 2 P.M. to-day if there be any objection to the allotment of time I have made.

**Allotment of days for Private Members' business**

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

Friday, the 19th and 26th November } 1. Private Members' Bill.

Saturday, the 20th and 27th November } 2. Private Members' Resolutions.

Tuesday, the 23rd November—Private Members' Motions and Resolutions.

Private Members' Bills, resolutions, etc., will also be taken up on Tuesday, the 30th November after disposal of Government business, if any, on that date.

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



**Statement re the Course of Government business**

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

The Government business which is to be taken up to-day is already shown in the day's agenda, a copy of which has already been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail it again.

On the 22nd, we propose to move the Motion for consideration of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1941-42 and then to move for its approval.

On the same day, we also propose to take up the following Government business :—

1. Motion regarding increase of the salary of the Lecturers of the Earle Law College from Rs.150 to Rs.200 per month from the 1st December 1943.

2. Motion for incurring expenditure on the equipment and remuneration of village defence parties engaged for protection of communications, etc.

3. Discussion on the point or points referred for reconsideration and voting on amendments recommended by His Excellency the Governor on the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.

4. On the 25th November, we propose to move for taking into consideration of the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942, and if this is accepted by the House, we propose to take up on the 29th, consideration of further amendments, if any, to the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on this Bill.

5. On the 29th November we also propose to consider the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941, clause by clause, and to move that it be passed.

6. We also propose to take up any unforeseen and unfinished Government business on the 30th November.

**Committee on petitions relating to Bills**

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

1. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri,
2. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury,
3. Mr. N. Dawson,
4. Mr. C. Goldsmith.

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

**House Committee**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under the rule 126 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the current Session of the Assembly—

1. Raja Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli,
2. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
3. Dr. C. G. Terrell,
4. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin,
5. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia,
6. Babu Sanat Kumar Ahir.

**Message regarding assent to certain Bills**

Information has been received from the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam that, under the provisions of section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency the Governor has assented to the following Bills which were



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passed by both Chambers of the Assam Legislature :—

- (i) The Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1940.
- (ii) The Assam Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1940.
- (iii) The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1941.
- (iv) The Shillong (Attachment of Salaries) Bill 1943.
- (v) The Assam Finance Bill, 1943.
- (vi) The Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1941.
- (vii) The Assam Court of Wards (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1943.
- (viii) The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1943.
- (ix) The Shillong (Execution of Decrees) Bill, 1943.

2. Intimation has also been received from the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam that His Excellency the Governor General has also assented under the provisions of Section 76 of the Constitution Act, to the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Assam Legislature :—

- (i) The Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939.
- (ii) The Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939.
- (iii) The Assam Money Lender's (Amendment) Bill, 1937.

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

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

- (i) Notification No.L.M.L.297/42/5, dated the 11th March 1943.
- (ii) Notification No.L.M.L.25/42/35, dated the 7th April 1943.
- (iii) Notification No.L.M.L.51/42/11, dated the 10th April 1943.
- (iv) Notification No.L.M.L.217/42/24, dated the 27th May 1943.
- (v) Notification No.L.M.L.137/42/16, dated the 24th June 1943.
- (vi) Notification No.L.M.L.218/42/15, dated the 6th July 1943.
- (vii) Notification No.L.M.L.293/42/15, dated the 6th July 1943.

**Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1941-42**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1941-42.

**Presentation of the Supplementary Statement of expenditure for the year 1943-44**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg also to present† a Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1943-44.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: With regard to the Supplementary Statement I am to inform the hon. Members that the last date for tabling cut Motions will be 20th November on account of the fact that the 21st November is Sunday.

**Presentation of a note on the present Financial situation of the Province for 1942-43**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a note \*\*on the present financial situation of the Province with reference to actuals for 1942-43.

\*See Appendix A.

†See Appendix B.

\*\*See Appendix C.



**Governor's Message re the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, under section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am to present the message of His Excellency under section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, in connection with the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940. It is as follows:—

"The Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, has been passed by both Chambers of the Legislature and presented to me in accordance with section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935. For the reasons given below, I feel obliged to return it to the Legislature with a message under the proviso to that section, with the request that the Legislature consider the desirability of amending the Bill in the manner recommended below. The amendments are all designed to carry out what I believe to be the intention of the Legislature in passing the Bill.

2. The preamble to the Bill indicates that its provisions are intended to apply to factories, plantations and any other establishments which the Provincial Government may notify in this behalf. But there is no specific provision in the Bill itself applying it to factories or conferring power on the Government of Assam to extend it by notification, and a mere recital of the purposes of the Bill in its preamble is inadequate for this purpose. It is necessary, in order to make the Bill effective, to add a provision governing its application and such a provision is included in recommendation (1) below. Mines and oilfields have been excluded because they are subject to Legislation by the Central Legislature, which has passed the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941.

3. As "factory" is not a self-evident term and requires definition, a definition is provided in recommendation (2).

4. Although it is contemplated by the Bill that the benefits provided in clause 4 should be payable by the employer, the Bill nowhere lays this obligation expressly on him. Recommendation (3) is designed to remedy this omission.

5. I therefore make the following recommendations:—

(1) That after sub-clause (3) of clause 1, the following sub-clause be added, namely:—

(4) It shall apply to factories and plantations, and to such other establishments, not being mines or oilfields, as the Provincial Government may in the Official Gazette notify in this behalf.

(2) That sub-clauses (j), (i), (a), (c), (d), (f), (e), (b), (h) and (g) of clause 2 be renumbered as sub-clauses (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) respectively and that after sub-clause (c) as so renumbered the following sub-clause be inserted, namely:—

"(d) 'Factory' means a factory as defined in clause (j) of section 2 of the Factories Act, 1934".

(3) That to clause 4 the following sub-clause be added, namely:—

"(5) The employer of any woman entitled to maternity benefit under this Act, shall be liable to pay such benefit".

6. In pursuance, therefore, of the provisions of the proviso to section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, Governor of Assam, request that the Assam Legislature consider the desirability of introducing the provisions recommended above in the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940.

7. I hereby appoint the Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri to be in charge of the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940, for the purpose of this message. These amendments recommended by His Excellency the Governor would be taken up on the 22nd November.

**Message from the Assam Legislative Council re the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940**

SECRETARY to the ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Sir, the following message has been received from the Secretary, Assam Legislative Council.

"I am directed to inform you that in accordance with the message by His Excellency the Governor under the proviso to section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Assam Legislative Council has, at its meeting held on the 2nd day of July 1943, reconsidered the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940 and, having considered it desirable to introduce the amendments recommended by His Excellency, has accepted the amendments on that date. The Bill as amended thereby was passed by the House".



**Message from the Assam Legislative Council re the Assam Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 1942**

SECRETARY to the ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

Sir, the following Message has been sent by the Secretary, Assam Legislative Council:—

“In pursuance of rule 106 of the Assam Legislative Council Rules, I am directed to inform you that the Bill to amend the Assam Debt Conciliation Act, 1936, which was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 27th March 1943, was passed by the Assam Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 2nd July 1943 with the following amendments, namely:—

For clause 2 the following was substituted:—

“2. In section 2 of the principal Act—

(i) 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).’

(ii) 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’.”

2. The Assam Legislative Council requests the concurrence of the Assam Legislative Assembly to the amendments”.

Sir, under rule 135 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I lay on the table the Bill as amended by the Assam Legislative Council.

The Bill was already circulated to the hon. Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: These amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council will come up for discussion on the 25th November. So the Motion for taking the amendments into consideration is to be given to-day.

**Amendment of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules**

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Hon'ble Premier will move the Motion for leave to amend the Rules of the Assembly, although my name appears in the agenda.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a mistake in the agenda because the Cabinet had asked me to move this matter before the House.

Now I beg leave of the House to move to amend the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules.

Copy of the amendments that I have proposed, has been circulated to each hon. Member and it will be found that the general idea of all the amendments is to the effect that when His Majesty is at war with any foreign State the Assembly should not discuss any matter, the nature of which is calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy. This is a principle which has been agreed to by the House in the November session, 1942. If hon. Members will refresh their memory, they will find that my hon. Friend Mr. Whittaker, the leader of the European Group, wanted to move a Motion authorising you, Sir, to expunge certain portions of speeches which according to him and probably according to most of the Members of the House, were likely to give information to the enemy which they could use against the safety of the province of Assam, nay, whole of India. The House after slight modification accepted the Motion of Mr. Whittaker. According to that Motion, which I better place before the House, an impossible burden was placed upon you, Sir, and you had to judge whether any statements either of facts or figures were in the nature of giving any information which might be of use to the enemy. The Motion which was adopted by the House runs to the following effect:—

“The House approves of expunging by the Hon'ble Speaker from the records of the proceedings of this House during the November Session of any information about the civil defence and communications in Assam which might be of use to the enemy”.



Since then it has been brought to my notice that a very simple statement of a figure which I stated in the Upper House—a figure about the food position of the Province—was taken exception to by the Central Press Adviser as giving information to the enemy and it had to be expunged from the proceedings of the Council. So instead of having to expunge speeches or statements which might be of use to the enemy, it would be better, Sir, if we do not discuss such matters as may be utilised by the enemy against the safety of the province of Assam. I therefore beg leave of the House to move the following amendments to the different Rules of our Assembly to carry out this principle which has already found favour with a large section of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier need not read the amendments. Under the rules I will read the draft amendments.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The relevant rules as to procedure are Rules 104 to 108 at page 34 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Manual. I think, Sir, that I can claim the indulgence not only of you but also of my hon. Friends, if they give me leave and the matter is referred to a Select Committee, under Rule 106, to be so good as to sit during this session so that we can adopt the rules during this session before 30th November.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier has asked for leave of the Assembly to amend the Rules of the Assembly and the question is whether the leave is to be granted by the House. As I see the Rules, I find that if leave be granted the proposed draft Rules are to be automatically referred to a Select Committee the personnel of which is to be as prescribed by Rule 106. No Motion for reference to a Select Committee would be necessary. So if any debate is to be held on the question it is to be held now.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion for leave. Really I am at one with the Hon'ble Premier and I hope all the hon. Members present here are at one with the Hon'ble Premier that our enemies should not get any such information from our discussion that may help them in any way. Sir, we are all responsible men and it should be our duty to see that from our discussions our enemies do not get any sort of information which may cause harm to us or benefit them. But, Sir, the way in which the Hon'ble Premier is going to have that done does not seem to be proper. So far as I know, even in Parliament, the Hon'ble Speaker is in charge of all these things; he is the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House. I hope my hon. Friends of the European Group will enlighten us on this subject and particularly I appeal to Mr. Whittaker, the Leader of the European Group, whose name has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Leader of the House regarding his Motion during the last November session. I believe, according to the customs prevalent in his country he shall have to admit that all the matters referred to in the amendments must rest in your hand.

Sir, so far as our own country is concerned, I may be wrong, but still I venture to say that nowhere any such amendments have been made by which the entire power has been taken away both from the Hon'ble Speaker and the hon. Members. The Central Government which is directly dealing and connected with war matters has not done anything like this as yet. Sir, the object may be achieved in the way it is being achieved now. You will find, Sir, that in case of any dispute His Excellency will be the final authority to judge and his decision shall be final. Sir, as it has been worded here I interpret that His Excellency will do it in his individual judgment, that is in consultation with the Hon'ble Ministers. Sir, this shows that we have no confidence in ourselves; we have no confidence in the Hon'ble Speaker. It is really a pity that the Leader of the House, the First Man of the province, should propose to take away the rights of the representatives of the people in such a way. Sir, he has not mentioned anything to show that the arrangements made during the last November Session according to the desire of the Leader of the European Group have proved a failure. Without taking any credit to myself I say that even to-day at the question hour I pointed out something which I thought should not be in the proceedings, and the Hon'ble Premier



readily accepted it and thanked me for that. Sir, if we all take sufficient care, as we have been taking for the last two sessions, there is no necessity for these amendments. Over and above that, Sir, you are there.

Sir, if there be any such hard-and-fast rules, practically we will have very little to discuss in this House; we must have the opportunity of discussing, but what should be published or not or what questions should be put or not are at present left for decision to you. We always find as a proof of that, that for some reason or other certain questions, etc. are disallowed. Sir, if the discretion is left to you to decide which questions should be allowed to be put or which reply should be there and which subjects should be discussed, there cannot be any trouble. Sir, we have no power to discuss anything outside this House, and if we are gagged even inside the House then what is the good of our coming here? It will be worse than the 93 Administration, of course, with one bright side that we the Members will get our salaries, the Hon'ble Ministers will get their salaries, though the administration will be run as it was run during the 93 Administration. What is the good of coming here? If the Hon'ble Premier thinks that there are undesirable persons in this House who cannot be relied upon, let there be no Session at all and there will be no discussion. But if we are allowed to come here we must be allowed, of course, within our limits as the exigencies of the situation demand, to discuss things as representatives of the people, and ventilate the grievances of the public. Sir, if we ourselves put this restriction on us, it will be a criminal offence on our part. Without any evident sound reason we cannot be a party to it.

Sir, I appeal to you, as you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. I, of course, realise your awkward position, as the power which already lies with you is going to be taken away. But, Sir, I hope that better sense will prevail, and the desired effect of which the Hon'ble Premier spoke, would be achieved not in the way suggested by taking away the power of this House, but by giving full authority to you, Sir, to allow or disallow any matter according to your discretion.

With these few words, I oppose the Motion for leave being granted to amend the Rules.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, having been invited by my hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, to take part in this discussion I should like at the outset to agree with him in one respect. I think the necessity for proposing that the House shall consider these amendments is undoubtedly a well deserved reflection on every single Member of this Assembly. In the past we have been careless in our references to subjects which could and have given information to the enemy. It is within the knowledge of every Member of this House as the posters in railway carriages and public buildings show, that careless talk costs lives. And we in this Assembly have been guilty in the past of careless talk. I take the view, Sir, that the safety of the State is far a greater concern than individual rights of the Members of this Assembly. Though I accept these amendments as a reflection on the House I do not think that that necessarily disposes of the case, as Mr. Mookerjee would wish.

