

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M., on Monday, the 19th March, 1945.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

M. L. A.s serving in different Committees outside the Province including All-India Committees

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*161. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of Members of this House who are serving in different committees outside the province including all-India committees ?
- (b) The capacity in which each of them represents those committees ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

161. (a)—1. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, 2. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, 3. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

(b)—1 and 2 represent the Assam Government on the Bengal and Assam Railway.

Maulavi Abdul Bari represented Assam as non-official at the sixth meeting of the Animal Husbandry Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, India.

Re Srijut Hemanta Kumar Gupta, an internee

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked:

*162. (a) Are Government aware that Srijut Hemanta Kumar Gupta, formerly Shillong representative of the 'Hindusthan Standard' and the 'Anandabazar Patrika' and now in internment in his native village, is in a bad state of health and that his condition is fast deteriorating ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether attention has been drawn to a comment made in this connection in the 'Janasakti' of Sylhet dated the 7th February, 1945 ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Gupta has been interned immediately after his discharge from jail and that he is in internment for about two years without any trial ?

(d) Is it a fact that before his arrest, no action was contemplated to be taken against him if only he left the Shillong area within 24 hours ?

(e) Are Government aware that facilities for proper medical treatment are not at all available in his native village ?

(f) Do Government propose to withdraw unconditionally the restriction imposed upon the said Gupta without further delay ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

162. (a)—Government have no information save what is contained in a representation from him dated the 2nd March, and in newspaper reports.

(b)—No.

(c)—He is restricted to his village save as may be directed by permission of the Deputy Commissioner otherwise the facts are as stated.

(d)—Originally, it had only been ordered that he should not remain in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—No. Government have not been approached for permission to leave his village for treatment or for any other purpose.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know from the Government what other sources of information they have got excepting the two mentioned, *viz.*, the representation from the person concerned and the newspaper report?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The representation is dated the 7th February but it was received on about the 7th March and as all this time I have been very busy in the Assembly I have not been able to take up this case up till now.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Will Government take it from me that he is suffering from a disease and there is no arrangement in his village for his treatment?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have mentioned, he has not approached Government up till now for permission to leave his village for his treatment. If he represents to me I will be only too glad to give him chance for treatment anywhere else.

†Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If a representation is made, will Government be pleased to withdraw the restriction order on him unconditionally?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He was originally externed from Shillong, and probably it will not be possible to bring him to Shillong without thoroughly examining his case. But if he wants to go for treatment to either Sylhet or any other place I will be only too glad to consider that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know, Sir, whether it was mentioned in the representation that he wanted to go outside his village for his treatment or for his livelihood?

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

†Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it not a fact that originally it was intended that he would leave the Khasi and Jaintia Hills by the restriction order, but that by the present order he has been debarred from moving outside his village?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have admitted that in my reply. If he makes any representation that he is too ill to get treatment in his village I will see that he gets facilities outside his village.

Chinese hotels and restaurants catering military personnel at Dibrugarh

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked:

*163. (a) Are Government aware that the hotels and restaurants started during the war period, generally by the Chinese, to cater the military personnel in towns and suburbs adjoining military camps at Dibrugarh and such other places, get their supply of sugar and flour from the Government supply stores meant for civil population?

(b) Are Government aware that this practice is largely responsible for shortage of sugar and flour in rationed areas of Assam?

(c) If so, do Government propose to stop immediately the issue of such commodities to such hotels and restaurants?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

163. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The question of provision for amenities to troops in the form of such restaurants is one which has much exercised Government and which they have regulated by means of certain control orders passed under the Defence of India Rules. It is true that the grant of limited supplies of articles in short supply (and over which Government have control of distribution) to such restaurants does limit to some extent the quantity available to the public, but the allowance is strictly regulated to a minimum and Government do not accept that this is a primary cause of shortage for the civil population.

(c)—No. Government have accepted the view of the military authorities that some provision for amenities, such as private restaurants, is an important matter for the welfare and moral of the services, and have agreed to allow for these to a limited extent and under rigid control with which the military authorities have engaged to co-operate.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know, Sir, whether any quota cannot be allotted from the military for this purpose to the owners of the restaurants ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We have taken up the matter with the military authorities but we have not got satisfactory answers yet.

†Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Is it not a fact that the restaurants are almost entirely frequented by military personnel ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am told so, Sir.

†Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: If this is so, Sir, should not those restaurants get flour, atta and sugar from the military authorities ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It has already been stated that this matter has been taken up with the military authorities concerned.

Re Manipuri cultivators of Krishnagar and Durlabcherra

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*164. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Manipuri cultivators of Krishnagar, Durlabcherra were affected by fire accident which occurred on the 25th April, 1944 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that they were given Rs.50 each just after the accident by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and were also promised by him that they would be given more and sufficient compensation ?
- (c) Whether the promised compensation has yet been given ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to pay the compensation to the families of the distressed cultivators of Krishnagar at once ?
- (f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Shahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

164. (a)—Yes. Some of them were affected.

(b)—Each family was given Rs.50 the maximum amount that can be granted as gratuitous relief under the Scheme for assistance to small owners for immediate repairs to or reconstruction of houses damaged or destroyed in air raids. They were also allowed to take materials for the reconstruction of the damaged houses from Government forest free of charges.

(c)—No other compensation has yet been granted.

(d)—Not permissible under the Scheme.

(e) & (f)—Do not arise.

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Is it not a fact that the villagers were courageous at the time of raids instead of being panicky which was so natural?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, a high morale was shown by the villagers.

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, should they not be rewarded for their courage?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: That is not under the Scheme. Of course, their high morale has been very much appreciated.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that compensation for the losses has been given in full according to the Scheme of the Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, it is in the Scheme to assist the small household owners for their losses.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, what happened to the cases of compensation for loss of life as a result of enemy action?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I require notice of that Question.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Sir, is it not a fact that the Government received applications from some persons for grant of compensation?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, only one application was received by the Government and that was from certain Manipuri families who were suffering from fever and wanted some help for treatment.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he would look into his files to know whether there is a petition which was submitted through me and receipt of which was duly acknowledged?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, a petition was endorsed by the hon. Questioner and that petition was duly received. But two names appeared in that petition and they applied for some medical relief for their families who were suffering from fever.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Did they want compensation for any loss of life?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: That has already been given.

†Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know, Sir, what was the criterion for giving that kind of compensation?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Immediately after the occurrence the Deputy Commissioner and the A.R.P. Officer went to the spot to make an enquiry and Rs. 50 was granted on the spot to each family affected.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Is there any other fund for giving compensation for losses?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: No other fund, Sir.

Re Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*165. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners recruited from and outside the Bars since 1941 separately ?
- (b) How many of them were appointed for civil judicial work and how many for criminal judicial work ?
- (c) The monthly emoluments allowed to each such batch of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners ?
- (d) How many of these temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners have since been absorbed in the Assam Civil Service ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that some of the temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners recruited from the Bars on Rs.175 per mensem are doing the works of Munsifs ?
- (f) If so, how many in each Valley ?
- (g) How many of them are doing criminal judicial work with first class powers in each Valley ?
- (h) Whether Government are aware of the existence of discontent amongst these temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners for getting the same work done by Government from different batches on different pay ?
- (i) Whether the batch of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners on Rs.175 per mensem was recruited on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that some of them have completed two years of service ?
- (k) If so, whether Government propose to grant any increment of pay to them ?
- (l) Whether some of them have been permitted to appear at the departmental examinations of the Assam Civil Service ?
- (m) Whether Government propose to absorb permanently these officers recruited from the Bars on Rs.175 per mensem ?
- (n) Whether Government propose to call the opinion of the District Officers concerned regarding the efficiency of these officers ?
- (o) Whether Government propose to add the period of practice in case of the recruits from the Bars while considering their seniority in Service ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

165 (a)—Excluding re-employed officers and officers of the Assam Junior Civil Service, twenty-nine officers were obtained from the Bar and three direct recruits were appointed. One member of the Burma Provincial Service was temporarily employed. The list of their names are laid on the table.

LIST OF OFFICERS APPOINTED AS TEMPORARY EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

From Bar

1. Srijut Munikanta Borkataki.
2. Srijut Durganath Hazarika.
3. Maulavi Azizur Rahman.
4. Srijut Chandra Nath Bora.
5. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Datta.
6. Late Khan Sahib Maulavi Sikandar Ali.
7. Srijut Narayan Chandra Sarma (since resigned).
8. Babu Samarjit Sinha.
9. Srijut Anandiram Kalita.
10. Maulavi Khurshid Ali Khondkar.

11. Srijut Kusum Kumar Phukan.
12. Babu Probodh Lal Shome.
13. Babu Ajit Kumar Ray.
14. Maulavi Gowharuzzaman Chaudhuri.
15. Maulavi A. S. M. Ali Ashraf.
16. Srijut Sudhindra Kumar Bhattacharyya.
17. Maulavi Saiyid Aminul Haque.
18. Srijut Uma Kanta Gohain (since appointed as Assistant Sessions and Sub-Judge, Assam Valley Districts).
19. Maulavi Saiyid Muhibul Huq.
20. Maulavi Abdul Hai (No. I).
21. Srijut Binandi Chandra Medhi.
22. Srijut Thaneswar Gohain.
23. Babu Ananga Mohan Deshmukhya.
24. Maulavi Abdul Hye (No. II).
25. Srijut Indra Kanta Das.
26. Srijut Paramesh Das Gupta.
27. Maulavi Abedur Rahman.
28. Srijut Purnanda Rajkhowa.
29. Babu Kshitindra Mohan Deb.

Direct

1. Mr. B. Westlington Roy.
2. Maulavi Jamiruddin Ahmed.
3. Srijut Jyotirmoy Barua.

Burma Provincial Service

1. Mr. A. Long.

(b)—Twelve pleaders of ten years' or more experience and two junior pleaders were employed specially for Munsifi work, while ten pleaders of ten years' experience and five junior pleaders were employed mainly for criminal and general work. The direct recruits were employed for criminal and general work.

(c)—The pleaders of ten or more years' experience were given fixed pay of Rs.400, the others were placed on the time scale of the Assam Civil Service.

(d)—Three of those already mentioned *plus* two promoted officers of the Assam Junior Civil Service.

(e) & (f)—So far as Government are aware, two, both in the Assam Valley.

(g)—One in the Surma Valley.

(h)—Government have been informed by the Commissioner that there is some feeling in this respect, but they must point out that if so it is entirely misinformed. The officers temporarily employed on the higher pay have no prospect of permanent absorption when the emergency passes, and their pay was accordingly fixed on a full appreciation of their position and their ineligibility for pension, while the younger group whose pay has been fixed on ordinary principles in the time scale, have the prospect of being considered on the merit of their work for absorption.

(i)—Yes.

(j) & (k)—None of those appointed with initial pay of Rs.175 have yet reached two years' service. As already stated, they have been appointed on the time scale, and the question of waiving in their favour the requirement of confirmation for the purpose of the pay due on substantive appointment will be considered in due course.

(l)—There is no objection to such officers appearing, but none seen to have done so hitherto.

(m)—They will be allowed to compete for vacancies not reserved for candidates with war service, as on the last occasion of the direct recruitment, when two of them were absorbed.

(n)—Annual Reports are obtained on the work of all Government servants.

(o)—No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As regards (*m*), Sir, may I know whether any quota has been fixed for the war service men?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position is that 50 per cent. of all new appointments is reserved for war returned candidates. In the meantime, some of the appointees may be in the temporary service.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about the 20 per cent. appointments on merit? Will that be included in the remaining 50 per cent. or in the total?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They will come under the remaining 50 per cent.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do not Government consider that it will be an injustice to the meritorious persons?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We are in the hands of Government of India in this matter, for they have laid down the policy that 50 per cent. of all new vacancies should be reserved for demobilised personnel.

†Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJ: As regards (*e*), Sir, are they entitled to dearness allowance prescribed by Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is a new Question, Sir. Off-hand I cannot say whether they are entitled or not.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do not Government consider this equitable that the cases of those who have been appointed on fixed salary should also be considered like others because they are also helping the Government at the time of their need?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, at the time of their appointments, these gentlemen were definitely told that it is purely a temporary service.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Then what is the definition of active service?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government have defined War Service as those who are in active service but those who handle similar work, *e. g.*, work on munition factories, A. R. P. etc., will be included in the War Service.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government consider the cases of those officers who were recruited on a permanent basis?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Question relates to those officers who have been recruited from the Bar. They were not given any definite assurance that they will be absorbed, but we allowed them to sit for the examination and appear before the Public Service Commission along with the direct recruits. As I have already mentioned, one of them stood first in the list of meritorious candidates.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My Question was "Whether Government propose to add the period of practice in case of the recruits from the Bars while considering their seniority in Service". My supplementary Question is "Will Government consider the cases of those recruited from the Bars who have already been absorbed in the permanent cadre"?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, there is a definite rule on the subject laid down by the Finance Department and we will have to follow that.

Re Supply of mustard oil in the Province

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

*166. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The nature and extent of measures taken by them so far or contemplated by them to ensure steady supply of mustard oil in the Province ?
- (b) Whether they are aware of acute scarcity of mustard oil in Upper Assam during these winter months ?
- (c) If so, what steps, if any, were taken by Government to supply Upper Assam with mustard oil ?

*167. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware that the villagers of Sibsagar Subdivision are going without any mustard oil during the past four months or so ? If so, have Government ascertained the reasons therefor ?
- (b) Whether any system of regulation and control was imposed on the production of the mills by Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

166. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply to Unstarred Question No.23(e) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma in this Session.

(b) & (c)—Scarcity was reported from certain areas in Upper Assam and to meet the emergency supplies from Gauhati were diverted to those areas.

167.(a)—Government have no such information but there were reports of scarcity throughout the whole Subdivision. Government did not think it to be necessary to ascertain the reasons which are known to them, *viz.*, shortage of mustard seed and transport difficulties.

(b)—Yes.

Re Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury, a security prisoner

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV asked :

*168. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury, now a security prisoner in the Jorhat jail is suffering from suspected gastric ulcer ?
- (b) Whether he suffered from pain in stomach, eye troubles, headache, vertigo and sciatica while he was lodged in the Sylhet jail ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that his health has deteriorated after his transfer to Jorhat ?
- (d) If the answer to Question (a) or (b) above is in the affirmative what arrangement has been made for the treatment and supply of suitable diet to Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury at present and with what result so far ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the aforesaid Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury had an attack of malignant malaria about 3 months back in Jorhat jail and also that before this attack he fainted one day ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury is steadily losing in weight since after his attack of malaria ?

*169. (a) Is it a fact that the aforesaid Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury was at Sylhet jail for about two years till the middle of August 1944 ?

(b) Is it a fact that he was subsequently transferred at an hour's notice to Jorhat jail ?

(c) Do Government propose to transfer him back to Sylhet jail ?

*170. (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury while a security prisoner, was once examined by a specialist at Sylhet for eye trouble, but no fees were paid by Government to the specialist on that account ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said security prisoner was not supplied with any spectacles at Government expense for months after the recommendation of the eye specialist for the use of such spectacles ?

(c) Whether any spectacles have now been supplied to him ?

(d) If so, from what date and at whose expense ?

*171. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have recently received through the Superintendent, Jorhat jail, a petition from Dr. H. K. Choudhury, M. B., Municipal Commissioner, Sylhet, and brother to aforesaid security prisoner Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury, asking for the unconditional release of his brother for treatment in Calcutta or elsewhere ?

(b) Whether Government propose to arrange for his proper treatment in Calcutta at Government expense ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to release him unconditionally so that he may be sent by his family members to Calcutta for treatment ?

*172. (a) Is it a fact that the said security prisoner Mr. Labanya Kumar Chaudhury is an Electrical Engineer and was in service under the Government of Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that he is now detained without trial for over 27 months ?

(c) Is it a fact that his wife and three children have not been given any allowance in spite of repeated applications by Mr. Chaudhury's wife for grant of allowance of at least Rs. 100 per month ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to reconsider the case and grant a suitable allowance to Mr. Chaudhury's wife ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

168. (a)—No. He was reported to be suffering from chronic gastritis.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise, as he has since been released from jail.

(e)—He had a malarial attack on the 25th September, but did not faint.

(f)—No.

169. (a)—Yes, for 1 year, nine months.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise, as he has been released.

170. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—Government were satisfied that there were no sufficient grounds for the supply of spectacles at their cost.

171. (a)—(c)—He has already been released with restrictions. Government are not prepared to find funds for his treatment in Calcutta, but if he wishes to go to Calcutta for treatment Government are prepared to consider his request.

172. (a)—He was an Electrical Tester under this Government.

(b)—Does not arise, as he has been released.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Does not arise.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Since the prisoner concerned has been released I will put supplementary question on Question No. 172 only. Is it a fact that he has been released under certain conditions and restrictions and he will not be able to earn his livelihood even now ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: His case will be considered if he applies on that ground.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, did he not apply before while he was inside the jail ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, and we enquired about his case and it was reported that he did not require any monetary aid from Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know what is the other source of income of the person ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We are told that he has got relations who are in joint family and who have got sufficient income to maintain his family.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, is it not derogatory for a gentleman to depend upon the income of his brother living in a joint family for his livelihood and maintenance of his family?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not going to give any legal opinion on this point, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do not Government consider that by this procedure Government are not only penalising the person concerned but his whole family? Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be kind enough to consider such cases so that the restrictees can live on their own income and they are not to depend on their relatives?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The policy of Government is to grant family allowances in case of absolute necessity and in this case the report is that he has sufficient income in the family to maintain himself and his family. Therefore Government did not grant him any allowance.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know who submitted this report to the Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We got the report from the Deputy Commissioner. But through what agency he enquired I am not in a position to say just now.

Function of the Labour Commissioner

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

*173. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is the function of the Labour Commissioner, Assam, to look to the general welfare of the labourers of the Province?
- (b) If so, what action he has taken so far to assist the Assam labourers in forming Labour Unions under the Trade Union Act and to help the existing registered Labour Unions in Assam to develop themselves?
- (c) Whether Government have recently received any complaints about intimidation of office-bearers and leaders of registered Trade Unions of Assam, particularly of A. R. & Trading Company, Labour Union, Dibrugarh?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRABARTY replied :

173. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Labour Commissioner's duty as Registrar of Trade Unions is to carry out the statutory functions and to render advice and assistance to organisations of workmen who desire to obtain registration as Unions in framing their rules, maintaining accounts and submitting returns under the Act; and these are the functions which he pursues.

(c)—No recent complaints about intimidation appear to have been received by the Government.

(d)—Does not arise.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Did not Government receive any complaint from the Trade Union concerned that their office-bearers were intimidated or victimised?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRABARTI: I have already replied, Sir, that Government have not received any report of recent complaints.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it not the duty of the Labour Commissioner to look into the conditions of the labourers in the factories?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Certainly, when he tours in different parts of the Province he looks into the conditions of the labourers.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister how many factories have been inspected by the Labour Commissioner?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I want notice of this Question.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI: In describing the duties of the Labour Commissioner, does the Hon'ble Minister realise that all these duties are discharged from his office without any inspection of factories?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I don't think that all these duties can be discharged from the office, because immediate knowledge of the situation and conditions in the different localities are necessary.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH: Am I to understand that the Labour Commissioner's duty is to assist the labourers in forming labour unions?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: If he is approached he will be only too glad to assist them.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH: May I ask whether up till now any assistance has been sought for from the Labour Commissioner in this matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: It is the labourers who should first approach the Labour Commissioner for any assistance. I cannot say in how many cases his assistance was sought for by the labourers.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH: Do the labourers get proper assistance from the Labour Commissioner when his assistance is sought for?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Certainly it is his duty.

