





**Proceedings of the Sixteenth 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 15th March, 1945

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble  
Ministers and seventy hon. Members

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Re Dubhag High School**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*106. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Dubhag High School in the Karimganj Subdivision has  
been given grant-in-aid ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

106. (a)—No.

(b)—The school has not yet been recognised. A report has been called for  
from the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts. On receipt of his  
report the question of giving departmental recognition and grant to the school  
will be considered

**Supply of paper to Primary school boys and girls at controlled rates**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*107. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any arrangement has been made by Government for supplying  
paper to Primary school boys and girls at controlled rates ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

107. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Requisition of Aryya Insurance Co. premises at Sylhet**

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV asked :

\*108. (a) Is it a fact that the premises in occupation of the Aryya Insurance Co.,  
Ltd., Sylhet Branch at Zindabazar in Sylhet town were requisitioned under Rule  
75A(1) of the Defence of India Rules on 28th June 1944 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the premises of the said Company were de-requisitioned  
with effect from 25th November, 1944 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the same premises after de-requisition were handed over  
to some other private persons by the District Magistrate of Sylhet instead of the  
Insurance Company, being allowed to occupy the same ?



(d) Is it a fact that in spite of repeated requests from the Company, the Government have not as yet handed over the premises to the said Company ?

(e) Do Government propose to hand over to the Aryya Insurance Co., Ltd., the premises mentioned in Question No.108(c) above immediately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

108. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No. The premises in question, along with three other houses were only released by the Army in response to pressure from the Deputy Commissioner for the express purpose of accommodating certain Government servants and evictees of other requisition cases with quarters which they had been unable to secure elsewhere, until such time as the Army might again require the houses. In consequence of objections raised by this Company the Deputy Commissioner subsequently requisitioned the premises afresh for the above purpose.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: May I know, Sir, why the premises after being de-requisitioned were given to other people ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That was considered more necessary.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the said Company has been carrying on business in the town and that their demand for the buildings has been very insistent ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The demand was insistent but all told the demand of the latter category was more urgent and more important.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Do we understand, Sir, that the requisition order still continues ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Can the Deputy Commissioner requisition a house for a private person, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Under what law, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The hon. Member is referred to the Defence of India Act and the Rules thereunder.

### *Re Wholesale dealers of controlled commodities*

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*109. (a) Is it a fact that Government have appointed wholesale dealers to deal in certain controlled commodities in many places of the Province where recognised Co-operative Stores to deal in the same exist ?

(b) Are Government aware that more favours are generally shown by Supply Officers to unregistered individual wholesale dealers in preference to registered Co-operative Stores in respect of controlled commodities in species, in quantities, or in both ?

(c) Do Government propose to give all kinds and large quantities of controlled commodities to the Co-operative Stores of the Province for selling to the public ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

109. (a) & (c)—Co-operative Stores are primarily for retail sale of commodities and not to undertake wholesale trade far beyond their area of operation. Co-operative Stores get proportionate share of all commodities issued and have been given the concession of taking goods direct from the Government distributing agency if they can take 5 bags of commodities at a time.



(b)—The imputation is denied.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Is there any legal bar, Sir, for the co-operative stores in getting commissions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : There is no legal bar excepting that in the first place, under the co-operative principle such stores are to cater for the needs of their members; they cannot sell to the non-member public, and in the second place that their territorial jurisdiction is also limited. Had there been any co-operative society functioning throughout the Province then there would have been no difficulty. But under the present circumstances, they cannot be given the duty of distributing or selling goods to people who are outside their territorial limits.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Is it not a fact, Sir, that the co-operative stores which are appointed retailers are allowed to cater not only for their own constituents but also for the needs of the general public of the localities concerned ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That concession has been granted by me on account of the war time conditions. It is only in those places where the number of members of the co-operative societies form the majority of the locality, they have been allowed to cater for the non-member people as well.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Cannot the same concession be extended to them in the appointment of wholesale agencies ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The question will only arise when a big co-operative society is formed with membership spread over an entire mauza or one or two mauzas. At present the co-operative societies that have been formed are limited to smaller areas.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Is this the policy of Government, Sir, that legally constituted co-operative stores should always have preference to individual dealers in getting supplies from Government stores ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir, that is the Government policy.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : May I know whether the instructions have been communicated to the District Officers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir. We have communicated our policy to the District Officers.

### **Agriculture Department projects in Sunamganj Subdivision**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*110. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of projects taken up by the Agriculture Department in the year 1944-45 in the Sunamganj Subdivision for growing more paddy and for protecting Buro and Amon paddy from floods, silting, etc. ?
- (b) The names of such projects which have been finished in the year 1944-45 ?
- (c) The names of such projects which are to be taken up in the year 1945-46 again ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA replied :

110. (a)—A list is placed on the Library table.

(b)—The names of the projects shown with asterisks in the list are reported to have been completed up to this time.

(c)—It is very early to say what projects will be taken up in 1945-46. It is however certain that those of the above mentioned projects which will not be completed in 1944-45, will be taken up in 1945-46, budget grant permitting.



**Re Hillalpur Dhala Bund**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*111. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any application was made last year to the Agricultural Inspector, Sunamganj by the villagers of Hillalpur and adjacent villages for the construction of a bund on the Hillalpur Dhala ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken on that application ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA replied :

111. (a) -Yes.

(b)—The project could not be taken up as it was found that the preparation of the necessary plan and estimates in this particular case would require special engineering skill of an Agricultural Engineer which the Irrigation section of the Department of Agriculture do not at present possess.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Did any Agricultural Engineer visit the place last year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: Yes, Sir. The project was examined by our staff.

**Re Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*112. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why a Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill is not going to be introduced in the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1945, as assured by Hon'ble Revenue Minister in the last Assembly Session ?

(b) When do Government propose to introduce such a Bill ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAK ALI replied :

112. (a) & (b)—Government propose to introduce the Sylhet Non-Agricultural Urban Tenancy Bill in the current Session of the Assembly.

**Re Comrade Ajoy Bhattacharya, a communist prisoner**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*113. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether comrade Ajoy Bhattacharya, a communist prisoner now lodged in Sylhet Jail, has recently represented to Government plan for his release ?

(b) If so, what reply has been given by Government on his representation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

113. (a) & (b)—Orders have been recently issued for his release.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Are there any conditions imposed upon him ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Released under certain restrictions.

**Re Matilal Jaigirdar of Karimganj**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*114. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why Matilal Jaigirdar of Karimganj has been still under police vigilance ?

(b) Do Government propose to do away with such police vigilance after a thorough enquiry in his case ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

114. (a)—He is absconding to avoid service of an order under the Defence of India Rules.

(b)—Government are unable to move as suggested until he is found.



### Land Settlement Policy of Government

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

\*115. (a) Are Government aware that a large number of people who have got full establishment in Bengal and at the same time have got settlement of land in Assam are utilising the same as business firms ?

(b) If so, will Government please state the number so far as practicable including the names of those such settlers who are prominent in the public life ?

\*116. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of persons who were originally inhabitants of Surma Valley and have got settlement of land in the Assam Valley since 1938 ?

(b) The number of persons who have come from Bengal since 1938 and have got settlement of land in the Assam Valley ?

(c) The area of land settled with each such person ?

(d) The area of land in the Assam Valley which is at present open to settlement and the area of cultivable land lying unsettled as yet ?

(e) The area of land reserved there for grazing of domestic cattle at present ?

(f) The area of land reserved there for expansion of tribal people at present ?

(g) The area of land reserved in the Assam Valley for free grazing of wild buffaloes at present ?

(h) The area kept separated there for " Professional Grazing Reserves " at present ?

(i) The area last de-reserved there from the ' Professional Reserves ' ?

(j) The number of evictions which have taken place till now from the Professional Grazing Reserves in the Assam Valley since January, 1944 ?

(k) The number of petitions filed by (i) people of the Surma Valley, (ii) indigenous Hindus of Assam Valley, (iii) indigenous Muslims of Assam Valley, (iv) people belonging to the Schedule Castes of the Assam Valley, (v) Tribal people and (vi) immigrants from Bengal for settlement of land in the Assam Valley since January, 1943 ?

(l) The area of land settled with each of the said groups ?

\*117. (a) Is it a fact that Government recently accorded recognition to occupation of land in the Assam Valley by the immigrants in the Professional Grazing Reserves ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have decided eviction of the immigrants from the Professional Grazing Reserves in the Assam Valley after the recent Land Settlement Conference held on the 16th, 18th and 19th December, 1944 ?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table the full proceedings of that Conference ?

(d) Will Government please state whether any Members were invited from the Surma Valley to that Conference ?

(e) If so, who are they ?

(f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

115. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May we know, Sir, whether Government made any enquiry into this matter.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : No, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : It seems, Sir, that the Assembly Department forwarded the Questions to the office concerned on the 14th February. Have Government got any of the informations since then ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, Sir.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Can Government deny that there are a large number of such people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is a matter of opinion.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Will Government even now make an enquiry about the information that is required in this connection?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: To do this it will involve two Governments.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Do Government consider that the information required is relevant to their land settlement policy as adumbrated in the last conference?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is so, Sir.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will Government get this information and inform us the result of the decision of the provincial committee formed under the advice of the Conference?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: An attempt will be made, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

116. (a), (b) & (c)—Information is not available.

(d)—In 1943, a rough estimate of the area of cultivable waste land in the Assam Valley placed the figure at  $17\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of acres of which about one lakh of acres have subsequently been settled. Government, however, are inclined to think that this estimate was too large and are endeavouring to have enquiries made with a view to obtaining a more accurate estimate. Exact figures, however, can never be obtained in view of the large areas of non-cadastral land in outlying areas of the Province where it is impossible to say how much can be cultivated and how much cannot.

(e)—The total area reserved for village grazing grounds in the Assam Valley up to the end of the year 1943-44 was 2,65,898 acres.

(f)—No land has been exclusively reserved up to date for the expansion of tribal people.

(g)—The information is not available.

(h) & (i)—The total area reserved for professional graziers exclusive of Dibrugarh Subdivision is 3,01,715 acres.

(j), (k) & (l)—The information is not available.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: In answer to a certain Question the Hon'ble Minister said that the information is not available. May I know when this information will be available?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: If the hon. Member desires, I shall endeavour to make the information available.

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: May I know whether the information in question was not submitted before the Conference?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, Sir.

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: May I know when this information will be made available to the hon. Members of this House?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The exact time cannot be told now, Sir.

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: At least the approximate time may please be stated, whether two or three months?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: We shall try to expedite it.



Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: With regard to reply to Question No.116 (b), Sir, can Government deny that fresh settlement of land to persons coming from Bengal since January, 1938, is not being made up till now ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is not to our knowledge, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Will Government enquire whether fresh settlement is being made with people who have been to Assam Valley recently from Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The local officers are following the Government policy.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Is it the Government policy that the new comers are entitled to settlement of lands ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: No, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to issue instructions to their officers that no settlement of land should be made with those who have come since 1938 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government have ordered the local officers to strictly follow the Government policy.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

117. (a)—No.

(b)—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to paragraph 18 of the Resolution of 15th January, 1945, on Land Settlement policy where Government have laid down the policy to be pursued in respect of Professional Grazing Reserves.

(c)—A copy is laid on the Library table.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

(f)—Does not arise.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Is it not a fact that one hon. Member of this House is at Barpeta now and is going on encouraging the new immigrants not to go out of the reserves recently encroached ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is not known to us, Sir.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister make an enquiry about it ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: If the hon. Member specifically states a case I shall certainly look into it.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: Sir, it is reported that on the 11th March an hon. Member, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, had gone to Barpeta to encourage the immigrants to go on encroaching and to give undue pressure upon the Subdivisional Officer not to evict the encroachers from the Mandya Professional Grazing Reserve. Is it a fact, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I know nothing about that, Sir, but even if any pressure is being brought to bear upon the Subdivisional Officer, he will surely refuse to act upon that.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government make an enquiry whether such a pressure is given or not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government cannot make any enquiry on such matters.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to see that such pressure is not put upon Government servants by hon. Members of this Hon'ble House ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government cannot exercise any jurisdiction over a private person representing his case before an officer of theirs.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: As the Hon'ble Minister represented the Surma Valley, may I know whether he represented in his official capacity or he represented only the people of the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Both, Sir.