The Hon'ble Premier has stated that the machinery devised in the November Session, 1942, has placed an impossible burden on you.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do these amendments take away the burden from the Chair?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I am not aware, Sir, just how impossible that burden is. But Mr. Mookerjee's point of view is bringing you and us into the realm of controversy. Under Rule 106 you yourself are the Chairman of this Select Committee, and I think, the Select Committee is the proper place in which this matter should be thrashed out. Whether the burden placed on you is an impossible one is a matter of fact and a question which all the Members of the Select Committee are entitled to hear about. I suggest that the Motion be accepted and the matter be fully argued in the Select Committee. I agree with Mr. Mookerjee that it is irksome that the right of speech should be curtailed. This very point arose in the Legislative Council and if Mr. Mookerjee will refer to the debate on that subject he will find that the Legislative Council agreed that these amendments should be accepted in the Council Rules for a



stipulated period only. If at the end of that period Members found that they have been unduly gagged the matter should be raised again. Therefore, Sir, I can see nothing objectionable in the Hon'ble Premier bringing forward this Motion and support it. I hope the House will elect representatives to the Select Committee to go fully into the merits of the proposal.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised at the opposition from the quarter from which it has come, namely from Mr. Mookerjee, who has been very loyal, who has a stake in the country and who is the most vigilant Member in this House—if I may pass that compliment on him. To-day I placed before the House certain information, which he thought would be of assistance to the enemy, and he requested me to withdraw that statement, and I accepted his suggestion. He has thus proved to be a public benefactor. (*Voice*—Public benefactor?) Yes, he has proved to be so.

As I mentioned, Sir, the main burden of all these amendments is that we should not discuss either in the shape of Question, Motion or Resolution any subject matter which is calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy. My hon. Friend falls foul of my Motion because he finds that thereby I am casting a reflection of no-confidence on the Hon'ble Speaker. Again, Mr. Whittaker finds that this is a reflection on the Members of the House. It was far from my mind. I placed certain figures before the Council with the best intention and with the innocent belief that it could not be of assistance to the enemy. But a high personage of the Central Government took exception to it in that House. In this House, again, Mr. Mookerjee fell foul of certain statement of mine this morning. As a spokesman of the Government I find that intentionally or unintentionally I and some other Members make statements which may be damaging to the best interests of the Province. So, I think the best way will be to have these amendments to the Rules. I do not think these amendments will be kept permanently on our Rules, but that was the best way to prevent discussions of such subjects. Now, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee seems to think that by amending these Rules I am taking out certain rights and privileges which you enjoy. Our Rules give you certain rights as the custodian of the privileges and rights of the Members of the House. I am not going to encroach upon them. If my hon. Friend consulted the Rules, he would have found that I have not taken away one little jot of that power.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment No.6.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am labouring the point, in order to convince Mr. Mookerjee that I am not taking out any rights from the Chair.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment to Rule 121.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If you accept my contention as regards the others, I am prepared to meet the last one.

As regards Rule 30 which my amendment No.2 wants to expand—it is the subject matter of questions. It is stated there that if any doubt arises whether any question is or is not within the restrictions imposed by sub-rule (1) the Governor shall decide the point and his decision will be final. Similarly, is the case with the other amendments. I come to the last one which, Sir, you pointed out. Rule 121 says: the Secretary shall cause a full report of the proceedings of the Assembly at each of the meetings to be prepared as soon as possible after each meeting. He shall send a copy of such report to each Member and to the Governor and the Governor-General. A copy of such shall also be published in the Gazette. A copy of such report when confirmed and signed by the Speaker shall be the record of the proceedings of the Assembly.

Now, a copy has got to go to the Governor. The Governor in the past had taken exception to certain statements that were considered by you and you were pleased to give your consent to certain passages being omitted. This amendment requires only that the report as confirmed by the Speaker shall be sent to the Governor before it is published.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I myself revised such portions without having known any objection from His Excellency the Governor.



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADUDLA: The responsibility of the Governor as Crown Representative is very heavy and when the Province of Assam is at war, when Assam is in the front line of battle area, it is therefore all the more necessary that His Excellency the Governor should exercise certain vigilance for the safety of the Province and it is but meet and proper that he should have some say in the matter whether the statements made here are likely to disclose any information to the enemy. So Sir, it is no encroachment upon your right—it is more or less sharing the responsibility along with you. I therefore say that in my amendments, there is no reflection either upon you or upon the hon. Members of this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The proposed amendments are as follows:—

1. That in sub-rule (2) of Rule 12 the following shall be added, namely:—

“(vii) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State, refer to any matter the nature of which would be calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy”.

2. That in Rule 30—

(i) the following sub-rule shall be inserted as sub-rule (2), namely:—

“(2) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State no question shall be asked the asking of which would be calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy”.

(ii) the existing sub-rule (2) shall be renumbered as sub-rule (3); and

(iii) in sub-rule (3) as so renumbered for the word and figure “sub-rule (1)” the words and figures “sub-rules (1) and (2)” shall be substituted.

3. That after Rule 41 the following shall be inserted as Rule 41A:—“Restrictions on subjects for discussion—

41A.(1) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State no Motion shall be made on any matter the discussion of which would be calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy.

(2) If any doubt arises whether any such Motion is or is not within the restrictions imposed by sub-rule (1), the Governor shall decide the point and his decision shall be final”.

4. That in Rule 76—

(i) the following sub-rule shall be inserted as sub-rule (2), namely:—

“(2) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State no resolution shall be moved the discussion of which would be calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy”;

(ii) the existing sub-rule (2) shall be renumbered as sub-rule (3); and

(iii) in sub-rule (3) as so renumbered for the word and figure “sub-rule (1)” the words and figures “sub-rules (1) and (2)” shall be substituted.

5. That after Rule 87 the following Rule shall be inserted as Rule 87A:—“Restrictions on subjects for discussion—

87A. (1) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State no Motion for adjournment shall be made the discussion of which would be calculated to disclose information likely to assist the enemy.

(2) If any doubt arises whether any such Motion is or is not within the restrictions imposed by sub-rule (1), the Governor shall decide the point and his decision shall be final”.

6. That for Rule 121 the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Secretary shall cause a full report of the proceedings of the Assembly at each of its meetings to be prepared. A copy of such report when confirmed and signed by the Speaker shall be the record of the proceedings of the Assembly.

(2) When His Majesty is at war with any foreign State the report as confirmed by the Speaker shall be sent to the Governor before it is published and, if the Governor acting in his individual judgment certifies that any portion of the report contains information likely to assist the enemy, that portion of the report shall not be published or cited until he so directs.



(3) Copies of the report of the proceedings, with the omission of the portions, if any, certified by the Governor under sub-rule (2) shall be sent to each Member and to the Governor and the Governor-General".

As the Motion for leave has been objected to, hon. Members who are in favour of the leave being granted will please rise in their seats.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The total number of Members that are present in the House is only 35.

(Some Members rose in their seats.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The number is less than 35 and the rules require the number to be more than 35. The leave is, therefore, refused. There is no other outstanding business in the agenda and so the House stands adjourned to 3 minutes to 3 P.M.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2-57 P.M.

*After lunch*

#### Oath of Allegiance

The following new Member was sworn in:—

1. Srijut Surendra Nath Buragohain (in the room of the late Srijut Sonaram Dutt).

#### Adjournment Motion

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of Baniyachong as I have already stated before the House while I begged leave of the House is most pitiable. Sir, after hearing the Hon'ble Prime Minister I hesitate to discuss this matter because he wanted to leave everything at the mercy of destiny. Sir, he has said what is destined to be that must be. Sir, if that be the case, I hope it is not, it will be simply useless altogether on our part to discuss this matter and to waste our time for nothing. Sir, then what is the good of having this Medical Department and this Department of Public Health? Why this Grow More Food Campaign? If according to the Hon'ble Premier a man, when his time will be over, will die, then I do not find there is any necessity of all these Departments. Sir I hope and believe that he was not serious on this remark and will do his best to tide over this present difficulty which the people of Baniyachong are suffering from. Sir, from an appeal issued by several notable gentlemen of Baniyachong it will be found what was the condition of Baniyachong not to-day but a month ago. This appeal was signed by Khan Sahib Nurul Hussain Khan, Pleader, President, Baniyachong Food Committee, Mr. Sibendra Chandra Biswas, one of our hon. Colleagues who is present here, Mr. Girindra Nandan Chaudhury, Chairman, Habiganj Local Board and so on. There they wrote:

"Fever and famine have reduced men and women into skeleton. Hungry people are moving about begging from door to door but alas! who is to give them alms where almost all are passing through food crisis."

It was dated 20th October 1943. It was stated there that the Government and the Local Board had set up 4 centres for distribution of medicine but this was not adequate. Every centre served about 700 patients a day. Medicine is distributed from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. In many houses in the village there is no one to look after the patients and give them medicine or even water to quench their thirst. Some families have been completely wiped out by malaria. There are not enough people to carry the dead bodies to the burning ghat or to the burial ground. Sir, as regards the number of deaths, I admit that there is a controversy because.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon. Member has not yet read his Motion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, failure on the part of Government to prevent the death of a large number of people due to starvation, malaria and other diseases at Baniyachong in the district of Sylhet.



Sir, in another appeal issued by Mr. Srish Chandra Dutta, *ex-M.L.A.* (Central), I find—it has been written in Bengali but I shall translate it—that in the village of Baniyachong only in the district of Sylhet more than nine thousand people have already died due to malaria and starvation. In Bengali it has been written in this way :

“এই জেলার একমাত্র বানিয়াচঙ্গ গ্রামেই ইতিমধ্যে প্রায় নয় হাজারের ও বেশী লোক ম্যালেরীয়া ও অনশনে প্রাণত্যাগ করিয়াছে।”

Sir, in another appeal issued by Mr. Biresch Chandra Misra, Leader of the Communist Group in Assam dated 30th October 1943, it was stated—

“সিলেটের বানিয়াচঙ্গে ইতিমধ্যে প্রায় নয় হাজার লোক ম্যালেরীয়া ও অনশনে প্রাণত্যাগ করিয়াছে।” It is also to the same effect that by this time more than 9,000 people have died at Baniyachong due to malaria and starvation.

Sir, report recently published by the Sylhet Relief Committee will reveal some matters which will, I am confident, convince the hon. Members of this House about the gravity of the situation.

This report has been signed by Mr. Kumud Bandhu Sen Gupta, B.L. and Mr. Ananga Kumar Ray, Pleader, who went there personally and have submitted this report to the said Relief Committee. It appears on calculation that on an average 500 to 600 patients are being served both personally and through agents daily at each of the 6 centres of medical relief. Six, because when the previous appeal was issued there were four centres afterwards two more centres were opened. I do not know whether in the meantime—by meantime I mean in course of a week or ten days—any more centres have been opened. Sir, in one place they have stated that from one medical centre they went to Mahalla Tambullitala, half a mile from the borobazar and made a direct survey with the following results :—

	Total No. in the family	No. of death	No. still suffering
1. Nasibulla ... (appeared to be solvent)	11	1	5
2. Taj Ullah ...	3	1	1
3. Samir Ullah ...	3	Nil	2
4. Kalai Ullah ...	9	2	7
5. Rashid Ullah ...	4	2	1 one left village.
6. Sabdar ...	3	1	0
7. Sonai Ullah ... (appeared to be solvent)	7	1	5
8. Alabux ...	4	2	2
9. Hurai Ullah ...	6	3	3
10. Mafiz ...	8	4	4
11. Samdu ...	3	0	3
12. Ganai Ullah ... (in Jail)	10	8	2
13. Gani ...	1	0	1
14. Wazid Ullah's wife ...	1	1	0
15. Rehan Ullah ...	5	1	4
16. Inchan Ullah ...	4	1	3
	82	28	43

The result of the survey of these 16 families is that out of a total strength of 82 persons, 28 have already died and 43 are still suffering. Of those suffering our honest impression is that only God can save them. They are practically without food and drink and there is none to look after them and no source from which they can get their food.



We surveyed another small hati with the following result—

	Total No. in the family	No. of death	No. still suffering
1. Sajid ... ..	6	4	2
2. Elhi ... ..	4	0	4
3. Jaman Ullah ... ..	6	3	3

of this family No.3 all the male members are dead. Persons living are a sickly widow and 2 skeleton babies having none to look after them and having no means of subsistence whatever.

	Total No. in the family	No. of death	No. still suffering
4. Asir Ullah ... ..	14	11	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>

Dai, a widow. All the members of the family are dead. She also appears to be ailing and going without food and very likely she will soon follow the way, the other members of the family have gone.

The result is that out of a total strength of 30 persons, 18 have already died and the remaining 12 are in bed.

Rushanullah of Tambulitolla stated that there are 30 families in the mahalla with a population of 150 out of which the number already dead is 65.

Kachanullah of Dewanbhag stated that he had 6 members in his family out of which 3 died and the remaining 3 are still suffering. Kachan had gone to the medical centre with temperature in his body to carry medicine.

Maulavi Md. Abdullah, Joint Secretary of the Baniyachong Food Committee and an active member and organiser of National War Front stated to us that he had started a death survey, and supplied us with a written report of his survey results upto date. This is as follows—

	Population	Death.
A. Mahalla Puranbag, Daspara and a part of Nandi-para.	600	209

Some specific instances of very sad cases :—

	No. in the family	No. of death
1. Asgar Ullah ... ..	14	10
2. Umil Ullah ... ..	5	5
3. Reast Ullah ... ..	4	4
4. Kamal Ullah ... ..	3	3
5. Ambarullah ... ..	6	6
6. Abdul Sovan ... ..	3	3
7. Mafizullah ... ..	5	5
	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>
B. Mahalla Bag, Dewanbag and a part of Topkhana	400	80
C. Tambulituolla and Khankaribag	150	63
D. Puran Topkhana	100	26
E. Topkhana	250	40
F. Nayahati and Badauri	170	61
G. North Bank of Sagardighi	32	12
	<b>1,700</b>	<b>471</b>



The survey results of the aforesaid 7 *mahallas* show that out of a population of 1,700 the number dead is already 471 representing  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the population. This survey covers only a period of 3 months, from August to October.

Sir, another difficulty which stands in the way of Government in getting the correct figures as has been stated here is that the village *chaukidars* are practically all suffering from diseases and it is not possible for them to go to the thana or to the *sarpanch* to report the deaths.

As regards the sanitary condition of the village, Sir, it has been stated here—

“We were there at Baniyachong for two hours during night from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. and during this short period we had to subject ourselves to the mosquitoes whose number appeared to us to be a legion. Every sting of the mosquito is followed by burning sensation over the place for some minutes. The lanes and bylanes of the village are simply impassable. The water in khals and even in the tanks is dirty and polluted and appeared to be undrinkable, always emitting a peculiar kind of putrid smell.” In their opinion the village appeared to them to be in a state of stupor.

