



**Proceedings of the Fourteenth 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 2 P.M. on Friday, the 24th March, 1944.

PRESENT

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Re Benoy Chakravarty of Dibrugarh, an Externee**

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

\*110. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Benoy Chakravarty of Dibrugarh has been exteined from Assam ?
- (b) Will Government be pleased to inquire from the Bengal Government and state where he is now and what he is doing at present ?
- (c) Do Government propose to remove the restriction order served on him ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

110. (a)—Yes.

(b)—He has since been interned in the district of Sylhet under orders of the Government of India, dated 1st February 1944, passed under section 3 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance 1944, directing him to proceed to the said district within 24 hours of the receipt of the order. Presumably he may have/has already arrived in the district of Sylhet, but no official report to that effect has yet been received by Government.

(c)—An enquiry will be made as to his whereabouts, and his activities before considering the question of removing restrictions.

**Cases instituted under the Defence of India Rules**

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

\*111. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of cases instituted under the Defence of India Rules in different districts of the Province during the year 1943 ?
- (b) The name of the district in which largest number of such cases were instituted ?
- (c) The number of persons tried under the said Rules ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

111. (a)—Government have no statistics of the number of cases instituted under the Defence of India Rules in different districts during the year 1943. The number of persons prosecuted was—

Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	855
Cachar	...	...	...	...	218
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	1,030
Darrang	...	...	...	...	322
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	202
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	326
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	78
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	149
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	184
					3,364
			Total	...	3,364

- (b)—The largest number of persons was prosecuted in Goalpara district.  
 (c)—3,364 persons were prosecuted and 2,448 convicted.

#### Discretionary grant during the year 1943-44

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

\*112. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how the discretionary grant was spent during the year 1943-44 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

112.—Statements of grants are placed on the Library Table.

#### Spread of Kala-azar in Sibsaagar subdivision

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAJN asked :

\*113. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware that *Kala-azar* is on the increase in Sibsaagar Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether their attention has been drawn to a resolution of the Sibsaagar District Ahom Association held on 5th September 1943 for opening more treatment centres and dispensaries and one hospital in a suitable place in the Subdivision to cope with the problem ?
- (c) Whether they propose to consider the question of setting up a hospital and increased number of treatment centres to arrest the disease ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

113. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department, Sibsaagar, visited all the *Kala-azar* infected villages and found Hanchera Mouza to be heavily infected and as recommended by him the Civil Surgeon, Sibsaagar, has been asked to shift the headquarters of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge Kujibali *Kala-azar* treatment centre from the Sibsaagar town to Kujibali proper with an out-centre at Maduri and the Chairman, Sibsaagar Local Board, has been requested to reserve ten beds in the Sibsaagar Hospital for treatment of bed-ridden, complicated and advanced *Kala-azar* patients of this Mouza.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Control of export of paddy, rice and other food-stuffs from the Province**

Srijit JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether any measures have been undertaken by them for controlling export of paddy, rice and other foodgrains from the Province of Assam ?
  - If so, what are they ?
  - How many appointments have been made for the purpose ?
  - The names, designations, home address, monthly pay and allowances, if any, of each officer posted in the checking stations in the Dhubri Sub-division ?
  - The establishment charges of the controlling staff at river Ghats up and down, near Dhubri ?
  - When the aforesaid controlling staff actually commenced their duties ?
  - Whether it is a fact that the said checking staff consisted mainly of certain group of persons related to one another and inhabiting in the neighbouring villages ?
  - Whether it is a fact that an individual member of the said staff was consistently placed at the same station ?
  - The number of permanent Government servants who were appointed in the temporary checking staff retaining lien on their permanent posts ?
  - The reasons for their joining the temporary posts ?
88. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The number of cases detected till now in which persons were arrested or suspected for committing the offence for contravening the Assam Food grains (Movement Control) Order, 1943 and the Food-grains (Movement by Night) Control Order, 1943 within the Dhubri Sub-division ?
  - The quantity of food-grains seized and forfeited to His Majesty under the above orders ?
  - Whether the seized food-grains are kept in proper custody ?
  - Whether any of these food grains have been made available for sale to persons who are in distress conditions ?
89. (a) Are Government aware that the Paddy Preventive Staff at Dhubri acted in contravention of the rules in force ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to abolish the Staff ?
90. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether there has been shortage of supply of Kerosene, Sugar and Salt in the district of Goalpara ?
  - If so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

87. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—The Assam Foodgrains (Movement) Control Order, 1943 and the Assam Essential Articles Export Restriction Order, 1943.
- (c)—Government appointed one Special Officer, Rice Control, 3 Sub-Inspectors, 3 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 26 checkers for Goalpara, 1 Sub-Inspector and

4 checkers for Kamrup and one Special Officer, Rice Control, one Inspector, 8 Sub-Inspectors, 4 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 37 checkers for Sylhet to check export of rice and paddy from the Province of Assam.

(d)—A statement is furnished below :—

Name	Designation	Home address	Pay	Dearness allowance
				Rs.
1. Maulavi Abdul Madassir Choudhuri.	Special Officer, Rice Control.	District Sylhet..	Rs.260 and Spl. pay Rs.50.	..
2. Mohammad Din Ahmed..	Sub-Inspector ..	Pound Road, P. O. Dhubri.	Rs.100 per mensem.	..
3. Horoprosad Chakravarty, B. Com.	Ditto ..	Village Hakama, Bilasipara. P. O.	Ditto ..	..
4. Md. Abdul Jalil Sircar, B. Sc.	Ditto ..	Village Fulerchar, Sukhchar. P. O.	Ditto ..	..
5. Md. Osman Goni ..	Assistant Sub-Inspector.	Baluchar, P. O. Dhubri ..	Rs.60 ..	6
6. Md. Abdul Hamid Miah	Ditto ..	Village Chirakuti, Jamadarhat. P. O.	Ditto ..	6
7. Shoroshi Nath Chakravarty.	Ditto ..	P. O. Gauripur, (Assam)	Ditto ..	6
8. Hasanuddin Ahmed ..	Checker	P. O. Sukhchar, South Salmara.	Rs.30 ..	4
9. Probodh Chandra Mukherjee.	Ditto ..	P. O. Dhubri ..	Ditto ..	4
10. Chakradhar Chakravarti	Ditto ..	P. O. Balijan, Golakganj	Ditto ..	4
11. Chandra Kanta Medhi ..	Ditto ..	Barpeta, Kamrup ..	Ditto ..	4
12. Meseruddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Village Khodarchar, Dhubri. P.O.	30	4
13. Shamsul Hussain Khan ..	Ditto ..	Bidyapara, P. O. Dhubri	30	4
14. Asmatulla Sarkar ..	Ditto ..	Village Sagachara, Dhubri. P. O.	30	4
15. Tafazzal Hussain ..	Ditto ..	Bidyapara, P. O. Dhubri	30	4
16. Mohammad Ali ..	Ditto ..	Matirchar, P. O. Dhubri	30	4
17. Moyezuddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	30	4
18. Kartick Chandra Deb Nath	Ditto ..	Bidyapara, Dhubri P. O.	30	4
19. Phonindra Narain Das ..	Ditto ..	P. O. Baitamari, South Salmara.	30	4
20. Horidas Ghose ..	Ditto ..	P. O. Dhubri ..	30	4
21. Saheb Ali Mondal ..	Ditto ..	Village Motirchar, Dhubri. P. O.	30	4
22. Probodh Kumar Chakravarty.	Ditto ..	Village Hakama, Bilasipara. P. O.	30	4
23. Kamsaruddin ..	Ditto ..	Bidyapara, P. O. Dhubri	30	4
24. Amir Ali Sheikh ..	Ditto ..	Village Motirchar, Dhubri. P. O.	30	4
25. Azimuddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	30	4
26. Md. Osman Goni ..	Ditto ..	Village Bhasanirchar, Dhubri. P. O.	30	4
27. Md. Moktar Hussain ..	Ditto ..	Village Bidyapara, Dhubri. P. O.	30	4

Name	Designation	Home address	Pay	Dearness Allowance
			Rs.	Rs.
28. Dharendra Mohan Adhikari	Checker	.. Village Dighaltari, P. O. Patemari.	30	
29. Md. Abdul Baset Miah ..	Ditto	.. P. O. Dhubri ..	30	4
30. S. K. Samiruddin Ahmed	Ditto	.. Village Chhagelacharra, P. O. Dhubri.	30	4
1. Abbas Ali Sheikh ..	Ditto	.. Village Banskata, P. O. Fakirganj.	30	4
32. Jotindra Mohan Chanda..	Ditto	.. Chandpur (Bengal) (Residing at Dhubri).	30	4
33. Basanta Kumar Sircar ..	Ditto	.. Gauripur (Assam) ..	30	4

(e)—The monthly establishment charges are pay of officers Rs.830, Daily Allowance of officers Rs.80, hire of patrol boats Rs.450 and miscellaneous expenses Rs.30.

(f)—1st May 1943.

(g)—Members of this staff were recruited from a number of candidates after interviewing by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, Goalpara. Preference was given to local candidates. Two amongst this staff (32 in number) are only related to one another.

(h)—No. All members of the staff are frequently transferred from one checking station to another.

(i)—One.

(j)—Higher pay.

88. (a)—Total number of cases 236 out of which one was arrested, 60 were summoned for trial and no cognisance was taken in case of the rest.

(b)—5,010 maunds 10 seers of paddy and 300 maunds 37 seers of rice have been seized by the Preventive Staff; 603 maunds 25 seers of paddy and 64 maunds of rice have been confiscated under the Court's orders.

(c)—Seized paddy and rice have been removed to Government store.

(d)—On various occasions those seized rice and paddy were sold to distressed people at lower rate than the prevalent market rate.

89. (a)—No such complaint has been received.

(b)—Does not arise.

90. (a)—Yes due to inadequacy of the quota of Kerosene. As regards Sugar and Salt, the temporary shortage was due to transport difficulties.

(b)—There is a 50 per cent. cut in the supply of kerosene imposed by the Government of India. This Government made a representation to the Government of India to abolish or reduce the cut to which the Government of India did not agree. Government are importing sugar and salt and trying to improve transport facilities.

### Officers in the Textile, Rationing and Controlling of Supply Department

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

91. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (1) the appointments of different officers in the Textile, Rationing and Controlling of Supply Department, (2) their home districts, (3) present pay, (4) time and place of posting, in the district of Goalpara ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :  
91.—A statement is furnished below :—

Names and ranks of Officers	Home district	Present pay	Time of appointment	Place of posting	Remarks
		Rs.			
1. Srijut Someswar Deori, Sub-Deputy Collector, Inspector of Supply.	Sibsagar	125	Sep. 1943	Dhubri.	
2. Maulavi Abul Fazul, Sub-Inspector of Supply.	Goalpara	100	May 1943	Goalpara district.	} The Deputy Commissioner puts them in certain <i>elakas</i> .
3. Maulavi Abul Kasem, Sub-Inspector of Supply.	Goalpara	100	May 1943	Ditto ..	
4. Rahimuddin Ahmed, Sub-Inspector of Supply.	Goalpara	100	July 1943	Ditto ..	
5. Srijut Brindaban Behari Roy, Sub-Inspector of Supply.	Goalpara	100	July 1943	Ditto ..	
6. Babu Sirish Chandra Dutta, Sub-Inspector of Supply.	Domiciled in Dhubri.	100	October 1943.	Ditto ..	
7. Azimuddin Ahmed, Assistant Controller of Rationing.	Goalpara	200	February 1944.	Dhubri.	
8. Mr. Ronald Goldsmith, Textile Inspector.	Sibsagar	150	October 1943.	Dhubri ..	Since transferred to Garo Hills on relief by No.9.
9. Srijut Probodh Kumar Das, Textile Inspector.	Kamrup..	150	January 1944.	Dhubri.	
10. Maulavi 'Abdul Gaffar, Textile Sub-Inspector.	Sylhet ..	80	January 1944.	Dhubri.	
11. Nowab Rahat Hussain, Textile Sub-Inspector.	Sibsagar ..	80	October 1943.	Goalpara.	
12. Srijut Bandhuram Kachari, Textile Inspector.	Darrang..	150	January 1944.	Goalpara.	

### Supply of rice and other necessary food-stuffs to Government servants at reduced rate

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

92. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Whether rice and other necessary food-stuffs are supplied to all sections of Government servants at reduced rate ?
- Whether the same concession is allowed to the employees of Local Boards and Municipal Boards ?
- If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

92. (a)—No ; only two officers drawing pay not exceeding Rs.300 per month.

