



Proceedings of the Sixth Session of the Second Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government
of India Act, 1935, as adapted

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M., on
Saturday, the 19th March, 1949.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight
Hon'ble Ministers and forty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Assam-Calcutta Air Link

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

*1. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to make Rupshi,
which has her first class runway, a halting station between Gauhati and Cooch-
Behar in Assam-Calcutta Air Link ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not, why not ?

*2. (a) Are Government aware or have received report to the effect that
some chartered planes land at Rupshi ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to stop such unauthorised
landing ?

*3. (a) Are Government aware or have received reports that some chartered
planes carry smuggled commodities from and to Calcutta and land at Rupshi ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to stop smuggling by the plane ?

*4. (a) Are Government aware or have received report to the effect that
commodities from some of the chartered planes landing at Rupshi were lately
seized by the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken in respect of these commodities ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

1. (a)—No. This is a matter for the Air Transport Licensing Board of
India to decide.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Rupshi air-field belongs to the Defence Ministry, Government of
India and even though it has been declared surplus to the requirements of that
Ministry, the Director-General of Civil Aviation in India does not propose to
acquire this air-field for civil aviation purposes. Hence it is not possible to
extend the service to this Air-field at present. The Government of Assam have
been in correspondence with the Government of India with a view to acquiring
this Air-field. As soon as this is done and the necessary radio facilities installed,
we shall approach the Director-General, Civil Aviation in India for extension
of the air service to Dhubri.

2. (a)—Yes.

(b)—These landings on this air-strip by chartered air-craft carrying only
goods is not unauthorised under the Indian Air-craft Act, 1934 and the Indian
Air-craft Rules, 1937.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA**: Without any permission from the Government, can they land anywhere they like?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: They can land in all air-strips.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

3. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Information has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara.

But I could add as a supplementary information that what could not possibly be done according to the Air-craft Rules, the Deputy Commissioner might do under the Rules of control regarding certain commodities.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Basic Scheme of Education

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN asked :

15. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the Basic Scheme of Education as introduced in the Province is going to be on permanent or temporary basis?

(b) Whether Graduates who receive Basic Training in Wardha and Delhi are considered to be lower in status than those who work in the High School services?

(c) Whether High School teachers get better pay than those who work in the Basic Schools?

(d) If the answers to Questions (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this discrimination?

16. (a) Are Government aware of the hardship of teachers who come from various parts of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills for Training in the Lady Reid Basic Training centre in Shillong for want of house accommodation?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make the Lady Reid Basic School into a residential school?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

15. (a)—The intention of Government is to make Basic Education in the Primary stage permanent.

(b)—No.

(c)—Basic Schools comprise of senior and junior Basic schools and are compared with Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools respectively. As such the pay of Basic School teachers cannot be strictly compared with that of High School teachers.

(d)—Does not arise.

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: Are Government aware of a letter sent to the Assistant Superintendent of the Lady Reid Basic Training Centre in Shillong telling her that since she has taken up work in the Basic school, her status will be lower than that of a High School teacher ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): No, Sir.

***Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA:** In view of what is stated in reply to Question 15 (c), are we to take it that though the Basic school teachers are not lower in status in comparison to the High School teachers, their pay is to be lower than the pay of the High School teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Reply to Question 15 (c) clearly explains the fact. These teachers will be in the same category as the teachers of the Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

16. (a)—No. We have received no complaint of such hardship.

(b)—Does not arise.

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN: Will Government take it from me that many teachers from the interior villages could not come to the training centre here for want of accommodation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We are aware that in certain cases it has not been possible ; but in most other training schools this has been done. This may be true in the case of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills institution. The matter will be looked into.

Projects taken under the Self-Help Board's recommendation in the Garo Hills

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM** asked :

17. Will Government be pleased to state in tabular form :—

(a) The total number of projects taken on the recommendation of the Self-Help Board in the Garo Hills since its inception ?

(b) (i) The name of each project,

(ii) The number of Mouza in which such project falls, and

(iii) The amount of money sanctioned for each such project ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

17. (a)—No recommendations have been received by Government yet. The first meeting of the Board is to be held on 18th March 1949.

(b)—Does not arise.

✓ ***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** May I know why the meetings were not held earlier ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): These meetings are called according to the number of applications or enterprises about which recommendations have to be made. It may be that in the case of

Garó Hills the number of such enterprises were not much in the beginning, and since some enterprises have been taken in hand, and the meeting has been called now.

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: If the meeting is held on the 18th of March, how the money would be disbursed during this year?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): I see no difficulty, Sir.

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Will it not be lapsed on the 31st of March?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): No, that is a wrong impression. As a matter of fact these subdivisional funds never lapse. These funds are kept in personal ledger accounts and therefore these funds do not lapse.

Rural Development Officer

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked:

18. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The reasons why Rural Development Officers have been appointed with different grades of pay and why some have been appointed with pay exceeding the efficiency bar?
- (b) Whether these Officers are paid daily allowance of Rs.5 and also travelling allowance at the rate admissible to a Government Officer of the first grade?
- (c) The reasons why they have considered it necessary to appoint a Special Co-operative Propaganda Officer when the Rural Development Officers and Panchayat Officers with a complete staff have already been appointed for organising and popularising the Rural Development Scheme?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

18. (a)—All Rural Development Officers are appointed on the same grade of pay but their initial salaries have been fixed on the basis of their ages and experience while fixing initial salaries on this basis some officers might have automatically crossed the efficiency bar.

(b)—No. They get daily allowance of Rs.4 and travelling allowance admissible to 2nd grade Gazetted Officer.

(c)—The Co-operative Propaganda Officer has been appointed primarily for the purpose of preparing propaganda literature on the co-operative movement which will be utilised by the field workers of the Rural Development Department as well as the Co-operative Department.

He is also expected to hold meetings for the purpose of educating the public in co-operative principles.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Cannot the functions of the Co-operative Propaganda Officer be discharged by some of the Assistant Directors of Co-operative Department as regards preparation of literature?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): There is no Assistant Director of Co-operative Department. I think, the hon. Member means the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Department. His hands are full with other works of the Department and it is not possible for him to take up these works.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, cannot then this work be entrusted to some Inspector of the Co-operative Department?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Inspectors are already there, Sir. Possibly the necessity of this officer was felt for the preparation of literatures which are so essential for educating the people about the Co-operative movement.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: We no doubt appreciate the necessity of preparing some literature, but we consider that this post is an avoidable one and his function can very well be discharged by some Inspector of Co-operative Department. Moreover this work of preparing some literature will not take much time. It can be finished within a few months if not weeks.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): That is a matter of opinion.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know the name of the Co-operative Propaganda Officer?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): His name is Krishna Nath Bhuyan.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** May I know his qualifications, Sir?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): This is a new question, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know how many honorary Organisers there are?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): At present we have no honorary Organisers. We have not appointed any for the past year, as we thought it necessary to postpone the appointment of honorary Organisers till we finally decide our Co-operative Reorganisation Plan.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** I beg to draw your kind attention to what the Parliamentary Secretary said regarding the qualifications of the Propaganda Officer. The Government appointed certain gentlemen with certain responsibility to prepare literature and hold meetings. It is expected that Government should know his qualification.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I did not mean that Government did not know the qualification. I wanted simply to point out that this is a new question. So far as I remember he is an M. A., but with regard to the particular subject in which he passed his M. A. examination, I am sorry, Sir, I do not remember.

* Speech not corrected.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Then he is not specially trained in Co-operative movement affairs ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): No, but still his services were considered necessary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So he was appointed on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Yes, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government consider whether the duties to be performed by the Propaganda Officer can be entrusted with the Rural Development Officers ? We want to see that there should be no duplication of offices.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) No.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I only want to suggest to Government.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is not the way to bring up this matter.

Removal of Railway Station from Gauhati Town

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

19. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Transport aware that the frequent closing of the Railway gates in the Gauhati town owing to frequent runnings of trains causes great disadvantage to the general public ?

(b) Does the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge propose to represent to the proper quarters to remove the Railway station from the heart of the Gauhati town to a suitable place in the suburb ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

19. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** In view of the urgency and importance of the matter will Government be pleased to expedite the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This is not within the jurisdiction of this Government. It is not known also how far it will suit the Railway Authorities to effect the change which the hon. Member has proposed in the question. But some kind of representation has already been made, and it is not surely opposed to the removal of the Railway line from there. But I could state for the information of the hon. Member that steps have already been taken to point out the grave inconvenience to which the public are being put on account of the Railway gates being closed sometimes

for more than half an hour. I myself was a victim to it and was going to lose my appointment in a very important meeting that was held in the Circuit House. I was detained for 20 minutes. Government are fully cognisant about it. They have made representation to the Railway Authorities, but I do not know what steps they are taking for removing this inconvenience.

Quantity of Corrugated Iron Sheets allotted to Assam

Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI asked :

20. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many bundles of C. I. Sheets have been allotted to Assam per quarter ?
- (b) How many bundles of C. I. Sheets Assam actually received during the last two quarters ?
- (c) How many bundles of C. I. Sheets were actually given to each subdivision during the last two quarters ?
- (d) Whether the full quota of C. I. Sheets have arrived regularly in this province ?
- (e) If not, what are the reasons for it ?
- (f) Whether Government are aware that thatch having been very costly and rare, building works have been greatly handicapped for want of roofing materials and that the demand for C. I. Sheets has become very great.
- (g) Whether Government are aware that the need of C. I. Sheets for building residential houses in Assam is much greater than in other provinces in India ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to impress upon the Government of India the urgency of the housing problem in Assam and how essential C. I. Sheets are for solving this problem ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to take some effective steps for bringing the allotted quota of C. I. Sheets in full to Assam regularly ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA, (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

20. (a)—The quantity of C. I. Sheets allotted to Assam varies from quarter to quarter. The quantity allotted during the last two periods *i. e.* quarters of 1948 is 275 tons in the 3rd quarter *i. e.* 3,575 bundles if of 26 gauge or 2,750 bundles if of 24 gauge and 234.5 tons in the 4th quarter, *i. e.* 3,048.5 bundles if of 26 gauge or 2,345 bundles if of 24 gauge.

(b)—The C. I. Sheets were allotted to Assam in terms of tons and the quantity actually received during the last two quarters is as follows:—

3rd quarter, 1948	...	...	...	...	515 bundles.
4th quarter, 1948	...	...	...	...	707 bundles.

(c)—A list of distribution of C. I. Sheets subdivision by subdivision is given below :—

Statement showing Distribution of C. I. Sheets subdivision by subdivision during the third quarter and 4th quarter 1948

Serial No.	Subdivision	Quarter—3rd quarter 1948				Quarter—4th quarter 1948			
		Tons	Bundles if of 24 gauge	Bundles if of 26 gauge		Tons	Bundles if of 24 gauge	Bundles if of 26 gauge	
1	Silchar	16½	= 165	or 214½	12	= 120	or 156		
2	Hailakandi .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	North Cachar Hills ..	2¾	= 27½	or 35¾	2	= 20	or 26		
4	Karimganj	8½	= 82½	or 107½	5	= 50	or 65		
5	Jorhat	13¾	= 137½	or 178¾	11	= 110	or 143		
6	Sibsagar	13¾	= 137½	or 178¾	13	= 130	or 169		
7	Golaghat	5½	= 55	or 71½	8	= 80	or 104		
8	Dibrugarh	22	= 220	or 286	17	= 170	or 221		
9	North Lakhimpur ..	5½	= 55	or 71½	10	= 100	or 130		
10	Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	22	= 220	or 286	18	= 180	or 234		
11	Lushai Hills	4	= 40	or 52	3	= 30	or 39		
12	Naga Hills	8½	= 82½	or 107½	7	= 70	or 91		
13	Sadiya Frontier Tract ..	5½	= 55	or 71½	5	= 50	or 65		
14	Tirap Frontier Tract ..	2¾	= 27½	or 35¾	2	= 20	or 26		
15	Abor Hills .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	Gauhati	33	= 330	or 429	25	= 250	or 325		
17	Barpeta	13¾	= 137½	or 178¾	15	= 150	or 195		
18	Dhubri	24¾	= 247½	or 321¾	20	= 200	or 260		
19	Goalpara	11	= 110	or 143	11	= 110	or 143		
20	Tezpur	13¾	= 137½	or 178¾	10	= 100	or 130		
21	Mangaldai	11	= 110	or 143	13½	= 135	or 175½		
22	Balipara Frontier Tract ..	1½	= 15	or 19½	2	= 20	or 26		
23	Garo Hills	5½	= 55	or 71½	5	= 50	or 65		
24	Nowgong	24¾	= 247½	or 321¾	20	= 200	or 260		

(d) & (e)—The full quotas of C. I. Sheets did not arrive regularly in the province due to transport difficulties and booking restrictions.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—It is a matter of opinion but Government is aware that there is great demand for C. I. Sheets in the province.

(h)—Yes. Steps have already been taken to impress upon the Government of India, the urgency of the housing problem in Assam and as a result the quota of C. I. Sheets has been increased by reducing the quota of other categories.

