



**Proceedings of the Sixteenth Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly,  
assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 24th March, 1945.

PRESENT :

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Lottery on the 13th January, 1945, in connection with the last Magh  
Bihu day**

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

\*238. (a) Is it a fact that authority was given to one Cheniram Dutt of Narayanpur to hold a lottery on the 13th January, 1945, in connection with the last Magh Bihu day ?

(b) Are Government aware that several complaints have been lodged before the present Subdivisional Officer of North Lakhimpur by some local people questioning the *bonafides* of the holders of the said lottery both as regards the value of the prizes offered and also about the award of prizes to the real winners ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to direct the local authorities to hold any enquiry into the complaints received in the interest of the local public and to take the counterfoils of the receipt books and other relevant documents into proper custody ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

238.—Government have no information. A report has been asked for.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge furnish me the information when the report is received ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Yes, Sir, that may be done if the report is received.

(Starred Questions Nos. 239 and 240 were not put and replied as the Questioners were absent).

**Trunk Telephone Line from Comilla to Silchar**

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

\*241.(a) Are Government aware that the recent cutting of trees etc., for the construction of a Trunk Telephone line from Comilla to Silchar has affected *Parda* in many of the houses situated near the Trunk Road from Fazilpur to Badarpur in the Karimganj Subdivision ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have granted cost of erecting temporary fencing in the affected areas for one year at the rate of annas 10 (ten) per running foot ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have decided to give the affected persons an annual rent for the land near the telephone line which will remain vacant for years together ?

(d) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

241. (a) to (d)—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answers given to unstarred Question No. 173 asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M. L. A., during the current Session of the Assembly.



Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, Unstarred Question No.173† has not been replied yet, though it is in the list of unstarred Questions for to-day. Will the Hon'ble Minister therefore kindly read out the replies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: All right, Sir. The reply to Unstarred Question No.173 is as follows:—

- “173. (a)—Yes, in some cases.  
 (b)—Deputy Commissioner was asked to pay such compensation.  
 (c)—To a certain extent.  
 (d)—No.  
 (e)—Information has been asked for from the Deputy Commissioner.  
 (f)—Does not arise.”

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: With regard to (d) may I know why Government refused to take such steps as would enable the deserving cases to have such permanent fencing or pucca wall immediately?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Because the original protection was itself not permanent.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: At a time when Government have done away with their original protection, is it not the duty of the Government to make some provision for permanent fencing?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government have made such provision as they thought also moral. The provision is to provide compensation for *talties*.

### Licenses for transporting of oranges to Bengal

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

\*242. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any license for transporting oranges to Bengal from Assam was issued to any one this year who is not a member of any Orange Dealers' Association?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the name of the licensee as well as the officer who issued the license?

(c) Is it a fact that licenses were issued this year from Shillong for exporting oranges to Bengal from Assam districts?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of these licensees who have been granted such licenses and the name of officer who issued the same?

\*243. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) To how many Associations licenses for export of oranges from this Province to Bengal were issued this year?

(b) The names of the members of those Associations?

(c) The names of individuals, if any, who were granted license for exporting oranges from this Province to Bengal this year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

242. (a) to (d)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to starred Question No. 158 asked by him at this Session of the Assembly which will show that persons other than Associations were given permits to export oranges to Bengal from

### TRUNK TELEPHONE LINE FROM COMILLA TO SILCHAR

Maulavi ABD UR RAHMAN asked:

†173. (a) Are Government aware that the recent cutting of trees, etc., for the construction of a Trunk Telephone line from Comilla to Silchar has effected *Parda* in many of the houses situated near the Trunk Road from Fazilpur to Badarpur in the Karimganj Subdivision?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have granted cost of erecting temporary fencing in the affected areas for one year at the rate of annas 10 (ten) per running foot?

(c) Are Government aware that Bamboos, etc., around a house serve the purpose of permanent *parda* in a country house?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take such steps as would enable the deserving cases to have such permanent fencing or pucca wall immediately?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have decided to give the affected persons an annual rent for the land near the telephone line which will remain vacant for years together?

(f) If not, why not?



Sylhet. In addition, Mr. S. C. Datta, c/o Alpha & Co., Shillong, was given a permit to export oranges to Bengal from Kamrup. All permits for export are issued from Shillong by Mr. K.W.P. Marar, Secretary, Supply Department.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire whether the District authorities were consulted before issuing such licenses by the Secretary, Supply?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is on the re-recommendation of the district officers that permits were granted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

243. (a) and (c)—Same as stated in reply to Question No.242(a) to (d) above.  
(b)—Government have no information.

### Quarters for Government servants of Shillong

†Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

\*244. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the population of the town of Shillong at the time of the 1941 Census ?
- (b) What is the present population of the said town ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the population of the said town has now increased four fold of what it was during the pre-war time ?
- (d) What was the total number of Government servants in the town of Shillong immediately before the war ?
- (e) What is their number now in the said town ?
- (f) Whether any steps have so far been taken by Government to provide the Government servants of Shillong with quarters ?
- (g) If so, what are those ?
- (h) If not, why not ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to build temporary quarters to accommodate those Government servants of the town of Shillong who have no house of their own ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

244. (a)—38, 192.

(b)—It fluctuates considerably but at times has risen to nearly 60,000.

(c)—No.

(d) & (e)—The information has been called for.

(f)—Not recently.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Because of the expense involved, as well as the difficulty of finding suitable sites.

(i)—No, the expense would be too great.

(Starred Question No.245 was not put and replied as the Questioner was absent).

### Elephant catching operations in the Assam Valley

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*246. (a) Is it a fact that big and important Mahals for elephant catching operations in the Assam Valley Districts were formerly opened for such operations after due Gazette Notifications together with due local publicity through Mauzadars ?

(b) Is it a fact that comparatively small and less important Mahals were opened for such operations by the Deputy Commissioner concerned after due publicity through Mauzadars ?

(c) Is it a fact that seats were formerly allotted usually to Kunki owners only ?

† The question was put and answered under Assembly rule 38 although the Questioner was absent.



(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether due publicity by Gazette Notification as well as through Mauzadars is given now-a-days also and the claims of professional kunki owners taken into consideration at the time of opening Mahals for elephant catching operations and allotment of seats ?

(e) Are Government aware that many shareholders of associations, firms, or companies registered specifically for elephant catching operations have not got their own kunkis at all ?

(f) Is it a fact that such non-kunki owner shareholders are often allotted seats in elephant catching operations in preference to kunki owning shareholder applicants ?

(g) Do Government propose to give due consideration to the claims of kunki owning persons before seats are allotted to non-kunki owners ?

(h) Do Government propose to give due publicity through the *Assam Gazette* or through Deputy Commissioner and Mauzadars, at the time of opening such Mahals and inviting applications for seats ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

246. (a) & (h)—All Mahals big or small for elephant hunting are advertised in the Gazette, publicity is not given through Mauzadars.

(b)—No.

(c)—Preference for seats for mela shikar has always been given to kunki owners.

(d)—Publicity is given by advertisement in the *Assam Gazette* and claims of kunki owners are taken into consideration.

(e)—Sometimes there are shareholders of firms or companies registered for catching elephants who are not themselves owners of kunkis.

(f)—Seats may have been allotted to a company some of whose shareholders have no kunkis but no mela shikar seats are allotted to non-kunki owners individually.

(g)—Yes, this is always done.

### Appointments in the Assam Civil Service and Assam Junior Civil Service

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*247. Will the Hon'ble Premier clarify what he meant by the expression "these temporary promotions have no actual relation with the total of the temporary appointments" contained in his reply to the unstarred Question No.110 (b) of the last Session ?

\*248. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners recruited from the Bar ?

(b) How many of them are exclusively employed for Civil Judicial work and how many for revenue and other works ?

(c) How many of them are drawing salaries at the rate of Rs.175 a month and how many at the rate of Rs.400 per month ?

(d) The reason for this difference in salaries ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that 10 years' practice in the Bar was considered necessary in cases of appointment of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners while 3 years' practice was considered sufficient for permanent appointments ?

(f) The number of temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors at present in Assam and how many of them are employed for revenue works ?

(g) The reasons for not appointing Sub-Deputy Collectors as temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners ?

(h) Whether it is a fact that some of them have now been employed for judicial works ?



\*249. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any of the special posts, created as a result of War emergency, are now held by the members of the Assam Junior Civil Service ?

(b) If so, how many ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

247.—The two temporary promotions made from the Assam Junior Civil Service were out side the normal requirements for the Assam Civil Service and were made only to meet the pressing demands of the members of the Assam Junior Civil Service.

248. (a)—Twenty-nine.

(b)—Twelve pleaders of 10 years' or more experience and two junior pleaders were employed for munsii works while ten pleaders of 10 years' experience and five junior pleaders were employed for magisterial and general works.

(c)—Seven at the rate of Rs.175 per month and twenty-two at the rate of Rs.400 per month.

(d)—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.

(e)—The limit of ten years' practice in the case of temporary appointments was laid down as these Officers were meant to take up the works of the senior experienced Officers. In the case of permanent appointments, B. L. candidates who have completed their probationary period are eligible for appointment.

(f)—Twenty-five and 22 respectively.

(g)—Dearth of experienced Sub-Deputy Collectors.

(h)—Twenty permanent and one temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors have been invested with Magisterial powers. Two of them are now solely employed for Magisterial work.

249. (a)—Yes.

(b)—One.

(c)—Does not arise.

#### Revenue from Fisheries in the Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

\*250. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of revenue derived from fisheries in the Barpeta Subdivision in the year 1944 ?

(b) The anticipated revenue from the same in the year 1945 ?

(c) The amount of auction money realised at the time of the last auction of different fisheries in the said Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

250. (a)—Rs.68,030 in 1944-45. Figures are not compiled for calendar years.

(b)—The amount for which the fisheries were settled for the year 1945-46 was Rs.2,28,737.

(c)—The amount actually deposited out of the above sum is not known.

#### Requisition of lands and holdings in Patherkandi

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*251. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the villagers recently evicted from Patherkandi area have got their full compensation for their paddy fields ?



- (b) Whether Government are aware that some of the evicted villagers from Patherkandi area have gone to Manikband Forest Reserve ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Forest Officers concerned have not yet communicated any order to these villagers ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that they have now been asked to return to their own villages ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to allow those villagers who would like to stay at Manikband to remain there ?
- (f) Whether compensation for a second time is proposed to be given to those villagers who will return to their own villages ?
- \*252. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of persons evicted from their houses for military purposes in the different parts of the Province during last four years ?
- (b) The number of holdings and area of land under cultivation requisitioned during the said period ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

251. (a) to (f)—The information is not available and it is now too late to obtain it from the district.

252. (a) & (b)—It is regretted that the information cannot be supplied for reasons of security.

#### Pathsala Girls' Middle English School

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

- \*253. (a) Are Government aware that a Girls' Middle English School was established as a private venture in 1944 at Pathsala in the Barpeta subdivision ?
- (b) Are Government aware that this is the only institution of its kind in the whole of the rural areas of the subdivision of Barpeta ?
- (c) Are Government aware that there are no Girls' High English Schools throughout the whole of the rural areas of the said subdivision ?
- (d) Is it a fact that the organisers of the said Girls' Middle English School at Pathsala are moving the authorities for early financial help and recognition ?
- (e) Is it a fact that the Inspectress of Schools who recently visited the said school was impressed with its need and scope in the locality ?
- (f) Do Government propose to give the necessary grant-in-aid to this School immediately ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

253. (a) to (d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes, the Assistant Inspectress who visited the School and not the Inspectress as stated.

(f)—This will be considered along with the claims of other schools during the next financial year subject to funds being available.

#### Recurring grant-in-aid to non-Government Secondary Schools

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*254. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) On what consideration recurring grant-in-aid to non-Government Secondary Schools are allotted ?



- (b) Whether the age of an institution, its enrolment, its situation (in comparatively advanced or backward locality), the number of population it serves, etc., are taken into consideration when sanctioning a recurring grant-in-aid to such a School ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that for years together grants are continuing at Rs. 15 per mensem and Rs. 10 per mensem respectively in the cases of some private High English and Middle English Schools of the Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to raise the grants-in-aid to the non-Government High English and Middle English Schools of the Barpeta Subdivision with effect from 1945-46 ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to sanction grant-in-aid to the Sarupeta High English School within the Barpeta Subdivision from the financial year 1945-46 ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

254. (a)—The main considerations along with other points are that the school serves the real need of a particular locality and that Government help is necessary to run the institution smoothly.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d) & (e)— These questions will be reviewed along with the claims of other schools during the next financial year if and when funds are available.

#### Encroachments in Professional Grazing Reserves of Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*255. (a) Is it a fact that many petitions were filed before the Hon'ble Revenue Minister by the professional graziers of the Barpeta Subdivision during his recent visit to Barpeta complaining against their miserable plights, caused by widespread encroachments into the reserves and consequent troubles and annoyances pertaining thereto ?

(b) Is it a fact that amongst others the graziers of the Kaimari, Mondia (Konora-Kopouha), Theka-Paka, Khelli and Fulora professional grazing reserves in the Subdivision of Barpeta also approached the Hon'ble Minister at that time ?

(c) Is it a fact that they complained to him that there had been widespread and organised encroachments in the said reserves within a very recent time, mostly after the Land Settlement Conference had sat at Shillong and that the encroachers were persons not affected by erosion or military requisition but the en-

having lands elsewhere ?

(d) Is it a fact that they complained that sheds had been or were being constructed by the encroachers even in the very fronts of the Bathans thus preventing and restricting the free movements of the graziers and their buffaloes ?

(e) Are Government aware that clashes between the graziers and encroachers have taken place recently in many places of the aforesaid reserves ?

(f) Are Government aware that under the aforesaid circumstances the feelings between the immigrants and graziers are running so high that many more clashes are likely and imminent ?

\*256. (a) Is it a fact that owing to several encroachments in the past few weeks a police party had recently been stationed in the Kaimari Professional Grazing Reserve in the Barpeta Subdivision to keep the public peace there ?

(b) Is it a fact that within a week of stationing the police party there, there was a case of assault by about 400 to 500 immigrant encroachers on the said police party itself causing injuries to one of them and damage to arms borne by them ?



(c) Is it a fact that the aforesaid graziers complained to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister during his recent visit to Barpeta that the immigrant encroachers threatened the graziers with wholesale depredations both against their lives and properties including their buffaloes ?

(d) Is it a fact that they also complained to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister at that time of maiming, permanently injuring and killing of buffaloes as having taken place already ?

(e) Is it a fact that they prayed to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister at that time to arrange military help to prevent further encroachments and to protect the lives and properties of the graziers ?

(f) Is it a fact that they also prayed to him at that time for early eviction of the encroachers who are all new comers of a very recent time ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state how and when they propose to meet the aforesaid prayers and complaints of the graziers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

255. (a)—No, but some graziers represented to the Hon'ble Minister certain grievances.

(b)—Graziers of some of the Professional Grazing Reserves including Kaimari saw the Hon'ble Minister and represented their grievances.

(c)—The graziers represented that there had been some encroachments but they did not mention specifically if those encroachments took place after the All-Parties Conference, nor did they state that the encroachers were persons not affected either by erosion or by military requisition or that they were mostly those having lands elsewhere.

(d)—They made complaints like this.

(e)—Government have received report like this from the complaining party.

(f)—This is more than what Government can admit.

256. (a)—Yes.

(b)—If the hon. Member has in mind the incidence of the 6th February at Kaimari Professional Grazing Reserve then Government should be precluded from making any statement, as the case is *sub-judice*.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

(e)—No.

(f)—They prayed for remedies.