(b)—No ; except to the Municipal Sweepers and the Menials attached to the Local Board hospitals and dispensaries.

(c)—Granting of such concession to employees of the Local Boards is the concern of those Bodies as they are self-governing institutions having separate sources of income.

### Re Dr. Benoy Bhushan Chakravarty of Dibrugarh, an externee

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

93. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Whether Dr. Benoy Bhushan Chakravarty, L.M.P., of Dibrugarh was externed from Assam ?
- Whether he was ordered to report his place of residence to the Superintendent of Police of the District where he would stay and to the Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch, Calcutta in case he stayed at Calcutta ?
- Whether he was required to give seven days' notice in case he changed residence ?

- (d) According to whose suggestions the aforesaid restrictions were imposed on him ?
- (e) What are the reasons for making such suggestions ?
- (f) Whether he was given only fourteen days' time for leaving his permanent residence ?
- (g) If so, why ?
- (h) Whether he gets any allowance from the Assam Government ?
- (i) If so, what is the amount paid to him monthly ?
- (j) Whether they are aware that he has a dependent son ?
- (k) Whether they propose to bear the whole maintenance and educational expenses of his son ?
- (l) If not, why not ?
- (m) Whether the aforesaid Doctor got regular remittances of allowance granted to him ?
- (n) The date from which he got the allowance ?
- (o) The date from which it was stopped ?
- (p) The date from which it was renewed ?
- (q) What is the cause of such changes ?
- (r) Whether he was a practising Doctor while he was at Dibrugarh ?
- (s) Whether they propose to increase his allowance ?
91. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether Dr. Benoy Bhushan Chakravarty, L.M.P., an externee, applied for the withdrawal of the externment order allowing him to see his ailing father at Dibrugarh ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) Who recommended for internment him in the Sylhet district ?
- (d) The reason of such recommendation ?
- (e) Whether they are aware that the Government of India has communicated another order on the aforesaid Doctor in letter No.75/3/40 of 1st February 1944 ?
- (f) What restrictions have been imposed upon him during his stay in the district of Sylhet ?
- (g) Whether he has been paid any passage money for his journey from Calcutta to Sylhet ?
- (h) Whether they propose to remove the externment order from the aforesaid Doctor ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

93. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.
- (d)—Dr. Benoy Bhushan Chakravarty was externed from Assam under orders issued by the Central Government under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules and the restrictions mentioned in questions (b) and (c) were imposed by the Government of India in accordance with the provisions of the said Rules.
- (e)—Government are unable to disclose the grounds on which the Central Government acted or the source of their information.
- (f)—The information is not available. It may be so.
- (g)—Had he not been serving a sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment at the time of service the order would have had effect from 21st March 1941.
- (h) & (i)—An allowance of Rs.20 per mensem is being paid to the Doctor with effect from the 1st December 1942, for his own maintenance and another allowance of Rs.30 per mensem has been sanctioned for the maintenance of his family, with effect from 1st January 1944.
- (j)—Yes.
- (k)—No. Government have sanctioned, in consideration of the financial condition of the whole family, a maintenance allowance of Rs.30 per mensem. The family including the Doctor's son, is a joint one in which there are three earning members—two of the Doctor's brothers working in Dibrugarh and the Doctor's father getting a



pension of Rs.29-8-0 per mensem. Government have not separately considered the question of education of individual members of the family, which may be provided out of the income of the family, supplemented by the allowance granted by Government.

(l)—Does not arise.

(m)—The maintenance allowance of the Doctor is being paid through the Government of Bengal, and in the absence of any complaint from the recipient, it is presumed that the allowance is being paid regularly.

(n)—From 1st December 1942.

(o)—The allowance has not been stopped since it was sanctioned.

(p)—Does not arise.

(q)—Does not arise.

(r)—He was at one time employed by the Assam Railways and Trading Co., but was dismissed according to this Government's information for incompetence and medical unfitness. Government are unaware of the extent of his medical practice, if any: but his time appears to have been chiefly occupied in labour agitation.

(s)—No. Government have sanctioned an additional allowance of Rs.30 per mensem for the maintenance of his family.

94. (a)—No. A petition from Pandit Parbati Charan Bidyabhusan, the father of the Doctor, praying for grant of permission to his son to come to Dibrugarh for the treatment of the former was received sometime in March 1943. The required permission was not granted by Government and the petitioner was informed that he could be treated by the Government doctors gratis, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals was requested to instruct the Civil Surgeon accordingly.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c) & (d)—The Doctor was interned in the district of Sylhet in accordance with a separate representation in which he does not refer to his father's health, for permitting him to return to Assam. This Government informed the Government of India that they could not recommend grant of permission to the Doctor to return to Assam *except* in the Sylhet district, if he accepted this alternative. The Government of India have accordingly issued a fresh order permitting him to proceed to and remain within the limits of the Sylhet district.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—He must notify his movements to the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, as follows:—

- (i) within 24 hours of his first arrival in the Sylhet district;
- (ii) whenever he intends to change his residence by giving 7 days' notice of such intention;
- (iii) on any change of residence, within 24 hours of his arrival at the new residence.

(g)—Government are not aware if he has complied with the order, and have had no request in this connection.

(h)—Government do not propose to remove the restrictions in present circumstances.

### Inspecting Accountants in the Supply Section of the Assam Government

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

95. (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Inspecting Accountants have been appointed up to 28th February 1944, in the Supply Section of the Assam Government?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names, qualifications, community of all accountants appointed so far in the Supply Department?

96. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any Assistant of the Assam Secretariat has been appointed to those posts?

(b) Whether there was any candidate from the Assam Secretariat?

(c) If so, what were their qualifications?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

95. (a)—7 (Seven), one has not yet joined.

(b)—(1) Babu Kalikesh Bhattacharya,  
(Assam Valley)

Passed B.Sc., with distinction.

„ B.L. (First Class).

„ Divisional Accountantship Examination.

„ Advanced Examination in Commercial Accountancy of the  
Government Commercial Board, Bengal.

Worked as Treasurer, Kamrup Treasury for 9 years.

„ Treasurer and Exchange Officer, Burma Refugee Organisation,  
Dimapur for 5 months.

„ Upper Division Assistant in Secretariat (Civil) for 7 months.  
Community—Caste Hindu.

(2) Moulvi Azhar Uddin Ahmed,  
(Assam Valley)

Passed B.Sc.

Worked in the Local Audit Department for nearly 11 years.

Community—Muslim.

(3) Maulvi Abed Ali,  
(Assam Valley)

Passed B.Sc.

Worked for nearly 8 years in the Local Audit Department.

Community—Muslim.

(4) Moulvi Ijadur Rahman Chowdhury,  
(Surma Valley)

Passed B.A.

Worked as Auditor in the Office of the Comptroller, Assam for 9 years.

Community—Muslim.

(5) Moulvi Md. Shamsud-Doulah,  
(Assam Valley)

Passed I.A., and appeared B.A.

„ Subordinate Accounts Service Examination.

Worked for nearly 13 years in the Local Audit Department.

Community—Muslim.

(Not yet joined)

(6) Moulvi Abdul Hannan,  
(Surma Valley)

Passed M.A., in Commerce.

Community—Muslim.

(7) Mr. K. R. Khongwir,  
(Khasi and Jaintia Hills)

Passed B.Sc.

„ Divisional Accountantship Examination.

„ Divisional Test Examination.

Worked as Accounts Clerk and Divisional Accountant in Public Works  
Department for 9½ years.

Community—Tribal Hills.

96. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes, there was one.

(c)—Passed B.A., with distinction and also passed Divisional Accountantship  
Examination.

#### Employees in the office of the Director of Civil Defence

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

97. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of employees in the office of the Director of  
Civil Defence ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims ?

(c) What is the number to which Muslims are entitled according to communal ratio ?

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

97. (a)—Clerical staff	...	...	...	...	...	14
Menial	„	...	...	...	...	8
(b)—Clerical	„	...	...	...	...	2
Menial	„	...	...	...	...	1
(c)—Clerical	„	...	...	...	...	5
Menial	„	...	...	...	...	3

This Department being a new one, required experienced hands and therefore most of the clerks of this office have been transferred from other offices and hence the communal balance could not be maintained in the strictest sense.

### Administration of Justice in British Shillong and Administered Area

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

98. (a) Is it a fact that the Commissioner of Divisions in his executive capacity has asked Government to debar the Government servants of Shillong from taking recourse to Civil Courts?

(b) Is it a fact that the Commissioner of Divisions sits in judgment in civil matters arising in Shillong ?

(c) Do Government propose to withdraw the revisional jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Divisions in all civil cases of Shillong ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state in how many civil cases the Governor of Assam either set aside or modified the judgments of the Commissioner of Divisions, in connection with the civil cases of Shillong during 1942 and 1943 ?

99. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken any action to extend the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court over Shillong so far as civil suits are concerned ?

(b) If not, whether they propose to take immediate steps in the matter ?

(c) Whether they propose to ask the Commissioner of Divisions to hear all civil cases of Shillong at Shillong on Circuit and not at Gauhati ?

(d) If not, why ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the Judge, Sylhet, hears civil cases of Cachar on Circuit at Silchar ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

98. (a)—No. The Commissioner criticised on one occasion the pertinacity in litigation of two specific Assistants, whose cases he had determined in revision, but never advised that Government servants should be debarred generally from having recourse to the Courts.

(b)—By Rule 36 of the Rules for the Administration of Justice which apply both in British Shillong and the Administered Areas, the Commissioner is a Court of Appeal from an original decision of the Deputy Commissioner or Political Officer if the value of the Suit is Rs.500 or more, or if it involves a question of tribal rights or customs, or of right to, or possession of, immovable property. In other civil cases, he is a Court of Revision for the aforesaid areas

(c) & (d)—It will not be advantageous to litigants to withdraw the revisional powers of the Commissioner.

(e)—In 1942 in four cases the Commissioner's orders were either set aside or modified and in two cases in 1943.

99. (a)—No.

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

(c) & (d)—The Commissioner hears cases both at Gauhati and Shillong. The Commissioner's judicial functions are only a part of his many duties and the parties must allow him to suit his convenience when fixing the place of hearing of a case.

(e)—Yes.

**Further Demands for Grants and Discussion of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next items on the Agenda are (1) Further Demands for Grants, if any, and

(2) Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1943-44. (Pause.)

There are no "Further Demands". I take it also that no hon. Member is going to discuss item No. 2.

Then voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1943-44.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 1**

**Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1943-44**

**4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax**

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 4,530 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	...	Rs. 39,500
II.—Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—				Rs.

Collection of taxes on agricultural income	...	...	...	Rs. 4,530
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\*The explanatory note explains the reasons.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 4,530 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax'."

The question was adopted.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.2**

**7.—Land Revenue**

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.35,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	...	Rs. 17,89,100
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II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—				
Charges of Administration—				

**A.—General Establishment—**

Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	...	Rs. 31,000
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**B.—Tahsil and Other Establishment—**

1.—Tahsil Establishment	...	...	...	...	Rs. 4,500
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Total	...	...	...	Rs. 35,500
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†The explanatory note explains the reasons.

**\*EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the Budget for the current year a sum of Rs. 4,000 was provided for law charges, but this has proved inadequate as numerous references had to be made to the High Court under section 28(1) of the Assam Agricultural Income-Tax Act and so a larger amount has to be paid as Counsel's fees and other incidental charges. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote an additional grant of Rs. 4,530 under this head.

**†EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A.—The excess is due to increased touring of Sub-Deputy Collectors in connection with the requisition, supply, price control work, etc., and also due to increase in the rate of travelling allowance and dearness allowance.

B.—The excess is due to the enhancement of the rate of dearness allowance sanctioned since the Budget was framed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 35,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘7.—Land Revenue.’ ”

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 3

#### 8.—Provincial Excise

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 52,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “8.—Provincial Excise.”

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	3,90,900
II.—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

	Rs.
D.—Compensations ... ..	52,000

The purpose for which this grant is required has been stated in the explanatory note.\*

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 52,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘8.—Provincial Excise.’ ”

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. After going through the explanatory note I find that this additional sum is required for the purpose of compensation which this Government have to give to the contractor who could not manufacture sufficient quantity of country spirit. Sir, the sanctioned rate was Re. 1-1-0, whereas Government had to pay Re. 1-12-0 per L.P.G. with effect from the 1st April 1942 to 31st March 1943. It is therefore evident, Sir, that after one year, this fact has been brought to our notice, though Government got a chance during the last November Session to bring this matter before this House. And, Sir, the explanatory note is also not in the least convincing. I therefore oppose this Motion.