(i)—Yes. A Handling Agent has been appointed at Calcutta for bringing the quota of C. I. Sheets in full to Assam regularly.

***Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA:** It is ostensible from the list that in the third and fourth quarters of 1948 no quota was allotted to Hailakandi. Is it the information of the Government that there is no demand or urgent necessity for C. I. sheets for Hailakandi?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): I will look into the matter, Sir.

***Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN:** In the list of Khasi and Jaintia Hills is the State portion included?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Yes, the State portion has been included.

***Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV:** Who is the Handling agent at Calcutta to bring the quota to Assam?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): A firm of Shillong has been appointed as the handling agent in Calcutta for Assam and the name of the Firm is M/S. Kedarmal Keshardeo.

***Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Regarding Questions 20 (d) & (e) Sir. How is it that the Government could not bring the full quota of C. I. Sheets due to transport difficulties but the private parties could bring C. I. Sheets from Calcutta and they are selling C. I. Sheets at exorbitant rate?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): As a matter of fact, Sir, unless C. I. Sheets are smuggled no other dealer can bring them. So far as smugglers are concerned they have adopted various tactics just to bring C. I. Sheets.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, is it a fact that the lapsed quota of C. I. Sheets has become the property of the Handling agent?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): No Sir, they cannot be the property of the Handling agent.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Sir, whether C. I. Sheets are available outside the quota of Assam?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): No Sir, C. I. Sheets are not available outside the allotted quota.

We have seen in the Press that in Dhubri some people smuggled a large quantity of C. I. Sheets numbering about 1,000 bundles. This was detected and some bundles of C. I. Sheets have been detected in Upper Assam also and these have since been seized.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS :** Sir, in view of the demand for C. I. Sheets will Government be pleased to permit private parties to bring C. I. Sheets from Calcutta ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : How Government can permit smuggling of C. I. Sheets, Sir ?

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS :** If private parties are permitted by Government they can go and bring C. I. Sheets from open market.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA :** Sir, according to my information, C. I. Sheets are available in Calcutta even outside the quota. (*A voice :—* In black market the price for C. I. Sheets per bundle is Rs.100 minimum).

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : Whatever it may be, the C. I. Sheets must have been smuggled. This Province cannot get anything beyond the allotted quota.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Sir, I want to put one supplementary question.

We have come to know from the Parliamentary Secretary that C. I. Sheets have been smuggled to Assam. May I know whether there is any condition of law to penalise those people who smuggled them ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : Yes Sir, according to the Iron and Steel Control Order they come under restriction.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Sir, we could learn that nothing could be done against those smugglers and the Government have seized the smugglers only. Such thing should not be encouraged by Government.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA :** Sir, whether possession of C.I. Sheets without permit is objectionable ?

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Not only possession, selling and at the same time at higher rate ?

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS :** Sir, people are constructing houses and they do not get C.I. Sheets and if they bring them from black-market will they be penalised ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : Sir, I will examine the matter. I cannot say off-hand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Under the Controlled Commodities Order, I think, it is an offence to sell C.I. sheets without permits.

*Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Sir, we want to use for our own houses.

*Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, if anything is done in Calcutta whether it would be an offence under the Government of West Bengal?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Well, it is a public policy.

Monthly quota of rice allotted to people of Khyriem, Myllichem and Cherra States and of Jowai Subdivision

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked:

21. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (1) The monthly quota of rice allotted separately to the people of Khyriem, Myllichem and Cherra States and to the War people of the Jowai Subdivision?
- (2) Are Government aware that the War people of the Jowai Subdivision do not get a regular supply of their quota of rice?
- (3) Whether these States people get a regular supply of rice?
- (4) Are Government aware that the War people of the Jowai Subdivision have to go to Shillong 10 or 12 times a month to obtain their quota of rice even then they generally do not get their full quota?
- (5) Are Government aware that this causes great inconvenience and hardships to the people?
- (6) Who are the officers responsible for this irregularity?
- (7) Do Government propose to cause an enquiry to be made and punish those officers responsible for this state of affairs?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

21. (1)—(a) Khyriem State 16,056 maunds monthly.
 (b) Myllichem State 5,132 maunds monthly.
 (c) Cherra State 3,852 maunds monthly.
 (d) Jowai Subdivision—

War area 4,732 maunds monthly.

The actual quantity issued at present is 4,196 maunds only as 2 permit-holders of some villages in Satpator Doloiship have not deposited the security as laid down by Government nor asked for the permits.

(2)—No, the War people of the Jowai Subdivision are being supplied as regularly as the people of the other parts of the district and there has been no discrimination at all.

(3)—Yes.

(4)—Supply is usually made once a week but when recently these dealers were given a month's supply at a time they could not lift the entire quota at a time for want of funds and transport.

(5)—Does not arise.

(6)—Does not arise.

(7)—If the hon. Member cites some specific cases the matter will be enquired into.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, with regard to question No. 21 I may be permitted to say that the subject of this question is not within the responsibility of the Provincial Legislature but His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to take the Provincial Legislature into confidence and release the informations so that the hon. Members may co-operate in the matter ensuring peace and prosperity in all parts of the Province.

***Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN:** Can we ask supplementary question on this ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

***Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM:** Sir, can I cite a specific case in writing ?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Yes, Sir.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

22. (a) Are Government aware that the Tezpur-Balipara Railway is a very old railway ?

(b) Are Government aware that the few Engines and the open passengers compartments and wagons in the Tezpur-Balipara Railway have become very old and that they are not safe for carrying passengers or loads ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to represent to the proper authority so that necessary steps are taken immediately for the extension of the Assam Railway between Rangapara North and Tezpur Town ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

22. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—No. The Inspector of Railways whose duty it is to inspect regularly the railway and rolling stock has not reported that their use is attended with danger to the public using them. Government have, however, received complaints about hardships suffered by the travelling public due to the unsatisfactory state of working of this Railway. They have approached the Government of India who are exploring ways and means of effecting the desired improvement by obtaining a new locomotive for this Railway. The question of converting this Railway into a metre-gauge one can, under terms of the lease of the company, be considered only after 1952.

***Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Question No.22(a). Can I get a reply from the Railway Minister ?

(A voice—There is no Railway Minister here).

***Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Sir, since when the Tezpur-Balipara Railway has been operating ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: I suppose it is more than 50 years now. In this connection I may say that this was really a subject-matter for discussion between the Hon'ble Minister, Government of India, in the Railway Department, and the Government of Assam. We heard about the inconvenience of the passengers and we are of the same opinion as the hon. Questioner, but, Sir, it was found that the Inspector of Railways, who is really the authority to certify about the utility of engines and things of this kind, had certified that the engines were in running order. We did definitely point out that that was far from truth. Any way, Sir, the reply that we have given is according to the communication from the Government of India that they will try to get some engines for this Rail- way. They pointed out the difficulties about getting these engines from other parts of India, but nevertheless they said that they would make very serious attempts to get them.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: This is with regard to engines, but what about the compartments, Sir? On Sundays and *hat* days the train is overcrowded, and it is very dangerous to travel in open compart- ments. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge bring this to the notice of the Tezpur-Balipara Railway authorities?

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: Sir, I can say for the information of the hon. Member that this entire line is run under the old Tramway Act, according to which certain standards are insisted on for taking passengers and things of that kind. I do not think we can help the hon. Member by asking the Company to have closed compartments. But the question will really arise in 1952 when the term of the lease is expected to terminate and the question of having a meter gauge line is expected into consideration by the Government of India. This assurance has been given to us by the Government of India.

Travelling difficulty by train from Parbotipur to Tinsukia

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

23. Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—
- Whether he is aware that travel by Railway from Parbotipur to Tinsukia in the Bengal-Assam Railway is extremely difficult?
 - Whether he is aware or received reports to the effect that the passen- gers have to bribe the Management at Parbotipur to secure a seat?
 - Whether he is aware that this travelling difficulty by train can be minimised by making necessary arrangement for placing more car- riages in the line?
 - What practical step the Hon'ble Minister has taken to mitigate the sufferings of the travelling public?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

23. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—Yes.

(d)—This Government have moved the Government of India to establish as early as possible a Railway work-shop in Assam and have impressed upon them the urgent need of setting up immediately some emergent repairs and maintenance organisation. As soon as this is done, the position of rolling stock will improve.

*Srijut **BELIRAM DAS**: Will Government be pleased to send some officers to ascertain my allegation that the passengers have got to pay money in securing a seat in the trains at Parbatipur? Even the passengers have got to go to a garage to bring their tickets.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Your supplementary question is with regard to which question please?

*Srijut **BELIRAM DAS**: It is with regard to Question No.23(b).

*Srijut **SARAT CHANDRA SINHA**: Sir, the answer is negative, but our opinion is positive.

Secretaries of Trading Societies

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

24. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many applicants applied from Cachar for appointment as Secretaries of Trading Societies?
- (b) Whether any one of them was selected?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (d) Whether any outsider got any such appointment from outside the Department of Co-operative?
- (e) If so, why none was considered from Cachar who applied from other important departments of Government?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

24. (a)—According to the list furnished by the Public Service Commission there were 37 applicants from that district.

(b)—Two were selected for appointment as Secretaries and three as Branch Managers, Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Limited.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Selection of candidates was made by the Assam Public Service Commission and it was not the intention of Government to confine these appointments to Government servants alone.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: With regard to (b), Sir, may I know whether any non-official candidate was selected, and if not, whether there was no deserving person among the non-official candidates; and of those selected for appointment whether any one was appointed from Cachar?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Your question was: "Whether any of them (any of the Cachar candidates) was selected?" The answer given is "Two were selected for appointment as Secretaries and three as Branch Managers, Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Limited". Is not it a complete answer?

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: My question is that of those selected whether any one was appointed?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): They must have been appointed in the meantime, or are being appointed.

***Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV:** With regard to (d), may I know how many outsiders were appointed?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): The number of outsiders may be three Sir, but I am not quite sure about it.

Co-operative Farm at Bogibil'-Chaulkhowa in Dibrugarh

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI asked:

25. (a) Are Government aware that a Co-operative Farm has been opened at Bogibill-Chaulkhowa in Dibrugarh?

(b) If so how much lands have been granted and who are the member of the said farm?

(c) Is it a fact some lands already in occupation of some people have been given to the said farm?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received objections from those actual occupants of the land?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

25. (a)—No Co-operative Farm such as described has been registered by Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: With regard to (a), should this Co-operative Farm then be dubbed as a bogus Farm?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): The thing is that Sir, until a society has been registered by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies it is illegal to call it a Co-operative Society, and the Co-operative Department takes no responsibility for such a Society.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমাত যিখন কো-অপাৰেটিভ ফাৰ্ম খোলা হৈছে তাক বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰা নাই বুলি কৈছে। ফাৰ্মৰ নিমিত্তে তাত ক'ৰবাত মাটি select কৰা হৈছেনে?

Voices:—Does not arise

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মোৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কো-অপাৰেটিভ ফাৰ্ম বেঞ্জিণ্টাৰ কৰা হোৱা নাই বুলি কৈছে। এই সম্পৰ্কে ডিব্ৰুগড় অঞ্চলত ক'বৰাত মাটি select কৰা হৈছেনে?

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): The question of my hon. Friend is a vague one, and it is difficult for me to reply.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: কেইমাহ মানৰ আগতে মাননীয় 'চাপ্লাই' নিনিষ্টাৰে তাত তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ যোৱা সঁচানে?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Supply is not Co-operative.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: কেইমাহ মানৰ আগত ৰাইজে মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী, বেভিনিউ মন্ত্ৰী আৰু চাপ্লাই মন্ত্ৰীলৈ সেই বিষয়ে আবেদন কৰাটো সঁচানে আৰু এই বিষয় জানিব পাৰেনে?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker Sir, I think I must intervene at this stage and clarify the position.

ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ গবৰ্ণৰীয়া বোলা ঠাই এডোখৰত Tractor ৰে বেতি কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে, ইয়াৰ লগতে লাগি থকা চাউলখোৱা চাপৰিটোও ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত গুণুৱাবলৈ যত্ন কৰা হৈছে। এই চাপৰিটো এতিয়াও Revenue বিভাগৰ Notification মতে Professional Grazing Reserve হিচাপে বিজাৰ্ত আছে। আৰু এই অঞ্চলত কিছুমান মিৰি সিপাৰৰ পৰা আহি বসতি কৰি আছে, তেওঁলোকে ইয়াত Tractor ৰে বেতি কৰোৱাত আপত্তি কৰিছিল আৰু নই যোৱা ২৮ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী তাৰিখে তালৈ গৈ কথাঘাৰ গীমাংসা কৰি দি আহিছোঁ। আৰু তেওঁলোকে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আছিল উদ্দেশ্য বুজাত এতিয়া আন ৰাইজৰ লগত সহযোগে কাম কৰিবলৈ মান্তি হৈছে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: তাত ভোগ দখল কৰি থকা মিৰি ৰাইজে যে মাটি দিবলৈ আপত্তি কৰিছে এই কথা সঁচানে?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপত্তি শুনিলে নহয়?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: সেইটো Professional Grazing Reserve. সেই কাৰণে সেই ভোগৰ মাটি কেনেকৈ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰি সেই সম্বন্ধে বেভিনিউ ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টৰ লগত লিখালিপি চলি আছে। Professional Grazing Reserve হলেও তাত কিছুমান মিৰি মানুহে সোমাই আছে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: তাত Police force ৰখা সঁচানে আৰু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত কৰিবনে? Police force ৰখাৰ নিমিত্তে যে মিৰি ৰাইজৰ মাজত অসন্তোষৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে এইটো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে জানেনে?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Police force ৰখাৰ খনৰ পাইছোঁ। তাত থকা Tractor কুঠাৰেৰে ভাঙিবৰ কাৰণে কিছুমান বাহিৰা মানুহে উত্তেজিত কৰিছিল। আৰু এনে এটা অৱস্থাত পুলিচৰ প্ৰয়োজন হোৱাত তাত Police force ৰখা হৈছে বুলি খবৰ পাইছোঁ।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: মিরি বাইজে ভোগ দখল কৰি খেতি কৰি থকা মাটিত যে Tractor চলাইছিল এই কথা সচাঁনে ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: আগতে কোৱা হৈছে যে তাত মিরি বাইজৰ ভোগ দখল কৰাৰ স্বত্ব নাছিল। সেই ভোখৰ Professional Grazing Reserve. মই বেভিনিউ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টৰ লগত এই মাটি ভোখৰ সন্দেহ কথা হৈ আছে। কিছুমান ভোগ দখল কৰা মাটিৰ ওচৰত বহুতো পতিত মাটি পৰি আছে আৰু সেই মাটি তেওঁলোকে কামত নলগোৱাকৈ নিজৰ মাটি বুলি দাবী কৰিছে আৰু মই তালৈ গৈ তেওঁলোকক বুজাই দি তেওঁলোকৰ সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰি আহিছো।

Prof P. M. SARWAN: Will Government keep in mind that sometimes objections may come from these poor backward people but it may be delayed, will Government give them sufficient time to submit objections ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: If there is any objections from backward people or any other people Government always take steps to enquire into it.

Corruption in the Administration

Prof P. M. SARWAN asked :

26. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what definite steps they have taken to check corruption in the Administration ?

(b) In what way have Government co-operated with the public in checking corruption in the Administration ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to stamp out corruption in the Administration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI replied :

26. (a)—Government have established an Anti-Corruption Branch to combat corruption among Government servants.

(b)—District Officers and Anti-Corruption Officers contact public in course of their ordinary work to collect information about corruption.

(c)—Government will welcome any constructive suggestion from the public. Government will further welcome any information of corruption against any Government servant and they will cause enquiries into such allegations without divulging the source.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: With regard to (c), will Government take note that masses are always willing to co-operate, only Government should give them facilities to co-operate ?

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: With regard to (c), is Government aware that the Anti-Corruption Branch is insufficient to deal with the situation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Yes, but with our present financial resources it is difficult to expand the Department. Simply expanding the Department is not enough, public co-operation is fully needed to detect persons who receive bribe or who offer bribe. On the whole, the general moral standard needs improvement to prevent corruption. Any one getting scent of corruption should report to enable the department to enquire into the matter. This problem

is really acute but mere increase of staff will not solve the problem. As soon as offering or acceptance of bribe is known, it should be brought to the notice of authority to enable the Anti-Corruption Branch to take action.

Mr. J. S. HARDMAN: Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a Gazetted Officer for each district to deal with anti-corruption?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There was so much talk in the House about top-heavy administration and I am sure the House will fully appreciate that mere appointment of Gazetted officers will not solve this problem. As I already said that this problem can be tackled properly only with the co-operation of the public.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: Is it not the duty of the anti-corruption officers to visit their respective areas?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There is no definite area allotted to different officers of the Anti-Corruption Branch, as the number of officers is very limited, but whenever there is definite allegation, we sent certain officer for enquiry.

***Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV:** Have the Government taken the assets and liabilities of Government servants?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I think, I should come into this, with a statement.

The Anti-Corruption officers are at this time mostly engaged in ascertaining assets of Government officers. I want to inform the House that the function of the Anti-Corruption Branch is mostly confined to one side of anti-corruption work *i. e.*, to say that relating to Government officers. In cases of reports against other individuals we specifically send them to the Anti-Corruption Department for enquiry. We have not been able to set up as other provinces have a Reinforcement Branch, whose function is not only to deal with the anti-corruption cases among Government officers but also to check corruption among the traders, businessmen and others who may be engaged in various illegal and antisocial devices. I must admit that for inadequacy of staff (because it involves appointment of a large staff) we have not been able to deal with the situation as we should have done. This again, has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister, Finance, has been due entirely to the limitation of Finance. But corruption must be rooted out. Certain suggestions have come from the Department. They are now being examined. It is our desire to see whether there can be adjustment between the various branches of the Police Department with a view to see whether it is not possible to expand the Anti-Corruption Branch in a desirable manner. The present report is that compared with the expenditure in other provinces, our Anti-Corruption Branch is doing better work and a number of cases have been already detected by them. The expenditure in connection with this Branch as compared with other provinces is not even 1/5th and as compared with Bengal it is not 1/10th. But as I said, on account of financial difficulties, which the House is aware, it has not been possible to work this Branch upto the same this standard as other provinces are doing. I can, however, assure the House that question will be re-examined to see whether by adjustment even of the existing expenditure on Police Department it is not possible to improve the scope of working of the Anti-Corruption Branch.

*Speech not corrected

What I desire particularly to bring to the notice of the House is that most of the enquiries that are being made at present are based on anonymous informations and letters. We have not upto now met with any public men coming forward with their names to bring to our notice instances of corruptions. Sometimes, of course, there are names in these letters but they were found afterwards to be fictitious. This is the position. I am saying this with a view to request the House and the public outside to extend their co-operation in making the work of the Anti-Corruption Branch a success.

***Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Could not a highest officer be held responsible for the efficient administration of the Anti-Corruption Branch, for instance in a district, the Deputy Commissioner should be held responsible and he should not be interfered with by other individuals like the Members of the Legislative Assembly in some places?

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** Deputy Commissioners are always responsible not only for the administration of the Anti-Corruption Branch but also for maintaining peace and order in the district. But if they have been influenced by any Member of the Legislative Assembly or not—as my hon. Friend Mr. Sarwan was saying—we have got no such information. We wish that information of such undue influences is brought to the notice of the Government.

Jaipur Road

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

27. Will Government be pleased to state—
- What amount has been spent by the Public Works Department on Jaipur Road from Lahoal to Bordubi, during the years 1947 and 1948?
 - On what items the amount has been spent?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

27. (a)—If the hon. Member refers to Jaipur Ali connecting Lahoal-Bordubi Road which is being improved under P. W. T. Schemes, the expenditure incurred upto 31st December 1948 is Rs. 51,503, *i. e.*, Rs. 24,508 in 1947-48 and Rs. 26,995 in 1948-49 (upto December 1948).
- (b)—Earth work, gravelling and general maintenance.

Roads taken up by the Road Communications Board in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

28. Will Government be pleased to state—
- How many miles of road have been taken up by the Road Communications Board in Dibrugarh Subdivision in the year 1947-48?
 - How many miles have been completed upto now?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

28. (a)—Work in progress is as follows :—

District road	...	...	...	...	12 miles.
Village road	..	...	...	.	55.7 miles.

(b)—None of the roads is completed upto date. Works are in progress but had to be slowed down due to reduced grant under the Post-War Development Fund.

Released personnel opted for Pakistan

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

29. (a) Will Government be pleased to state their attitude with regard to released personnel who opted for Pakistan before the 14th August 1947 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Assam issued a circular allowing six weeks time to such personnel to change their options ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if all of these personnel have since been absorbed ?

(d) If not, why ?

(e) Is it also a fact that the Government of East Bengal have specifically informed Government of Assam to release such personnel who opted for Pakistan before the 31st October 1948 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

29. (a)—This Government is not at all concerned with such personnel as they opted for Pakistan before the 14th August 1947.

(b)—Yes, but the circular was cancelled.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise in view of (a).

(e)—The Government of East Bengal informed us that they might not accept personnel released after the 31st October 1948.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHOUDHURY : With reference to the reply to my Question (b), may I know, Sir, the reason for this cancellation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The circular had to be cancelled on account of the Pakistan Government refusing to give the same concession as we proposed to give to our people.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Is it not a fact that the cancellation was made in December 1947, i.e., long after the period of six weeks ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : It was done as soon as we knew that Pakistan Government were not giving the same concession that we are prepared to give to our officers.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Is it not a fact that this letter issued in December had a retrospective effect ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I can give for the information of the House, Sir, that in fact only 2 officers were affected by this circular. The policy which Government propose to follow now is that if those people who are nationals of India and whose loyalty are beyond question, their case would be reconsidered.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether any persons were released after October, 1947?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already stated, Sir, that only 2 persons were affected by this circular and I have also said that if their loyalty to the Indian Union is beyond question, then the Government will reconsider their case. As a matter of fact, I have already asked the Departments concerned to see whether they could not be reabsorbed.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHOUDHURY: Who are these persons?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Names should be avoided.

Opening of new roads in Darrang District

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked:

30. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government in giving effect to the decision of the Assam Road Communications Board for the opening of the new roads or extending the old roads in the District of Darrang?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to finish the roads in Darrang District which have been given the priority for construction according to the decision of the Assam Road Communications Board?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

30. (a)—Every endeavour is made to give effect to the recommendation made by the Board, as far as possible. The work on several roads is in progress.

(b)—Yes, according to the availability of funds.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: With reference to the answer to my Question No.30 (a)—may I know, Sir, from the Hon'ble Public Works Department Minister, the names of those several roads in which work is in progress?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir, I can give him the names of those roads—they are—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|-----------|
| (1) Surfacing of North Trunk Road ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (2) Tezpur to Jamuguri ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (3) Silikhaguri Road ... | ... | ... | 10 miles |
| (4) Kharupetia Steamerghat Road ... | ... | ... | 12 miles |
| (5) Mangaldai-Patharighat Khoirabari from ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (6) Katribari Steamerghat Road ... | ... | 6th mile | 2 miles |
| (7) Old Trunk Road via Monabari from ... | ... | ... | 19 miles |
| North Trunk East to Barangabari from ... | ... | 42nd mile | 4 miles |
| Trunk Road East. | ... | ... | 22 miles |
| (8) Depota-Ghogra Road ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | ... | 4—5 miles |

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Sir, there is a road which the surveyors have already undertaken survey for extension from Chandmari, but I do not know what has happened to those surveys. May I know from Government whether this road has been given priority by the Assam Roads Communications Board or not?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information about that particular Road, Sir, but I have given the hon. Member the names of the Roads in which work is already in progress.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will Government take note of my information that I give it now. It is the extension of the Urvant road through Lakuti and Chandmari Villages.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir, Government will take note of the name of the road he has mentioned. We will see what is the position regarding that road.

Statement regarding the curtailment of days of the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1949

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As arranged yesterday, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition and leaders of other parties met me in my room at 9-30 A.M. to-day to consider whether it is possible to shorten the Session. I held a joint consultation with all of them and we came to the conclusion that we shall be able to end the Session on the 31st March on the following conditions:—

(1) That the House may have to seat after 3 on other days and 3-30 P.M. on Fridays, as the case may be, on the days fixed for Demands for Grants.

(2) Non-official business will be taken up after voting on Demands for Grants from the 21st to 26th March.

(3) Non-official business fixed for the 23rd March shall have to be foregone and on that day Government business will be taken on this date.

(4) The hon. Members shall have to table amendments to the Government Bills on the 21st instant instead of on the 26th as already announced.

(5) The House shall forego the recess day on the 30th, if necessary.

(6) Other Government business will also be taken up on the 28th March, if time permits after voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: What will be the position in regard to submission of amendments to the Assam Management of Estates Bill? The Report of the Select Committee on this Bill is to be submitted on the 30th March. The date for submission of amendments, if any, to this Bill has got to be fixed after this date *i. e.*, after the 30th.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When the Select Committee is to be held on this Bill?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I have called the Select Committee on the 23rd.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the work of the Select Committee can be finished on that day, I think, the Report can be made available on the 24th.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I shall try accordingly to send the report to the Assembly Secretary on or before the 26th March.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The arrangement, as we arrived at in the conference in your office, Sir, is that the Select Committee will finish their work on the 23rd and after the Report is prepared we would send it to the Press for immediate publication; so that it might be ready by the 26th at the latest. On the 26th the copies will be made available to the hon. Members and in the meantime whatever amendments are proposed to be submitted will have to be submitted on or before the 31st when the Motion for considering the Bill clause by clause and to pass the Bill finally, will be taken up. This is exactly what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has agreed to.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, our agreement is substantially, as the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has just now mentioned. It was my suggestion that we should avoid all technicalities and that we have to consider two important bills, viz., the Assam Management of Estates Bill, and the Assam *Kala-azar* Treatment Bill, which Government want to pass during this Session. On behalf of this side of the House I can give an assurance that we will not raise any technical objection. If the Hon'ble Revenue Minister calls the Select Committee on the Assam Management of Estates Bill on the 23rd, as proposed by him, and if the Report be ready by 24th, this Report shall have to come to the Legislative Assembly Department which I suppose shall be able to make the amended Bill ready by the 26th and in that case Government will have sufficient time to place it before the House as early as possible there after or on the 31st by which time it could be passed. I have requested Members of this side of the House to get ready to take up non-official business on the days devoted to Demands for Grants if time permits. From the number of Cut Motions that have been tabled and the paucity of questions I am perfectly confident that we would get at least one hour daily for non-official business after the Demands for Grants are moved. Accordingly to the programme already proposed, 4 hours are allotted for prosecution of non-official business. But if my suggestion is accepted, non-official business will get 5 hours. So, I think, this ought to satisfy all sections of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the House is agreeable to the changes. If so, the programme will be altered accordingly and will be made available to the hon. Members as soon as possible.
Now let us take up Demands for Grants.