(g)—As expeditiously as possible, according to law.

### Educational Institutions requisitioned for Military purposes

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*257. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of schools, colleges and hostels requisitioned for Military purposes during last four years in different parts of the Province ?

(b) The amount of compensation paid to each of the institutions thus affected ?

(c) The approximate dates when these institutions would be released ?

(d) Whether Government propose to move the Military authorities to give up possession of the aforesaid institutions for removing the present educational difficulties of students ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

257. (a)—Approximately 51 in all.



(b)—Figures are not available readily. In case of Public Works Department buildings rents are assessed and realised by the Public Works Department and in case of non-Government buildings by the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer and the institution concerned.

(c) & (d)—Steps are being taken to have educational buildings released as soon as possible. The Military has just released Government High School buildings at Sylhet and some more buildings are likely to be released in near future.

### Post-Graduate Scholarships

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

\*258. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of students to whom the last Post-Graduate Scholarships were awarded ?
- (b) The subject in which each of them had Honours ?
- (c) The place each of them secured in their B.A. and B.Sc. Examinations?
- (d) The year in which each of them passed the B.A. Examination ?
- (e) The names of students who applied for such Post-Graduate Scholarships ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:—

258. (a)—(1) Satyamadhab Datta Choudhury.

(2) Md. Firoz.

(3) Tikendralal Das.

(4) Md. Naziruddin Ahmed.

(b), (c) & (d)—(1) Passed B.A. standing 1st in 1st Class in 1944 (History).

(2) Passed B.A. in 1944.

(3) Passed B.Sc. with distinction in 1944.

(4) Passed B.A. with distinction in 1944.

(e)—A list of candidates is placed on the table.

#### *List of applications for Post-Graduate Scholarships for Session 1944-45*

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. G. G. Swell.                  | 25. Syed Ilias Ali.                 |
| 2. Jitendralal Das.              | 26. Umapada Biswas.                 |
| 3. Profulla Ch. Sharma.          | 27. Muhammad Firuz.                 |
| 4. Surath Ch. Daolagupee.        | 28. Golok Chandra Bhuyan.           |
| 5. Bhudeb Chaudhuri.             | 29. Tikendralal Das.                |
| 6. Sudha Sancar.                 | 30. Trillian War Shadap.            |
| 7. Hariprasanna Das.             | 31. Joyoti Prasad Medhi.            |
| 8. Md. Abdul Ahad.               | 32. Mir Raushanara Khatun.          |
| 9. Renuka Das.                   | 33. Amarendra Kumar Deb.            |
| 10. Parimal Bhusan Kar.          | 34. Shamarendra Narayan Sen.        |
| 11. Miss Pranati Das.            | 35. Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika.       |
| 12. Iresh Chandra Deb.           | 36. Pramod Chandra Goswami.         |
| 13. Rabindranath Bhattacharyya.  | 37. Hariprasad Dev.                 |
| 14. Aswinikumar Baruah.          | 38. Profulla Kr. Sarma Chakravarty. |
| 15. Ranjit Kumar Das             | 39. Amalkumar Palit.                |
| 16. Md. Sharifullah.             | 40. Md. Nazimuddin Ahmed.           |
| 17. Jitendranath Gohain.         | 41. Nirupoma Devi.                  |
| 18. Jagadish Chandra Sen.        | 42. M. Mainul Haque Chaudhury.      |
| 19. Jyotirmoy Barua.             | 43. Ivan Martin Simon.              |
| 20. Nishikanta Choudhury.        | 44. Dharmeswar Baruah.              |
| 21. Satyamadhab Datta Chaudhury. | 45. Bharat Chandra Pattok.          |
| 22. Md. Bahar Ali Sheikh.        | 46. Md. Alimuddin.                  |
| 23. Dimbeswar Sarma.             | 47. Md. Firoz.                      |
| 24. Md. Abdus Sukur.             | 48. Md. Sulaiman.                   |



### Patharkandi Tahsil Office Defalcation Case

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV asked :

\*259. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How long after the actual theft of Patharkandi Tahsil office money from the Thana custody the culprit was detected ?
- (b) Where and by whom the culprit was detected ?
- (c) How long after the final report submitted by the investigating police the culprit was detected ?

\*260. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any reward has been paid to Constable Abdul Wahab for detection of the culprit Mujmil Ali of the Patharkandi Tahsil office defalcation case ?
- (b) If so, what part was actually taken by the said Constable in detecting the culprit ?
- (c) Whether any other Police Officer was engaged in detecting the culprit in this case ?
- (d) If so, what is his name and designation ?
- (e) What part was taken by him in detecting the culprit ?
- (f) Who recommended the payment of reward to the Constable named in Question (a) above ?

\*261. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the judgment passed by Maulavi M. A. Mukhtadir, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Sylhet in the Patharkandi Tahsil Office defalcation case ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sub-Treasury Officer, Karimganj, sent a list of the stolen notes with numbers to the Sylhet Treasury and other Treasuries ?

(c) Is it a fact that the trying Magistrate has remarked in his judgment that it was the watchfulness, tact and quick decision of an officiating clerk of the Sylhet Treasury that led to the detection of the culprit ?

(d) Is it a fact that Police Officers concerned in the case were rather censured by the trying Magistrate for their negligence throughout ?

(e) Do Government propose to give proper appreciation to the clerk concerned whose tact and prompt action led to the detection of the aforesaid crime ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

259. (a)—The culprit was under suspicion all along, but it was about six months afterwards that he was caught.

(b)—Government are informed that a constable, Abdul Wahab was suspicious of the convicted man's conduct and advised the treasury staff to be on their guard. The treasury staff took action accordingly and he was caught in possession of some of the stolen notes.

(c)—About two and a half months.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Will Government take it from me, Sir, that no advice was given by the constable to the treasury staff ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I am quoting the report from the Deputy Commissioner.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

260. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As stated in reply to Question No.259 (b) above.

(c) & (d)—The investigating officer was Srijut Shashi Nath Datta, Inspector of Police, District Detective Staff, Sylhet.

(e)—As stated, he was the investigating officer.

(f)—Government are not in the habit of disclosing the authors of recommendations made to them in such cases.

261. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. So did the investigating officer.



(c)—Yes.

(d)—Certain Police officers were censured.

(e)—Government will consider any recommendation they may receive on the subject from the district officers.

### Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Barpeta Subdivision

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

\*262. (a) Is it a fact that for the post of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools for general work, the candidate must be either a graduate or a matriculate having passed normal third year course ?

(b) Is it a fact that one Srijut Naranarayan Sarma, Head Pandit, Pathsala Middle Vernacular School, Barpeta, a matric normal 3rd year passed man officiated for more than 6 times as Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools ?

(c) Is it a fact that he was appointed to officiate for 50 days as Assistant Sub-Inspector of Schools (general) in the Barpeta Subdivision with effect from 11th February, 1944, in the leave vacancy of Srijut Mohi Kanta Goswami, B.A. ?

(d) Is it a fact that he actually officiated as such as an Assistant Sub-Inspector for 23 days when he was relieved by one Srijut Rajani Kanta Goswami, a clerk of the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Barpeta, who was only a matriculate and not qualified under Government orders for such post ?

(e) If so, why ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley disapproved of the officiating appointment of Srijut Rajani Kanta Goswami ?

(g) If so, why he was given the officiating chance ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

262. (a)—Ordinarily it is so.

(b)—May be correct.

(c)—Not a fact.

(d), (e), (f) & (g)—He was taken in, by Deputy Inspector of Schools, but before his appointment could be formally approved, Srijut Rajani Kanta Goswami was appointed in the vacancy. Srijut Naranarayan Chandra Sarma, was however, appointed for the days he actually officiated.

### Government Middle Schools and Aided Middle Schools

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

\*263. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Government Middle Schools in the Province ?

(b) The number of Aided Middle Schools in Assam ?

(c) The scale of pay of different classes of teachers of Government Middle Schools ?

(d) The amount paid till now to each of the teachers of Government Middle Schools in the shape of dearness allowance and free rations since the date of granting such concessions ?

(e) The amount paid till now to each of the teachers of the Aided Middle Schools in the shape of dearness allowance and free ration since the above date ?

(f) The scale of pay of different classes of teachers of the Aided Middle Schools ?

(g) The grant-in-aid given to each of the Aided Middle Schools at present ?

(h) The number of recognized Middle Schools waiting for grant-in-aid at present ?



The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

263. (a)—25.

(b)—360 including 4 schools in Excluded Areas.

(c)—*Scales in Middle English Schools.*—Class III of Assam School Service—Rs. 75—4—175.

Middle School Cadre IIA—Rs. 40—1—50—2—70.

Middle School Cadre IIB—Rs. 30—1—40—1—54—1—55.

Selection grade of Assam Lower School Service—Rs. 70—10—2—100.

*Scale in Middle Vernacular Schools.*—Middle School Cadre IIA—Rs. 40—1—50—2—70.

Middle School Cadre IIB—Rs. 30—1—40—1—54—1—55.

Selection grade of Assam Lower School Service—Rs. 70—10—2—100.

(d)—The amount paid is not readily available.

(e)—During 1943-44 at the rate of Re. 1 a month per teacher was given for six months from the 1st September 1943. In 1944-45 out of the total provision of Rs. 50,000 for giving an increase in the salaries of aided institutions in the Province, a total sum of Rs. 15,045 was distributed as lump grants to various Middle Schools for the purpose. Over and above this a dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 5 per month to each of the teachers and clerks and at the rate of Rs 3 per month to each menial was granted by Government with effect from the 1st November 1944 on the basis of 60 per cent. of the total cost being borne by Government and 40 per cent. by the School authorities. Teachers of aided schools are not entitled to free rations.

(f)—The teachers of Government Aided Middle Schools draw fixed pay and it varies from school to school. The general scale laid down in Section 68 of the Education Department Rules and orders is as follows :—

	Minimum
	Rs.
Headmaster ... ..	50
Second and subsequent English masters ...	35
First Vernacular Master ... ..	25
Second and subsequent Vernacular masters ...	20

(g)—A statement showing the maintenance grants to various Middle Schools is placed on the Library Table.

(h)—The approximate number is 100.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government consider that the grants which they give to the Aided Middle English Schools is very inadequate?

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Can Government deny the fact that they are receiving representations from various quarters to the effect that the grants given to the Middle English Schools are very inadequate.?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN. The hon. Member should know that the distribution of grants depends on the availability of funds and in some cases the grants are reported to be inadequate.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Middle Madrassas are also included in the category of Middle English Schools?

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



*Re Staff of the Agricultural Department*

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

- \*264. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The number of posts of Agricultural Kamdars sanctioned at present for the Sunamganj Subdivision ?  
 (b) The number of Kamdars at present actually posted there ?  
 (c) The names of places of the said Subdivision where the Kamdars are placed ?  
 (d) The nature of works they are doing ?
- \*265. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The names of present Assistant Deputy Directors of Agriculture promoted from the post of Inspectors of Agriculture ?  
 (b) The names of Agricultural Inspectors who have been superseded ?
- \*266. Will Government be pleased to state—  
 (a) The names of Agricultural Demonstrators who have come out successful from the Agricultural Training Camp, Sylhet, during the last five years ?  
 (b) The names of those Demonstrators who have been appointed in the general line of the Department ?  
 (c) The names of Demonstrators who have been provided with capitals for starting Farms ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

264. (a)—12.  
 (b)—12.  
 (c)—1. Sunamganj, 2. Bhatipara, 3. Dwara, 4. Kaitak, 5. Tahirpur, 6. Sukhair, 7. Durgapasa, 8. Jhig, 9. Kalkali, 10. Jagannathpur, 11. Madyanagar, 12. Sachna.  
 (d)—They are engaged in works in connection with the operation of the Grow More Food Schemes.

265. (a)—Srijut Mohi Chandra Gogoi, Maulavi Mohsin Ali, Babu Ramesh Chandra Das, Srijut Premadhar Barua, Babu Pulin Behari Ghosh, Srijut Lalit Nath Kakati, Maulavi Sheikh Karim Baksh, Mr. L. L. Reade (Excluded Areas), Babu Manindra Chandra Dutta (Live stock-sectional promotion).  
 (b)—Only Maulavi Abdul Quadim Choudhury was superseded as a result of promotion of the above-named officers.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, why Maulavi Abdul Quadim Choudhury was superseded ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The reason cannot be given. I refuse to discuss on the floor of the House merits of individual officers.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

266. (a)—A list of students who came out successful from the Agricultural Training class at Sylhet is placed on the Library Table.  
 (b)—The names of those who were provided in the Department are shown in the list ?  
 (c)—None.



## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

## Extension of services of Police Officers

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

172. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any extension of service was given to the Police Officers in different ranks within the last two years ?

(b) If so, what are the special reasons for such extensions ?

(c) Whether the said Officers after extension of service were placed in Special post or in general cadre ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that promotion in the Police Service depends on the merit of the Officers ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that many officers do not get any chance of promotion due to such extension ?

(f) Whether Government are aware that extension of services of Police Officers defers the legitimate claims of promotion of many officers down to the Constable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

172.(a)—Yes.

(b)—In the interest of Public Service, because there is a dearth of experienced Police Officers.

(c)—Except one all were employed in the general cadre.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Promotion in some cases may be retarded.

(f)—Not in these cases, since owing to the war expansion many officers have secured unusually rapid promotion which they could not have looked for in normal times.

## Trunk Telephone line from Comilla to Silchar

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

173. (a) Are Government aware that the recent cutting of trees, etc., for the construction of a Trunk Telephone line from Comilla to Silchar has affected *parda* in many of the houses situated near the Trunk Road from Fazilpur to Badarpur in the Karimganj Subdivision ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have granted cost of erecting temporary fencing in the affected areas for one year at the rate of annas 10 (ten) per running foot ?

(c) Are Government aware that bamboos, etc., around a house serve the purpose of permanent *parda* in a country house ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take such steps as would enable the deserving cases to have such permanent fencing or pucca wall immediately ?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have decided to give the affected persons an annual rent for the land near the telephone line which will remain vacant for years together ?

(f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

173.(a)—Yes, in some cases.

(b)—Deputy Commissioner was asked to pay such compensation.

(c)—To a certain extent.

(d)—No.

(e)—Information has been asked for from the Deputy Commissioner.

(f)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : With regard to (b), the reply is given that the Deputy Commissioner was asked to pay such compensation. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Government have decided to give compensation for the



land which has been acquired for the purpose of fencing and construction of telephone lines.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : It is the Deputy Commissioner who is the agent of the Government of India to decide such a question. We do not know whether he is making any proposal to give compensation for land covered in fixing the posts, which may be generally 1 sq. foot.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Am I to understand from the Hon'ble Minister that only 1 sq. foot of land has been acquired for fixing each post ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Yes, Sir. They do not interfere with anything else except where the posts are fixed.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : But will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that a regular plot of land has been taken away by the Department for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : That is a question of opinion, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Will Government ask the Deputy Commissioner to make enquiry into the matter and ascertain whether compensation has been given to the people ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : We have asked for opinion of the Deputy Commissioner and it has not been forthcoming. We are awaiting the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner.

†Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : May I know, Sir, under what head of the Budget this compensation will be paid if the Deputy Commissioner is to pay the compensation ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI ; This will be paid by the Government of India.

#### Re 1941 Census

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

174. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the figures representing the strength of population of different communities such as Hindus, Christians, etc., disclosed by the Census Report of 1941 prepared by the Assam Government evoked a widespread protest challenging the figures as unreliable ?

(b) Whether any action has been taken to implement the assurance given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the floor of the Assembly on the 4th December, 1941 in connection with an Adjournment Motion regarding census operations moved by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., that fresh sorting of figures under the head "Religion" would be made provided the cost for the same is not found to be prohibitive ?

