



**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 Thursday, the 24th March 1949.

PRESENT

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Kampur Railway Station Incident**

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI** asked :

\*7. (a) Are Government aware of the incident of the 30th September, 1948 in Kampur Railway Station wherein a section of the Railway Police force after entering into a railway compartment maltreated the passengers including the ladies ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

7. (a)—Government are aware of an incident at Kampur on the date mentioned, but the Police concerned were members of the Assam Police Battalion and not of the Railway Police. A minor fracas occurred through the men endeavouring to force their way into an overcrowded compartment, but it is not the case that any ladies or other passengers were deliberately maltreated.

(b)—An enquiry was held at once, the Havildar in charge of the party has been removed and other disciplinary action has been taken.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN** : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the reply is given on the report of the Railway authorities ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : No Sir, the reply is based on the report of the Police officers.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN** : Sir, I myself was present at that time in the railway compartment and some railway officials came to my compartment and asked me to go and see how the passengers including the ladies were maltreated.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : The hon. Member should not make a statement.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN** : Sir, is it not a fact that exactly 18 persons were taken to the Station Master's room and they were treated by the Railway doctor there on the spot and their statements were taken by the Railway authorities ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The enquiry could not be made then and there. Our Superior Police Officers got information afterwards. If there is any allegation that some people were treated by the Railway doctor then that is not the subject matter of the question. If any definite information could be given of the persons who were injured then, that matter will be looked in to again.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে যে "the men endeavouring to force there way into an overcrowded compartment"; কোনবিলাক মানুহে তাত সোনাৰলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** এইবিলাক police battalionৰ কিছমান মানুহ । As I have already stated, the Havildar in charge of the Party has been removed and other disciplinary action has been taken.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানে নে যে সেই গাড়ীখনত কেইজনমান এম, এল, এও আছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, I want notice about that. Regarding the persons who were actually injured at that time, it would have been better if the M.L.A's had sent a report to me or the Government or to the Inspector General of Police, Superintendent of Police or the Deputy Commissioner.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** এই enquiry কাৰ দ্বাৰা কৰোৱা হৈছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, I have already replied that the enquiry was made by our Superior Police Officers.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** সেই সময়ত যিসকল এম, এল, এ তাত উপস্থিত আছিল আৰু যি সকলক বেলঙৰে কৰ্তৃপক্ষই তাত পাইছিল, পুলিচ কৰ্তৃপক্ষই সিবিলাকৰ সাক্ষ্য লৈছিল নে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** তাত যিসকল এম, এল, এ আছিল তেখেত সকলে গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট বা পুলিচক খবৰ দিয়া নাছিল বা ডিপুটি কমিচনাৰবোৰ attention draw কৰা নাছিল । Sir, it was clear that the persons concerned were examined by the Police Officer and as a result of the enquiry reports were submitted and action taken on such report.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে মোৰ কথা মানি লবনে যে এই ঘটনাত দুগৰাকী মহিলা আৰু ১৬ জন মুনিহক পুলিচে জখম কৰিছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I will make an enquiry if names of the ladies alleged to be injured are supplied to Government.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** যদিহে বেলঙৰে অফিচাৰ বিলাকে ঠিক কথা কৈ দিয়া নাই মই আশা কৰোঁ। সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে এটা সময় দিব। তাত ১৮জন মানুহৰ মূৰত আৰু আন ঠাইত জখম হৈছে—এইটো বৰ serious কথা ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, these are rather elaborate discussions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member is making a statement.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, may I know from the hon. Member whether he sent any report to the Government or to the Deputy Commissioner with regard to this incident ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Sir, I had no reason to inform the Government. It was the duty of the railway authorities and police who knew all about it. It was expected that they would do their duty and as they have failed and concocted the reply to the Government, it is a serious thing. I would request the Hon'ble Speaker to kindly allow adjournment of the House for a general discussion on this matter.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** How it has become a serious thing ? The facts were not brought to the notice of the Government or to the Deputy Commissioner.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** The facts were recorded by the Railway authorities.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Mr. Phookan wants to have a general discussion on this matter. But in view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that the matter was enquired into, and the persons at fault were taken to task and removed and disciplinary actions have been taken against them, and in view of the fact that the Hon'ble Minister in charge also stated—if a further enquiry about this matter, pressed he will look into it, I don't think any general discussion is necessary.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** At any rate a general discussion is necessary.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member may do well, as the Hon'ble Minister says, to send a report to the Hon'ble Minister on this matter.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মোৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে যে এজন হাবিলদাৰক remove কৰা হৈছে আৰু disciplinary action লোৱা হৈছে। কেনেকুৱা disciplinary action লোৱা হৈছে জানিব পাৰোনে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is not available. If the hon. Member wants, I will give him the information.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** সেই সময়ত বেলাগুৱে অফিচিয়েলে যি থিনি statement লৈছিল সেইখিনি খুজি পঠিয়াবনে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** মোক যদি কথাখিনি লিখি দিয়ে মই enquiry কৰিম। I will make enquiries about this, but I am not going to commit myself to anything. It is known to the M. L.A.s that there is no reason why I should not make an enquiry in case specific details are supplied to Government.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Sir, I want to.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, Order, I cannot allow Mr. Phookan to make a statement.