### Meeting of Teachers of Middle Schools at Sunamganj

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

\*118. (a) Are Government aware that the teachers of Middle Schools assembled in a meeting held on the 24th January, 1945, at Sunamganj and passed resolutions drawing attention of Government towards their grievances and prayed for redress ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what orders, if any, they have passed on those resolutions ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

118. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Secretary was informed that dearness allowance had been sanctioned for employees of Aided Secondary Schools. Resolution Nos.2 and 3 about stationery articles and kerosene oil have been sent to the Supply Department for consideration. Invigilators are appointed by Superintendents of centres of examination and Government do not propose to make any change. The question of grant-in-aid to Middle English Schools not yet receiving it, will be considered during next financial year as far as funds permit.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : May I know what is the rate of dearness allowance which is given to the secondary school teachers ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Rs.5, Sir.

### Re-organisation of the Assam Educational Service

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*119. Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to amalgamate into one the existing three classes of the Assam Educational Service and start a new class ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

119.—The question of re-organisation of the Assam Educational Service is under examination.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know, Sir, since when it has been under the consideration of the Government and how long it will take ?

† The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Since about a year, I think.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : How long will it take ?

† The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I cannot say ; it may be two or three months.

### Re Political prisoners, internees and externees of the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*120. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the (i) political prisoners, (ii) internees and (iii) externees of the Province at present ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

120.—It is understood that by "political prisoners" the hon. Member means "security prisoners". Government do not consider it desirable to disclose names. The numbers up to 15th February, 1945, are 95 persons detained, 130 restricted and 71 externed from either the whole of Assam or from certain districts therein.



### Introduction of free Compulsory Primary Education

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*121. Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to introduce free Compulsory Primary Education in the Province in near future ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

121.—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to a similar Question (Unstarred Question No. 55) asked by Babu Bipin Behari Das during this Session of the Assembly.

### Re Monthly quotas of foodstuffs

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

\*122. (a) Is it a fact that the Government have recently directed the authority of Mangaldai subdivision to increase the quota of salt for each individual from one powa to half seer ?

(b) Are Government aware that 3,000 maunds of salt are required monthly for the population of Mangaldai subdivision for distribution at the rate of half a seer for a family of a single member, 5 chattaks per head for a family of 3 members and one powa per head for a family of more than 3 members ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have increased the quota of salt of Mangaldai subdivision to give effect to their direction to distribute salt at the rate of half a seer for each individual ?

(d) If so, what is the increased quota of 3,000 maunds of salt per month ?

\*123. (a) Are Government aware that the supply of mustard oil to Mangaldai subdivision has almost entirely been stopped since November last ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to supply the same in the Mangaldai subdivision ?

\*124. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether *Gur* has been supplied to the Mangaldai subdivision since the month of October, 1944 ?

(b) If so, what is the quantity ?

(c) If not, whether they have issued permit to any local merchant to import *Gur* in the said subdivision ?

(d) If the answer to Question No. 124 (c) above is in affirmative, to whom the said permit has been issued ?

\*125. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The quota of sugar for each subdivision of Assam during the year 1944 ?

(b) What percentage from the total quota of sugar for each subdivision of the Province has been curtailed by the recent order of Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

122. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have fixed the quota of salt for the Mangaldai subdivision at 3,000 maunds per month on the basis of  $\frac{1}{2}$  seer per head of the 1941 census population plus 10 per cent. extra to meet additional requirements if any. I. T. A. population is outside this quota.

(c) & (d)—The original quota was 3,000 maunds and this was found to be the requirement for the subdivision at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  seer per head plus 10 per cent. extra.



123. (a) & (b) and 124 (a) to (d)—A report has been called for from the Subdivisional Officer, Mangaldai. It has not yet reached us.

125. (a)—A statement is placed on the Library table.

(b)—There is no curtailment, but is an adjustment at the rate of 1 seer per head in urban areas plus 15 per cent. extra.

### Persons detained under the Defence of India Rules

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

\*126. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons still detained in various jails of Assam under the Defence of India Rules ?
- (b) The period spent in detention by each ?
- (c) Whether they propose to release them in view of altered situation in the country ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

126. (a) & (b)—Government regret they are not prepared to disclose the names of security prisoners or the periods each have been in detention. On 15th February, 1945, 95 were still detained.

(c)—The matter is constantly under review, but Government are not satisfied that a stage has yet been reached which would justify the release of all security prisoners.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: May I know the latest date of review ?

† The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The last review was made only 15 days ago.

### Requisition of guns in South Sylhet Subdivision

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked :

\*127. Will Government be pleased to refer to Unstarred Questions Nos. 139-145 put by Maulavi Abdul Aziz during the November Session of the Assembly, 1944 and state—

- (a) The period for which shot guns were requisitioned in the South Sylhet Subdivision under the Defence of India Rule 75A(1) ?
- (b) Whether any steps were taken for returning the requisitioned guns belonging to the Muslims of the South Sylhet Subdivision after the aforesaid Questions were tabled ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the police in the Sylhet District were already provided with rifles long ago by the authorities ?
- (e) Whether Government have received allegations to the effect that those requisitioned guns are used by the police for their private hunting purposes ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to return the guns belonging to the Muslims of the South Sylhet Subdivision without further delay ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that two years have elapsed since the police took possession of the said requisitioned guns ?
- (h) Whether Government are aware that the Deputy Commissioners of some districts have sold some of the requisitioned guns ?
- (i) If so, why ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

127. (a)—No specific period was fixed.

(b)—Government took up the matter with all the district officers concerned.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—The armed police have secured the required weapons. The Police Department also needs arms for other branches besides the armed police, and the extent of this need is under discussion with the Inspector General.

(e)—No.

(f)—Government will do all they can to expedite the matter.

(g)—Yes.

(h) & (i)—So far as Government are aware, some guns for which the licenses have been cancelled have been sold in auction, but they have not as yet complete particulars.

### Restrictions imposed on released Political Prisoners

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

\*128. Will Government be pleased to state the reason underlying the imposition of restrictions on the liberty of movement of released security prisoners, as also in their freedom of speech and communication ?

\*129. (a) Is it a fact that restrainees Srijut Siddhinath Sarmah, M.L.A. and Srijukta Pushpalata Das have been ordered to stay within the limits of Gauhati town ?

(b) Are Government aware that both of them require treatment in some medical centre ?

\*130. (a) Is it a fact that Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A. was ordered to stay in the house of his relative Srijut Mahadev Sarmah, M.L.A., far away from his home ?

(b) Is it a fact that he applied for permission to attend the last Session of the Assembly ?

(c) Is it a fact that he informed the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, that consistent with his self-respect, he could not continue to be a day-to-day guest of another person for all times ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state why they did not allow him to live in his own house at Nowgong ?

(e) Do Government propose to withdraw immediately the orders of restrictions imposed on the released political prisoners ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

128.—The reason is plain, the prevention of activity prejudicial within the meaning of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance.

129. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are not aware how their health is progressing since release.

130. (a)—He was released on medical grounds, and it was understood that he could suitably be allowed to reside at the house indicated.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government are not prepared to allow him to be at liberty in his own district where his activities were a grave menace to law and order.

(e)—No. Each case will be dealt with, as hitherto, on its merits.

### Budget provision for increased salaries of Primary School Teachers

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*131. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any provision has been made in the Budget for 1945-46 to pay the increased salary of the Primary School teachers with a view to implement the verdict of the Assembly made during its November Session, 1944 ?



- (b) If not, why not ?  
 (c) The amount of extra money provided in the Budget for 1945-46 to pay the increased salaries and allowances of the Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Speaker and the Members of the Legislatures ?  
 (d) The source from which the aforesaid amount is going to be financed ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

131. (a) & (b)—Some provision has been made for further concessions to the Primary teachers. With regard to the implementing of the verdict of the Assembly, the hon. Member is referred to Government Resolution on the subject, dated the 3rd February, 1945.

(c)—Rs. 1,34,400.

(d)—From the Provincial Revenues.

### Construction of a Sluice gate on Krishna Khal in Halirhaor

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*132. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the money provided for the construction of a sluice gate on the Krishna Khal in the Halirhaor in the Sunamganj subdivision, in the Budget of 1944-45 has not yet been spent ?  
 (b) Whether Government propose to take up and finish the aforesaid construction work in the next financial year ?  
 (c) Whether any tender was called for the construction of the aforesaid work in the current financial year ?  
 (d) If so, whether any persons or company submitted any tender for the aforesaid construction work ?  
 (e) If so, who are they ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

132. (a)—On account of a dispute between tenants and the Zemindar

(b)—If a settlement can be achieved the work will be taken up.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Does not arise.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May I know the name of the zeminder who is protesting ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The name of the zeminder is not known to me but there is a dispute between the tenants and the zemindar regarding the fishery.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it Rai Bahadur Wards' Estate, Sukhair ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: That is not known to me.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

85. (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many candidates were called for interview by the Assam Public Service Commission for filling up the post of the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education ?

(b) What are the names, qualifications, and length of services of the different candidates for the said post from the Education Department as well as from other Departments of Government ?



(c) Is it a fact that Srijut Bandhuram Kachari, B.A., has been appointed as Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education superseding the claims of senior officers of the Department ?

(d) Is it a fact that a Lushai or its sub-caste candidate was called for interview by the Public Service Commission for the said post ?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state the castes or sub-castes of people that fall under the category of plains tribal ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

85. (a)—Six.

(b), (c) and (d)—The appointment was made on the advice of the Public Service Commission, who are not prepared to supply the information required in the Questions.

(e)—The following fall under the category of plains tribal :—Kachari, Rava, Lalung, Hajong, Singpho, Khamti, Miri, Deuri and Mikirs.

#### Assistant Headmaster from the Plains Tribal Community

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

86. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names, qualifications and length of service of each of the candidates called for interview either by Government or by the Public Service Commission for filling up the post of one Assistant Headmaster from the Plains Tribal Community ?

(b) Is it a fact that an outsider purely fresh from the College has been appointed in the said post ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state on what principle the two posts mentioned in Questions Nos. 85(a) and 86(a) above were filled up ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

86. (a) & (b)—Please see the reply to Question Nos. 85 (b), (c) & (d) above.

(c)—The posts were filled up on the advice of Public Service Commission.

#### Re Mill-cloth imported into Goalpara

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total quantity of mill-cloth of the following categories imported monthly into the Goalpara Subdivision from April, 1943, up to date separately :—

(i) Mill Than cloth both coarse and fine ;

(ii) Mill Saree 10 yards coarse & fine ;

(iii) Mill Saree 9 yards to 5 yards coarse and fine ;

(iv) Mill Dhuti 10 yards coarse & fine ;

(v) Mill Dhuti 9 yards to 5 yards coarse and fine ?

(b) The quantity of mill-cloth of above varieties imported by each merchant of the Goalpara Subdivision during the aforesaid period together with their names and addresses ?

(c) The names and addresses of persons to whom the said cloths were distributed and the quantity sold to each of them ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that no mill-cloth is now available in the Goalpara town at controlled price and that a big quantity of the same is sold daily at rates higher than the controlled rates and despatched to mufassil areas ?

(e) Whether cases of allegations have been brought to the notice of Government to the effect that every shopkeeper in the Goalpara town keeps cloth in private rooms for sale in the black-market and that no cloth is available at controlled price ?



- (f) Whether Government are aware that in Chunari Hat, under Lakhipur Police Station, the Textile Sub-Inspector there helps the shopkeepers to sell mill-cloths at rates higher than the controlled rates ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to enquire and take necessary steps in the matter immediately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

87. (a), (b) & (c)—The information is not available and its collection will involve an amount of labour incommensurate with the results.
- (d), (e), (f) & (g)—Government have no such information, but are making inquiries .