Sir, then they have stated that—

“We noticed that the death rate is comparatively less in solvent families and higher in starving families. It was reported to us that the patient usually dies during the third attack. The consensus of opinion is also that the number of deaths is more in starving families. We are of opinion that the percentage of death cannot be explained away as being due to epidemic of malaria alone. The majority of the cases in our opinion are due to continued starvation and malaria is only the accelerating cause. So the immediate problem before us is not only to adopt preventive measures against outbreak of malaria but also to supply food, barley or some other sick diet which is not being administered to even 2 or 3 per cent. of the sufferers at present. The number of deaths will go on increasing and we do not know where the end is.” Sir, I can cite innumerable instances from the report I have got in my possession that the number of deaths is very large and it is both due to diseases and starvation. Sir, I have already admitted that Government have opened medical centres but it will be found in this report how medicines are supplied ‘we saw bucketfuls of mixture being poured by a big cup into the phials, each man carrying a number of such phials with him’”.

The doctors are working with the assistance of their compounders from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M. There is no denying the fact that those who are there are overworked. I have nothing to say against them, they are doing what is possible for them under the circumstances. Sir, I have moved this Adjournment Motion not in the spirit of censuring the Government but just to bring to their notice that what they are doing is most inadequate. They are not quite alive to the gravity of the situation. Sir, may I ask the Hon'ble Premier that when he had heard so much from some of the hon. Members and also through newspapers why did he not depute one of his Ministers to go to Baniyachong to see the matter personally?

Sir, I like to bring another point in this connection to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier that due to want of light, I mean the scarcity of kerosene, there was one very sad death of a child lying by the side of a sick mother. The child wanted water and in darkness instead of putting water in the mouth of the baby it was poured in the nose and the result was most disastrous, *i.e.*, the child died. This is also another point which so far as the unfortunate village is concerned should be considered. Sir, I have already said that there are very few healthy persons who can help their neighbours to carry the dead body either for cremation or for burial. I sent a wire to the Hon'ble Premier on the 1st of this month and I got a reply from K. W. Marar, Esqr., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Supply Department by a letter dated the 11th. It runs thus: “I am directed to refer to your telegram of the 1st November addressed to the Hon'ble Premier, Assam, and to say that Government is quite alive to the situation in Baniyachong and doing everything possible in combating the epidemic.” Here, Sir I do not agree with the Government. If they say that they are doing everything possible in combating the epidemic I am rather obliged to say that they have not grasped the real situation as yet and moreover my telegram was not only to this effect but I requested the Hon'ble Premier for doles and supply of clothes



to some poor deserving persons. So far that portion of the telegram was concerned no reply was given. Sir, only opening of few centres won't do. The Government must give diet also for the patients. There is practically no good drinking water in that locality except a very few tube wells. Sir, we cried hoarse on this very floor of the House several times to improve the sanitary condition of that village which is known to be the biggest village not only in India but even in the world. Sir, unless the Government send immediately a large number of doctors and adequate quantity of medicines and help the poor persons with sick diets and with free doles the number of deaths will be increased day by day as it is being increased even now daily. Sir, I don't know who has suppressed this fact to the Hon'ble Premier. I am ready to believe his statement that he did not know that people were dying due to starvation.

The Honble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Which fact ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The present condition that so many people have died and the death is simply due to malaria and it is not due to starvation. This I could gather from the statement of the Hon'ble Premier which he made when I begged leave of the House to move my Motion. There should be a thorough enquiry.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will finish now. I have got only half an hour's time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I will finish within 2 or 3 minutes. Sir, it is criminal on the part of those persons who are so very unmindful and did not care to bring the real condition to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier.

Sir, after an enquiry, I hope, the Hon'ble Premier will take necessary action against them. They deserve impeachment. Before they begin the enquiry I would request the Government to take steps even from this very afternoon and to send more medical men with more medicines—I mean different kinds of medicines not only for malaria but for dysentery and diarrhoea as well and see that those who are still living and lingering may be saved from these fell diseases and starvation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"This Assembly do now adjourn for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, failure on the part of the Government to prevent the death of a very large number of people due to starvation and malaria and other diseases at Baniyachong in the district of Sylhet."

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before proceeding with the debate, and in order to facilitate it, would Government please tell us when they first heard of this tragedy, when did they ask the Director of Public Health to enquire into the matter and when did this Provincial Government's remedial measures in the form of medical staff, medicines and food-stuffs reach the place ?

\*Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, আমার বন্ধু মিষ্টার বৈদ্যনাথ মুখার্জি যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেছেন আমি সেই প্রস্তাব সর্বাস্তঃকরণে সমর্থন করিতেছি। অনুরূপ একটি প্রস্তাবের নোটিস্ আমিও দিয়েছিলাম। উভয় প্রস্তাবের বিষয় এক হওয়ায় আমার প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন না করে এই প্রস্তাবেই আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করব।

বানিয়াচঙ্গের মৃত্যুর কাহিনী শুনার পর আমার আর বিত্বাস করতে ইচ্ছা হয়না যে আমাদের আসামে কোন গভর্ণমেন্ট আছে বা গভর্ণমেন্টের কোন অস্তিত্ব আছে। গভর্ণমেন্টের সৃষ্টি হয়েছে আসামের সর্বসাধারণের উপকারের জন্য। সর্বসাধারণের অর্থের দ্বারা মাননীয় মেডিকেল মন্ত্রী বেশ আরাম আয়াসের সঙ্গে শিলঙে কালযাপন করিতেছেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের ও পরিতাপের বিষয় এই যে তিনি মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রীর সহিত সমস্ত প্রভিন্স tour করতে সক্ষম হন, বিভিন্ন এলাকায় নানা প্রকার কাজ তিনি দেখে বেড়াতে পারেন, কিন্তু যেখানে প্রায় ৯,০০০ লোক বিনা চিকিৎসায় নানা প্রকার কাজ সেই করুণ কাহিনী শুনার পর ও এই ভয়াবহ দৃশ্য দেখবার সুযোগ তাঁর হচেছনা। তিনি বোধহয় ভুলে গিয়েছেন যে সর্বসাধারণের অর্থের দ্বারা যখন তার বেতন দেওয়া হয়ে থাকে, সর্বসাধারণকে রক্ষা করার দায়িত্বও অবশ্য তার আছে। পরাধীন দেশের বানিয়াচঙ্গ গ্রাম নাহয়ে যদি কোন স্বাধীন দেশের



গ্রাম হত, তাহলে আজ মাননীয় মন্ত্রী এ সভায় এভাবে অটল এবং হাসিমুখে আজ আমাদের সম্মুখে উপস্থিত হতে পারতেন না (*hear hear*)। তাঁকে দেখলে মনে হয়না যে তাঁর অন্তঃকরণের কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে বা এই কল্পণ কাহিনী শুনার পরও তাঁর অন্তরে দুঃখ জেগেছে এবং সর্বসাধারণের মৃত্যুর জন্য তাঁর কোন কৰ্ত্তব্য বা দায়িত্ব আছে। এই যে, ১০০০ লোক মারা গেল এদের শতকরা ৮০ জন মুল্লমান। আমার মনে হয় এই মৃত ব্যক্তির যদি তাঁর স্বজাতীয় টাইবেরল ক্রান্তের লোক হত তাহলে...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, Order, the hon. Member is not right in saying so.

\*Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: এ অবস্থায় ক্রমাগত ভাবে লোক মারা যেতে পারে, কিন্তু তিনি দয়া করে একদিনের জন্যও বামিয়াচঙ্গে গিয়ে নিজ চক্ষে দেখে কি ব্যবস্থার দ্বারা এর প্রতিকার হতে পারে বা কি করে লোকদের রক্ষা করা যায় তা দেখবার জন্যও তিনি সুযোগ পেলেন না। আমি আশা করি এই House এর সদস্যবর্গ নিজ নিজ দায়িত্ব বোধে এই জরুরী প্রস্তাবের সমর্থন করবেন। আজ পর্যন্ত আপনারা আসামের বৃকে এরকম দৃশ্য বা কাহিনী কোন দিন দেখেন নাই বা শুনে নাই যে এক একটা গ্রামের বা পরিবারে ১০ জনের ভিতর ১০ জনই মারা যায় বা ১২ জনের ভিতর ১২ জনই মারা যায়। যদি কোন মন্ত্রীর ঘরে কেউ মারা যেত, তাহলে তাঁরা সমস্ত আসাম কম্পিত করতেন। কিন্তু এরা দুর্বল কৃষক মজুর; তাহারা খেতে পায়না এবং তাদের বলবার লোক কেউ নাই, তাদের মুখে ভাষা নাই বা খবরের কাগজে পুপেগেঙা করবার শক্তি নাই। তাই তারা আজও অটল ভাবে সহ্য করে যাচ্ছে। এই House এর মাননীয় সদস্যবর্গ, আপনারা সবাই মন্ত্রী নন, আপনারা সবাই ভুলে যাবেননা যে আপনাদের পুতোকের সর্বসাধারণের প্রতি দায়িত্ব আছে। আমি আশা করি এই দৃশ্যের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রেখে আপনারা সবাই এই প্রস্তাবের সমর্থন করবেন। ইহাই আমার অনুরোধ।

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also tabled a similar Motion which, of course, in this morning has been debarred and Mr. Mookerjee has been given preference. Since these various types of diseases broke out in the village of Baniyachong I had been there for four times. The first visit which I had paid was not meant for the purpose of seeing the condition of the people there attacked with malaria. But since I went there for the first time I heard that various types of malaria had broken in a mahalla called Jatu Karnapara which is one of the most thickly populated mahalla in Baniyachong. Hon'ble Members are aware that during the last November Session the condition of the people of Lakhai thana was discussed in this House and it was revealed that this malaria attacked about 900 people in various villages and about 500 people died last year. Again this year when I heard that kind of malaria had broken out in Baniyachong which is probably the most congested village in the world with a population of 40,000, I got alarmed and spoke to the Chairman of the Local Board to take some immediate steps, because he is also responsible for the health of the rural population. I understand that the Public Health Department first took notice of the disease on the 26th July and the Director of Public Health went there and asked me to meet him at the Circuit House. Accordingly I met him and discussed the matter. We all agreed that the disease might be very serious if early action was not taken. Since then I heard nothing. But in the later part of August the seriousness of the disease was brought to light and the report received was very alarming. I again went there on the 16th August and stayed there only for a night because everybody was afraid of mosquitoes. I passed through the villages and found that they were submerged with water and water-hyacinth. I immediately met the Subdivisional Officer and requested him to go there and visit the villages and ask the people to clear the water-hyacinth and other jungles. I don't know whether he actually went there but since then reports were coming which were alarming and very dreadful.

In September the disease took its virulent type and reports of deaths were coming daily. The daily death-roll in the month of September was from 50 to 60. I again went there with the Chairman and met the medical officer in charge of the charitable dispensary at Baniyachong, who was put in charge of Public Health also. I inspected his register with the Chairman, and found the actual figure of patients registered was about 15,000, and they were under actual treatment by the Public Health Department.



On my enquiries the Medical Officer stated that since the Director of Public Health visited Baniyachong, as I have stated, in the latter part of July, he was instructed to open two centres, besides the dispensary centre, for supply of free quinine. He also stated to me that he was receiving supply of quinine in abundance. I questioned the persons whom I met in the dispensary compound—there were some responsible persons also—they had nothing to complain about the supply of quinine; the quantity was there but the manner of distribution was most unsatisfactory. Then the doctor—I don't know whether on his own initiative—opened some more centres after the visit of the Assistant Director of Public Health. The Chairman asked the doctor to write to Government to send more public health doctors. As a matter of fact, while I visited the place for the third time in October with the Chairman of the Local Board, I found they had opened six centres and that almost the whole village was affected. The disease first broke out from the village Jatu Karnapara and it gradually spread out. But since the Director of Public Health visited the place and instructed the Medical Officer there to open two centres first, nothing preventive was taken by the Government or the Public Health Department. During our visit in October we found in the register new cases admitted during September-October were seventeen thousand and a few hundred, and the six centres which they had opened were not at all adequate to cope with the situation.

I made enquiries of the doctor about the procedure he followed with regard to the distribution of quinine. He said he had been supplied with four public health doctors and those doctors were sent to each of the centres in alternate days to distribute quinine, and those six centres were located within the limit of one mile to half a mile. It was the opinion of the Medical Officer there that the doctors were trying their best to make the centres easily available to the people. The most difficult thing, as was stated by the hon. Mover, was that communications in Baniyachong are very bad. None can move without a boat. The poor people do not own any boats, neither can they hire any; so they cannot easily reach the centres to receive quinine. What actually happens is that a man goes there with 50 to 60 bottles in a basket to receive quinine; he waits there for five to six hours and then receives quinine. The doctor has to cater for five to seven hundred people. Nobody will believe this, but I myself had been surprised to see that affairs there were more or less like those of a tea stall. In a tea stall in any railway station people flock in numbers, and whoever pays an one anna bit gets his cup of tea. And this is exactly the manner in which quinine was being distributed at the centres. The doctor did not know whom he was serving, he did not enquire about the condition of any particular patient, which was his primary duty, but he simply filled those bottles with quinine. I was simply thunder-struck at the novel method the doctor had adopted. He did never care to know the condition of patients, but simply entered the names in the register and supplied quinine. His assistant was literally a lay-man without any idea of the medical science. Also the dressers on whom the Public Health Doctors rely are not at all competent to undertake any medical work, such as distribution of quinine, etc. This is the way in which things were going on. The most funny thing is that the Assistant Director of Public Health visited the place a few times, but he did not care to go to any locality, we were told, to see things for himself. If the Director of Public Health or the Assistant Director of Public Health visited some of the families they could have formed an idea themselves, instead of relying on the report from the doctor who was in charge of the dispensary.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has got two minutes more.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I have got important facts to place before the House, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But according to Rules, each hon. Member is entitled to only 15 minutes except the hon. Mover.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I am describing the actual things we saw there. There is controversy whether the death-roll is 7,000, 8,000 or 10,000, and probably Government would come forward and say that the death-roll according to their report would be 1,500 or 2,000 at the most. This will be most inadequate, and



it would be foolish to believe that. The doctor himself furnished this information in the presence of the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, who was good enough to go there. The doctor entrusted one of his assistants to make a survey and that was simply on imagination. Here I will read out a few portions from the report of the Chairman, Local Board.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Which doctor's report is that?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The doctor in-charge of the Baniyachong dispensary. He is a Government doctor. He is in-charge of the whole affair.

This is the report of the Chairman from his tour diary. "It was a ghastly sight. Dead bodies have been brought out by jackals, skulls and skeletons lying all around. Corpses being devoured by jackals and dogs within sight—humane beings lying near their homes." In one *para* Badauri some families are extinct. We have found some deserted houses in which the family members are extinct. I have visited several houses—8 to 10 Mahallas with the Subdivisional Officer and the Chairman, Local Board—we found that people have left their houses for good somewhere else. We passed by a village road and a mosque and found that there was no open space—all round there were new graves.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member may ask some other hon. Member to follow him up and take up the thread of his arguments.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: As regards the figures there were 19,731 new cases and 1,90,057 new and old cases up to 23rd October 1943. Sir, there was a general opinion that 90 per cent. of the people were attacked, whereas the doctor in-charge of the medical relief said in his report dated 3rd November 1943 that about 80 per cent. of the people have been attacked with infection. As to the death roll I have said that during the week ending 21st September, 1943.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, Order.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I am not going to speak anything about Baniyachong village but I want to know what is the cause of this disease which originated there. I hope the Hon'ble the Premier will be able to enlighten this House about the cause of such tragic events.