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

Due to unusual condition of trade and abnormal rise in prices of raw materials, coal, etc., the contractor could not manufacture sufficient quantity of country spirit and as a result and partly due to transport difficulties the warehouses remained dry for long periods and in consequence there was a considerable drop in the excise revenue. On the representation from the contractor and having taken all facts and circumstances into consideration Government raised the sanctioned rate of Re.1-1-0 to Re.1-12-0 per L.P.G. with effect from the 1st April 1942 to 31st March 1943 involving payment of an additional sum of Rs.83,260-13-6 to the contractor. Of this, a sum of Rs.31,260-13-6 will be met by re-appropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 52,000 to meet the balance.

\*The Hon'ble - Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member's objection is with regard to the increase in the rate of liquor and payment of a greater amount to the contractor. The fact is, Sir, that due to the high prices of raw materials, the contractor was not able to purchase them for the manufacture of liquor. As a result of that and partly due to the transport difficulty our warehouses remained dry for a long time, and we are losing revenue. Government before agreeing to an increase in the rate, however, enquired into the matter thoroughly. They sent their officers to see the state of things on the spot, and also they had to make a lot of correspondence. So, by the time we agreed to increase the rate it was not possible to bring this matter before the House during the last November Session. Sir, we are really satisfied that there was real difficulty in getting raw materials, and that an increase of price would not be unreasonable. We therefore increased the rate, Sir. Nevertheless I should like to inform the hon. Member that the increased expenditure has been amply compensated by the increase of our duties here. So, Government are not losers in any way. On the contrary we have been getting an increased revenue, because the contractor can supply us some quantity of liquor at least, in spite of great transport difficulties.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister in his speech, referred to increase of duty. May I know when was the duty increased?

\*The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: We have increased the rate gradually from time to time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What was the date of first increment?

\*The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I cannot give the exact date off-hand.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Was it sometime in April 1942?

\*The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: It was with effect from April 1942 that the increase was granted to the contractor though the order might have been passed afterwards.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How can that be? After the sale had taken place how could the Government realise the increased duty? Was the duty increased with retrospective effect? That is an absurd proposition.

\*The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: There is no harm even in increasing it after the sale, because we can adjust it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 52,000 be granted to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '8.—Provincial Excise'".

The question was adopted

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 4

##### 9—Stamps

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 13,386 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "9.—Stamps".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	41,600
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A. Non-Judicial	3,986
C. Superintendence	400
D. Value of stamps supplied from Central Stores	9,000
Total	13,386

A—This is due to a temporary increase by 20 per cent. in the rates of discount payable to stamp vendors in view of the present high cost of living.

C and D. --Due to increase in freight charges and increased cost of paper, etc.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 13,386 be granted to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘9.—Stamps’”.

The question was adopted

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 5

#### 10.—Forests

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 11,81,625 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “10.—Forests”.

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	12,02,500
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A.— <i>Conservancy and Works</i> —	
	Rs.
I.—Timber and other forest produce removed from forest by Government Agency.	1,96,250
II.—Timber and other forest produce removed by purchasers, etc.	20,700
V.—Live stock, stores, tools and plant ... ..	45,900
VI.—Communications and buildings ... ..	80,540
VII.—Organisation, improvement and extension of forests ...	1,08,235
VIII.—Miscellaneous ... ..	1,150
IX.—Suspense ... ..	6,40,000
Total A ... ..	10,92,775
B.— <i>Establishment</i> —	
	Rs.
2. Pay of establishment ... ..	21,850
3. Allowances and honoraria ... ..	62,200
Total B ... ..	84,050
D.—Charges in England ... ..	4,800
Total demand ... ..	11,81,625

The explanatory memorandum\* explains the various items under which the expenditure is requested.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 11,81,625 be granted to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '10.—Forests'".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. It will be found from the explanatory note against item VII under A.—Conservancy and Works—that "Rs. 90,740 is required for cinchona plantations in order to supplement the available supplies of quinine, and aims at filling a widely felt need. The balance is involved by a rise in the wages of labour required for plantation and regeneration work".

Sir, on several occasions we have discussed the question of cinchona plantation at great length. Only yesterday in reply to a question of mine the House was amused to hear that there is a plantation of only 28 acres of cinchona in the Province. Sir, before this money is spent I think it is the duty of the Government, as well as of this House, to see that at least some of the hon. Members who take keen interest on this subject can go and see what is going on in the cinchona plantations.

Sir, in such cases so far as I know, Government in other Provinces and even the Central Government, give facilities to the Members of the respective Houses to go and see the plantation or other activities. Sir, as far back as in 1937 I first raised the question of cinchona plantation on the floor of the House by a set of questions. After that practically every year some Hon'ble Member or other are pressing and urging upon the Government to take up the cinchona plantation in right earnest. We were given high hopes and sometime we found that though large sum was budgeted for but ultimately at the end of the year we were told that the money could not be spent for some reason or other—there were some unavoidable difficulties and all that. Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will explain the situation that how it will be possible for him to spend this amount before 31st March 1944. Sir, from yesterday's reply one fails to understand what is the real position and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will also agree to give facilities to some of the hon. Members who want to know the real position by going through the plantation. As regards regeneration the less

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

I.—The increase is due to rise in the Departmental operations on demand of the Army for timber and minor forest produce and is compensated by receipts on the revenue side. It includes provision for building Storage Depôts for minor forest produce, which will be covered by the percentage charge made to the Army. The revenue from the latter is expected to be over 3 lakhs.

II.—The extra expenditure is mainly for increase in the marking of timber supplied by contractors and is compensated by increased royalties.

V.—The increase is to meet higher cost of stores and rations for elephants : also for purchase of pitsaws and tools for supply to contractors, the cost of which will be recovered.

VI.—The excess expenditure is on construction and improvement of roads, which are essential in order to extract timber to meet the war demands.

VII.—Of the total Rs. 90,740 is required for cinchona plantations in order to supplement the available supplies of quinine, and aims at filling a widely felt need. The balance is involved by a rise in the wages of labour required for plantation and regeneration work.

VIII.—The excess is caused by increased cost of cloth for uniforms, and also of tailoring charges.

IX.—The suspense head is intended to provide for recoveries where these are taken against expenditure, as in supply of sleepers to the Railways and the Army. Only the amount not recovered during the financial year has to be shown as expenditure though it will be recovered the following year and then shown as revenue. The expenditure on such supplies is a little over 53 lakhs ; recoveries this year are expected to be nearly 47 lakhs ; leaving a balance of Rs. 6,40,000 outstanding to be recovered next year.

2.—This is for extra temporary establishment needed to cope with the increased war supplies, and is offset by revenue.

3.—The increase in expenditure is on account of increased touring entailed by the growth of revenue earning work, and of increase in rates of travelling allowances.

D.—This item represents the overseas pay of an officer of the Burma cadre temporarily employed after the Budget was framed and paid in sterling.



is said the better. We are not going to sanction the Supplementary Demand under this head for nothing. All these are unnecessary. So we cannot vote for this amount which has produced no good.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Sir, I beg to support all that has been said by Mr. Mookerjee. The question is a pretty long one and we had assurances from the Government many times in the past. But after all from 1867 to 1944 March we have got only 28 acres of cinchona plantation. It is a disgrace on the part of Government that they could not have done practically anything at all so far as this matter is concerned and we have every reason to refuse this Demand knowing that this Government is more than callous about all these things and that they have practically no imagination nor any foresight.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Forests said yesterday that it requires 7 years for a cinchona plant to give the proper bark for extraction of quinine but I can inform him, Sir, that not only in Russia but in India—in the University Science College of Calcutta—it has been found that it is possible to get the bark after 2½ years.....

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, I have to correct the hon. Member. I never stated like that. According to Russian method bark can be extracted after 22 months.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEB: Sir, after all these years of pressing by the hon. Members we could know that Government have added only 10 acres in 1943. I suggest, Sir, that cinchona cultivation and pyrethrum cultivation, these two being special cultivation, ought to be kept in charge of a Special Officer who should look after these two. The Forest Department people have got practically no interest for cinchona cultivation: they are more interested with regard to other forest produces, such as timber. This is why this plantation has not developed all these years. So unless we have taken the cinchona plantation out of the Forest Department I feel nothing will be done. So far as pyrethrum cultivation is concerned, we learnt that Government could do nothing though the Director was getting a special allowance. So my submission is, as I suggested last time, that these two plantations—cinchona and pyrethrum—should be placed under a Special Officer and special fund may also be got from the Central Government for this purpose and that Government should pay more attention to it.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand not so much to oppose the Grant but to bring one or two points to the notice of Government.

Regarding conservancy and works we do not object reserving some areas. That is catchment areas—areas near the streams or the sources of streams.

With regard to organisation, improvement and extension of forests, when Mr. Blennerhassett was speaking about increase of forest regeneration I interrupted his speech, because, Sir, Jhum cultivation is the only means of livelihood in the district of Garo Hills. Throughout the whole district this is the means of feeding the total population of the district. Without Jhum cultivation there will be no other means of livelihood in Garo Hills. This Jhum cultivation is a blessing—it is not like paddy cultivation or like that of terraced cultivation as it is called in Naga Hills. It is a peculiar kind of cultivation by which people can grow all sorts of foodstuffs not only for consumption purpose, but also for sale. For industrial purpose they can grow things like cotton. Cotton is largely produced in the Garo Hills. I am sorry to bring in this matter here, Sir, but our Industries Department has done nothing at all regarding this industrial produce in the Garo Hills. Sir, the Garo people are trying to start ginning mills by ordinary stream water power and with what is known as wooden pedal. Such industry should be encouraged there. Sir, we are trying to conserve forest in the Garo Hills—both reserved and unreserved, but my point is, Sir, that some of these forest reserves are not worth keeping at all, because in some places there are no valuable timber trees but there exist only long grass, bamboo and unclassed trees. I quite agree with the Forest Department to increase the forest where the soil.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I must point out to the hon. Member that this is a Supplementary Demand and the whole question regarding the policy of

\*Speech not corrected.

Government with regard to the Forest Department does not come in for discussion at all under this Demand.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Very well, Sir. I hope Government will kindly take notice of the Garo Hills. While they are proposing to increase the forests, my request to them is not to disturb the Jhum cultivation there.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not only surprising but amusing too that some of the same hon. Members who have off and on been pressing for enormously increasing cinchona cultivation would be amongst those who would be opposing an enlightened Motion like that.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We oppose waste of money.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The hon. gentleman is now muttering. The hon. Member says "waste". He is indulging in imagination.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I gave suggestions already.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: His suggestions are the vaguest possible. He ought to have the courtesy to point out at least one instance of it. I expected that the same hon. Member would be asking from me what was the scheme I have regarding cinchona growing.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already asked it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Nothing of the kind. He has indulged in vague generalisations and imaginary attacks. I could tell you, Sir, that without waiting for a request from the hon. gentleman, I have already made a special request to him to come along with me to Umsaw and other areas near-about to see what was being done there.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is a personal favour to me but I am not alone who object to it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I also invited the hon. Leader of the Planting Group and also Mr. Blennerhassett and I do invite any other gentleman interested in this, when the Legislature Sessions will be over.

Sir, before I thought of mooted this matter before the Cabinet I took my Friend, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I requested him to accompany me to Umsaw to see what was being done there before I actually came forward with this Grant because I expected the Hon'ble Minister as is the case with any other Finance Minister would be the stiffest to meet with. The Hon'ble Mr. Rupnath Brahma also accompanied me.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Hon. Members say many things in order to placate the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister being the watch-dog of Finance, is always ready to bite and finish with the very body-scheme.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Keep him muzzled always.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: As usual, he is the stiffest Member of the Cabinet. He felt after examination and personal enquiry into the state of things that it was a matter to be taken up in right earnest and that it deserved his support. I am glad that the hon. Member, who led the Opposition to refuse the Demand is also very much interested in it. I should be only too glad to fix up a date after the Legislature Sessions are over to take him over there and show him what strenuous work is being done there. Not him alone, I invite any other hon. Members, who would be interested in this matter to come and see that. The hon. Member in raising the question insinuated a sort of suspicion that perhaps money was being squandered and wasted. I could hardly expect an insinuation like that from the same hon. Member taking as he does, has done and did an interest of a genuine nature in the matter, I think, he would be the last person to make an insinuation of that kind.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: To give 'cheton'.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, the other day when I was requesting the hon. Members of this House for their consent to the next year's Forest Budget, the same hon. gentleman raised the question that we had provided nothing

for working plan, conservancy and regeneration, etc. Sir, shortness of time stood in my way and I could not meet that question in my reply and I thought he would give me an opportunity to give him a fitting reply.