Price of controlled commodities

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*174. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of controlled articles showing their current prices?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state which of the controlled commodities are supplied by Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

174. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to replies to his own Starred Question No. 71, asked during the present Session.

(b)—Salt, sugar and wheat products are entirely supplied by Government while the other controlled commodities mentioned are only partly supplied by Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that the list supplied by the Government was not a complete one and prices were not given in all cases?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: So far we could ascertain we gave those answers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But it was not a complete answer. If the Hon'ble Premier looks into the list he will himself find so. That sort of answer does not satisfy us.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will supply whatever information my hon. Friend wants if he points out wherein my list is incomplete.

Allegations against the rice purchasing Syndicates of Surma Valley

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

*175. Will Government be pleased to refer to their Resolution No. SD(A) 385/44/30, dated the 5th February, 1945, published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 7th February, 1945

and state why the personnel of the Committee appointed by the Assembly during its last November Session to enquire into the allegations against the Rice Purchasing Syndicates of the Surma Valley has been changed by Government ?

*176. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the present plan of Government with regard to rice and paddy procurement in the Surma Valley ?
- (b) What arrangement, if any, has been made now for purchase of rice and paddy in the Surma Valley ?
- (c) Whether Government is purchasing any rice and paddy in the Surma Valley now ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that the cultivators and producers in the Surma Valley are at present on the verge of ruin on account of the effect of Government's stoppage of purchase of rice and paddy in Surma Valley since November last.
- (f) If so, whether Government propose to begin purchasing the same immediately ?
- (g) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

175.—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Starred Question No. 8 asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali, M.L.A., at the present Session of the Assembly on the same subject.

176. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to Unstarred Question No. 41(a) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at the present Session of the Assembly.

(b)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Unstarred Question No. 126 asked by Maulavi Abdul Aziz, M.L.A., at the present Session of the Assembly.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Government have no such information.

(f)—Yes. Direct purchase by Government has already started.

(g)—Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re House searches at Dibrugarh

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

119. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the houses of comrades Sarfarar Hossain, Girindra Kumar Barthakur, Phanindra Nath Das, Dipika Debi and Patibhusan Chakravarty of Dibrugarh were searched on the 23rd September 1944 ?
- (b) Whether anything illegal was found in the aforesaid search ?
- (c) Why the offices of the Bengal and Assam Railway Workers Union and Assam Railway and Trading Company, Limited, Labour Union were searched on the same day ?
- (d) Whether the union offices were searched with the knowledge of Labour Commissioner, Assam ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Criminal Investigation Department people always go to the Union Offices to enquire about the nature of work done there ?
- (g) Whether Government are aware that Bimala Prativa Debi's husband was seriously ill on the day her house was searched and that her son-in-law died one day before the search ?

- (h) Whether it is a fact that police officials did not stop their raid in spite of being informed of the aforesaid calamities ?
- (i) The names of books seized from the house of comrade Dipika Devi ?
- (j) Whether a Students Federation Circular has been seized from the house of comrade Patibhusan Chakravarty ?
- (k) Whether the aforesaid books and circular are illegal ?
- (l) If not, why the police seized literatures which were not illegal ?
- (m) Why the drama "Plaban" belonging to the Bengal and Assam Railway Workers Union, submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, has not yet been returned ?
- (n) Whether Government propose to return the unobjectionable literatures seized from the Union offices and other private houses which were searched ?
- (o) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

119. (a) & (c)—On information received which indicated the presence of prejudicial documents.

(b)—No.

(d)—No.

(e)—The authority of the Labour Commissioner was not required for the search.

(f)—No.

(g) & (h)—No. The search party learned of the death of her son-in-law only when the search was going on and when it was too late to stop.

(i)—The list of books seized from the house of Srijut Puspa Phukan, the husband of Dipika Debi is laid on the table.

The list of books and leaflets seized from the house of Srijut Puspa Phukan, husband of Dipika Debi, on 23rd December 1944.

Serial No.	Names of books and leaflets	Numbers
১।	জাপানী শাসনের আসল রূপ	১ খানা।
২।	কংগ্রেস কি চায়	৩ ,,
৩।	খাদ্যসংকট সমাধানের সংগ্রামই স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম	১২ ,,
৪।	ভারতের শিল্প ব্যবস্থা (কমিউনিষ্ট দৃষ্টিতে)	২ ,,
৫।	অসমৰ দেশপ্ৰেমিকসকলৰ প্ৰতি	১০ খন।
৬।	খাদ্যসংকট ও দেশরক্ষা	৫ খানা।
৭।	কামৰ মাজেদি একতা গঢ়ি তোলক	৬ খন।
৮।	পঞ্চম বাহিনী কাহারা	১ খানা।
৯।	দেশরক্ষায় কংগ্রেসের ডাক	৬ ,,
১০।	দেশদ্রোহী কংগ্রেস সোশালিষ্ট পার্টি	১ ,,
১১।	সোভিয়েট মধ্যপ্রাচ্যের নারী	১ ,,
১২।	ভারতের কমিউনিষ্ট পার্টির গঠনতন্ত্র	১ ,,
১৩।	” ” ” প্রথম কংগ্রেস	১ ,,
১৪।	একতার ডাক, ভারতের কমিউনিষ্ট পার্টির ইস্তাহার... ..	১ ,,
১৫।	প্রাদেশিক ছাত্র-ফ্রন্টের রিপোর্ট	১ ,,
১৬।	The "New" Fascist Order	1 copy.
১৭।	"অধিকার" One manuscript book translated by Bibhuti Chakravarty.	1 ,,

Serial No.	Names of books and leaflets	Numbers
১৮।	মজুত ধান-চাউল বাহিৰ কৰিব লাগিব	১৪ খন।
১৯।	হয় একতা, নাহয় মৃত্যু... ..	১০ খানা।
২০।	ঋদ্যসমগ্ৰা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি আহক	১ খন।
২১।	আন্দোলনৰ স্লোগেন	১ ..
২২।	অসমৰ নিমখ ক'লৈ গ'ল আৰু কেনেকৈ নিমখ পোৱা যায়	৪ ..
	(j)—Yes.	
	(k)—It has not been so treated.	
	(l)—Publications were returned after scrutiny.	
	(m)—Enquiry has been made.	
	(n)—These have been already returned.	
	(o)—Does not arise.	

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : With reference to reply to Question No.119(a) may I understand from the answer that the search has been made on false information as nothing prejudicial has been found ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will not go so far. As has been already replied to, at least in one house, as many as 22 documents were found and they were returned after scrutiny.

Introduction of Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1937

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

120. (a) Are Government aware that during the discussion of the Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1937, introduced by the Questioner, it was assured by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge on the floor of the Assembly in its September Session, 1938, that the Government themselves would introduce a Bill to amend the Local Self-Government Act to suit the present conditions before the next general elections of the Local Boards are held ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what has happened in the meanwhile to change their attitude in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

120. (a)—Yes.

(b)—For various reasons such as several changes of the Ministry, abnormality and unsuitability of the time and also for the reason that some of the changes contemplated to be made by the Bill such as reservation of seats for the minority communities can be done under the provision of the existing Act.

Allocation of seats in Local Boards

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

121. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have lately received representations from various quarters in the district of Goalpara ventilating grievances regarding allocation of seats in Local Boards for different communities in connection with the next Local Board elections ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take into consideration the points as represented in those petitions and revise their decision in the light of the Assam Local Self-Government Act and the rules framed thereunder ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

121. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The distribution was made by the Government after due consideration of all facts and the question of revision does not arise.

Licenses under the Assam Food Grains Control Order, 1944

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

122. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many applications for licenses under the Assam Food Grains Control Order, 1944, were submitted up to the 15th December, 1944, to the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara for licenses of (i) class A, (ii) class B and (iii) class C ?
- (b) How many applications of the above classes were submitted after the 15th December 1944 ?
- (c) How many licenses of each class were granted (i) before 15th December and (ii) after 15th December 1944 ?

123. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the “petty dealers” are required to possess licenses under the Assam Food Grains Control Order, 1944 ?
- (b) If not, whether that fact was published by the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara for general information ?
- (c) If the reply to Question No.123 (b) above is in the negative whether Government are aware that for this non-publication, the dealers in food grains in Goalpara district, one and all, applied for obtaining licenses and underwent unnecessary hardships ?
- (d) Whether any special notification has been published in the official Gazette to the effect that the “petty dealers” in any particular area are required to take licenses under the said Order ?
- (e) If so, what are those areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

122. (a)—Class 'A'—65.

 ” ‘B’—317.

 ” ‘C’—386.

(b)—5 only (of which 2 were accepted on special consideration).

(c)—(i) No licence could be issued before 15th December 1944, as the applications were then under enquiry.

(ii) ‘B’ Class—97.

 ‘C’ Class—303.

‘A’ Class licenses are being issued by Government.

123. (a)—No license is required for petty dealers.

(b)—Yes, this was published by Deputy Commissioner, on 31st October, 1944, for general information.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Sibsagar district only.

Allegations against rice purchasing Syndicates of Surma Valley

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

124. (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to their Resolution No.SD(A)385/44/30, dated the 5th February 1945, published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 7th February 1945 and state why the personnel of the Committee appointed by the Assembly during its last November Session to enquire into the allegations against the Rice Purchasing Syndicates of the Surma Valley has been changed by Government ?

(b) Do Government propose to have the new personnel of the said committee approved by the Assembly ?

125. (a) Are Government aware of the present difficulties of the people of the Province due to the delay in purchasing rice and paddy by Government in large scale ?

(b) Do Government propose to fix up a bottom price of rice and paddy keeping in view the abnormal rise in prices of other essential commodities ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sa'yid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

124. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Starred Question No.8 asked by Maulavi Mabarak Ali, M. L. A., during the present Session of the Assembly.

(b)—No.

125. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No, Government do not consider it necessary at present.

Arrangements for purchase of rice and paddy in the Surma Valley

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked :

126. Will Government be pleased to state what arrangements have been made by Government for the purchase of rice and paddy in the Surma Valley after December 1944 ?

127. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total quantity of rice and paddy purchased by the Eastern Bengal and the Surma Valley Syndicates till the dates of expiry of their licences (figures to be given separately for each Syndicate) and the total prices paid by Government on this account ?

(b) Whether the rice and paddy purchased through Syndicates have been all consumed ?

(c) When the Committee appointed in the last November Session of the Assembly to enquire into the allegations made against the rice purchasing Syndicates of Surma Valley will commence their work ?

(d) What quantity of rice and paddy was gutted by the recent burning of the Manumukh godowns in the Maulvibazar subdivision and what will be the pecuniary loss to Government on that account ?

(e) Whether Government have investigated and ascertained the cause of this fire ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sa'yid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

126.—Government have appointed the necessary staff and made all preliminary arrangements for direct purchase of rice and paddy in the Surma Valley.

127. (a)—The total quantity of rice and paddy purchased by the Surma Valley Syndicates as reported by them up to 31st December 1944 are—

Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate :—

Rice	Paddy
Tons	Tons
15,875.42	13,459.46

Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate :—

Rice	Paddy
Tons	Tons
28,218	31,507

Total price paid so far to—

Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate...

Surma Valley Foodgrain Syndicate ...

Rs. 1,54,00,000

Rs. 95,00,000

Final payment in each case will be made after stores are taken over.

(b)—No.

(c)—The Committee will commence work as soon as preliminary arrangements regarding personnel are completed.

(d)—Exact quantity is not known. It is however, reported, that about 7,270 mds. rice and 9,857 mds. paddy were kept in the godowns immediately before they were burnt down.

(e)—The case is still under investigation.

Adjournment Motion *re* eviction of graziers from Kaimari Reserve

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have got notices of two Adjournment Motions—one from Srijut Ghanashyam Das and the other from Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence : to wit the oppressive and unjust order of the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta, asking the graziers of the Kaimari professional grazing reserve to remove their permanent *bathans* to new sites causing serious hardships and losses to them.

Sir, the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta, has very recently served notices...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : After 15th February, 1945.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When were the notices received by the graziers ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : After 15th February, 1945.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I want the exact date.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The graziers got the notice on the 7th of March and have come here yesterday.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What does the hon. Member mean 'by oppressive and unjust' ?

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : The Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta, has served notices upon the graziers of the Kaimari professional grazing reserve, asking them to remove their *bathans* to new sites. This is causing enormous losses and great hardships to them. Sir, the notice runs as follows :—

“বোৱা ১৫।২।৪৫ইং তাৰিখে স্থানীয় তদন্তৰ সময়ত মই দেখুৱাই দিয়া মতে আপোনালোকৰ বাথান এই নোটিশ পোৱা মাত্ৰে এতিয়া থকা ঠাইৰ পৰা উভৰলৈ পিছুৱাই আনিব যাতে বাথান আৰু বেদখলকাৰী সকলৰ মাজত যথেষ্ট ঠাই থাকে আৰু ভবিষ্যতত যাতে কাৰ্জিয়াৰ সম্ভাবনা নেথাকে।”

Sir, this notice is unjust and oppressive, and is causing enormous hardship and loss to the graziers. On the other hand, the encroachers are encouraged, and new encroachers will be encouraged to go there. Sir, I think, the notice has got the sanction of the Government behind it. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister went to Barpeta on the 6th February, 1945 and returned from the place on the 9th February, 1945 and the Hon'ble-Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri visited the very Reserve on the 11th February, 1945 and returned on the 12th February, 1945. The Sub-divisional Officer discussed the matter with them, and on their advice he had been to the Reserve on the 15th February, 1945. After that, Sir, he served the notice. By this notice, instead of evicting the encroachers, who have broken the law and damaged the grass and fodder of the cattle and buffaloes by cultivating the land inside the Reserve, the Sub-divisional Officer is going to evict the graziers who had spent 20 to 25 thousand rupees for raising their *bhithas* (plinths of their houses) above the flood level. Now, they have to surrender them for the use of the encroachers. These graziers have been in the Reserve from a very long time, and now they have to be evicted because of the encroachers who have broken the law, and I am sure, Sir, that new encroachers will also come to the reserve on this plea. For removing to new sites the graziers shall have to spend another sum of 20 to 25 thousand rupees to raise their *bhithas* of *bathans* above the flood level. Is it just ? Is it not oppressive ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I submit, Sir, I cannot agree that this is a fit Motion for adjournment of the House. The hon. Member himself postulates it as an order of the Sub-divisional Officer which he terms "unjust and oppressive". If that is so, Sir, it is a matter for adjudication in a proper Court. We do not know under what circumstances the Sub-divisional Officer served the notice ; it might be an eviction notice or what it is, is not known to us....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member says that it was issued under the instructions from Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I repudiate the suggestion, Sir. Government never gave such instructions to the Sub-divisional Officer. The hon. Member has tried to tag two Hon'ble Ministers who visited Barpeta during the first

and second week of February. But, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I asked the Sub-divisional Officer to take up a firm attitude to see that every letter of the Government instructions and policy was carried out, and not to spare any encroacher, who would break the law, no matter to what category he belonged. I do not know, Sir, how the hon. Member could come to that inference. The hon. Member himself saw me while I was at Barpeta and I was glad, Sir, he then conveyed an impression contrary to that which he just now stated on the floor of the House. He has insinuated that I might have given the instruction to the Sub-divisional Officer. "Might have" or "would have" will not do. According to the terms of the Adjournment Motions, they should be specifically stated. I think, Sir, I stated in connection with another Adjournment Motion, that this was not the forum to agitate questions such as the one he has brought forward. Over and above this, I think, I shall not be disclosing a secret if I were to mention that my hon. Friend Srijut Kameswar Das saw me yesterday morning at my bungalow in connection with this very matter. He took one or two graziers before me with a petition. I had a discussion with him after which he came away satisfied, and I wonder, Sir, that another hon. Member of his Group has brought forward an Adjournment Motion of this nature on the same matter. I therefore contend, Sir, that no Adjournment Motion lies.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May I know whether the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has taken any action on the petition submitted by the graziers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I am taking all necessary action about it. As a matter of fact I directed the Sub-divisional Officer by an express wire to take necessary action forthwith.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister stated that while he was at Barpeta, I interviewed him, and had a discussion with him about the affair. But as a matter of fact, I came to know of it only yesterday. I have also come to know, Sir, that the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta has expressed his inability to take any action in matters of encroachment on his own initiative, as Government issue orders direct in these matters. Sir, it has been stated by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister that he had given every direction to the Sub-divisional Officer to evict the encroachers, but he did not mention whether he had directed the Sub-divisional Officer to evict the encroachers from this grazing Reserve. If he says definitely that he has directed the Sub-divisional Officer to compensate the graziers the loss they will incur by shifting to other sites and to maintain peace there by posting armed police, I shall not ask the House for leave to move my Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : I could not very closely follow the hon. Member. He mentioned about my presence at Barpeta from the 6th to the 9th, but I challenge the insinuation that I might have been instrumental in goading the Sub-divisional Officer in the subsequent action that he is alleged to have taken in the matter. I never encouraged the Sub-divisional Officer to that effect. Rather I told him that he must execute the Government policy and take action with all vigour.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I do not understand why after having approached the Minister for taking certain steps in this matter there should be an Adjournment Motion. The hon. Members must realise that it is not consistent with the dignity of the House, to bring forward an Adjournment Motion after having approached the Minister concerned for certain action, particularly when the Minister says that he has taken action.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Srijut Kameswar Das might have seen the Hon'ble Minister, Sir.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : We do not know whether any action has been taken.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member should then ascertain what action has been taken.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : May I inform the House that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister did not pass any order on the petition of the graziers, when it was submitted to him but he simply promised to consult the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to see what action was possible under the circumstances. He did not pass any definite order.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Without waiting to know from the Hon'ble Minister what steps he has actually taken why should there be an Adjournment Motion ?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, my Friend the mover of the Motion did not approach the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Are not questions of this nature coming up again and again on the floor of the House ?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : No, Sir, this is a question altogether different from the other questions, *i.e.*, firing by the Police. Here the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta, instead of taking steps to oust the encroachers, is going to oust the peaceful graziers who have been there for a long time. The present question raised by my hon. Friend is that the Government is not justified in asking the graziers to shift somewhere to make room for the encroachers. This is encouraging lawlessness.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : My point is that the Hon'ble Minister was approached for redress. Did not the hon. Member know that another Member of his party approached the Hon'ble Minister ? Both the hon. Members belong to the Congress Party. When tabling an Adjournment Motion I do not think that the Members of the Party are not consulted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD S ADULLA : And coming from the same subdivision.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to take the matter into his own hands and take immediate steps to prevent the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta, from ousting the graziers and also to see that the notices that have already been served on the graziers by the Sub-divisional Officer are withdrawn without delay ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : As I have been appealed to by Mr. Talukdar, I can say that I had absolutely no knowledge of this. Neither my non-official Friends who often visit me nor the Revenue Minister informed me anything about it. I was absent from Shillong the whole of yesterday and nobody could see me here. I can assure the House that I will go through the petition as well as the orders passed by the Sub-divisional Officer in consultation with my Hon'ble Colleague, the Revenue Minister and will see that justice is done.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : The graziers submitted their petition on the 7th of March. They have come up to Shillong for the removal of their grievances.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Was it sent by Post or was it handed over to me personally ?