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am an inhabitant of Baniyachong village. The miserable condition of Baniyachong which has been explained by the hon. Mover and other hon. Members of the House, is sufficient, I think; but I shall have to add a few words to this. The thing is my age is above 70. I have seen Baniyachong being attacked with cholera, small-pox and other diseases. I have seen several times food distress but the sufferings from malaria this year has surpassed all. The medical aid which has been given is insufficient and inadequate. Moreover, throughout the whole of India there is distress but Baniyachong is not an exception. The major portion of the people of Baniyachong is in distress. Some Relief Committees have begun to give help, but it is not at all worth giving them any relief. The needs are far greater than what is being given. I hope some ways and means will be devised to prevent the havoc of this malaria from Baniyachong as early as possible. We expected that when rains would subside the disease would abate but to our great misfortune it is increasing day by day. Of course, we are living under a civilised Government and if this civilised Government cannot prevent this disease, I think, people will have no high opinion of this Government. I hope the Government will at once try to prevent this disease. Of course, it is not for me to give any suggestion for ways and means—there are experts and there is no dearth of advisers. I think, Government will see that a village of 45,000 people like Baniyachong will not be ruined by this scourge of malarial fever. This is what I was going to add.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: A very pertinent question was put by an hon. Member. He wanted to know what is the exact cause of this disease. Sir, we had



a discussion and my hon. Friend Mr. Rahman referred to it, during the last Budget Session, about this attack of malaria in Lakhai thana. At that time I was told by some people of that locality that the disease was brought to the area by the people who had gone to Dimapur in connection with Military works. They got infection there and spread it to those villages. Baniyachong is one of the biggest villages with 40,000 people, as important as any big town of the Province. But the problem is not for Baniyachong alone. The warning came last year from Lakhai thana and it has come in a virulent form this time from Baniyachong. Labourers went to the Hills for Military projects from all over the Province and soon the disease may break out in an epidemic form all over the Province. The people who went there were attacked with a sort of cerebral malaria and when they returned to their villages they spread the disease. The people have lost their power of resistance due to low vitality and due to slow starvation they cannot resist the disease for long. This is why it has spread so fast in that area. Whatever that may be, I have got to give a serious warning to the Government that the whole Province may be attacked with this fell disease very soon. Government is taking remedial measures, but it is imperative that prophylactic measures should also be taken at once. Government have opened 6 or 7 relief centres. We do not know exactly how many people have taken Government medicine. The fact remains that disease has not yet been checked. We heard a platonic, rather philosophical sermon from the Hon'ble Prime Minister that what was destined has taken place at Baniyachong. If we are to come here to receive such replies from the Government it is better that we should remain at our home and not come here at all. Government have no right to ask the people to pay any tax at all. People are paying taxes for getting relief from the Government at the time of such distresses and if the Government cannot give any relief to the people it has no right to ask for the taxes. Sir, the whole Province of Assam was once attacked with Kala-azar and it was possible to check that disease. Many people of-course died but Government could find out some means to check this disease. Sir, as I said, the warning first came last year from Lakhai Thana and Government ought to have taken remedial measures long ago so that this disease might not have spread so far. Malaria is a preventible disease.

People from everywhere are now going to hill areas in connection with military works and if anybody gets infected with the disease it is essential in the interest of civil population that he should be kept there till he is fully cured, and not allowed to come and mix with the civil population and spread the disease. Now as regards quinine my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman has said that it is being given without any reference to particular patients. The doctor does not care to know whether the quinine is given to a man who is really attacked with malaria. He simply gives a prescription and there his duty is finished. The quantity of quinine that is supplied is also not sufficient for the purpose in all cases. In the "Janasakti" of yesterday— I am sorry I have not got a copy with me just now—a statement has been published from a private doctor of Habiganj town, Dr. D. N. Dutt, M.B., who had a private call from a moneyed man's house at Baniyachong. As soon as the people of the locality heard that a doctor from Habiganj was coming a number of them flocked there expecting to get some relief from him. The doctor said that when he reached the place he saw a number of skeletons standing before him and he was simply dumb-founded, and he could not think out as to what he could do for them. He suggests, Sir, that prophylactic measures are immediately necessary if we want to check this disease.

There are other problems also, Sir. People are attacked with this disease and the result is that there is nobody to harvest the crop in the field. It is a very serious problem because the crop is lying in the field ready for harvesting, and there are no labourers available to harvest the crop. So unless immediate measures are taken by the Government, it is not possible for the people to find out any means of getting labourers from outside. It is the duty of the Government now to arrange some labourers and get the crops harvested from the field otherwise all the crops of the village



will remain in the field and will be wasted. A suggestion has been made that labourers coming from Mymensingh should be allowed to harvest the crop in lieu of paddy which they should be allowed to take to their own home. In that case the restriction order should be withdrawn by Government allowing them to do so. Several statements have been issued by responsible members—Mr. Mookerjee has already referred to them. Mr. Rahman also issued a statement in the Press and Government have not as yet come out to deny that so many thousands of people have died in Baniyachong. The Press has given publicity to the statement for a long time and as my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman said, the death roll has come up to 9,000. The lowest figure I found in one statement was 4,000. Whatever the figure may be the facts remain that thousands of people are dying without any proper medical aid, and for want of proper nursing, and other things. It is not possible for any Private Relief Committee, however magnanimous it may be, to cope with the situation. It is the duty of the Government and Government alone now to come forward and take all necessary steps in the interests of the whole Province to check this disease immediately.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**:—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to make a few observations on the Motion moved by my Friend Mr. Mookerjee. It is really shocking to learn that in the course of two to three months, 5,000 to 7,000 men and women have died of malaria and starvation in one single village. I cannot understand why people should die of starvation because, Sir, I know as well as you know that thousands of maunds of paddy were seized by Government in the Subdivisions of Habiganj and Sunamganj. At the very beginning Government knew that the people of Baniyachong were suffering from malaria and want of food and still why they did not make any suitable arrangement for treatment and for allowing the seized paddy to move from Sunamganj to Baniyachong. I cannot understand why Government was so inactive and why they turned such a deaf ear to the sufferings of the people of Baniyachong being calous and devoid of humane sentiments and humane feelings. Mr. Blennerhasset put a question as to when Government first learnt about the condition of Baniyachong but no reply came from any of the Members of the Government. Now I may, by way of a reply, tell the House that this information was first brought to the notice of Government in a formal way on the 29th of August when the Hon'ble Minister for Supply accompanied by the Hon'ble Minister of Medical and Public Health went to enjoy the boat race fun at Ajmiriganj. At that time the unfortunate suffering people of Baniyachong demanded their presence in Baniyachong to see their sad plight but you will be surprised to hear that both the Hon'ble Ministers turned a deaf ear to their prayers and came back to Sylhet and thence to Shillong after enjoying together a joyride in a speed boat in the Ajmiriganj Boat Race Course.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN**: The Hon'ble Defence Minister was also there and there was an immediate demand from the public that they should visit Baniyachong and see the condition of the people.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY**: I am open to correction, Sir.

I cannot understand why this people should die of starvation while the matter was brought to the notice of the Government in proper time and in a proper manner. Sir, I heard from my Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman that the Director of Public Health paid a visit only once in the month of July but why he did not repeat his visit to Baniyachong when he heard that people were dying in hundreds. It is really criminal on the part of Government to neglect the people like that. It has certainly brought slur on the Government especially in these days when the Ministry claims to be popular, composed of the representatives of the people. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan has rightly said that had this happened in any independent country the whole world would have been moved and a self-denial week perhaps would have been announced in Assam but who speaks and who cries for the people of Baniyachong? We read, Sir, reports in newspapers but the Members of the Government were sitting tight in Shillong. I know and perhaps the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman



will bear me out that only to supervise a police case at Jagannathpur two Ministers went there but when thousands of people were dying for want of medicine, for want of food and other things, the angels of Shillong who are sitting so high had no time to go and see the condition of the unfortunate peasants. They live very near the sky and do not care to know how the cultivators live in villages. Really it is shocking and I do not know how Government will meet the situation now. Mr. Mookerjee has said that he has not brought this Motion to censure the Government but to bring it to the notice of them. If the resolutions passed by the people of Baniyachong could not move the Members of the Government, I think, Sir, that this also will not move them. Had they any mind to help these poor people, had they felt for these poor people, as a fellow human being should, certainly some of the Hon'ble Ministers would have paid a visit to the village, even though that might not have removed the miseries of the people; they would have found consolation in the fact that their own Ministers were doing something for them. But alas! our Ministers had not time for that. Mr. Mookerjee and Maulavi Abdur Rahman said that not a single Minister not even the Director of Public Health paid any visit within the course of 3 or 4 months. Really it is a shame on the part of the Government to neglect the cause of the people whose representatives they are.

About the number of deaths there are many statements published in newspapers. There are reports, there are letters from the Relief Committee of which Mr. Harakrishna Maharatna is the President. It is useless to quote the number now. It has been discussed enough. Any way, Sir, from a letter from the Baniyachong Relief Committee I find the following:—

Name of Mahalla	Circle No.4.		
	No. of families	No. of people	Death roll
Puran Tupkhana	56	279	68
Tambullitula	36	268	61
Nandipara	56	304	65
Bhadauri	67	331	77
Dewanbhag	29	226	26

I can quote more. But this shows that what a heavy toll has been taken by malaria from these mahallas. Out of 5,686 persons of these mahallas 1,133 died, *i.e.*, 20 per cent. of the people of these mahallas died. From the report of Mr. K. B. Sen Gupta which was referred to by Mr. Mookerjee I find that in course of three months 92,000 cases have been treated and supplied with quinine. Of course there are cases of relapse of attack. Assuming that each patient had three attacks still the number of patients had gone upto 30,000, out of a population of 40,000, *i.e.*, more than 80 per cent. of the people had been attacked with malaria. Perhaps these sentences are enough to explain what the real condition of Baniyachong is and I do not want to add more. Now what is the remedy.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is reaching his time-limit.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Very well, Sir, then with these words I resume my seat.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Sir, the horrible condition of Baniyachong has been sufficiently discussed. The only point that I like to press is this that more kerosene should be supplied to the people as this is the harvesting time and the cultivators have to work late hours at night. Not only for harvesting but also for illness, in almost every family more kerosene is necessary. I would further point out that immediate large scale preventive measure should be taken so that the disease may not spread more. Anti-malarial pills should be supplied to the people who are still free from malaria. If villagers are ill or remain busy in attending the sick family members, paddy will remain in the field. Government should therefore organise labour from outside. In this connection Government may direct the Subdivisional Officer to find out ways and means in consultation with the Relief Committee. Where a large number of people are dead and a greater number are lying ill, it would not be possible for them to harvest the paddy in time unless they get outside help. With these words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: One more thing, Sir, with regard to kerosene. We got report in the presence of the Subdivisional Officer that one man died at night and



because there was no light for want of kerosene only in the next morning it was discovered that the man died.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this morning I had thanked all those hon. Members who brought this Adjournment Motion because not only did they ventilate a public grievance but also they allowed the Government an opportunity to place before the House the various measures that they had adopted in order to combat this scourge. I thank again those hon. Members who had taken the trouble of visiting the place and giving us the benefit of their personal knowledge. But I can tell all those hon. Members who had taken interest in this matter that long before they ever realised the situation the Government were up and doing on the reports from their officers. Mr. Blennerhassett wanted certain informations and I am prepared to satisfy him and to give chronologically what steps Government has undertaken. From the speeches of hon. Members I find that they came to know of this attack some time after July. But Government's attention was drawn to this epidemic as early as April by the Assistant Director of Public Health, Surma Valley, who visited the place on 28th April 1943. Hon. Members are aware that last year there was an epidemic of malaria in the places already mentioned by Maulavi Abdur Rahman. Energetic steps were taken by Government and the Public Health Department and the epidemic was brought under control though malaria was of a virulent type in this place, and as a preventive measure, Government were continuing certain centres for malaria relief in those areas. While visiting those areas, the Assistant Director of Public Health whose headquarters is at Sylhet, heard about a similar epidemic at Baniyachong and he went there and then reported the matter to Government immediately. In April last only one quarter of this big village, viz., Jatukarnapara was reported to have suffered. The report was from the Sub-Assistant Surgeon posted at Baniyachong and he reported that there has been 101 cases of malaria in 42 families with a total population of 336. No definite information was available as to the number of deaths. The Assistant Director of Public Health during his enquiry found that another quarter of the same big village, viz., Mia Khani was also attacked by this fell disease. So under the direction of the Assistant Director of Public Health, a survey was made and the following data was collected. The number of households visited was 88 in Jatukarnapara with a population of 617. The number of suspected cases detected was 140, and the number of deaths confirmed was 4. In Mia Khani 41 households were visited. The total population of this place is 258 and the number of suspected cases detected was 96 and the death rate confirmed by his report was 3. Then the Assistant Director of Public Health immediately distributed amongst the patients glass slides in order to get blood smears so that the blood may be examined microscopically in his laboratory at Sylhet. At that instance only 25 cases were examined and 23 showed B.T. and mixed infection and only 2 were found negative. In that early attack, the morbidity or attack rate was 21 per cent. in Jatukarnapara and 37 per cent. in Mia Khani and the mortality or fatality rate was 3 per cent. The Assistant Director of Public Health reported to Shillong that quinine and cinchona should be sent to Baniyachong immediately and accordingly sufficient quantity of quinine and cinchona were sent for treatment. At the present stage, the quantity has gone up to 17 lbs. per week, but at the initial stage, the number of cases was so small that it required 1 lb. of quinine and 1 lb. of cinchona. One hon. Member has stated that the disease spread to other parts of this village, the biggest village in the world, some time in September last. I can quite endorse that from the reports of the Public Health Department. It was at this stage, that is about the middle of September, that the people of Baniyachong itself were horror stricken and for the first time resolved to bring to the notice of Government about the spread of this disease there. Up till September, they did not form any committee themselves either of relief or of any other kind. A letter dated 13th September was received from Khan Saheb Nurul Hossain Khan as the President of a Baniyachong public meeting. In that letter which he addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam he says—"I beg to forward herewith copies of resolutions adopted at a public meeting held at Baniyachong under my presidency on the 5th September 1943. The situation at Baniyachong is really very serious. About 80 per cent. of the people are suffering from malaria and there is hardly any family which is immune from it. A very large number of the people are actually starving."