\*The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On a point of order, Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister be in order to reply to what happened in the past. It is a Supplementary Demand and the expenditure has already been incurred for the purpose. What is the necessity of giving a reply to matters which are long past? We have already spent this money in anticipation of approval of the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Prime Minister would be quite in order if an opportunity were not given me in this discussion. I took the opportunity to explain to the House what remained to be explained as I thought, perhaps, the House was misled by the hon. Member. I simply take opportunity to draw the attention of the House to page 38 of the Budget for the Forest Department.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On a point of order, again Sir, I think, this is entirely irrelevant. It is for the year 1944-45 and we are now dealing with the accounts for 1943-44.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the Hon'ble Minister need not go into this matter.

\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is going to commit another mistake and the Hon'ble Prime Minister is there to save him.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Nirendra Nath Deb has drawn the attention to certain matter, *e.g.*, for starting a separate department for cinchona. I can assure him that this question will receive my best attention and I shall see if that is justified.

I think, Sir, the hon. Members who have opposed this Motion have not been able to make out a case. I am sure, Sir, the hon. Members of this House will agree with me and give their unanimous support to the Motion before the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.11,81,625 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '10.—Forests'."

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 6

##### 11.—Registration

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.12,707 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "11.—Registration".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs.	1,62,800
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—				
A.—District Charges—				
				Rs.
2. Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	6,000
3. Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	2,295
4. Contingencies	...	...	...	3,855
5. Contribution to Khasi States	...	...	...	67
B.—Works—				
(i)—Repairs	...	...	...	226
(ii)—Petty construction	...	...	...	264
Total	...	...	Rs.	12,707

\*Speech not corrected.

The reason for this is given in the †Explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.12,707 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '11.—Registration'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 7

#### 13.—Other taxes and duties

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.735 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "13.—Other Taxes and Duties."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs. 1,000
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
A.—Charges for collection—			
Entertainment taxes, etc.	...	...	Rs. 735

‡The Explanatory note explains the reason.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.735 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '13.—Other Taxes and Duties'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 8

#### 18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.43,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges, which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... .. Rs.1,32,200

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

A 2. *Pay of Establishment.*—Due to (1) more officers going on leave, (2) raising of the rate of remuneration of extra writers and (3) appointment of temporary muharrirs and night chaukidars.

A 3. *Allowances and honoraria.*—Due to (1) increase in the rates of daily and mileage allowances, (2) raising of the rate of commission, (3) increase in the rate of dearness allowance and (4) grant of a compensation allowance to the Record-keeper, Sadar Registration office, Sylhet.

A 4. *Contingencies.*—Due to (1) increase in money order commission, (2) increase in correspondence as a result of the rise in prices of all articles.

A 5. *Contribution.*—This represents a grant to the Khasi States Deposit account equivalent to the amount credited to the Provincial revenues owing to the extension of the Registration Act to the Khasi States.

B *Works.*—(i) Required for the overhauling of the Katigora Sub-Registration office and to meet the cost of hiring a boat for Jagannathpur office.

(ii) Required for the construction of a verandah and extension of roofs of the Dhubri Sub-Registration office building.

#### ‡EXPLANATORY NOTE

The extra grant is required to meet the increased cost of entertainment tax stamps supplied from Central Stores due to the opening of new cinema houses and larger attendances at cinemas as a result of the increased Military population in the Province.

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

	Rs.
A.—Works	27,600
C.—Maintenance and repairs	10,500
G.—Tools and plant	5,400
Total	43,500

The †Explanatory note explains fully the reason why we have come forward with this Supplementary Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs.43,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works’.”

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 9

##### 25.—General Administration

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,60,875 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “25.—General Administration”.

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	24,18,600
Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly at the November Session.	25,300

II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—  
I.—Provincial Legislative Assembly—

	Rs.
1. Pay of officers	11,122
M. (a)—Civil Secretariat—	
(i) Pay of establishment	4,600
(ii) Contingencies	20,700
Total	25,300

S. 1—General Establishment—

(1) Pay of officers	35,500
(2) Pay of establishment	15,000
(3) Allowances and honoraria	22,500
(4) Contingencies	48,000

1,21,000

X.—Charges in England—

Expenditure by the High Commissioner	3,453
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Total demand

1,60,875

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—On the re-opening of the Embankment and Drainage Division, it was decided to undertake a large number of embankment and drainage schemes for which Budget provision had not been made and which are related to the “Grow More Food” campaign.

C.—The additional grant is required mainly to meet the demand for flood and earthquake damage repairs to bunds which was not contemplated in the original Budget.

G.—Due to purchase of instruments and camp equipage the price of which has increased abnormally and the Budget provision fell short of actual requirement.

I have tried to explain the necessity for this Supplementary Demand on the † Explanatory note. In addition, I simply want to point one fact. Mr. Speaker, Sir, your salary is now being voted by the House, as the Bill which was passed by this Assembly was rejected by the Upper House on certain other count. My hon. Friends may question why instead of Rs.12,000, Rs.11,122 is required. For their information I should say that the balance has been met from the saving in the Legislative Assembly Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs.1,60,875 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No 10

#### 27.—Administration of Justice

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,27,262 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	8,17,800
Supplementary grant voted at the November Session ... ..	21,894
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
B.—Law officers—Mofussil Establishment—	
	Rs.
Allowances and honoraria ... ..	1,975
C.—Administrator General and Official Trustee ... ..	13,287
D.—District and Sessions Judges—	
(i) Pay of officers... ..	11,000
(ii) Pay of establishment ... ..	13,000
(iii) Allowances and honoraria ... ..	15,000
(iv) Contingencies... ..	25,000
I.—Criminal Courts—	
(i) Contingencies ... ..	48,000
Total ... ..	1,27,262

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

I.—In the original Budget for the current year provision for the pay of the Hon'ble Speaker was made under "Charged" in view of the impending passing of the Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1940, but as the Bill has not yet been passed the Hon'ble Speaker continued to draw his salary from the voted grant according to the present Act. The entire charged provision of Rs.12,000 will be a saving.

M(a).—(i) Entertainment of additional staff for new departments opened to deal with supply and civil defence and expansion of existing departments to cope with the increased work.

(ii) Larger contingent expenditure resulting from the increased staff and correspondence and high prices of all articles of uniform, etc..

S.—(1) & (2) The excesses are due to the re-employment of two retired Officers, promotions of 4 Sub-Deputy Collectors to be Extra Assistant Commissioners, entertainment of temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors as Inspectors of Supply and entertainment of extra clerical staff to cope with the continuous increase in work on account of the war.

(3) The excess is due to the higher rates of dearness allowance and temporary increase in the rates of travelling allowance sanctioned since the Budget was framed, also to increased touring necessitated by the pressure of work connected with the emergency.

(4) The increase is due to higher outlay on postage and telegram charges owing to increase of work and the effect of the general rise in prices of all articles on stationery locally purchased.

X.—The additional amount is required to meet the sterling overseas pay of a Burma officer appointed after the Budget was framed.

The reason for this Demand is given in the \*Explanatory note and I think that is sufficient.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

“That an additional sum of Rs.1,27,262 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘27—Administration of Justice’.”

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words under Criminal Court Contingencies. I want to point out to the Government that for want of a temporary shed in the Tura Court public are suffering a great deal. I request the Hon'ble Minister to see that at least Rs.1,500 may be allotted for the purpose.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER The question is :

“That an additional sum of Rs.1,27,262 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘27.—Administration of Justice’.”

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 11

#### (28.—Jails and Convict Settlements)

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.9,35,986 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “28.—Jails and Convict Settlements”.

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	5,88,400
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A.—District Jails—	Rs.
1. Pay of establishment ... ..	13,898
2. Allowances and honoraria ... ..	2,800
3. Contingencies (Non-contract) ... ..	8,65,768
4. Contingencies (Contract) ... ..	22,960
B.—Charges for Police custody ... ..	16,700
D.—Jail Manufactures—	
1. Contingencies (Non-contract) ... ..	13,676
E.—Works—Repairs—Charges for Police custody ... ..	184
Total ... ..	19,35,986

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

B.—Due to (1) increase in the number of cases outside the headquarters of Government Pleaders in which travelling allowance was necessary and (2) to increase in fees to Government Pleaders due to increase in the number of cases.

C.—In the last November Session the Assembly voted a supplementary grant of Rs.21,894 for a grant to the Refugee Orphan Trust Fund in consideration of an equivalent amount credited to the Provincial Revenues from the money found on the dead bodies of refugees from Burma who made their way to Assam. A further sum of Rs.13,510 being the sale proceeds of property of unidentified deceased refugees has since been credited to the Provincial Revenues. Out of the last supplementary grant of Rs.21,894 a grant of Rs.21,671 has been sanctioned according to the actual amount credited to Provincial Revenues and supplementary grant of Rs 13,287 is therefore asked for.

D. (i) and (ii).—Due to the necessity for the continuance of certain temporary officers and their staff to cope with increased work.

(iii).—The increase is due to the temporary increase in the rates of travelling allowance and the higher rates of dearness allowance sanctioned since the Budget was framed, and higher outlay on remuneration to copyists.

D. (iv) and I. (i).—Due to increased rates of diet and conveyance allowance to jurors and witnesses and general rise in prices of all articles and increased expenses on postage.

\*The Explanatory note explains the reason.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.9,35,986 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ventilate my grievance under Jail Manufactures Contingencies.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member oppose the whole Grant?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Not the whole Grant, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then the hon. Member ought to have tabled a Cut Motion to raise the point he wants to discuss.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I am sorry, Sir, I have not moved a Cut Motion. I will only point out to the Hon'ble Minister that most of the convicts are allowed to sleep on the earth floor and it is from the medical point of view not at all good. Health of the convicts will be affected thereby. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will kindly see that hand-made mats or bamboo bedsteads are provided for the convicts in the Tura Jail.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no knowledge of the conditions of the Tura Jail. But the point raised by the hon. Member will be looked into and I will see what can be done.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.9,35,986 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 12

##### 29.—Police

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.3,30,397 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	32,15,000
Supplementary grant voted at November Session	15,263

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—1. Due to the entertainment of temporary Assistant Jailors, Warders and Clerks to cope with the increased volume of work in the Jails owing to admission of large number of prisoners than anticipated.

2. Due to the grant of dearness allowances at increased rates as sanctioned since the original estimate was framed.

3. The additional sum of Rs.8,65,768 is due to the following causes:—

(i) Increased admissions including military convicts and security prisoners.

(ii) Rise in the cost of food-stuffs and cloth. The increased demand is due to the extent of Rs.7,91,504 to charges for food-stuffs. Owing to the steep rise in all food-grains it was not possible to maintain the contracts for supply of food-stuffs that had been made for the year.

Against this expenditure a sum, not yet determined, will be set off as the result of a recent decision of the Central Government that the maintenance charges of military convicts will be met by the provinces to which they belong, as from 1st March 1944, and the charges of military under-trial prisoners against Defence estimates.

4. Due to the abnormal rise in prices of almost all the necessary articles particularly Kerosene oil, Sago, etc.

D.—1. Due to the rise in the prices of raw materials such as iron, yarn, etc., purchased for the Manufacturing Department and will to a large extent be met by the increased prices of the finished articles.

B. & E.—The excess is due to the general increase in prices which has necessitated raising of diet allowances and also caused greater expense on clothing in the lock-ups,



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

B.—District Executive force—

(a) District Police—

	Rs.
1. Allowances and honoraria ... ..	2,90,200
2. Contingencies ... ..	4,83,600
Total ... ..	7,73,800
<i>Deduct</i> —Recoveries from Defence Department ... ..	—5,55,000
Total, B ... ..	2,18,800
D.—Village Police ... ..	2,09,914
<i>Deduct</i> —Share payable by Central Government ... ..	1,04,957
Total, D ... ..	1,04,957
M.—Charges in England—Expenditure of the High Commissioner ... ..	6,640
Total Demand ... ..	3,30,397

The \*Explanatory note explains the reasons.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

“That an additional grant of Rs.3,30,397 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘29.—Police’.”