DEMANDS FOR GRANT

Grant No. 10. (25.—General Administration.)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.56,25,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1950 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.56,25,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1950 for the administration of the head ‘25.—General Administration’.”

There are several Cut Motions, I think it will be possible to discuss the whole matter on one omnibus Motion. So, may I ask Moulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain to move his Motion and the other hon. Members to discuss about it.

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.56,25,600 under Grant No. 10, major head—25.—General Administration, at page 61 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.56,25,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my intention to move this Cut Motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the mal-administration in almost all the departments of the Government. In our free Assam, the Government officers are not foreigners and as such they must be relied upon and full scope be given to them to serve the Government for the best interest of the country. But in practice it is found that the dual administration is in vogue in spite of the warnings of the President of the All-India Congress. Dual administration generates nepotism and partiality. No Government can run smoothly and the citizens can look for justice where Government officers' hands are handicapped at every step by the puffed up Congressmen. Where appointments are made at the recommendations of the so called Congressmen, how impartial justice can be expected from the officers so appointed? In spite of increase of officers and curtailment of holidays, efficiency could not be maintained and official discipline has vanished. In some places the Government officers are puppets in the hands of a few self-made Congress leaders so much so that they have become practically blind to do justice to the aggrieved party. With these words I move my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.56,25,600 under Grant No 10, major head 25. —General Administration, at page 61 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 56,25,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend Moulana Mufazzal Hussain. As I have two Cut Motions—Nos. 2 and 3, I want to deal with those. They are very simple and they require no explanation.

First of all I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to the fact that at page 65 of the Budget, for the pay of the Members there is inadequate provision.

✓ **The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** In place of 96 it should be 58. It is a printing mistake.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Whether the Parliamentary Secretaries draw their pay of Rs.150 ?

✓ **The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** They draw their own pay. They have got separate salary.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I think during this year there was no mention of that. In the Revised estimate, also it shows that it was Rs.1,09,800.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : That is a printing mistake. The number should be 58 because the Parliamentary Secretaries do not draw salary as Members, Legislative Assembly.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : If that is so then the salary of the 4 Parliamentary Secretaries should be deducted. Then election expenses has also been included. It shows that Government wants to follow the resolution that was carried in the Constituent Assembly that the election would be held as early as 1950. In that case the provision should have been larger. But there is no reason for the provision becoming less as there has been no shortage of Members, Legislative Assembly.

I wanted to point out only this anomaly to the Hon'ble Premier.

There is another anomaly which needs to be removed and it is very clear from my Cut Motion. At page 75 of the Budget there is "Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Assistant to the Deputy Commissioners, etc., etc." But the post of the Commissioner has been abolished. So it does not look well if we still designate the District Officers as Deputy Commissioners, because without the Commissioner there is no meaning of calling these District Officers as Deputy Commissioners. In view of this I hope this anomaly will be removed.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulana Mufazzal Hussain Sahib. On the General Administration I have a number of Cut Motions to move. Unfortunately that could not be done in view of your request to the hon. gentlemen to move an omnibus Cut Motion.

Sir, a serious inflation has overtaken the country with the result that the prices of the commodities have risen to a great height. I am drawing the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to cut Motion No. 1. I was just talking about the inflation that has overtaken the country with the result that the prices of all commodities have risen tremendously. That has been frankly admitted both by the Central Government and the Provincial Government, and in order to arrest this inflation the Government have adopted a number of measures. Some of the Post-War schemes have been dropped in order to curtail expenditure. This inflation has been a terrible blow to the poorly paid Government servants. In order to tackle this inflation the Government have taken some steps. One way I would like to suggest is to curtail the expenditure connected with the tours of the Hon'ble Ministers. Sometimes two or three Hon'ble Ministers go together to Delhi in order to attend some important or urgent Conference. Instead of two or three Hon'ble Ministers going together, I think one could do the work provided the Hon'ble Minister is given sufficient time, I think the Hon'ble Leader of the House might be said to be discharging his duties without portfolio. The Home Department has almost been taken by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the Education Department is being run by my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahendramohan Choudhury. In that case.....

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : Are you reshuffling the portfolios ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : From what appears from the papers and from the work discharged by my hon. Friend, Mr. Chaudhury and also by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I understand that the Hon'ble Premier (with due deference to him) is a Minister without portfolio, although he is doing work of utmost importance. I think, if only the Hon'ble Premier goes to Delhi

much of the expenditure could be curtailed. It was only recently that we came to know that in 1946-47 a sum of Rs. 24,655-15-0 was spent on tours by the Hon'ble Ministers. In 1947-48 the amount was Rs. 22,945-2-0 and in 1948-49 it rose to Rs. 25,985-12-0. This is a fairly large expenditure. I know the responsible work done by the Hon'ble Ministers. With due deference to them, I would request the Hon'ble Ministers to curtail the expenditure in the way I have suggested.

I would now want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to Cut Motion No.6 that stands in my name. The Cut Motion concerns Government's failure to convene a meeting of the Service Re-organisation Committee. This Committee concerns their salaried officers—their loyal officers, and the hardships caused to the salaried officers on account of the great increase in the volume of the currency of the country with the subsequent rise in the prices of commodities.

The recommendations of the Pay Committee are not satisfactory, as I will presently show to the Hon'ble Members of this House. The recommendations of the Pay Committee do not satisfy the Ministerial Officers' Association at Shillong, or the All-Assam Ministerial Officers' Association. On account of the terrible rise in the prices of goods and commodities the cost of living has gone up or in other words due to the enormous rise in prices the standard of living of the people has gone high. I will read out for the information of the Hon'ble Members of the House a statement of monthly expenditure on essential requirements of life and the cost of living of the people in Shillong. A minimum sum of Rs.98 is necessary for a single man in Shillong.

“Hostel Life—Single.

Monthly expenditure on essentials of life

					Rs.	a.	p.	
1	Hotel charge	...	...	...	60	0	0	
2	Office Tiffin	...	...	...	5	0	0	
3	2 Coats (cotton)	...	...	...	1	8	0	(Life 2 years).
4	Shirts	...	...	...	3	0	0	(3 pairs annually).
5	Dhuti	...	...	...	4	0	0	Ditto.
6	Ganji	...	...	...	1	0	0	Ditto.
7	Napkin	...	...	...	0	8	0	(2 pairs annually).
8	Handkerchief	...	...	...	0	4	0	Ditto.
9	Umbrella	...	...	...	0	8	0	(Life 2 years).
10	2 pairs of Shoes, 1 pair of Sandals (including repair charge).	...	...	...	5	0	0	(Life 1 year).
11	Lap (Quilt)...	...	...	...	0	4	0	(Life 4 years).
12	2 Lap (Quilt) Covers...	...	...	...	1	0	0	(Life 1 year).

Hostel Life—Single.
Monthly expenditure on essentials of life—concl'd.

				Rs.	a.	p.	
13	Mattress (Tuli)	...	...	0	8	0	(Life 4 years).
14	2 Bed Sheets	...	...	1	0	0	(Life 1 year).
15	2 Pairs of Pillow Covers	...	...	0	8	0	Ditto.
16	Hair Oil	...	...	2	0	0	
17	Toilet Soap	...	...	0	8	0	
18	Pan, Tamul, etc.	...	...	0	8	0	
19	Barbar and Washerman	...	...	5	0	0	
20	Miscellaneous	...	...	4	0	0	
Total				98	0	0	(Minimum)."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is this a family budget ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Sir I am speaking of the cost of living in a month of a single person as worked out by the Secretary, the Shillong Ministerials Officers' Association. I want to bring this to the notice of the Government for their serious consideration.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** How was that connected with the Service Re-organisation Committee ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : The Service Re-organisation Committee is concerned with the betterment of the condition of the Government servants. The Government have set up this Service Re-organisation Committee, Sir, in order to.....

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Sir, I may say for the information of the House that the Service Re-organisation Committee is not to increase the emoluments of the Government servants.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : Sir, there is one item—that is to increase the efficiency of the Government servants. I would ask if their stomachs are empty and if they are dissatisfied, how can there be efficiency ?

Sir, the Government proposed to hold the meeting of the Service Re-organisation Committee at an early date, but up till now no meeting has been convened. The Committee was appointed as early as November last 1948. I hope the Government would seriously consider the holding of a meeting as soon as possible, within the month of April, if possible in March.

My next Cut Motion raises a discussion about the increase in the number of officers and staff without corresponding increase in efficiency.

Sir, in this connection I would just mention one particular Department in order to convince the hon. Members of this House of the progressive deterioration of efficiency in certain departments. Upto 14th August 1947, the Departments of Finance and Revenue were run by one Secretary and one Under-Secretary. At present the Finance Department is manned by one Secretary, one Under-Secretary, one Additional Under-Secretary and one Assistant Secretary, and recently there has been appointed one Special Officer in order to cope with the increased work in the Department. To relieve the Secretary of the Revenue Department one Under-Secretary has been appointed.

Till recently the Finance Department had two branches only, *viz.*, the Audit Branch and the Budget Branch. Recently, if my information is correct, one new Branch has been added with a corresponding increase in the staff. The efficiency of this Department with the increased staff is shown eloquently by the way the Budget and the Budget Memorandum have been prepared. The correction slips issued must have appalled the hon. Members. I have counted these slips and they were no less than 90 corrections and in one page alone I found as many as five mistakes. Is that the efficient work done by this Department? I feel, Sir, in spite of the presence of some experts, there has been no discharge of efficient work. I maintain there has been progressive deterioration in the efficiency in some Departments particularly in the Department I have spoken of. The Assam Budget was prepared long after the presentation of the Central Budget and of the Budgets in other provinces. In preparing the Budget the Department has taken a long time. This point cannot be lightly brushed aside. In spite of the fact that the Department has a large number of financial experts, we come across so many correction slips and a big list of errata. A mere increase in the staff in a particular Department without a corresponding efficiency in the same is nothing but a wastage of public money, to which I invite the pointed attention of the Government.

Next, Sir, I come to the Cut Motion with regard to the discriminatory treatment in fixing the scales of pay by the Pay Committee. With due respect to members of the Pay Committee, I would like to say that in spite of the fact that they did their level best to serve the Government as well as the officers their work has not pleased the officers, as much as was expected. In the course of the Budget statement, the Hon'ble Finance Minister appealed to the Government servants not to make for any further demand for a rise in their wages and salaries in view of the fact that his hands are tied by inflation. He of course admitted that there has been a terrible rise in the cost of living. He has done his level best to do his duty by the people. I do not doubt Government's intention to do their duty by the people, but I do doubt their preparedness or determination to face facts straight away.

Sir, in Article 34 of the Draft Constitution it has been eloquently stated that the Government would discharge their duties to the best of their ability in order to better the lives of the people. It is a short Article and with your permission I want to read it out to the House. Article 34 says, "The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities". This is to be read with Article 38, which says "The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties". That is why I say that I cannot doubt the intention of the Government to do their duty by the people. Now, Sir, these ministerial officers, whose minimum demands are embodied in the Resolutions unanimously passed at the last Annual Conference held at Jorhat on January 14th and 15th have been hit hardest by the very acute inflation in the country. They have brought to the serious notice

of the benign Government their hardships resulting from discriminatory treatment by the Pay Committee in connection with the fixation of pay-scales. Without taking much time of the House I would like to mention only one thing. In Shillong alone, Duftries, Jamandars and Chaprashis in the Secretariat get Rs.28, on a scale of Rs.28—1—40. The process-serving peon gets Rs.25 ; Duftries and Jamandar chaprashis other than those of the Secretariat get Rs.25 and Chaprashis, orderlies and peons (All offices) including office chowkidars and all others not mentioned above get Rs.22. Here we find that the same class of people doing the same work and having the same amount of responsibilities get different salaries.

Then, again, there is the question of the scales fixed for lower division assistant and the upper division assistants. The lower division assistants do not have as much prospect before them as the upper division assistants. Sir, I will not go into further details for want of time, as some hon. Members would like to take part in the discussion on this Cut Motion. In short, I want to point out there has been discriminatory treatment in respect of the fixation of pay scales by the Pay Committee, and the sooner the Re-organisation Committee meet the better for the Government servants as well as for the Government.