**Re Assamese Students in the Murarichand College, Sylhet**

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

88. (a) Is it a fact that about 60 Assamese students are now prosecuting their studies in different classes of the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?
- (b) Is it a fact that there is no Lecturer in Assamese in the said College to teach Assamese to those students ?
- (c) If the answer to Questions (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to engage a Lecturer to teach Assamese in the said College without delay ?
- (d) If so, when ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by the Assam Students Union in its Gauhati session on the 4th February, 1945, complaining against this absence of a Lecturer in Assamese in the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?
- (g) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take on that resolution ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYI UR RAHMAN replied :

88. (a)—No. There are 15 students in the different classes of the Murarichand College, out of whom 8 are in 2nd and 4th year classes which have been dissolved in view of the impending university final examination.
- (b)—There is no separate lecturer in Assamese but a lecturer belonging to the Assam Valley teaches Assamese to these students.
- (c)—Government do not propose to appoint an independent lecturer for Assamese for the present.
- (d)—Does not arise.
- (e)—Because the present state of affairs created by war conditions is not likely to continue after the war.
- (f)—Yes.
- (g)—Government do not propose to take any action at present until the position is more stable.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, my Questions No.88 (c) and (e) were "Do Government propose to engage a Lecturer to teach Assamese in the Murarichand College, Sylhet? If not, why not?" And the reply is "Because the present state of affairs created by war conditions is not likely to continue after the war". Sir, I fail to understand what is the implication of this statement.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It was only due to the occupation of the buildings by the Military at Gauhati that some students from Gauhati went to the Murarichand College, and so there was an increase in the number of Assamese students but it is hoped that with the release of the buildings at Gauhati those students will cease to go to the Murarichand College.



Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are we to understand that before the war, there were no Assamese students in the Murarichand College?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, it was one or two but now their number is so small that it does not justify the appointment of a whole-time Lecturer.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: When can we expect the release of the Gauhati buildings?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I cannot give the time limit but we expect it soon.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Assamese students in the Murarichand College before the war?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The number was negligible.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I want to know the number of students before the war.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There was almost nil.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The Hon'ble Minister says that the number of students has increased due to the War conditions. Will Government be pleased to state what was the number of Assamese students in the Murarichand College before the War?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There were very few—almost nil.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I do not understand what the Hon'ble Minister means by the words 'very few' or 'almost nil'. Will Government be pleased to say whether there were any Assamese students or not?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There might have been one or two.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Government are not sure about the number of the students. Will Government be pleased to enquire what was the number before the War?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government do not feel it necessary to make an enquiry because the existing number of students is so small that it does not justify the appointment of a whole-time Lecturer.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Should the Assamese students suffer because their number is not considerable?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The interests of these students are not suffering because we have already a part-time Lecturer for the purpose.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know why Government cannot appoint an Assamese Lecturer in the College who may teach other subjects as well?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The present teacher is also a teacher of Economics and he is teaching Assamese in addition to his duties.

### Re Jorhat Jail Incident

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

89. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have received by now the final report of the enquiry held on the Jorhat Jail incident that took place on the night of 24th February 1943?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to supply the hon. Members of this House with a copy of the same?
- (c) Whether Government propose to issue a communique to inform the public as to what action Government took to punish the persons responsible for the said incident?



(d) Whether any member of the said Jail staff or outsiders responsible for the assaults on political prisoners on the night of the 24th February, 1943, have been punished?

(e) If so, (i) what are their names and designations and (ii) what was the nature of punishment inflicted upon each of them?

90. (a) Are Government aware that money which is at present paid by the Jail authorities to prisoners released from jail on account of diet and conveyance for their home journey is given at the pre-war rate?

(b) If so, do Government propose to raise the rate considering the present day increase in the cost of living?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

89. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Government do not consider that a communique would serve a useful purpose at this late time, but a copy of the relevant papers has been placed on the table in the library, and they will state their conclusions and the action taken for the information of the House.

(d)—The Commissioner went into the matter at Jorhat and after full consideration advised Government that there was no ground for action against any Government servant for exceeding his office. Government accepted this view. They concluded, on the other hand, that the Assistant Jailors had been *prima facie* guilty of dereliction of duty, and accordingly ordered that proceedings should be taken against them. In the result—

(i) Srijut Prafulla Chandra Barua was reprimanded and deprived of increment in pay for one year;

(ii) Srijut Gajendra Nath Ghose was severely reprimanded and deprived of increments for five years; and

(iii) Mr. Louis Addison was reprimanded, by order of the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, proceedings were also held by him in respect of Head Warden Prasanna Ram Goala, who was acquitted.

(e)—Does not arise.

90. (a) & (b)—The rates were raised with effect from the 9th January, 1945.

### Re Muktapur Ferry and Muktapur-Jaintiapur Road

Rev. L. GATPHOH asked:

91. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the present lease of Muktapur ferry will expire?

(b) Whether after the expiry of its present lease Government propose to put it up to public auction?

(c) If not, why not?

(d) Who is responsible for the repairs of the Muktapur-Jaintiapur Road up to the point where it joins the Sylhet-Dawki Road for the use of pedestrians from November-April every year, during which time, the Muktapur ferry does not function?

(e) The amount sanctioned annually for the repair of the said road?

(f) Whether pedestrians, using the said road during November-April every year pay ferry-road tolls?

(g) If so, what is the rate?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

91. (a)—31st March, 1947.

(b)—The question will be considered after the expiry of its present lease in consultation with the local officers.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Public Works Department.

(e)—Rs.175.



(f)—Yes, tolls are paid by pedestrians using the road during November to April every year.

(g)—The toll rate for pedestrians is 3 pies each without any load and 6 pies each with load or cycle.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : May I know the distance of the road and also the nature of the repairs ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I cannot give the distance of the road off-hand. If the hon. Member desires, I can give him the information later on.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Is the amount of Rs.175 sufficient for repair to the road ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : So far it has been found sufficient for the purpose.

\* Rev. L. GATPHOH : Will Government be pleased to enquire whether there is any repair done annually to the road ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I believe repairs are being made. Very well, I will enquire into that.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Can Government make arrangements that there should be no toll for the pedestrians who do not carry any load at all ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : In the past also representation for reduction of the toll was made, but after due consideration it was turned down. If the hon. Member so desires, I can look into it again.

### Projects for embankment and drainage operation

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

92. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The procedure they adopted in selecting projects for embankment and drainage operations in the Province ?

(b) The factors that are taken into consideration in selecting such projects ?

(c) The officials who make the selection ?

(d) Whether the initiative came from Government or from the Public in each of such projects in the Karimganj Subdivision ?

93. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What steps have been taken and what publicity has been made by them to create public interest in the matter of drainage and embankment projects as yet ?

(b) Whether any survey was undertaken for each district before the drainage and embankment schemes were taken up ?

(c) If so, when and by whom the survey was made for such projects in the district of Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

92. (a)—Schemes are selected on the representations received from the public, after consulting the Local Civil Officers, and leading public men who may be interested in the projects.

(b)—Factors such as, whether the scheme is feasible, practicable, productive and beneficial.

(c)—Surveys are made in accordance with projects as per reply to Question No.92 (a) above. When the schemes are prepared by the Public Works Department they are submitted to Government for approval.

(d)—From the public.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : How do Government ascertain the number of leading public men who may be interested in the projects ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : They are consulted by the local officers.



Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : How do Government spot out those leading men ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : When we receive the petitions, the petitions are sent to the local officers and the local officers find out who are interested in the projects.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Then am I to take it that the Government machinery is set in motion only by the receipt of petitions from the public ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes.  
Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government admit that there are certain less articulate areas which may suffer by default ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : But there is already a large number of petitions pending.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : From the large number of petitions, are we to admit that those areas which have not submitted petitions have no case for irrigation schemes ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No. I see the point of the hon. Member. I think there are some areas which may go unrepresented as they remain inarticulate.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Do Government maintain any officer for each area ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : This Department is in its infancy now. We have not sufficient number of officers.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government realise that these officers maintain no contact whatsoever with the representatives of the people in the Subdivisions ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No. That is not so.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government not realise the importance of publicity in these matters ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : We want publicity, but even without it we are already getting a large number of petitions.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is it a scientific method of approaching the problem ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I think, if the hon. Member comes to the next Question, he will get the answer.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

93. (a)—None.  
(b)—No.  
(c)—Does not arise.

#### Embankment and Drainage Scheme

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

94. (a) Is it a fact that no scientific and planned approach has yet been made to the problem of embankment and drainage in Assam ?

(b) Do Government propose to form advisory boards consisting of representatives from the Public and Executive and Technical personnel for the selection and execution of drainage and embankment schemes for each subdivision ?

(c) Do Government propose to co-ordinate the activities of the Agriculture and Public Works Departments in this matter of irrigation and embankment ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

94. (a)—No.  
(b)—Not immediately.



(c)—The activities of the two departments in regard to Embankment and Drainage are co-ordinated, the Agriculture Department taking up small schemes as a war time measure, while the Public Works Department are responsible for schemes of a permanent character. Mutual consultations are held whenever necessary. A joint meeting of the Director of Agriculture, Chief Engineer, Assam, Secretary, Revenue Department, Assam and Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage Division was held on 25th April, 1944, for the purpose.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Agriculture also recommended the formation of Advisory Committees for the purpose of carrying out irrigation and embankment schemes ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, that is so.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Am I to take it that a scientific and planned approach has been made to solve the problem of embankment and drainage in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : The answer to Question No.94(b) is 'Not immediately'. May I know the reason why this cannot be done immediately ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Because this Department, as I said, is in its infancy. It is gradually expanding. The question of the formation of committees for the purpose will be considered as the Department grows.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What is the harm in getting committees for each Subdivision so that they can devise schemes ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The hon. Member has already tabled a Cut Motion on that subject and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

#### Re Assam Surveys Staff

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

95. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether the scale of pay of officers of all sections of the Assam Surveys was ever revised ? If so, when ?
  - If not, when it is proposed to be revised ?
  - Whether it is a fact that many officers in the Assam Surveys are not getting any increment in their pay for many years past ?
  - Whether it is a fact that many senior posts in the said Department have now been kept in abeyance ?
  - If so, who is responsible for this ?
96. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- How many Supervisors are there in the Assam Surveys now ?
  - Whether these Supervisors are appointed direct or by promotion ?
  - Whether it is a fact that the post of a Supervisor has been lying vacant in the Assam Surveys for a long time ?
  - Whether it is a fact that the said post of Supervisor was advertised in the *Assam Gazette* long ago ?
  - For how long this post is proposed to be kept vacant ?
  - Whether it is a fact that the post of the senior most Traverser in the Assam Surveys has also been kept unfilled for a pretty long time ?
97. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- The scale of pay of Traversers in the Assam Surveys ?
  - Whether any leave is admissible to the Traversers ?
  - If so, for how many months in a year ?
  - What leave salary the said Traversers get during leave at present ?
  - Whether half pay was given to the Traversers in the Assam Surveys during leave in the past ?



98. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether officers of Assam Surveys are deputed on Military duties ?
- (b) What deputation allowance is given to the officers of Assam Surveys who are lent to the Military ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that such officers are getting Military allowances only ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the service of the Deputy Director of Assam Surveys was lately lent to the Military ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that he, after taking charge of his post on reversion in the Assam Surveys, took leave ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

95. (a)—Yes, these were revised in 1932.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Some officers have reached the maximum of their scale of pay and consequently no increments are due.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it a fact that some of the officers of the Survey Department who were deputed to the Military Department, have been denied the usual increments of their pay in their original department for the period for which they were under the Military Department ?

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : To that Question I cannot reply off-hand.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

96. (a)—One.

(b)—The post of supervisor may be filled either directly or by promotion.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes ; but has since been filled up.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Since 11th May, 1943.

97. (a)—The scales of pay are as follows :—

1 Traverser at Rs.90—6/2—120 (Old) at Rs.80—6/2—110 (New).

4 Traversers at Rs.60—5/2—90 (Old) each at Rs.50—5/2—80 (New)

each.

4 Traversers at Rs.40—4/2—60 each.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The leave of traversers is governed by the Fundamental and Subsidiary Rules,—F. R. 81 and S. R. 136.

(d)—The leave salary is also governed by the Fundamental and Subsidiary Rules,—F. R.81 and S. R. 136.

(e)—The provisions of S. R. 136 have been followed.

98. (a)—The services of some officers of the Assam Survey Department have been temporarily lent to the Defence Department.

(b)—They are not on deputation.

(c)—The officers get 50 per cent. over their civil grade pay.

(d)—No, his services were lent to the Civil Porter Corps under the Government of India.

(e)—Yes.