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 13

#### 36.—Scientific Departments

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.35 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “36.—Scientific Departments.”

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	5,900

II.—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—

	Rs.
B.—Museums ... ..	35

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

B. 1.—The excess is mainly due to increased rates of travelling allowance, grant of dearness allowance and special emergency bonus and general expansion of the Police force.

2.—The excess is mainly due to the increase in the price of clothing and other articles, purchase of clothing for the additional force, for service stamps on account of increase of correspondence and telegrams, etc., and purchase of motor vehicles for the Police.

*Deduct*.—Recoveries from Defence Department—This represents the cost of the additional staff entertained for Defence purposes for which a large amount is expected from the Government of India on account of the large temporary force entertained since Budget was prepared.

D.—No provision was made in the original Budget for the current year for the equipment and remuneration of village defence parties, which was accepted by the Legislative Assembly on a Motion moved at the November 1943 Session, as it was not hitherto known what share the Central Government would pay, and an estimate of cost took time to prepare.

The Government of India have since agreed to reimburse the Provincial Government 50 per cent. of the expenditure incurred during the year 1943-44. A sum of Rs.1,04,957 will therefore be spent from the Provincial Government's revenue during this year and the Assembly is asked to vote the amount.

M.—This additional grant is required to meet the sterling overseas pay of certain officers of other provinces appointed after the Budget was framed.

The † Explanatory note explains the reasons.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved.

"That an additional sum of Rs.35 be granted to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the Head '36—Scientific Departments'."

†Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: I want to know what is Assam Coin Cabinet, Sir.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The old and ancient coins whenever found is purchased by the Government and this amount has been provided for this purpose.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.35 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '36—Scientific Departments'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 14

#### 31.—Education (other than Education.)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 91,159 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European)".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	43,90,500
Supplementary grant voted at the November Session ... ..	48,342
II—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
	Rs.
1. Secondary Schools for boys ... ..	27,340
2. Secondary Schools for girls ... ..	2,701
3. Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools (Non-recurring.)	39,850
4. Government Primary Schools ... ..	5,000
5. Direct Grants to non-Government Primary Schools (Non-recurring.)	2,124
6. Government Special Schools—Normal or Training Schools —4—Contingencies—Non-contract.	7,000
7. Direct Grants to non-Government Special Schools—Non-recurring.	7,144
Total ... ..	91,159

#### † EXPLANATORY NOTE

The extra grant is required to meet the contingent expenditure of the Assam Coin Cabinet for which no provision was made in the original Budget.

†Speech not corrected.

The reason for this Demand is given in the \*Explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

That an additional sum of Rs. 91,159 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '37.—Education (other than European.)"

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 15

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,50,936 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

				Rs.
	Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	12,20,100
II.—	Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
B.—	Hospitals and Dispensaries—			
(a)	Ordinary Dispensaries—			Rs.
(i)	Lekhapani Civil Hospital for treatment of Military contract labour.			1,10,000
(ii)	Neamati Civil Hospital for treatment of Military contract labour.			16,000
(iii)	C. R. E. and Assam Trunk Road labour Hospitals	...		1,00,000
				Total ... .. 2,26,000
	Deduct—recoveries from the Defence Department	...	...	—2,26,000
				37,148
1.	Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	
2.	Leper Hospital, Sylhet—			8,479
	Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	
3.	Leprosy Survey, etc.—			
	Leper Colony (Tura)—			
	Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	16,240
E.—	Mental Hospitals			
4.—	Mental Hospital, Tezpur—			
	Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	88,989
H—	Charges in England	...	...	80
				Total ... .. 1,50,936

\*EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. The existing provision for dearness allowance has proved quite inadequate. So an extra amount of Rs. 15,000 is required to meet the expenditure on account of dearness allowance granted to officers and establishment menials of Government Secondary Schools for boys and another sum of Rs. 12,340 is required under contract contingencies for taking Air Raid Precaution measures in various Government High Schools for boys.

2. The amount is required for taking A. R. P. measures in Government Girls' Middle English School at Jorhat and the Government Girls' High School at Sylhet.

3. Out of the total amount of Rs. 39,850, Rs. 12,611 is required for taking A. R. P. measures in the non-Government Secondary Schools, Rs. 17,232 is needed to compensate the loss of fee income of Aided Schools, Madrasas and Tols and Rs. 10,000 is required to meet the uncovered amount (that will remain outstanding on 31st March) on account of the six months' grant-in-aid in advance sanctioned to Aided-High and Middle Schools.

4. The additional amount is required for meeting the cost of dearness allowance to Government Primary School teachers. The existing provision for the purpose has proved insufficient.

5 & 7. The extra amounts of Rs. 2,124 and Rs. 5,644 are required for sanctioning special non-recurring grants to Aided Schools and Madrasas to compensate the loss of fee income and to help the teachers of Aided Schools, Madrasas and Tols for the increased cost of living on account of emergency caused by the war and of Rs. 1,500 are required to meet the unrecovered amount (that will remain outstanding on 31st March) on account of the six months' grant-in-aid in advance sanctioned to Madrasas.

6. The additional amount is required for payment of rent for the buildings hired for the accommodation of the two Normal Schools at Jorhat and of Silchar, the buildings of which have been taken over by the Military authorities.

This is no financial responsibility of the Province and the amount is allowed to be recovered from the Defence Department.

The \*Explanatory note explains the reasons.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no cut Motions, I am putting is as a question. The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 1,50,936 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '38.—Medical."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 16.

#### 39.—Public Health

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,10,669 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of the payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	8,88,100
Supplementary grant voted at the November Session of the Assembly.	2,79,000
	11,67,100

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

#### A—Public Health Establishment—

##### (a) Superintendence and other establishment—

Allowances and honoraria ... ..	13,600
Non-Contract contingencies ... ..	18,700
Contract contingencies ... ..	16,500

#### C—Epidemic Diseases—

##### (a) Malaria—

Non-Contract contingencies ... ..	1,11,369
Contract contingencies ... ..	11,600

##### (b) Other epidemics—

Non-Contract contingencies ... ..	20,000
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##### (c) Epidemic Units—

Allowances and honoraria ... ..	6,700
Contingencies ... ..	1,300

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i), (ii) & (iii).—In order to ensure prompt and regular payment of pay of officers and establishment and contingent charges the administration of the above labour hospitals has been handed over to the Civil Medical Department by the Military Department. The Provincial Government have no financial responsibility in the matter. The entire expenditure is borne by the Centre (Defence Department).

The amounts received in advance from the Military Department are temporarily classified under "suspense" and periodically adjusted towards the expenditure heads as shown above as recoveries for services rendered. Any balance remaining at the close of the year may be utilized during the next financial year and similarly recoveries due but not effected within the financial year are treated as receipts under "XXVII—Medical."

Since the receipts and expenditure are accounted for in the Provincial Budget, the vote of the Assembly is necessary to the latter.

1 to 4.—Due to rise in prices of dietary articles and medicines.

H.—To meet the cost of publications supplied by the High Commissioner.

E.—Pasteur Institute—					
Pay of establishment	...	...	...	...	3,700
Allowances and honoraria	...	...	...	...	1,600
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	2,900
F.—Works—					
Maintenance by the P. W. D.—Repairs	...	...	...	...	1,500
H.—Charges in England					
	...	...	...	...	1,200
Total					2,10,669

The reason for this demand is given in the \*Explanatory note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The questions is :

“That an additional sum of Rs. 2,10,669 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of head ‘39.—Public Health.’”

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.17

##### 40.—Agriculture

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.8,62,988 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of head “40.—Agriculture”.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	...	...	Rs. 14,40,000
II.—Sub heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
Rs.			
D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—			
(d) Grow More Food Campaign	...	...	7,04,207
B.—Superintendence—			
3.—Allowances and honoraria	...	...	9,000
4.—Contingencies—			
(a) Non-Contract Contingencies	...	...	4,200
(b) Miscellaneous Contract Contingencies	...	...	4,300

#### \*EXPLANATORY NOTE

##### A.—Public Health Establishment (a) Superintendence and other establishments—

Allowances and honoraria.—The extra amount is due to increased rates of travelling allowance and dearness allowances, and increased activities of the staff owing to wide spread and prolonged outbreaks of cholera and small-pox epidemics.

Non-contract and contract contingencies.—The extra amount is due to unusual demand of vaccine lymph owing to large supply to road projects and the Military and owing to the outbreaks of small-pox epidemics in certain districts. It is also due to abnormal increases in prices of calves, miscellaneous articles and postage.

(a) Malaria—Contingencies.—The extra amounts are required to meet the cost of quinine which the Public Health Department is to purchase in a very large quantity for supply to all classes of consumers in the Province under the present system of controlled supply of quinine. Consumers who obtained their requirements from the trade are now supplied from the Provincial Public Health Laboratory, Shillong.

(b) Other epidemics  
(c) Epidemic Units. } The extra amounts are due to increased prices of dietary articles for Kala-azar patients and increased expenditure incurred on account of travelling allowances, and heavier demand of cholera vaccine and Bacteriophage owing to prolonged and wide spread outbreaks of cholera epidemics in certain districts. It is also due to increased prices of medical stores and increased rates of travelling allowance.

E.—Pasteur Institute.—The extra amounts are due to the entertainment of extra staff to cope with the unusual demand for cholera vaccine and Bacteriophage for wide-spread epidemics in certain districts and also due to demands from Military, Government of Bengal, etc. It is also due to increase in the prices of sheep and of other articles as well as increase of dearness allowance.

F.—The additional grant is required to meet the cost of maintenance of the Tura Water Works. As the Garo Hills (Public Works Department) was temporarily closed down and was restored only with effect from 16th June 1943, on provision for this purpose was made in the original Budget.

H.—Charges in England—Due to cost of publications supplied by the High Commissioner.

	Rs.
C.—Experimental Farms—	
(a) Jorhat, Titabar, Karimganj and Upper Shillong Farms—	
(i) Non-Contract Contingencies ... ..	59,950
(ii) Miscellaneous Contract Contingencies .. ..	156
(b) Shillong Fruit Garden ... ..	6,300
D—Agricultural experiments and research—	
(c) Scheme for fruit culture ... ..	2,950
(e) Scheme for sugarcane research ... ..	7,221
(f) Cattle Nutrition Scheme ... ..	5,452
E—Subordinate and Expert Staff ... ..	6,180
J—Other Charges—	
(d) Khanapara and Sylhet Cattle Farms ... ..	40,382
K—Works—	
(a) Original works ... ..	7,250
(b) Repairs ... ..	5,440
Total ...	8,62,988

The reasons for bringing this demand have been fully stated in the † Explanatory Note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no cut Motions. I am putting it as a question. The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs.8,62,988 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture' ”.

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

D. (d)—The general food situation in the country caused anxiety in spite of all efforts made to increase production. The Government of India therefore asked for whole-hearted support and co-operation for the intensification of increased production of food crops to the utmost extent possible. They also gave assurance to give financial assistance by way of temporary loan, etc. In view of the vital importance of the matter the Provincial Government have gone “all out” in their efforts to increase production and the schemes under Grow More Food were roughly estimated at Rs.19,66,534. The Government of India have granted a sum of Rs.9,01,900 as financial assistance to this Province in the shape of loan, free of interest to be repayable within a year and also a free grant in furtherance of food production drive on the basis of actuals. On the progress of actuals and the abnormal rise in prices of potatoes the expenditure on the scheme will come down to Rs.14,70,057 against which a grant of Rs.3,41,350 will be received from the Government of India. Of this grant Rs.1,95,500 will be credited under the receipt head while Rs.1,45,850 will be taken as reduction of expenditure. Accordingly a net expenditure of Rs.13,24,207 will be incurred by the Provincial Government against a grant of Rs.6,20,000 provided in the original Budget for the current year. Hence a supplementary grant of Rs.7,04,207 will be necessary to meet the extra expenditure required during the current financial year under the Grow More Food campaign.

B. 3.—Due to increased rates of travelling allowance and dearness allowance.

B. 4.—(a) Due to increase in price of liveries and the office establishment of Agricultural Inspectors which was not provided for originally.

(b)—Due to increased expenditure on service stamps owing to increase in correspondence and due to high price of stationery articles, purchase of furniture for the Agricultural Inspectors' office.