With these words, I should like once more not only to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulana Mufazzul Hussain Saheb, but also to commend it to the whole-hearted and unanimous acceptance of the hon. Members.

***Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can hardly add much more to what my hon. Friends have already said. I whole-heartedly support the Motion of my hon. Friend, Maulana Mufazzul Hussain. Sir, the administration in Assam, I can speak only for the province of Assam where I live and stay, has deteriorated in a progressive manner (*A voice :—Never*). It has progressively become more and more inefficient (*Voices :—No*). What about the cloth muddle? What about the non-availability and maldistribution of essential commodities, even kerosene? In the press, in public meetings, corruption, bribery and nepotism are being denounced. Everywhere, every day, this question is raised. Why this is so? I am afraid that the Government and the people of Assam are in the midst of a vicious circle of corruption

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Can the hon. Member give any specific instance when bribe was offered or taken?

***Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I am just repeating what the people are saying everywhere.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Is he prepared to take personal responsibility about any specific instance where bribe was offered?

***Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Not being a bribe-giver myself I may not find any officer taking bribe. But I am presenting the views of the poor people, who go to the offices, present their rightful claims and these claims are always turned down, if bribe is not offered. I am simply bringing these things to the notice of Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member taking part in the general discussion of the Budget or is he discussing particular items of the demand?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He is discussing General Administration.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We are actually discussing a particular Cut Motion here. Are we going to hear his harangue on General Administration after we have finished the general discussion of the Budget?

*** Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I am criticising the policy of the General Administration. I say there is something wrong with that.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Even then he must be prepared to make a statement on facts and not go on like this.

***Prof P. M. SARWAN:** I am just supporting the Motion of my hon. Friend. Sir, the practical demonstration of non-violence in the administration could hardly have been better given than by the appointment of inefficient and indisciplined Home Guards. That shows how the administration is going on. I do not intend to charge the Government. I just wanted to ask them to purify the whole administration for the good of the people.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Is there any specific instance on which Home Guard was found to have committed offence?

***Prof P. M. SARWAN:** Specific cases were brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** If there are *prima-facie* cases they must have been pending somewhere.

***Prof P. M. SARWAN:** It is over 5 or 6 months that the cases were submitted, but during this long period we have not heard anything about any action taken. I am requesting Government not simply to think of their Party but to do according to the feeling of the country.

With these, I support the Cut Motion of Maulana Mufazzul Hussain.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of the Cut Motion of Maulana Mufazzal Hussain.

Hon. Members of this House are entrusted with rights and privileges of not merely of the present generation whom they represent but they are also a trustee of the future generations. It should be bounden and beholden duty of every hon. Member to see that our administration is run with such efficiency that the future generations are not subject to any handicap. The present generation has no right whatsoever to mortgage the future of the nation in such a way, or jeopardise the prospect of the future generation of Assam in such a way that Assam finance may crush at any moment.

In the general discussion of the Budget, I have pointed out with facts and figures supplied by Government documents that whereas our revenue income is 5½ crores, we are apprehending a deficit of 2 crores in 1949-50. This is the position which should set the minds of every hon. Member of this House with great concern and to devise ways and means of avoiding a calamity of this magnitude. This means that our province is running at such a rate of loss that unless there is a check on our expenditure, we will straightaway go into the insolvency court. The hopelessness of the position will be apparent when I place

*Speech not corrected.

one short sentence from the Budget Memorandum which the Hon'ble Finance Minister was pleased to lay before the House. At page 12 under the head, 'Floating debt,' the hon. Members will read like this:—"The bank balance dwindled on several occasions below the stipulated minimum of Trs. 5 during the current year and Government had to go in for short-term loans to supplement the balance." This is, probably, a misstatement which is unintentional and in spite of two correction slips which have been issued to hon. Members this vital figure of Trs.5 has not drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister or his Departmental officers.

It may not be known to most of the hon. Members that under the instruction of the Auditor-General of the Government of India, each province has to keep a certain minimum reserve in their treasury and for Assam this has been placed at the sum of Rs.5 lakhs and not Rs.5,000 as has been shown in this sentence. I am not quarelling with the mistake, everybody was in a hurry to prepare the Budget and mistakes crept in. I have no quarrel about that, but I want to draw the pointed attention of each hon. Member of this House to see whether they should allow, in view of the fact that they are the solemn trustees of the future generation, such mishandling of finances, such reckless expenditure in the administration of the country that the Government were not able to keep the minimum reserve that they are expected to keep in the Government treasury to meet any eventual contingencies and this was done not once but on several occasions. This should be a lesson to all of us that in the name of nation-building or in the name of Party-programme, we should not incur such heavy liabilities as will jeopardise unretrievably the finances of the province.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** On a point of information, Sir, the time allotted for this Demand is only one hour and we would like to have sufficient time to reply.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition will please finish his speech.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I know that the time allotted for this Demand is one hour. I will finish within 5 minutes, as I will not be so uncharitable as not to give time for the Government to reply.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** This grant appertains both to Finance and General administration and so both the Hon'ble Ministers concerned should be given sufficient time to reply.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I shall not take much time.

I want to point out that the one who is committing these Himalayan blunders in the administration of the Finance had the hardihood to draw up a balance sheet of the achievements of my administration. A gentleman who came to politics in 1937, one hon. Member who during 5 years in the Legislature probably never opened his mouth for even 5 minutes, is now waxing eloquent having a steam-roller majority in the House. (*Laughter*).

I will not emulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to sing my own praise, Sir. But one point which I want to bring home to him is that Minister-ship of a Provincial Government is not an ordinary post which you can get on application to the proper authorities or by a little *supheris*. This post is available only to those who enjoy the confidence of the public. And that this

humble-self was literally dragged out from his lucrative practice in the Calcutta High Court from the year 1924 clearly shows that—not by application, mind that, I still have the letters of the then Governor, late Sir John Kerr, with me—the Governors themselves requested me to come to form the Government. Assam is my homeland—my forefathers came here 350 years ago—I love my country as ardently as any one in this House and I know that I have done my best for it, but it is not for me to judge my own achievement and even now although I am out of office, any one can go out to every part of the Province, and ask any common man, any man of the street, whether my administration gave them all the necessities of life in the hardest time possible that a Province could face on account of the severe global war, and I am happy to say that he will hear them say that conditions in the present time are worse than in my time.

Sir, recriminations are hateful to my temperament. Even my worst enemies cannot say that I have taken any revenge upon them for the very heinous offences committed against me. I was very glad to hear from the Hon'ble Finance Minister who professes to follow strictly the teachings of the late Mahatmaji, that he adopts a "Forgive and Forget" policy although he did not keep to his own promises. As against that I stand by love to all and I mean no injustice or make uncharitable remarks to any one. What I want to say is that all utterance from me is in the interests of the country although it may offend some of the Members of the Treasury Bench as a criticism of their policy and actions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Leader of the House has got only 5 minutes.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: So far as I am concerned, Sir, I can finish in 7 minutes and it might take 7 more minutes for the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I can allow only up to 10 minutes past twelve.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I will try to be as brief as possible, Sir, so as not to encroach upon the time of the House. What I propose to do is to reply to certain criticisms in reference to General Administration.

In this connection, Sir, I maintain that the criticism of my hon. Friend Maulana Mufazzal Hussain that certain Congressmen are interfering with the administration is unfair. It is well-known to all of us that the character of the administration had had to undergo a sudden change from the old regime to the one prevailing today. It is only natural that the administration should try to be as popular as possible today. In that perspective, Sir, it is expected of all District Officers to keep in touch with popular public opinion with the change of the times. It would be better for them to have contacts with the representatives of the people and parties and if any District Officer or any officer for that matter, gets these ideas in himself he becomes all the more able to discharge his responsibilities. On the other hand, Sir, the policy of Government has been made perfectly clear to all District Officers. I think I divulge no secret when I say for the information of the House that in July last we had a Conference of all District Officers of Assam here in Shillong and in that Conference they were definitely told that the responsibility of carrying out the policy of the Government entirely lay with them; they are the actual persons to execute the policy of the Government today and that they are to carry out that policy without any fear or favour or ill will or any other

consideration. In the face of this, Sir, I consider that it is most unfair for the hon Member to say that Government encourage individual Congressmen influencing the administration of districts. We must all be prepared to agree that in the present set-up of things it is the duty of every District Officer as well as other officers to carry out the popular will conveyed in Government policy and not the will of individuals, whoever they might be. It is also the policy of this Government to carry out the administration in the most popular way possible.

Maulavi Abul Kashem brought out two motions which I do not think require detailed reply. He moves for abolition of the name of Deputy Commissioner. In this connection I want only to mention the fact that Government have already contemplated separation of the functions in district administration. The Hon'ble High Court has already been requested to frame a scheme for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. The question of separation of Revenue from other operations of the Executive is also under consideration of the Government. I suppose this question as to whether the name 'Deputy Commissioner' should continue to be the name of a district head may be considered then.

Then there is the criticism contained in the Motion by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury regarding the Service Re-organisation Committee. I want to tell for his information that the whole idea of this Committee is not to increase expenditure, but to curtail expenditure. The object of this Committee, in particular, is to see whether there is any overlapping of work in any way and whether it is possible to get greater efficiency with lesser number of men. Therefore, taking all these factors into consideration, I hope the hon. Member will see that there is little ground to criticise this Re-organisation Committee.

Now, his further Motion is in reference to the increase in the number of officers and staff without the corresponding increase in efficiency. I am prepared to admit, Sir, that in the present set-up of things, we have not been able to get the desired efficiency from many hands. The whole ideology behind the administration has undergone a complete change and that, I suppose, is recognised by everybody. It must be admitted that the old rule was more, or less, a police rule in which much initiative was not necessary on the part of the officers. But today initiative is one of the most essential requirements and qualifications for our officers. It must be realised that in course of one year it is not possible to get that high level efficiency from all our officers. It may be also that there are some increase in staff in some places. But I can tell for the information of the House that our feeling is that we are actually suffering from want of staff in some departments rather than from excess of staff. The Hon'ble Minister, Finance, has been particular to see that no increase in the staff takes place. If this fact is taken into consideration along with the intention of the Government to set up a Service Re-organisation Committee to overhaul all the departments as early as possible, I think there should be little room for criticism of the policy of the Government. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury has raised a question about discriminating treatment in fixing scales of pay by the Pay Committee. The matter was very closely examined and from our point of view there has been no such discrimination. But though decisions in this respect have been final now, they could be revised whenever any reasonable grievance of any particular class of officers is brought to the notice of Government. But on the whole, we feel that we are very liberal in coming to such decisions, judging the capacity or the position of the finances of the Province.

There was also another Motion regarding curtailment of expenditure on tours by the Hon'ble Ministers. I have already pointed out the multifarious activities of the Hon'ble Ministers on account of new set-up of things in the country. It is only to be expected that expenditure on this head should increase. But I could tell for the information of the House that in February last the Government have taken a decision that all the Departments should curtail their expenditure by 25 per cent. on tours and in that, the allotment of expenditure for the Hon'ble Ministers also comes in for action. Now we have agreed that all that is possible to curtail expenditure will be done. I may further inform the House that in order to curtail expenditure on tours by the Hon'ble Ministers efforts will be made to consolidate some of their works that necessitate their touring so that one tour may cover as many items of work as possible.

I have one more word to add. I would not be true to myself if I do not give a word in reply to the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition. It is very kind of him to have asked for a more conciliatory tone in discussion about matters which come before the House. I quite agree with him, but there are some sore points in certain matters which we all feel very acutely; if the Hon'ble Finance Minister used any language which could have been avoided, the hon. Leader of the Opposition should take into consideration, the circumstances which provoked it. But I do forget these unpleasantness.

As regards his suggestion that the present Government should be fully aware that we are the custodian not merely of the Government of the present time, but of the future as well, I fully agree with him, and the action that we have taken hitherto would justify that we have given full consideration to his suggestion. I want to repeat that if we do not act in the living present and fail to build, the posterity will blame us.

I do not propose to reply to certain points that were raised by my hon. Friend, Prof. Sarwan. His remarks were so general that they could not be taken notice of by any reasonable person in a Cut Motion. But I like to tell him that if there is any specific complaint on any particular matter we are prepared to take necessary steps and that is all that this Government can do. Government cannot take the responsibility of punishing any officer on alleged misconduct without proper enquiry.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House and I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN: Sir, in view of what has been said by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I now put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.56,25,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration'."

The question was adopted.

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1-10 p. m.

After Lunch.

Grant No.2.

(7. — Land Revenue)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.25,14,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.25,14,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '7.—Land Revenue'."