(c) If so, what is that ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that Government have subsequently made a fresh sorting under the head "Religion" of the Christian community only and that no such sorting has been made in the case of the population following the Hindu religion ?

(f) If so, what are the reasons for this discrimination ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

174.(a) to (f)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to similar Questions (Unstarred Question No. 165) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., at this Session.

#### Re Dismissal of complaint cases in Courts of Nowgong

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

175. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a large number of complaint cases had been dismissed in the Courts of the Magistrates in the district of Nowgong during the month of January 1945 ?



- (b) If so, what are the reasons therefor ?  
 (c) The number of criminal cases revived during the month ?  
 (d) The number of cases in which the accused have been acquitted for default ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

175. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Nil.

(d)—83.

**Re Saralani Beel in Lakhoa Forest Reserve, Nowgong**

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

176. (a) Is it a fact that Saralani Beel in Lakhoa Forest Reserve, Nowgong was put to public auction on the 10th May, 1944, for the purchase of fishing rights in the same ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong, who held and conducted the sale on the date fixed accepted the highest bid of Rs.10,175 offered by one Samserali Akanda of Phutaljar, Sidaria Mouza, Nowgong ?

(c) Is it a fact that the aforesaid successful bidder deposited on that very date the 10 per cent. of the bid money ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Conservator of Forests, Assam, accepted and approved of the bid of aforesaid Samserali Akanda on 17th May, 1944 and the fact of confirmation was communicated to him by the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong ?

(e) Is it a fact that on demand for payment of *kists* for the Beel the aforesaid bidder subsequently paid up Rs.805 in two instalments ?

(f) Is it a fact that the aforesaid Beel has now been settled with one Hussain Sarkar under the order of the Hon'ble Forest Minister without any notice to Samserali Akanda ?

(g) Are Government aware that in the terms of the notice issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong, dated 28th February 1944, in the matter of auction of sales, etc., the Conservator of Forests, Assam, has been mentioned to be the final authority to accept a bid the value of which is Rs 10,000 ?

(h) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the Hon'ble Forest Minister interfered in the matter and cancelled the settlement confirmed by the Conservator ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether after the cancellation of the settlement of the said Beel any memorial or representation was submitted by the said Samserali Akanda to the Hon'ble Premier complaining against the aforesaid action of the Hon'ble Forest Minister ?

(j) Is it a fact that Samserali Akanda in his said representation has complained that he already spent a large amount in making preparations for working the Beel ?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state the total area of the said Beel ?

(l) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge has also given the said Hussainali Sarkar about 3,000 bighas of land for purpose of growing all sorts of crops over and above the fishing right in that Beel ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

176. (a) to (l)—The information has been called for.

**Contract for the supply of Forest minor produce**

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

177. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forest be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of tenders received from April 1942 to March 1944 for contract for the supply of minor forest produce from each district of the Province from:— (i) Caste Hindus, (ii) Scheduled Castes, (iii) Tribals and (iv) Muslims—(1) Indigenous Muslims, (2) Immigrant Muslims with their names and address and (v) Others ?



- (b) How many tenders of the immigrant Muslims were accepted during the aforesaid period ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the immigrant Muslims have not yet been allowed their due share of contract works in the Forest Department on population basis ?
- (d) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

177. (a) to (d)—The information has been called for.

**Inspectorate of Textile Department in the Assam Valley**

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

178. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many (i) Inspectors, (ii) Sub-Inspectors and (iii) Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Textile are there in the Assam Valley ?
- (b) What are their (i) names, (ii) educational qualifications, (iii) home district and (iv) religion ?
- (c) What are the (i) special and technical qualifications of each of the Inspectors of Textile, (ii) the amount of pay drawn by each before they were appointed as Textile Inspectors, (iii) the period of past services of any and (iv) the nature of appointments they were holding ?
- (d) Whether there were any candidates (Hindus & Muslims) from Goalpara district for the posts mentioned in Question (a) above ?
- (e) If so, what is their number and in what capacities (Muslims and Hindus to be shown separately) ?
- (f) Whether there are any Textile Inspectors from the district of Goalpara ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- (h) Who made the appointments of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors in the Textile Department and on what principles ?
- (i) Whether these appointments were made on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission from the beginning ?
- (j) If not, why not ?
- (k) Whether Government propose to consider the applications already received for these posts from candidates belonging to the Goalpara district in making further appointments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

178. (a)—(i) 9. (ii) 23. (iii) 48.

(b)—A statement is placed below.

*Statement showing the number of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Textiles in the Assam Valley with their (i) names, (ii) educational qualifications, (iii) home district and (iv) religion.*

Names	Educational qualifications	Home district	Religion
I.—Inspector			
1. Srijut Sushil Ch. Dutta	...	M.A.	Lakhimpur
2. Nawab Abul Hussain	...	B.A.	Sibsagar
3. Srijut Kamalakanta Barua	...	B.L.	Sibsagar
4. „ Promode Kanta Barua	...	B.A.	Kamrup
5. „ Jugal Kumar Das	...	B.Sc.	Kamrup
6. Maulavi Kazi Saifuddin Ahmed	...	I.A.	Kamrup
7. Srijut Probodh Chandra Das	...	B.A.	Kamrup
8. Maulavi Seraful Hussain	...	B.A. (Hon.)	Sibsagar
9. Mr. Ronald Goldsmith	...	B.A.	Sibsagar
			Indian Christian.



Names	Educational qualifications	Home District	Religion
<i>2.—Sub-Inspectors</i>			
1. Babu Bimaljyoti Roy ...	B.A.	Sylhet	Hindu.
2. Srijut Benode Chandra Das	B.A.	Lakhimpur	Hindu.
3. Maulavi Tazmalali Hazarika.	B.A.	Lakhimpur	Muslim.
4. Babu Nareswar Pal ...	B.A.	Sylhet	Hindu.
5. Maulavi Muqbool Ahmed	B.A.	Sibsagar	Muslim.
6. Srijut Krishna Kanta Borakataki.	B.A.	Sibsagar	Hindu.
7. „ Nabin Ch. Bura-gohain.	B.A.	Sibsagar	Hindu.
8. Babu Pranendra Kumar Naha.	B.Sc. (Distn.)	Kamrup (domiciled.)	Hindu.
9. Srijut Krishnakanta Dutta	I.Sc.	Sibsagar	Hindu.
10. „ Hem Chandra Tamuli	B.A.	Nowgong	Hindu.
11. „ Gopinath Saikia ...	B.A.	Nowgong	Hindu.
12. „ Kusti Chandra Manta	Matriculate	Nowgong	Hindu.
13. „ Prabhat Chandra Das	B.A.	Kamrup	Hindu.
14. „ Jaminimohan Choudhury.	B.Sc. (Hons.)	Darrang	Hindu.
15. „ Promode Kumar Choudhury.	B.A. (Hons.)	Kamrup	Hindu.
16. Maulavi Jamiruddin Ahmed	Matriculate	Kamrup	Muslim.
17. Srijut Sivaprasad Barkakati	B.A.	Kamrup	Hindu.
18. Maulavi Rafiquddin Ahmed	Matriculate	Kamrup	Muslim.
19. „ Sader Ali ...	I.A.	Kamrup	Muslim.
20. Md. Mohbur Rahman ...	B.Sc.	Goalpara	Muslim.
21. Maulavi Nawab Rahat Hussain.	Matriculate	Sibsagar	Muslim.
22. Srijut Prafulla Ch. Bora ...	B.Sc.	Nowgong	Hindu.
23. Srijut Sukdev Nath ...	B.A.	Kamrup	Hindu.
<i>3.—Assistant Sub-Inspectors</i>			
1. Srijut Hukum Chand Sonwal.	Weaving Adv. Course ...	Lakhimpur	Hindu.
2. Srijut Indra Kanta Gogoi	Read upto X, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Sibsagar ..	Ditto.
3. „ Premeswar Gogoi	Matriculate, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Lakhimpur	Ditto.
4. „ Khagendra N. Hazarika.	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
5. Maulavi Md. Moniruddin Ahmed.	Matriculate ...	Sibsagar ...	Muslim.
6. Maulavi Tayeb Ali ...	Passed Weaving Adv. Course	Lakhimpur	Ditto.
7. Srijut Rupram Das ...	Matriculate, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Ditto ...	Hindu.
8. „ Ghanakanta Hazarika.	Read upto X, passed Weaving Elementary Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
9. Srijut Hemoram Deorajah	Read up to X ...	Nowgong...	Ditto.
10. Maulavi Abdul Gafur ...	Read upto I.A. ...	Ditto ...	Muslim.
11. Maulavi Md. Abdul Rahman.	Matriculate ...	Goalpara	Ditto.
12. Maulavi Md. Idris Ali ...	Passed Adv. Weaving Course.	Sylhet ...	Ditto.



	Names	Educational qualifications	Home District	Religion
3.—Assistant Sub-Inspectors—concl'd.				
13.	Srijut Joy Kanta Das ...	Passed Adv. Weaving Course.	Kamrup ...	Hindu.
14.	„ Kiran Ch. Goswami	Ditto ...	Sibsagar	Ditto.
15.	„ Lalit Ch. Sarma ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
16.	„ Phatik Ch. Das ...	Matriculate ...	Lakhimpur	Ditto.
17.	„ Nandaram Bordoloi	Ditto ...	Nowgong	Ditto.
18.	Maulavi Muzibuddin Ahmed.	Passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Sibsagar ...	Muslim.
19.	Srijut Korunakanta Nath	Matriculate, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Nowgong	Hindu.
20.	„ Dimbeswar Sarma	I. A. ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
21.	„ Chandra N. Bhuyan	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
22.	„ Keshab Ch. Hazarika.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
23.	Srijut Jitendra N. Hazarika	Read upto I. Sc. ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
24.	Maulavi Md. Rafique H. Hazarika.	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Muslim.
25.	Srijut Kamakhya P. Barua.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Hindu.
26.	Srijut Indrakanta Bora ...	Passed 2 years' Weaving Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
27.	„ Jogendra N. Swargiari.	Matriculate ...	Darrang ...	Ditto.
28.	Srijut Upendra N. Bhat-tacharji.	Read upto Matric and passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
29.	Srijut Parasuram Pathak	Matriculate ...	Kamrup ...	Ditto.
30.	„ Jonaram Das ...	Ditto ...	Darrang ...	Ditto.
31.	„ Jibanath Saharia ...	Read upto X, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
32.	Maulavi Md. Hussain ...	Matriculate ...	Nowgong...	Muslim.
33.	Srijut Purna Ch. Burman	Matriculate, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Kamrup	Hindu.
34.	„ Kali Charan Dutta	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
35.	„ Iswar Prasad Goswami.	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
36.	Srijut Hemendra N. Bora	Matriculate, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
37.	„ Hangshadhar Lahkar	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
38.	Maulavi Md. Sahadat Ali	Completed Spl. Course of Dying and Calico Printing.	Ditto ...	Muslim.
39.	Srijut Monohar Deka ...	Weaving passed ...	Ditto ...	Hindu.
40.	„ Umesh Chandra Das	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
41.	Maulavi Md. Abul Kasim Mia.	I. A. ...	Goalpara...	Muslim.
42.	Srijut Atul Chandra Das	Read upto I. Sc., passed Weaving Final Exam.	Kamrup ...	Hindu.
43.	„ Mohesh Ch. Saikia	Matric Standard, passed Weaving Course.	Ditto ...	Ditto.
44.	„ Harendra Ch. Das	Matriculate ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
45.	Maulavi Md. Samser Ali Saikh.	Ditto ...	Goalpara	Muslim.
46.	Srijut Ramchandra Burman.	Read upto IX, passed Weaving Adv. Course.	Kamrup ...	Hindu.
47.	Srijut Dinendra Nath Bora	I.A. ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
48.	Maulavi Maqbul Hussain	I.A. ...	Goalpara...	Muslim.



(c) (i)—Their qualifications are mentioned in the statement referred to in reply to Question No. 178(b).

(ii), (iii) & (iv)—The information is being collected.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—For Textile Inspectors & Sub-Inspectors :—

Hindus	...	...	...	...	...	29
Muslims	...	...	...	...	...	20
For Textile Assistant Sub-Inspectors :—						
Hindus	...	...	...	...	...	2
Muslims	...	...	...	...	...	9

(f)—No.

(g)—Because the posts were not filled up on a district basis but according to the relative suitability of the candidates from the various districts.

(h), (i) & (j)—The appointments were made under Regulation 25(vii) of the Assam Public Service Commission Regulations.

(k)—In future all appointments will be made through the Assam Public Service Commission.

### Estates under the management of Court of Wards in the Surma Valley

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

179. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of estates at present under the management of Court of Wards in the Surma Valley ?
- (b) The number of clerks working in each of those estates ?
- (c) The rules regulating pay, travelling allowance and leave of the aforesaid clerks ?
- (d) Whether they are aware that the Dewan Manikchand and Sukhair Rai Bahadur Estates are the two biggest estates under the management of the Court of Wards in the Sylhet District ?
- (e) Whether the Lakshmansree Court of Wards' Estate of the Sunamganj Subdivision has been tagged to the Sukhair Rai Bahadur Estate ?
- (f) The number of clerks working in the aforesaid Rai Bahadur Estate before the amalgamation ?
- (g) The number of clerks working in the aforesaid Estate after the amalgamation ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to increase the number of clerks in the aforesaid amalgamated Estates ?

180. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Hon'ble Revenue Minister visited the Lakshman Sree and Sukhair Rai Bahadur amalgamated Estates thrice during the last two years ?
- (b) If so, why ?
- (c) Whether any defects regarding management have been detected by him ?
- (d) If so, whether those defects have since been rectified ?
- (e) The names of other Courts of Wards' Estates in the Sylhet district visited by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister during the last three years ?
- (f) Whether the employees of the Court of Wards' Estates get free ration ?
- (g) Whether they get dearness allowance at similar rates as the Government servants ?
- (h) If not, why not ?
- (i) Whether Government are aware that clerks working in Estates under the management of the Court of Wards are very ill-paid ?
- (j) If so, whether Government propose to raise their pay by 25 per cent. of their existing pay ?

181. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The designation of the highest post to which a Court of Wards' clerk may aspire for promotion ?



- (b) Whether the clerks serving under Court of Wards' Estates are eligible for transfer to other Government Offices on promotion ?  
 (c) Whether these clerks are placed in charge of collection of rents under the Court of Wards' Estate ?  
 (d) Whether they are to furnish cash securities ?  
 (e) Whether they are rewarded for efficiency of work ?  
 (f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

179.(a)—Sixteen.

(b)—

Names of Estates	No. of Clerks
1. Nripa	1
2. Sardar Bahadur	1
3. Mazumdari Syedia	2
4. Shah Banik	2
5. Dastidar	2
6. Mazumdari Baniachung	3
7. Richi	3
<i>Dewan Manikchand—</i>	
8. Mr. G. R. Roy's	9
9. Mrs. S. B. Roy Choudhurani's	
10. Mr. G. C. Roy's	
11. Munshibari	3
12. Sadhuhati	
13. Sukhair Rai Bahadur	3
14. Lakshmansree	
15. Durga Prasad	1
16. Golok Chandra	

(c)—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Statutory Rules laid down in Chapter III at pages 134-140 of the Bengal Wards' Manual 1919, and to the relevant rules in the Fundamental Rules and Subsidiary Rules whose spirit is also followed.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—One Manager manages both the Estates but the Estates' accounts, etc., are kept separate.

(f)—Two.