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Sent by post.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It has not yet reached my hands.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : It was handed over to me at 6-30 P.M. and at 7 P.M. I informed the Revenue Secretary to send a telegram forthwith and to supply all details and take necessary action.

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

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : No, Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As the hon. Member does not press his Motion I do not think it is necessary for me to decide whether the Motion is of urgent public importance and is in order.

The other Motion* is on the same subject, and the hon. Member is also absent.

*Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH to move : This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, *viz.*, the unjust and highhanded order of the Sub-divisional Officer, Barpeta in requiring the graziers of the Kaimari professional Grazing Reserve to remove their *khutis* from permanent sites to new ones, causing them thereby serious loss and hardship.

GRANT No. 30
(57.—MISCELLANEOUS)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,98,900 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 "57.—Miscellaneous."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,98,900 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 "57.—Miscellaneous."

There are as many as 16 Cut Motions, all are from the Congress Party. I wish to know which are going to be moved.

(Voices—No. 4 may be moved.)

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 20,000 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus, at page 145 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 2, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 2.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about detention of Congress and Communist prisoners either in Jails or in restricted areas and about the non-payment and insufficient payment of maintenance allowance to them.

We have persistently pressing the popular Government of Assam to release all the Congress and Communist prisoners, but the Government has been proceeding very slowly. Citing instances of the Members of this House who have been still detained I must say that the Premier is unnecessarily hard on them. When British bureaucracy Siddhinath Sarma, Srijut Kameswar Das and others it would be foolishness to be afraid of Srijut Debeswar Sarma, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi, Srijut Omeo Kumar Das and Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma. Of course, apprehension of the destruction of the present Cabinet is justifiable. These incarcerated patriots will never support a Cabinet which is incompetent to give food and cloth to the people. They will make an attempt for a united Ministry. Sir Saadulla should not now grudge their presence in the Assembly. Immediate measures must be adopted to bring them out of jail. Srijut Purnendu Kishore Sen Gupta, who is a true disciple of Gandhiji is still kept in prison when Gandhiji himself is let out. Maulavi Mabarak Ali, a disciple of Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madani is still rotting in jail, when Hussain Ahmed Sahib himself is let out. It is understood both Purnendu Babu and Mabarak Ali Sahib are ill. There can be no justification to keep them in jail.

The Hon'ble Premier in reply to my Budget speech charged me for taking him to hear seditious songs. If he means that occasion when you were also present, Sir, I must protest against his wrong statement. I presume he was telling about the song which demanded the release of political prisoners.

"*ਫੇ ਫੇ*" etc.

Why Sir Muhammad has been enraged? Prosaic as he is, he might have taken "*ਫੇ ਫੇ*" to be humiliating terms. That function was arranged in aid of the Kasturba Memorial Fund. He grumbled the payment of insignificant sum of rupees ten. The sum is better spent than his ill spent sums on race course and on bridge table.

*Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: The hon. Mover is lost in the desert. May he use the microphone, Sir?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I therefore appeal to the House that the political prisoners be released immediately.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Any other Motion to be moved?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: There are some on other subjects.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“ That the provision of Rs.20,000 under Grant No.30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—A.—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus, at page 145 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs.2.”

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy.

I feel, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I did not express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for having made it possible for me to participate in the proceedings of the House after a prolonged spell of almost three years. The measure of my gratitude will be better appreciated if my hon. Friends realise that a power higher than that of the present Cabinet has become the arbiter of the destinies of many hon. Members of the House. We should have found it easier to reconcile ourselves to this position if the Civil Government had abdicated. The other day, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Karuna Sindhu Roy compared the Hon'ble Prime Minister to a Badshah. Surveying the whole situation, I feel constrained to remark that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is rather like the British King because, like him, he too seems to reign but not rule !

Sir, I will not insult the intelligence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister by suggesting or even insinuating that he believes in his heart of hearts that those who are being kept behind prison bars are in any way sources of danger to our common society or a menace to our common motherland. No, Sir, nothing of the kind. But the pity is that he does not share with us the awful awareness that we, of the Congress, have fallen victim to a cold, calculating and most well-organised vendetta.

Sir, we have heard it airily stated that it was necessary to put us behind prison bars because we are suspected of pro-Japanese sympathies. I call this a wicked charge and challenge Government to prove it in a Court of law. Such a charge would not stand a moment's scrutiny before any tribunal, Sir. Therefore, Sir, I call it a blatant lie. It does not lie in the mouth of the British Government to charge us with pro-Japanese sympathies. May I remind the House that when the Japanese were trying to get a strangle-hold over China and the British Government were hobnobbing with the Japanese, we of the Congress, were the first to send aid to China in the shape of a well-equipped Medical Unit. And what about the All-India China Day that we organised which was frowned upon ? Could there be a more definite gesture made against Japan and Fascism ? Sir, on this side of the House, if we are pro-anything, we are pro-independence and if we are anti-anything, we are anti-slavery.

Sir, we have also heard it stated in some quarters that we are Fifth Columnists. I do not know what is the full implication of such an appellation. But it is, I presume, something very sinister. My answer to the charge is that if we are Columnists of the Fifth grade, those who call us so, are columnists of the First grade !

Sir, I need not recount to the House why all this outlawry has been imposed upon us. It is generally because we did not want to be drawn into the present war blind-folded. We wanted to have a clarification of the attitude of the British Government towards our political aspirations. But we were asked instead to believe this as a people's war. What people's war is this, I ask, that has not the people's sanction behind it ? What people's war is this when one looks round and sees nothing but country wide repression and suppression of civil liberties ? What people's war is this, I ask again, which requires the accredited leaders of the people to be put behind prison bars, in order to win it ?

Sir, I am prepared to concede that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is anxious to throw open the prisons and set at liberty all political sufferers. But it seems he is unable to surmount certain obstacles placed in the way of the execution of his own will. To those who resist him, why does not the Hon'ble Prime Minister point out that the British Government thought nothing of realising that arch-Fascist Leader Oswald Mosley in their own homeland ? Verily, Sir, a white skin covers a multitude of sins !

Sir, only the other day my hon. Friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri deplored the frustration that had come to the Hon'ble Prime Minister while holding his high office as such. May I also ask him, Sir, is this office worth so much that he must hang on to it even in the midst of all the frustration that it has brought him and worse still at the cost of our broken hearths and homes, our shattered hopes and dreams? Sir, the time has come even for Sir Muhammad to realise that the struggle in consequence of which we have suffered and many continue to suffer is no longer a struggle led by this organisation or that, but it has turned out to be a struggle between liberty and tyranny, between justice and injustice, between right and wrong.

With these words, Sir, I support this Cut Motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in making comments on this Cut Motion I cannot speak at the eloquent level of my Friend Mr. Chanda, but I am moved to make certain comments in view of the invitation given by Mr. Bardoloi in his Budget speech or rather the reproach to the Members of my Group about their silence on this question of civil liberty. My Group, Sir, has never been happy about the continued detention of Members of this House. The uneasiness comes through our lack of knowledge of the precise circumstances of this detention. We are prepared to believe that originally the executive Government had grounds for this detention. They may have grounds even now. But we think that these grounds cannot be valid for all time and against all Members. It seems reasonable to us to relate these detention orders to the improvement in the war situation also. Rigorous tests which were necessary in 1942, should no longer be necessary in 1945. My own view, therefore, is that the time has come to liberalise the tests which should govern all cases in which civil liberty has been infringed. Sir, we can fairly ask Government that the cases of all Members of the Legislative Assembly shall be reviewed forthwith and full regard should be paid, Sir, to the improvement of war situation, the changing political situation and the need, I would stress this, Sir, the need for reinforcement of the public life of this Province with men of good-will and men of ability. This, Sir, is not precisely in support of the Motion but it is a request for a new approach to be made to a problem which, many of us in this House of all parties feel, has continued to be a problem for far too long a period.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Cut Motion is intended to raise a discussion with regard to detention of Congress prisoners. Government has been blamed for this. But it is known to all Members of this House how far the present Government, the Government of Assam, is responsible for detaining the Congress Members in jail. How far we people can blame this present Government that must always be borne in mind and I think the Congress Members present here will realise the moral grounds on which they stand. It is no good smarting under the penalties. If they realise the spiritual and moral force that they have at their back, I do not think, they will be labouring under this difficulty and would be complaining about the difficult situation with regard to insufficient payment of maintenance allowance. If they are strong, their spiritual ground is strong, they will win at the end any how. But one point has been mentioned by Mr. Chanda that they have fought against Fascism by sending a medical unit in China. If they have done that, that must be done for its own sake unit they are fighting Fascism. But they are doing it for their own sake—to do good to the helpless people. Even Mr. Gandhi and the whole Congress in India will not take this stand. Therefore, Sir, my point is that I would appeal to the Congress Members present plight but if they are right in their motive—if they are honest in their aspiration—I think, they should follow that principle. Therefore, Sir, it is no good assailing upon the Government or complaining of the supposed inconveniences obtaining in the Province or outside.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the presence of our eloquent Deputy Leader of the Congress Party—Mr. Chanda—in this House and I thank him for the very kind words with

which he has complemented me, and these words are a sufficient refutation to his subsequent accusation against me that although in my heart of hearts I feel for my people, I have been frustrated in my endeavour to carry that feeling into practical politics. I have been impressing upon the House that out of 400 of our political prisoners in the Province, since September or October of 1942 up till 15th February last, only 95 remained behind the prison bars and out of these 95, if I remember aright, during the last fortnight I have released 3 more.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: May I interrupt for a minute, Sir? Is it not a fact, Sir, that most of the people who have been released and interned have had most humiliating conditions imposed upon them? In my opinion, Sir, the difference between such release and imprisonment is the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The difference between remaining in prison and remaining in one's own home is the same as the difference between sun light and darkness. It might be a difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee according to my hon. Friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, but if there has been any restriction imposed on certain individuals it is because of their past activities. Sir, if it was my intention to keep my hon. Friends behind the prison bars, I would have been the last person to release such able advocates like our hon. Friends, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader. The fact that I have not only released them but I have also in one case removed all restrictions about his movement—the fact that I have allowed them to come to the Assembly—show that also in action, I am at one with my feelings. If I had not been able to release the rest-92, it is because of very valid grounds. I am perfectly sure my hon. Friend who gave us such an interesting lecture regarding his Party being *anti-Fascist* and *anti-Fifth Columnist* will surely support me in what I have done. He as well as other Members of this House know full well that in this part of the country, namely, Assam, which is an operational zone in the global war, we have some people, followers of what is popularly known as Forward Block—a Party which owes allegiance to Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, who is alleged to be on the side and at present with the Japanese. If my hon. Friend, Mr. Chanda, is true to his words that he is *anti-Fascist* to the core he cannot but support the Government if the Government keep behind prison bars those who are still following Subhas Chandra Bose.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: But it must be proved, Sir. They should be put upon their trial before a court of justice and the charges investigated.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Then, Sir, we have got a number of saboteurs who have wrecked trains, caused untold sufferings to many and gave many an early departure to the next world and many of them have been convicted after proper trial. I do not think my hon. Friend who is steeped in the creed of non-violence will support the release of these people. If he agrees with me in those two points, he will find that very few of the real Congress workers are behind jail at the present moment.

I am at one with the hon. Leader of the European Group when he says that a new orientation in the Eastern war should be made when the Japanese invaders have been pushed out not only from Assam but from the border of Assam and that ore speedy release of political prisoners that has been followed hitherto should be effected. In private talk with the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I have already told him that that has been also my policy and that it will be expedited as early as possible. (Applause and shouts of hear, hear.)

So far as our colleagues of this House are concerned, I am prepared to see that they are released as early as possible but I think the hon. Members will oppose and will not press for the release of Mr. Sankar Barua, who has been guilty of offence committed in connection with the Sarupathar Mail disaster case and who has since been absconding. His case will have to be tried in a court of law. As he has not surrendered up till now, he is not a political prisoner but is an absconder from justice.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy has said about my relaxation. I can say this much, Sir, that if I had not any relaxation I would have long ago been finished due to the amount of work which has fallen on me. Occasionally I go to race to have a sun bath and if I had not indulged in this sort of relaxation, I would not have been able to continue to be the Leader of the House.

I find, Sir, that my hon. Friend, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party has been very unkind to me in one respect that he thinks I am a service monger.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: No, Sir, I did not say so. I cannot be so unfair, Sir. I have been misunderstood.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Any way, Sir, he thinks that the power of a Prime Minister is alluring to me and even though I was frustrated in many of my attempts by the higher authorities, I did not resign. Times without number I told him and to the House that I never want to occupy this position. When the late Sir Michael Keane wrote me a letter—which I still possess—that I should come to Assam and form the Ministry in 1937, I point blank refused saying that I had not sufficient time to play on the wicket of the politics of Assam. It will also be a news to many of the hon. Members in this House that I was a colleague of our hon. Deputy Leader's late lamented father in the old Legislative Council of Assam for a number of years. I had no sufficient time to play on the wicket of the Assam politics but when my friend—our *ex*-Advocate General, Rai Bahadur P. C. Dutt—wrote to me—and that letter, dated 7th March 1937, is still with me—urging that it will be a standing blot on Assam if I would not come to form a Ministry and Assam goes without a Ministry. He further stated that he tried his level best to form the Ministry under the new Constitution, but failed. He did not want that our place in the self-governing Provinces of India be jeopardised if I do not come and help in the formation of the Ministry. This he wrote while he was holding at that time an exalted position of an Executive Councillor under the Government of Assam. If my hon. Friends want to see the letter he wrote to me I can show it now. It is such a request that brought me to Assam and I helped in the formation of the Ministry in 1937. A year after the formation of the Ministry when I resigned, immediately I went back to my profession in Calcutta. Any way I am not going to dilate upon that at present. But it was the sense of duty to the Province that brought me here by the majority parties' request to be the Prime Minister. Therefore I leave it to my hon. Friends to judge whether I was brought here by lure of power or by the sense of duty to the Province and the country as a whole.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I do not like to press my Motion to the vote of the House. I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

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

(After a pause).

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Any other Motion to be moved?

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 33,351 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—E.—Petty Establishments (total), at page 145 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(My object is to ventilate the grievance of poorer class travellers and passengers for want of *serais* and waiting accommodations in railway stations.)

মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, মই যি বিষয়ে এই মোছনৰ দ্বাৰা আলোচনা কৰিব খুজিছোঁ এইটো অতি সাধাৰণ বিষয়। বেলত যাতায়াত কৰা দূখীয়া তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীৰ অসুবিধা সততে আপত্তি কৰা স্থলতো আঞ্জিলৈকে সি দূৰ হোৱা নাই আৰু গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টৰ ফালৰ পৰাও সেইবিলাক দূৰ কৰিবলৈ একো চেষ্টা কৰা দেখা নেযায়। বৰ্তমান সময়ত বৰং এই শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীৰ অসুবিধা আগতকৈও বাঢ়িছে, কাৰণ বেলৰ সংখ্যা কমান্ত বহুতো তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰী যাব নোৱাৰি ষ্টেচনত থাকি যায়। এই দূখীয়া তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীৰ কাৰণে বহুতো বেলওৱে ষ্টেচনত থাকিবলৈ অসুবিধা কৰি দিয়া নাই। এই দূখীয়া তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টৰ বিষয় তথাপি প্ৰাদেশিক গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টেও এই সকল দূখীয়া যাত্ৰীৰ অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক ষ্টেচনত তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীবিলাকৰ থাকিবৰ ব্যবস্থা নাই সেইবিলাক ষ্টেচনত

আলহীদ্বৰ, যাক "Serai" বোলে, সাজি দিলে বৰ ভাল হয়। আগেয়ে তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীৰ থাকিবলৈ যি অসুবিধা আৰু কষ্ট আছিল এতিয়াও সেই অসুবিধা আৰু বেচিহে হৈছে কিয়নো বেলেত যাবলৈ ঠাই নেপাই বহুত ষ্টেচনত থাকিবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। মই আশা কৰোঁ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে দূখীয়া তৃতীয় শ্ৰেণীৰ যাত্ৰীসকলৰ থকা ঠাইৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ মন দিব আৰু বিহিত চেষ্টা কৰিব। সদায় আপত্তি কৰা স্থলতো আজিও সি দূৰ নোহোৱাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে গৰিহণাৰ যোগ্য।

(Srijut Mahadev Sarma, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese in favour of his Cut Motion and narrated the pitiable condition of the third class railway passengers. He urged Government to arrange with the Railway authorities for the provision of waiting rooms or 'serais' in the railway stations for passengers who are required to wait for unusually long hours for want of accommodation in the trains.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 33,351 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—E.—Petty Establishments (total), at page 145 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Any other Motion to be moved ?

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,58,984 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—K.—1—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn, at page 149 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

By this Motion my intention is to criticise Government control, procurement and distribution policy regarding cloth and yarn. We have now been asked to maintain a full scale staff at Bombay under the control and guidance of the Deputy Provincial Textile Commissioner. Only the other day, we were asked to sanction about Rs.11,000 for maintaining his office and staff. The reason for the presence of the Deputy Provincial Textile Commissioner at Bombay was explained by the Government that the Assam appointed dealers of cloth and yarn had no direct dealings with the Bombay mills or their quota holders and he was to be there to facilitate procurement of cloth and yarn and to help for speedy transport of the same to Assam. But in fact what do we see ? From the bulletin of the Publicity Department of the 17th February, 1945, we come to understand that the November quota of cloth and yarn was purchased in November, 1944 and I have some letters in my possession which say that even August and September quotas were not available in Assam even by the end of January, 1945. It will be interesting to read out a few lines from the letter dated the 28th January, 1945 from the Manager of Messrs Hashem Kasim Dada of Gauhati which he wrote in reply to an enquiry by the Chairman of the Barpeta Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Co-operative Stores Limited. In that reply he wrote that the September quota had not yet arrived in full. In another letter dated the 29th January, 1945, from Messrs. Sewlal Haribux of Gauhati, who are also the appointed wholesalers, to the Secretary to the Barpeta Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Co-operative Stores Limited, it was written that the 50 bales of cloth quota for Barpeta earmarked for September, 1944, have not yet arrived there. So we fail to understand how the Deputy Provincial Textile Commissioner at Bombay is facilitating or in any way regulating the transport of cloth and yarn in time. If the August and September quotas are not available in Assam by the end of January, 1945, the November quota which is said to have been procured in November at Bombay, cannot, I am afraid, be made available by the end of February, 1945 even. We have been promised that though in the past owing to some irregularities the cloth and yarn could not be made available in time in Assam, both for non-procurement and transport difficulties, these would now be available timely from the current month. But from what we have seen in the past it is clear that things will remain as scarce as before and will not be available as promised unless some prompt and special measures are taken in the meantime. I am constrained to say that no regularisation in the matter of procurement and distribution has yet been affected and there are still defects somewhere.