#### Fixation of minimum price for paddy and rice in Surma Valley

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

99. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why no minimum price has yet been fixed for paddy and rice in the Surma Valley in terms of the Motion passed in the last November Session of the Assembly ?

\*Speech not corrected.



(b) Do Government propose to fix up the minimum price for the same and arrange for the purchase of surplus paddy in the Surma Valley ?

(c) Are Government aware that no purchase of rice and paddy was made by Government Agents last year in the Barlekha area of the Karimganj Sub-division ?

(d) Are Government aware that there are no facilities for river transport of paddy and rice from that area ?

(e) Do Government propose to start purchase operations of the same there immediately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

99. (a)—Subsequent price movements made it unnecessary to fix minimum prices which will require the approval of the Government of India.

(b)—Government do not propose to fix minimum prices at present. Purchase operation through trade is going on and direct purchase from cultivators will be undertaken as soon as preliminary arrangements are complete.

(c)—Government have no such information.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Government will consider it.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : Is it a fact that in the last Session of this Assembly a Motion was unanimously passed to fix up the bottom price ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : With regard to this Question there was sufficient discussion in this House on a previous occasion, this Session.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : May I know the approximate time when direct purchase will begin ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : According to my reports, the procurement has already been started.

**Re Comrade Nilmony Barthakur, a Communist Worker of Dibrugarh**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

100. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether comrade Nilmony Barthakur, a communist worker of Dibrugarh and an ex-nee from five districts of Assam has recently applied to Government for allowing him to go to Dibrugarh for treatment ?

(b) If so, why no reply has yet been sent to his application ?

(c) Whether Government propose to make arrangement for his residence and treatment outside the restricted districts if he is not allowed to go to Dibrugarh ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

100. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government have not been approached in the matter.

\*Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Is it a fact that comrade Nilmony Barthakur handed over a petition personally to the Hon'ble Premier just after the last Budget Session ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, the comrade in question saw me many times and I granted him permission to go to Dibrugarh to see his sick mother.

**Re Babu Jajneswar Das of Karimganj**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

101. (a) Is it a fact that the movement of Babu Jajneswar Das of Karimganj has now been restricted ?

\*Speech not corrected.



(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether he represented to Government for granting him allowance ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to grant him a suitable allowance ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

101. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that Babu Jajneswar Das got an appointment in certain bank, but he had to refuse it on account of the restrictions placed upon him by the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MAHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is it a fact that he submitted a petition to the Hon'ble Premier ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He submitted a petition but his statement was not backed by any appointment letter from the Bank.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I know why no allowance has been granted to him ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Because it was not found necessary.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government please consider his case if he submits a fresh petition backed by a copy of his appointment letter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will consider his case on merits.

### Re Public Works Department Contract Works

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

102. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The number of tenders for contract work called for by the Public Works Department throughout the Province from April 1942 to March 1944 (figures to be shown district by district) ?

(b) The number, nature and amount of the work allotted to (i) Caste Hindus, (ii) Schedule Castes, (iii) Tribals, (iv) Muslims-(1) Indigenous Muslims, (2) Immigrant Muslims with their names and addresses and (v) Others ?

103. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The share of Public Works Department contract works the Muslims are entitled to in the Assam Valley in proportion to their population ?

(b) What share of such works the Muslims have got in the Assam Valley up till now ?

(c) What share of such works has been granted to the immigrant Muslims up till now ?

(d) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) The names and addresses of such immigrant Muslims contractors,

(ii) Nature of contract given to each,

(iii) Value of each contract,

(iv) Their legitimate share of such contract works on population basis ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

102. (a)—The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied in due course.

(b)—The labour and time required to collect the information would be out of all proportion to the importance of the matter in question.

103. (a), (b), (c) and (d)—The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied in due course.



\* Maulavi MABARAK ALI: With regard to Question No.103(a), the Answer is "the information asked for is being collected and will be supplied in due course". May I know from the Hon'ble Minister when that "due course" will be due?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As soon as the information is received, it will be sent to the hon. Questioner.

\* Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Will this Question be answered again?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: No, the information will be forwarded to the hon. Member.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government follow the principle of communal ratio in giving contracts to each community, other things being equal?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble Premier, the other day, stated the position clearly; communal ratio is observed as far as possible.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: With regard to Question No.102(b), the Answer is "the labour and time required to collect the information would be out of all proportion to the importance of the matter in question". May I know who decides the question of importance of a particular matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The Department.

#### Discussion on replies to question under Rule 40

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Sir, I want to draw your attention to Starred Questions Nos.115 and 116 put by my hon. Friend Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. The matter involved in these Questions is very important and of absorbing interest. You, Sir, must have noticed the interest evinced by several Members of the House; but the replies of the Hon'ble Minister have not been satisfactory. In view of the urgency of the matter, may we request you to grant us half an hour's time for discussion of this subject under Rule 40? There is of course a Cut Motion standing in the name of my leader Mr. Bardoloi, but there is no ghost of a chance of the Motion coming up for discussion. If that Motion however comes up for discussion I will not press for discussion of the Questions but if that Motion does not come up, then I would request you, Sir, to grant us an opportunity to discuss this matter, either to-day or some other day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Rule is that discussion should take place on the same day; but to-day being a day allotted for voting on Demands, I am afraid, such time may not be available. But I can assure the hon. Member that this matter would come up for discussion as there are two Cut Motions on the subject, one under "General Administration" and the other under "Land Revenue".

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: If it does not come up, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall see then.

#### Adjournment Motion *re* giving of Settlement of Bhurbandha, Barghuli and Laokhowa Reserves in Nowgong and on scarcity of milk in Tezpur and Silghat areas

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, I shall now take up the consideration of the remaining Adjournment Motions.

The first one stands in the name of Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. Having regard to the fact that this matter may come up for discussion in connection with the discussion of Cut Motions, the Motion will be out of order in that it anticipates a discussion which is likely to come up under the Cut Motions tabled. Does the hon. Member like to move for leave?

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: Yes, Sir.

Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, and of recent occurrence, *viz.*, the panic and unbearable hardship caused to one thousand



families of Nepali graziers and indigenouse people in Bhurbandha, Laokhowa, Garaimari, Gakhirkhowa, Naltali, Kurhimari, Karaitangani, Dalapani and Hatibandha resulting in desertion of their hearths and homes on account of the settlement of Bhurbandha, Barghuli Professional Grazing Reserves and Laokhowa Game Reserve in Nowgong, and also scarcity of milk in Tezpur Town and Silghat areas.

সভাপতি ডাঙ্গৰীয়া, ভুবনদ্ধা আৰু বৰঘূলি এই দুটা প্ৰফেশ্যনাল থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড আছিল আৰু লাওখোৱা গেম বিজাৰ্ড আছিল। এতিয়া গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে উক্ত ভুবনদ্ধা আৰু বৰঘূলি বিজাৰ্ড খুলি দিছে— এই দুটা থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ডত ১৩৫ খন খুটি আছিল। ইয়াৰ মাটিৰ কালি ১১,০০০ এৰাৰ হেজাৰ বিঘা। লাওখোৱা গেম বিজাৰ্ডৰ পশ্চিম অংশৰ ২৫,০০০ পচিশ হেজাৰ বিঘা মাটি চেটেলেমেণ্টৰ নিমিত্তে খুলি দিছে।

ইয়াৰ public importance এই যে এই বিজাৰ্ড বিলাক খুলি দিয়াত তেজপুৰ আৰু শিলঘাট অঞ্চলৰ গাখীৰ যোগান বন্ধ হব লগিয়া হৈছে আৰু গৰু মহবিলাক চৰিবলৈ একেবাবে ঠাই নাইকীয়া হৈছে। এই জন্তুবিলাকে চৰিবলৈ ঠাই নোহোৱাত ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্ডত সোমোৱাত ফৰেষ্টে জৰিমনা কৰিছে। লাঙীয়া আৰু বাটুলি বিলাক খুটিৰ গৰু মহে তাত যথেষ্ট ঘাই নোহোৱাত লাওখোৱা গেম বিজাৰ্ডত ছ'মাহ চৰিছিল আৰু ইয়াৰ বাবে ফৰেষ্টে ৪১১০ টকা হিচাবে ছ'মাহৰ ঘাই-কৰ লৈছিল। এতিয়া এই চেটেলেমেণ্টৰ বাবে গৰু মহৰ পানী খাবলৈ ঠাই নাইকীয়া হৈছে আৰু ফৰেষ্টেও ঘাই কটা বাবদ জৰিমনা কৰিছে—সেই জৰিমনাৰ বসিদবিলাক এইয়া মোৰ হাতত আছে। Recent Origin স্বত্বক্ৰমে মই কওঁ যে নভেম্বৰ চেশ্বনৰ পাচত এই প্ৰথম সুযোগ পোৱা হৈছে আৰু চেটেলেমেণ্ট এতিয়া চলিয়েই আছে।

আৰু বিশেষ আৱশ্যকীয় কথা এই যে জুবীয়া, লাওখোৱা, চিং আদি মৌজাৰ খুটি বিলাকে ক্ৰমে চেটেলেমেণ্টৰ বাবে এই কেইটা বিজাৰ্ডত ঠাই লৈছিল গৈ, এই খুটি বিলাকৰ পৰাই নগাঁৱৰ পূৰ্ব অঞ্চল আৰু তেজপুৰত গাখীৰ যোগোৱাৰ বাহিৰেও হালৰ গৰু, খাই আৰু ইকৰা খাগৰী যোগাইছিল। এতিয়া তাৰো মূৰ মৰিব। এইবিলাক একেবাবে সঠিক কথা।

(Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese while moving the Adjournment Motion and said that by the opening out of the Bhurbandha and Borghuli Grazing Reserves the graziers have been deprived of grazing fields for their cattle and as a result there had been scarcity of milk at Tezpur and Nowgong.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that the Motion is not in order. It is not a matter of recent occurrence, nor is it of such public importance as to satisfy the elements indispensable in an Adjournment Motion. Sir, the very areas referred to by the hon. Member were visited by me during the last week of January last. There were with me leading people including Mr. Dhirsingh Deuri, M. L. A., but not a single person raised any voice against the arrangements made. I also visited Bhurbandha and Laokhowa areas and I heard none of the grievances raised by the hon. Member. Not that alone, Sir. I will refer to paragraph 18(c) of the recommendations of the All-Parties Conference that was held at Shillong on the 16th December last, which states that so far as already dereserved settlement of the landless people are concerned, for example Odoloni, Bhurbandha, Cacharibari, in the Nowgong district, the settlement on the three Reserves named above will be allowed and in the remaining portions of Laokhowa Forest Reserve the portions that have been dereserved were not objected to and that dereservation stood at the rate of fee they used to pay in the areas since dereserved. I think, Sir, the hon. Member has got one point out of a hundred to stand upon.

\* Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: On a point of information, Sir. May I enquire whether the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has received copies of resolutions passed by the Tezpur Graziers' Association and by the Tezpur town public? I mean the resolution protesting against encroachments.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I may have received. But the decision of the All Parties Conference represented by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and by the leaders of the various sections of the House there, which I have referred to and this arrangement has been accepted *in toto* by those representatives. Whether the hon. Member has any right thereafter to move an Adjournment Motion it is for you to decide, Sir.



Srijut GOPINATH BORDOLOI: Reference has been made to my agreeing to the resolution. I want to make it clear to you, Sir, that as regards these three Reserves, Bhorbandha, Borghuli and Kurhimari which were settled, the actual facts were not known to me at that time. As soon as information was given to me that the settlement of these Reserves would be ruinous to the people, particularly when Laokhowa Reserve was not proposed to be kept as a full fledged Grazing Reserve, I raised serious protest both to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and to the Hon'ble Premier.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The hon'ble Leader of the Opposition sent a letter of protest to me saying that he would not agree to what he had actually agreed to. He said in that letter that he did not agree to the half of the Laokhowa Reserve being dereserved. I have read out the decision of the All Parties Conference, which makes clear beyond any shadow of doubt, that half of Laokhowa Reserve be dereserved.