(g)—*Vide* reply to 179(b) above. 3 clerks managed the work of the two Estates which are quite separate.

(h)—There is no such proposal at present as the present strength is adequate for the two Estates.

180.(a) to (d)—I inspected the Office of the Manager, Sukhair and Laksman Sree Estates, twice during the last three years, and pointed out the line on which some improvements could be effected. The instructions given were noted and acted on.

(e)—Office of the Dewan Manik Chand Estate.

(f)—No.

(g)—No.

(h)—For financial reasons.



- (i)—Their salary is comparatively low.  
 (j)—No. The estates cannot afford to pay increased salary.
181. (a)—There is no limitation.  
 (b)—No.  
 (c)—Only those clerks who are part-time Tahsildars are placed in charge of collections.  
 (d)—Yes.  
 (e)—An employee is paid for efficient work and no question of reward arises.  
 (f)—Does not arise.

### Appointments in the Forest Department

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

182. Will Government be pleased to state separately with designations the number of officers from the :—  
 (i) Caste Hindus, (ii) Tribals, (iii) Scheduled Castes, (iv) Muslims  
 (1) Indigenious Muslims (2) Immigrant Muslims with their names and address, (v) Others who have been appointed in the Forest Department in the Province up to date ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

- 182.—A statement showing the number of Forest Officers (non-Gazetted) representing various communities is furnished below.

Communities	Number of officers with designations			Remarks
	Forest Ranger	Deputy Ranger	Forester	
(i) Caste Hindus ...	26	45	77	
(ii) Tribals ...	4	5	28	
(iii) Scheduled Castes...	1	2	9	
(iv) Muslims :—				
(1) Indigenious Mus-	8	17	52	
lims.				
(2) Immigrant Mus-	...	...	...	Two in the cle-
lims.				rical establish-
				ment.
(v) Others ...	8	3	1	

Re Mr. R. C. Das, M.L.C. and Lecturer, Earle Law College, Gauhati

Srijut BIDESHI PAN TANTI asked :

183. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. R. C. Das, M. L. C. and Lecturer, Earle Law College, Gauhati, was on leave throughout the months of January and February 1944 and part of the month of March 1944 ?  
 (b) If so, was it on medical or other grounds ?  
 (c) If it was on medical grounds, whether he submitted a medical certificate as required under Subsidiary Rule 79 ?  
 (d) If not, why not ?  
 (e) Whether it is a fact that the said Mr. R. C. Das was asked by Government to apply for leave for seven days before he comes to attend the Council Session to enable the Principal of the Earle Law College to make necessary arrangements during his absence ?  
 (f) If so, whether he complied with this Government order ?  
 (g) If not, why not ?



- (h) Whether Government are aware that the said Mr. Das sometimes absents himself from the College on reasons of attending the Council even when there is no Council Session ?
- (i) Whether Government at any time obtained his explanation in this connection ?
- (j) If so, whether he submitted any explanation ?
- (k) If not, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?
- (l) Whether Government are aware that Mr. Das does not always come to the College timely ?
- (m) Whether Government have received any report from the Principal regarding such unpunctuality ?
- (n) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?
- (o) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Das did not attend his duties in the College on the 26th January 1945 ?
- (p) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

183. (a)—Yes.

(b)—On medical grounds.

(c) and (d)—Subsidiary Rule 79 is not strictly applicable in case of part-time officers.

(e)—Yes.

(f) and (g)—Yes, except on one occasion during the Budget Session of 1944. He rejoined his duties after leave on 24th March 1944 and left Gauhati for Shillong on the 27th March 1944 leaving a letter to the Principal.

(h)—Government have no information.

(i), (j) and (k)—Do not arise.

(l), (m) and (n)—On a report from the Principal that Mr. Das was not punctual in his attendance, an explanation from him was obtained and the Director of Public Instruction warned him.

(o) No, it appears from a report of the Principal dated the 24th February 1945 that Mr. Das was not absent but he did not take his class on the 26th January 1945.

(p)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : As regards Unstarred Question No. 183 (c), Sir, the Question was "If it was on medical grounds, whether he submitted a medical certificate as required under Subsidiary Rule 79?" and the reply was "Subsidiary Rule 79 is not applicable". May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why in such cases ordinarily Rule 79 is not applicable ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I require notice of this Question.

### Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Province

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

184. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Province as it stood in March 1944 (figures to be shown district by district) ?
- (b) How many of them belonged to (i) Caste Hindus ; (ii) Scheduled Castes ; (iii) Tribals ; (iv) Muslims (1) Indigenous Muslims (2) Immigrant Muslims with their names and address, and (v) Others ?
- (c) What qualifications are required and other considerations made in recruiting Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors ?
- (d) Whether any appointment was made in the cadre of Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors from among the educated immigrant Muslims of the Assam Valley up to March 1944 ?
- (e) If so, how many ?
- (f) If not, why ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

184.(a)—The total numbers are 108 and 120 respectively. The figures by districts

are :—	E.A.Cs.	S.D.Cs.
Cachar	9	10
Sylhet	23	29
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	4	4
Lushai Hills	...	3
Naga Hills	2	...
Garo Hills	2	...
Goalpara	7	8
Kamrup	12	19
Darrang	8	10
Nowgong	6	9
Sibsagar	13	12
Lakhimpur	8	10
On special duty, deputation, leave, etc.	14	6
	<hr/> 108	<hr/> 120

(b)—The figures are :—

	E.A.Cs.	S.D.Cs.
Assam Valley Hindus	27	25
Surma Valley Hindus	21	18
Scheduled Castes—	...	8
Assam Valley	1	3
Surma Valley	5	5
Tribal Hills	2	7
Tribal Plains	18	19
Assam Valley Muslims	24	26
Surma Valley Muslims	2	5
Ahoms	8	4
Others (including Europeans, Indian Christians, etc.)		

(c)—An extract of Rule 4 of the Assam Civil Service and Assam Junior Civil Service Rules is placed below.

*Extract of Rule 4 of Assam Civil Service and Assam Junior Civil Service Rules*

4. The indispensable qualifications for candidates other than those promoted

are :—

(1) That the candidate is a British subject or the subject of a State in India, and further that if an Indian he is a native of or domiciled in Assam and if a European or Anglo-Indian, he is domiciled in India.

*Note.*—A person ordinarily shall be deemed to be domiciled in Assam only when he has become the owner of a homestead in Assam, has lived for ten years, in a homestead owned by him in Assam and intends to live in such a homestead until he dies provided that the Local Government may in special cases relax these conditions. The children of a man whose domicile in Assam has been admitted, will automatically be domiciled in Assam unless and until they have shown their intention of leaving Assam.

(2) That he is not under 20 or over 25 years of age on the 1st January of the year in which the Board of Selection meets ; provided that a candidate who has practised as a pleader for three years shall be eligible for an appointment if he has not exceeded the age of thirty years on the 1st January of that year ;

(3) That he is of good character ;

(4) That he is a graduate : or, in the case of a European or Anglo-Indian, has passed the Cambridge School Certificate Examination ;

(5) That he is of sound health, good physique and active habits, able to undertake long journeys on horseback and free from organic defect or bodily infirmity.



(d) to (f)—Government have no particulars with regard to the question whether Officers appointed to the Service claim to be indigenous or immigrant in their origin.

### Government Earle Law College classes

Mr. KADARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

185. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any arrangement for holding the classes is made at the Government Earle Law College, Gauhati, during the absence of Mr. R. C. Das, M.L.C., Lecturer, when he absents himself from the College to attend Council Sessions and Committee meetings ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take necessary steps so that the studies of the students may not suffer thereby ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

185. (a), (b) & (c)—As Mr. Das on such occasions is treated as on casual leave, it is the duty of the Principal to make suitable arrangements for his work.

### Rule re 20 per cent. appointments on basis of merit in Government Services

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

186. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the rule of 20 per cent. appointments on the basis of merit in Government Services is still in force ?

(b) If so, to which service it is applicable ?

(c) How many appointments were made in 1943 and 1944 in all the cadres in which this rule is applicable and how many of them were made on merit basis ?

(d) The names of persons appointed on that basis in 1943 and 1944 and the posts they hold ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

186. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The principle was originally applicable only to appointments made by a department of Government. In October 1944 it was decided to extend it in a modified form to appointments made by subordinate appointing authorities in vacancies not reserved for candidates with war service : the formula being that a maximum of 20 per cent. of such vacancies may be filled substantively by Heads of Departments and attached Offices in their own headquarters Offices irrespective of communal quotas, provided that (a) the person proposed for selection was temporarily appointed in the absence of a qualified and suitable candidate of an under-represented community or a less well-represented community, (b) that he has served for at least a year under conditions corresponding to a period of probation continuously in the same office, and has a meritorious record, and (c) that in cases where the Public Service Commission has to be consulted under the rules if he has not satisfied the Commission at an annual examination it is certified that at the time of his temporary appointment a candidate who had so satisfied the Commission was not available.

Where the appointments are made by Government, the principle only operates when there are five or more vacancies to be made at one recruitment.



(c) & (d)—A statement is placed below—

Statement showing the number of appointments and the names of persons appointed in consideration of merit during 1943 and 1944

Year	Service	Posts	Filled according to merit	Names
1943	Assam Civil Service	2	2	Maulavi Waris Ali Chaudhuri. Srijut Kusum Kumar Phukan.
	Assam Junior Civil Service	7	2	Babu Bhupendra Mohan Mazumdar. Maulavi Sajidul Bor Chaudhuri.

Note.—(1) In 1944 the number of vacancies in both Assam Civil Service and Assam Junior Civil Service was less than five.

(2) Particulars for appointments made by subordinate authorities are not available.

**Re Mr. R.C. Das, M.L.C. and Lecturer, Earle Law College, Gauhati**

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY asked :

187. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Mr. R. C. Das, M. L. C. and Lecturer, Earle Law College, Gauhati, was on leave throughout the months of January and February 1944 and part of the month of March 1944 ?
- (b) If so, was it on medical or other grounds ?
- (c) If it was on medical grounds, whether he submitted a medical certificate as required under Subsidiary Rule 79 ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the said Mr. R. C. Das, was asked by Government to apply for leave for seven days before he comes to attend the Council Session to enable the Principal of the Earle Law College to make necessary arrangements during his absence ?
- (f) If so, whether he complied with this Government order ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- (h) Whether Government are aware that the said Mr. Das sometimes absents himself from the College on reasons of attending the Council even when there is no Council Session ?
- (i) Whether Government at any time obtained his explanation in this connection ?
- (j) If so, whether he submitted any explanation ?
- (k) If not, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?
- (l) Whether Government are aware that Mr. Das does not always come to the College timely ?
- (m) Whether Government have received any report from the Principal regarding such unpunctuality ?
- (n) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?
- (o) Whether it is a fact that Mr. Das did not attend his duties in the College on the 26th January 1945 ?
- (p) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

187. (a)—(p)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to similar Questions [Unstarred Question No. 183 (a)—(p)] asked by Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti during this Session of the Assembly.



### Barpeta Municipal Board

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

188. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total income of the Barpeta Municipal Board, year by year for the last three years ?  
 (b) The total assessment of the said Board during each of the aforesaid years ?  
 (c) The amount spent for watering the streets within the Municipal area during each of those years ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

188. (a)—Income excluding Government grants and opening balance is as follows:—

	Rs.
1941-42	28,256
1942-43	21,063
1943-44	24,253

(b)—This Question is not clear as it is not understood what the hon. Member means by *assessment*. Assuming that he means *total rates and taxes*, the figures are given below:—

	Rs.
1941-42	23,041
1942-43	18,790
1943-44	21,587

(c)—Information is not available.

### Requisition of houses in village Durganagar

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked:

189. (a) Is it a fact that about 300 houses in village Durganagar under Police Station Udharband in the District of Cachar were requisitioned in February last year for Military purpose ?

(b) Is it a fact that no notices were served upon the villagers allowing them a reasonable time for making arrangement of their shifting and that verbal order was communicated from house to house by Patwaries allowing only three days' time for the purpose ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the District Officer visited the locality to make any arrangement for the removal of the villagers within the aforesaid time ?

(d) Is it a fact that primarily it was circulated that the area between Madhura river in the East and Larsing river in the West, Kalachara Khal in the North and Laskar Bari road in the South was to be requisitioned for the Project ; but afterwards the Eastern boundary and the South West boundary were made in a zigzag form ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what are the special reasons for making the boundary zigzag ?

(f) Is it a fact that four houses including the house of Khan Sahib Arman Ali Barlaskar were requisitioned but the occupants have still been allowed to stay there ?

(g) If so, why ?

(h) Is it a fact that the Revenue Minister visited the village adjacent to the requisitioned area just after the requisition was made ?

(i) If so, will Government be pleased to state what was the reason of his not visiting the requisitioned area ?



(j) Is it a fact that the Revenue Minister told the evicted people that he would arrange land for their settlement from the khas forest area ?

(k) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any khas land has been given to them ?

(l) Are Government aware of the difficulties of these evicted people ?

190. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the paddy lands of Ramnagar and Durganagar were requisitioned ?

(b) Whether compensation has been paid to the persons affected and if so, when ?

(c) Whether Government propose to pay the compensation of the paddy lands in January every year ?

(d) At what basis Government calculates payment of compensation for paddy lands ?

(e) Whether it is calculated in the light of the control price of the paddy ?

(f) Whether Government are aware that some portion of the requisitioned lands of the aforesaid area was formerly used to be cultivated for sugar-cane, potatoes, mustard seed, Mug, Kalai, etc. ?

(g) If so, whether Government propose to calculate the compensation for these lands at a rate higher than that of the paddy lands ?

(h) Whether it is a fact that the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge of requisition and the Patwaries indiscriminately counted the trees and measured the houses for compensation ?

(i) The date on which the villagers of Durganagar whose houses were requisitioned left their houses and the date when the compensation for trees and houses was given to them ?

(j) Whether there is any Government order that in consideration of the hardships of the evicted people the District Officers can pay 80 per cent. of the compensation in advance ?

(k) If so, why the Deputy Commissioner did not pay 80 per cent. in advance just after the removal order ?

(l) Whether Government are aware that only 80 per cent. of the compensation was paid to the persons concerned after few months and that in most of the cases the people were forced to pay 20 per cent. for purchasing Defence Saving Certificates ?

(m) When the remaining 20 per cent. of the compensation for 1944 is proposed to be paid ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

189. (a) to (g)—A report has been called for.

(h)—Hon'ble Minister, Revenue visited the village after the requisition.

(i)—He visited some of the requisitioned areas as well.

(j)—He told them that he would endeavour.

(k)—Land available for evictees in the Jamira Forest Reserve. The question

of finding lands in other areas also is now under the consideration of Government.

(l)—Government are aware that requisition causes hardships in most

cases.

190. (a) to (c), (h), (i), (k), (l) and (m)—A report has been called for.

(d) to (g)—Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to the Unstarred Question No.53 asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., in this Session.

(j)—Yes. Government order on the point is to the effect that when delay is necessarily involved in assessing compensation the District Officer may in his discretion make to persons of small means an advance payment of upto 80 per cent. of the amount which in his opinion is likely to be assessed as the ultimate amount of compensation.



### Passenger buses on the Sylhet-Shillong Road

Mr. C. W. MORLEY asked :

191. Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to reduce over-crowding in the buses and first class passenger vehicles on the Sylhet-Shillong Road ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

191.—Permits have been issued for two additional passenger buses, and double running is allowed when necessary. Three of the four first class cars are again plying.

### Re Cotton College

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

192.(a) Is it a fact that at present there is no Common Room provided for the use of the students of the Cotton College ?