## Assam Mauzadars' Association

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

\*8. (a) Is it a fact that a deputation of All-Assam Mauzadars' Association waited upon the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in his Gauhati residence in December 1947 for the redress of their grievances ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister gave them some assurances to increase the rate of commission, that is to increase 10 per cent. upto an amount of Rupees twenty thousand ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister gave further assurance to grant a permanent peon to the Mauzadars for the whole year round in place of three months as is the practice now ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister assured them to extend the time limit of paying final kist till the 30th June when the Revenue year closes in place of 31st May ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

8. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The deputationists were told that if the Mauzadars unanimously made a proposal for raising the rate of commission of 10 per cent. upto Rupees twenty thousand, on condition that the entire demand was paid in full by the 31st May, Government would examine the proposal.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

**Srijut DALBIR SING LOHAR :** ৩১ মেইৰ ভিতৰতে খাজানা আদায় কৰি দিলে যে ২০,০০০ টকা লৈকে শতকৰা ১০ টকা কমিছন দিম বুলি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে মৌজাদাৰ সকলক আশা দিছে তাৰ ফলত মৌজাদাৰ সকলে ৰাইজৰ ওপৰত অত্যাচাৰ কৰিব ; এই কথা ভাবিচাই মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই মৌজাদাৰ সকলক আৰু অলপ বেচি সময় দিবনে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** এইটো কথা বুজাত অলপ ভুল হৈছে। পুহ মাহতেই আমাৰ খেতি শেষ হৈ যায়। মাঘৰ পিচলৈ আৰু আমাৰ খেতি নাথাকে। সেই কাৰণে ডিচেম্বৰ-জানুৱাৰীৰ পৰা খাজানাৰ instalment বান্ধি দিয়া হৈছে আৰু মেই মাহলৈকে সময় দিয়া হৈছে। জুন মাহ আহিলেই flood আৰম্ভ হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে মেই মাহৰ পিচত সময় দিব নোৱাৰি। তেতিয়াও খাজানা আদায় কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে the mauzadars should give up the job.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI :** মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবনে, ৩১ মেইৰ ভিতৰত কিমান মৌজাদাৰে খাজানা শোধাই দিব পাৰিছে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** I want proper notice for that.

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG :** মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই পাহাৰ অঞ্চলৰ মৌজাদাৰ সকলকো এইদৰে শতকৰা ১০ টকাকৈ কমিছন বঢ়াই দিবনে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** I want notice of that.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** As regards (c) the answer of the Hon'ble Minister was 'no', but when the Hon'ble Minister did not give any assurance may I request the Government that due to the nature of hard work to be performed by the Mauzadars will Government consider that ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** No ; the whole idea of deputing a peon for execution of Distress Warrant the mauzadar is for a period when rally distress warrants are issued. Some of the Mauzadars are authorised to issue distress warrants and peons are deputed to protect tenants from illegal harassment. The Peon is supplied to him not to serve as his orderly but for helping him in execution of Distress Warrant for three months. The question of extension of three months as a special case is considered in individual cases.

**Srijut CHANOO KHERIA:** এইবার বচিদ বহীৰ অভাৱত মৌজাদাৰ সকলে জানুৱাৰী-ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী মাহতো খাজানা লব পৰা নাই আৰু খাজানা দিবলৈ যোৱা মানুহক ঘূৰাই পঠিয়াইছে। এই বচিদ বহী যিমান দিনলৈ দিয়া নহয় সিমান দিনলৈ "মিলন" লোৱাৰ অভিধ হোঁহোকাই দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** এই কথা মই নাজানোঁ। গোলাঘাটত বোধকৰোঁ এনেকুৱা হৈছে। Notice নিদিলে এই বিষয়ে মই কব নোৱাৰোঁ। Notice দিলে local officer ৰ পৰা খবৰ আনি দিব পাৰোঁ। মাননীয় সভ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই আগেয়ে notice দিলে মই খবৰটো আনি দিব পাৰিলোঁহেতেন। আশাকৰোঁ আগলৈ তেনেকুৱা অসুবিধা হলে আশাক জনাব যাতে আমি step লব পাৰোঁ।