As regards procurement, Sir, certain dealers who have been appointed as procurers of cloth and yarn for Assam, have completely failed to procure the allotted quotas and in time. From the bulletin of February 17th, 1945, we find that Messrs. Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society, Limited, procured for November, 1944 quota, 2,600, bales and Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada procured only 481 bales leaving a deficit of about 400 bales for the same period. We have no information yet what the third firm of the appointed agents did for the period. Is it that it failed to procure anything for the month?

We have been informed that the monthly quota of Assam cloth is about 4,600 bales including Standard cloth and deducting the Standard cloth quota, other fine cloth comes to about 3,400 bales monthly. If that is so, there has been deficit of some 400 bales for the November, 1944 quota and we are informed that the previous quotas also could not be procured in time and fell far short of the monthly limits. There was deficit in every month. In spite of all these facts and in spite of Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada failing to procure their quotas duly the quotas allotted to them and to other appointed agents now have been unfair. We fail to understand why Messrs. Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society, Limited, be given an allotment of one-third only of the Provincial requirements and Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada be given the remaining two-thirds of the Assam quota. Why the facts that Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada were able to procure only 481 bales in November and the Assam Provincial Textile Society, Limited, procured 2,600 bales for the November, 1944 quota, were lost sight of? Let the Government explain why should the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society, Limited, have been given one-third and Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada, who I understand, are a firm from outside Assam have been given two-thirds of the Provincial quota, or the people are bound to consider this allotment for procurement of cloth as definitely unjust and unfair.

As regards allotment for procurement of yarn also, an outside firm of Messrs. Lunkaram is reported to have been shown undue favour. This firm is reported to be allowed to procure and also to sell in retail up to a limited percentage, whereas the Assam Provincial Textile Society, Limited, who procured some 400 to 450 bales of yarn at a considerable cost and trouble have been ordered to make over the yarn to the said Messrs. Lunkaram. If this is the state of things we don't see any reason behind the Government action. The Government is certainly unfair if instead of encouraging the people of the Province they encourage outsiders. Of course formerly the people of the Province were not very much in the cloth and yarn trade. But formerly there was also free trade in the Province. Every individual was free to compete and free to trade according as he liked and Government had no hand or control. But as the Government has now stepped in and taken up control over procurement and distribution—I fail to see why they should not come forward to encourage the people of the Province as against outsiders. It is not clear why these outside firms who were not in any way connected with cloth and yarn trade in the Province should have been given more facilities. From the Explanations under Supplementary Grant No. 22 it is seen that none of the appointed Assam dealers had had practically any business dealings with Bombay mills or their quota holders in Bombay and to obviate these difficulties Government had to make their arrangement for procurement and appoint at Bombay one Deputy Provincial Textile Commissioner to help our procuring agents in procuring our due share of cloth and yarn in time by remaining in constant personal touch with the textile authorities in Bombay. Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada and Lunkaram appear to be in the same footing with the other Assam dealers. Why then they have been given a large share in the quotas and why Messrs. Lunkaram have also been allowed to sell in retail? Let the Government reply.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 3,58,984 under Grant No. 30, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous, Minor head—K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges, Sub-head—K.—1—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn, at page 149 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,98,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to add a few words to what has been said by my hon. Friend Mr. Kameswar Das. It is well known to every Member of this House that the Province is passing through an acute crisis in textiles and yarn. The other day, in reply to an Adjournment Motion the Hon'ble Premier tried to explain the delay in the despatch of cotton cloths as due to mistakes about marking the bales of cloth which were in the godown of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company but the fact is that there was the tex-mark. Only there was no mark about the destination to which these bales were to be despatched. But as the description of these bales were known to Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company they might have despatched these bales to different Subdivisions according to the allotted quotas of each. There was no reason for them to detain these bales for weeks together. We are told that they did not engage any staff for the purpose of dealing with textile bales meant for Assam. This firm, Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company, responsible is for the delay in transport of these textile bales in Assam, Sir.

Then as regards the appointment of distributors, we have got certain objections. If the normal trade channels were utilised for the purpose, that would have been a different matter. Now we find a tendency on the part of the Government to block the normal trade channel on the plea of executing the control orders. This is why distribution of these commodities has been entrusted to three agencies none of whom have to their credit any experience of the business in textiles and yarns in this Province. It is not my intention to say anything against the Assam Provincial Textile Co-operative Society if it be the intention of the Government to promote co-operative spirit among the people of the Province. As regards the other two parties—Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada have got no business whatsoever in Assam as regards textiles and if our information is correct, they are black-listed by the Madras Government for mismanagement and mishandling of the textile business. Any way, whether they are black-listed or not, certainly this distribution could be entrusted to the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society and they might allot the subdivisional quotas themselves as in most of the Subdivisions subdivisional co-operative textile societies have been formed. We are led to believe that this is just to patronise one or two firms rather than to do justice to the co-operative societies that these two new firms have been placed in-charge of distribution of textiles. As regards the other firm, the Hon'ble Premier observed the other day that a very energetic young man of merit eager to do some business approached him for help. I am grateful to the Premier for the consideration shown to this young man. But with due regard, I must say that there was no justification to entrust such a huge business to a novice. If he was really an energetic young man, he might have been given a small quota of business at Sylhet, at the first instance. But he should not have been given a job beyond his capacity. The result has been as has been quoted from the press communique, that he could not procure any quota in November, his quota was purchased by some one else on his behalf. It was tried to be explained by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the man had to come away on account of the illness of his mother, but I am afraid we cannot be satisfied by that explanation because had he really a firm in Bombay, his personal absence could not mean complete closure of his business. That shows, this man could not put up any organisation worth the name in Bombay. For these reasons, I submit that the distributing agency has not been entrusted to right people.

As regards yarn distribution, I am constrained to say something. As you all know Karimganj is the biggest centre for the manufacture of handloom products in the Province. From Karimganj the Gauhati Emporium and all other important markets of handloom products are used to be fed. There is a Co-operative Yarn Purchase and Cloth Sale Society at Karimganj which the Hon'ble Minister of Co-operative Societies was pleased to visit during his last tour in Karimganj. That Society has been placed in-charge of distribution of yarns throughout the Subdivision by Government. I read a telegram from the Chairman of that Society which runs thus: "Our society has been entrusted with distribution of yarn for Karimganj Subdivision, *vide* Government letter No.L.Tc-22/44/200, dated 27th July, 1944 stop Baliraj Indrajit Teli distributor of yarn for Surma Valley may kindly be directed to give Karimganj yarn quota to our society". It seems, this Baliraj Indrajit has been entrusted with the

distribution of the quota of yarn for the Karimganj Subdivision and the entire Surma Valley. I am told that this firm is a branch of the new firm of Lunkaram Sohanlal of Gauhati. How this firm comes into the picture it is difficult to say as this firm had no yarn business at Karimganj ever in the past. Even the Textile Commissioner could not enlighten us on that point. The firm of Lunkaram Sohanlal of Gauhati, distributor of yarn for the entire Province has been allowed to sell 50 per cent. of the yarn in retail. As this firm is of unknown and doubtful credentials, there is no knowing how will they dispose of this retail quota of yarn. I am further informed that they have no capital of their own to carry on such a huge business. They have combined with another firm in Calcutta named Puranchand Daga and have arranged finance from that firm. While there are numerous firms in this Province, it is not understood why their claims have been jettisoned and a new firm should be entrusted with this work. So it is more or less Government's apathetic attitude towards the co-operative societies and their anxiety to favour some particular firm which is responsible for this mal-distribution of cloth and yarn throughout the Province, culminating in a cloth and yarn famine.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: As regards the Motion moved by Srijut Mahadev Sarma, I am afraid this Motion is not relevant to the Demand under which it has been moved. Besides, it is a federal subject. However, I am in sympathy with what has been said by the hon. Member and am fully alive to the inconveniences and difficulties of the railway travellers now-a-days. If he mentions certain specific instances I would be glad to bring that to the notice of the Railway authorities. But he has spoken generally about the necessity of waiting rooms at different railway stations. I do not know whether he has in mind anything more than the waiting accommodation at Rangapara Station. As regards that, I had received a complaint from some Members of the European Group and I have already taken action and am glad to say that the Railway authorities have agreed to construct a suitable waiting room next year. If the hon. Member gives me any other specific instance, I shall be very glad to bring that to the notice of the Railway authorities.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, much of the criticisms levelled by my hon. Friends Srijuts Kameswar Das and Rabindra Nath Aditya about our procurement and distribution policy of mill-made cloth and yarn are misinformed. I will be very brief as we have not much time and I will place certain figures before them.

As I have mentioned already, originally the Government of India tagged Assam's quota with Bengal and in spite of our repeated attempts, we did not get anything from them. In those days we were compelled to procure direct from Bombay by sending our Deputy Director of Cloth the following quantities:—We got in June 621 and in July 607 bales of cloth and informed the Government of India that we had not received any quota from Bengal, and therefore we should be given an emergency distribution quota. They were pleased to give us one thousand bales. In August we got 684 bales and in September 693 bales. Then during October they were pleased to give us a separate quota of 4,600 bales including Standard cloth. In November we got 3,081 bales of cloth and 200 bales of yarn, December—3,183 bales of cloth and 148 bales of yarn, January 1945—3,367 bales of cloth and 11 bales of yarn, February—3,764 bales of cloth and 400 bales of yarn. All told, we have received 17,000 bales of cloth and 759 bales of yarn.

The emergency quota of 1,000 bales of mill-made cloth was procured by 9 authorised dealers of Assam. The June, July, August and September quotas were procured by three representative dealers from the frozen stocks of controlled mills from Bombay, but the November, December and January quotas were secured by Messrs Hashem Kasim Dada and the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society, and a small amount by A. Latif R. Ahmed. Just now I have received a telegram from Rao Sahib Sundram, who is stationed at Bombay, that about 14,000 bales of cloth have left Bombay and Ahmedabad for

Assam; this had been procured in the last four months, *viz*, November, December, January and February, thus giving us our average quota of 3,400 bales of mill-made cloth per month.

Sir, I have explained the other day the delay in booking stocks by Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company. It was stated in the last meeting of the Economic Advisory Board by the representative of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company that the difficulty of no destination being marked on the bales had been cured, and the bales were being issued daily at the rate of 200 bales. As these are coming by steamer it will take at least a fortnight for them to arrive, but I hope, Sir, that within one month the shortage of mill-made cloth in the Province will disappear.

My Friend also asked why arrangement with three different parties was made. Sir, Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada is a very big firm, well-known throughout India and the East; they have got their branches not only throughout India, but also they had their branches in Malaya, Singapore and Burma; they have also established themselves as traders in Assam for the last 15 years, if not more, and they have branches at Gauhati, Dhubri and Sylhet. I personally know they were big importers of cloth at Gauhati; as a matter of fact even many local Marwari traders used to get their supplies from them. When there was a cloth famine in Shillong, the Muslim community wanted some cloth for use as coffins for their dead bodies, I could get two *thans* from these people—and from nowhere else—even in the difficult days of 1942-43. So, Sir, it is not correct to say that these people are unknown to Assam, or that they were unknown to the textile trade. If we call this firm as a firm of outsiders, I can very well say that the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society, most of whose members are Marwaries doing business here—is also a firm of outsiders. Any way, Sir, the present distribution is that 40 per cent. of procurement is in charge of the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society and 60 per cent. in charge of Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada. Originally it was 60 per cent. for Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada, 20 per cent. for the Textile Society and 20 per cent. for the Sylhet merchant, A. Latif R. Ahmed. My Friend is not correct in saying that I had shown favour to the wrong person. Sir, this young man established himself in Bombay early in 1914 and we came to learn of him in June 1944 when our Textile Commissioner, Mr. Hadi Hussain, went to Bombay. He saw this youngman, and was so impressed with his earnestness for work and business acumen that he gave him contract to supply Assam with some thousand bales of yarn. He was given 20 per cent. of the procurement of cloth for the Surma Valley, and he procured about 400 bales in November and sent them to Sylhet. In the middle of December, he had to come to his native place leaving his work in charge of Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada. Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada did the work in his name, *i.e.*, they bought certain bales in the name of A. Latif R. Ahmed in December, but from January they refused to carry on that business and Rao Sahib Sundram gave that 20 per cent. to the Provincial Co-operative Textile Society without reference to the Assam Government. Now, all the parties are doing their level best to procure as much as possible. In the first instance Messrs. Hashem Kasim Dada refused to work, for our Textile Commissioner, when he passed the order at Bombay some time in November or early December, made it plain to that firm that his order was for a period of 15 days only. They refused to invest their money for such a short period. Their principal representative saw me in January at Delhi and said that they refused to work on that condition. I told him that the Textile Commissioner had to take the approval of the Minister-in-charge of Industries as well as mine before he could give final orders, and therefore he made his orders tentative. I told them to go and work, and since then they are procuring their share of the quota.

Then I come to yarn. I have already mentioned that we got in all 759 bales of yarn, the short procurement is due to various reasons which I need not detail. While I was at Delhi during January, on account of the extreme shortage of yarn in the Province, my Hon'ble Colleague, the Minister-in-charge of Industries passed an order granting the right of importing yarn to a Gauhati firm,

Lunkaram Sohanlal. I never heard of this firm before. When I was told by different parties of the firm not being a genuine one I enquired about this firm, and my Hon'ble Colleague told that this firm had been doing business at Gauhati, Fenchuganj, Karimganj, Tezpur and other places in Assam for the last two years; they had also branches at Bombay, Cawnpore and Ahmedabad and other places. Thinking that they would be able to import yarn quickly, he gave the monopoly right to them. I was not here; my Hon'ble Colleague probably consulted the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education. My hon. Friend Mr. Aditya complained that although Government proposed to support the co-operative societies, yet so far as Karimganj is concerned, they have given the distributing agency to Baliraj Indrajit. Now, this firm is alleged to be a branch of Messrs. Lunkaram Sohanlal, and therefore they were ordered to supply all the requirements of the Society at wholesale rates, and the Society would not suffer in any way. They might get their total requirement from the distributing agents.

Then again, Sir, I do not know whether they have got their finances from Hashem Kasim Dada. I have never enquired into the previous history of the people. Therefore, I am not in a position to know.

One word more, Sir, and I will finish. My Friend asserted that Government is showing favour to one party or another and that the favour has not been shown to the right people. So far as yarn is concerned, if on review the party is not found to be proper, we will change them. Then again, the firm of Hashem Kasim Dada has been black-listed in Madras. This Organisation has branches all over India. It is correct that the licence for dealing in yarn to a branch of this firm dealing at Tuticorin has been cancelled.

†Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: If one firm is black-listed in one Province is it not black-listed in the other Provinces?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No. The Government of India have directed that the Provinces are to use their own discretion.

As I said some days ago that Rao Sahib Sundram who was sent to Bombay in June when our quota was tagged with Bengal recommended the firm of Hashem Kasim Dada and one Marwari gentleman who was the Secretary, Upper Assam Chamber of Commerce was selected for Assam Valley for procurement of cloth. We thought the firms were suitable and reliable party. Hashem Kasim Dada have got branches all over India. We gave them 60 per cent. of the total quota at the time. We did not know that the Society had no capital of their own, but they managed to raise the necessary funds for procuring the quota of cloth that was given to them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Mahadev Sarma press his Motion?

†Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: No Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Does Srijut Kameswar Das press his Motion?

†Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

No other Cut Motion is going to be taken up. So I am putting the main question.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,98,900 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 ‘57.—Miscellaneous.”

The question was adopted.

†Speech not corrected.

GRANT No.13.

(29—POLICE.)

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.38,53,900 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 "29.—Police."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.38,53,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head '29.—Police'."

There are as many as 17 Cut Motions of which 7 are from the Ministerialist party. Which of the Motions do they likely to move?

†Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.52,382 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2. Pay of Establishment (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My sole intention in moving this Cut Motion is to impress upon the Government the necessity of not allowing any extension of service to the servants of the Police Department or re-appointing them after retirement.

Sir, a few years ago Government adopted the policy that no Government servants shall be granted any extension after he obtains the age of retirement. At present very often we find that Government are not following this policy. I realise that there is a dearth of officers in the various departments of Government but at the same time there is no dearth of suitable candidates. Why they should not be appointed to the resultant vacancies? I have strong objections to the Police officers being granted extensions or to re-appoint these officers. These officers seldom discharge their duties properly. They do not belong to the permanent cadre and without any more prospect under Government they utilise their services to their personal interests. Then again it is very difficult to control their activities on the part of the Police Superintendents.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then Motion No.3.

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.52,382 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.82, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs.82.

Sir, fourteen persons of Shillong have been appointed special constables by the Superintendent of Police, Shillong. Almost all of them are respectable business men of Police Bazar. The duty allotted to them is to see that people do not pass stools and urine in the A. R. P. Shelter. They are to be on duty for 7 hours a day. Respectable business men as they are, they have got various duties to perform during the whole day. So they have no sufficient time at their disposal to keep watch on A. R. P. Shelters. It is simply ridiculous that shopkeepers and their employees should be appointed to such work of public nuisance. The Superintendent of Police might appoint beat constables of his own Department to do this urgent job. A. R. P. Department might have appointed chowkidars to arrest persons who commit nuisance in these shelters. One thing is certain that these shelters will never be used for the purpose for which they are constructed.

Unused places of seclusion, where people of various nationality and occupation stroll up to late at night, where people are seen waiting for passing their stool, must have the chance of being spoilt by stool and urine. They may be demolished now. In that case none are required to be harassed. Md. Jalal of Abdul Gofur Pharmacy, Photographer Ghosal, Manager, Alpha Watch Company, Managing Proprietor of Narsing Das and Company, are men who have been appointed to watch these shelters which have naturally been turned into privies and urinals. Are they the persons of such a status which entitles them to do this nasty job? I urge upon Government to withdraw the order from them.

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

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.38,53,900 under Grant No.13 Major head—29.—Police, at page 71 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this Cut Motion to criticise the general policy of the Government so far as the Police Department is concerned. Sir, it is useless on my part to explain the reason for which this department is being maintained. But what do we find in the practical field? So far as corruption and bribery are concerned the Police Department have failed to do their part. Black marketing and hoarding are going on. Every year we find that the Budget is being increased by leaps and bounds; it will be found that under the 2 heads "Dearness allowance" and "War allowance" a sum of Rs 8 lakhs more have been provided than in the last year.