(b) Are Government aware of the obvious inconveniences to the students for want of a Common Room ?

(c) If the answers to Questions 192(a) and 192(b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to provide the students with a suitable Common Room without delay ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Premier sometime ago while visiting the said College gave a verbal assurance that a Common Room would be built shortly in the College compound and that a site was actually selected and the measurement of the proposed house was made ?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the said assurance has not yet been acted upon ?

193. Are Government aware—

(a) That four temporary thatched houses near the Dighli tank with a small room in one extremity of each of the houses meant for the use of monitors are now being used as College Hostels of the Cotton College ?

(b) That each of these houses is meant to accommodate 25 students ?

(c) That there are no partition-walls in any of these big halls ?

(d) That great disturbances are caused to the students while engaged in their studies in such halls ?

(e) That the walls of the said halls are made of split bamboos and without any mud plaster over them ?

(f) That the plinths of these houses are low and the floors are damp ?

194. If the answer to any or all the above Questions (No. 193) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take necessary steps so that these defects may be removed without delay ?

195. (a) Are Government aware that the kitchen attached to the present Cotton College Hostel has no drains or channels which can carry away the filthy waters and the sewages ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps so that these defects may be removed soon ?

(c) Are Government aware that the provision for supply of water in the Hostel is quite inadequate ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps in the matter ?

196. (a) Are Government aware—

(i) that at present there is no hospital attached to the College Hostel,

(ii) that patients are required to stay in the midst of other boarders, and

(iii) that even dysentery patients are not segregated ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make early arrangements for



providing a suitable hospital in the said Hostel ?

(c) Is it a fact that the students residing in those Hostels have been making frequent appeals to the College authorities for redress of the grievances mentioned above ?

(d) If so, whether any steps have been taken in the matter ?

(e) If not, why not ?

197. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount received as rent so far for the occupation of the Cotton College premises by the Military ?

(b) Whether the rents are paid by the Central Government ?

(c) How the amounts received are being spent ?

(d) Whether Government propose to spend substantial portion of the money received as rent in removing the grievances of the students of the said College with regard to the College Hostel, Common Room and a College Hospital, etc. ?

(e) Whether Government propose to move the Military authorities to give up possession of at least some of the College buildings ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

192.(a)—Yes, but there is a small room which is at present used as the students' Common Room.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Action has already been taken to provide a suitable Common Room.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Sanction has already been given but for want of building materials the work could not be commenced as yet.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : As regards Unstarred Question No. 192, Sir, will Government be pleased to say where does the small room which has been allowed to be used as a Common Room lie ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN ; I think it is to the west of the Arts section of the College building.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, is it not a small shed ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, it is a shed.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : May I know when the construction of the regular Common Room is expected to be completed ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : As has been replied, Sir, for want of materials the construction work is being delayed.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, will Government be pleased to expedite the matter ?

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

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied.

193.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes to some extent.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The plinths are not very low ; the floors are covered with bamboo matting and not really damp.

194.—As the building is a temporary one, no permanent improvement appears to be necessary but action is being taken to partition the big halls with temporary walls and mud-plastering and white washing all the walls.

195.(a)—There are drains, but they are kutcha.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—This is an inconvenience suffered by the students in common with the other persons in the town on account of the condition of the Municipal water works.

(d)—A pucca ring well is however being sunk and will be ready for use soon.



Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : As regards Unstarred Question No.195(d), Sir, may I know the reason why a pucca ring well is going to be dug when some tube wells could have served the purpose in view of the fact that the arrangement is purely a temporary one ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Sir, this Question appears to be an argument of the case.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

196.(a)(i)—Yes.

(ii)—Yes, in case of students with ordinary ailments.

(iii)—No. There were only two cases of dysentery and the patients were allowed to remain in the unoccupied shed in the Hostel compound.

(b)—The Principal of the College is trying to arrange a suitable house for temporary occupation as a hospital.

(c)—No.

(d) and (e)—Do not arise.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : May I know Sir, where does the unoccupied shed mentioned in Question No. 196 (a)(iii) lie ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I require notice of that Question, Sir.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to ascertain that there really exists no shed which is alleged to be used as a hospital ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : No, Sir, Government deny this.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to take immediate steps to provide the Hostel with a separate suitable house to be used as a hospital where patients can be segregated ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Government have already taken steps in the matter.

Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government say that the students did never complain for not being provided with a hospital ?

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

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

197. (a)—The figure is not readily available.

(b)—Yes, by the Military authorities.

(c)—No direct expenditure from such receipts can be made but as against the receipts Government are meeting rental and other temporary construction charges.

(d)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Unstarred questions 192(c) and 196(b) above

(e)—Yes, Government will take up the matter with the Military authorities.

\* Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an idea as to what monthly rent is realised from the Military authorities for the occupation of the Cotton College premises ?

\* The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I shall call for the information and it will be furnished to the hon. Member when received.

#### **Habiganj-Shaistaganj Railway Line**

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

198. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are aware of the difficulties of the Habiganj public due to the abolition of the Habiganj-Shaistaganj Railway line.

(b) If so, whether they have represented to the proper authorities to reopen this Railway line ?



- (c) If so, whether there is any chance of the line being reopened early ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the present bus arrangement between Habiganj and Shaistaganj is quite inadequate for the travelling public ?
- (e) If the reply to Question (b) above is in the negative, whether Government propose to increase the number of buses for carrying passengers from Habiganj to Shaistaganj and back ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

198. (a) & (b)—Government are aware of the inconvenience and are already in correspondence on the question of restoration as soon as it is possible.

(c)—Government are unable to estimate the date when restoration will be practicable.

(d)—There are fourteen vehicles and seventeen trips each way are allowed daily. Government believe this to be sufficient.

(e)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will Government be pleased to say whether the buses so far plied on this road are adequate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We depend on the report of the local officers.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do Government deny that there were reports from the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj; and the public stating that the present number of buses so far plied is insufficient ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I believe so.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Will Government please consider to place more buses on the line ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I hope to be at Habiganj on the 5th of April next when I will consult the local officers and see for myself whether there is room for more vehicles to be plied on the road.

### Lakhimpur District and other Congress Committees

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

199. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the North Lakhimpur District Congress Committee and the Primary Congress Committees of North Lakhimpur town, Salalgaon, Panigaon, Basagaon, Gohaingaon and Kamalaboria were declared unlawful by Government ?

(b) If so, with effect from what date in each case ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that a peaceful procession consisting of Congress Santisenas from Salalgaon, Panigaon, Basagaon, Kamalaboria, Gohaingaon and North Lakhimpur town, was charged by the Police and the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur on the 24th August 1942 and that after arresting and removing the leaders some youngmen were mercilessly beaten by the Police and left there with severe injuries without taking any steps for their medical aid ?

(d) Whether they are aware that this action of the executive authorities greatly exasperated the people of the Subdivision and served to accentuate the discontent ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that another peaceful procession was charged with bayonets near the Bazar in the town of North Lakhimpur on the 10th September when some 100 processionists were injured and their leader Srijut Govinda Chandra Bora (a Muktear of the local court) was arrested while he was trying to disperse the procession and then assaulted by the Officer-in-charge of the Police Station in the presence of the 2nd Officer-in-charge ?



- (f) Whether it is a fact that again on the 14th September 1942, two different processions were forcibly dispersed by the Police causing severe injuries on about 20 people ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that on the 7th October 1942 other peaceful processions of non-violent processionists proceeding from Naoboisa, Panigaon and Gharmora were attacked by the Police on different routes to the town causing serious injuries on about 200 men and women including Srijuts Haripada Datta, Ratneswar Bora, Taraprasad Sarma, Golapchandra Dutta and Sagarchandra Bora who were assaulted in presence of the Subdivisional Officer and arrested and subsequently tried and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment each and all placed in the 'C' Division ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that another peaceful procession was attacked by the Police near Dhalpur on the 7th October 1942 causing severe injury to Srijut Malbhog Barua aged about 60 years and two others, namely, Srijuts Umakanta Rajkhoa and Rosheswar Bora who were arrested subsequently and mercilessly belaboured at the Bihpuria Thana by the Officer-in-charge there ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that on the 11th October, 1942 the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur entered the Dergaya Namghar (religious congregation house) at Tatibahar and there picked out some 12 people as having taken part in the procession of the 7th October preceding and got them flogged by the Police and brought four persons, namely, Malbhog Barua, Bhabakanta Bora, Lilaram Bora and Durga Ram Bora under arrest to Bihpuria when Lilaram Bora was belaboured by the Officer-in-charge of Bihpuria Police Station on the way ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that the Officer-in-charge of Bihpuria Police Station dragged out one Tulashi Gohain of Silikhaguri while the latter was offering prayer in his prayer room and kicked him with boots without any fault on the part of the latter ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that peaceful picketers were mercilessly assaulted by the Police at North Lakhimpur on the 10th September, 1942 causing severe injuries to many and particularly to Srijut Lakshmikanta Sarma who became unconscious as a result of receiving violent kicks from a Police officer ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

199.(a) & (b)—The Lakhimpur District Congress Committee, its Sub-Committees and branches were declared unlawful associations on 17th September, 1942.

(c)—In spite of the fact that the Subdivisional Officer had made it known that he would not permit a procession to be formed, a procession was organised on 24th August, 1942. In order to stop the procession, 18 arrests were made. This however had not the effect and it therefore became necessary to carry out a mild lathi charge. No one was mercilessly beaten nor were any left without medical aid.

(d)—Discontent was aggravated by the above mentioned incident for it was the object of the persons who organised the procession to bring about a clash between their dupes and established authority, to exacerbate public feeling against the Government established by law in British India.

(e)—A further procession had to be dispersed in North Lakhimpur on 10th September, 1942. The Police were attacked. Four persons were reported to have received slight injuries from bayonets during the clash which followed this further flouting of established authority. Govinda Chandra Bora was arrested on the evening of 15th September, 1942 after he had led another illegal procession. He at once gave an undertaking that he would not cause further trouble and was released.

(f)—On the 9th September, 1942, two more processions, which had for their object the rousing of feeling in favour of the Congress attempt to embarrass the existing Government of India, while engaged in the war against Japan, had to be dispersed. Very little hurt was caused in the process.



(g)—On 7th October 1942, four more processions were formed in defiance of the orders which had been promulgated under the Defence of India Rule 56 and in order to foment public feeling. Three of these processions were dispersed without difficulty; a few persons were injured when the fourth procession was dispersed. Tara Prasad Sarma, Golok Chandra Dutta, Sagar Chandra Bora and Hari Prasad Dutta were arrested and later convicted under the Defence of India Rule 56 and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one year.

(h)—On 7th October 1942, some 300 persons were instigated to assemble and to occupy the camp at Dhalpur at which a small detachment of Assam Rifles had been posted. The use of force by a small body of Police which opportunely arrived undoubtedly prevented this crowd of misguided persons from coming into conflict with a body of men who, to protect their camp, would have been compelled to open fire. Two of the leaders of the crowd, Umakanta Rajkhowa and Rokheswar Bora, were arrested under the Defence of India Rule 56. They were not belaboured.

(i) & (j)—Government have no information about either of these allegations, but have called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner.

(k)—No one was mercilessly assaulted at North Lakhimpur on 10th September, 1942.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are Government aware that while leaders were taken into safe custody and removed to the Police Station, the boys were cordoned by the Police and mercilessly beaten?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I have replied that "In spite of the fact that the Subdivisional Officer had made it known that he would not permit a procession to be formed, a procession was organised on 24th August, 1942. In order to stop the procession, 18 arrests were made. This however had not the effect and it therefore became necessary to carry out a mild lathi charge. No one was mercilessly beaten nor were any left without medical aid".

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Will the Hon'ble Premier take it from me that the boys were mercilessly beaten and 4 were injured to such an extent that they had to be left on the spot?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: This allegation is denied by the then Subdivisional Officer.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, where and by whom the medical aid was given?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: By the proper medical authority there.

### Aircraft landing at Jorhatiagaon in North Lakhimpur

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked:

200. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that an Allied aeroplane crashed and fell down in a paddy field at Jorhatiagaon in the Dhalpur Mouza of North Lakhimpur Subdivision on the 9th September, 1942 and caused some damage to the crop there?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the pilots of the said plane were helped by some inhabitants of the neighbouring village to come out of the wrecked plane and to proceed to the Trunk Road at Dhalpur?
- (c) Whether the said plane was removed in a motor-lorry a few days later and fully repaired?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that one Isheswar Gogoi and one Puniram Sarma were arrested in connection with the incident and one was acquitted and the other was convicted for theft of petrol leaking out from the wrecked plane?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that the inhabitants of some of the neighbouring villages were later subjected to indiscriminate assaults by civil and armed Police who were posted at Dhalpur?



- (f) Whether the inhabitants of several villages in the Dhalpur, Narainpur, and Narainpur-Kherajkhat Mouzas were punished by imposition of collective fines in connection with the aforesaid incidents ?
- (g) If so, whether it is a fact that in realising the said fines, the collections exceeded the impositions in several cases and that the excess collections where detected were set off against land revenues ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

200. (a)—An R. A. F. aircraft made a forced landing at Jorhatiagaon. It may have damaged paddy crops.

(b)—The village headman assisted the occupants of the aircraft. Other villagers damaged the aircraft and stole from it some maps, a pistol and some petrol. Other villagers assaulted the Police who came to take charge of the aircraft.

(c)—The aircraft was removed at a later date and it is not known whether or not it was found possible to put it into commission again.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—None of the inhabitants of Dhalpur were indiscriminately assaulted.

(f)—Collective fines were levied in view of the sabotage to the aircraft and because of the damage done to telegraph lines and to Government and other buildings in the Dhalpur-Narainpur area.

(g)—Government have no information but have called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA : Sir, will Government be pleased to communicate to us the information when received ?

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

#### **Sankardev Tithi celebration at North Lakhimpur**

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

201. (a) Is it a fact that the organisers of the last Sankardev Tithi celebration at North Lakhimpur asked the then officiating Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur, for permission to hold an anniversary meeting and that the permission was refused ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such refusal ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

201. (a) & (b)—Government have no information. They have called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner.

#### **Presentation of Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Expenditure for the year 1945-46**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Sir, I beg to present the \*authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1945-46.

#### **Presentation of Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1944-45.**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : Sir, I beg to present the \*\*authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1944-45.



**Motion re the economic position of the Province**

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to move that the economic position of the Province be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as usual I place before the House the position in the country so far as food-stuffs are concerned, with special reference to mustard oil and cloth. I will first give certain figures about rice and paddy in the Assam Valley. In 1944 Government procured 1,50,396 tons of rice and 55,274 tons of paddy. In the Surma Valley—in the same year the procurement figures were 44,093 tons of rice and 44,966 tons of paddy. The total procurement for Assam thus is equivalent to 2,44,110 tons of rice; this is just 60 per cent. of the total estimated marketable surplus. If we make allowance for local purchases by the Tea Industry, Government procurement can for all practical purposes be called a monopoly purchase. This successful procurement has now enabled Government to exercise effective control on prices, movement and distribution. Government policy in this year continues to be the same, *viz.*, maximum procurement. The crop this year has not been satisfactory, but from the estimated carry-over from last year, it is hoped, that there will be no shortage unless there are wide-spread floods and other calamities. In accordance with the Resolution of the Assembly, Government started official procurement in the Surma Valley from the 1st January last. There has been a great deal of criticism of Government on the ground that they have not been able to accept all the offers from the cultivators. The Resolution did not give enough time to Government to organise procurement and although they took every step to expedite matters there was an unavoidable delay. In addition Government could not procure for storage unless the large stocks with the Syndicates were taken over, disposed or re-arranged and accommodation found for fresh purchases. These they have been trying to do and in the meanwhile, they have been purchasing from traders thereby indirectly helping cultivators as well. From 1st January to the middle of March, 4,719 tons of rice has been bought in this manner. There has been a good deal of criticism regarding this procurement from traders, but as this is being done by inviting quotations from all licensees there is no monopoly given to anyone and the consequent competition between rival traders has already raised the general price level in the Surma Valley to the advantage of the cultivators. Except in the Boro growing areas, where the position is still acute, procurement and disposal from other areas have been satisfactory and lead Government to think that there is not such a large surplus now as was the case in November and December last. As regards Boro growing areas, with the new harvest approaching, Government will consider the special measures necessary for disposal of the stocks with the producers. Thus Members of the Legislature will see that the Government procurement of almost the total marketable surplus has brought quite a good sum and good return to our cultivators.