Srijut GOPINATH BORDOLOI: I may say that it is the decision of the Government and not of the Conference.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: অনাৰেৱল মন্ত্ৰী মহাশয়ে কৈছে যে তেখেত লাওখোৱাৰ বাওঁতে কোনো মানুহে একো আপত্তি কৰা নাছিল। তাৰ উত্তৰত মই কওঁ যে লাওখোৱা এখন জংঘলী ঠাই। তেখেত যাব নে নেয়াৰ তাৰ কোনো নোটিশ দিয়া নাছিল। বিশেষ কথা তেখেতে এই বিলাক আপত্তি avoid অৰ্থাত শুনিবলৈ নিবিচাৰে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কওঁ তেখেতে মঙ্গলদৈলৈ যাওঁতে ইমিগ্ৰেণ্টৰ ৭ জন সূজাতি representativeৰ লগত দেখা কৰিছিল কিন্তু গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলৰ ২ জন উকিলৰ লগত তেখেতে দেখা কৰিবলৈ সময় নিদিলে। গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলে তেজপুৰৰ দৰখাস্ত টেলিগ্ৰাম কৰি গভৰ্ণমেন্টলৈ দিছে আৰু তাৰ কপি মোৰ হাতত আছে। আপোনাৰ অনুমতি হলে মই পঢ়ি শুনাৰ পাৰোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Having heard the hon. Member who has asked for leave to move the Adjournment Motion and the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge I hold that the Motion is not in order. The Motion seeks to raise a discussion about a matter which is intimately connected with the policy adopted by Government very recently and that policy is likely to come up for discussion in connection with Cuf Motions to be moved today. So the adjournment-Motion anticipates a discussion which is likely to come up. So the Motion is not in order and I do not give my consent to it.

Then does Srijut Sarveswar Barua want to ask for leave to move his Motion ?

### **Adjournment Motion re: Sudden stoppage of the North Likhimpur-Kamalabari and North-Lakhimpur-Badatighat Bus Services**

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the sudden stoppage of the North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari and North Lakhimpur-Badatighat Bus services on account of petrol restriction.

Sir, it is known to, I think, many of the hon. Members of this House how unfortunately situated my subdivision is in respect of communications. That shows the importance of this Motion. That the subject is of urgent public importance can hardly be disputed by anyone. This subdivision is not served by any railway or steamer service. The only means of communication is motor bus services. If one of these, specially the North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari Service, be stopped suddenly, which is the most used route of communication during winter, the consequent hardship and inconvenience to the travelling public can be better imagined than described.

The North Lakhimpur-Bus Syndicate had been running buses on this and the North Lakhimpur-Badati route regularly till January, 1945, but as most of the old buses have been replaced by new Lease-Lend buses which consume more petrol than the former they can no longer run the Services with the former ration of petrol.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is really arguing the Motion. He is to show how it is important and urgent.



Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: I am showing it, Sir. The buses that were running before required less petrol than that of the Lease-Lend buses which have been given now in their place and mostly at the instance of the Government. When the quantity of petrol is inadequate to run all the services, they have been compelled to curtail their services. As a matter of fact, they had to curtail these two services with effect from 21st and 22nd February last. The North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari-Service is the most useful Service that has been stopped. Untold sufferings have been caused to passengers at both ends of the Service.....

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

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: As it is of recent occurrence, I think the Motion is in order.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, will there be time? It is already 12 O'clock.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I will allow five minutes for this before taking up the Demand.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether my Friend has really any point to censure Government. The petrol rationing came not from the Provincial Government but from the Central Government. We were asked to reduce the consumption of petrol as far as possible and therefore a number of buses were curtailed on different routes and the same applied to North Lakhimpur also. I am perfectly cognisant of the fact that the only outlet from North Lakhimpur is by steamer and bus traffic on the route mentioned by my Friend from North Lakhimpur to Tezpur. But if my Friend without censuring me had come to me, I would have at once written to the Area Rationing Authority, Dibrugarh and would try my best to help him. Even now if he withdraws, I will try my best to help him in the matter.

†Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, I do not like to press my Motion.

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

**Discussion on Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury's Starred Questions Nos. 115—117, re: Land Settlement Policy of Government.**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: With regard to the request of Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh for allowing a discussion on the answers given to Starred Questions Nos. 115-117 by Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, I am going to allow such a discussion and that discussion will be held after the conclusion of the day's business to-day. But if the subject matter of that discussion will come up in connection with any Cut Motion, that discussion will not be held.

**• Announcement of the result of election of Members to the Bengal and Assam Railway Local Advisory Committees.**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may now announce the result of election to the Bengal and Assam Railway Local Advisory Committees. The following hon. Members have been elected:—

- (1) For A. B. Zone—Maulavi Mabarak Ali,
- (2) For E. B. Zone—Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No. 10

25.—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,35,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion move.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.29,35,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration?'"

There are as many as 64 Cut Motions tabled to this Demand. I have analysed these Cut Motions and find that 38 Cut Motions have been tabled by the Members belonging to the Ministerialist Party, 21 by Members belonging to the Congress Party, 3 by Srijut Surendranath Buragohain, one by Mr. Blennerhassett and one by Mr. Mookerjee. Now, if I proceed in the order in which the Cut Motions have been arranged, I am afraid that all the parties of the House who have tabled Cut Motions will not be able to move any of the Motions. Therefore, I will request the parties to which the hon'ble Members who have tabled Cut Motions belong, to decide which of the Motions would be moved by which of the parties.

(After a pause) Have they arrived at any decision to this ?

† Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Sir, we have received the list of Cut Motions this morning here on the table, that is in office and we did not get them as we had used to get them one or two days before the date fixed for discussion. Therefore, we are handicapped.

† Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : There are such Cut Motions, Sir, you will find in the list that even one Cut Motion may serve the purpose of all the hon. Members. If there be any such omnibus Cut Motion that may be taken up.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It may not be so very regular because there are some particular grievances which a particular hon. Member wants to take up.

† Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, as regards myself, I will confine myself to Cut Motions Nos. 6 and 21.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is there any other hon. Member who has made a similar election as to which Motions he would like to move ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If my Friend moves No.21, which relates to the subject about corruption, many of the other Cut Motions, such as Nos. 11, 15, 24, 29, 30 and 45 which relate to the same subject can be discussed together.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER . What I am thinking is this that the Ministerialist Party may move two Cut Motions whichever they like and the Congress party two Motions and the other Members may move two Motions.

† Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, will there be time for six Motions ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am ready to extend the hours of sitting upto 5 P.M. Having regard to the number of Cut Motions and having regard to the importance of the Demand, I think, I shall be justified in extending the time up to 5 P. M. so that we shall have two hours for this and two hours for the next Demand.

† Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, I think, both the Demands can be finished within three hours.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : If they be finished, I won't compel the Members to seat up to 5 P. M.

Very well, let us begin with Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. He may move Cut Motion No.6, if he likes.

† Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : May I know, Sir, what is the significance of a Cut Motion from the Ministerialist Party ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is the hon. Members who have tabled the cut Motions to explain the significance of Cut Motions. Cut Motions seeking to censure Government from the Members of the Ministerialist Party are really very anomalous.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, the answer to the question raised by Mr. Chaudhuri is to be found in the object stated below the Motion.



The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will please wait. I fix ten minutes for the Mover of a Cut Motion, ten minutes for the Government to reply and five minutes for a speech from a Member on the Cut Motion. Of course this may be relaxed if I find it necessary having regard to the importance of the subject under discussion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, I was going to say that hon. Mr. Chaudhuri will find his reply in the note that has been attached to the Motion itself.

Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.6,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head-1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion on the failure of Government to implement the unanimous verdict of the Assam Legislative Assembly, thereby undermining the verdict of the Assembly. Sir, the Cut Motion under discussion raises a very grave constitutional issue. The question is whether the Government can disregard and ignore the verdict of the House. As a matter of fact, the Council of Ministers derive all their power from the Legislature which is composed of the elected representatives of the people. They remain in office at the pleasure of the Legislature. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, any constitutional Government is expected to abide by the decisions of the House. They shall have to mould their policy according to the wishes of the House and must be guided by its verdict. This was made abundantly clear during the deliberations of the Joint Select Committee. It is here that the difference between an autocratic and a responsible Government lies. A popular Government worth the name must respect the wishes of the people.

The Motions or Resolutions that are passed by the Assembly are no mere commendation as was the case in previous days. But under the Provincial Autonomy, the Motions and Resolutions express the opinion of the Assembly which must be respected by the Ministry. Unless this is done no good Government can function in a country.

But what do we find in the Government of Assam? The Hon'ble Ministers consider themselves immune from this general rule. They disregard the unanimous verdict of the House with equanimity even in most vital matters. I submit, Sir, this is a most deplorable state of affairs and the Hon'ble Ministers by their conduct have undermined the prestige of the House. It is high time that the hon. Members as well as the Hon'ble Ministers should combine to retrieve this lost prestige.

To illustrate my view-point I will not go far into old history but confine myself to the proceedings of the last session of the Assembly.

During the last session of the Assembly, on a Motion sponsored by me, after long deliberations certain decisions were arrived at. That related to a very grave matter over which the whole countryside was agitated. The decisions were unanimous and had the concurrence of the Government. But what do we find after this long period! We are where we were three months ago and I doubt very much if Government have the intention of implementing those decisions. Sir, I may be excused, if I go into details in the matter. Very grave allegations were made against the Government agencies for procurement of paddy and rice in the Surma Valley. After two days' debate some decisions were arrived at and I will show how practically nothing has been done to translate those decisions into action.

The first point was for the cancellation of the licenses of the Syndicates. The Hon'ble Prime Minister explained the difficulties of an immediate cancellation and as the agreement was automatically going to lapse after five weeks, he asked the hon. Members not to compel him to change the crew of the boat in mid-stream. In



spite of his request the House adopted the Motion for immediate cancellation. But evidently this could not compel the Government. The agencies were allowed to run their normal life. The wishes of Government triumphed over the verdict of the House.

The second Motion was for appointing an Enquiry Committee to investigate into the alleged malpractices of the agents. The Hon'ble Prime Minister said that he was prepared to concede to public opinion and it was at his instance that an official Committee was agreed upon. Of course certain names were suggested by some hon. Members in that Committee. But the hands of Government were not tied down to them by the wording of the Motion. Why could not Government consult these three gentlemen who were residing in Shillong, within a period of two months? If they disagreed to serve, why could not they be substituted by two other honest officers who could carry out the job to the satisfaction of the people and Government? It is no compliment to our public services that two efficient officers could not be found out for the enquiry.

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I will finish in three minutes' time, Sir.

The Committee that has been gazetted just before the present session began will hardly inspire anybody with confidence. What was the necessity of reverting to a combination of official and non-officials? Could not two capable officers be found out from the departments? Much valuable time has already been lost. A very long rope has been allowed to the agents. They had too much time to set their house in order. But there is time yet to respect the unanimous verdict of the House.

The third Motion was for making an immediate arrangement for the purchase of the entire stock of Boro paddy and for advancing 40 per cent. price to the cultivators. The original Motion was for 50 per cent. It was changed to 40 per cent. at the request of the Government. I regret, Sir, that neither of the two decisions were given effect to. The Boro stocks are still rotting in the granaries of the cultivators. No orders for the payment of advance reached the Subdivisional Offices before we had left for Shillong.

This was an urgent necessity. After returning from Shillong we told the people how Government were coming to their rescue. But Government made liars of us all. The responsibility for the short Boro crop this year will lie entirely with Government.

The last decision of the House was to fix a bottom price. But Government seem to have monopolised all wisdom. In the absence of a statutory minimum, the poor cultivators were swindled by the agents. They are being swindled, we hear, by the license-holders under the present arrangement. Still Government will not agree to implement the unanimous verdict of the House.

I think I need not refer to the Resolution that was unanimously passed on the increment in the pay of the Primary School teachers. It appears that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge does not even realise his responsibility to furnish an explanation to the House why Government could not even partially give effect to it.