There is another item to the extent of Rs.25,000 as duty allowance and there is a special provision for special pay for about Rs.1,10,000. I am only mentioning the increased amount that has been provided in the Budget. For temporary forces so far as the district executive force is concerned there is an increase of Rs.11,42,000. So far as the Criminal Investigation Department is concerned in the temporary establishment, it will be found that under the revised estimates in the current year a sum of Rs.70,000 has been shown, whereas for the next year the Budget is for Rs.1,85,500 and against the head 'dearness allowance' it will be found that in the current year it was Rs.5,000 and for the next year Rs.58,928 and over and above this 'war allowance' to the extent of Rs.6,042 has been provided. Now, Sir, my point is this that the amount under this head is being increased every year, whereas we are not receiving the desired results. More strict supervision is necessary. I think, we are lacking in this matter. So far as the Railway Police is concerned it is well-known to one and all, how the system is going on and I think, Sir, there is no such fortunate person who will be able to say that he got his invoice intact. Bags are emptied, Tins containing liquid substance are found, in most cases, more than 50 per cent. emptied, in small invoices. Now, Sir, you will find that an increased amount has been provided under this head but we do not find the necessity of increasing the amount unless we are getting some-

Sir, another item. You will find under D—Village Police—Government has provided Rs.3,50,000, whereas only 1,50,000 will be recovered from the Bengal and Assam Railway and we shall have to pay 2 lakhs of rupees from our Exchequer. I think, Sir, so far as this item is concerned, Government should see that the whole amount is realised from Bengal and Assam Railway. There is a general dissatisfaction among the police that in the lower grade their pay is very small. They are practically 24 hours on duty and they are not allowed now to resign their service and go for other lucrative work but I find that sufficient provision has been made for these people and I think there cannot be any more complaint in this matter and now it is upto Government to see that when they are giving them all possible assistance they fulfil the purpose for which they are maintained. There is another point which is troubling some particular class of officers in that Government is granting extension or

re-employing officers who have served their terms and who have retired. So far as the Deputy Superintendents of Police are concerned it will be found that there was an increase only last year by 6. Formerly there were 9 Deputy Superintendents of Police. Last year provision was made for 15 and some of them retired and they were re-employed. So the Inspectors who are at the top, are rather disappointed and I think this disappointment is also to some extent responsible for slackness in supervision. Unless people get proper justice from Government and if on some pretext or other retired persons are favoured, in that case, naturally there will be some heart burning and there will be slackness in supervision. I hope Government will look into this matter as a whole. Lastly, Sir, I shall touch the item about the training of our officers in the Province. I think, it is high time that Government should have their own training school in the Province and this will surely serve the Province better. At the same time it will avoid some anomaly that has already been created.

Sir, last year some Sub-Inspectors of Police were recruited and some of them were sent to Sarda for training whereas a few were not sent up there but were given training here. About 10 or 11 months after, these people were asked to go to Sarda again and naturally they were disappointed because though they were recruited along with the other batch who got their training at the very beginning they were not allowed the opportunity to complete their training at the same time; their services will not be counted from the year in which they were recruited. I hope, Sir, this sort of anomaly should be avoided and that Government should give full facilities to all the recruits so that there might not be any cause for grumbling on the ground of injustice.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House. Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 28,52,749 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force (total), at page 70 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in moving this Cut Montion is to criticise the Government for their failure to provide Police protection to lessees of fisheries and graziers against immigrant fish-looters and immigrant encroachers on grazing reserves.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, professional grazing reserves are a great boon to the people of this Province. For it is the professional graziers who are not only handsomely contributing to our public Exchequer but are supplying our cultivators and traders with draught animals for the plough and the carts. It is also they who are supplying our people with milk and various milk-products. But, Sir, what are happening to these grazing reserves and graziers? There are very few grazing reserves that have escaped onslaughts from the immigrants. The condition of those reserves which were in the immediate neighbourhood of the immigrants has become simply unbearable. Several hon. Members of this House have brought to our notice how grazing reserves are being freely encroached upon and how peace-loving graziers are being mercilessly ousted by the immigrants. Sir, except in a few cases the poor graziers have not received any police protection. Even the local revenue officers are generally helpless in this matter. For, very frequently their eviction proceedings are interfered and frustrated by the authorities at Shillong.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: This is not the fact, Sir. Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, only to-day we have heard on the floor of this House from one of our hon. Members that the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta, backed by the authorities at Shillong instead of giving police protection to the Kaimari graziers and instead of ousting the immigrant encroachers, has ordered the graziers to shift elsewhere to avoid clash with the immigrants—as if to make room for the immigrants on the raised plinths of the graziers' house.

Sir, the fate of the lessees of fisheries is in no way better if not worse. We have got reports of frequent looting by immigrants of fisheries in the Brahmaputra river within Tulsibari Police Station in Barpeta Subdivision and between Chandordinga and Tulsibari within Lakhipur and Bilasipara Thanas. Sir, organised and free looting of fish is going on in the Bhelengi, Bengnapara, Dhomdhorha and other fisheries of Barpeta Subdivision and Baghmara and other fisheries within Boko Thana.

Sir, even the fishery held by one of our hon. Members has been looted by the immigrants for the fourth time, once in January, twice in February and once in March of this year. The Superintendent of Police and the Subdivisional Officer were approached but I am told, no police protection was vouchsafed. There is a large number of petitions from lessees of fisheries lying with the authorities in Kamrup district praying for police protection but except in one or two cases no Police help was extended.

Sir, the immigrants frequently come in large numbers and carry away the fish caught by the fisherman by force. They keep watch over the fishermen day and night so that the fishermen may not go out with fish. Several places, fit for very good fishing in the Kamrup District therefore remain unfished for fear of these immigrants. Sir, most of the fisheries are situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the immigrants. And the fate of most of the lessees can therefore be better imagined than described. The poor fishermen are the worst sufferers in this matter.

Sir, the graziers and the lessees of fisheries are justly entitled to all possible help and protection from the Police. But they are not getting it to the extent to which they are entitled. Will Government give up their present policy of apathy and complacency and firmly establish respect for law and order amongst all sections of people of the country?

Sir, in this connection, I would make a suggestion to the Government that if peace and order are at all to be preserved in the fisheries and if the fishermen are to be allowed to fish peacefully then, I think, there should be introduced a system of river Police like those in other provinces. Our Government are getting a very huge amount of money from these fisheries. And Sir, is it not their duty to see that the fisheries are protected from the onslaughts of the immigrants who live quite close by the fisheries?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motions moved:

1. "That the provision of Rs. 52,382 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100"

2. "That the provision of Rs. 52,382 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—A.—Superintendence, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 82, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 82."

3. "That the total provision of Rs. 38,53,900 under Grant No 13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 71 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

4. "That the provision of Rs. 28,52,749 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force (total), at page 70 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 38,53,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee.

Sir, we find that while the money is not available for nation-building departments and no productive work can be undertaken for want of funds, the Police Budget is increasing from year to year. If we look to the Budget figures and the Budget Estimate for the year 1944-45, as also to the actuals for the year 1943-44, we find that in this year the estimate is much more than in the previous year. So, Sir, I maintain that the Police Budget is daily increasing unnecessarily.

The first point that affects vitally the whole of the Province to-day is the question of profiteering, black-marketing and hoarding. As to this, we find that black-marketing, hoarding and profiteering are continuing openly and the police are unable or unwilling to check these things. I remember of a particular case of a widow being hauled up in the court for selling one powa of salt for five pice. Black-marketing is going widely but only those who are helpless and poor are brought before the court.

Whenever any report is made to the Police they come and make enquiries and after some whispering with the persons concerned they give final report. So, Sir, we maintain that Police has failed and hopelessly failed to prevent profiteering and black-marketing, etc.

Now, Sir, coming to the Railway Police the less is said about this the better for everybody concerned. It is often found by anybody travelling in railway or bringing any goods by railway that goods are missing and the packages are full of dust and other things. I remember of a particular case, Sir, where about 50 bags of sugar were sent to a particular station and when the bags arrived its destination it was found after opening that the bags were full of dust and other things. This goes to show, Sir, that our police forces are not doing any service to the country rather they, taking advantage of darkness in the railway compartments, join with the pick-pockets and thieves.

Then again, Sir, we find that expenditure under the Criminal Investigation Department has also increased. If crimes go on undetected, if crimes become the order of the day, we do not understand what is the necessity of this Department. This Department is necessary for investigation of crimes and bringing the offenders to the court of law but if we find that crimes have become rampant and they are not brought before the court of justice—as has been referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee—we do not find any utility for maintaining the establishment of village Police for guarding the railway lines. I think, Sir, the time has come when we should do away with any such kind of expenditure. If, however, any amount is to be spent on that account it should not in any way be borne by the Province. There is absolutely no such danger at present to the railway lines to justify such an establishment. With these words, Sir, I beg to support the Motion moved by Mr. Mookerjee.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, in giving my support to the Motions that have been moved, I like to make a few observations with regard to Motion No.1. *i.e.*, Motion moved by Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed, about the advisability of granting extension of service to officers of the Police Department or re appointing them after the time of their retirement. If I remember aright, it was in November 1942 Session, just after this Ministry came into office, that the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared in the floor of this House in reply to a question, that some extension had been granted by the 93 Administration but that this Government was against that policy. Even the other day, Sir, I was told by the Hon'ble Education Minister that the Government was still sticking to its old policy of not granting extension to the officers who were due to retire. But I was surprised to hear from a reliable source that some of the officers of the Police Department had been granted extension and cases of some were still under consideration. I also hear that similar extension is being granted in other Departments. This is a question of policy and I lay particular stress on this point. This system of granting of extension to the retiring officers creates heart-burning amongst the existing incumbents as their promotions are blocked. This also shuts up the chance of the intending or prospective candidates who would otherwise have come in in place of those granted extension. So I submit, Sir, that this system is unwise and unfair and should in no way be encouraged. Even in cases where due to efficiency of certain officers or paucity of suitable substitute it is found to be essentially necessary to retain certain particular officers, I think the most that can be done is to retire them first and then to re-employ them for short period. I therefore suggest that Government should not abandon the policy which they declared on the floor of the House to be their policy with regard to granting extension to retiring officers.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been in charge of Police for about 11 years on the whole, and I want to ask him a few questions to-day. Has the tone of the Police force in this Province improved a bit? Has the Police inspired greater confidence in the minds of the public now than it was before? Has the method of corruption totally ceased to exist? Has the Police showed any great or appreciable merit in catching a real thief whose name was not mentioned in the *ejahar* or who has not been caught redhanded and produced before the Police? Has this state of things ceased to exist in which the innocent as well as the guilty are equally trembled before a Daroga or Police constable?

All these questions must be answered in the negative. Sir, I have tried to guess for myself the reasons for all that. It is a great misfortune that one of Hon'ble Prime Minister's abilities could not bring any improvement to the Department of which he was in charge. The reason that I find for this state of things is this. From the year 1929 to 1934 the Police was a Reserved Subject and everything connected with the Police Department was done between the two powerful persons—the Inspector-General of Police and the Governor—and sandwiched between them the Hon'ble Sir Saadulla must have found himself entirely helpless in his attempt to make any reform in the Police Department, the special responsibility of which is still with His Excellency the Governor. I know of an instance in which the house of a man of responsible position was searched by Police on a wrong information, and the Hon'ble Premier though he knew the facts, could not redress the grievances. So, Sir, unless the Minister in charge has full power in the matter and unless he desires to bring about a real reform of the Police force, nothing can be done.

Then, Sir, I also draw the attention of the House to the helpless condition of the Ministry in checking the number of street accidents which have been taking place from day to day. It appears that the Police people are entirely helpless, as though men, women and children are run over by certain types of vehicles, nothing has been done against those responsible for the accidents. They are beyond the pale of law and beyond the jurisdiction of our Police. Instead of picking and taking them to the nearest hospital they simply leave the victims and go away after perpetrating these inhumane acts. I know of an instance, Sir, in which a boy was run over when the driver of a particular vehicle was playing with him while both the boy and the vehicle were going side by side and ultimately the boy was run over and the vehicle went away without caring to pick up that boy. Motor accidents are daily reported in the town of Gauhati and the Government is entirely helpless. Recently while a Government servant—a Veterinary Surgeon—was going on his bicycle he was run over and died instantaneously and when his widow applied for compensation it was simply referred to the Military Department which has not paid any compensation. I have another instance in which the house of a driver of a Member of the Assam Legislative Council was burnt down by some American soldiers because when they came to his house searching for women inside, they could not find any. Information was duly lodged before the Police but nothing was done. There are cases of daylight robberies which have been committed by persons going about in Military vehicles. Such robberies have been taking place almost weekly in places like Sonapur and in Palasbari town.

My Hon'ble Friend the Prime Minister must have heard of those incidents. But the Police has been entirely powerless, for two reasons that they have no capacity and then they have no jurisdiction to apprehend those particular classes of criminals who are guilty of those acts.

Then, Sir, there are scenes of immorality in public streets. These are in evidence everyday in the streets of Shillong and Gauhati and where the respectable ladies cannot dare walk in the streets for fear of molestation. It is said, Sir, that the Hyde Park incident scenes are being enacted here. Sir, we have heard a good deal about American civilisation. We have heard a good deal about Christian Missionaries. But what are the practical scenes which are seen every day now without protest from Christian Missionaries. It is an irony of fate that our boys are to be sent down to those countries to learn and come back with a better idea of civilisation so that such things they may enact in this country. Sir, we had so long very high regard for British and American civilisation. But what do we see of British and American civilisation to-day? We cannot distinguish an American and a British. We are seeing white soldiers not travelling without a woman, no matter white or black in the evening. All these things we are daily witnessing. But of my Friends here—9 Members of the European Group in this House—not a single Member of that Group has ever before in this country and still my Friend, the Hon'ble Education Minister is trying to send more and more boys to that country (*laughter*) so that they may come back with new ideas of civilisation to spread it among us. We have so far learnt only how to put

on nice European coats and how to use neck-ties and now our boys will come back and teach us the remaining things.

Sir, some of my Friends have criticised the Government for the idea of re-appointment and re-employment of retired Government servants. Perhaps they do not know one thing of which I have heard on reliable authorities that more widows get married than maidens (*laughter*) and here this analogy is being followed by the present Government and more retired servants are being appointed (*laughter*). So there is nothing to quarrel about that. It is true that as there is some advantage in marrying widows because they know the art of house keeping better than maidens. Similarly, there is some use in re-appointing and re-employing retired servants because they already know how to start work at once. But, Sir, this should not be made a general rule but that should be an exception in service.

Another thing, Sir, is the utter disregard of the Government to the officers of the lower grade, which is responsible for corruption amongst them. No attention is really paid to the grievances of the Constables and Head Constables who do the most part of the dirty work. They have to perform the dirty work in order to keep their body and soul together. Take for instance, the rations of the Constables and Head Constables. Their ration as was given before was quite inadequate. We have all seen bulky up-country constables who can consume 4 times more than the ordinary persons. Their ration has been now still more reduced which has made some of them to look up to other means of supplementing their salary.

Then, Sir, in Shillong or in other places now on account of the increase of the Police force there are no sufficient quarters for them. They live in the rented houses but the Government do not pay any rent or allowance to these poor officers with the result that they live in any body's rented house and cannot pay the rent. If somehow they are compelled to pay the rent then there may be some Police cases against them. This is the position, Sir. Their work has been very much increased.

Then as regards their miscellaneous expenses, they are to brush their belts and other things and to make them shining and dazzling so that the images of the officers may be reflected on them. They incur some expenditure for this but they are not paid anything extra. So in order to meet the cost of brush and other things they have to shift for themselves and how some of them manage things is well known to the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take up one by one the different Cut Motions that have been laid before the House. As regards the first point complained of regarding the blocking of prospects in the Police Department it is a fact that certain Deputy Superintendents of Police have been re-employed after the period of superannuation and therefore the normal Force of Inspectors who expected a promotion has had their promotions deterred. To certain extent this is correct. But at the same time, it is a fact that the policy of the Government is not to grant any extension or to re-employ the superannuating officers. My hon. Friends missed at least one important point that since 1942, when, as stated before the House by my Friend Mr. Sen, I replied that the normal policy of the Government is not to grant an extension or re-employ Superintendents of Police. When petrol ration came into force, almost in each big centre we had to employ an experienced and superior Police Officer to see that petrol rationing was carried out. This was being given to Deputy Superintendents of Police who are responsible officers. Sir, on account of this alone the number of Deputy Superintendents of Police had to be increased by 6. Therefore when the lower staff of Police had the expectation to be promoted and enhanced (formerly they could get a chance of promotion in a cadre of 9 officers and now they have got a chance of promotion in one of 15 officers), when in any exceptional case some fit and worthy officers are re-employed, the Inspectorate has nothing to complain, because we have now got more vacancies to fill in than before. However, Sir, as far as possible, I will see that this rule of re-employment remains an exception and not a rule.

*Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of information, do I understand that no extension has been granted?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No extension, only re-employment.

Now I come to the next Cut Motion No.3 of my hon. Friend Srijut Karuna Sindhu Roy. I thank him for bringing this matter before the House. This matter never came before the Government and it was only after the receipt of notice of the Cut Motion, that I enquired of it. Curiously enough those gentlemen who have been appointed special constables and who are residents of Shillong never approached me. I find from the records just now that although they were appointed special constables from 1st February 1945, they took absolutely no trouble to represent the matter to Government. I find from the records that although 14 of these people have been appointed, 6 of them submitted a representation only on the 12th of this month, and sent an advance copy to Government. We are awaiting the regular copy that is coming to Government. When this matter was first mooted, it was as early as 11th May 1944. The Police Department themselves protested against the procedure which was recommended by the Deputy Commissioner of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, but ultimately the Police was forced by the Deputy Commissioner to take this measure to see that the Air Raid shelters are kept clean. I will at once take this matter in hand and try to get the order withdrawn.

The next Motion moved is of my hon. Friend Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar. He wants Police protection for the graziers and for the fisheries. Nobody could provide for contingencies. It was never the intention of Government to allow any one to encroach in the professional grazing reserves. Therefore it was useless in the past to provide Police protection for the few hundred cattle that graze. Similarly there was never a case of Police protection being given to the fisheries. The number of grazing reserves and fisheries is so large that if we are to provide Police protection to them, the Police Budget will go very high. Recently we have heard complaints from two hon. Members that Government is handling the Police Budget at the expense of the nation-building Departments. If we are to give effect to the recommendations conveyed by these Motions, there will be no end to Police expenditure when private property is to be protected by Government.

*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Can it not be done only in the riverain areas of the Brahmaputra?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. Friend is probably aware that we have River Police in the Surma Valley. If he wants the same system to be extended to Assam Valley and promises the support of his group for any extra expenditure, we can do that.

Then I am coming to the fishery. Whenever there has been any clash we are trying to prevent it as far as possible. As regards fishery this is nothing new. Although fishery lease has been obtained by some people by paying considerable amount for it, the riverain people always catch fish for their own consumption. Even people from distant villages go once or twice a year to fish in the fishery leased. That has grown as a traditional custom in the Province and nobody complained about it. Last year batches of robbers came and looted fisheries in Sunamganj when hoardes of people came from the neighbouring Mymensing district into Assam. Government gave such protection to the Zemindars who own these fisheries and the cost was realised from the Zemindars.

*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Our complaint is not as regards the customary fishing by the villagers for their own consumption but against the systematic looting of fish.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have got more personal knowledge than my hon. Friend. My Friend is pleading the cause of his Colleague Srijut Beliram Das. The Mover of this Cut Motion did not mention anything to me the other day with a petition that in his fishery he uses a peculiar kind of net which is called Kahajal. This net has to be spread into the Brahmaputra very wide. Every day this net is dragged so that the fish concentrate within in. When about two or

three days remain for the final operation, the neighbouring villagers come and take away the pick of fish. This is customary that these people take such quantity for their consumption. They do not take them for sale or export outside. Srijut Beliram Das will receive Police protection in those months, generally in the latter part of the year if he comes with an application. His application is before me and I have ordered that at the particular time he should be prepared to give notice to the Government and Government will post a pair of Constables at his cost. He can get these Constables from the nearest thana, *i.e.*, Tarabari. This particular thana has got only 6 Constables—the maximum that an outside station keeps. If more Constables have to be imported from outside, somebody must bear the cost. He is himself prepared to bear the cost and I have passed order in his case four days ago, ordering the local officer that when his fish have got to be protected, two Constables will be posted. It is not that Constables will have to be posted throughout the year. It is only in case of a few days that protection is necessary.