I see there are only 2 Cut Motions both standing in the name of Maulavi Muhammed Abul Kashem No. 2 is of an omnibus nature.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I think I can move both if you kindly permit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,47,878 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A—General Establishment (total), at page 32 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.25,14,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My intention in moving this Cut Motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the distress of the tenants of South Salmara Thana in Goalpara District. There a large number of families have been affected by the continuous erosion of the Brahmaputra for the last few years. It has been discussed on the floor of this House that these people require immediate Government assistance in the matter. Sir, Government though made an enquiry in the year 1946 and an order was passed for settlement of lands to those people to the extent of 100 Bighas in the *char* land in the Fulbari Mouza.....

✓ **The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** May I know when that order was passed?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: In 1947. If the Hon'ble Minister wants the exact date I can hand it over to him. I shall be glad to hand over the original order to him, but unfortunately for us the order was subsequently cancelled and the arrangement for settlement of the land to those people could not be made. Now as the Government did not do anything to stop erosion and flooding of that area it is necessary that further enquiry be made and provision for all landless indigenous people be made. The other day while the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department gave us an opportunity to know what is to be done by the Public Works Department he gave out that it is not possible for Assam Government at this stage to take up work of embankment in the South Bank for paucity of funds because there are more important works to be done and as such it would not be possible in the near future to take up such project. He only promised to have the matter examined again by the experts. If so, it would take enough time before any arrangement is made to protect these people from the flood of the Brahmaputra and also of the Jinjiram river. Now the Jinjiram river has also become a menace to the people and it has done great harm to the people. There has been erosion by this river in many places. In the southern side

of Salmara specially the erosion has been very great. So I earnestly request Government to take cases of these distressed people into consideration and to make provision of lands to them. With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.4,47,878 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment (total), at page 32 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs 25,14,100 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, while I sympathise with my hon. Friend over there, Jonab Abul Kashem, for the Cut Motion he has moved to raise a discussion for the failure of the Government to provide lands to the erosion-affected people of South Salmara, I cannot but oppose the Motion. Sir, the Mover was very eloquent on the other day to say that the tenants are enjoying greater rights under the Zemindary system. Here is an instance of what kind of greater rights they are enjoying. Sir, who is responsible for settlement of these people on such lands? The Zemindars and Jotedars invited these people to settle on the lands which are not fit for cultivation. They wanted revenue and so induced these people to settle on such lands which are not at all fit for settlement. Now, when they have fallen victim to this calamity, the Zemindars will not come forward to give them relief. The tenants have no other alternative than to approach Government for help. I feel, Sir, to some extent, the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion is also responsible for the plight of these people. During the last campaign for the alleged invasion of Assam by the Muslim League, as Salar-e-Zila of Pakistan Killa at Mankachar he, too, induced many to settle in these lands so as to build up shelter for the invading army which has been much talked about.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Invasion by whom?

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: By the Muslim League.

Taking all these into consideration I think Government has no responsibility at this stage, unless the Zamindaris are totally acquired by Government. While the Zamindars are not coming forward to give any reasonable relief to his people in distress, he should not have been so eloquent to support the cause of the Zamindars. With these words, Sir, I oppose the Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sinha, started his speech by saying that there was an invasion of this country by the Muslim League. I would like to know wherefrom he got this piece of information.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: There was a discussion on the floor of this House about invasion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I wish to bring to the notice of Government a fact to which I invited the pointed attention of the Government during my Budget speech. This concerns the extension of the operation of Adhiars Protection Act and secondly a revision of the Act so as to afford the much needed relief to the owners of small plots of lands, say 8 to 10 *puras*. In this class there might be old people, widows and children. Unless the Act is so amended as to afford relief to these owners it would be a great hardship to them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This Motion is regarding South Salmara. Have you any knowledge of South Salmara ?

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: I have no knowledge of South Salmara.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: At the time of the introduction of the abolition of Zemindaris Bill, it was definitely stated that for the purpose of improving the lots of these unfortunate tenants, whenever possible, the Zemindari should be taken over and planned settlement should take place in those areas by giving land to persons who are actually needy and who have got no economic holdings. But in this particular case, as it appears from the records that the land where these people actually came and settled is so low that nobody could ever dream of occupying this portion of the land. They knew perfectly well that it will always go under water. Most probably some of the Muslim immigrants of East Bengal wanted to have a footing in the permanently settled areas of the Zemindars, who also in their turn took the opportunity of realising *salamis* for these unsuitable lands. This is one of the reasons why the Zemindari should be abolished. Neither the people ought to have gone to such low lands nor the Zemindar should have settled these lands with the people. It will be very difficult, Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill comes into force. After it comes into force and the land is brought under the raiyatwari areas, the matter will be considered.

As regard the order referred to, I fail to understand how we can say that action will be taken unless the order is shown to us. All persons who came to Assam in 1938 in the temporarily settled areas will have equal rights just like landless and the indigenous people ; when the permanently settled areas will be taken over and converted into temporary settled area the same principle will be followed. We have been receiving so many petitions that we cannot cope with them and find land even for the needy person. In view of this I cannot hold out any hope. The permanently settled areas will be converted into Raiytwari areas and available waste lands, if any, will be distributed to those who are landless. With these words I fully appreciate the difficulties of those persons who are victims of some wily persons who could bring them and persuade them to have a footing in such a low-lying area.

✓ ***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** May I inform the House that the Hon'ble Minister has also invited these indigenous people of the district ? I really take objection while he uses the words immigrant to the people of Goalpara.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I don't think the hon. Member should be irritated. Who are these people ? Wherefrom they have come ? A large number of people have actually infiltrated under a plan. Without full enquiry it is not possible to say when they came and when they occupied land and under what circumstances. We cannot hold out any hope to anybody and everybody who had come to settle on unsuitable land in order to have a footing. The policy that was adumbrated by our hon. Leader of the Opposition are being strictly followed in the temporary settled area. In view of this if he shows me the order I will look into the matter to see why that order was subsequently cancelled. There must be some reasons for the cancellation of the order. Without looking into that I cannot throw any further light. I hope he will see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

*Speech not corrected.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** In view of the assurance that due consideration will be made, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.25,14,100 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 31 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.25,14,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this Cut Motion I want to criticise the Land Settlement Policy of the Government. It has been brought to our notice that many protected immigrants have not been provided with land and the Government could not make any arrangement for them as yet. Even in Rangiya there are some people where they did not get settlement of land (I mean by 'people'—the protected immigrants).

The Government has taken a definite policy that they would give at least economic holding to the protected immigrants but as yet no land has been settled with them and the Government should do away with the distress of the people.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Sir, can my hon. Friend cite specific instances where the protected immigrants were not provided with land?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, I am told by some responsible gentlemen that they are not given any land although they are protected immigrants.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.25,14,100 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 31 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.25,14,100 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem. I do not like to go into the details of the Land Settlement Policy, but I would like to point out some distressed conditions of some people of the Goalpara Subdivision. I think the Hon'ble Revenue Minister may know that some people of the Goalpara District came over to Fullora Reserve in Goalpara Subdivision and these people were asked to vacate the land and they instantly did so, saving the Government from expenses for posting Military there. Having left this place, these people applied to the Government several times for land, but up till now nothing has been done. They are the people of the District of Goalpara. They had come over to Assam 30 to 40 years ago and got settlement of land under the Chapar Estate and Lakhipur Estate. When their lands had been eroded they came over to Kamrup District. Secondly some people of the Lakhipur Police Station in the Subdivision of Goalpara have become homeless and landless due to erosion during the last flood. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister when he visited Lakhipur recently and also the people in distress made representation to the Government for land but no arrangement has yet been made to give them any settlement of land. I draw

*Speech not corrected.

the attention of the Government to the miserable conditions of those people and urge them to do justice by giving settlement of land to these poor and landless people, if necessary, under the Court of Wards Estate, Goalpara or in the temporary settled areas in Assam.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: In supporting the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem, I should like to remind the Government of an irregularity on their part. That concerns the restriction of the Adhiars Protection Act to a few subdivisions only, to which I drew the attention of the Government in my Budget speech, but the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister was not encouraging. Hence my stand to-day by way of supporting the motion just now moved. Sir, you cannot justify that the operation of the Adhiars Protection Act should be restricted only to a few subdivisions. I want an extension of the Act to other districts. There is at least one hon. prominent Member of the party in power who is agreeable to the amendment I have proposed. I hope, the hon. Srijut Nilmani Phookan will kindly lend his whole-hearted support to the Motion in order to afford relief needed by some classes of the people. Among the owners of lands there are minors, children, women and widows and these people cannot be expected to pull on $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the produce only. The operation of the Act should not be applied to owners with 8 or 10 *puras* of land. If the Act is amended in the way I have suggested it will give great relief to the owners of small plots of land.

With these few words I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have two or three points to bring to the notice of the Government and they will take just two or three minutes time. I do not quite understand what the present policy of the Government is in regard to land settlement with reference to the large numbers of backward people who are not able to get hold of any land and these people have been here for many years. I specially bring to your notice that the Nepalees and the *ex-tea* garden labourers who have been here for more than 20 years—I am giving a minimum number of 20 years—some of these people have been here for 80 or 90 years.....

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Are they landless ?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Thousands of them are landless.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** What are they doing now ?

Prof P. M. SARWAN: They are very backward people. They cut jungles and they count on the Mandals, Kanungoes and Sub-Deputy Collectors to help them. They are a simple and backward people. What actually happens is that when they have cleared jungles, a small portion of them get yearly Pattas. These Pattas are changed from year to year. Some intelligent men come to the scene and change their Pattas and take over the right on the land. This sort of thing has been going on for many years

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Can the hon. Member give any single instance where land covered by an annual Patta of any ex-tea garden labourer has been converted into periodic Patta in the name of others?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Yes, I can give. One such instance is from village Tengajan in Amguri-Kharikatia Mouza under the Titabar Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle. I can cite another instance from Marangi Mouza in Gola-ghat Subdivision.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: ক্রেতাজানৰ কোন ঠাইত তেনে হৈছে বুলি তেখেতে জানে?

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: How can you fix up the location without any map here?

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: যেতিয়া আপুনি কোনো particular ঠাইৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে, তেতিয়া স্পষ্ট ভাবে কোৱাটো উচিত হব।

Prof P. M SARWAN: I have just given some instances.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Member will please submit a list of persons who have been affected like this.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: I cannot give many names off-hand.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The hon. Member may do it, afterwards.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: I will do it, Sir, and I hope the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will look into the list and do justice to those poor people.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of immigration in Assam was at the beginning a question of land-hungry people from Mymensingh, but subsequently when they came in large numbers it got a political colour from political motives. So, it is not a question of land pressure only, it is also a question of political pressure. Under these pressures from both sides people came like locusts to Assam and invaded first the Goalpara district, then gradually came to Barpeta, then to Mangaldai, Kamrup, Nowgong, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur where they have already settled. It is a matter of history how these people came to Assam. Now, my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, has moved a Cut Motion for relief to certain people who have been affected by erosion in the Salmara Mouza.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We are now discussing the land settlement policy and not Salmara Mouza.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: All right, Sir.

Then regarding people who have been affected by erosion, there are hundred and one instances throughout Assam Valley where during flood time people have been affected and Government have tried their best to find out land for them. The Hon'ble Premier himself took up the matter of Majuli

people and he decided that so far as possible these people shall have to be settled on a planned system, and to allow them to go to different places in search of land would be futile. When Government have already taken up the matter I believe they have already moved in a systematic way, and I think the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will be able to enlighten the House with regard to that. So, I do not think that in one place only people can be allowed to have land anywhere they may like to squat. Then, Sir, the landless people in the Goalpara district are not there out of their own accord; they came there on a design of a certain political party; it is therefore not the fault of the Government or the people of Assam, who are also pressing for land for their own expansion. "চাঁচা আপন প্ৰাণ বাঁচা" is the only adage that we can apply to this matter.

As regards the question raised by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, I look at the Adhiars Protection Act from a different point of view. I suggested in the Committee also that if possible 5 *puras* of land might be exempted from the operation of the Act, but ultimately when the whole matter was thrashed out, the Bill was moved in a different way.

As regards my Friend, Prof. Sarwan, though he claims to be a representative of the labour force, I claim no less. I have experience of tea-garden labourers for a long time and I myself had to deal with some of the labourers, though on a very small scale. I know that after termination of their agreement with the garden they found some sort of land in the neighbourhood where they settled, and settled in such places where our indigenous people did not like to go. They have accommodated themselves with the indigenous Assamese people in villages, where they are still "*mitas*" and "*gaonburas*". There is no political motive regarding them. Only recently Prof. Sarwan has himself introduced it. However the labour force settled here did never grumble, neither were they ever forcibly evicted by Government. But the difficulty that they now find in securing land outside the gardens is due to the fact they had no proper leadership in those days. If they had, they could have sufficient *khet* land in the tea gardens themselves. These tea gardens were opened by these very labourers, and lakhs of acres of *khet* land still lie vacant, which might have been settled with them. The proprietors of the gardens, who got benefit from their labour at 3 annas a day and "*Jobra*" rice should have settled them in these lands out of gratitude.