I now come to the imported commodities. Between 1st April 1944 and 15th February 1945 the following quantities of food-stuffs have been despatched into Assam. Salt:—12,01,637 maunds, Sugar:—3,29,642 maunds, Flour, Atta and Suji:—2,80,719 maunds, Jagri or Gur:—1,76,145 maunds, Mustard oil:—19,487 maunds and Wheat:—151 mands.

The criticism in respect of quality applies mostly to Dal. Here, till now we were handicapped in various ways. The procurement was not free as the exporting Provinces made over the stuff to us, secondly there were delays in transport and consequently storage after inspection in the exporting Provinces, thirdly due to apprehended shortage of Dal, we had to procure any variety obtainable. These varieties remained in stock for too long periods. Under the new arrangements, the position in respect of Dal will be easier and the old stocks in hand are being disposed of. Adulteration in mustard-oil has also been a common complaint. Here again Government are taking steps to improve, but adulteration is so rampant all over India that it is difficult for this Government to effect full improvement. To meet the scarcity of mustard-oil, Government are compelled to import from elsewhere and we have to take what is given or to go without it. We are trying to improve local production of mustard-oil by acquiring all the mustard seeds produced and orders will shortly be



passed in respect of that. As the seed position in the United Provinces is reported to be good this year and as the transport arrangements are also satisfactory, we are applying for 2 lakhs maunds of oil to be imported from the United Provinces in 1945-46 into Assam.

Then, the shortage of fresh foods and the extent in mal-nutrition caused have given Government a good deal of anxiety. Here again Government's powers of control were limited by the perishable nature of the goods and the large demands by the Military. They have, however, by exercise of powers of price control, by licensing traders and restricting movements, tried to conserve supplies for the civilian population. As these measures were not properly co-ordinated, with the Military, Government have appointed an officer now to specially go into this matter. With the changed war situation, the army demands may be reduced and the position may improve. Government are making special arrangements to get supplies into Upper Assam where the position is most acute.

Next I come to consumer goods. This is an item which Government took up only this year. Government's scheme was to assist traders in getting regular flow of consumer goods into Assam. There has been a good deal of criticism, not on the scheme, but on the personnel. It is a matter of very great regret that the quarrel between the Trade Adviser and Government Agent in Calcutta has prevented Government's scheme working properly. This is a matter under the consideration of Government and they will soon take measures to remedy the situation. In spite of this, consumer goods under Government's scheme amounting to the value of Rs. 21,82,775 have been sent into Assam. Among the goods sent are corrugated iron sheets and other building materials of which Government succeeded in getting substantial quotas to meet the long-felt shortages. Government of India's distribution scheme has now started functioning and under that we are getting quotas of various types of goods, all in short supplies for Assam. There have been some difficulties in the matter of transport, but Government are making every effort to get not only more transport but also better booking facilities to our traders from Calcutta.

In order that people of comparatively densely populated towns may get an equitable distribution of both indigenous and imported food-stuffs, Government have introduced rationing in all important towns of the plains and in Shillong. It is proposed to extend rationing to five more towns and trade centres. All reports go to show that the rationing is working properly.

I now come to the textile goods. So far as standard cloth is concerned which now comes on a quota basis, indents were submitted for 45 million yards of standard cloth to the Textile Commissioner since 1st April 1944, out of which approximately 29 million yards have been received. At first the demand was small and distribution arrangements were not satisfactory. These arrangements were not of our making but imposed upon us by the Central Government. On our representation, the Textile Commissioner with the Government of India has now approved sale of standard cloth through traders and we are taking this up and we hope the disposal will be expedited considerably. The demand for standard cloth, both on account of its finer quality than the original ones as well as the fixed price and also due to the shortage of finer cloth, has gone up very high.

Next I come to the position as regards finer cloth. I have been stating before the House during these last three weeks about the position. We have now made all arrangements for procuring fine mill-made cloth from the Bombay Presidency. We have secured a separate quota from the Central Government and arrangements for its transport and handling at Calcutta have already been made. Whatever shortage there may have been in the past, under the new scheme, we hope, from the middle of April there will be no more shortage of mill-made cotton cloth and yarn.

Sir, this gives the House some idea of quotas Government had received from the Central Government of different commodities and what the Government has been able to procure and distribute in the Province.



I see, Sir, two amendments\* to my Motion in the name of my Friends Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury and Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury respectively. My Friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury wants that planned agricultural and industrial schemes be introduced with a view to improve the economic condition of the cultivators.

With that amendmen I am in entire agreement and in our three years Grow-More-Food Campaigni and also in our Post-War reconstruction plan we have made provision to the improve product of agricultural goods and small scale industrial schemes have been provided—I should say—lavishly in the Post-War reconstruction scheme. If my hon. Friend would suggest any constructive schemes I would only be too glad to accept them.

Then my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury's amendment recommends that (1) a separate Department of Food should be set up and placed under the charge of a Minister having no other major portfolio. This suggestion will be considered and as regards (2) and (3) I would take every possible measures to attain the desired end. Next is (4) that an Enforcement and Public Relations Department should be set up to eradicate corruption and bribery from public services. I do not know what is his plan. He may speak on the subject and after hearing him I will reply.

Government have already accepted his recommendation No. (5). It is with the idea of giving better economic standard to our agriculturists that Government have accepted the recommendation made by the Leaders of the three major political parties in the House that the fresh land settlement should be so based as to give an economic holding to all our cultivators; *i.e.*, a family of five if they apply, should be given at least 20 Bighas of land suitable for cultivation.

Then, Sir, all our small scale industries are meant to occupy our cultivators who have no occupation to follow for about six months in the year. If they take up any of these small crafts, they can not only utilise their time to the best advantage, but they will also be able to improve their economic condition and monetary position.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the economic position of the Province be taken into consideration”.

Does Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury move his amendment?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: No, Sir.

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: I do not like to formally move my amendment, Sir, as the Hon'ble Premier has been kind enough to accept the principles underlying the amendments. He has already stated on the floor of the House that as regards items (1), (2), (3) and (5) there is no difficulty on the part of Government to accept the recommendations. Moreover, I feel that to-day a new Ministry has been ushered in and this Ministry should not be held responsible for the omissions and commissions of the past. We have great hopes for the future, and I only wish that these hopes may realise.

As regards item No. (4) of my amendment, I may say that the idea underlying this item was that a separate Department under the name “Enforcement and Public Relations Department” should be started to stamp out corruption and bribery from the public services. During the last few days we have heard from different hon. Members

\*1. Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY to move:—

That after the word “consideration” at the end of the Motion, the following be added:—  
“and planned agricultural and industrial schemes be introduced with a view to improve the economic condition of the cultivators”.

2. Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY to move:—

That after the word “consideration” at the end of the Motion, the following be added:—  
“and that (1) a separate Department of Food should be set up and placed under the charge of a Minister having no other major portfolio.

(2) Government should take measures to secure adequate supply and equitable distribution of food-stuffs and other necessary commodities at reasonable prices.

(3) Government should take adequate measures to suppress black-market, hoarding, profiteering and other anti-social activities.

(4) An Enforcement and Public Relations Department should be set up to eradicate corruption and bribery from public services.

(5) Government should co-operate with the principal political parties in the above matters”.



how this sort of corruption is rampant in all public services, and it is impossible for our Police force with ordinary powers to cope with these crimes. Therefore, I suggested the creation of a separate Department to meet the situation.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to discuss the economic situation of the Province to-day, I think, I shall voice the feelings of the whole House only if I express jubilation over the formation of a United Cabinet in our Province. Sir, we have before us a new Ministry pledged to solve the grim food problems of the Province in co-operation with our people. We meet to-day under the impact of a reign of extended civil liberties in the Province. We have before us a Ministry determined to solve the land settlement problems of the Assam Valley in an atmosphere of goodwill and amity. This is a new turn in the life of Assam—nay of the whole of India. And, I think, I shall not exaggerate a whit if I assert that the spirit of unity and amity that created this united Ministry will go a long way to solve our economic problems, nay if we all do our best to cement this spirit more and more, we shall undoubtedly be able to reach our goal, namely, economic regeneration and prosperity in place of the present calamities. This is why, Sir, I begin my discussions on the economic situation with my greetings to the new Cabinet of the Province.

When I hail this new Cabinet, Sir, I cannot but recollect the previous days of this very Session of the Assembly. I remember my Budget speech itself. There I tried to draw up a picture of the Province with the vital problems that face us all,—and tried to show how the then Ministry, partisan and weak, failed to act on any single issue. There I made bold to raise the slogan of a united Ministry, backed by Congress, and I remember how some of my Friends laughed at the idea itself. Sir, I knew that some of my Friends laughed at the slogan more because of partisan outlook and interests; but the representatives of Foreign Capital, namely, the European Group, did so because these gentlemen put too much belief in their ability to carry on a 'divide-and-rule' play in Assam Legislature, these deputies of a predatory Imperialist system thought cynically about the patriotic urge and zeal of our Congress, Muslim League, Tribal League and such other great organisations. They were almost sure that in no case we can unite amongst ourselves. But then these gentlemen were incorrect—they failed to see the changes in the world situation itself. Their accredited Leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, their trusted conscience-keeper, Mr. Leopold Amery, themselves had been doing the same for all these years. They have not seen that people everywhere are uniting to become their own masters, to the chagrin of all the exploiters and enslavers. Here in our Province also, we found patriotic Leaders of all the parties moving heaven and earth to explore unity and agreement. We all know how they had to strain all their nerves to allay many a misunderstanding and confusion. But who can deny that our Leaders have at last arrived at an epoch-making agreement? Who can refuse to see that we have before us a Leader like Srijut Gopinath Bordoloi, who can rise above all sectarian interests for the well-being of the whole Province. Who can deny to-day that bold and progressive Leaders like Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury in the Muslim League are there straining all their nerves to raise the Muslim League organisation of the Province out of the bog of a partisan and European-dependant Ministry? Who is there to question the patriotic integrity of our Ahom and Tribal Leaders? Haven't we among us strenuous and undaunted organisers and fighters like Srijut Rabindranath Aditya to leave no stone unturned to achieve agreement among the parties? And to top all, we have among us in Ali Haidar Khan, a real ambassador of unity—unruffled by criticisms however pitiless and unfavourable they may be. Our European Friends could not know their role—they could not know the general patriotic urge that was inspiring our Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly of all parties to come to an agreement for ameliorating the conditions of our people. As a matter of fact, Sir, it is not in their interests to recognise this urge in us. To-day, when I analyse this side of the picture, Sir, I do so only to assess properly the achievements we have made to solve the economic and political problems of this Province by forming a united Ministry.



Look at the first fruits of victory that we have achieved. Only the other day Assam was being stifled under the bans of the Defence of India Rules. The little unity that has been achieved between Assam's Congress, Muslim League, Tribal League and such other patriotic organisations in course of this Session, the establishment of this united Ministry, has by one stroke opened up before us the flood-gate of civil liberty. The other day Assam was suffering from food and other commodities problem without any hope of regeneration and prosperity—the measure of unity achieved now by a single stroke has at least kindled hope in our people, in us, the representatives,—and also a little confidence that we shall henceforward be marching towards solution of this crisis. Till recently we thought that the question of Land Settlement in the Assam Valley will end in a first-rate crisis in the Province, but under the impact of the United Cabinet we see a bright ray of hope of a real and permanent settlement on this vital and all-important issue also. And above all, Sir, this new turn in Assam's politics has ushered in a new hope in the minds of our people that they are able to end the present political deadlock of the country if this unity is furthered and cemented through honest and persistent efforts. Our unity in Assam is a nail in the coffin of Imperialism and this political deadlock. Our unity in Assam will act like a bright moon to clear the dark night of dissensions and distrusts that loom large on our common motherland. I again hail our new Cabinet as the fore-runner of all-India unity and amity of all patriotic parties of our land.

To come to describe the economic situation of the Province, Sir, I shall try to focus the attention of the whole House on the serious food and essential commodities problem of the Province. This one problem hits us all and every section of our people cries for its solution here and now. The simple facts that are clear to us all are: you cannot solve this problem unless the Government do not carry complete confidence of our people, unless the Government of the land do not take all the measures in full co-operation of the producers, consumers and even traders of our community. Because, under the impact of a War and its consequent strains on our economy, it is only patriotism and popular efforts which can organise more production on the one hand and equitable distribution on the other. Without going into the details of the food problem of the Province, now, I think, I can boldly demand of the new Cabinet a new lead on the issue. Whether in the procurement process, or in the process of distribution, till today the dominating role is being played by the profiteers and black-market-eers in alliance with corrupt officials and their patrons. Ways and means must be found to revert this order—patriotic control over both these processes shall have to be set up—co-operation of all parties and organisations of our people shall have to be sought in all the stages. This alone can combat profiteering and hoarding on the one hand and corruptions in the officialdom on the other. This alone can ensure procurement at just prices and equitable distribution among all sections of people. Regarding Grow-More-Food and more production also the same means have to be adopted. I am sure Sir, our Ministry will without delay call upon an All-Assam Food and other Commodities Conference with representatives of all Parties in the Legislature and outside it to thrash out such an all-inclusive patriotic food, etc. plan for the Province.

Next, I would mention the problems of the millions of tea labourers of the Province—who, according to all reliable reports, labour under a slave-system of labour and wages, and lead a life far below the standard of the convicts in our prisons. Everybody knows that in Assam this chunk of our people needs immediate attention of all sections of our people—or all measures of prosperity adopted in the rest of Assam will be nullified under the pressure of chronic and inhuman conditions of this vast tea labour population. We can safely assume that our present Cabinet will do everything in its power to alleviate their cursed lot, and immediately call upon a Tripartite Conference with representatives of Tea Labour, including their Trade Unions and Members of the Legislative Assembly and the representatives of Tea Industry and Government and work out a clear-cut plan, to be binding on all the Parties.