C. (a) (i)—Due to high prices of seeds and manures, cattle food and wages of labourers.

(ii)—Due to dearness allowance of the contingency menials.

(b)—Due to high rates of wages of labourers.

D. (c)—Due to higher wages of labourers.

(e)—Due to high rates of wages of labourers and price of fuel.

(f)—Due to high price of cattle food, chemicals and wages of labour.

E.—Owing to increased rates of travelling allowance for attendings the meetings at Bombay and Delhi by the Economic Botanist and due to high rates of wages of labourers, manures, etc.

J. (d)—Due to high price of cattle food and high wages of labourers.

K.—(a)—Due to high price of materials and labour.

(b)—Due to extensive repair.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the beginning of the Session I put some questions on Pyrethrum cultivation. I reminded the Hon'ble Minister at the time of discussion of the general Demands, but as yet the questions have not been answered. The questions are straightforward and I do not understand the hesitation of the Department in answering them. Also at the time of moving the main Motion, I put in a Cut Motion to draw attention to the urgency for the extension of Pyrethrum cultivation in the Province, but for lack of time I was unable to move it and spoke on the general Motion.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How can this question be raised now?

Mr. R. A. PALMER: I consider that the grant asked for, is not sufficient.

It was obvious from the unsatisfactory reply given by the Hon'ble Minister that Government have not realised either the importance of the matter nor the urgency for the introduction of the Pyrethrum Industry on a commercial basis.

I wish to point out again that this policy of 30-40 acres a year will lead us nowhere. The outlook of this cultivation appears similar to that of Cinchona plantation—28 acres, since the year 1867.

I ask Government to please stop this nibbling and plan their scheme on a large enough basis to make it a commercial success. Undoubtedly there will be difficulties, but these can be overcome given the will and the right spirit.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Sir, the questions put by the hon. Member came to my hand only on the day a Cut Motion was moved by the hon. Member in this respect. I immediately signed and sent it to the office. It might come tomorrow, Sir. Any way I may inform the hon. Member that we have been trying our very best to extend the cultivation of Pyrethrum in this Province. The hon. Member would be interested to know that this Pyrethrum cultivation can be done only over an altitude of about 4,000 feet, and therefore it can be grown in the Khasi Hills only and not in other places. With the limited resources at our disposal we have been trying to extend it every year and when war-time conditions in this Province will improve, it will not be difficult to cover 500 acres or so in the near future.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs.8,62,988 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ‘40.—Agriculture’.”

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 18

##### 41.—Veterinary

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.2,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “41.—Veterinary”.

		Rs.
. Grant originally voted by the Assembly	... ..	2,15,400
II.—Sub-head under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—		
		Rs.
C.—Veterinary Instructions	... ..	2,000
E.—Charges in England	... ..	80
		<hr/>
Total	... ..	2,080
		<hr/>

The reasons for bringing this Demand have been fully stated in the †Explanatory Note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no cut motions. I will put it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.2,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '41.—Veterinary'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 19

#### 43.—Industries

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA:

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.4,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "43.—Industries".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	2,41,500
Grant subsequently voted by the Assembly in November 1943 Session ... ..	20,500
	2,62,000

II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—  
C.—Sericulture—

	Rs.
(a) Sericulture proper—	
(1) Allowances and honoraria ... ..	1,640
(2) Contingencies ... ..	1,200
(b) Sericultural Development Scheme—	
(1) Allowances and honoraria ... ..	1,240
Total ...	4,080

The reasons for coming forward with this Demand have been clearly stated in the ‡Explanatory Note.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I will put it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.4,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '43.—Industries.'"

The question was adopted.

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

C.—Government of Bengal raised the debit for training of Assam Stipendiaries, in the Bengal Veterinary College as late as April 1943, although they ought to have raised the debit for 1942-43, on or before March 1943. So the charge for 1942-43, had to be met from the existing provision under 1943-44. Out of the entire amount payable to Bengal during the current year, a sum of Rs.6,000 will be met by re-appropriation and the balance of Rs.2,000 by supplementary grant.

E.—To meet the cost of publications supplied by the High Commissioner.

#### ‡EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) (1) and (b) (1).—Due to enhanced rates of fixed and ordinary travelling allowance as sanctioned by Government during the current year, after the Budget was framed.

(a) (2).—As the wages of labourers have gone up three to four times the rates which existed at the time of the preparation of the Budget and the prices of all materials and articles for use in the Sericultural Farms, have immensely increased, the amount provided in the Budget has proved insufficient to meet the expenditure.



## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 20.

50—Civil works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges.)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN to move :—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,07,709 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "50—Civil Works" (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges).

Rs.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... .. 37,90,900

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

A.—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—

Rs.

1. Education—(other than European)	...	...	...	8,000
2. Medical	...	...	...	3,000
3. Public Health	...	...	...	3,171
4. General Administration	...	...	...	6,612

20,783

(b) Communications—ordinary roads ... .. 86,926

Total ... 1,07,709

The reasons for this demand are explained in the †Explanatory Note.

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) 1.—The extra amount of Rs.8,000 is required to meet the cost of a portion of the project estimated at Rs.50,000 for construction of a temporary hostel building for the students of the Cotton College, Gauhati. The main hostel buildings of the College have been taken over by the military authorities and so it has become essential to provide accommodation for students elsewhere.

2.—It has become urgently necessary to provide structural protection to the essential parts of the Mental Hospital buildings at Tezpur, *i.e.*, those parts in which the Mental patients will be confined during a possible air-raid, at an estimated cost of Rs.12,200. A sum of Rs.3,000 however will be possible to be spent during 1943-44.

3.—Owing to the storage of quinine in the Provincial Public Health Laboratory under the Scheme for the controlled distribution and sale of quinine, and owing to the necessity for increased manufacture of vaccine, etc. for sale to Bengal and other provinces, it has become urgently necessary to make certain additions and alterations to the Pasteur Institute buildings at an estimated cost of Rs.19,612. As the end of the financial year is near, it will be possible to spend only a sum of Rs.3,171 during the year 1943-44.

4.—This additional grant is required to meet the cost of extension of the Civil Secretariat buildings for the accommodation of the office of the Publicity Officer as the accommodation in the present building is quite insufficient.

(b)—The unusual flood of 1942, damaged the North Trunk Road (West) heavily necessitating improvements to the road and reconstruction of new bridges in several places for which a sum of Rs.83,426 is required for expenditure during the current year. Besides this a sum of Rs.3,500 is required for strengthening all the temporary bridges on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra to carry vehicles of heavier weight coming to India under Lease /Lend. The rough estimated cost of this work is Rs.50,000. Both the works being urgent had to be taken up in anticipation of a supplementary grant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There are no Cut Motions: I will put it as a question. The question is:

“ That an additional sum of Rs.1,07,709 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head ' 50.—Civil Works' (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges) ”.

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 21

#### Tools and plant and Establishment charges

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Re.1 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944 for the administration of the head “ Tools and Plant and Establishment charges.”

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... ..	3,22,200
II.—Sub-heads to which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A.—Direction Charges—	
(a) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department—	
	Rs.
(i) Pay of officers ... ..	7,815
(ii) Pay of Establishment ... ..	2,160
B.—Charges on construction—	
(iii) Pay of officers ... ..	39,000
(iv) Pay of establishment ... ..	37,000
(v) Allowances and honoraria ... ..	71,000
(vi) Contingencies ... ..	22,500
(vii) Post-war Reconstruction Scheme—	
Pay of officers ... ..	645
Allowances and honoraria ... ..	355
(viii) D.—Charges in England ... ..	7,140
(ix) Deduct—Establishment provided for under the head “ 18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.”	+20,600
Total ... ..	2,08,215
F.—Deduct on account of establishment for services rendered to—	
(x) The Military Works Department ... ..	—3,92,000
Total Establishment charges ... ..	—1,83,785
(xi) Tools and Plant ... ..	87,000
H.—Deduct—Recoveries from the—	
(xii) Military Works Department ... ..	—99,000
Total Tools and Plant charges ... ..	—12,000
Total ... ..	1,95,785

The reasons are stated in the †Explanatory Note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are no Cut Motions. I will put it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Re.1 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head 'Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges'."

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 22

##### 56.—Stationery and Printing.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.91,650 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

	Rs.	
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	3,77,000	
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—		
	Rs.	
A.—Stationery supplied from Central Stores	83,000	
C.—Purchase of plain paper used with stamps	8,650	
	91,650	

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i)—Due to entertainment of an additional Assistant Chief Engineer to cope with increased works in connection with the War. No Budget provision was made for him.

(ii)—Due mainly to opening of a new Department in the Public Works Department Secretariat for which there was no Budget provision. The anticipated excess under this head is Rs.3,976 of which a sum of Rs.1,816 will be met by re-appropriation from savings under other heads.

(iii), (iv) & (v).—Due to withdrawal of staff from the India-Burma Road provided for in the Budget for Excluded Areas and posting them in Non-Excluded Areas resulting in excess in Non-Excluded Areas and savings in Excluded Areas. The raising of rates of travelling allowance, etc., is also responsible for the increase in item (v).

(vi)—Due to opening of new Divisions and some Subdivisions; also due to rise in prices of stationeries and other materials.

(vii)—The subject of road development in Assam is one of the most important plans in the post-war reconstruction programme which is being drawn up by the Government of Assam in pursuance of the policy formulated by the Government of India and communicated to all provinces. The preparation of the plan for post-war development of roads should be undertaken energetically and for this purpose it is necessary that work should commence without delay. As the project estimates have to be submitted to the Government of India before the 1st August 1944 and detailed estimates for the First Phase by the 31st December 1944 the staff required should be appointed immediately. Consequently two Executive Engineers have already been posted for this purpose. The additional sum of Rs.1,000 now asked for represents the expenditure in pay and allowances during the current financial year of one of the two Executive Engineers mentioned above and who is likely to join soon. Expenditure on account of the other Executive Engineer and staff will be a charge in the Budget for 1944-45.

Steps are being taken to post the full staff required in this connection and the expenditure for the same will be a charge in the next year's Budget.

(viii)—Due to Overseas pay of some Burma Officers appointed temporarily in the Assam Public Works Department. There was no Budget provision for this purpose.

(ix)—A lump sum deduction of Rs.45,700 was made in the Civil Works Budget on account of establishment provided for in the Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Budget. To cover the difference between the lump sum deduction shown in the Budget and the actual position now anticipated a plus grant of Rs.20,600 is necessary.

(x) & (xi).—Due to more recoveries anticipated from the Military Department than the original Budget provision owing to services rendered in connection with Defence projects.

(xi)—The amount is required mainly to meet the cost of six staff cars for the use of the Public Works Department Officers. Most of the cars owned by officers of the Assam Public Works Department are on the verge of break-down due to long wear and tear on rough roads. There is no chance of these being replaced as no cars are available in the market nor can they be requisitioned for individual officers under the present rules. The amount required for this purpose is Trs. 68. The balance is required to meet the ordinary requirements of the Department. Due to rise in price of materials the original Budget provision fell short of actual requirement.

It will be seen that recoveries from the Military Department on account of various Defence works will be much greater than was anticipated in the original Budget resulting in a net saving of Rs.1,95,785 after adjustment towards the close of the year. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a token supplementary grant of Re.1 only.

The reasons for bringing this Demand have been stated in the †Explanatory Note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are not Cut Motions. I will put it as a question. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.91,650 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '56.—Stationery and Printing'."

The question was adopted.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 23

#### 57.—Miscellaneous

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.29,86,755 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous".

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly. ... ..	3,44,000

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

	Rs.
A. Allowance to terrorist and other State prisoners ... ..	13,000
C. Donation for Charitable purposes ... ..	1,300
E. Petty Establishments (a) Circuit and Sessions Houses ... ..	4,000
H. Rates of Taxes ... ..	2,000
M. Works (a) Original Works ... ..	850
(b) Repairs ... ..	300
I.—Contributions ... ..	1,033
F.—Irrecoverable temporary loans written off ... ..	27,600
K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—	
1.—Compensation for loss of property, etc. ... ..	28,772
2.—Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn. ... ..	40,000
3.—Expenditure on issue of free rations to Government servants	10,25,600
L.—Losses on supply of foodstuffs to Government servants and others at concessional prices. ... ..	18,42,300
Total ... ..	29,86,755

#### † EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—In 1942-43 the Central Stationery Office could not supply in time all the materials indented and a sum of Rs.31,659 had to be adjusted this year against late supplies of last year. This sum is offset by corresponding savings last year. Apart from this sum, Rs.51,341 represent increased expenditure in the current year. This increase is partly due to the increased cost of paper, binding material and other stationery articles, but in the major part to the fact that Assam Government Press has since undertaken printing of a larger number of schedules of standardised and non-standardised forms which were hitherto printed at private presses, as also considerable extraneous printing, e.g., for the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, National War Front, Civil Transport Corps and the Army, thereby increasing considerably the amount of paper required. The cost of these latter supplies is recoverable from the organizations concerned. Part of the increase in expenditure will therefore be met by increased receipts.