*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do we understand that the Hon'ble Premier also gave the assurance....

*Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir, I find that whenever I and some of my Friends ask for any information, the Hon'ble Premier refuses to give way. But why does he give out such information to Mr. Marak and Mr. Talukdar the there times? Why this invidious distinction, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have got to use my own discretion. When somebody wants real information, and wants to be satisfied, I give way, but when my hon. Friend—shall I be out of the mark if I say—with the eccentric mode of hair dressing—gets up to make fun in the House, I do not give way. There ought to be some dignity in the proceedings of the Politicians of this Province.

To continue—Sir, if any other fishery applies in the same way and the lessee is willing to bear the cost, I will try to give him Police protection as I gave during the last two years to the Zemindars of the Sunamganj Subdivision.

Now, I come to the general Motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee and his supporter Mr. Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri. Along with this I have got to meet the humours of Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. He said, Sir, I have held charge of the Police Department for 11 years, and that whatever may have been the conditions—and the conditions, according to him were worse between 1929 and 1934—there has been no improvement in the Department. He said that my actions were sandwiched between the Inspector General on the one hand and the Governor on the other, while he forgets that in those days the first thing I did was to have a Police Enquiry Committee in which the hon. Members of this House were represented. We toured throughout the country, and tried to instil in the mind of the Police force that they were the servants of the people, not their masters, and I think, Sir, unbiased critics will say that the morale of the Police and the standard of their behaviour with the public have improved quite a lot since those days of 1929. Mr. Chaudhuri says that although I have been holding this charge now and then, *i.e.*, when I am in office since 1937, there has been no improvement. Well, this is a matter of self-condemnation because out of those four years, for three years at least my Friend was my right-hand man in the Cabinet, and he is as much guilty of any dereliction as I am because the responsibility of the Ministry was joint. Sir, I could not follow his criticism for at one stage he said that Government was spending money on the Police force right and left. Towards the end of his speech he thoroughly accused the Government of lack of sympathy and pecuniary support for the lower grade officials. He is perfectly correct in saying that although the number of Constables has increased, Government have not been able to provide them with quarters, but he is not correct in saying that when Government could not provide quarters for these lower-paid Police officials, the latter had to hire houses of their own. Sir, Government have borne the rent of the houses in which lower-paid officials are accommodated. Then,

about the kit allowance and reduced rations, Sir, the kit is given free to each lower-grade Police officer throughout his service. This kit is to last him a certain period, and if the kit is spoiled before that, it has got to be made good by the man himself. If a Police Constable tears away his uniform for no reason whatsoever, and if Government have to provide him whenever he comes forward, then the cloth bill of the Police will become a huge one. In that case, nobody will take care of his uniform. I think every employer insists this kind of economy on his servants. Government have therefore adopted this salutary principle of demanding from the lower-grade Police officials that their uniform must last a certain period.

Now, Sir, as regards rations being reduced, I have got only one word to say. Rations have been reduced only in those areas where Government have fixed rations for the general public, *i.e.*, in rationed towns only—to bring the two rations to the same level. I believe that the hon. gentleman who has now taken up cudgels on behalf of the Police Constables, would have thoroughly cudgelled Government if there had been some discrimination in the size of the ration allowed to the Police officers and the general public of the same place.

I now come, Sir, to the criticisms of my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee. I agree with him that there should be stricter supervision of the administration of the Police Department. Stricter supervision will mean more Superintendents of Police and Assistant Superintendents. In this war time when various extra duties have devolved upon the Police force, there has not been such strict supervision as in the past. I wish, Sir, we had more officers to employ to see that the standard of the Police force is kept as efficient and as polite as it can be expected. My Friend has rightly criticised that there is extensive pilferage during transit of goods. Mr. Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri has complained about pick-pockets. Now, as regards pilferage, it is very difficult to trace the locality where the actual pilferage takes place. Almost all this pilferage takes place during transit of goods from Calcutta to this Province. Consignments coming from Calcutta to Sylhet travel two-thirds outside the Province and only one-third inside this Province, and it is very difficult to say where the pilferage occurs. Everywhere the waggons are sealed and seals are broken at the destination station, but the consignments are found damaged. It is, therefore, very difficult for our Police force to detect this. But Mr. Alban Ali has now taken over charge. He will try his utmost to see that the efficiency of the Railway police is maintained. He has taken, during the period of his leave, extra training in the matter, in Scotland Yard.

Then again, Mr. Mookerjee has contested with some reason that the entire charge of the village Police or Railway Protection Parties should be borne by the Railway authorities. The entire Budget of the village Police is not due to the protection of Railway lines. Some part of the village Police have their duty as a protection of telegraphic lines and many of the bridges. The Railway cannot be asked to pay for this entire internal security, a portion of which we have asked the Central Government to bear. They propose to give us only half but we have protested that they should bear the entire responsibility. So far no reply has been received from the Central Government but we are still pressing the Central Government that this extra expenditure should go to the Defence expenditure Budget.

The last point, Sir, which my hon. Friend has spoken is about a Training School in the Province. We took up this scheme about thirteen years ago. A site was selected near Jhalukbari about five miles out of Gauhati. A Contractor was appointed to build houses. The Contractor collected bricks at the site, when there was a sudden decrease in the Provincial income from 1929 onwards. So, the scheme had to be abandoned. Now that we have larger force in the Province and we cannot expect Bengal to provide all the seats that are necessary the question of starting our own Training School will be taken up in right earnest.

I now come to the last point raised by Mr. Chaudhuri. It is quite correct that there has been a tremendous increase in the street accidents and that is due to three different causes. Hon. Members must have noticed for themselves that the number of motor vehicles that are plying now on roads in the province must have increased by 500 per cent. than in peace time. Next, we have drivers who are accustomed to

drive at a maximum speed of 80 miles per hour in better roads, I mean, in America. I myself have experienced that in certain localities there is a keen competition to show who can give the speed most. In my own presence I saw Chinese drivers vying with the American Negroes in driving at a speed of 60 to 80 miles per hour. We have gone up to the highest Military authority, I mean, Major General Rankin to check rash driving by the Military. In the last communication he has said that he had done his level best. And round about Shillong there has been an improvement. But neither this Government nor the highest British Officer has any hold over the Americans. We approached their own superior officers so that there may not be any rash driving or any street accidents. The third reason is a contrary one, that is, our own people do not know how to observe the rules of safety first. Anyone who has experience of walking in the streets not only here but in big cities like Calcutta knows full well that we do not keep to the sides of roads and we walk through the middle and do not know that a lorry driving at a very high speed will turn round the corner. Those hon. Members who follow the Bengal press have seen that the Bengal Government has inaugurated "a safety first" demonstration in Calcutta. If we had a big city like Calcutta, we would have followed the same example. At present all we can do is to inform the public through our bulletins that they should keep to the sides and not walk through the middle of the road. My friend says that Police has been helpless. It is quite correct. Anybody who has seen an accident finds very great difficulty in getting at the number of the vehicles concerned. These Military vehicles have got two sets of numbers. Which one is the proper number we do not know. It is very difficult when a vehicle is moving at a very high speed to decipher the numbers. When I was obstructed in my travels by some obstinate Military drivers, I tried to get at the numbers but each time I failed because they move at so high a speed that it is difficult to read the numbers. Sometimes cars are dirty and sometimes the number is obliterated. The plate numbers are covered with dirt and mud and one cannot get the numbers. But wherever accidents occurred, the Police Department have done their best to bring the offenders to justice. In many cases the culprits have been convicted.

My hon. Friend also stated about robbery by Military personnel. There was a robbery near about Sonapur about a month ago and the culprits have been caught and they are being tried now. In another case the culprits have not been caught. It is difficult to identify the people with their uniform. Anyway, Sir, the Police Department is on the alert to see that these highway robberies committed by men travelling in Military lorries is stopped.

One case my Friend placed before this House in some detail in order to draw the sympathy of the House. He said that a small boy was crushed to death by a Military lorry because the individual pursued this boy in a zigzag course. If my Friend has got any details of that accident I will see that the man is traced and due punishment meted out to him. But only a narration of the story without any evidence will be futile.

As regards certain forms of evil I need not mention anything. It is impossible to check such things when it is committed outside.....

* Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Outside where?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Outside the municipality.

* Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It is committed just before the Assembly Hostel.

* Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Lakeside has become a place of nuisance.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Very well, Sir, I will report to the Superintendent of Police what has been stated about the Lake. The same hon. Member has mentioned about the steps of the Assembly Chamber.

* Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have got bottles sometimes half.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Very well, Sir, I will bring this to the notice of the Superintendent of Police who I am sure will take necessary steps.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed press his Motion?

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy press his Motion?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I am to ask one question. This is an urgent matter. They must be released at once. I have received an information that a case has been started against one of them who went to Gauhati on business.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I mentioned, Sir, on the 12th a petition has been submitted. They have not approached direct. They have put it up to the Superintendent of Police. As I mentioned, Sir, I will take the matter up immediately.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I do not like to press my Motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the same.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar press his Motion?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause).

The Motions stand withdrawn with the leave of the House.

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

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,53,900 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 '29.—Police'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 19

(39.—Public Health)

The Hon'ble MISS MAVIS DUN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 16, 69,100 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 39.—Public Health.

There are a large number of Cut Motions and along with the criticisms that may be forthcoming, I will welcome any constructive suggestion that may be put forward from any section of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16, 69, 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 '39.—Public Health'."

Now, there are 22 Cut Motions—10 from the Congress Party, 6 from the Members belonging to the Ministerialist Party, 4 by Srijut Buragohain and 2 by Dr. Terrell. Now, I am afraid that within the time allotted to this Demand it will not be possible to discuss more than one or two Motions, because I shall have to keep to the time of 45 minutes allotted to this Demand and even if we sit till 5 P. M. I do not think it will be possible to discuss them all.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I would like to move my Cut Motion No.1

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I would like to move Cut Motion No.16.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I will like to move my Cut Motion No.15.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: I will like to move Cut Motion No.10.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: I will like to move Cut Motion No.4.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I may allow these Motions to be moved provided we can put this Demand to the vote of the House by 4 P.M.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.13,300 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishments—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishments, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Directors of Public Health, at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the subdivisional establishments of Public Health Department. The scope of the present Motion no doubt is limited, but it is of such importance that it should engage our serious attention. When the Public Health Department was re-organised and separated from the Medical Department we expected that an all-round improvement would be effected in all matters of Public Health, but unfortunately we find to our utter surprise that such a re-organisation has meant a total disorganisation of the Department. The scheme that was passed by the House was nothing more than a skeleton. A large sum of money was required to put it into actual operation. We expect that adequate money would be provided and a supplementary demand would be forthcoming. But nothing was done. What is more, no provision has been made in the present Budget to improve the Department. Hon. Members are aware that one Sub-Assistant Surgeon has been placed in each subdivision as Subdivisional Health Officer, but no attempt has up till now been made to provide him with an office. At present they are housed in ante-rooms of the Local Board buildings or in the hospital buildings. Also no provision has been made for any furniture or equipments. How can Government expect that these officers will discharge their duties properly even without a place to sit in? This matter should have received the first consideration of the Government. For the rural areas Government have created the posts of Health Officers and these officers have been placed in-charge of Thanas. These are persons who formerly worked as Vaccination Sub-Inspectors and medicine carriers. These persons are mostly illiterate and ignorant of the elementary principles of public health, but still they have been placed in-charge of a Thana and the collection of vital statistics has been entrusted to them.

Next I come to the question of equipment. The epidemic units are handicapped everywhere for want of medicine. The dearth of quinine has been stressed on more than one occasion on the floor of this House. Proper arrangement should immediately be made for greater supply of quinine. It will, we understand, take some more years before we can get anything from our cinchona plantation scheme. The ravages of malaria this year was devastating, but it is really curious that our expenditure on the head of purchase of quinine has decreased in the current year. These units are also not supplied with adequate quantity of cholera vaccine and bacteriophage. My submission is that if we want to make this Department really efficient, bigger sums of money should be provided.

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

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 7,39,313 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria (total), at page 106 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the whole subject of drainage in relation to malaria and its control.

Malaria is still by far the most serious and dangerous of the many diseases and problems that confront the health services of Assam in their attempt to maintain a reasonable degree of protection for the civil population, and within the last two years malaria incidence has risen considerably and assumed epidemic form in many districts of this Province. Factors responsible for this increased incidence are largely connected directly and indirectly with the war, and Assam as a front line Province has suffered proportionately.

I intend however to confine myself only to the drainage question in relation to this problem and with the object of enlisting the interests of hon. Members in this for the future benefit of the population. There is a popular belief that drainage is one of the main methods of preventing malaria, but this is certainly not the case as far as open earth drainage is concerned. Open earth drains are artificial streams, and slowly running clear water grassy edged drains form ideal breeding places for dangerous malaria transmitting mosquitos. Another popular belief is that swamps are dangerous breeding places for mosquitos, but it has been proved that densely shaded swamps are safe and many exposed swamps do not breed dangerous mosquitos. Open earth drainage in India is fundamentally an agricultural method to aerate the soil to enable plants biologically adapted to aerated soil to establish themselves which they would not otherwise do in a water logged soil. All possible surface drains should be eliminated, and drains when these are necessary, should be controlled by such measures as clean weeding, canalisation, oiling, shading, flushing, herbage packing, by lining with concrete or by subsoil drainage methods.

The above general information is the result of many years of intense research with field work undertaken by experienced malariologists, and in particular by the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene and emphasised on frequent occasions by their Principal, Dr. Ramsay in annual reports, from which I had quoted.

To those fully conversant with and interested in the subject of Malaria control, it is indeed distressing to see everywhere the innumerable surface drains—often entirely functionless—which are constantly being added to, and which can only result in increased favourable breeding places for dangerous mosquitos. It is indeed true that malaria in India is principally man made. This is of course due very largely to ignorance of these dangers and of alternative methods of drainage or subsequent control, and it is of the greatest importance that the general public should be fully enlightened with as little delay as possible.

I feel also that this occasion may be opportune to bring to the notice of Government the dangers of unrestricted and ill-considered drainage schemes leaving a legacy of malaria in the area in which they were undertaken.

In consequence of the operations that have taken place on our North Eastern Frontiers there are many such areas, and hundreds of miles of drains have been dug. Malaria in these zones is being well controlled by oiling under military control, and this is all very well at present when the area has become a sea of oil, but it will of course be economically impossible for this to be maintained after these areas have been derequisitioned.

I fully endorse these sentiments expressed by Dr. Ramsay on this subject in the report previously referred to.

“It is to be hoped that when the Allied cause is won and peace once more prevails in Assam, the many hundreds of miles of drains which have been dug for so called anti-malaria purposes will be filled in before the areas are evacuated, as these areas though formerly malarious have now been converted into death traps”.

In the interests of the lives of the unfortunate people who must reside in and around these zones in the future, apart from passengers passing through by rail and other transport, it is to be hoped that this warning will not pass unheeded by Government.

It is, I think, also incumbent on us all to live up to our responsibilities over the dissemination of more knowledge concerning this important subject throughout our constituencies in Assam.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 16,69,100 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100. By this Motion I want to criticise the policy of Government with regard to Public Health.

Sir, we hoped that we would find some improvement this year under this Head, but, I am sorry to remark, that no improvement has been made though it will be found that there is an increase in the Budget estimate.

I find, Sir, that Rs. 17,55,400 is the total sum budgeted for and out of this amount a sum of Rs. 8,83,000 will be recovered. So it comes to this that only Rs. 8,72,400 will be spent out of Rs. 5,40,00,000 which has been budgeted for expenditure for the year from the revenues of the Province. So, not even 2 per cent. of the total expenditure of the Province will be utilised for the Public Health Department.

Now, Sir, let us scrutinise the expenditure head by head. About the Public Health Establishment we find that there has been increase and it is mainly due to selection of one charged officer and the increment in dearness allowance and travelling allowance. The number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Compounders has been decreased. Now so far as the grant for Public Health purposes is concerned, it will be found that under the Revised Estimate for the current year a sum of Rs. 29,975 has been provided, whereas for the next year only Rs. 16,224 has been provided. That is the lot of grant for public health purposes.

Now, if we consider about the epidemic diseases, Sir, it will be found that there is an increase of expenditure but this increment is only due to excess purchase of quinine. This is practically a paper transaction. But so far as the real benefit to the public is concerned, this cannot be taken into account. We are not going to give more benefit to the public by making this kind of larger provision in the next year's Budget.

Sir, so far as the medical stores and diets of patients are concerned, it will be found that the provision is less than the last year's provision. So far as the epidemic units are concerned there were 73 Epidemic Assistants for the current year but coming to the year concerned all these posts have been abolished, not even one post has been retained. Then, Sir, of course under this Head of Epidemic Units there has been some increment but this increment is mainly due to increased dearness allowance and travelling allowance. For the Medical stores it will be found that during the current year the provision is Rs. 4,000 but for the next year the provision is only Rs. 1,000.

So far as the Bacteriological Laboratory is concerned, the increment is only due to travelling allowance and dearness allowance. So far as the Pasteur Institute is concerned the same reason is advanced for the increment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I want only one or two minutes and I will finish.

So far as vital statistics are concerned they are most inaccurate and incomplete. In connection with water supply a sum of Rs. 24,500 was provided for the current year, but for the next year the amount is only Rs. 5,000. We brought the matter relating to the Pure Food Act before the Hon'ble Minister on various occasions, but it is still a dead letter, and I hope that it is high time that something should be done in this direction. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 35,140 under Grant No. 19, Major Head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, (a)—Superintendence and other Establishments, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about urgency of entrusting the District Health Officers (wherever there is none) the Subdivisional Officers (Medical) or Urban Health Officers to examine the fitness of consumption of the food-stuffs stored in Government Controlled godowns and wholesale and retail shops.