I submit, Sir, that this is a serious matter and Government by their conduct have undermined the dignity of the House. I would again appeal to Government to respect the decisions of the House.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 6,000 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total),



at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all thankful to our hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, for the Motion he has tabled. It is very deplorable, Sir, that Government flouted the unanimous verdict of the House in various matters. In fact, Sir, when the Hon'ble Minister of Education was telling the House that after Government Resolution on the Primary School Teachers was published, Members should not have criticised Government in the way they had done, I was thinking whether this fact at all occurred to him that he was flouting the unanimous verdict of the members of his party also by not allowing a minimum pay of at least Rs. 30 to the teachers even though the hon. Members demanded Rs. 40 as the minimum pay for the Primary School Teachers. And who was responsible for all this conduct of Government? I submit, Sir, with due respect to my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, that the indulgence of the hon. Members sitting behind the Government is primarily responsible for this state of affairs (*hear, hear*). Hon. Members sitting behind the Government are tabling Cut Motions and Censure Motions, but at the time of voting they sit idle—they won't go to vote for their own Motions even—and this is why Government feel encouraged to flout the opinions of this hon'ble House and I should say those hon. Friends of ours are primarily responsible for this conduct of Government.

The other day Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury tabled his Cut Motion on Primary School Teachers' pay and he did not go to vote for his own Motion, and that is why Government feel encouraged to do as they like, for they know where we exist in this House.

We, the Members of the Opposition, know, Sir, that if we cannot carry a Motion Government have every right to flout our opinion, because they carry the House by the strength of their majority; but when the hon. Members sitting behind the Government Benches do think it proper to side with the Opposition Benches it is also their duty to see that Government is compelled to take action on matters according to the opinion of the House.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion before the House.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, seven verdicts given during the November Session of the Assembly have been deliberately neglected by Government. Four amendments to the Motion moved by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury on rice procurement, two amendments to the Motion regarding consumer goods moved by the Hon'ble Premier and the other Motion about the Primary School Teachers have not yet been given effect to. The Enquiry Committee to enquire about the allegations brought against the purchasing agencies has not been appointed and if appointed, their work has not begun. Hon'ble Premier says he does not find officers. Every officer he nominates refuses to carry out his orders. His admirers idolise him as a *Badsha* to ignorant village people some of whom have been made to believe him to be such a Royal personage. One old Kishan told me when the Hon'ble Premier went to Derai that he had come to see the *Badsha*. The House is now to decide whether this Kishan's idea about an emperor would be the same when he will come to know that *omrahs* of the *Badsha* disobey the Royal mandates.

Now we have come to know from the Hon'ble Premier that a committee has just started its enquiry. But we are quite ignorant as to where the committee will go, when and how they would go for the enquiry. I wrote to the Secretary of that Committee just after the personnel of the committee were gazetted, to let us know when they were starting, and I gave certain suggestions about what centres were to be visited by them. But unfortunately I have got no reply.

Now about the advance of 40 per cent. of purchase money to the cultivators, Government have not made any arrangement; Government have done nothing about the direct purchase also. They have done nothing regarding procurement so far as Sunamganj Buro areas are concerned. It was urged the other day that this is



not an urgent matter. It is utterly wrong to think that the cultivators' Buro paddy has been satisfactorily disposed of. It is true that some paddy has been disposed of, but the cultivators have been cheated in the same way as they were cheated by the Syndicate. They have sold Buro paddy to black marketeers at very low prices. But the black marketeers or profiteers have sold the paddy to Bengal hoarders at Gaglajur at the rate of Rs.8 to 10. So-called vigilant eyes of *Jabardust* Rajabali Saheb could not detect these secret traders who now send lakhs of maunds of paddy to Bengal hoarders. Thus by not making direct purchase and not paying 40 per cent. advance, Government put the cultivators to heavy loss; but in spite of this, lakhs of maunds of Buro paddy are rotting in cultivators' *Golas*. Many of the cultivators under the police station of Tahirpur are at a fix as to what to do about clearing their *Golas* as the next harvest has come. I shall cite an instance of two villages. In villages Rasulpur and Siksa 10 thousand maunds of paddy have been rotting in cultivators' *Golas*. Still the Hon'ble Premier said that it was not an urgent matter. The minimum prices of paddy and rice have not yet been fixed. It was also the verdict of the House to fix the minimum prices. That the consumer goods should be distributed through the people's committees was also the decision of the House. This has also been ignored, rather I should say, torpedoed. The most callous and insincere attitude of Government has been exhibited. The Primary school teachers' case was discussed the other day the decision of the whole House was flouted. The Education Minister's curt reply was simply deplorable. The most surprising affair was that well-principled Mr. Whittaker and his party voted against their own decision arrived at the last Session of the Assembly. I appeal to Mr. Whittaker and his Group and other Members of the House to support the Motion.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion that has been moved by my Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. The Motion that doubt raises a big constitutional issue. Are the Ministry entitled to disregard the verdict of this hon'ble House? Are they not responsible to the Members? I am sorry to mark that the Hon'ble Ministers have not been able to adjust themselves to the spirit of the Government of India Act, 1935. They have proved by their action that Provincial Autonomy is a mere name only. To all intents and purposes they are determined to run an irresponsible Government completely disregarding the wishes of the House.

Speaking on the Motion, I am reminded how a few years back a Resolution was passed for establishing a Medical School at Sylhet. But Government shelved this question on some fictitious grounds. This is not the solitary instance. This is not an isolated instance. From old records, I can show how Government flouted the verdict of the House on more than one occasion.

I make a special grievance of the conduct of Government as regards the decisions of the Assembly in connection with the Foodgrains Syndicate in the Surma Valley. By an amendment, I wanted an enquiry to be made into the alleged misdeeds of the Government agencies by a committee composed of officials and non-officials. It was the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Assam who insisted for an official committee. I yielded to his request. But what has become of the result? The Government sat tight over the unanimous verdict of the House and were made the laughing stock of the world. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had a practical joke at our cost. I have seen announcement in the *Assam Gazette* of the appointment of the Committee just when we were starting for Shillong. I am afraid there is no genuine intention behind it. Otherwise, the personnel would have been different. It is nothing but a dodge for the hon. Members who would be clamouring for enquiry during the Session. What weighty reasons lay behind for which the Hon'ble Premier again changed his mind in favour of a predominantly non-official committee? Could not two officers be found out from the various departments of Government? Why could not Government be fix upon their minds upon officers like Mr. Hindley, Mr. Ispahani, Mr. Stork? The answer is that they do not want a genuine enquiry.



Very serious and grave charges were made against the Syndicate. Why did not Government seize the papers of the company to ensure an impartial enquiry? On the other hand we hear that some officers of the Supply Department who are suspected to be on the pay roll of the Syndicates rushed to Sylhet to help them to prepare their accounts.

As regards the other amendments, none of them was implemented by Government. This is the way in which we are running our administration. What can be more deplorable than this!

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, when I asked you to-day the significance of a Cut Motion from one of the Members of the Ministerial party I did not put an idle question. Really, Sir, it is high time that we should warn ourselves of the dangerous character of the moves of my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Sir, he brings very important Motions in this House and thereby he tries to make himself popular not only inside this House but also outside the House. He makes very bold speeches, bold in the sense that it goes against the Leader of his Party and in order to ingratiate himself in favour of the daily increasing number of the Congress Party but in the end what does he do? He remains attached to his Leader and his party. At times he either asks leave for withdrawal of his Motion or he votes against his own conscience. So, Sir, I say we should warn ourselves against the way in which my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury moves. Now he has made very serious accusation against the Government and so far as I can judge from the facts which have been supplied on the floor of the House there is great substance in his complaints. But will he prove worthy of what he has said by taking the logical end of his Motion? I doubt very much and therefore I need not detain the House by making one more empty speech on the same Motion.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we find that Government view is whatever might be the decision of this hon'ble House they would at a leisure hour sit in judgment over that decision and find out whether any part of that Resolution can be carried into effect by them or not. Sir, I will be brief and say, that is a very dangerous precedent that we are encouraging in this House. If the Ministry does not give effect to the Resolutions that are passed in the House, it is creating an unhealthy and dangerous convention for the country. This is why I appeal to all sections of the House to combine to see that Government carry their Resolutions to their logical conclusion. If the Ministry fail to implement the decision of the House they should be asked to resign. This is a plain question before the House.

Then as regards that Resolution about the Enquiry Committee on the Surma Valley Food Grains Syndicate, we recommended 3 names for its membership. At the instance of the Hon'ble Premier, the Advocate General, Member, Revenue Tribunal and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission were nominated by us. They were not nominated by name but by their official designation. So if Sir Keith Cantlie was not available, his successor at office, *i.e.*, the Member of the Revenue Tribunal should have been inserted. Certainly that office was not left vacant when Sir Keith Cantlie went on leave and I am sure the Chairman of the Public Service Commission would not have said 'no' if Government insisted upon his services being lent for this purpose. This is why we are led to believe that the Government reply was evasive and unsatisfactory. This is why I again appeal to the House and say that it is up to them to see whether they should allow these unhealthy conventions to develop in this House or they should help the growth of healthy conventions.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised at the speeches that have been delivered on the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury. If they wanted to criticise the Ministry they should have fixed upon some other matter than the one on which the discussion has centred to-day. Nobody is more anxious than myself and my Colleagues, who are now sitting on the Treasury Benches with the support of the majority Members of the House, to implement the wishes of the House. It is therefore curious to hear that we indulged in the practice of flouting the opinions of this House. Whenever it has been possible for the Ministry, they have implemented all



the recommendations that have been made by the House by means of their Resolutions and Motions. My hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, started by saying that he won't refer to the Motions of previous years, but that he would confine himself, he said, to his own Motion about the misdeeds of the Eastern Bengal Commercial Syndicate as regards procurement of paddy and rice that he moved in the November Session. He stated, Sir, that out of the 4 recommendations that were adopted by the House, Government have sat tight and not done a single thing to implement what they promised.

Sir, some hon. Members have admitted that both the advancement to cultivators at 40 per cent. of the market value of the saleable paddy and also the necessity of an enquiry were suggested by myself. If so, could I be so callous as not to carry out my own suggestion or my own conviction? The first recommendation and therefore the first objection of Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury was that although the House recommended that the two Syndicates for procurement of rice and paddy operations in the Surma Valley should not be allowed to continue till the normal date of the agreement, *i. e.*, 31st December 1944, and that their agreement should be cancelled forthwith, *i. e.*, immediately after the amendment to my Motion was carried by the House, Government gave them time till their normal period. I will explain why I could not change the period of their contracts. As pointed out, there were a number of previous commitments to deliver to important consumers which would be jeopardised if we changed the contracts when only 5 weeks remained to elapse out of the original agreement. The fulfilment of these contracts was not only a moral obligation but it was the best way to help the cultivators of the Surma Valley if the big quantity of 4,000 tons of rice per month or over 1 lakh of maunds is not delivered to the consumers. The result would have been that there would be no benefit to the cultivators themselves, who would have suffered more.

The next point he urged about the change in the personnel of the Committee. The personnel of the Committee was recommended by the House and I accepted them. I distinctly remember that it was my hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, the leader of the European Group, who suggested that the Committee should consist of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the Member of the Revenue Tribunal. My hon. Friend, the hon. Deputy Speaker of the House, suggested that the learned Advocate General also should be included in the personnel of the Enquiry Committee. I accepted all these three nominations simply for the reason that every one of these officers are beyond the jurisdiction of the Ministry. Immediately after the House passed their recommendation, I requested His Excellency the Governor, because all these three officers serve under the personal jurisdiction of His Excellency the Governor, to release these three officers. It was the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, to whom I pointed out that he was expecting to go on pension very soon. He is awaiting a passage and as soon as a passage is available, which has already been booked, he will go. The Member of the Revenue Tribunal also had to refuse, although he originally agreed, because his wife suddenly became very ill and he had to go on three months' leave taking Lady Cantlie to Calcutta for treatment. Then we tried to get two other gentlemen from the Surma Valley who are not serving under Government at the present moment and therefore they are not susceptible to any influence of the Ministry. Those two gentlemen also subsequently refused. So in my utter inability to find any suitable persons, my Hon'ble Colleague, the Education Minister, suggested that Rai Bahadur Sadananda Dowerah, Government Pleader, Dibrugarh, should be taken as one of the members and at my request he gladly accepted this arduous task. Now very recently—only last week, Sir Keith Cantlie has come back from Calcutta and asked for permission to rejoin, before his leave expires. We have allowed him to rejoin surrendering his leave and asked him to join this committee. Therefore we expect there will be two members who were recommended by this House. If we could not get suitable persons, it is no good making such an enquiry by Tom, Dick or Harry.