We are getting death reports every day. I would request the favour of your kindly taking early and necessary steps in the matter. The acute distress prevailing at Baniyachong calls for the immediate attention of the Government." Then the first resolution that has been passed in that meeting is—"In view of the fact that thousands of people are starving at Baniyachong and there is no arrangement to help these distressed people, be it resolved that a food committee be formed at Baniyachong." This is for the first time that the Baniyachong people themselves realised the gravity of the situation and resolved to form a committee. The resolution No.2 is—"In view of the fact that the price of rice and paddy has gone up abnormally high and a large number of people are starving, be it resolved that the Government be approached to supply rice and paddy seized at Baniyachong and the neighbouring places at cost price to the people of Baniyachong." The resolution No.3 runs as "The population of Baniyachong is very large and thousands of people are starving for want of food. They cannot even procure by begging one meal a day. This meeting therefore earnestly requests the Government of Assam to give them doles till the next Aman crop is harvested". The resolution No.4—"This meeting highly appreciates the reintroduction of ban on the export of rice and paddy to Bengal from this Province and respectfully requests the Government to arrange an anti-hoard drive so that people may get sufficient quantity of rice and paddy at the controlled rate." Now, Sir, I may be allowed to put a pertinent question to hon. Members who have criticised Government for the alleged callousness. If the people of Baniyachong themselves realised the gravity of the malaria epidemic or if they felt that the measures that Government had undertaken to combat malaria was inadequate, could they not have passed one single resolution to that effect? Of those resolutions adopted in the public meeting at Baniyachong under the presidency of Khan Saheb Nurul Hussain Khan, whom most of the Members know, all the questions relate to food and not of shortage of medical aid.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If I may be permitted to interrupt I may say, Sir,.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not giving way. Sir, my Friend had three shot at speeches in spite of your calling him to order. Hon. Members have got the right to know what action Government took on those resolutions of Baniyachong people. I at once asked the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj, Mr. Sharpe, to report whether Government should start giving doles in that area. His report was that there was a shortage of rice in certain families because people could not work in the fields or even as day labourers because they were suffering from malaria. He also mentioned that some public relief committees have been formed. He reported that the shortage of rice should be removed as early as possible. On that I, as Supply Minister, at once ordered the Deputy Commissioner of the Sylhet district to send down ten thousand maunds of paddy to Baniyachong which was some-where in the neighbourhood of this village.

Next, Sir, we got another telegram on the 4th of October from the same hon. President of the Food Committee at Baniyachong, Khan Saheb Nurul Hussain, wherein he said: (This was addressed to the Hon'ble Medical Minister). "Baniyachong situation alarming. Thousands starving. Cholera, malaria epidemic prevails. Death number increasing. Pray sanction doles, sufficient medical help. Release secured paddy immediately." This telegram was followed by his letter of 5th October, 1943. "I beg to refer to my telegram of yesterday regarding the appalling and unprecedented distress prevailing at Baniyachong.

Herein I beg to enclose an appeal in Bengali which would to some extent disclose the condition of the starving and dying people of this unfortunate village. It is necessary to note here that since the publication of this appeal cholera has broken out at Baniyachong and is taking its toll in full. About 3,000 people have died by this time. Four centres have been started for distribution of medicines but this is quite inadequate. At least three more centres should be opened and arrangement should be made for giving cholera inoculation to the people.

The real food crisis has begun. There are some people, whose number is not small, who should be given doles because they cannot purchase rice or paddy even if given at a moderate price.



It is high time that secured and seized paddy should be released at a reasonable price. Harvesting will begin in the later part of *Kartik* and unless the paddy is released now, it would serve no useful purpose if released later.

May I therefore pray that you would be kind enough to take immediate steps in the matters referred to above."

The appeal in vernacular has already been read to the House by my hon. Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. So I won't repeat it. As he said the first three signatories are Khan Saheb Nurul Hussain Khan, President, Food Committee, Baniyachong, Mr. Shibendra Chandra Biswas, whom we welcome back to this House and who is a Member of our Legislative Assembly and the Chairman of the Habiganj Local Board, Babu Girindra Kumar Chaudhuri and others. Sir, on that also the Supply Department instructed the local officers to provide rice at controlled rate which is cheaper than the market rate. In the meantime, Sir, there was a press conference addressed by me at the end of September at Shillong. That press conference, specially the editor of Habiganj paper *Mukti* represented to me the case of Baniyachong. He along with his press representative from the Sylhet district thanked Government for the steps already taken and that they were of opinion that four centres were not sufficient and four more centres should be opened. I immediately requested the Medical Minister to open more centres at once. She sent one doctor immediately and ordered that more doctors should be sent to the locality. From the report of the Director of Public Health which was received on the 15th of October on the steps that were already taken it appeared that five centres for relief were operating from 11th of September 1943. One more Sub-Assistant Surgeon was deputed to open centres. Then the Assistant Surgeon of Public Health Department, Sylhet, was sent to enquire personally locally at Baniyachong and to report if more staff was necessary. Now, for the first time I see my Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee on the scene. He was good enough to send me a telegram on the 1st of November 1943. I think it will be relevant for the House to know that Mr. Mookerjee is a big land-holder of the village Baniyachong itself. He has got a catchery or should I say, collecting agency, for realising rent from his tenants and he gets, if not daily, weekly reports of the condition there. I am glad that ever since he came to know of the conditions there he has left no stone unturned to see that relief is provided there at Government cost. I think the House would like to know how far he himself is helping.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I shall be very glad to say that, Sir, if I am permitted now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble Premier asks then the hon. Member may say.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will thank him publicly again. Sir, I will place before the House the telegram which was sent to me by my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee signed as Secretary, Sylhet District Food Committee and Relief Committee, *i. e.*, on the 1st November just fifteen days ago. Before that I never received any complaint from my Friend whom I have already said to be one of the most vigilant Members in this House and who on various occasions both public and private had approached me either by wire or letter or even on 'phone.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I was doing my best and without doing my part I did not like to come to the Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am very glad to hear the statement from my Friend. The telegram is to this effect "Baniyachong condition extremely grave. Many people daily dying starvation and diseases. Large number of families require doles at once. Medical relief inadequate. Solicit immediate necessary and adequate steps."

That is the telegram which I received from my hon. Friend and on the 2nd of November, 1943 one assistant of the Secretariat—I think he is in the Governor's Secretariat—who hails from that village and who had gone there and saw with his own eyes the actual state of things, submitted a petition to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. He was hesitating whether in his capacity as an assistant of the Secretariat he could address the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, but instead of fighting shy of the matter he has done a public service by bringing his personal impression of



Baniyachong to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. He said "with reference to my verbal representation this morning and directions of the Hon'ble Minister, I submit below certain facts about the malaria epidemic which has recently broken out in Baniyachong, in North Habiganj, Sylhet. I went home (Baniyachong) during the last Puja Holidays and had the opportunity of personally witnessing the distress of the people. As is well-known to the Hon'ble Minister this village is the largest in our Province and lies in the low lands of the Subdivision, which becomes flooded during the rains. So far as I gathered, the origin of the present epidemic is the infection which the labourers of this locality, who went to work in the various military projects, had taken. In almost all the village the people are suffering from fever. Supply of quinine is scanty, and the type of quinine supplied, as was understood from some families was not perhaps up to the standard. Moreover, the supply was not steady, so that a patient could take it continually for about three weeks. In some quarters the entire family has been the victim of this epidemic. There are no able male or female members in many families to look after the patients. In poorer quarters (*i. e.*, lower middle class families) the whole family has been left to the mercy of their neighbours. Death rate is gradually increasing. I do not know whether there is any arrangement for keeping figures for the casualties. The public in general appeared to be panic-stricken and on queries various figures were quoted. The number of casualties, if based on such rumours, would vary from 8,000 to 10,000 approximately. The population of the village is about 40,000. I understood that the Public Health Department have specially deputed a few (not perhaps more than 4) more doctors to cope with the situation. But with all respects for this arrangement, it is submitted that more medical hands are necessary. Need for compounders is apparently more pronounced than doctors, because what is needed is whether the ailing families are getting quinine regularly. The region being in low lands dearth of good milk or any milk at all was reported by many. Those who are able to purchase cannot buy for want of supply and those who are poor cannot afford to do so. So the supply of milk is also very important, especially to the poor who cannot afford to buy. I saw the rate at Re.1 to Rs.1-4-0 per seer".

Immediately on receipt of this report the Hon'ble Minister asked the Director of Public Health to report at once as to what action was being taken.

Sir, some hon. Members have stated that none of the Hon'ble Ministers went to the place even after receiving notice of the disease that was carrying a heavy toll of human life in that village. Some hon. Members have gone to the length of saying that three Hon'ble Ministers including the Minister-in-charge of Public Health, myself and the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Defence went to the neighbourhood of that place *i. e.*, Ajmiriganj, but I am sorry to say that I did not receive any resolution which has been mentioned by my friend, Maulavi Maqbal Hussain Chaudhury. Some people at Ajmiriganj represented to me that if I had an opportunity that I was a layman and my presence would not be of much good but I would send, if possible during that week, the Director of Public Health to that locality. I replied Sir, if the Hon'ble Ministers have not gone there, there was no lack of competent doctors to that locality. The Assistant Director of Public Health whose headquarters is at Sylhet visited the locality on the 28th April, on the 28th August and on the 25th October when he stayed there for four days. The Civil Surgeon visited the place on the 27th August 1943. My hon. friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman has said that in the previous month the Director of Public Health had been there and he had deputed the Assistant Surgeon of Public Health Department to this area and he had deputed seen that at least 7 experts had visited the locality from the first report of the Assistant Director of Public Health up to the end of 31st October.

Maulavi MUHAMMED MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Premier please read the report submitted by the Civil Surgeon?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will only be glad to do so. This is his report:

"Visited Baniyachong Dispensary, some of the areas worst affected by malaria and the Kamalkhani centre of quinine distribution to-day the 27th August 1943. Saw about 600 patients taking quinine from the dispensary and Kamalkhani centre and addressed



them on the causes of malaria and its relapse and how could they prevent it. Quinine is being distributed at present from five centres including the Baniyachong Local Board Dispensary, namely, the Local Board Dispensary, Kamalkhani, Dewan Bagli, Mia Khani and Paschimbhag. Two Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Public Health Department and two Epidemic Assistants in addition to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon-in-charge of the Local Board Dispensary and two Local Board compounders are distributing quinine from 7 A. M. to 7 P. M. and the patients attending the Lakhai, Shajangram centre are too few to justify the continuance of the services of a special doctor for distribution of quinine there. I have diverted Sub-Assistant Surgeon Doctor, Gopi Raman Bhattacharya and one Epidemic Assistant of the Habiganj Unit to Baniyachong. Total number of cases of malaria given treatment at the different centres of the Baniyachong area and the quantity of quinine and circhona distributed are shown in the attached statement."

I was going to place this statement later on when giving the dates the different centres were opened, but there are certain general statements which are very relevant and about which mention has already been made by certain hon. Members. This is the general statement of the Civil Surgeon :

"A severe wave of malaria is passing at present over the Baniyachong area including Paschimbhag. Baniyachong is known to be a very big village, probably the biggest in India covering an area of about twelve square miles and with a population of more than 40,000. The physical condition of the village with its running water channels lined by abundant vegetation....."

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know how long this discussion will last ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Up to 5 O'clock.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Hon'ble Premier has exceeded his time-limit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, the Mover and the Government Member speaking for the first time may speak for more than fifteen minutes. It is entirely in the discretion of the Chair. And I have allowed to proceed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The report continues "The physical condition of the village with its running water channels lined by abundant vegetation on either side and blocked here and there by very thick and heavy growth of water hyacinth and impeding the free current of water has provided excellent conditions of temperature and moisture for the prevalence of malaria which is raging with an intensity and extensivity unknown in the history of this distinguished village of the Habiganj subdivision, and claiming its victims by thousands. The situation has been rendered still worse by the acute food crisis through which the provinces of Bengal and Assam are at present passing. \* \* \*

\* \* \* People are getting sufficient quinine and fever leaves them after 3/4 days' administration but relapses are very common due to lack of proper diet and nourishment and unless something could be done to feed at least the most helpless among them relapses will keep up the epidemic and distribution of quinine also will have to continue indefinitely."

Then, Sir, I would place before the House the last report of the Assistant Director of Public Health, Dr. Padmanath Hazarika, which is very full and giving all details. The report runs :

"I inspected the various treatment centres as well as visited the malaria affected localities in Baniyachong from 25th to 28th October 1943, accompanied by the Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department, Sylhet. My previous visits to this epidemic area were on 28th April 1943 and 20th August 1943. The object of my present visit was to supervise the epidemic work, to ascertain the extent of infection—morbidity—mortality, to ascertain the adequacy of drugs and staff and also to devise additional means to bring the epidemic under control. \* \* \* The Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Epidemic Unit, according to my instruction collected 50 slides from fresh cases and the slides were examined at my Laboratory. Out of 50 slides examined, 47 showed B. T., M. T. and mixed infection and only 3 were found to be negative." Then he says, Sir, "in spite of adequate treatment measures from the beginning, the spread of infection could not be checked, but on the contrary it began to spread



rapidly and within a month the infection spread out throughout the whole village—the reasons being mainly due to ignorance of the people to observe personal prophylaxis.” One hon. Friend has mentioned that people began to bury corpses in their compounds, and dug the graves shallow; the jackals could dig and take out the carcasses. The sanitary condition must be horrible. The Assistant Director of Public Health goes on to say “other predisposing factors which aggravated the situation are (1) innumerable breeding places of mosquitoes (2) the insanitary surroundings and (3) debilitated condition of the people due to poor nourishment resulting from abnormally high price of articles of food.”

This report, Sir, is dated 2nd November which reached the Director of Public Health later, and he submitted it to Government on the 5th November, and for the first time it is stated in the report “I am surprised to see the abnormal high price of rice, milk, sagu, etc., at Baniyachong at the time of my visit. Drug alone cannot cure a disease unless the human system get proper diet to maintain the body resistance.”