To come to the conclusion, Sir, I would again stress upon the need of a vigilant and energetic pursuance of the policy of extension of civil liberties adopted by the Cabinet. This single weapon will be a mighty one to reverberate hope and energy among all sections of the people to strengthen all measures of the Cabinet regarding food, Grow-More Food, production and even in fighting corruptions and hoarding of all descriptions and thus make them effective and successful. This single right if sufficiently enlarged will open up popular opinion and strength as never before and cleanse all the evils that have penetrated into our society and lead us to complete unity of purpose and action—which is the key to our final emancipation and progress. Before I resume my seat, Sir, I again greet the new Cabinet as the harbinger of a new era in Assam, nay in India.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থাতলৈ যেতিয়া চাওঁ তেতিয়া আমি একাৰকেই দেখা পাওঁ;—অলপো পোহৰ আমি দেখা নেপাওঁ। যেনি চাওঁ দেশৰ দুৰ্দ্দিনহে আমাৰ চকুত পৰে। হতাশত পুণ ক'পি উঠে। দেশৰ এনে অৱস্থাৰ মাজতো আজি নতুন আদৰ্শ, নতুন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী আৰু নতুন কৰ্মনীতি আমাৰ আজিৰ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে আগত লোৱাত আমাৰ দুখ কষ্ট আৰু হতাশৰ মাজতো এটি আশাৰ জ্বিলিঙ্গনী দেখা পাইছোঁ। মই বিশ্বাস কৰোঁ যে সাহস আৰু উন্নত ধৰণৰ মনোভাব লৈ আজি নতুন মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলী গঠিত হৈ নতুন কৰ্তব্যৰ দায়িত্ব লৈ নিযুক্ত হৈছে। মই আশা কৰোঁ সিবিলাকে দেশ শাসনত যি নতুন কৰ্মপন্থা আগত লৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰভূত কল্যাণ সাধন কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব। সমালোচনাৰ মনোবৃত্তিলৈ কিন্তু আজি এই কেইটা কথা কোৱা নাই।

সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, আপুনি জানে মই গাৱলীয়া মানুহ---কথা কব নেজানো। যি কেইটা কথা কওঁ গাৱলীয়া মানুহ হিচাবে কওঁ। সেইফালৰ পৰা কবৰ হলে—যি দুটা কথাই আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহক হতাশ কৰি পেলাইছে সেয়ে হৈছে খাদ্য সমস্যা আৰু আমাৰ দেশৰ মাটি-বিলি সমস্যা। এই মাটিয়েই যে এখন দেশৰ সম্পদ এইটো কোনেও নাই কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেই মাটি বৰ্ফনাৰেফণ নকৰি আৰু দেশৰ ভবিষ্যত কল্যাণলৈ নেচাই বিলি বন্দোবস্ত দিয়াত যে ভবিষ্যতলৈ নানা গুৰুতৰ সমস্যা উপস্থিত হব এইটো সঁচা। সেই কাৰণে যদি আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে এই বিষয়ে হীন আৰু কপট মনোভাব নলৈ কাৰ্য্য কৰে তেনেহলে মই আশা কৰোঁ আমাৰ দেশৰ অশেষ কল্যাণ হব।

আজি ৰাতিপুৱা আমাৰ পাৰ্টিৰ পৰা নতুনকৈ নিযুক্ত মন্ত্ৰী সকলক তেওঁলোকৰ কৰ্তব্যৰ নিৰ্দ্দেশ দি উপদেশ দিবৰ সময়ত (আমাৰ পাৰ্টি মিটিঙত) আমাৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত বৰদলৈদেৱে যি দুটা কথা কৈছিল সেই দুটা কথা মোৰ হলে বৰ ভাল লাগিছিল আৰু সেই বুলিয়েই মই ইয়াত নকৈ নোৱাৰিলোঁ। তেখেতে কৈছিল “বন্ধুসকল আজি আপোনালোকক যি নতুন আদৰ্শ আৰু নতুন দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰ পৰা কাৰ্য্য কৰিবলৈ আমি পঠিয়াইছোঁ তাৰ গুৰিৰ কথা হৈছে আমাৰ হিন্দু মুছলমানৰ Unity। হিন্দু মুছলমানৰ মিলন ভাব লৈ আপোনালোকে কাৰ্য্য কৰিব”। কোনে নেজানে যে আজি আমাৰ ৰাজনীতি ক্ষেত্ৰত হিন্দু মুছলমানৰ ভিতৰত অপ্ৰীতিকৰ ভাব থকাৰ নিমিত্তেই আমি স্বাধীন হব পৰা নাই। মই আজি বিশেষ আনন্দ অনুভৱ কৰিছোঁ যে আজি আমাৰ হিন্দু মুছলমান দুটা সম্প্ৰদায়ে বেয়া মনোভাব নলৈ বৰং নতুন আদৰ্শ আগত ৰাখি দেশৰ কল্যাণ কৰিবলৈ, খাদ্য সমস্যা আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক নানা প্ৰকাৰ বিপদৰ সম্মুখীন হবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িছে। এইটো সঁচাকৈ গৌৰৱৰ কথা। মই আশা কৰোঁ আমাৰ এই মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰত এটা নতুন আদৰ্শ দাঙি ধৰিব। যদিও বা আমাৰ প্ৰদেশ ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ আন আন প্ৰদেশ বিলাকতকৈ দুখীয়া তথাপি মই কওঁ যে যদি ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ কোনো প্ৰদেশত অৰ্থনৈতিক উন্নতিৰ কিবা সম্ভাৱনা আছে সেইটো আমাৰ প্ৰদেশতেই আটাইতকৈ বেচি।

পৃথিৱীৰ এই মহাযুদ্ধৰ ফলাফল স্বৰূপে যেতিয়া আমাৰ হাতলৈ ক্ষমতা আহিব তেতিয়া আমি সেই সমস্ত সম্ভাৱনা এনেভাবে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিম যাতে গোটেই ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰত আসাম প্ৰদেশ অৰ্থনীতি ক্ষেত্ৰত অগ্ৰগণী হব পাৰে আৰু সকলো বিষয়তে আগ বাঢ়ি যাবলৈ কৃতকাৰ্য্য হব পাৰে। বৰ দুখেৰে কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছোঁ যে বৰ্তমান গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আগৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ বাবে যিটো Post-War Reconstruction Programme সিদিনা আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিছে—আজি সেইটোৰ বিশেষ সমালোচনা নকৰি মাত্ৰ এইখিনিয়েই কওঁ যে সেইটো কিমান poor show. আমাৰ দেশৰ নিচিনা নানা উন্নতিকৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ



সমস্ত সম্ভাবনাৰ দেশতো কোনো bold scheme তৈয়াৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই। আন্তৰ্জাতিক ক্ষেত্ৰত আন আন দেশবিলাকে International Schemes লৈ আগ বাঢ়িছে, কিন্তু আমাৰ দেশত দেখা যায় গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়তো পিচ পৰা। মোৰ বিশ্বাস আগৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে—যাৰ সময়ত এই Post-War Reconstruction Programme কৰা হৈছে—তেওঁবিলাকে দেশৰ ভবিষ্যত উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে নতুন আদৰ্শ আৰু দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী লৈ এই scheme তৈয়াৰ কৰোৱা নাই। আজি কি কাৰণে প্ৰত্যেক প্ৰদেশৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই Post-War Reconstruction Scheme দাৰ্দি ধৰিছে? ইয়াৰ কাৰণ এয়ে যে বৰ্তমানৰ এই মহাযুদ্ধৰ বাবে গোটেই পৃথিৱীতে মানুহৰ কষ্ট হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে এই Post-War Reconstruction Scheme এ আমাৰ মানুহবিলাকৰ মনত আশা দিছে এই বুলি যে “ভাইসকল যুদ্ধৰ বাবে তোমালোকে নানা প্ৰকাৰে দুঃখ কষ্ট পাইছা—তোমালোকে আৰু অলপ সহ্য কৰা—ভবিষ্যতৰ আকাশ কেনে উজ্জ্বল হব চোৱাঁ।” আন আন দেশত বা প্ৰদেশত এই মনোভাৱ লৈ Post-War Reconstruction Programme কৰা হৈছে কিন্তু আমাৰ আগত তেনেকুৱা একো দেখা নাই। বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীসকলে, মই আশা কৰোঁ, নতুন আদৰ্শ আগত লৈ দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহৰ কাৰণে কল্যাণজনক কাম হাতত লব। তেওঁবিলাকে কাৰ্য্যত কি কৰিব কব নোৱাৰোঁ কিন্তু কাৰ্য্য এনেভাবে হব লাগিব যাতে সকলো শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহে সমানে সুবিচাৰ পায়। প্ৰথমেই চাব লাগিব যে শ শ বছৰ ধৰি দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহবিলাকক যি দুখ আনি দি আহিছে, তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি যি অন্যায কৰি আহিছে, যাতে এতিয়া আমি তেওঁলোকৰ নিমিত্তে কল্যাণজনক কাম কৰিব পাৰোঁ। উচ্চ আৰু মধ্যবিত্ত শ্ৰেণীতকৈ আগেয়ে চাব লাগিব আমাৰ দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহবিলাকক কিভাবে আমি সহায় কৰিব পাৰোঁ। আজি গাঁওৰ দুখীয়া মানুহবিলাকে অন্যহাৰে অন্ধাৰে দিন কটাইছে—তেওঁবিলাকে কাপোৰ, কেৰাছিন, নিমখ, চেনি একো নেপায়। কিন্তু দেখা যায় যে টাউনৰ মানুহবিলাকৰ নিমিত্তে rationing কৰি খাদ্য ইত্যাদিৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা হৈছে। এই ration ব হাব চহৰ আৰু গাঁওৰ কাৰণে আকাশ পাতাল প্ৰভেদ। গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ কাৰণে খোৱা বস্তু বৰ কমাই দিয়া হৈছে। আজি গাঁওৰ মানুহে মাংসকত আধা পোৱাতকৈ চেনি নেপায় কিন্তু চহৰত rationing ব্যবস্থা হোৱাত এজন মানুহে আধাসেবকৈ চেনি সপ্তাহত পায়। আপোনালোকে চাওঁক গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ প্ৰতি কি অবিচাৰৰ ভাব দেখুৱা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ চহৰৰ মানুহে agitation কৰিব পাৰে, কিন্তু গাঁৱৰ মানুহ মুক—একো নেজানে আৰু একো কব নোৱাৰে। এইটো কোৱা হয় যে transport ৰ অভাৱ হোৱাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে খাদ্য বস্তুৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পৰা নাই। খাদ্য আৰু কাপোৰৰ জোগান ধৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিজে যেতিয়া দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে এতিয়া কোনো অভ্যুহাত আমি মানিব নোৱাৰোঁ। আমাক অন্ততঃ জীয়াই থাকিব পৰাকৈ খাদ্য বস্তু আৰু কাপোৰৰ জোগান গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিয় কৰি নিদিব? দিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বাধ্য—নিজ কথাবেই বাধ্য। আজি গাঁৱৰ মানুহৰ যাতায়তৰ নিমিত্তে বৰ অসুবিধা হৈছে। কোৱা হয় petrol নাই, কিন্তু এখন-দুখন বাছ বাঢ়াই দিবৰ নিমিত্তেও petrol নাই নে? আজি Post-War Reconstruction Programme তো মানুহবিলাকে ভবিষ্যত কল্যাণৰ অলপো আশা দেখা নাপালে? তেনেহলে মানুহে কি আশা লৈ বৰ্তমানে ইমান দুঃখ বহন কৰিব। আমি যদি এই বিলাকৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অলপ কিবা কওঁ তেনেহলেই আমাক ৰাজদ্রোহী, law-breaker আৰু Good Government ৰ বিৰোধী বুলি ধৰি শাস্তি বিধান কৰে। এইবাৰৰ আন্দোলনত—যাক August Disturbance বুলি কোৱা হৈছে—যিবিলাকে দেশৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ কাৰণে অশেষ দুঃখ ভোগ কৰিছিল—Popular Government ৰ পৰা কি পালে সমিধান? সেই বিলাক মানুহে ভাবিছিল যে সিবিলাকৰ নিমিত্তে কিবা কৰোঁতা কোনো নাই কিন্তু কৰোঁতা ওলাল,—লাঠি, Collective fines ইত্যাদি। মই আৰু বেছি কব নোখোজোঁ কিন্তু মই আশা কৰোঁ যে নতুনকৈ গঠিত মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে (যদিও তেওঁবিলাকৰ একো ক্ষমতা নাই—১৯৩৫ চনৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰত একো ক্ষমতা দিয়া নাই সেইটো আমি জানো) দেশৰ কল্যাণৰ নিমিত্তে কাম কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িব আৰু বৰ্তমানে আমাৰ আগত যিবোৰ সমস্যা উপস্থিত হৈছে সেইবোৰ যাথাযথ ভাবে সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব। তেওঁবিলাকৰ দ্বাৰা দেশৰ প্ৰকৃত মঙ্গল হব এই বুলি মই তেওঁলোকক অভিনন্দন জনাইছোঁ।

[Srijut Mahadev Sarma, M.L.A. spoke in Assamese and congratulated the newly formed Ministry. He hoped that the Ministry will do good works for the betterment of the Province.]

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many superlatives flying about to-day that it is very difficult for a person with a fairly high respect for words to participate.

Comrade Roy referred very eloquently to what he called the first fruits of victory. It seems to me that one of the first fruits of victory is the fact that in the Assembly to-day when we are discussing perhaps the most important Motion of the whole Session namely, the economic condition of Assam, the number of Members has dwindled to less



than one-third of the total strength. If this, Sir, is a real index of this Assembly's interest in the economic problems of the day then, Sir, the only superlatives that I would allow myself are the superlatives of pessimism. There has been no new heaven, and no new earth made by the events of this morning. The economic problem of to-day is the same as it was yesterday. It is the same for the new Government as it was for the old Government.

In the statement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister I only wish to refer to his remarks about rice and paddy, which, in spite of the criticisms we have made about mustard oil, *dal* and *gur*, to-day remain the foundation of the economic position of the cultivators of this Province. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his statement dealt with the difficulties of procurement. But there were two significant omissions. There was no mention, for example, about the stocks which were carried by the Surma Valley at the end of the last year and on which I have already voiced my apprehension that the Province is going to lose many lakhs of rupees. Secondly, there was no statement as to where these stocks have been located; whether the stocks are in the quantities and places where they are alleged to be; and whether the stocks are of the quality for which we have paid hard cash. My second comment refers to the statement that the policy of his Government still remains that of the maximum procurement. With due respect, Sir, I venture to differ, and differ quite strongly from the statement, and declare that the policy of this Government for the first three months of the year has been the policy of minimum procurement.

Large amounts of rice and paddy that have been offered in both the Valleys to Government procuring agencies have not been taken up. My own estimate would be that not more than 15 per cent. of the grain offered to Government agencies has been taken up by those agencies. Therefore, I venture to dispute the accuracy of the statement that maximum procurement still remains the policy of the Government of Assam. It is a policy, which, I believe, is the right policy and I hope it will become also the policy of the Government of Assam, but at the present moment it certainly is not. I know some of the reasons such as the absence of godowns and the absence of orders; these however are no reasons why that statement should go unchallenged. Finally, Sir, since it has become the fashion of to-day to make some kind of statement about the alleged miracle of an All-Parties Government, I should like to state the view of the Members of this Group. We are unable to agree with Comrade Roy that we have solved any of our problems or achieved any miracle—by the reconstruction of this Government. But we do see in this reshuffling of the Ministry a hope—more hope, I think, than confidence—and we agree that the new Government and its new supporters have a great opportunity to justify that hope and to earn that confidence. At the present moment, Sir, I think most Members of my Group feel that what we are promised is hope rather than confidence, but we do in all sincerity wish this new venture well.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Whittaker was complaining—rather he was telling—that he was feeling pessimistic about the new arrangement. †Mr. A. WHITTAKER: On the contrary, Sir, I was feeling pessimistic about the empty benches in dealing with the economic problem.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Any way, Sir, my hon. Friend was afraid that Members of this side of the House would slacken their vigilance over the activities of the Government. But I can assure him, Sir, that so far as this side of the House is concerned, we shall never slacken our vigilance on what the Ministry is going to do. As for ourselves we have sent into the Cabinet representatives who have all along been very vehement critics of the last Government and they will surely try their best to implement the wishes of this side of the House. Sir, I think, I would not be disclosing any secret in saying that a Parliamentary Board has been formed by the Party to supervise the activities of the Government, to see that the Government look well after the interests of the people, that they drive away corruption from the administration of the Province, etc., etc. Sir, I would never have talked in this strain had not my hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, expressed that sort of feeling. It is our duty to keep the Ministry conscious of their responsibilities to the people of the Province.