Sir we have been speaking all these days about the unwholesome foodstuffs issued from Government controlled distributing agencies. Sir, as to who is responsible for distributing the unwholesome foodstuffs in our country is an enigma to the hon. Members of this House. The Shaw Wallace & Co. at Calcutta, the procurement agency of Assam, vehemently assert that they send sound stuffs, the Supply Syndicates assert that whatever they get from Shaw Wallace & Co. is distributed and they do not get better stuffs than that. The wholesalers and retailers are equally vehement in their assertion that they have got to sell whatever they are supplied by the Syndicate. Sir, the fact remains that consumers get the rotten stuff—the reason is not far to

seek—it is a plain fact that somebody somewhere mixes the rotten stuff, which they get for nothing or something. I admit it is difficult to spot out the offenders. In order that the above mentioned agencies may not have the chance of shifting the blame to one another, I propose that arrangements should be made to check the stuffs as soon as they reach Assam and then check them again at the wholesalers' and retailers' shops both at the rural and urban areas by the District Health Officers (wherever there is none) the Subdivisional Officers (Medical) or Urban Health Officers. Sir, so far as I understand offices of this Department are sinecure services. The work of the Health Officers is practically little and they are grating on rusty hinges and therefore it should be considered whether the services of those officers cannot be utilised for checking those foodstuffs both in the rural and urban areas. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIR : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 9,51,390 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases (total), at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the menace created by *kala-azar* in the Province. This disease is, I believe, indigenous in this Province and it is most prevalent in the three Sub-divisions of my District and also in the District of Garo Hills. Sir, so far as my District, Sibsagar, is concerned, there are very large number of cases in the rural areas of which a very small percentage of people has been receiving treatment. This fact was represented to Government during the past two years and persistent demand has been made for opening more treatment centres, dispensaries and hospitals. As far as I know, Sir, a proposal was placed before Government for providing some 10 beds to be housed in an extension building to be built in the premises of the Subdivisional hospital at Sibsagar. But I have not seen any such scheme being actually taken up by Government. In the new schemes that the Hon'ble Minister has taken up in the coming year's Budget, Sir, I have failed to find any anti-*kala-azar* measures and what is more lamentable is that even in the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes I do not find any mention of any anti-*kala-azar* measures. I do not know what is the reason for this glaring and sad omission on the part of Government. It may be perhaps due to the fact that our Director of Public Health had changed in the meanwhile at or about the time when the Budget proposals and the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes were framed. So, Sir, I have to draw the pointed attention of Government to this scourge of *kala-azar* and to invite Government to take up this matter seriously. With these few words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, I rise to contradict the statement made by Mr. Mookerjee. He says that this Department has shown no improvement. My Friend, the Hon'ble Minister of Public Health, has taken over the leper asylum of Gauhati Municipality at a time when it was languishing for neglect. Sir, she has not only done a great service to humanity by taking it over but also has perpetuated the memory of the late Tarun Ram Phukan, the founder of the institution, who had otherwise been forgotten by his erstwhile admirers and worshippers. That is all I have time to say, for the present.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 16,69,100 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving this Motion is to discuss about the urgency of opening clinics for venereal diseases and of making the treatment available free of charge under the Public Health Department.

In moving this Motion I would like to say that as hon. Dr. Terrell of mustard oil fame is anxious to check adulteration, I am no less anxious to see that something is done for the free treatment of venereal diseases. Due to war conditions this fell disease has become wide spread and the man power is rapidly deteriorating on account of its surreptitious attacks aggravated by illiteracy and poverty. This is why free clinics should be opened throughout the Province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motions moved :

1. "That the provision of Rs.13,300 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health, Establishments—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishments, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Assistant Directors of Public Health, at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."
2. "That the provision of Rs.7,39,313 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria (total), at page 106 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."
3. "That the total provision of Rs.16,69,100 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."
4. "That the provision of Rs.35,140 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishments, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."
5. "That the provision of Rs.9,51,390 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases (total), at page 104 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."
6. "That the total provision of Rs.16,69,100 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 104 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Cut Motion of hon' Mr. Buragohain refers to *kala-azar*. *Kala-azar* has never been neglected. The Public Health Department was established mainly to uproot *kala-azar* from the Province and in this connection very vigorous survey is being done. We have some *kala-azar* hospitals and whenever recommendations are sent to start different dispensaries or hospitals at different places such proposals are given very serious consideration and wherever found necessary more dispensaries are established. For the Subdivision of the hon. Mover, orders have already been passed with regard to reserving 10 beds for in-door *kala-azar* patients within the hospital only for *Kala-azar* patients. I hope this order will satisfy the hon. Member. Dr. Terrell has laid great stress on the improvement of drainage and communication in connection with anti-malarial works. That aspect of the question has not been overlooked by the Public Health Department for consideration of anti-malarial measures in the Province. For the information of the hon. Members of this House I may tell them that we already sanctioned a post of Overseer under the Public Health Department to look to this work. Provision is also made in the Budget for permanent anti-malarial measures out of which flushing of rivers, canals, etc., are done by the Department. He criticised Government for allowing unrestricted drainage works. For his information I may state that in the Assam Embankment and Drainage Act (Act VII of 1941) also there is provision for prior consultation by the Public Works Department with the Public Health Department to avoid the danger of malaria. It has been criticised that the present system of collecting statistics is unsatisfactory. We do realise that this is an important point and we are taking every step to improve the system. The Public Health Department was reorganised only the other day with the unanimous approval of this House. There may be defects in the department, but with the working of the newly reorganised Public Health Department, the defects that may exist will gradually be removed, funds permitting. This applies to offices, etc., for Subdivisional Medical Officers of Health.

As regard the Cut Motion of Mr. Aditya I should like to say that in every hospital and in every dispensary such cases are being treated. It has not been found necessary to establish separate clinics for the treatment of such cases. Later if it is found necessary, Government will surely consider establishing such clinics.

With these words, Sir, I oppose all the Cut Motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There has been no reply to the points raised by Mr. Mookerjee and Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Yes, Sir, the question of amending the Assam Pure Food Act has become necessary. Hitherto it has been left to the local bodies to appoint officers to look into and inspect food stuffs, but as the local bodies have failed in their duty, Government is now obliged to take this important work in their own hands and for this purpose we are corresponding with the Commissioner.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury move his Cut Motion?

He is absent so I am bound to put his Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.13,300 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishments—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishments, Sub-head—1.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Assistant Directors of Public Health at page 105 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

Then does Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, press his Motion?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause.)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then does Dr. Terrell press his Motion?

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause.)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then does Srijut Buragohain, press his Motion?

*Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause.)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There was no request from the Hon'ble Minister but on the contrary she opposed my Motion. If there is a request then I can withdraw, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The stage of making a request is passed I think. After having opposed she may not now request the hon. Mover to withdraw his Cut Motion. So I am putting the question to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs.16,69,100 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.16,69,100 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya press his Motion?

*Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

(After a pause.)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting the main Demand to the vote of the House,

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,69,100 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 '39.—Public Health'.

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 18.

(38—Medical)

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,23,000 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 "38.—Medical".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,23,000 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 "38.—Medical".

There are as many as 16 Cut Motions to this Grant. Now reserving 20 minutes for the Hon'ble Minister for reply I allot 25 minutes for Cut Motions to be moved allowing 5 minutes to each hon. Member. Which are the Cut Motions to be moved?

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: No. 8, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: No. 10.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid that more than 5 Motions cannot be moved. Very well I will allow another Motion.

Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,99,847 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment—(b).—District Medical officers (total), at page 98 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the question of revision of the scale of pay of the Assistant Surgeons.

Sir, this question of the revision of the scale of pay of these officers is long overdue. Their pay was fixed perhaps years ago when circumstances were quite different from those that exist at the present time. In those days the Assistant Surgeons had a virtual monopoly of private practice in the stations where they were posted and therefore they were rightly given a salary lower than that given to the members of other branches of the Provincial Service. But now, Sir, there are private practitioners in each sub-divisional and district headquarters where these officers are posted and therefore the extra income that these officers get is considerably reduced.

Again, Sir, there is another thing. These officers earn what they get out of private practice only during the time that is available after doing their usual official duties. Therefore if they earn anything at all that should not be taken into consideration for the simple reason that they do so at the sacrifice of their personal comfort and leisure.

Lastly, Sir, these officers before they can get into the service have to come at or after 28 or 29 years of age whereas the members of other services are recruited at or before the age of 25. Therefore it is a glaring injustice to these persons who had to spend as many as 6 to 7 or 8 years for their training in the Medical College after their graduation and therefore they really deserve an enhanced salary.

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

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,79,943 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—(J)—Grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the

whole grant of Rs. 15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

My intention is to raise the question of starting two dispensaries, one at Lengari and the other at Kumaranisiga. With regard to the first, I beg to say that there are scores of villages in this area populated by thousands of people. Communication of this place is very bad and the people of this place can never get the help of a charitable dispensary. The nearest dispensary from Lengari is at Moran, situated at a distance of 10 miles, and the other is at Khowang, at a distance of about 13 miles. People suffer from curable disease and die for want of medicine and treatment. I beg to urge that the people of these localities should be provided with two dispensaries.

Secondly, I beg to submit that Kumaranisiga is another rural centre, just lying at the border of Dibrugarh and Zamira Mouzas. There are scores of villages and people of those villages are not getting the benefit of a dispensary. These people have a right to have a dispensary in that area. Therefore I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to the necessity of providing a charitable dispensary in these two important places of my constituency and finally I would draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge to the fact that if provision cannot be made for the two dispensaries immediately and other dispensaries in other centres where they may be badly wanted, there should be provision for moving dispensaries fitted in motor vehicles and these should visit places at least once a week, with necessary medicines and equipments, and cater to the suffering people of these localities. With these few words I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have two identical Motions on two different matters which I shall move one by one.

I beg to move (1) that the provision of Rs.25,410 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools—(b).—Medical Schools, Sub-head.—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100 and (2) that the provision of Rs.25,410 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools—(b).—Medical Schools, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object in moving the first Motion is to raise a discussion about the necessity of manning the teaching staff of the Berry-White Medical School, Dibrugarh, with the best available personnel of the Assam Medical Service, irrespective of their seniority in service.

Sir, the Dibrugarh Berry-White Medical School is the only institution in the Province in which medical education is imparted and the numerous Government and Local Board dispensaries and also the tea garden hospitals in Assam get their supply of doctors from this institution. In the circumstances I say it is the paramount duty of the Government to see that best education is imparted in this institution and best education can only be imparted if the institution is manned by best available men in the Province. Sir, I understand that the posts of teachers in the Berry-White Medical School carry a special pay of Rs.75—100 per month. Therefore these posts are possibly secured by those people who can ingratiate themselves with the authority irrespective of the fact whether those men are actually fit to hold these posts or not. I have reports coming to my ears that most of the personnel holding these posts are misfits. For example, a man who has a liking for surgery is thrust upon Anatomy; a man who is innocent about medicine is placed on it and *vice versa*. This arrangement has greatly impaired the efficiency of teaching in this institution.

In these circumstances I urge upon Government to see that this reckless policy is departed from. The policy that these prize posts should go only to those who gain favour of Government and who are expert in the art of pleasing their masters should be abandoned and that best men irrespective of their seniority or juniority should be placed in charge of the different subjects in this institution. With these words I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

My next Motion is about raising the status of the Berry-White Medical School to that of a College. Sir, the hon. Members of this House are probably aware that our Province had no medical institution, and as such there were no doctors in the Province. Millions of people died for want of proper medical aid. Feeling this necessity, a philanthropic British gentleman in Dibrugarh allotted his life's savings for the establishment-

of a medical institution at Dibrugarh. Sir, with that fund the Berry-White Medical School was started about 50 years ago. Since, then medical education is being imparted in that institution to the students hailing from all parts of the Province, and, Sir, for the last 40 years all the Government and Local Board dispensaries and the numerous tea-garden hospitals have been getting their supply of medical personnel from this institution. Sir, as the hon. Members may know, the licentiate standard of medical education, which the students receive in schools all over India, was considered not adequate to combat the diseases prevailing in this country. All over India this question was mooted as to whether the present education that is imparted in medical schools was sufficient to combat the diseases prevailing in this country. The Government of India therefore by means of a legislation, *viz.*, the Indian Medical Councils Act of 1933, urged upon the Universities of India to fix such a standard of medical education as to satisfy the Medical Council of India. In order to give effect to the above decision the Central Government called a conference of officials and non-officials of all the Provinces of India at Delhi on the 7th and 8th November 1938. The conference recommended that the licentiate standard of medical education should be raised to that of the collegiate standard. In pursuance of this direction of the Central Government, the Government of Assam called a conference of medical men of Assam and some Members of the Legislature were invited to that conference. The conference decided upon the raising of the status of the Berry-White Medical School to that of a college and recommended to the Assam Government that the work of raising the status of the Berry-White Medical School should be started forthwith, so that from 1943 the Government of Assam might admit students for collegiate education. But up to now, Sir, the Government have not done anything to implement the recommendation made by the All-Assam Medical Education Conference. I beg to submit, Sir, that the All-Assam Medical Council recommended this in consonance with the direction of the All-India Medical Council. But the Government have been negligent in implementing the recommendation both of the All-India Medical Council, as well as that of the All-Assam Medical Education Conference. Therefore I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to take immediate steps to make provision in the next year's Budget for raising the status of the Berry-White Medical School to that of a college.

With these few words, I am leaving my Motion for proper examination by the experts, and commend it for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.1,11,231 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools (total), at page 102 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The object of my moving the Motion is to censure Government for not starting the medical institution at Sylhet.

Sir, the question of starting a medical institution at Sylhet is not a new question in this hon'ble House. This point has been raised times without number, but to no effect. Sir, people are dying without treatment owing to the dearth of properly qualified medical men, and of the small number of qualified persons in the Province most have been drawn into military work. So, the condition has become worse at the present moment. Sir, it has been admitted by Government that "the existing buildings at Sylhet are capable of adaptation into a Medical College. The district is the largest in the Province and consequently could easily provide clinical material for teaching purposes". (I have quoted from the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme, page 16). Government admit that Sylhet district is the largest in the Province and there will be sufficient clinical materials for teaching purposes. The building is there, Sir. Only the hospital building is lacking, but the hostel buildings are there which can be converted into a hospital. We, the inhabitants of the Sylhet town gave an undertaking that we would accommodate students in our houses or find out private houses where they can stay. Sir, at first we got hopes, then promises, but to no effect. It is high time that Government should take immediate steps to start the institution from the next year. Sir, the whole of the recurring expenditure will not be required in the first year, but from the fourth year only the entire recurring expenditure will be needed. So, Sir, Government can very easily start the institution, and they are in a position now to meet the expenditure of the first year. They should therefore start the school from the next year.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

1. "That the provision of Rs.1,99,847 under grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical establishment—(b).—District Medical officers (total), at page 98 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

2. "That the provision of Rs.1,79,943 under grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—(J)—Grants to Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

3. "That the provision of Rs.25,410 under grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools—(b).—Medical Schools, Sub-head.—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

4. "That the provision of Rs.25,410 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools—(b).—Medical Schools, Sub-head.—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 101 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

5. "That the provision of Rs.1,11,231 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Colleges and Schools (total), at page 102 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,23,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Sir, I should like to say a few words in support of the last two Motions we have listened to. I am sure both the projects deserve the most sympathetic consideration of Government, and I am quite sure that they will receive this. For a very long time both these projects have been under consideration. The Berry-White Medical School is an old established institution, and the desire has been expressed on very many occasions, which has my sympathy and whole-hearted support—and I know of the Members of this group,—that everything possible should be done to raise it at the earliest possible opportunity to a higher standard than it has attained so far.

As regards the proposal for the establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet, that also in principle has our sympathetic support but consideration must also be given and patience exercised over the actual difficulties connected with the working of the scheme at the present time, chiefly owing to the great difficulty of the question of equipment. With the best will in the world, I do not think it will be possible to embark on a scheme like this at present and it is quite impossible to obtain the necessary equipment for such institutions. I hope Government will do everything possible at the right time to fulfil the ambition of the two Valleys in having these medical schools and raising them at the earliest possible opportunity to higher standard so that they may in due course take their stand alongside similar institutions throughout India.

May I just refer to the proceedings of the Committee on Medical Education in Assam held in Shillong on the 27th November, 1939, and we have to thank this for a great deal of very valuable information and advice as to the policy concerning these institutions and certain other matters dealing with the Medical problems and policy in Assam. In view of this report having been published more than five years ago, I should like to put forward a suggestion that possibly more time has come, or may do so in the near future, when a similar Committee may sit again to review the position once more and bring the whole position up to date.

May I, in conclusion, just say one word in support of the Cut Motion under Public Health moved by Mr. Aditya? He has brought this subject of venereal disease to the notice of the Members of this House on several occasions and notably in the last Session of the Assembly. I rather feel that the subject has not received the support of the Members of this House, to the extent, I am quite sure, it really deserves. It is perfectly true of all that is implied in this Cut Motion and I feel it should be

given the fullest support particularly at the present time, when as the inevitable result of war time conditions this disease is so much on the increase.

It is found that, primarily, the best way of tackling the problem is by educating the general public and I suggest that our Publicity Department might be interested and publicize the dangers associated with concealment of venereal disease.

For the rest we have the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister that special clinics will be established to meet the necessary requirements.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It will be admitted that the persons known as Compounders make a very large contribution to the success of the medical administration in the country. Now they do practically the work of Assistant Medical Officers, but their pay and prospect have never been receiving the attention which they deserve. The present salary is Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per mensem.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which Cut Motion the hon. Member is speaking to ?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am speaking generally.

(A voice—Cut Motion Number ?)

I am speaking on the Motion relating to Assistant Surgeons moved by Srijut Buragohain. The success of the Assistant Surgeons generally depends on the service which is rendered by the Compounders and we cannot seriously think of the increment of the salary of Assistant Surgeons unless and until we take up the case of Compounders. Sir, these Compounders take temperature, count pulses and in some dispensaries they go even to the length of taking slides for malaria and they administer chloroform. Without their assistance, the Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons will be completely helpless. Compounders have been, from time to time, drawing the attention of this Government to this particular grievance of theirs, but no serious notice has been taken of the matter. We find in this year's Budget that one selection grade post has been created. The salary given is Rs. 40 to Rs. 50, but that will hardly satisfy the Compounders as a whole. Sir, their duties have been increased many times more on account of the war situation. But apart from that on account of the very arduous nature of their duties I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to increase their scale of pay.

Another matter to which I would like to draw attention of Government is the poor number of nurses we have in the Province. Whenever we give private call to an Assistant Surgeon in serious cases he will suggest that a nurse should be called in and we cannot get a nurse. We have not got adequate number of nurses. It is useless to merely have any college or school without any nurse. I thought the Hon'ble Minister when she took over charge would take up the question of having more trained nurses and increase their number appreciably, but I am very much disappointed that nothing has been done. Some people appreciate her services, the valuable services she had rendered in the recruitment of women volunteer service, but I am sorry that she has not taken enough interest in removing our want of trained nurses.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: I thank Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri for bringing in the Motion regarding Assistant Surgeons the question of Compounders. He says that the success of Assistant Surgeons depends on the Compounders. I should like to point out that there is a dispensary called Mohandijua, near Golaghat, where there is no Compounder. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon has not been able to work efficiently for want of a Compounder. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will see that a Compounder be appointed immediately for the dispensary.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be brief in my reply to the questions raised in the Cut Motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Twenty minutes time is reserved for the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Brevity is my prerogative, Sir. I am one of those who believe in giving a high salary in order to get the best and most efficient service out of officers. I admit that the pay of Assistant Surgeons and Compounders deserves revision, but because it involves a broad policy of Government namely, not to revise

scales of pay with a view to up grad: till after the war, Government cannot at this stage take up the case of doctors and Compounders alone. Such consideration will be taken up after the war, I hope. We realise everyone is passing through difficult times and because of that realisation Government have from time to time given dearness allowance and war allowance in order to supplement the pay of Government servants. The hon. Mr. Chaudhuri is quite incorrect in saying that we made provision for selection grade for one Compounder alone. If he turns to the list of new schemes in the Budget Memorandum, page XXV, he will find that we have made provision for promotion to selection grade of 10 Compounders. I hope that this will give some sort of relief to the Compounders.

I am glad that at this late stage the hon. Mr. Chaudhuri had realised the importance of nurses. If he will turn to the same page of the Budget Memorandum, he will find that Government have made provision for employment of 21 nurses in the district and subdivisional hospitals. I hope he is satisfied with these two provisions.