Then, Sir, I will state the centres that were opened. The first centre was opened on the 28th of April when the Assistant Director of Public Health went there. Then in Paschimbhag on the 30th June; at Kamal Khani on the 8th August; at Dewanbhag on the 9th August; at Mia Khani on the 25th August. These were the five centres reported by the Director of Public Health. At present there are five such centres besides the out-centres and the dispensary centre. These out-centres are the outcome of the conditions which have been narrated by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman. In certain localities, owing to the difficulty of transport, many relapse cases could not come to the dispensary. Then, Sir, it is not a fact that medicine packed in bottles were sent from the centres. Only in case of repeat cases, where the doctors knew the condition of the patients before, that the same mixture was administered and sent out through one man who came to collect the phials. But for new cases, the doctors always made prescriptions after diagnosis and sent medicines according to requirements. It is untrue to say that dysentery and diarrhoea cases were treated with quinine; dysentery and cholera cases were treated separately, and both prophylactic injection and bacteriophage were issued from Shillong for the treatment of those cases.

The staff working at the epidemic area is as follows:—

Sub-Assistant Surgeons, Public Health Department	...	...	4
Epidemic Assistants	...	...	5
Sub-Assistant Surgeon-in-charge of Baniyachong Dispensary	...	...	1
Compounders, Local Board	...	...	3

In all, thirteen people are working there. That was towards the end of October. Now, according to this report.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are reaching the time-limit.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am sorry, Sir, but this is a very important question affecting the life and death of many people, and alleged negligence of Government.

As I was saying, Sir, according to this report, the infection has been checked, and the Assistant Director of Public Health gives certain figures from which he arrives at this conclusion. He says in the week ending 25th September new cases were 999, so the rate per thousand was 25. In the week ending 2nd October new cases were 873, the rate per thousand was 22; in the week ending 9th October new cases were 1,126, the rate per thousand was 28.1; in the week ending 16th October new cases were 1,242, the rate per thousand was 31; and in the week ending 23rd October new cases were 1,156, the rate per thousand was 28.9. The Assistant Director of Public Health also reports, Sir, that the death rate is 37.5 per thousand or 3.7 per cent.

He also says that the weekly consumption of quinine is in the neighbourhood of 17 lbs. per week. In one month, we had to issue over 181 lbs. of quinine. He says that there were 17,175 new cases. Then we received a telegram and some more compounders were sent. The Director of Public Health ordered two more epidemic assistants to be sent. We received a telegram from Srijut Gopendra Lal Das Chaudhury that the present mixture system was not working properly and that we should try injections of quinine and tablets. The Director of Public Health took action at once. On the 10th of November, a telegram was received from the General Secretary, Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Sylhet, that people should be given doles and



coffin cloths, and that labourers should be brought from Bengal to harvest paddy. These are being attended to. Before the receipt of this telegram, Government ordered the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, to help people with doles of rice or paddy wherever necessary, and we sanctioned expenditure of 5,000 rupees for this purpose. There is a bumper crop now. This crop was sown in the month of July and it is clear that people were quite fit at that time to cultivate their lands which produced this beautiful crop. The Muslim Chamber of Commerce wanted Bengal labourers to harvest this crop. Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb also referred to this. We are taking steps in this direction. We are going to arrange labourers either locally or from Bengal and remunerate them in kind. We will see whether this step can be taken immediately.

We have not been idle. We received a telegram from Srijut Harikrishna Mabaratna, the President of Relief Committee to the effect that they were unable to cope with the work. I handed over a personal cheque of Rs. 500 to my friend Rai Sahib Dinesh Chandra Das whom I see in the Gallery. His Excellency the Governor on hearing of this telegram sent Rs. 500 from his private funds to the Deputy Commissioner to be used for relief purpose in Baniyachong. When I received the petition and representation from Ishita Biswas and the report of the Assistant Director of Public Health, we approached the proper authorities at Delhi, from the Supply Department to issue sago, barley, and condensed milk. My hon. Friend the Maulana Sahib in his usual hyperbole language said that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Medical Department was quite callous. But I must say on the other hand that as soon as she got this petition, she wanted to rush down to Baniyachong along with the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence. I told her that their presence would not be of much help because they will soon have to come here back for Assembly business. But she asked the Director of Public Health to proceed immediately. She has requested me to accompany her to that place after the session.

It has been explained already that the infection originally came from the labourers. It is reported that in Baniyachong 60 per cent. of people are landless and work as labourers. They went to work on different projects at unhealthy places near Aijal and Dimapur. Originally the infection came from this place. Probably it is not known to many that if any labourer dies within one month of his return from those places, after infection, his family is entitled to compensation. If any hon. Member knows of any labourer got this infection in those areas and died within the month he should take up the matter with the Public Works Department for compensation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier should finish his speech now.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am obliged to you for giving me this indulgence.

Government have been doing their best as they could, and were advised.

Babu BIPIN BEHARY DAS: What about more kerosene oil for Baniyachong?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Deputy Commissioner has allotted kerosene for different localities. I will see to it.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:—Cannot the Government post one Assistant Surgeon of the Public Health Department at Baniyachong for some time?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am obliged to my Friend. The Assistant Surgeon at Sylhet was asked to remain at Baniyachong from last month.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Friday, the 19th November 1943.

*Shillong:*

*The 11th December 1943.*

A. K. BARUA,

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*



## APPENDIX A

*The 11th March 1943.*

**No.LML.297/42/5.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 (2) (i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rules, to have effect from the date when the Town Committee is next to be elected and thereafter, for the division of the Nazira Small Town into wards and the number of members to be elected for each of the said wards of the said Small Town.

The Nazira Small Town shall be divided into four wards with the following boundaries :—

## WARD No. A

North—Assam-Bengal Railway line and the Dikhu river.  
East—Small town boundary.  
South—Small town boundary.  
West—Small town boundary.

## WARD No. B

North—The Dhodar Ali.  
East—Small town boundary.  
South—The Assam-Bengal Railway line.  
West—The Mazengah Ali.

## WARD No. C

North—Small town boundary and the Dikhu river.  
East—Small town boundary.  
South—The Dhodar Ali.  
West—The Kundar Ali.

## WARD No. D

North—Small town boundary.  
East—The Kundar Ali.  
South—The Dhodar Ali.  
West—Small town boundary.

There shall be one elected member for each of these wards.

These rules shall supersede those published with Notification No.1566-L.S.-G., dated the 27th April 1925, so far as the Nazira Small Town is concerned.

S. L. MEHTA,

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

*The 7th April 1943.*

**No.LML.25/42/35.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam I of 1923), as subsequently amended the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rule for the preservation and destruction of records by the Municipal Boards and Town Committees.

The registers and records in the offices of the Municipal Boards and Town Committees shall be preserved for the periods shown in the list below :—

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PERIOD FOR WHICH MUNICIPAL RECORDS ARE TO BE PRESERVED

Serial No.	Description of records	Form No.	Period of preservation
<i>Records prescribed by the Municipal Account Rules</i>			
1	Budget estimate	...	...
2	Educational Budget estimates	...	...
		No. 1	3 years.
		" 1A	Ditto.



Serial No.	Description of records	Form No.	Period of preservation
<i>Records prescribed by the Municipal Accounts Rules—contd.</i>			
3	Schedule showing details of estimated expenditure.	No. 1B	3 years.
4	Subsidiary accounts of special rates ... ..	„ 2	6 years.
5	Cashier's Cash Book ... ..	„ 3	Ditto.
6	Chalan ... ..	„ 4	Ditto.
7	Register of unpaid bills ... ..	„ 5	Ditto.
8	Order Book ... ..	„ 6	Ditto.
9	Salary bills (x) ... ..	„ 7	35 years.
10	Permanent Advance Account ... ..	„ 8	6 years.
11	Recoupment vouchers (x) ... ..	„ 9	Ditto.
12	Cheque Book (counterfoils) ... ..	„ 10	Ditto.
13	Cash Book ... ..	„ 11	Permanently.
13A	Treasury Pass Book ... ..	„	6 years.
14	Abstract Register of receipts ... ..	No. 12	Ditto.
15	Abstract Register of expenditure ... ..	„ 13	Ditto.
16	Register of Adjustments ... ..	„ 14	Ditto.
17	Advance ledger ... ..	„ 15	Ditto.
18	List of outstanding advances ... ..	„ 15A	3 years.
19	Deposit ledger ... ..	„ 16	6 years.
20	List of outstanding deposits ... ..	„ 16A	3 years.
21	Monthly and quarterly account of receipts ... ..	„ 17	6 years.
22	Monthly and quarterly account of expenditure ... ..	„ 18	Ditto.
23	Annual account ... ..	„ 19	Ditto.
24	Register of Security deposit other than cash ... ..	„ 20	Permanently.
25	Register of Government security ... ..	„ 21	Ditto.
26	Loan Register ... ..	„ 22	Ditto.
27	Appropriation Register of loan funds ... ..	„ 22A	5 years after the completion of the work for which the loan is obtained.
28	Register of license fees on carriages and animals. ... ..	„ 23	3 years.
29	Licenses for carriages and animals ... ..	„ 24	Ditto.
30	Application for carriage and animal licenses ... ..	„ 25	Ditto.
31	Register of registration fees for carts ... ..	„ 26	Ditto.
32	Stock account of cart, carriage and other tin tickets. ... ..	„ 27	Ditto.
33	Hackney carriage license register ... ..	„ 28	6 years.
34	Hackney carriage driver's license register ... ..	„ 29	Ditto.
35	Hackney carriage license ... ..	„ 32	3 years.
36	Hackney carriage driver's license ... ..	„ 33	Ditto.
37	Licenses for places of amusements ... ..	„ 32A	Ditto.
38	Miscellaneous receipt book (counterfoils) ... ..	„ 36	Ditto.
39	Register of land ... ..	.....	Permanently.
40	Register of rent for which there is a fixed demand. ... ..	No. 37	6 years.
41	Miscellaneous subscription register ... ..	„ 38	Ditto.
42	Abstract of subscriptions received ... ..	„ 39	Ditto.
43	Dispensary subscriptions register ... ..	„ 40	Ditto.
44	Miscellaneous bills register ... ..	„ 41	Ditto.
45	Micellaneous bills ... ..	„ 42	Ditto.
46	Accepted tenders ... ..	.....	3 years.
47	Rejected tenders ... ..	.....	Ditto.

(x) Payment vouchers should be kept in guard files separately recording to the period for preservation, instead of in one file for all classes.



Serial No.	Description of records	Form No.	Period of preservation
<i>Records prescribed by the Municipal Account Rules—contd.</i>			
48	Contractors' ledgers ... ..	.....	6 years.
49	Contract certificates (x) ... ..	No. 43	Ditto.
50	Petty contract bills (x) ... ..	„ 44	.....
51	Measurement books ... ..	„ 45	25 years.
52	Nominal Muster Rolls (x) ... ..	„ 46	6 years.
53	Register of works ... ..	„ 47	Ditto.
54	Register of works by sub-heads ... ..	„ 47A	Ditto.
55	Stock and store register ... ..	„ 48	6 years.
56	Service Book ... ..	„ 49	While the officer remains in service.
57	Security bonds ... ..	.....	3 years after an officer leaves service.
58	Pound receipt register ... ..	.....	6 years.
59	Pound accounts other than pound receipt register.	.....	3 years.
60	Miscellaneous vouchers and receipts (including adjustment vouchers) (x).	.....	6 years.
61	Demand register ... ..	Form A	12 years.
62	Demand and bill register ... ..	„ B	Ditto.
63	Petition register ... ..	„ C	6 years.
64	Mutation register ... ..	„ D	Ditto.
65	Remission register ... ..	„ E	Ditto.
66	Mutation orders ... ..	.....	Ditto.
67	Remission order ... ..	.....	Ditto.
68	Assessment list ... ..	.....	Ditto.
69	Valuation list ... ..	.....	Ditto.
70	Rate-bill Books (memorandum) ... ..	Form F(a)	Ditto.
71	Stock book of Rate-Bill books, licenses, receipts, etc.	Form G	Ditto.
72	Sarkar's Daily collection register ... ..	„ I	6 years.
73	Sarkar's Note Book ... ..	.....	Ditto.
74	Transit register ... ..	Form J	3 years.
75	Sarkar's ledger ... ..	„ K	6 years.
76	Progress statement ... ..	„ L	Ditto.
77	Warrant register ... ..	„ M	3 years.
78	Notice of demand ... ..	„ A	Ditto.
79	Distress warrant ... ..	„ C	Ditto.
80	Register of distrains of property and sales held on account of arrears.	„ N	12 years.
81	Lists of outstanding rates and taxes ... ..	.....	3 years.
82	Provident Fund ledger ... ..	.....	Permanently.
83	Provident Fund abstract of balances ... ..	.....	Ditto.
84	Provident Fund Declaration Form ... ..	.....	Till death or retirement of the subscriber.
85	Stationery register ... ..	.....	3 years.
86	Register of postage stamps ... ..	.....	6 years.
87	Bid lists ... ..	.....	Ditto.
88	Kabuliyats and leases ... ..	.....	12 years.
89	Stock register of forms ... ..	.....	6 years.
90	Register of Government grants ... ..	.....	10 years.
91	Sanctioned estimates for works ... ..	.....	Ditto.

(x) Payment vouchers should be kept in guard files separately according to the period for preservation, instead of in one file for all classes.



Serial No.	Description of records	Form No.	Period of preservation
<i>Records prescribed by the Municipal Account Rules—concl'd.</i>			
92	Sanctioned estimates for repairs ... ..	.....	3 years.
93	Register of vaccination fees realised ... ..	.....	6 years.
94	Register of person vaccinated ... ..	.....	10 years.
95	Vaccination fee realisation receipts. ... ..	.....	6 years.
96	Register of roads ... ..	.....	Permanently.
97	Register of buildings ... ..	.....	Ditto.
98	Register of prosecution cases ... ..	.....	6 years.
99	Schedule of rates for items of works usually executed.	.....	Until revised.
100	Audit reports and explanation statements ... ..	.....	12 years.
101	Inspection Notes of various authorities ... ..	.....	Ditto.
<i>Records prescribed by the Act</i>			
102	Notice to be published of the preparation of assessment list on persons. ....	.....	Until next general election.
103	Notice to be published of the preparation of valuation and rating list of holdings. ....	.....	Ditto.
104	Inventory of moveable property seized ... ..	.....	Ditto.
105	Notice for sale of property seized ... ..	.....	Ditto.
106	Return of sales of property seized ... ..	.....	Ditto.
107	Account of attachments and sales ... ..	.....	10 years.
108	Resolution book ... ..	.....	Permanently.
109	Requisitions under section 69 of Act I of 1923	.....	3 years.
110	Requisition under parts VI and XI of Act I of 1923 and reports of service, <i>i.e.</i> , those under sections 188, 189, 190, 153, 154, 155, 158, 160, 162, 191 and 177 of Act I of 1923 but not orders under sections 185 and 194 of the same Act.	.....	Ditto.
111	Notices under sections 199 and 310 of Act I of 1923. ....	.....	Ditto.
112	Petitions under sections 150 and 151 of Act I of 1923. ....	.....	Ditto.
113	Records prescribed by the election rules. (The periods for the preservation of these records are provided in the rules). ....	.....	.....
114	Returns of value of holding ... ..	.....	6 years.
115	All petitions in connection with taxation ... ..	.....	Until after next general assessment.
116	Orders setting apart tanks, etc., for supply of drinking water and report of service of order. ....	.....	Permanently.
117	Orders prohibiting improper excavation ... ..	.....	Ditto.
118	Petition under section 165 of Act I and report connected therewith. ....	.....	Ditto.
119	Report of Medical Officers ... ..	.....	12 years.
120	Licenses and counterfoils ... ..	.....	6 years.
121	Register of Chemists shops ... ..	.....	Until rewritten.
122	Register of Muhammadan burial grounds ... ..	.....	Ditto.
123	Record directing prosecutions for public nuisance. ....	.....	3 years.
<i>Miscellaneous. Records</i>			
124	Register of letters received ... ..	.....	In accordance with the rules in the Records Manual.
125	Ditto despatched ... ..	.....	Ditto.