The next point that my hon. Friend has urged is about direct purchase. He has stated in the House that, for two months, we could not carry this into operation for



the staff that we have employed have not yet finished taking delivery of stock from the Syndicate. But I have recently had reports to the effect that the operation has started.

The last point that has been urged is about the bottom price. I have stated the reasons why a bottom price has not been fixed by Government up till now. If the House think that a bottom price will be of benefit to the people, I will surely do that. But the responsibility will not be mine; the responsibility will be of the hon. Members. Sir, I am perfectly certain that fixation of a bottom price will hit the cultivators and that will be the maximum price for them. If I wished I could have fixed the bottom price immediately, but that would have adversely affected the cultivators. As a matter of fact in January last there was a rise in the price of rice. The policy that has been laid down by me is that when the price of common rice goes below Rs. 10, then I will fix the bottom price.

I could not follow my hon. Friend, Srijut Karuna Sindhu Roy, when he said that Government neglected to stop the sale of paddy by the cultivators to Bengal traders. It is everybody's desire to see that the surplus stock of the cultivators should be sold as early as possible either to the Government licensees or to the Government officers who are now engaged in that task. If, Sir, some of these cultivators could not sell their paddy to Government, I should have thanked local officers for their connivance at the sale to Bengal traders.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Mabarak Ali, has gone a step further and charged Government for their inability to start the Medical School at Sylhet. Sir, I made an exhaustive reply on the subject when it came up before the Upper House in the last December Session and if the hon. Member will take the trouble to go through the debate, he will find why we have not been able to start this school. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals—the head of the Medical Department—is opposed to the establishment of this school at the present moment for want of men and material. But in spite of that, Government is insisting upon the starting of the school as early as possible and they have called for a scheme.

Lastly the same hon. Member, Mr. Mabarak Ali, asked why could not Government take impartial people like Messrs. Ispahani, Stork and Hindley in the committee. I find he conveniently forgot that these gentlemen belong to the Bengal Judicial cadre and they could not be employed in such business without the permission of the High Court.

So I have showed from all this that we have not really flouted in any way the opinion of this House. We have tried our level best to give effect to the recommendations of the House in that important Motion of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury of the last November Session.

Lastly the question of primary school teachers has again been brought. Government's view point was and is that they have absolutely no responsibility for seeing that these people get dearness allowance or higher scale of pay. These teachers are not Government servants, they are servant, of the local bodies. A scale was suggested by the House in the last November Session which was forced on the Government. I think every hon. Member in his heart of hearts knows that Government have got no power to fix a scale for the local bodies for their teachers. All that the hon. Member could say is that the scale should be allowed by the Local Boards, but Government should have found the money for it. It was pointed out before the House that if we are to give effect to that recommendation, the Exchequer will have to find very nearly a crore of rupees. The Ministry failed to produce that one crore of rupees, but as a gesture that they accepted the recommendation of the House they came out with two proposals. Firstly, if the Local Boards gave dearness allowance to their primary school teachers and produced 40 per cent. of the cost, Government would contribute 60 per cent. to make the allowance Rs.5. On the top of that, in order to implement the recommendation of the House we said that we would see that the minimum emolument of a primary school teacher receiving dearness allowance is raised to Rs.20 and any sum that will be necessary for that purpose will be advanced by Government. If there are some people who have not as yet got any dearness allowance, a monthly sum of Rs.4 will be given to such teachers. Now I leave it to the sense of justice of the Members



themselves to say whether we have not carried out, although we were not legally bound to carry out, the wishes of the House.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: On a point of information, Sir. How was Mr. Ispahani appointed one of the members of the Karimpur Accident Enquiry Committee?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: With the sanction of the High Court.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May we know when will Sir Keith Cantlie return, and the enquiry will begin?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He has returned, and has been allowed to join five days ago. I have asked the Chief Secretary two days ago to ascertain when can Sir Keith Cantlie join the Committee. As soon as he does, the Committee will start functioning.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Does not the Assembly decision to raise the pay of the primary school teachers to Rs. 40 apply to all the primary school teachers of the Province? May we know what Government have done for the teachers of the Government Primary Schools?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They are in receipt of the four different concessions granted to the poorly-paid Government servants. There was originally dearness allowance, then came war bonus; there is also the system of free rations and rice concession. Government Primary School Teachers are in receipt of these four different kinds of concession.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Having heard the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I do not want to press my Motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Motion should be withdrawn and the hon. Mover granted leave to withdraw it?  
Voices from the Opposition: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the Motion. The question is that the provision.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, the question should be whether the Member has got leave to withdraw his Motion or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The way in which I have put the question is practically the same thing. No doubt I was so long following the form suggested by the Hon'ble Minister. But in the other Legislatures the question is put in the way I have now put it.

The question is :

"That the provision of Rs.6,000 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—30

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| 1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.                | 12. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath. |
| 2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.                | 13. Srijut Kameswar Das.          |
| 3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.             | 14. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.        |
| 4. Srijut Beliram Das.                   | 15. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.       |
| 5. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.           | 16. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah.    |
| 6. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. | 17. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.         |
| 7. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.                | 18. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.         |
| 8. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.           | 19. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.     |
| 9. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.             | 20. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev.       |
| 10. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.              | 21. Srijut Paramananda Das.       |
| 11. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha.         | 22. Srijut Purandar Sarma.        |
|  | 23. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.    |



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| 24. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.    | 28. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.        |
| 25. Srijut Ram Nath Das.           | 29. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali. |
| 26. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.        | 30. Babu Sanat Kumar Ahir.           |
| 27. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas. |                                      |

## NOES—38

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| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.          | 17. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.                   |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.                          | 18. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.           |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali.                          | 19. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.  |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.           | 20. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.                  |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 21. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.                        |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.                      | 22. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.        |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.                 | 23. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.                |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.           | 24. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.                   |
| 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn.                               | 25. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed. |
| 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.                        | 26. Mr. E. H. S. Lewis.                         |
| 11. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.                  | 27. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.                         |
| 12. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.                                  | 28. Mr. C. W. Morley.                           |
| 13. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.                                  | 29. Mr. R. A. Palmer.                           |
| 14. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.        | 30. Dr. C. G. Terrell.                          |
| 15. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.                                 | 31. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.                       |
| 16. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury.         | 32. Mr. A. Whittaker.                           |
|   | 33. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.                     |
|   | 34. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.                 |
|   | 35. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.                   |
|   | 36. Rev. L. Gatphoh.                            |
|   | 37. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.                        |
|   | 38. Srijut Khorsing Terang.                     |

The question was lost.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 5 minutes past 2.

(After Lunch)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think, I should now give an opportunity to the Congress Members to move one of their Cut Motions.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : We have three Motions, one on civil liberty, one on corruption and the third on land settlement policy.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will it not be more appropriate to move the third Cut Motion on land settlement policy ?

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Very well, Sir. We are glad for the permission.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Let Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora move his Motion first.



Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.85,025 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object is to censure Government for all-round corruption in the administration.

Sir, I am one of those who stand and feel for purity of administration, and, as such I am very much pained to opine that corruption has been corroding the entire administration of the Province. Almost all the branches of administration have been stated to be veritable dens racking with corruption, with disastrous consequences. Due to mal-practices, nepotism, favouritism, jobberies and misuses of powers of the power that be, demoralisation has set in the administration in an unprecedented manner. The administrative blots have brought disgrace to the Province. The stories current of the giving and taking of bribes in connection with various transactions are scandalous to the extreme. Reputation of good Government has been allowed to be impaired even by some Hon'ble Ministers. People do openly boast of securing favourable orders from them by spending considerable amount. All the dark forces of greed and grabbing in the Province have been let loose. Taking of bribes, receiving illegal gratification pass as virtues. Honesty and integrity in the administration have almost become a thing of the past. Even justice has been sold with impunity. Due to inefficiency in administration people have been encouraged to think that opportunity comes but only once. The friends and relations of the Hon'ble Ministers and the Heads of Departments and even some hon. Members of the House seem anxious to make most of the situation by taking all conceivable steps for self-aggrandisement. Sir, the price control has miserably failed and why? As soon as a commodity is controlled, it at once disappears from the open market promptly to appear in black market which is as much open to the consumer as a non-black one. We have seen how black markets have been flourishing despite pompous paraphernalia of an ever inflating Civil Supply Directorate. The unscrupulous dealers, inefficient bureaucrats and greedy officers have all combined to make the black markets flourishing concerns. To pay more and suffer more has been the miserable lot of the people whose grievances have been mounting up. All these factors have become a matter of grave tragedy and deep shame. The defects in the administration require to be purged, but how to achieve the object and how to eradicate this canker of corruption is the problem that confronts us and those who stand for purity of administration. I suggest the following remedies:—

(1) His Excellency should come to the rescue of this fair Province of ours. He should direct the Prime Minister to request the Central Government to lend the services of some experienced officers of special staff outside the jurisdiction of this Government to come and pry into the affairs of administration and various transactions connected with it and find out the persons responsible for this scandalous state of things.

(2) His Excellency and the Hon'ble Prime Minister should take the public into confidence and initiate an intensive and relentless drive against the various forms of vices prevalent in the administration of this Province. I hope the cost involved in these matters will gladly and willfully be borne by the people.

(3) A public campaign against black marketing and the method of settlement of waste lands should also be immediately inaugurated.

(4) The Hon'ble Prime Minister should be bold enough to dismiss even some of his Colleagues, if they are found responsible for impairing the reputation of the Government by their jobberies and misuse of powers.

(5) He should request those hon. Members of Legislature who have transactions connected with the administration to give them up.



(6) Those who have business transactions with the Government and are either relations and friends of the Hon'ble Ministers, the Heads of Departments and influential officers should peremptorily be asked to retire and wind up their concerns. One more suggestion and I have done.

(7) Let a standing Anti-Corruption Vigilance Committee of the Province be formed with some Members of the Legislature and the Commissioner of Divisions, Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department Branch and the Member of the Revenue Tribunal to find out ways and means for eradicating the evil of corruption.

Sir, the remedies suggested are drastic but the evil is too deep-rooted to be neglected.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.85,025 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Motion. The Motion seeks to censure Government for corruption in the administration. Sir, there is corruption all round, in every department. But we remember, Sir, to check this corruption the Assam Government made a severe attempt during the time of Mr. Dawson. He circulated a notice to various District Magistrates and also to all the hon. Members of this House to suggest means to eradicate this corruption and we did our best; still the corruption is going on as it was before.

So, Sir, it is natural that corruption follows man as his shadow follows him and civilization and corruption will go hand in hand (*laughter*). I oppose this Motion because Government cannot be made responsible for the corruptions which take place in various districts throughout the Province and for bribes that may be taken by some Deputy Commissioners or Subdivisional Officers. Government is not supposed to be aware of that, Sir. If any specific location is made against any of the officers who are alleged to have taken any bribe or if any particular charge against any particular officer is made, I think, Government will surely deal with the matter.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Motion before the House.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already spoken on this subject on a previous occasion and I would like now to make only two points. One is that corruption is a dual transaction. For corruption to flourish there must be not only people willing to be corrupted but also people willing to corrupt. Therefore when we condemn corruption in Government service we also condemn corruption in ourselves. Corruption could not exist without a great deal of public support for it. At the same time, Sir, since Government themselves in reply to the general discussion of the Budget admit that there has been a large increase in corruption, the issue raised by my hon. Friend—Mr. Mahi Chandra Bora—is purely one of machinery to reduce the volume of corruption. Mr. Marak is right to this extent that there will always be a certain amount of corruption. We shall never be able to wipe it out altogether. But where the Mover and I agree is that we must reduce the excessive amount of corruption which prevails at the present time. And as I see the Motion, Sir, the only issue which affects Government and ourselves as Members of this House is the practical machinery which could be devised to bring back the 'volume of corruption'—If I am allowed to use that phrase—to normal. Speaking for myself, Sir, I think the Mover's suggestion is near to one that I also sponsored previously. I should like to see something very similar to it tried by Government.

To this extent, Sir, I support the Motion made by my Friend—Mr. Mahi Chandra Bora.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. After hearing Mr. Whittaker I am tempted to say a few words, Sir, in support of this Motion.