Coming to the Cut Motions moved by hon. Mr. Buragohain, he suggests opening of more dispensaries. I will refer him to the rules of the Local Self-Government Manual wherein it provides that if and when local bodies start dispensaries, then only the question of Government help can come. So I hope he will move his Local Board to start a new dispensary and Government grant will then be forthcoming.

As regards Cut Motion No. 11 moved by Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, it is our policy to engage the most suitable doctors for teaching in the Berry-White Medical School and if my hon. Friend will inform Government as to which doctor is not suitable to which post Government will take necessary action.

Cut Motions Nos. 12 and 14 moved respectively by Messrs. Lakshesvar Borooah and B. Mukherjee, are more difficult to consider. If my hon. Friends will refer to the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes they will find provision for the conversion of the Sylhet Medical School building into a college. Just now it is not possible and practicable to take up both schemes and it is our aim and endeavour to have a medical college very early here in Assam and that is why we have made provision for both these schemes in the Post-War Development Schemes. With regard to the Medical School, Sylhet, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had given in the Upper House a very detailed history of this scheme from the very time the idea was started, that is from 1927, upto the present day. When the proceedings of the Council are in the hands of the hon. Members they will find therein that Government have made every effort to start the medical school in spite of opposition from successive Inspectors-General of Civil Hospitals in Assam. I will read out their several objections. Colonel Phipson in his note of 8th March 1941 says—"I am an uncompromising opponent of the scheme, on the following grounds:—

(a) It is unnecessary, as the existing medical school turns out more students than can be found employment in the Province, and almost everywhere there is demoralising competition among them for a livelihood.

(b) In my opinion, it is the clearest duty of Government not to duplicate medical schools of the low standard of the Berry-White Medical School, but to raise the standard of existing medical education even if it aspires no higher than to the Licentiate standard.

(c) The provision of an adequately trained teaching staff is almost an impossibility, even as it is in Dibrugarh, since Government have, for many years past, abandoned the scheme of post-graduate training for Assistant Surgeons, from among whom presumably, the teaching staff will be selected.

(d) The cost of such a scheme, even if the hostels are "raided" will be out of all proportion to the benefits which the province may be expected to derive from it, and would, in my opinion, amount to a sheer waste of money which could far better be spent in any of the directions in which the medical relief in this province has been starved of funds for many years past."

Then as regards the conversion of the hostels into a hospital he says: "Although the buildings are excellent as hostel buildings, their adaptation to hospital purposes can never be as efficient as a hospital designed and constructed with the requirements of a hospital in view, and there will be a great sacrifice of convenience in many directions and the element of makeshift, which has characterised existing civil hospital at Sylhet, and has detracted from its value, will thus be perpetuated though on another site."

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, is that gentleman still the Inspector-General of this Province?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: No, Sir.

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then it is useless to hear it. What is the attitude of the present Inspector-General?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Then his last sentence in this note is pathetic because he was leaving the Province at that time and he said "If this last note of mine as Inspector General of Civil Hospitals were to assist the Hon'ble Minister to arrive at the final decision to abandon the scheme for the Sylhet Medical School I should feel that my 3½ years in Assam had not been wasted."

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is this the remark of the present Inspector General of Civil Hospitals?

*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Have patience please. You will be getting the remarks of all.

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: From 1927 we are having patience, Sir. We are impatient now.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: The next Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals,

Colonel Hesterlow said:

"If the present suggestion is carried out, to have a medical school in Sylhet, bereft of a hospital, and with what must be an inferior hospital, and a very doubtful teaching staff, there can be only one result, a serious deterioration of the standard of medical education and an institution which instead of being a cause of pride may very well turn out to be a source of humiliation to those who may be obliged to pass through it, something which may be a thing to be ashamed of and which will be held up by others as a constant reproach to the province. I, therefore, find myself compelled to agree completely with the views expressed by Colonel Phipson on this subject and to express the opinion that it would be far more desirable and profitable to concentrate on raising the standard and improving the teaching in the existing medical school at Dibrugarh, to construct a really efficient hospital in Sylhet on the plans of the original scheme more or less and to utilise this proposal as a field for clinical training for the students of the existing medical school, during their final years of study in addition and as part of their course of training. The medical school and hospital buildings in Sylhet may be disposed of as a school or college or offices, as being no longer necessary for a medical school."

Then, Sir, in spite of these remarks made by the two Inspectors-General of Civil Hospitals the Government insisted on the next Inspector General of Civil Hospitals to make an estimate of the cost of a medical school at Sylhet so that one could be quickly started. My hon. Colleague—Mr. Chakravarty—took a very keen interest in the proposal, but in spite of his endeavours the then Inspector General of Civil Hospitals—Colonel Shortt made the following remarks:—

"With a view to prepare and submit to Government a revised detailed estimate of cost, I consulted Messrs. Bird and Tatlock Limited, Smith Stanistreet and Company, Butterworth and Company, B. K. Paul and Company, Bathgate and Company and Adair Dutt and Company, requesting all of them to furnish me with a price list of various medicines and equipment absolutely necessary to start the Medical School at Sylhet. All of the firms so consulted have regretted that they could not furnish us with the quotations for most of the articles owing to war conditions and some of the articles might not even be available during the whole period of the war. It being so, it is not possible for me to submit a revised detailed estimate as desired by Government."

So, Sir, it seems that mere existence of the hostel buildings alone are not sufficient to start the medical school at Sylhet. Men and equipment are also necessary.

Lastly, Sir, we asked the new Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals—Colonel Dimond for his opinion about the Sylhet Medical School, and his opinion is as follows:—

"Conversion of the Sylhet buildings into a Medical College.

In October 1940 the Indian Medical Council passed a resolution requesting the Central Government to ask Provincial Governments to abolish the licentiate medical

schools or else to raise them to the University standard so that there would in future be only one uniform minimum standard of medical qualification for the whole of India. This would mean that there would be one All-India Register for doctors acceptable in reciprocating countries—a most important measure. A number of Provincial Governments have accepted the invitation and in most provinces in India after 1948, the Medical Schools will be a thing of the past. It is however for consideration if Assam can at the present juncture of its history do without the Licenciante class. This, of course, for purely economic reasons. From reading the Sylhet Medical School file, I gather that the consensus of opinion of the Ministers and the Public Health Department is that the licenciante will definitely continue to have a place in the needs of the Assam community and therefore while pressing strongly for the adaptation of the Sylhet buildings into a College suggest that the existing Berry-White Medical School should carry on until such a time as there is no further need for a medical school in this Province.”

The question of having two Medical Colleges in the Province just now is a very difficult question for me to give any assurance in the House and I would request the hon. Members to withdraw their Cut Motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Surendra Nath Buragohain press his Cut Motion?

*Srijut SURENDRA NATH BURAGOHAIN: No, Sir, I like to withdraw my Motion, and I ask leave of the House for it.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Ghana Kanta Gogoi press his Cut Motion?

*Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI: I would like to withdraw my Cut Motion, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah press his Cut Motions?

*Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: No, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the same.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

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

*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In view of the request from the Hon'ble Medical Minister, I like to withdraw my Cut Motion with the leave of the House.

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

(After a pause)

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

*Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that prices of medicine and other things have increased the Government have also been pleased to enhance their amount for dearness allowance and other allowances. Now, may I request the Government whether they think it proper to consider enhancement of their grants as regards subsidised dispensaries?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : That has already been done in the current year's Budget, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I now put the main Grant as a question ; the question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,23,000 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 '38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No 24

(47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,400 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 "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

Now, Sir, there are five Cut Motions relating to minor head (B)—Labour—and my Hon'ble Colleague the Minister-in-charge of Labour will deal with them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,400 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 '47.—Miscellaneous Department'."

I think only two Cut Motions are going to be moved out of the 6.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH : I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 35,181 under Grant No 24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour (total), at page 132 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,35,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of my moving the Motion is to raise a discussion about the urgency of assisting labourers in establishing Trade Unions under the Trade Union Act.

Sir, since the memory of the present generation can carry us back we know that this Province has been inhabited by a large labour population both Agricultural and Industrial. With the introduction of Reforms into this Province necessity was felt by the Government of Assam to get as the vast labour population represented in the Legislature. In the Morley-Minto Reforms the vast labour population had their representation in the person of an employee. As such severest possible violence was done to constitutional law and practice. I understand to my surprise that the Government of Assam proposed to continue the same constitutional anachronism by proposing an employer to represent labour under the present Reforms, but the Honourable Parliamentary Commissioner (sic) was not persuaded to accept the recommendation and urged representation of the vast labour population through the franchise of the labourers. As a result of this accommodation of the Honourable Parliamentary Commissioner (sic) we are having 4 representatives of Labour in Assam under conditions which can hardly be said to be free from the influence of their employers.

The vast tea garden labour population are kept in such a way as to prevent them to come in contact with the outside world. They are kept in such a way as not to enable them to know what their rights are and how best they can have their rights safeguarded.

I take this opportunity to urge on the employers of whom we have a fairly large representation in this House that the policy so far adopted by them with regard to handling labour is not in keeping with the spirit of democracy for maintenance of which they in their homeland are flowing rivers of blood, blasted millions and

millions of individuals and families. It pains me to say that our Government are pursuing the same policy, *i.e.*, putting all kinds of obstacles in a spontaneous and healthy growth of labour unions. The externment rather the banishment of innumerable labour leaders in the name of Defence of India is proof positive of incontention. What did Dr. Binoy Bhūsan Chakravarty do in 1941 except moving about among the labour force to assist them in forming labour unions; what were the activities of Nilmony Barthakur, Sardar Wanani Singh, Sardar Sadhu Singh, and Srijut Kedar Nath Goswami (to name a few only) except to help labourers to organise themselves under trade unions under the Trade Union Act?

Sir, the war, let us hope, is almost over; let us hope that we will see a better world, let us hope we will be free from the threatened shackles of Fascism and existing stifling Imperialism. Let us from now prepare ourselves to be fit to live in a democratic world where every humble inhabitant will have ample scope of unfettered growth. Let us from now try to be concrete, help the labourers to create for them an atmosphere under which they can have long overdue chance of getting into the Legislature according as they wish. Let the Labour Department of this Government be made to come to real assistance of the labourers instead of being procurement agencies for the employers.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKRJEE : Sir I beg to move :

That the provision of Rs. 3,812 under Grant No. 24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts (total), at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 11, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,35,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 11.

My object of moving this Motion is to criticise Government for not helping the public in the matter of printing and preservation of ancient manuscripts. I brought this fact before this hon'ble House on two occasions three years back and I got an assurance that the manuscripts known as Brittamanjuri would be printed by Government, but nothing has been done in this direction. Though there is a heading for preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts and for printing, not a pice has been provided in the Budget. I know Government will reassure me this time as well, but let me hope that it will be a real and genuine promise to print the Brittamanjuri at Government cost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motions moved :

1. "That the provision of Rs. 35,181 under Grant No. 24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—Labour (total), at page 132 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,35,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

2. "That the provision of Rs. 3,812 under Grant No. 24, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—F.—Preservation and Translation of Ancient Manuscripts (total), at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 11, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,35,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 11."

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of the Cut Motion, now moved. The subject that we are dealing with is very important. Yet, the time at our disposal is very very short. So I will confine myself to mainly three points. Firstly, I would like to ask Government what is their attitude towards Trade Unions. Studying closely the situation,—I feel constrained to remark that Trade Unions seem to be their pet aversion. For, I find Trade Union workers are persecuted, out wherever they are found. I know that some very valuable workers of the Trade Union the Fenchuganj Engineering Workers Union and the Chabagan Railway Workers Union have been chased out by the police from their normal sphere of activities with the help of the Defence of India Rules which are such a handy weapon to them. Some of the Railway Union workers have been penalised and even dismissed.

The cumulative effect of all this persecution and prosecution can only be to stifle the growth of trade unionism in this Province. So, I want to know from Government what their attitude is towards this movement. Whether they consider it an illegal movement or whether this movement has any place in their scheme of the amelioration of the lot of labour ?

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to the poor physical condition of the labourers due to mal-nutrition. We know that many enquiries have recently been held and experts are of opinion that these labourers are at present really in a very poor state of health. It is well known that Government derive a very large income from the Tea Industry in the shape of agricultural income-tax ; do they not realise that this income is derived mainly out of the sweat and blood of the tea garden labourers ? So, it is the sacred duty of Government, Sir, to satisfy themselves about the lot of these poor labourers and to take all possible steps to have it improved. At present, they are simply leaving them to the tender mercies of the employers ; I do not say employers as a class are callous and indifferent to labour. But we have nevertheless deep-rooted suspicions because employers have been found to be more anxious about earning their own profit than about improving the condition of the labourers.

Now, Sir, I want to know what the position is with regard to the representation of tea labour on the Local Boards. There are about 12 to 13 lakhs of tea garden labour in this Province. I want to know from Government whether any provision has been made to secure their representation on the Local Boards. Various other matters relating to labour demand our notice, Sir. But unfortunately, there is no time available for discussion. It is a pity that the time allotted for such an important subject is so meagre. I have reluctantly therefore to cut short my observations in support of the Motion moved. I hope, however, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will give definite answers to the three main points that I have raised.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to thank Mr. Chanda for supporting the Motion of Mr. Borooah. One reply is that the only Trade Union in Assam which secured an interview with Mr. Rege of the Central Government Commission who is enquiring into the condition of labour in all industrial districts was the Cha-Bagan Union of Silchar. This fact would suggest that the general allegations made by Mr. Chanda are not true of all Trade Unions in this Province.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Does Mr. Whittaker know how many workers of the Trade Unions have been hounded out of their normal sphere of activities ?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : I am not speaking about how many Trade Unions are in existence, but in the case of this Union certain officers were particularly required to interview the Commissioner of the Government of India by the Government of Assam for the purpose of representing the case of the tea garden labourers.

Secondly, I come to Mr. Chanda's point about malnutrition. None denies the existence of sub-nutrition among tea garden labourers and we deplore this as much as anyone. What we do deny, however, is the existence of a greater degree of sub-nutrition among tea garden labourers than among the ordinary village people. The standard of nutrition however low it may be on certain gardens, is still higher than in many villages of neighbouring areas. If the Government of Assam import more foods of a standard which will raise the nutrition level, we shall be extremely glad to purchase them on behalf of the Tea Industry.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : How about the earnings of labour ? What is being done to raise them out of the level into which they have sunk ?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : If Mr. Chanda would also look to the earnings he will find that in certain districts their wages have increased.

Thirdly, Sir, the Tea Industry would welcome proposals for strengthening the Labour Department so that it can do its job. In my opinion, the present Labour Department is not capable of doing the job for the people it was created to serve.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Mr. Mookerjee. The 'Brittamanjuri' is a very valuable book and has been compiled after a great deal of cares and troubles by an ancient and venerable gentleman. I think it is only due to mistake or omission that no provision has been

made for printing of this book because I know that the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself is in sympathy with the author of this book and he gave him hopes for printing of this book. I would suggest that the Hon'ble Minister will make the necessary grant and if necessary, come forward with a demand for supplementary grant in course of these days.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year we tried to include this sum in the Budget, but funds could not be provided. I can assure my hon. Friends that we will try to do this in the next year's Budget.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to thank those hon. Members who have shown their great concern for the labour. At the same time, Sir, I must thank my hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, who has replied to many of the points raised by some of the hon. Members. I am rather glad, Sir, that Mr. Whittaker is really possessed of facts as I am being in charge of the Labour Department.

Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, has raised a very big question—whether the employers should be the representatives of the labourers. Sir, under the present Constitution it is so and unless the Constitution is changed, I think the Department cannot be expected to make any change in the existing conditions. But, Sir, we all hope that after the conclusion of the War changes in the Constitution are coming and the points raised on the floor of the House about the labourers will not be overlooked by the authorities at that time.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Chanda, spoke about the point raised by my hon. Friend Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah regarding the movement of Trade Union workers. I don't know, Sir, whether he was present on the day my hon. Friend Comrade Karuna Sindhu Roy moved an Adjournment Motion regarding the misuse of the Defence of India Rules. The Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a very relevant reply to that and I think that reply covers the point now. Sir, Mr. Chanda also said that the Trade Unions workers are being harassed by the Police. I don't think, Sir, that all the Trade Unions, are real Trade Union and are looking to the welfare of the labourers. If it has not got any political motive behind it, I think Police has got nothing to do with it to interfere with the normal working of workers of the labour union. But, Sir, we know that under the shield of that name certain people try to create trouble among the labourers to satisfy their own end and on that case, Sir, Police is compelled to take action.

Then, Sir, about mal-nutrition of labourers. It has been rightly pointed out by Mr. Whittaker that even the non-labour class is worse sufferer than the labourers and this is due to mal-nutrition. But Government are importing food as far as possible from outside and making it available to the people. I think, Sir, as the Government is earnest in this matter, with the improvement of war conditions things will automatically improve and there will not be any further complaints from any quarters about this.

Then about the earning capacity of the labourers. I would say that this war has given great opportunities to the people to earn money which they could not dream before. An ordinary labourer is quite capable of earning Rs.3 to 4 a day. Even I know that many labourers from tea gardens were taken in military projects and they have earned very substantial amounts. We all know that many labourers who could have hardly two meals a day have come out from the various projects with large sums of money. Some are hoarding and some are squandering. I do not agree that the conditions of the labourers are in any way bad when there are so many sources of earning on account of the war.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Does the Hon'ble Minister suggest that labourers should be given the option to leave the garden and go to work in the military projects?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Yes, they have been allowed to leave the garden and go to military projects.

As regards the representation in the Local Boards, under the present constitution we have nothing to do and unless the constitution is changed, I think the legitimate

demand of the labourers cannot be met. The very same question was raised by the labour representative from Cachar, Mr. Ahir, the other day and we have realised his feeling in this matter.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Srijut Lakshesvar Barooah press his Motion?

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BAROOAH: No, Sir. I ask for leave to withdraw the Motion.

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

The Motions stand withdrawn with the leave of the House,

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now with regard to the complaint of Mr. Chanda that only 15 minutes were given to this grant, I may tell him that this time was allotted in consultation with the leaders of the different groups. If any suggestion for more time was made I would have certainly allotted more than 15 minutes to this Demand. To accommodate all the Demands within the days allotted by His Excellency the Governor this time was allotted to this Demand.

* Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: More days may be allotted for voting on Demands for grants.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I quite realise the difficulties of the hon. Members in that the days allotted for discussion of the Demands for grants are too inadequate. I am putting the main question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,400 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 '45.—Miscellaneous Department'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 35

(LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING AND NON-BEARING INTEREST)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,09,000 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 "Loans and Advances".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,09,000 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 'Loans and Advances'."

There is only one Cut Motion†. Does the hon. Member propose to move his Motion?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting it as a question:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,09,000 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 'Loans and Advances'".—

The question was adopted.

* Speech not corrected.

† Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 25,000 under grant No. 35, Major head—Loans and Advances, etc., Minor head—B.—Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government, Sub-head—Loans to Municipalities, Port Funds, etc., Detailed head—Loans to Local Bodies, at page 156 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,09,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100. (Non-removal of Chairman of Silchar Municipal Board from office by Government in spite of severe stricture passed on him by three Civil Court Judges.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1945.

SHILLONG,
The 2nd June, 1945.

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

A. G. P. (L.A.) No.13-125 + 2-6.5 1945.