Serial No.	Description of records	Form No.	Period of preservation
<i>Miscellaneous records—concl'd.</i>			
126	Index register of files ... ..	.....	Permanently.
127	Correspondences ... ..	.....	According to the rule in the Records Manual.
128	Daily attendance register ... ..	.....	3 years.
129	Dak book ... ..	.....	Ditto.
130	Diaries of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Overseers and others ... ..	.....	Ditto.
131	Register of standing orders ... ..	.....	Permanently.
132	Annual Report ... ..	.....	Ditto.
133	Statements and appendices of annual report... ..	.....	Ditto.
134	Licenses, permits, passes, notices and application under bye-laws. ... ..	.....	6 years.
135	Registers of miscellaneous petitions ... ..	.....	3 years.
136	Register of <i>pattas</i> issued ... ..	.....	Permanently.
137	Sub-Committee's proceedings book... ..	.....	6 years.

S. L. MEHTA,

*Secretary to the Govt. of Assam in the Edn. and L.S.-G. Deptts.*

*The 10th April 1943.*

**No.LML.51/42/11.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rule:—

*Insert* the following as a new rule after rule 4 in Part VIII—Miscellaneous at page 281 of the Assam Municipal Manual:—

4A. Inspection note on the Board by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner or other officials shall be placed the Chairman before a meeting of the Board for consideration and any action that may be necessary.

S. L. MEHTA,

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

*The 27th May 1943.*

**No.LML.217/42/24.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2) (i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rules for the division of the Gauripur Small Town into wards and number of members to be elected from each of the wards.

The Gauripur small town shall be divided into four wards with the following boundaries:—

#### WARD NO. I

North—Starting from pillar 5 on the Lowkhowa bund along the northern edge of the bund to where it is crossed by the Khagrabari road. Thence in an easterly direction by pillar 5A to pillar 5B on the bank of the Lowkhowa bill, thence along the southern edge of the bill to pillar 6.

East—From pillar 6 on the edge of the Lowkhowa bill in a straight line to the Banyan tree on the Baruapatty road, southwards along the Baruapatty road and the Harisabha road to its junction with Dispensary road.

South—From the point last mentioned in a westerly direction to pillar 4 and thence along a line parallel to and about 300 feet south of the Khagrabari road in a westerly direction to a point 1,683 feet distant from pillar 4; thence 600 feet towards south and at right angle to the existing boundary line; thence in a straight line 1,848 feet long parallel to the existing boundary line: thence a straight line towards north 600 feet long meeting the existing boundary line in a point at a distance of 3,531 feet towards west from pillar 4; thence in a line parallel to and about 300 feet south of the Khagrabari road in a north-westerly direction to pillar 5.

West—Pillar 5.



## WARD NO. II

North—From pillar 6 on the bank of the Lowkhowa bill in a north-easterly direction by pillar 6A to pillar 6B on the Godadhar river ; thence along the right bank of the Godadhar river to pillar 7.

East—From pillar 7 south-eastwards to pillar 8, southwards to pillar 9 westwards to pillar 10 and south-westwards to pillar 11 on the right bank of the Godadhar river.

South—From pillar 11 last mentioned along the right bank of the Godadhar river to the sluice gate ; thence along a line upto the Banyan tree on the Baruapatty road.

West—From the Banyan tree on the Baruapatty road in a northerly direction to pillar 6.

## WARD NO. III

North—From the Banyan tree on the Baruapatty road in a stright line to the bank of the Godadhar river passing through the sluice gate.

East—From the point last mentioned along the right bank of the Godadhar river to its junction with the Post Office road.

South—Post Office road and its continuation to pillar 3.

West—From pillar 3 in a northerly direction to pillar 4, thence eastwards to the dispensary road and along that road to its junction with Harisabha road, thence along the Harisabha road and Baruapatty road to the Banyan tree on the Baruapatty road.

## WARD NO. IV

North—From pillar 3 east to the Post Office road and along that road to the right bank of the Godadhar river.

East—From the point last mentioned along the right bank of the said river to pillar 12.

South—From pillar 12 westwards to pillar 13, thence southwards to pillar 1 on the northern edge of the railway road, thence westwards along the railway and Public Works Department roads to pillar 2.

West—From pillar 2 a line following the eastern boundaries of villages Molatirvita and Taimari to pillar 3.

There shall be one elected member from each of these wards. This notification shall supersede Notification No.425-L.S.-G., dated the 20th March 1933 and also Notification No.1566-L.S.-G., dated 27th April 1925 so far as the latter relates to the division into wards of the Gauripur Small Town.

S. L. MEHTA,

*Secy. to the Govt. of Assam in the Edn. & L.S.-G. Deptts.*

*The 24th June 1943.*

**No.LML.137/42/16.**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2)(x) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), the Governor of Assam is pleased to prescribe the following fees as the maxima which may be levied by the Municipal Boards and Town Committees in Assam under section 59(1)(h) of the said Act on three wheeled carriages :—

Per annum  
Rs.

For every service three wheeled carriage ... 8

For every private three wheeled carriage ... 4

The Municipal Boards and Town Committees may vary these rates as they please within these maxima for different kinds of carriages and carts.

S. L. MEHTA,

*Secy. to the Govt. of Assam in the Edn. & L. S.-G. Deptts.*

*The 6th July 1943.*

**No.LML.218/42/15.**—The extension of boundary of the Dibrugarh Municipality to the mid-stream of the Brahmaputra and Dibru rivers necessitates the revision of boundaries of some of the wards of that Municipality. The Governor of Assam therefore, in partial modification of the rules published with Notification No.2602-L. S.-G., dated the 28th July 1937, is pleased, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 (2)(i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, to make the following rules to revise the boundaries of the following wards. The number of members elected from each of these wards will remain the same, *i.e.*, one member from each ward.



The boundaries of the wards effected by the new extension are described below :—

(1) TINKUNIA WARD

North—A line along the mid-stream of Dibru river.

East—A line from the mid-stream of the Dibru river to the Cantonment west boundary road and along the road to Pologround road.

South—Pologround road and Assam Trunk road.

West—Hospital road, from its junction with the Assam Trunk road, the Lodge Street and thence a line up to the mid-stream of the Dibru river.

(2) MEDICAL WARD

North—A line along the mid-stream of the Dibru river.

East—A line from the mid-stream to Lodge Street, Lodge Street, Hospital road and Town road.

South—Khaliyamari road.

West—A line from the mid-stream of the Dibru river to the Police tank road, the Church Street and Mancotta road up to the point where it touches the Khaliyamari road.

(3) REHABARI WARD

North—A line along the mid-stream of the Dibru river.

East—A line from mid-stream to Police tank road, Police tank road, Church Street and Mancotta road.

South—Rehabari road.

West—Marwari Street and Marwari road from its junction with Rehabari road and a line up to mid-stream of Dibru river.

(4) KEYAPUTTY WARD

North—A line along the mid-stream of the Dibru river and the Brahmaputra river (since the Brahmaputra having come further east it meets the Dibru river on the north side of Keyaputty ward).

East—A line from the mid-stream of the Dibru river to Marwari road and Marwari road.

South—Trunk road.

West—Bever Street and a line from Bever Street to mid-stream of the Brahmaputra river.

(5) AMORAGURI WARD

North-West—A line along the mid-stream of the Brahmaputra.

East—A line from mid-stream to Bever Street, Bever Street and Trunk road.

South—The Tapajan and line from the mouth of the Tapajan to the mid-stream of Brahmaputra.

(6) NORTH AMOLAPUTTY WARD

North—A line along the mid-stream of the Brahmaputra and thence to the mouth of the Tapajan and the Tapajan.

East—Assam Trunk road and the Chowkidinghee road from Railway line to Steamer ghat road.

South—Railway line from Amolaputty gate to Workshop gate and Steamer ghat road.

West—A line from the south-west corner of Dag No.13 in Behiachetia gaon to the mid-stream of the Brahmaputra.

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

The 6th July 1943.

No.LML.293/42/15.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2) (i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rules, to have effect from the date when the Town Committee is next to be elected and thereafter, for the division of the Doom Dooma Small Town into wards and the number of members to be elected for each of said wards of the said Small Town.



The Small Town shall be divided into four wards with the following boundaries:—

#### WARD No. I

North—From the north-west corner of *dag* No.69 along the northern boundaries of *dags* Nos. 69 and 92 up to the north-east corner of *dag* No.92 of the Bisakupi grant No.72 F.S.

East—From the north-east corner of *dag* No.92 along the west edge of the Assam Trunk Road crossing the Dibru-Sadiya Railway up to the Doom Dooma river, *i.e.*, to the south-east corner of *dag* No.34 of the Doom Dooma pathar village

South—From the south-east corner of *dag* No.34 along the north bank of the Doom Dooma river up to the Dibru-Sadiya Railway, *i.e.*, to the south-west corner of *dag* No.55 of Doom Dooma pathar gaon.

West—From the south-west corner of *dag* No.55 of Doom Dooma pathar gaon along the east of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway and along the western boundaries of *dags* Nos. 321, 300 and then crosses the Dibru-Sadiya Railway at pillar No.18 of the Doom Dooma town, passes along the western boundary of *dag* No.1 of Doom Dooma Town and then along the western boundaries of *dags* Nos.75, 73, 72 and 69 of Bisakupi grant No. 72 F.S. up to the north-west corner of *dag* No.69.

#### WARD No. II

North—From the triangular pillar to the north-east of *dag* No.92 of Bisakupi grant No.72 F.S. and across the Trunk Road and Dibru-Sadiya Railway and along the northern boundary of *dag* No.32 till it meets the western boundary of *dag* No.83 and then along the western and northern boundaries of *dag* No.83 till it crosses the garden road represented by *dags* Nos.30 and 43 and then along the east of the garden road to the north-west corner of *dag* No.545 and then along the northern boundaries of *dags* Nos.545, 510, 511, 512, 513, 517, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 541, 542 and 540 up to triangular pillar No.6 on the Bordubi Road.

East—From the triangular pillar No.6 on the Bordubi Road on the north-east corner of Doom Dooma Town along the eastern boundary of *dag* No.539 up to triangular pillar No.8 of Doom Dooma Town.

South—From the pillar No.8 along the north of the Bordubi Road (*dags* Nos.522 and 361) and the Kamarputty Road (*dag* No.164) of Doom Dooma Town up to the triangular pillar No.17 on the west of the Trunk Road.

West—From the pillar No.17 along the west of the Trunk Road up to the north-east corner of *dag* No.92 of Bisakupi grant No.72 F.S.

#### WARD No. III

North—From the triangular pillar No.15 of Doom Dooma Town along the northern boundary of Bordubi Road up to pillar No.8 of Doom Dooma Town.

East & South—From the pillar No.8 the boundary runs along the eastern and southern boundaries of *dags* Nos.533, 532, 530, 529 and 463, 462, 461, 458, 445 and 446 up to the pillar No.30 of Doom Dooma Town.

West—From the pillar No. 30 along the west of the Tara Road up to the point where this road meets the Kamarputty Road and Bardubi Road.

#### WARD No. IV

North—From the pillar No.17 on the Trunk Road along the north of the Kamarputty road up to the point where it meets the Tara Road.

East—From the junction of the Kamarputty Road and Tara Road, along the west of the Tara Road up to the pillar No.30.

South—From the pillar No.30 along the north bank of the Doom Dooma river up to the south-east corner of *dag* No.34 of Doom Dooma pathar gaon.

West—From the south-east corner of *dag* No.34 (*i.e.*, the Doom Dooma river bridge) along the west of the Trunk Road up to the pillar No.17 of the Town.

There shall be one elected member for each of these wards.  
These rules shall supersede those published with Notification No.1602-L.S.-G., dated the 30th April 1925, so far as Doom Dooma Small Town is concerned.

S. L. MEHTA,

Secy. to the Govt. of Assam in the Edn. and L.S.-G., Deptts.



## APPENDIX B

## List of Supplementary Demands for grants for

1943-44

(To be discussed and voted by the Assembly on the 25th November, 1943)

## No. 1

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA to move:—

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".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs.
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	...	...	24,18,600
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	...	...	<u>25,300</u>

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. *Non-contract contingencies.*—A sum of Rs.25,000 is required to meet charges for licence 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 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. India 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. It to administer an organisation on an experimental basis and though the Government have agreed 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.

## No. 2

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT RUPNATH BRAHMA to move:—

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."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs.	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. Uptill 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.

## No. 3

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA to move:—

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 the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "29—Police".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs.	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 un-armed branch, for a police outpost to be opened at Laitumkhrah, Shillong.

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

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



## No. 4

THE HON'BLE KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN to move :—

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 the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "37—Education (Other than European)".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.
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	<u>48,342</u>

## 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.

## No. 5

THE HON'BLE MISS MAVIS DUNN to move :—

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 the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "39—Public Health."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.
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 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.

No. 6.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY to move :—

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 the 31st March 1944 for the administration of the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

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

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



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.

## No. 7

THE HON'BLE DR. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA to move:—

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 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—

	Rs.
A.—Industrial development ... ..	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 Government of India.

## No. 8

THE HON'BLE DR. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA to move:—

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 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—

	Rs.
A.—Direction:—	
Pay of officers ... ..	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.