C.—The additional grant is required to meet the increase in the cost of price plain paper.

The reasons have been stated in the † Explanatory Note.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.29,86,755 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion.

Sir, it is difficult to understand the explanation given in the Explanatory Note. Sir, the Government require money for replacing crockery and furniture etc., in some Circuit Houses. Sir, nowadays the Circuit Houses are mostly occupied by the Military, and the Heads of Departments and other high officials for whom they are meant often

#### † EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—Due to the grant of allowances to persons detained under the Defence of India Rules and to Security prisoners and their families.

C.—Due to higher charges for contingent expenditure as a result of the increase in prices.

E.—Due to replacement of crockery and furniture in some Circuit Houses and entertainment of night Chowkidars and additional *Paniwallas*.

H.—Due to enhanced rate of municipal taxes and payment of arrear bills.

M.—(a) Represents essential work carried out for improvement of Jowai town. Rs.3,500 was provided for the purpose in the Budget, but owing to the increased cost of all articles the expenditure is now estimated at Rs.4,350.

(b).—Due to rise in prices of materials.

I.—No provision was made for a new commitment and in one case an increased grant had to be given. This resulted in a shortage of Rs.1,033 which it is now sought to be provided.

F.—It has been found necessary to remit some old agricultural loans in different districts mainly in the Assam Valley and some irrecoverable house building and evacuation advances mainly due to the death of employees. The total estimated expenditure comes to Rs.41,500 and Rs.6,100 respectively against the Budget grant of Rs.20,000 and thus an additional sum of Rs.27,600 is required for which a supplementary grant is asked for.

K—1.—The Government of Assam have had occasion to review the questions of (a) compensation to Government servants or their dependants and also to those who helped Government, for injury or loss of life caused as a result of the political disturbances and (b) compensation to them for loss of property as a result of such disturbances.

The Government of India authorised the payment of compensation to their servants under the above circumstances and the Provincial Government also decided to follow the Government of India in these matters and accordingly sanctioned compensations amounting to Rs.28,772 to certain sufferers. For this purpose a sum of Rs.28,772 is required and the House is asked to vote this amount.

2.—The Central Government introduced control over cotton cloth and yarn in June 1943 by means of their Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, the main provisions of which required the final disposal by retail sale of all stocks of cotton cloth and yarn manufactured before the 1st August, 1943, by the 31st October, 1943 which date was subsequently altered to the 31st December 1943, and of all fresh supplies within six months from the date of packing by the mills, at prices not more than 20 per cent. above the *ex-mill* ceiling prices fixed by the Central Government's Textile Commissioner. The administration of this Order has been entrusted to the Provincial Government under the general directions of the Central Textile Commissioner, who has delegated some of his powers to the Provincial Authority, namely the Director of Industries. The cost of administration is, however, to be borne by the Provincial Government, who are meeting it out of the income from licence fees under the Assam Cotton Cloth and Yarn Dealers' Licensing Order. An amount of Rs.40,000 is needed to meet the approximate cost of the staff engaged for the administration of this Control.

3.—It is anticipated that the total expenditure during the current year on account of issue of free rations to Government servants will come to Rs.10,50,100, of which Rs.24,500 will be recovered from Central Government and others. In this connection the note below against item L may also be seen.

L.—No provision was made in the Budget for the year 1943-44 for issue of rice to Government servants at concessional prices or for issue of free rations as it was not anticipated that such a contingency would actually arise. But later on in view of the sudden and unprecedented rise in the price of rice Government decided to supply rice at concessional rates to Government servants drawing Rs.200 a month or less with effect from 1st June 1943. This concession was subsequently extended to Government servants drawing pay not exceeding Rs.300 a month with effect from 20th August 1943. Lastly Government allowed to all Government servants drawing a total pay not above Rs.200 the optional alternative of drawing free rations for themselves in lieu of dearness allowance and rice concessions with effect from 1st October 1943.

A total expenditure of Rs.41,42,300 will be required during the current year for supply of foodstuffs at concessional prices to Government servants, to sweepers of municipalities and to Medical establishment under local bodies, of which Rs.23,00,000 is expected to be recovered from the Central Government and others.

do not get accommodation in the Circuit Houses. Moreover when the prices of all these are so very high, in my opinion this money is unnecessary.

Then, Sir, against H, the explanation is "due to enhanced rate of municipal taxes and payment of arrear bills". Sir, this explanation is absolutely vague. Government have not explained where the municipal taxes have been increased, and for which year and place these arrear bills are outstanding. It is not that taxes had been increased in all the municipalities, in that case we could have understood the position easily. But nothing has been said regarding this. As the explanation is not at all convincing Government cannot get this amount.

Then, again, Sir, Government want money to meet the cost of the staff engaged for the administration of the Cloth Control Order. Sir, yesterday, my hon. Friend Mr. Chaudhuri told the House how people were feeling the great difficulty owing to the scarcity of the ordinary cloth used by the Indians, *viz.*, *dhuti*. So, when we are not getting any cloth in the market for our use I do not think there is any necessity for granting this amount under this Head. Sir, where is the cloth that will be stamped by these officers? If it is said that the cloth is there and the useless officers take months to stamp them, and in the meantime, people go without cloths, then there is no justification for voting this amount. Sir, Government are not only putting us into difficulty, but they themselves—as I explained the other day—are being deprived of some revenue under this Head. Mere issuing of licenses will not serve the purpose, nor people will take such licenses because they will be of no use to the traders unless they get cloths to sell. Then, Sir, so far as the license fees are concerned, I have got great objection to the realisation of such kind of fees. The other day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister told us that as these traders had made four, five or even six times profit in the past they should incur some loss at present. But, Sir, may I enquire who will ultimately bear this loss? The traders are not going to lose a single pie; they will realise their cost with compound interest from the consumers, and the poor consumers will ultimately suffer.

Then, Sir, if we come to item 3 under K of the Explanatory Note, we will find that the Government anticipate that the total expenditure during the current year on account of issue of free rations to Government servants will come to Rs.10,50,100, of which Rs.24,500 will be recovered from Central Government and others.

Sir, the other day while moving my Cut Motion No.8 under this head you enquired of me whether I was discussing my Cut Motion No.8 or No.9. It will now be clear to you, Sir, that these two Heads, have been explained together, and the losses due to free rations and those due to foodstuff supplied at concessional rates have been tagged together. So, it becomes difficult for us to understand the real position. I do not understand how can hon. Members vote all these amounts?

For all these reasons, Sir, I am under the painful necessity of expressing my disapproval to this Demand.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had taken some pains yesterday in explaining to Mr. Whittaker what a piece of *dhuti* was. I am afraid Mr. Whittaker has not received proper assistance from the President of the Standard Cloth Committee; otherwise, I should not have taken so much trouble yesterday in explaining what the bare clothing of an Indian means. Sir, the position is this: a large majority of the Indians put on *dhutis*, and most of the *dhutis* are manufactured in mills; by the orders of kind and gracious Government who thought that we were paying too much price for the *dhuties*, one fine morning directions were issued that the sale of these cloths should be stopped till they were baled and sealed. It took about a couple of months to seal up the bales. Everybody was expecting that some day these bales would be opened and again the mill-made cloths will see the light of the day. At long last the day dawned and in some cases orders were issued that they should be released and allowed to be sold. But when the officers went down and part of the bales were opened, on account of certain orders they had to be sealed again and the result is that up till yesterday these bales were not opened and no *dhuti* was available. So the cloths remain sealed and our mouths will

be sealed from tomorrow till we meet again probably at the end of this year and congratulate the Government on their success in saving some money from the nation building Departments.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this item "57.—Miscellaneous" consists of expenditure dealing with different Departments. Mr. Mookerjee has objected or rather wanted explanation of the fact that why in the Circuit Houses accommodation of the Heads of Departments and others are not provided and instead these are reserved for the military officers. As far as possible, Sir, in these days every effort is made to provide accommodation to civilians and in some of the Circuit Houses reservation is already made exclusively for the use of the civilians. The military officers when they do travel they also require accommodation quite as much as the civil officers. The explanation here is only in connection with crockery and furniture which, I think, Mr. Mookerjee will admit to be necessary.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: For whom?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: For those who stay in the Circuit House.

Then, Sir, 'Rates and Taxes'. Mr. Mookerjee wanted to know whether there has been an increase in the Rates and Taxes. Looking at the file, Sir, I find that in Tezpur there has been enhancement of Municipal taxes and this must be the case somewhere else also.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about the arrear bills of last year, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: There may be some arrear bills for which payment is to be made.

Both Mr. Mookerjee and Mr. Chaudhuri have complained about the administration of the Cloth Control Order. If the price of the cloth is to be lowered, we must enforce the Cloth Control Order of the Government of India and it is for this purpose officers have been appointed for the administration of this Cloth Control Order and I find from a note which has been just handed over to me that cloth worth Rs.50,000 has been released in Shillong and other places. Cloths are being released.....

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Even yesterday no *dhuti* was available even after I had spoken.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think, *dhuti* will be soon available in Shillong after stamping is completed.

These are the points, I think, Sir, raised in connection with the "Miscellaneous Departments", and these are all necessary expenditure and I hope the House will vote for the Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.29,86,755 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'."

The question was adopted.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 24

85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,77,18,008 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1944 for the administration of the head "85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	...	Re.
				1

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

A.—Grain Storage Scheme—

	Rs.
Expenditure on establishment and purchase of foodstuffs, etc.	3,11,48,400
<i>Deduct</i> —Receipts and recoveries on account of sale proceeds of foodstuffs.	—1,29,07,000

Total A ... 1,82,41,400

B.—Motor Transport Organisation—

Expenditure on establishment, purchase of Vehicles, etc.	45,49,800
<i>Deduct</i> —Recoveries on account of hire and sale of Vehicles.	—20,31,692

*Deduct*—amount financed from ordinary revenues ... +17,88,500

Total B ... 43,06,608

C.—Standard Cloth Scheme—

Expenditure on establishment and purchase of cloth ...	1,76,70,000
<i>Deduct</i> —Sale proceeds of cloth ...	—1,25,00,000

Total C ... 51,70,000

Total Demand 2,77,18,008

Sir, I have tried to explain† the necessity for this very big Demand. I myself am sorry, Sir, that three big items had to be lumped under 'A', 'B' and 'C' and I am afraid some hon. Members will criticise that these three items should not have been placed together. But in this matter we have to follow the ruling of the Audit Department and the Comptroller says that all these should come under the head "85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war" and therefore we had to lump these under one head.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 2,77,18,608 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1944 for the administration of the head '85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war'."

#### †EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—The total expenditure under the head was estimated at Rs. 1,68,58,000 in the original Budget including the amount of Rs. 15,00,000 for the purchase of Standard Cloth. Under a recent Audit ruling, provision has now been made for Standard Cloth under a separate sub-head "Scheme for supply of Standard Cloth." The provision for Grain Storage Scheme thus stands at Rs. 1,53,58,000. The total expenditure under the head is now estimated at Rs. 4,80,06,400, of which Rs. 1,51,400 represent establishment charges and Rs. 4,78,55,000 for purchase of foodstuffs, etc. Recoveries under this head are estimated at Rs. 3,12,77,000 against Rs. 1,83,70,000 anticipated in the original Budget. There will therefore be a net expenditure of Rs. 1,82,41,400 at the end of the current year for which a supplementary grant is necessary.