Mr. Whittaker has rightly observed that it is not only the officers or employees of Government who are responsible for this corruption but we the general public are also responsible for it. Many hon. Members are whispering that they are unscrupulous, but I say, Sir, they are not unscrupulous because people are compelled to take recourse to black-marketing. When they find that for the very existence of their lives they have got no other alternative than to take recourse to such tactics they should not be blamed for it, rather we should put the whole blame on the Government machinery, for Government have entirely failed to supply the people with their bare necessities of life. Sir, it may be said that in every case both the parties are responsible for corruption, but in such cases where Government are concerned the blame should not be put on the shoulder of the public.

Sir, another point which I think would not be out of place to mention here is that during the last Budget Session I brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier the conduct of the Song Publicity Officer. Sir, it may very well be said that the money which is being spent under this Head is given by the Central Government. But, Sir, I think, the hon. Members of this House will remember that when some definite charges were made against the Song Publicity Officer it was revealed at the time of answering a question that this gentleman who is now in charge of this Department was a dismissed servant of this Government and the Hon'ble Premier went so far as to say that he did not know it, and in fact, he thanked me for giving him the information; the Hon'ble Premier promised on the floor of this House that he would bring this matter to the notice of the Central Government, but one year has passed and we have heard nothing about it. It is a standing scandal, I should say, and I hope, the Hon'ble Premier will enlighten the House as to what steps he had taken in this matter. Sir, when a particular grievance or a particular charge is brought against a particular person and when it is not remedied and no action is taken, I think, we should not blame people for saying that this Government is deliberately giving indulgence to corruption and are taking no proper steps to check it.

With these words, Sir, I support this Motion.

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two classes of people who carry on this corruption. There are some rich persons who want to enrich themselves although their pay or salary is more than what they actually require for their subsistence. They want to enrich themselves and therefore they take recourse to corruption. There is absolutely no excuse for them. Then there are others, as has been said by my hon. Friend on the right, who are compelled to take recourse to corruption. Take for instance the case of a clerk who is drawing a salary of Rs. 50 per mensem in these days. He has got a family to maintain, he has also got his children to educate in school and he has house rents to pay, also. Government only gives him ration for one person. What this poor clerk will do with his small income? Unless Government takes care to improve the lot of such poorly-paid clerks there cannot be any check over corruption. We may constitute as many committees as we like—we may have as many Criminal Investigation Department officers as we can—but we cannot put a check on corruption among those classes of people who in order to save their families from starvation take recourse to corruption at times.

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** What about the high officials?

**Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I am speaking of another cause of corruption to which reference has been made by my Friend, Mr. Mookerjee. Sir, Government have adopted an unwise method of controlling commodities some of which they themselves cannot supply. For instance, good rice, for which I am myself a sufferer. If I give my ailing or invalid son the rice that I get from Government stock I give him indirectly poison, so there is no escape from black market. If I want to cure my son from his illness I must have to get fine rice, matter whatever I am to pay. Because when I can bear the high cost of medicine for his treatment, I can surely bear the cost of fine rice. In case of medicine supply also Government have taken no serious steps. What my Hon'ble Friend, Miss Dunn, has given to the Province is only quinine or its substitute. There are certain



articles of medicines which are very necessary for saving human lives. But when the people do not get them in the open market for this control system, they have got to go to the black market, paying very high prices. So my suggestion to Government is that they should not control those articles which they cannot supply. With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN: Sir, I rise to speak a few words on this Motion. This subject of corruption has been discussed on the floor of this House in several sessions in the past. But in spite of that, I am inclined to think that this Government have not shown any energy or vigour to cope with the situation. I may cite one or two instances. The conduct of the Trade Adviser for the civil supply procurement in Calcutta during the last November session was very much criticised in this House. Despite that, Sir, that officer is still continuing in his post. During the last Budget session when I raised this question of corruption among the public servants, the Hon'ble Premier was pleased to tell the House that some action was being taken against a certain Sub-Deputy Collector of the Assam Valley. But we have not heard anything beyond that so far. It is also not known what action has been taken against that particular officer.

Sir, formerly Supply matters in the Districts were run by Extra Assistant Commissioners and in some cases by Sub-Deputy Collectors. But when subsequently Supply Superintendents have been appointed, those officers refuse to be transferred even to higher appointments or lighter duties. And those Extra Assistant Commissioners or Sub-Deputy Collectors are still continuing in their jobs in administering Supply matters.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to endorse what has already been said by my predecessors. I want, Sir, to discuss one aspect of the matter as to how Government are affording facilities to their officers to be victims of corruption. Instead of distributing the foodstuffs from Government godowns they appoint agencies such as the Surma Valley Syndicate and the Assam Valley Syndicate. I know very well, Sir, that both these Syndicates are not working well, and further this system has been affording Government officers facilities to indulge in corruption. Last November we heard nasty stories about corruption indulged in by the Surma Valley Syndicate people and Government officials in the Surma Valley. The Assam Valley Syndicate, Sir, is doing no better. This body, Sir, get the stores from Shaw Wallace and Company—the procurement agency of the Government of Assam and so far as my information goes the stuff supplied is sound. But what we find is that the Syndicate get from some quarters some bad stuffs at a cheap price and mix up with the stuffs in the stores and thereby they make illegal profit and they afford some officers to get advantage of them in various ways. So, Sir, I appeal to Government to do away with this system of distribution through agencies and revert to supplying stores themselves. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

Mr. E.H.S. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak just a very few words in qualified support of the Motion before the House. In view of the complaints from so many quarters it becomes necessary for a special staff to be appointed to try to stop this excessive corruption. But, Sir, I cannot support the suggestion that there should also be a committee of elected Members from this House who would assist or act in conjunction with the special staff. The special staff would have to be very specialised in that it would have to deal tactfully with an extremely unpleasant business, and I think it should be left to the specially selected staff, so that they alone will be responsible for the effect of their labours, and that there should be no further committee appointed from this House in this connection.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my task has been very greatly lightened by the speeches made by different hon. Members in this House. The other day in reply to the general discussion of the Budget, I mentioned that Government had reports of increased corruption in various spheres of life.



The only point that now emerges from this discussion is what is the form of machinery which Government can start in order to suppress corruption. One suggestion was made at an earlier session of the House and even today that there should be a Committee of officials and non-officials. I have given thought to this suggestion, Sir, but I cannot see what earthly good a Committee can do in matters of suppression beyond vague generalisation. The other day, the learned leader of the European Group, Mr. Whittaker, suggested that there should be a special Criminal Investigation staff to detect corruption but there was chorus of disapproval from certain quarters that we cannot trust or rely upon the Criminal Investigation Department. An ordinary staff probably will be useless as they themselves will be charged with corruption. Therefore Government are in this difficulty. But the learned Mover of the Cut Motion has made a definite suggestion that we should approach the Central Government for a very special staff. I will very seriously take up this matter after the session is over and in the meantime I need mention, Sir, that Government is not sitting idle. I cannot lay all the facts before the House for this will be an opportunity to hide evidence by people indulging in this corruption. But I can simply say that a certain agency is at work within the Province who are trying to detect such cases. The very presence of this agency, to my knowledge, has reduced corrupt measures in various spheres of life both in Government service and outside. My hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, rightly emphasised that we should have a very practical machinery. I quite agree with him and I would have been very much obliged if hon. Members would have given suggestions in regard to practical machinery which we should adopt.

Mr. Mookerjee referred to black-marketing and the case of the Song Publicity Officer which was brought before the floor of the House in the last Budget Session. Sir, as I promised then, the entire proceedings in the case of the Song Publicity Officer were sent up to the Central Government. They did not take any action in the matter. On the other hand, they have been so pleased with the work of that gentleman that they have given him a very good certificate. Not only in official report but when I went to Delhi in last January the Deputy Director of Song Publicity at the Centre personally told me of the high standard of work of this Officer. He has been placed under our Publicity Officer and all financial transactions pass through the Publicity Officer. In January last at Delhi the head of the Department was absent, but his Assistant the Deputy Central Sub-Publicity Officer, Mr. Bhat, came personally to me and told me that our Song Publicity Officer is a very capable Officer and they have been much pleased with his work. In December, last he took away all the available song records that this gentleman has prepared and the Governments of the Punjab and Sind purloined false diary some 15 years ago. Every matter that leads to finance has been taken out from him and has been given to the Publicity Officer.

Mr. Buragohain referred to my reply in last April. Sir, I mentioned about one Sub-Deputy Collector's case then. The case is under investigation now. I cannot lay before the House any further materials. Whenever we have been able to get any proof, we are doing our level best to bring the offenders to justice.

One word more. My hon. Friend suggested that Ministers' relations should give up all kinds of business. I cannot subscribe to this policy, for if we do that, the logical conclusion would be that relations of Members of the Legislative Assembly or of Government servants shall have to be debarred from public service of the country, *e. g.*, my own son does some contract works in the Forest Department. He submitted an open tender in partnership with another and their terms were the lowest and he got the contract. I may say, Sir, that some of the hon. Members of this House not only from my Group, but from Members who adorn the Opposition Benches are doing contract works. So, I cannot debar any gentleman simply because he is a Member of the Legislature so long as he knows business. So, Sir, I thank Mr. Mahi Bora for the various suggestions he has made. He has made the principal suggestion about approaching the Central Government for releasing an impartial officer of repute. I will take that matter very seriously with the Central Government if the House is prepared to pay for the salary of this officer. So we are at one and we are very sorry



that corruption has come and my hon. Friend, Mr. Marak has very ably stated that corruption goes hand in hand with civilisation. Whether it goes hand in hand with civilisation or not, but corruption has started when there have been an influx into the country of people from outside.

One last word more, Sir. My hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri has tried to support corruption among the poorly paid staff. He complains, Sir, that people with low pay and having children at school cannot make two ends meet and so he must take to corruption. In that way, he suggests that these poor people should get a higher scale of pay. Now, it is a very dangerous theory which he has advanced, for there will not be any limit which should be the minimum salary that should be given to a Government servant.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Why not give ration to the whole family ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We are not dealing with rationing just now. But the theory which he has advanced is rather dangerous and not to be found anywhere in the world.

The last word that I should say is about his complaint of not fixing a price for finer rice. This matter was raised in the Upper House by way of a Motion and I agreed that so far as rationed area is concerned, I am taking that matter into hand.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA : On a point of information, Sir. How many Members from the Congress Party are now engaged in contract ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I need not give any details. I can say at least 4 Members are doing business in various articles.

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

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“ That the provision of Rs. 85,025 under grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers (total), at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 29,35,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

The Assembly divided.

AYES—32

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|---|---|
| 1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.                   | 17. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.               |
| 2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.                   | 18. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.               |
| 3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.                | 19. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.           |
| 4. Srijut Beliram Das                       | 20. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.      |
| 5. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.              | 21. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev.             |
| 6. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta<br>Chaudhuri. | 22. Srijut Paramananda Das.             |
| 7. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.                   | 23. Srijut Purandar Sarma.              |
| 8. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.              | 24. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.          |
| 9. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.                | 25. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.         |
| 10. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.                 | 26. Srijut Ram Nath Das.                |
| 11. Srijut Jaḍav Prasad Ghalihā.            | 27. Srijut Sarveswar Baru .             |
| 12. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.           | 28. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.      |
| 13. Srijut Kameswar Das.                    | 29. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.           |
| 14. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.                  | 30. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.             |
| 15. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.                 | 31. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud<br>Ali. |
| 16. Srijut Laksheswar Borooah.              | 32. Babu Sanat Kumar Ahir,              |



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| 35. Mr. W. D. Rutherford.       | 39. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.   |
| 36. Mr A. Whittaker.            | 40. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| 37. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.     | 41. Rev. L. Gathphoh.           |
| 38. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |                                 |

The question was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

'That a sum not exceeding Rs 22,25,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head '7.—Land Revenue'.'

The question was adopted.

**Discussion on Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury's Starred Questions Nos. 115-117 re Land Settlement Policy of Government**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In view of the discussion on the Cut Motion there is no necessity for further discussion that was fixed up on the answers to Starred Questions Nos. 115 to 117.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 P.M., on Friday, the 16th March, 1945.

SHILLONG:

*The 21st May 1945.*

A. K. BARUA,

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*