**Statement showing by major heads the amounts of Supplementary Grants which the Assembly are asked to vote in the present session**

Heads 1	Grant originally voted by the Assembly and authenticated by H. E. 2	Grant asked for in present session 3	Grant as it will finally stand 4	Number of supplemen- tary demand 5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
25.—General Administration ..	24,18,600	25,300	24,43,900	1
27.—Administration of Justice ..	8,17,800	21,894	8,39,694	2
29.—Police .. .. .	32,15,000	15,263	32,30,263	3
37.—Education (Other than Euro- pean).	43,90,500	48,342	44,38,842	4
39.—Public Health .. ..	8,88,100	2,79,000	11,67,100	5
42.—Co-operation .. ..	1,74,800	12,934	1,87,734	8
43.—Industries .. .. .	2,41,500	20,500	2,62,000	7
47.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	1,00,300	3,514	1,03,814	6
Total .. .. .	1,22,46,600	4,26,747	1,26,73,347	..



## APPENDIX C

**Note on the present financial situation of the province with reference to the actual receipts and expenditure of the year 1942-43 as compared with the revised for the year**

## I.—SUMMARY

	Revised		Actuals		Results + or -	
	Trs.		Trs.		Trs.	
Revenue receipts .. .. .	3,44,34		3,87,19		+42,85	
Capital revenues .. .. .	10,33,31		17,53,46		+7,20,15	
Total receipts .. .. .	13,77,65		21,40,65		+7,63,00	
Opening balance .. .. .	79,77		79,77		..	
Grand total .. .. .	14,57,42		22,20,42		+7,63,00	
Revenue expenditure .. .. .	3,53,86		3,54,68		+82	
Capital expenditure .. .. .	10,27,17		17,35,09		+7,07,92	
Total expenditure .. .. .	13,81,03		20,89,77		+7,08,74	
Closing balance .. .. .	76,39		1,30,65		+54,26	

1. The revised estimates for the year 1942-43 which were prepared in January last, placed the receipts for the year at Trs. 13,77,65 and the expenditure at Trs. 13,81,03, thus anticipating a closing balance of Trs. 76,39. The final accounts of the year, however, show that receipts amounted to Trs. 21,40,65 and charges to Trs. 20,89,77, thus resulting in a surplus closing balance of Trs. 1,30,65. This difference in the closing balance was due to better collections of Agricultural Income-tax (Trs. 11,69), Land Revenue (Trs. 20,45), Forests (Trs. 6,00) and other taxes and duties (Trs. 5,11). These unexpected increases turned the anticipated revenue deficit of Trs. 9,52 into an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to Trs. 32,51.

## II.—REVENUE

2. The revised estimates and the final actuals for the year 1942-43 are compared in the following table:—

	Revised	Actuals	Results	
			Increase	Decrease
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
I.—Customs .. .. .	9,98	9,64	..	34
IV.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax .. .. .	48,30	59,99	11,69	..
VII.—Land Revenue .. .. .	1,38,44	1,58,89	20,45	..
VIII.—Provincial Excise .. .. .	25,00	20,72	..	4,28
IX.—Stamps .. .. .	12,20	14,29	2,09	..



II.—REVENUE.—*concl'd.*

	Revised	Actuals	Results	
			Increase	Decrease
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
X.—Forest .. .. .	31,37	37,37	6,00	..
XI.—Registration .. .. .	2,26	2,19	..	..
XII.—Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Act .. .. .	5,70	6,43	73	7
XIII.—Other taxes and duties .. .. .	6,96	12,07	5,11	..
XX.—Interest .. .. .	49	70	21	..
XXI.—Administration of Justice .. .. .	1,80	2,46	66	..
XXII.—Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .	42	33	..	..
XXIII.—Police .. .. .	35	68	33	9
XXIV.—Ports and Pilotage .. .. .	1	..	..	..
XXVI.—Education .. .. .	3,16	3,34	18	1
XXVII.—Medical .. .. .	1,71	1,85	14	..
XXVIII.—Public Health .. .. .	2,09	3,04	95	..
XXIX.—Agriculture .. .. .	2,63	2,40	..	..
XXX.—Veterinary .. .. .	43	37	..	23
XXXI.—Co-operation .. .. .	9	8	..	6
XXXII.—Industries .. .. .	47	50	3	1
XXXIV.—Miscellaneous Departments .. .. .	48	50	2	..
XXXIX.—Civil Works .. .. .	11,03	8,46	..	2,57
XLIV.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation .. .. .	36	1,97	1,61	..
XLV.—Stationery and Printing .. .. .	87	74	..	13
XLVI.—Miscellaneous .. .. .	3,87	5,02	1,15	..
XLIX.—Grant-in-aid from Central Government .. .. .	30,00	30,00	..	..
L.—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments.	3	1	..	2
Extraordinary receipts .. .. .	3,34	2,36	..	98
Civil Defence .. .. .	50	79	29	..
Total Revenue receipts .. .. .	3,44,34	3,87,19	51,64	8,79
				+42,85
Public Debt .. .. .	1,84,00	2,75,00	91,00	..
State Provident Funds .. .. .	18,34	17,11	..	1,23
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt .. .. .	3,94	4,19	25	..
Depreciation Reserve Fund—				
Government Press .. .. .	18	19	1	..
Deposits of Local Funds—				
District Funds .. .. .	40,50	38,63	..	1,87
Other Funds .. .. .	10,35	11,51	1,16	..
Departmental and Judicial deposits—				
Civil Deposits .. .. .	40,38	65,89	25,51	..
Other Accounts .. .. .	5,86	3,89	..	1,97
Advances .. .. .	16,03	21,76	5,73	..
Suspense .. .. .	83,85	41,93	..	41,92
Loans and advances by the Provincial Government .. .. .	7,88	6,95	..	93
Remittances within India .. .. .	6,22,00	12,66,41	6,44,41	..
Total Capital revenues .. .. .	10,33,31	19,53,46	7,68,07 1	47,92
				+7,20,15
Grand total .. .. .	13,77,65	21,40,65	8,19,71	56,71
				+7,63,00



The more important variations are explained below:—

*IV.—Taxes on Income (+Trs. 11, 69).*—Due to larger receipts from the Assam Agricultural Income-tax than anticipated partly as a result of increased profits by tea companies in the calendar year 1941 and partly due to larger advance payments made by tea companies on account of 1941-42 before assessments were completed.

*VII.—Land Revenue (+Trs. 20,45).*—Due to better collections under 'Temporarily-Settled Estates', the withdrawal of the temporary remission from 1st April 1943, resulting in more prompt payment of land revenue by the ryots. The extremely favourable price received by the ryots for their paddy was also a contributory factor to their early payment.

*VIII.—Provincial Excise (—Trs. 4,28).*—Due to difficulty in obtaining supplies owing to lack of transport especially in the closing months of the year.

*IX.—Stamps (+Trs. 2,09).*—Due to more demands for stamps owing to the increase in the number of transfers of landed property partly caused by the war but mainly to more money being available for such transactions as a result of large earnings by the labouring classes from Defence projects.

*X.—Forests (+Trs. 6,00).*—Due to delay in payments by the Central Government for supplies connected with the war it was anticipated that outstandings would amount to Trs. 10,00 but the steps taken to speed up such payments reduced this carry-forward to Trs. 4,00.

*XIII.—Other taxes and duties(+Trs. 5,11).*—Due to larger consumption by the Military authorities in the closing months of the year of petrol on which tax is realised.

*XXXIX.—Civil Works (—Trs. 2,57).*—Due to a smaller subvention from the Central Road Development fund owing to the pre-occupation of the Public Works Department on works of military importance and smaller receipts from tolls on roads as a result of petrol rationing.

*XLIV.—Receipts in aid of superannuation (+Trs. 1,61).*—Due mainly to larger recoveries from the Central Government for Public Works establishment, etc., employed on Defence projects and for that portion of the additional police, the cost of which is borne by the Central Government.

*XLVI.—Miscellaneous (+Trs. 1,15).*—Due to larger receipts of unclaimed deposits. *Capital Revenues (+Trs. 7,20,15).*—Receipts and expenditure under these heads are of a fluctuating nature and accurate estimates are not possible. An increase or decrease in receipt is followed by a similar increase or decrease in expenditure. The largest variation is under the head "Remittances within India" over which the Provincial Government have no control.

### III.—EXPENDITURE

3. Revised estimates and the final actuals for the year 1942-43 are compared below in the following table:—

	Revised	Actuals	Results	
			Increase	Decrease
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax	48	43	..	5
7.—Land Revenue .. .. .	17,51	17,08	..	43
8.—Provincial Excise .. .. .	3,87	3,78	..	9
9.—Stamps .. .. .	41	44	3	..
10.—Forests .. .. .	25,58	25,27	..	31
11.—Registration .. .. .	1,58	1,63	5	..
12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	3,99	2,58	..	1,41
13.—Other taxes and duties .. .. .	1	1	..	..
18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	49	37	..	12



## III.—EXPENDITURE—concl'd.

	Revised	Actuals	Results	
			Increase	Decrease
			Trs.	Trs.
22.—Interest on debt and other obligations ..	1,92	1,72	..	20
Interest on Unfunded debt .. ..	4,63	4,51	..	12
Interest portion of equated payments on account of commuted value of pension.	—87	—87	..	..
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt.	3,88	3,88	..	..
25.—General Administration .. ..	36,61	37,18	57	..
27.—Administration of Justice .. ..	11,18	10,77	..	4
28.—Jails and Convict Settlements .. ..	6,10	7,71	1,61	..
29.—Police .. ..	35,95	44,11	8,16	..
30.—Ports and Pilotage .. ..	2	2	..	..
36.—Scientific Departments .. ..	6	6	..	..
37.—Education .. ..	43,62	44,24	62	..
38.—Medical .. ..	14,67	14,88	21	..
39.—Public Health .. ..	9,33	9,75	42	..
40.—Agriculture .. ..	12,84	12,66	..	18
41.—Veterinary .. ..	2,20	2,04	..	16
42.—Co-operation .. ..	1,81	1,88	7	..
43.—Industries .. ..	2,57	2,45	..	12
47.—Miscellaneous Departments .. ..	1,01	1,01	..	..
50.—Civil Works .. ..	46,16	39,95	..	6,21
54A.—Famine Relief .. ..	60	35	..	25
55.—Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	24,62	24,77	15	..
56.—Stationery and Printing .. ..	4,42	3,56	..	86
57.—Miscellaneous .. ..	20,04	20,44	40	..
63.—Extraordinary charges .. ..	43	9	..	34
64B.—Civil Defence .. ..	16,14	15,93	..	21
Total Revenue heads .. ..	3,53,86	3,54,68	12,29	11,47
			+82	
Capital Expenditure—				
83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions not charged to Revenue.	1,96	1,64	..	32
85A.—Capital outlay on Provincial schemes connected with the War.	46,22	72,81	26,59	..
Public Debt .. ..	1,34,00	1,93,00	59,00	..
State Provident Funds .. ..	13,26	16,41	3,15	..
Sinking Fund investment account .. ..	3,88	3,88	..	..
Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Press	15	..	..	..
District Funds .. ..	39,00	38,76	..	15
Other Funds .. ..	10,35	10,67	32	24
Departmental and Judicial—				
Deposits—Civil Deposits .. ..	42,20	58,46	16,26	..
Other Accounts .. ..	5,86	5,02	..	..
Advances .. ..	16,38	33,34	16,96	84
Suspense .. ..	84,15	42,49	..	..
Loans and advances by the Provincial Government	7,76	5,96	..	41,66
Remittances within India .. ..	6,22,00	12,52,65	6,30,65	1,80
Total Capital, Debt and Deposit heads ..	10,27,17	17,35,09	7,52,93	45,01
			+7,07,92	
Grand total .. ..	13,81,03	20,89,77	7,65,22	56,48
			+7,08,74	



The more important variations are explained below:—

12.—*Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act* (—Trs. 1,41)—Mainly due to smaller expenditure on projects financed from the surplus proceeds of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.

28.—*Jails and Convict Settlement*—(+ Trs. 1,61)—Due to increased expenditure mainly owing to the rapid rise in prices of food-stuffs towards the close of the year and partly to an increase in the number of prisoners.

29.—*Police* (+ Trs. 8,16).—The increase is mainly due to the payment of the usual contribution towards the cost of the Assam Rifles (Trs. 6,06), to the additional police entertained to cope with the war emergency, and to the rise in prices of food-stuffs, etc. No provision was made in the revised for the payment of the contribution towards the cost of the Assam Rifles as it was hoped that the province would be relieved of this charge during the war while the full contribution expected from the Central Government towards part of the cost of the additional police did not materialize. Both these matters are still under correspondence.

50.—*Civil Works* (—Trs. 6,21)—Due to smaller expenditure on works financed from the Central Road Development Fund and the surplus proceeds from the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, but mainly on account of larger recoveries from the Central Government on account of establishment employed on Defence projects.

85A.—*Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War* (+ Trs. 26,59).—The increase is mainly due to more advances to Government Agents for the purchase of food-stuffs.

#### IV—1943-44.

4. *Prospects for 1943-44.*—The total provincial revenue receipts for the first half-year amounted to Trs. 1,55,36 as compared with Trs. 1,31,14 during the corresponding period of 1942-43. The increase of Trs. 42, 22 during the current year is due to better collection of Agricultural Income-tax (Trs. 8,79), Stamps (Trs. 3,32) due to an increase in the number of transfers of property, Forests (Trs. 3,64) as a result of war demands, and Other Taxes and Duties (Trs. 10,75) due to larger recoveries of petrol tax from the Military, partly counterbalanced by a decrease of Trs. 7,92 under Land Revenue owing to smaller collections. It is not possible at this stage to say accurately what the actual position at the end of the year will be, but the total revenue is likely to be higher than estimated in the original budget by about Rs. 30 lakhs.

The expenditure under revenue heads during the first half of the year amounted to Trs. 2,37,48 against Trs. 1,74,24 during the corresponding period of last year. The variation between the two years' actuals is the result of variations under different heads and due to the drawal of two months' pay in the month of September 1943 owing to the Puja vacation commencing on the 29th September 1943, to the grant of rice concession and increased dearness allowance to Government servants owing to the rise in prices of food-stuffs, to increased expenditure on jail, medical and police supplies in view of the unprecedented rise in prices and to larger expenditure on Civil Defence as a result of the recommendations of the Area Adviser, the Government of India's contribution towards which will not be received till towards the close of the year.

In view of the sudden and unprecedented rise in the cost of rice Government instituted a system of supply of rice at concession rates to all Government servants drawing a salary of Rs. 200 per month or less with effect from the 1st June 1943, but this had to be revised with effect from 1st July 1943 and the concession had to be extended to Government servants whose pay does not exceed Rs. 300 a month with effect from the 3rd September 1943. Government further decided that all Government servants drawing a pay not above Rs. 200 per month will be given the option of substituting for dearness allowance and rice concessions to themselves and their families, the issue for themselves alone of a free ration according to a daily scale. This is estimated to cost about Trs. 29,93 and is debitable to the revenue account under the head "57.—Miscellaneous".

*Reddy*