As regards the economic situation, Sir, I have nothing much to add except only one remark. The Hon'ble Premier himself has said in his speech that they would come to the aid of the cultivators who sit idle for six months in a year. I submit, Sir, this is the real task before the Government and the leaders of the country. Moreover, Sir, I am afraid, British Capitalists are going to import big plants from their country into India, they are planning to industrialise India by their own capital and plants and opening their markets in India. The greatest danger that India will have to face immediately with the cessation of war is this question of British competition in our industrial sphere. We have seen in the papers that fine cloths are already coming here from England to meet our necessities. Well, so far as war materials are concerned, it would have been necessary, but so far as our industries are concerned we should not allow such things to go on after the war. The foremost task before the new Government would be to see that our industries—cottage industries particularly,—are immediately revived so that people can stand against this foreign competition.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that a Parliamentary Board of the Parties has been formed. May I know which Parties does this Board represent?

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: The Party is the Congress Coalition and Independent Muslim Party of whom five Members have been taken in the Cabinet according to agreement.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to associate myself with the congratulations which my hon. Friends Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and Mr. Mahadev Sarma have offered to the newly re-constituted Ministry in this Province. But, Sir, I must clarify our views and it is this. We may welcome the League and Congress co-operation which is awaiting the approval of our Quadi Azam, Jinnah. But, Sir, in the name of unity we cannot allow ourselves to merge our existence as a separate Muslim Nation in the big Akhand Indian Nation for which our Congress friends are fighting in this country. We believe in the two-nations theory. We also believe not only in our freedom but also in the freedom for all minorities, Scheduled Castes, Ahoms, Tribals, Indian Christians and others.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I am personally very happy to see the recent happening in the Legislature and a change in the Cabinet. Let me hope that this step is followed all over India. When the present Cabinet is composed of all the Parties and communities of the Province this is done with a sincerity of purpose and with an honest effort. This is done in order to end any disturbance in future and also for the interest of the country as a whole.

Sir, we have heard about the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme for the improvement of the economic condition, road communication, education, etc. That is to say the Scheme is for the all round improvement of the country, to lay the future treasure of the country. To carry out this Scheme, I think, the Cabinet will get the support of all the Parties in the House.

I want to speak a few words about the economic side of my District, Garo Hills, as I do not know very much about this in other Districts of the Province, and how the economic condition is deteriorating. I am speaking of my District from my personal experience. We are getting now some 60/80 mds. of paddy only from a plot of land from which we used to produce 300/400 mds. This deplorable state of affairs is due to want of water supply in fields in due time. So, for the improvement of paddy cultivation in my District irrigation work is in great need.

Regarding road development under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme. The national highway, Lakhipur—Phulbari—South Salmara—Mankachar—Mohan draganj is not a good proposal. This road should not touch South Salmara; if it does, it has to cross Jinjiram river in two places—one at Phulbari and other at Molakhowa. It must be Lakhipur—Phulbari—Hallidayganj—Mankachar—Mohandraganj, and it should extend to Sherpur to lead to Singrijan junction Railway Station. It is only up to Mohandraganj and it leads to nowhere.



The proposed provincial highway in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme is Mankachar-Tura-Dalu Road. This one should be extended to Bogmara, where it reaches the Sumeshwari river which has direct connection with the Gharria Janjail Railway Station.

Sir, I do not like to take up much time of the House as there may be other hon. Members in the House who must be remaining anxious to speak similarly.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, to-day we have been given an opportunity by the Hon'ble Premier to speak about the achievement the Government have attained in regard to the economic situation of the Province. On this subject, we have heard other hon. Members, including the European Group, speaking. In the past also this subject was discussed and we heard what the Government policy was in this respect.

To-day we have been ushered into a new era so far as political matters are concerned. Bitter critics of the past action of Government have now taken up themselves the responsibility for the future administration of the Province. Many hon. Members of the House are expecting that the Province will see a bright day in all affairs of the administration. I equally share that view.

Now, Sir, coming to the economic side of the Province, I want first of all to place my view points. The first point that I want to lay stress is about the procurement policy of the Government. But I will confine myself to my District in regard to this matter. Government are going to take up this task in their own hands. Since the last few months people of my District are really experiencing great hardships for want of proper facilities to dispose of their paddy. We have heard the Hon'ble Premier explaining the difficulties that are in their way in procuring surplus rice and paddy in the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar. They should be quite aware of the fact that people of those two districts mainly depend on paddy as their means of bare subsistence. Unless people can be given immediate and better facilities for the disposal of their surplus paddy they will experience great difficulties. Furthermore, difficulties have arisen because the new cultivation season is coming and if they cannot dispose of their paddy and rice they will not be in a position to start their new cultivation for want of money.

Another important point that has been urged all along is that bottom prices for rice and paddy should be fixed in order to give the people a chance to receive at least the lowest price. The reasons which have hitherto been given by the Hon'ble Premier for not doing so do not seem to me very convincing. I would urge upon him to consider this question in his new Cabinet in a sympathetic manner.

Then, Sir, I come to the other commodities necessary for our living. I heard the Hon'ble Prime Minister stating that equal distribution of commodities which have been controlled by Government was one of the terms to which both the Parties agreed. The point is distribution of supplies to the people equally among rich and poor, high and low. But in doing so, if the Government leave the matter entirely to their Officers, I submit, Sir, they will not be successful in their attempt. We have seen in the past how the officials had failed. At present the distribution of consumer goods, cloth and other things rests entirely with the Subdivisional Officers and a few Supply Officers who are there. As an eyewash Government have appointed certain Food Committees, but Government have not invested them with any power whatsoever. These Committees can interfere in nothing. They are a mere eye-wash. I would suggest to Government to consider very seriously whether they can form mixed Committees of officials and non-officials in the Subdivisional headquarters, and to vest those Committees with the entire duty of looking into proper distribution of the controlled goods among the people. The present Food Committees have absolutely no function. This point was urged also by the Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee, when he was not a Minister, whether Government could not constitute a central body of both officials and non-officials, to sit in Shillong, in order to examine the question of distribution of controlled goods in various Subdivisions and other parts of the Province. Even this session, if I remember aright, I heard him saying in Budget discussion, that he wished that such a Committee should be formed. I would therefore urge upon the Government to consider this matter also.



One point more which I feel necessary to place before the Government is with regard to the distribution of mill-made cloth and yarn. Sir, in certain areas of my subdivision there were some looms, but for want of yarns, these have been stopped. It is the general complaint that people are not getting any yarn. In this respect also I would urge upon Government to see that a larger supply of yarn is made available. The arrangements for mill-made cloth which Government have up till now made has been fully explained by the Hon'ble Premier during the Budget discussion and also during discussion of Demands for Grants. But the arrangement, Sir, which has been made at any rate is not satisfactory in view of the fact that the supply is not coming regularly and the quantity which is coming to the Province is very inadequate in consideration of the demands of the people. I heard the other day from the Hon'ble Premier that one officer had been put in Bombay to arrange for receiving the Assam quota of mill-made cloth here. But a letter which I had seen yesterday addressed to a friend of mine from one of the dealers disclosed that there was not only one officer, but a few officers had been appointed there to see that Assam quota of mill-made cloth was received in time and that arrangements were made for its speedy despatch. In that letter, Sir, I have also seen that during the month of February, because of the absence of that particular officer Assam's quota of mill-made cloth has gone on default. The officer concerned of the Central Government did not find out Assam's representative to receive his quota and so it has gone by default. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Premier to look into this whether it absence the quota for Assam could not be received and this quota has gone to other Provinces. Sir, this is the reason for which we are suffering extremely for want of mill-made cloth for the last 2 or 3 months.

Then again, Sir, the Hon'ble Premier said that three agencies were appointed by Government for distribution of mill-made cloth. But I am told that out of these three agencies only two are functioning in name and the only party which is receiving its share goes by the name of Co-operative Store. I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier and request him to see that we may not suffer for want of cloth. Assam should receive adequate quota so far as the mill-made cloth is concerned so that the situation which Bengal is facing now may not be created here.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Motion which I have moved is a very wide one, *viz.*, that the economic position of the Province be taken into consideration and we could cover a very wide field in discussing it, *i.e.*, industrialisation, improvement in communication, to raise the economic standard of the people, better housing and living and so forth. But I never expected that the discussion will cover a much wider field than the economic position. One hon. Member probably thought that by economic position of the Province we wanted to discuss the economic condition of some of the Members of the Cabinet because some have been dropped and some have come in. Therefore there is a change in the positions. I would not follow those lines of discussion.

Sir, our redoubtable anti-Fascist leader, Comrade Roy, thought of considering himself in a par with the British anti-Fascist leader, Mr. Winston Churchill and very nearly approached him in his demonstration of anti-Fascism. Sir, there is a Bengali saying "বান বানতে শিবের গীত" *i. e.*, while husking paddy on the 'dheki' one discourses about the hymns of Shiva, the God of destruction. Similarly while discussing the economic position of a poor Province like Assam, to go into wider fields of politics, discussing Mr. Winston Churchill or emulating the example of Mr. Amery, we really go beyond the scope of my Motion.

Sir, every hon. Member wants that the economic condition of our people should be improved and for the cultivators there are two ways of achieving that. The first one is how our cultivators can increase the yield of their produce and secondly how can they take best advantage of it and sell at the highest market so that their monetary condition may improve. Now, in these days when trade movements have been curtailed on account of war emergencies, no movement of foodstuffs is allowed outside the Province. Sir, some of my hon. Friends suggested that the Government should try to buy all the surplus marketable commodities that are produced by our cultivators. I would only



congratulate them for the constructive suggestions which they have made. Sir, hon. Members have discussed at least ten times the question of rice procurement in the Surma Valley and the question of the bottom price to be fixed, I cannot say that these points are irrelevant. But I must say that it is repetition *ad nauseam*. I have given sufficient reasons for the actions that have been taken in the past and I will now follow the advice of my new Colleagues in this matter.

Sir, my Comrade Friend mentioned the question of tea labourers. He wanted a "tea party" conference. I respect him, but I cannot support him when he brings a controversial political question under the garb of economic discussion and draws a lucid picture of conditions of tea garden labourers. I am at one with him that the labour force ought to be given a sufficient higher rate of wages. But, Sir, this is not the time to discuss those matters. We all know that the Hon'ble Labour Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council has taken that matter up and that is why he introduced a Bill on the subject in the Central Legislature.

Sir, my Friend, the learned leader of the European Group, mentions about two important things. The first one is that what stock is outstanding with the two Syndicates that operated in the Surma Valley and also he wanted an assurance from Government about the quality of rice and paddy that will be taken over is of the standard for which these are paid for. Sir, the process of stock taking is going on and up till now reports have been that the stock has been of proper quality. I am not in a position to say definitely about the quantity to be received, because the taking over is continuing.

Our Friend from the Garo Hills, Mr. Marak, has raised two points, *i. e.*, the deterioration in the fertility of the soil and the need for irrigation. He also discussed local matters about new communications in the hills. For his edification, Sir, I can say that all the suggestions he has made are included in our Grow-More-Food Campaign. We have opened a new division of the Public Works Department, *i. e.*, the Drainage and Embankment Division which are going into this question of irrigation. Proposal for any specific channel which my Friend wants for the Garo Hills may be sent up to that Department and I can give my Friend this assurance that the Department will seriously consider this subject. As regards communication, I can give him a ray of hope, *i. e.*, in my last discussion with the representatives of the Railway Board, I could learn that in the Post-War railway Development, the first priority will be given to a line that will start from Gauhati *via* the foot of the Garo Hills into Bengal. Then the entire Garo Hills will have a communication far better than what my Friend could dream of. In order to bring the agricultural produce to the rail head, the Provincial Government will surely start feeder roads.

One word more and that is with regard to certain statement made by Maulavi Abdur Rahman. He alleges that for the absence of the Deputy Director of Textile from Bombay, the quota of mill-made cloth for the month of March has lapsed. I cannot see how it can lapse for his absence on official duty. The quota is not handed over to that officer there. It is simply announced and it is for our trade agents to procure the cloth of the quota that has been granted to Assam. However, I will place this matter in the hands of our Textile Commissioner for the purpose of an enquiry.

I think my Friend, Srijut Mahadev Sarma, has rightly stressed on the fact that the political salvation which is expected to usher in economic salvation of the Province cannot be achieved without a mutual agreement between the two major communities, *i. e.*, Hindus and Muslims. He has expressed strong views on Hindu-Muslim unity. I would go a step further and say that the political evolution as well as the economic condition of a people will improve when there is a unity of purpose and sincere application of all concerned for the betterment of all the people living in the Province.

Sir, although it is outside the relevancy of the Motion, as the subject has been mentioned—I wish to record here the great public service and the loyal co-operation that was rendered and kindly given to me respectively by my Friends whom I do not see in the Treasury Benches to-day. I hope every hon. Member will endorse that they worked at a time when the country was faced with great peril, with equanimity and to



the best advantage of the people. In conclusion I congratulate all my new colleagues in the Ministry today and hope that they will give their undivided attention to the duties to which they have entered irrespective of any vigilance from a certain Parliamentary Party *A(plause)*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not necessary that a Motion of this nature should be put to the vote of the House. This finishes the business of today's sitting.

**Prorogation**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is the order of His Excellency the Governor that at the conclusion of the business of today's sitting, the Assembly is to be prorogued. I am reading his orders:

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting of the 24th March, 1945.

SHILLONG,

The 23rd March 1945.

A. G. CLOW,

Governor of Assam."

The Assembly was then prorogued.

SHILLONG,

The 19th June 1945.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

R 104D



## APPENDIX G

Authenticated schedule specifying the grants made by the Legislative Assembly and the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of Assam for the year 1945-46 as required by section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935

No. of grant	Description	Charged			Demands as presented to the Assembly (Voted)	Amount of cut made by the Assembly (Voted)	Amount included by Governor (Voted)	Authenticated amounts (Voted)
		Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amounts				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax	..	..	..	44,000	..	..	44,000
2	Land Revenue	36,500	28,200	64,700	22,25,100	..	..	22,25,100
3	Provincial Excise	21,900	19,400	41,300	4,44,500	..	..	4,44,500
4	Stamps	..	100	100	58,800	..	..	58,800
5	Forests	1,73,500	2,52,200	4,25,700	25,13,400	..	..	25,13,400
6	Registration	..	..	..	1,96,900	..	..	1,96,900
7	Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	..	..	..	2,97,200	..	..	2,97,200
8	Other Taxes and Duties	..	..	..	9,500	..	..	9,500
9	Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	100	..	100	8,09,900	..	..	8,09,900
	Interest on debt and other obligations	8,40,300	..	8,40,300	..	..	..	..
	Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of Debt	15,09,800	..	15,09,800	..	..	..	..
10	General Administration	13,22,600	4,44,800	17,67,400	29,35,000	..	..	29,35,000
11	Administration of Justice	2,05,300	1,100	2,06,400	10,10,800	..	..	10,10,800
12	Jails and Convict Settlements	2,100	15,900	18,000	14,78,500	..	..	14,78,500
13	Police	3,23,900	1,20,400	4,44,300	38,53,900	..	..	38,53,900
14	Ports and Pilotage	..	..	..	2,000	..	..	2,000
15	Scientific Departments	..	..	..	6,500	..	..	6,500