B.—In the original Budget for the current year it was anticipated the fleet of the Assam Motor Transport Organisation would be built up from 50 new Vehicles to about 200 by the end of the year and accordingly a provision of Rs. 19,58,500 was made for pay of staff, purchase of Vehicles, petrol, etc. The working of the Organisation however had to be expanded to a very large extent, and the fleet during the year rose to 460 new Vehicles, 410 of which are Lease Lend, with ramification throughout the Province necessitating a vast increase in expenditure on staff, stores, petrol and oil workshops and all ancillary services. The total expenditure during the year is now estimated at Rs. 65,08,300 or an increase of Rs. 45,49,800. The earnings of the Organisation have also increased and it is anticipated that Rs. 22,31,692 will be realised against Rs. 20,90,000 taken in the original Budget, of which Rs. 18,90 representing



Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion and, in doing so, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the following points:—

First of all, there is no stock of Gur. As far as I understand Government have purchased about 7,000 tons of Gur and they have been lying in the place of purchase, somewhere in Patna and Government have not been able to bring them from that place to Assam, for the last three months. As a result, Gur is gradually deteriorating in quality and by the time they reach Assam they would be unfit for food purpose.

Secondly, I heard yesterday from the Hon'ble Prime Minister that Steel Brothers, who are the Government Agents, are purchasing Lahi as well as Bardhan rice and this is not sorted, which means that they are distributing to the wholesaler from the Government stock. If that was true, Sir, we would have found even accidentally some fine rice in the open markets. Why do not we find anything but coarse rice in the open market? Where has all this Lahi rice gone? Have they been specially reserved for Government servants or Military Department? And if this procedure has been adopted why Government servants or the Military Department get preference in the matter of better quality of rice? Nothing as far as we know has been yet done for supply of finer quality of rice which is necessary for the hospitals and which is necessary by private persons during illness. What steps Government have taken to ensure supply of rice to hospitals and invalids?

Then, Sir, I also want to know what action is being taken by Government to prevent threatened shortage of mustard oil in the Province. I told the House the other day that although the Government agents have been purchasing mustard seeds since January of this year and although the purchases of seeds are being nearly completed in a month or two, only 30,000 maunds have been purchased as far as my information goes. With that supply how will the mills be able to run and it would be impossible to supply the necessary quantity of mustard oil unless some arrangement is made to get the supply from outside the Province.

As regards salt, I should think that 2 lakhs of maunds of salt which we have in stock is rather inadequate (*Hear, hear*) and that we should take steps immediately to get some more salt. I told the other day to the House that one firm of Bombay gave a definite assurance that they could bring in a large quantity of salt and make it available at at least Re.1 less than the controlled price. Why not Government come into touch with that firm; that will mean business. Then, Sir, in spite of the fact that Government has large stock of salt somewhere, it cannot be for a moment denied that salt is not available in the countryside at all. I know two days ago some people of Patidarang Mauza came and complained to me that for the last three months no dealer of salt was visible there and they could not get salt for the last two or three weeks; so there is something wrong. There cannot be any doubt that Government's intention is good. The charge of dishonesty or bribery may be brought against the servants of the Government but the fact remains that the villagers in the country side are not getting supply of salt. So some real and earnest efforts must be made to give the necessary supply of salt.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Motion.

earnings of the Organisation was taken under the revenue head "L.—Extraordinary Receipts". The earnings recorded this year would have been much greater but for the fact that the bulk of the new Vehicles arrived very late and a great part of the receipts recoverable from the Military will not be actually received before the close of the year and will be taken in 1944-45 Budget. The lag at the end of the year will thus stand at Rs. 42,76,608. It was at first proposed to meet the running expenses of the Organisation from the ordinary revenues of the Province by a debit to "63.—Extraordinary charges" and accordingly a sum of Rs. 17,88,500 was provided under the above head by a minus provision under the capital head "Motor Transport Organisation", but it was decided after the Budget was framed, under an Audit ruling, that, as the scheme is being worked entirely on a commercial basis all expenditure thereon should be shown under the capital head concerned and all the receipts from sale of Vehicles and earnings should be taken as reduction of expenditure. Accordingly the grant under this scheme at the end of the year will now be exceeded by Rs. 43,06,608 and a supplementary grant of this amount is necessary.

C.—The total expenditure is estimated to be Rs. 1,76,70,000, of which Rs. 60,000 on account of establishment and Rs. 1,76,10,000 for purchase of cloth, against which a sum of Rs. 1,25,00,000 will be recovered. The net expenditure at the end of the year will thus stand at Rs. 51,70,000 for which a supplementary grant is necessary.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection while opposing the Motion, I would also like to bring some facts before the House. Sir, has Hon'ble Premier at the very outset has admitted that these three big items have been placed under one head, according to the ruling of the Audit Department. Sir, on a previous occasion I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the way in which the lump-sum under these three heads are shown in the Budget. Sir, when the original Grant was brought before the House last year, I raised objection of such a Token Demand. Sir, in the Explanatory Note we find that the Government utterly failed to visualise the real situation. They themselves have admitted that the amount they thought would be required for the purpose proved insufficient and specially Sir, some portion of the note is not clear to me. The last sentence "There will therefore be a net expenditure of Rs.1,82,41,400 at the end of the current year for which a supplementary grant is necessary". How can this amount be the net expenditure under this Head for the year? The explanation is useless for our purpose.

Sir, under B, the total expenditure during the year, it has been said, is now estimated at Rs.65,08,300 or an increase of Rs.45,49,800. Here also, Sir, we do not know in which way the money is being spent. Only one or two broad Heads are given, namely, purchase of vehicles, Establishment cost, etc. Sir, it is very difficult to take part in the discussion of such an item. One cannot boldly say whether there is something wrong, or the money is being spent properly, and also whether we are voting the amount with our full knowledge and clear conscience. At the same time, it is also very difficult to say anything definitely against it. So it is a peculiar position for us to say either against or in favour of it. Sir, in this connection, I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to enlighten us about calculating the income that will be deducted under this Head from the expenditure as it has been stated in the last part of the explanation namely:—

"That, as the scheme is being worked entirely on a commercial basis all expenditure thereon should be shown under the capital Head concerned and all the receipts from the sale of Vehicles and earning should be taken as reduction of expenditure". Now, Sir, as it has been expected by us and also explained by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, that a time may come when there will be excess of receipts and the expenditure will be less than the receipts; I do not understand how this amount will be accounted for. It may be very well said and we have also seen that by putting a *minus* figure the task may be over so far as paper account is concerned but in actual field what will happen is not quite clear either from the Explanatory Note or from the Budget memorandum.

Then, Sir, I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to enlighten us about another point.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The way in which the hon. Member is proceeding will not enable the Hon'ble Prime Minister to enlighten him.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is the last point I am touching, Sir, under this branch.

It has been found that Government is going to pay more than Rs.1,50,000 as interest and it has been explained that for meeting the expenditure under the Head "Capital Outlay of the Province" we had to raise a loan and the interest will have to be paid for that. It is not understood whether the proportionate interest on the money spent under this Head has been included as expenditure at the time of making this calculation and showing us a net income under this Head.

As regards Standard Cloth much has been said before. This Department has utterly failed. So I oppose the Motion *in toto* as the people of the Province have derived no benefit out of all these.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot understand how my hon. Friends can object to vote supplies for stocks about which they spoke so much that Government had failed to bring in proper supplies. It is for the supply of those very articles of food-stuff for which my hon. Friends pressed Government so much that we incurred these expenditures.

Mr. Chaudhuri is quite correct that the stock of *gur* is practically nil in the Province but he is not correct when he says that Government's purchase is lying at Patna and deteriorating due to our inability to bring them here. We placed orders for the supply of *gur* with the United Provinces Government and we have been informed that they are sending *gur* very shortly. Probably this month or by the middle of the next month we expect the *gur* to arrive in Assam from the United Provinces Government. Therefore, we hope to be able to meet the demand of our Province in respect of *gur*.

My hon. Friend also mentioned about the shortage of mustard oil. In this respect we are handicapped for want of transport and loss in transit. I have mentioned the other day that we brought 10,000 tins of mustard oil from Cawnpore, and out of these 10,000 tins nearly 2,000 tins reached destination empty as the old tin containers leaked. So, the rate payers lost that amount without being able to utilise the oil and since then we have stopped bringing mustard oil from outside on Government account. We also tried to purchase through our Government agents mustard seeds that are available in the Province and as my hon. Friend has said that in the Lower Assam districts, in the district of Goalpara and in the Barpeta Subdivision they have purchased till the middle of this month about 30,000 maunds of mustard seeds. They applied to the Supply Department for facilitating transport to Gauhati. We wrote to the Railway Authorities but they were unable to provide any wagon. Thereafter we have asked them that the wagons, at least one wagon, meant for the transport of rice should be placed at their disposal so that the seeds might be brought to Gauhati. It has been arranged with some of the mills of Gauhati to produce mustard oil out of the quantities of seed supplied to them and distribute oil according to the Government orders to different parts of the country and they will get, as commission, I think, at the rate of Rs.7 for producing one maund of mustard oil.

As regards salt, the position is rather peculiar. We had on the first of March about 2,80,000 maunds of salt in stock in Assam. I admitted the other day that it is not sufficient even for six weeks' consumption of the Province. We wanted to get as much salt as possible not only from Bombay but also from Calcutta and from the Northern India Salt Factories, but we were informed by the Government of India that the Purbandar Port had been closed and they could not allow us to transport salt from the Northern India Salt Factories as they could not provide railway wagons for transport across India. We were informed by the Government of India that we should try to get salt from Calcutta. In Calcutta recently price of salt was Rs.19 per bag. If we purchased salt at that price in Calcutta and brought it to Gauhati, its price would go up to Rs.21 per bag. As Government controlled price is Rs.14, no private trader was willing to bring salt into Assam. The Government of Bengal fixed a control price at Rs.11-8 for a bag of salt and we have arranged with them for supply of salt for our Province to the extent of 10 per cent. of all salt imported there. I have sent Mr. Marar to Calcutta for this purpose.

My Friend. Mr. Chaudhuri, also mentioned about the procurement by Government of Joha rice for the Assam Valley Districts and probably Kalijira rice for Sylhet. Everyone knows that the percentage of such fine rice, produced in the Province, is only one per cent. and it is used for the luxury of the wealthy people. If we are asked to control price of this rice also, it would be opening scope for corruption. Because in place of fine rice a mixture of it will be sold as fine rice and people will be duped to buy it at higher price. Almost all house-holders who are bigger cultivators grow this kind of rice for their personal use and those who are accustomed to this kind of rice can very well get it by paying high price. We have not controlled price of this rice, for we have controlled only price of common rice.

As regards hospitals, they generally use Sagu, and barley rather than rice and up till now no complaint has been made to us that their patients are suffering for want of Lahi and Joha rice.

Next, I take Mr. Mookerjee's point. He has legitimately complained that he has not been able to understand what we have stated in our Explanatory Note. I think if he read it a little more carefully he would have found not much difficulty at

all. He condemned me but did not look up part 'A' of the Explanatory Note. At page 20 of the said note I said that the total expenditure under the Head is now estimated at Rs. 4,80,06,400, of which Rs. 1,51,400 represent Establishment charges and Rs. 4,78,55,000 for purchase of food-stuffs, etc. Recoveries under this Head are estimated at Rs. 3,12,77,000 against Rs. 1,83,70,000 anticipated in the original Budget. Therefore although there is an increase in our capital outlay there is also increase in recoveries and the sum total is that we require a net expenditure of Rs. 1,82,41,400 at the end of the current year and it is the amount that I have asked for.

Then, again my Friend mentioned about B—Assam Motor Transport Organisation. I say that what we could not foresee was that Rs. 65 lakhs would be required for purchasing vehicles. In this case we are depending on the Central Government. We are not given these lorries at one time. They are issued to us piecemeal say one hundred in a quarter. Next they issue two hundred or three hundred in another quarter. In this way, as soon as these vehicles are received in Assam, then only we ascertain what amount to be paid as price. Therefore it was impossible for the Government to come to a definite idea as to what would be the exact amount that we would have to pay to the Government of India as price of vehicles. Lastly, Sir, his other objection, that if the expenditure is shown as debit and realisation is shown as reduction of expenditure then there may come a time when our income may be greater than the expenditure. How can that be explained, he queried. If my Friend sees Demand No. 21 at page 16 of the Order Paper he will find how this will be accounted for. My Hon'ble Friend the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department only wanted one rupee as a Supplementary Demand because his total income will be greater than the expenditure that he will put out. Therefore, I hope, my Friend will now be able to understand this Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs. 2,77,18,008 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1944 for the administration of the head '85A.—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the war'.”

The question was adopted.

### Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., of the clock on Saturday, the 25th March, 1944.

*Shillong:*

*The 17th May, 1944.*

A. K. BARUA,

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*