On the general principle also the Cut Motion of my Friend, Mr. Kashem, cannot be supported. He has moved for a certain class of people, but the Government cannot decide this question piecemeal. Government should have a general principle, and possibly, they are taking up the whole matter. Government will have to find out land for people who have suffered from the flood havoc in every place and specially place like Majuli, which is the worst affected place this year and such other places in Goalpara and other districts. So, Government should solve out the problem not by patch work.

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR: Sir, I have heard Mr. Phookan with rapt attention while he said that land of Assam should be kept reserved for the people of Assam. (Srijut Nilmani Phookan—That is quite true.) May I ask him if Cachar is not a part of Assam? (Srijut Nilmani Phookan—Certainly it is.) If it is so, then Cachar people have a legitimate claim on land of Assam. (Srijut Nilmani Phookan—Of course.) It is well-known to the hon. Members of this House that many Cachar people who came and settled in Nowgong long ago were evicted in June last and these people in spite of petitions and representations to Government are moving like nomadic people without land to settle down. (Srijut Nilmani Phookan—Many indigenous people were also evicted

from Jorhat.) So, Sir, I referred about this matter in my Budget speech, so also my hon. Friend, Srijut Bidyapati Sinha, did. If Government is unwilling to give land to these landless people who have been evicted, then Government should frankly ask them to go back to Cachar. (*Voice*—Surely, they should go back if there is land in Cachar.)

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: Sir, I rise to oppose the Cut Motion. The reason for doing so is, as we all know, the present land settlement policy of Government is to provide land at the first instance to the flood affected people of Assam and to provide land to the landless people of Assam. (*Voice*—Indigenous?) Those who can be called as people of Assam. We know who the people of Assam.....

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM**: May I know the definition from him of who are 'the people of Assam'?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ROUFIQUE: It is quite simple. He should know that the people of Assam are people of Assam. If he does not know this—he should not know anything.

The policy of the Government consists of settling land to genuine landless people and to settle such lands on co-operative or collective basis as far as possible. This is a policy which is most appropriate in the present set-up of things.

Now, it must be said to the credit of Government that they have not resiled from their Tri-Party Agreement of 1945 by which they agreed to provide land to the protected people, specially those people who came before 1938. So, I do not find any reason for complaining against the land settlement policy of the Government,

I know, Sir, that there are hundreds and thousands of Assamese people—both Muslims and Hindus—in Nowgong district who are without any land in their own land and it is only now they have realised their distress and are crying hoarse for land—now when the land has come to an end. It is known to the hon. Members that Government recently had to de-forest a forest in order to provide land to the flood-affected people and landless people of Nowgong on co-operative basis.

What is needed at the present moment is that the available lands should be settled with the indigenous people with speed. What I fear is that if the Government allow this scheme to work slowly then success of this scheme would be thwarted by red-tapism and delay. The need of the moment is to settle all available land with the indigenous people with speed in order to put a stop to all clamours for land by anybody and everybody. This is the proper policy in the right direction.

With these words, I oppose the Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already stated on several occasions on the floor of this House and as has been ably stated by my Friend from Nowgong, who is also a Member of the Land Settlement Committee for advising district officers, we have almost in all subdivisions of the temporary settled areas constituted such committees in order to help the Subdivisional Officers and the Land Records staff in the matter of settlement of land with their advice. Similarly, we have made arrangement to take statistics of land-holdings, landless people and persons having uneconomic holding. But the statistics have not as yet been completed in accordance with the land settlement policy which has been agreed upon by all Parties relating the number of landless persons and persons with uneconomic holdings.

We have adopted a legislation for the formation of a Tribal Belt and this has been done in almost all the districts from which we have got reports and in other districts formation of Tribal Belts is being considered.

As regards the settlement of land with *ex-tea* garden labourers and other backward people, mention of which was made by my hon. Friend, Prof. Sarwan, I want to state that backward people of Assam, either *ex-tea* garden labourers, or scheduled castes or Nepalees who came to Assam 20 years ago and have taken Assam as their home or any one who came to Assam before 1938 will have a claim on any available waste land for settlement. On the completion of the enquiry it may be possible to say if there is enough land for settlement even to the landless people. People who come into the purview of the agreed resolution will be, as far as practicable, under the circumstances, provided with land, if any, available for settlement.

About uneconomic holdings, as I have already stated, collection of statistics is not complete, but so far the statistics collected, I may say that sufficient land outside the Tribal Belts is not available.

It may be mentioned in this connection that indigenous people who are not tribals but backward cannot go into the Tribal Belt. Taking the name of backward people my Friend, Prof. Sarwan, is crying hoarse with an eye on election. When I went last to North Lakhimpur I sent Prof. Sarwan timely information so that he could come and assist me in ascertaining whether the *ex-tea* garden labourers there are really without land. Unfortunately he did not come, but I met one Missionary gentleman who happened to be present there and he helped me in meeting the large number of people there.

Now, Sir, the main difficulty with these people—the *ex-tea* garden labourers—is that land speculation has become a sort of profession with them. They take the advantage of getting land anywhere and everywhere and then sell it to undesirable persons.....

***Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** That was the practice in the past.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: No, it is not in the past. This practice still persists. They seem to be under the impression that land would be given to them by the Government anywhere and everywhere. I had to take the assistance of the Missionary friend, whom I have mentioned, to convince those people that they should not speculate in their land. They should not sell their lands and I told them in case they do, they will not get land elsewhere.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** On a point of information, Sir, may we know whether Annual Patta lands can be sold ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: In that respect I had to issue a Circular that Annual Patta land is not transferable. There is a rule governing Patta land. To safeguard against speculating in land I had to issue instruction that in case of transfer of Annual Patta land, the Patta will be cancelled and that his land would be treated as "Sarkari"—waste land. This waste-land again will be settled in conformity with the Land Settlement Policy with the most deserving person or persons. My hon. Friend knows perfectly well that any Annual Patta-holder who has not transferred his land is entitled to get a renewal Annual Patta for his land in accordance with the Rules and the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation.

*Speech not corrected.

It is only in cases where Government require Annual Patta land for public purpose—a notice for termination of such Patta is served on the Patta-holder and the Annual Patta is not renewed after the termination of the period. Such Patta-holder whose land has been taken for Government purposes is entitled to full compensation for any improvement he had already done. My hon. Friend could not cite a single instance in which any person was wrongly evicted by Government. Such apprehensions, as my hon. Friend seems to have, exist only in imagination. Being himself a Professor he remains all the time in town and hardly had any time to go out to come into contact with the actual labourers. He theoretically tries to narrate stories on the floor of the House in the fond hope of helping him in election.

Next, I would like to assure my hon. Friend, Jonab Kashem Sahib, that the Government is convinced that no protected encrochers has been evicted. If he can give a single instance in which such protected person was evicted Government will enquire into the matter. The vague reference of eviction at Rangiya, I am afraid, might relate to people who are not protected. But as far as my information goes there are no protected persons at Rangiya. So his complaint in this connection has no legs to stand.

Now, as regards Fullora Reserve, the less said the better. In those days of the so-called infiltration or invasion of Assam it may not be known to many hon. Members here that the President of the then Muslim League himself, under his signature issued literatures and pamphlets instructing his people to squat on all available space anywhere and everywhere. That was at the time when we were carrying on with our Eviction Policy. It was perhaps in pursuance of that instruction that many people actually did squat in this Fullora Reserve. But I am glad to say that subsequently when these people saw that Government were determined to preserve law and order they themselves evacuated. But some of them filed petitions for land in Goalpara district. Before we decided to settle land with any one we must first of all find out whether there is any excess land in some other districts, that also after we have examined the cases of the indigenious landless population first. We must first see to the interest of our own landless people before we could consider the case of other who are outsiders. In this way the Tribal Belt and the Hill areas are kept for tribals for their protection. In this connection I may mention that even the Constitution recognises that no one but a Tribal could enter and settle in the Tribal Belt or Hill area.

Under these circumstances I cannot hold out any assurance to my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, that I could provide land with a view to solve the unemployment problem. This problem can only be solved by developing our industries which can absorb the surplus population which can be utilised in different industries.

Now as regards the general policy, as I have already said, we have to consider the general policy in the light of the All Party Resolution passed in 1945. In pursuance of that Resolution we have already started a survey of all uneconomic holdings. In this connection also I have issued a Circular and for the information of the House I will read out this Circular—“Government desire that the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers, Sub-Deputy Collectors and the Land Records Staff should always be ready to help in all possible ways the landless cultivators in the matter of settlement of Government waste land by supplying them not only with necessary information and pointing out the land where available but should also help them in obtaining settlement in a systematic way so that these landless cultivators may get encouragement to grow more food crops which are very essential at this juncture.

2. It is also desirable to induce these people as far as possible to form Co-operative Societies for carrying on co-operative farming wherever possible. The Revenue Officers should consider it a part of their duty to see that the deserving landless Assamese cultivators specially those who have lost land by erosion get sufficient land for cultivation. When a body of such landless persons approach the officer, an enquiry should be immediately made to ascertain if they are really landless and if they have no economic holding. If the officer is satisfied that they are landless or have not got sufficient land for cultivation he should help them by all possible means to find out land for such cultivators and persuade them as far as possible to form themselves into Co-operative Societies for the purpose of carrying on co-operative farming on a big scale.

3. Figures of all available arable waste land are already available in each district and it will not be difficult to know where land could be found for these landless people. If you find that the number of such landless Assamese cultivators is too large and they cannot be provided with enough waste land in your jurisdiction—you should report the case to Government with your recommendation if any land can be made available by opening any reserve which is in excess of requirement”.

I may read out a letter issued to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar :—

“In forwarding herewith a copy of the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur’s letter No.6924R., dated 22nd September 1948, with its enclosures I am directed to request you to give wide publicity to the contents of the letter in the Majuli area and also to send to the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur, a consolidated list, prepared after proper enquiry of the persons required to be shifted so that the latter may make necessary arrangement for their planned settlement. Those persons who had been moving Government and the Local Officers to undertake the question should also be informed of the above action”.

This letter was issued not only to the Deputy Commissioner, but also to Srijut Harinarayan Barua, Srijut Nilmani Phookan, Srijut Debeswar Sarmah, Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur and the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur. After the issue of this letter if proper lists of landless people are sent to the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur he will surely provide land wherever it is available. Thus we have been trying our best to provide land to the landless people. But it is practically impossible to do so and provide land even to the flood effected people in absence of sufficient arable waste land. That is why I want to give warning to the outsiders that it will not be possible to give land to them before real landless people of the province could be provided with land. I therefore request the hon. Mover Maulavi Abul Kashem to withdraw his Motion.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** As the Hon’ble Revenue Minister has explained to us the position about the land settlement policy of the Government, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon’ble the SPEAKER: Then I am now putting the Demand as a question :

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,14,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head—‘7.—Land Revenue’.”

The question was adopted.

*Speech not corrected.

Grant No.23.

(43.—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving).

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,85,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1950, for the administration of the head—'43.—Industries and Supplies.—I.—Sericulture and Weaving'."

I may inform the House that replies to the Cut Motions will be given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Srijut Bimalaprosad Chaliha.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,85,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1950, for the administration of the head—'43.—Industries and Supplies— I.—Sericulture and Weaving'."

There are two Cut Motions. We have got only half-an-hour's time. So can both the hon. Movers of the two Cut Motions speak on one Motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Yes, Sir, but there is enough time. I am then moving Cut Motion No. 1.

Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 6,85,100 under Grant No. 23, major head, 43.—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving at page 219 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,85,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

In moving this Cut Motion I want to raise a discussion here to get some constructive suggestions from some of the hon. Members of this House and also to take into consideration the views that will be forthcoming on this matter. Sir, we are spending some money on the industries of sericulture and weaving, but we are not getting the benefit that ought to have been derived from this huge amount of money. The Department came into existence actually to give help and guidance to some people. In the matter of weaving, Sir, we are to depend on yarn imported from elsewhere. So we should divert our energies towards spinning if we are to make cloth by ourselves without depending on imported yarn. On this account special provision should be made, that is, for spinning.

In the District from which I hail the existence of a Department for weaving and sericulture is very little known to the public. So, Sir, the Weaving Department should try to teach weaving to such people who are not at present weavers but who have the zeal to learn the industry. In Upper Assam, also in the Kamrup District many people are quite acquainted with weaving. But it is not so in the case of the people of the Districts of Cachar and Goalpara. Therefore, Sir, a greater number of Instructors should be employed by Government in those areas to teach weaving to the people. These are the industries which can well occupy the cultivating class of people in their spare time. As you know, Sir, our cultivators remain idle or unoccupied for a very long time when their cultivation is over. That is why I say that it will be very helpful to those cultivators if they are given the scope to learn these industries.

As regards sericulture, Sir, I do not know whether the Department has done anything. But probably none has seen any improvement. When I once went to Rangajuly side I saw only one officer. I therefore think that the Department of Sericulture is not doing its function properly. The officers under this Department should be instructed to contact the people and to help the cultivators in this

matter. Otherwise the success that we desire cannot be achieved. I therefore ask the Hon'ble Premier to kindly see that more precaution is taken to ensure good working of this Department, *i.e.*, the officers of this Department should be more vigilant and try so see that through their Department the people know something of this art. He should also take into consideration the fact that these industries are wanting in the districts of Cachar and Goalpara and that more institutions are opened there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs. 6,85,100 under Grant No. 23, major head, 43.—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving at page 219 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,85,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Dr. Chaudhury may also speak on this Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : I should like to speak on my own Motion. I will take only a few minutes.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion for giving his views about the working of this Department, but I am very disappointed to find that he does not feel the existence of this Department at all. I hope such a feeling is not shared by other hon. Members of this House except the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion. He has suggested to introduce sericulture and weaving industries in those places where these industries do not at present exist. That is an ideal thing no doubt. But even in those places where these industries exist, there are a lot of things to be done. After all, although Assam is known to be a land where every girl is a weaver, still if we take into consideration the huge amount of cloth which we buy for the use not only by the menfolk but also to a great extent of the womenfolk, it does not give a very hopeful picture of these industries. Therefore there is a lot of work to be done in those places also where these industries still exist. The technical side of this industry is not enough to revive the cottage industries. The technical side *plus* proper organisation combined together can bring these cottage industries to the forefront again. Therefore even if we increase the number of Demonstrators, unless we have proper organisation for marketing these products and for supplying raw material, I do not see how it is possible to revive these industries. I refer to the hon. Mover to kindly study the whole plan of sericulture and cottage industry of the Government. He will find that we are trying to develop in a co-ordinated way the organisation and these industries. I cannot agree with the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion that Goalpara is a place where these industries are not in existence. As a matter of fact it appears from some collections of specimen of designs how beautiful are the Kachari designs of Goalpara. The industry is already there, but I don't say that this industry is there in the standard we want or in its best. Therefore there is a lot of work to be done. Whether there is this industry or not even then there is much scope for this Department to work there.

Similar is the case with Sericulture. The Sericulture is not an industry which can be developed very quickly. After all the fundamental requirement to develop sericulture is to increase the area under food plants for the silk worms. Therefore we have to increase the acreage of mulberry cultivation, *son* cultivation and castor plant cultivation. Government have already in their scheme a proposal to subsidise the mulberry cultivation and they have promised 4 annas per plant to each grower of mulberry plants as an encouragement for increasing the mulberry cultivation.

The other thing which the Sericulture Department is doing is the distribution of disease-free seeds. If any rearer by some chance takes seeds which are diseased, all his labour will go in vain. There are sericulture farms at Shillong, at Titabar, Senchoa, Gaurisagar and the two farms are now being established at Jowai and Mangaldai. Functions of all these farms will be to distribute disease-free seeds and mulberry cuttings and to improve the breed of silk worms. So this is the way how this Department is working.

About handspun yarn, I admit, Sir, that so long this Department has not given much attention to hand-spinning. They confined their activities chiefly to the weaving of mill yarn. I draw the attention of the hon. Mover to page 38 of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's Budget speech in which it is mentioned how a beginning has been made in this direction. I will read out the relevant portion. "*Steps for Production of Khadi*. The Raha Khadi and Endi Production Centre which belonged to the All-India Spinners' Association and which was closed down by the Association, has been taken over by the Government, and work has been re-started. Manufacture of suitable Charkas in the Province has been taken up at the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat."

Here Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Members about the importance of manufacturing right kind of Charkas. So long we did not manufacture these Charkas in the Province. We brought the Yerveda and Kisan Chakras which are considered to be efficient and perfect. So long we had to import these things either from Bardoli or Wardha. The Prince of Wales Technical School have taken to manufacturing these Charkas and the prices, so far I remember are box Charkas Rs.10-8-0 and the Kisan Charkas (without box) is Rs.5-8-0. "The Gauhati Weaving Institute did not previously have in their curriculum anything about hand-spinning; now hand-spinning has been made a compulsory subject, and for that purpose suitable personnel trained in Wardha have been appointed as Instructors. Almost all the Weaving Demonstrators have been put under a condensed course of training in hand-spinning so that while doing their work for weaving they may propagate this hand-spinning also and help the villagers in taking to this industry." Further it has been arranged to maintain a proper supply of cotton suitable for hand-spinning in every subdivision of the Province. It will be apparent from what I have stated above that we have made a beginning towards hand-spinning industries.

With regard to Cachar, Sir, I think, in the district of Cachar the weaving industry is already there. There are many Manipuris who are very good weavers. We have started some new Sericulture Demonstration Centres in the Cachar district. So in view of these, I personally feel that we have been doing our best to develop and organise these industries. With the co-operation of the people in general it may be possible to show better speed in work in the near future. In view of this, I would request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: After having heard the details from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total, provision of Rs.6,85,100 under grant No.23, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving at page 219 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,85,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I have brought up this Motion in order to raise a discussion about the industrial development—Sericulture and Weaving. Our Political Leaders issue occasional statements and make occasional speeches regarding the economic backwardness of this country. As for Assam this Province is known for its backwardness in all conceivable respects. In Assam the only industries are the big tea industry, the oil industry and the agricultural industry. So in order to industrialise the Province one of the ways is to develop sericulture on a large scale. I have just listened to the speech of Mr. Chaliha about the working of this Department and about the propaganda made by the Sericulture Demonstrators and the distribution of seeds and cuttings etc., etc., to villagers. I know he has spent much of his time in developing this industry, but what I would like to know is whether he is prepared to put the industry on a larger scale. If Mr. Chaliha can give me an assurance that he would do his best to put the industry on a bigger scale, I will certainly be glad. In view of that I propose a cut of Re 1. Mr. Chaliha is a very rich man, he can easily pay this Re.1 from his own pocket and I may not be asked to withdraw the Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.6,85,100 under Grant No.23, major head, 43—Industries and Supplies—1—Sericulture and Weaving at page 219 of Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,85,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite follow what the hon. Member means by his Cut Motion here. His idea is, I suppose, that the province with all the favourable conditions for development of this Sericulture Industry should achieve a position like similar to that of Japan within a reasonable period. We want that the Sericulture Industry in the province is developed to that extent, but how to do that is the question. He suggested opening of big Sericultural Farms. I would be quite prepared to open big Sericultural Farms. As a matter of fact, some enterprising youngmen of Nowgong and Golaghat have begun some farms on a bigger scale, but I would not favour this industry to go into the hands of the capitalists. I would rather prefer to have bigger farms on co-operative basis so that there may be better distribution of wealth and so that people can share the benefits equally. As I said before, that successful development of cottage industries depends to a great extent on proper organisation. Therefore through our co-operative organisations we think that it will be possible to develop this industry in a more extensive scale.

With these few words, Sir, I would request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to please withdraw his Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : In view of the assurance that hon. Mr. Chaliha thinks like me, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,85,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head ‘43.—Industries and Supplies—1—Sericulture and Weaving’.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.23A

(43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.3,41,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head—'43—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries'.

Here also, Sir, the Cut Motion will be replied to by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,41,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head '43—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries'."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.3,41,400 under Grant No.23A, major head, 43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries at page 233 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,41,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to give an opportunity to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to explain to the House the present position of the working of the Department. First of all, I will say that the Department has not been properly functioning because we are not getting the benefit which we ought to have derived. I will give a few examples. If I am mistaken, I shall be glad if the hon. Parliamentary Secretary rectifies it by eliciting more information.

We find, Sir, that a sum of Rs.12,575 has been allotted for maintenance of one Ceramic Expert. So far I do not know of any improvement which he has effected in any industry. The Parliamentary Secretary has seen his work for the last six months and if he feels that we cannot utilise his services, this provision should not have been budgeted.

As for hand-made paper, soap-making, carpentry and cane work, it would have been better if Instructors could be sent to each Aided and Government Secondary School for a certain period of time to teach the students those industries. If the students get an opportunity to learn these along with their studies, they may not be required to hunt after jobs when they come out of the secondary schools. Then, Sir, four Carpentry Instructors are quite inadequate for imparting training to the people of the province. If these Instructors are placed in one centre it will serve no useful purpose. If one person could be deputed to a particular institution, and if he could in his spare time also impart this education to the people of the locality, who are not students, this would be very good. In that case the same man may be utilised both by the school and also by the public at large.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister the other day emphasised that our province mainly needs milk and fish. This would give us sufficient strength to stand against spread of tuberculosis and other such horrible diseases. But I find, Sir, that the provision for giving subsidy to the fishery enterprises is too inadequate; it is only Rs.10,000. If some people of the province come to Government for help in developing pisciculture or similar other industries, in order to cover up our deficit in fish, we would encourage them. You know, Sir, that Shillong is fed by Pakistan and we are spending large sums of money in purchasing fish, which is being drained out of the province. If we can develop our fisheries, this drainage can be stopped.

Then, Sir, as for Bee-keeping, my information is that for the present it will be confined to the Khasi Hills. Experiments should be made early whether this can be introduced in other parts of the province also. I do not know whether this will be successful, but experiments may be made.

As for Rope and Netting Instructors, I am not sure with what materials ropes will be made. If the ropes are only of *shon* and jute this industry should be taught mainly to the cultivators who produce jute. But if the ropes are to be made of cocoanut fibres, this may not be successful as we have not got sufficient cocoanut trees in our province. Only four instructors have been provided for. There is need for many more who may help the cultivators to utilise their spare time, but they should work in the areas where the jute is cultivated.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.3,41,400 under Grant No.23A, major head, 43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries at page 233 of the Budget be reduced by Re 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,41,400 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the various suggestions thrown out by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion will receive our consideration. He made certain remarks on some subjects, which I would like to explain. He objects to the appointment of a Ceramic Expert. I would inform the House, Sir, that although the Geological survey reports on our Province state, that there is every possibility of clays of high qualities in the Province no proper analysis of our clays were so far made. The Ceramic Expert has been entrusted to analyse the clays in different parts of the Province and he has in the meantime analysed more than 200 such samples. But his work was handicapped for non-availability of muffled-furnace. Although order for a furnace was put long ago, the furnace has not arrived. Till he gets the required scientific instruments, it will not be possible for him to find out how different clays behave in fire and come to conclusive result. But still I may inform the House that the result so far obtained give a hopeful picture. He has discovered some clay which may be very suitable for the pottery industry in this Province. It must be admitted that one man cannot be expected to produce a lot of results in such a short period as after all he has to collect datas. After completion of his testing work he will have to make recommendation to the Government.

Along with work of analysis he is trying to develop one very important industry which so long was not very popular in Assam, at the same time, which can to a great extent relieve the scarcity of roofing materials. He is introducing tile manufacture. The Ceramic Expert in the meantime has started a training class at Jaysagar where he is teaching the manufacture of tiles.

Maulavi MUHAMMD ABUL KASHEM: Whether it is successful?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Definitely it will be successful. I would request the hon. Members of this House to make time and visit his small laboratory where they will find some very interesting results of his research work done by him.

With regard to Pisciculture, the Government now proposes to reserve spawning grounds in different rivers of the Province and along with reservation they propose to set up hatcheries for breeding of fish for the purpose of selling to the fishery owners.

Now, even if we make provision in the Budget to spend more money for pisciculture, we cannot proceed with the scheme more speedily for shortage

of technical personnel. Actually, for the whole of Assam we have now only two Fishery Officers. So, it will be appreciated that even if we can provide fund for this purpose we cannot spend it for this said reason. Of course, some of our students are now under training in Bengal and I hope they will return very soon and we will then properly utilise their services.

With regard to subsidy to fisheries, the hon. Members can imagine what a colossal amount will be necessary if we have to pay subsidies to all the fisheries in the Province, as finances of the Province do not permit spending big amounts in subsidies. Government is considering whether they can provide loan for working the fisheries on scientific lines. If this scheme materialises, finances for development of fisheries may be available.

With regard to Bee-keeping, it is a fact that we are concentrating our work in this direction to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills for the present. The reason is that the industry is in existence in this part of the Province to a fair extent. We have proposed to give training in scientific bee-keeping to the Bee-keepers of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. With that end in view we have appointed a Bee-keeping Expert. We are arranging to start two apiaries, one near Pynurslah and the other near Cherrapunji. In reply to the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem, that the bee-keeping industry should be spread throughout the Province, I should like to tell him that there are difficulties in doing so immediately. Now, if somebody wants to start bee-keeping he must have a colony which we will have to provide. In the same way a bee-keeper may be in need of a Queen Bee which we should be able to provide. It will be possible to meet these demands when we establish our apiaries. We are making a modest beginning. The Bee-keeping Instructor will ofcourse gradually extend his activities to other parts of the Province.

As regards rope and net making for fisheries, I would start importing a large number of nets every year from outside the Province. So we want to introduce these things, and train people in making these nets in our Weaving Institute.

With these few words, I would request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to please withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: I am grateful to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary for enlightening us on this subject. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put the original Demand.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,41,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1950 for the administration of the head—‘43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries’.”

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Before we rise I may remind the hon. Members that Private Members' business will be taken up on the 21st after the close of the Government business.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Monday, the 21st March, 1949.

SHILLONG:
The 26th May, 1949.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