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** বচিদ বহী যে জানুৱাৰীলৈকে পোৱা নাই এই কথা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নাজানে নেকি ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** সেই বিষয়ে আমি নাজানোঁ।

**Srijut CHANOO KHERIA:** এই সম্বন্ধে বহুত মৌজাদাৰ আৰু কংগ্ৰেচ অফিচৰ পৰা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টলৈ resolution পঠাইছে বুলি শুনিছোঁ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তেনেকুৱা resolution পোৱা নাই।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** এইটো নতুন প্ৰশ্ন। এই বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক জনালে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই অসুবিধা বিলাক দূৰ কৰিব।

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Publication of Britta-Manjari of Mahamahopadhyaya Dhireswar Acharya

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

49. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No.16 asked by the Questioner on the 11th March during the Budget Session, 1948 (at page 25 of the Assembly Proceedings, 1948) and state—what progress, if any, has been made in the matter of publication of the Britta-Manjari of Mahamahopadhyaya Dhireswar Acharya ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

49.—The transcript being compared with the original, the press copy has been made ready and estimates of the cost of printing the book have been asked from different presses.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the preparation of the biography of the author has been completed ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** It is being prepared.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** When may we expect the complete preparation ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** As soon as the printing of the book commences.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** If the biography be not made ready the publication of the book may take a long time.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** This is a hypothetical question.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the book is proposed to be printed in Devanagri or Assamese script ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):** Devanagri.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** May I request the hon. Questioner to please give an idea of the book ?

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** I am surprised to hear this question from the hon. gentleman. The matter of publication of the Britta-Manjari is being discussed in this hon. House since 1937. If my hon. Friend is still ignorant, I can give him the information outside this hon. House instead of wasting valuable time here.

#### Construction of a Public Works Department Road from North Lakhimpur to Sonarighat

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA** asked :

50. (a) Are Government aware of the disabilities and inconveniences from which the people of North Lakhimpur Subdivision are suffering from being placed as a Subdivision with headquarters at Dibrugarh without making provision for direct communication facilities ?

(b) Do Government propose to construct a Public Works Department Road from North Lakhimpur to Sonarighat and make it motorable and also arrange proper ferry crossing of the Brahmaputra by steamer within reasonable time ?

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

50. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The work for making the Road motorable will proceed as funds may permit. There is already existing a power driven boat ferry.

Government will examine the question of establishing a steam ferry if the traffic justifies it.

## Sales Tax Return

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

51. (a) Is it a fact that half-yearly return for sales tax is demanded on the financial year basis ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that it causes unnecessary trouble to the dealers concerned ?

(c) Do Government propose to demand the sales tax returns according to accounting year of the dealers as is done by the Central Income-tax Authorities ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

51. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—The suggestion will be considered.

Oil-cake and Rice Bran (*Gura*)

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

52. (a) Are Government aware that oil-cake and rice bran (*Gura*) are mainly used for cattle ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to exempt the same from the operation of Sales Tax like other foodstuffs ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

52. (a)—Oil-cake and rice bran (*Gura*) may be used as cattle food but oil-cake is mainly used as a fertiliser.

(b)—Government do not consider the exemption necessary.

## Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

53. Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies to Unstarred Question No. 225(c), (d) and (e) asked by the Questioner during the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1948 (*vide* Assembly Debates of the 3rd April 1948 at page 861) and state—

(a) Whether the amount of Rs.1,02,000 allotted by the Central Government to this Government for combating Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia in the Province has been spent ?

(b) If so, when and how ?

(c) If not, why not and whether the money has since been lapsed ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

53. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—For want of Veterinary graduates. The amount has not lapsed.



**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the existing Veterinary Staff can discharge the duties in connection with combating Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia? If they can do so, cannot they be engaged in that duty on payment of some remuneration out of the grant of the Government of India?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** It will be impossible because our Veterinary Surgeons are already more busy than they ought to be because we are short of doctors.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is it not the duty of the Veterinary graduates to treat Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** I think it is a question of expert opinion; whether Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are qualified or not, I am not in a position to say.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Are we to understand that our Veterinary graduates are not capable of treating Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** A reply cannot be given without any expert opinion whether our Veterinary graduates are capable or not.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Then do Government propose to get some trained men from outside the Province for the execution of this scheme?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR:** We have not got men from outside the province. The Council of Agricultural Research supplied us with a list and they requested us to appoint some from that list. In consultation with the Public Service Commission we made some appointments and referred the matter to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research whether they should be willing to accept the offer under the conditions and circumstances. We have not yet heard anything from them.

#### Famine-stricken condition of the Hill Tribes of Subansiri Area and Balipara Frontier Tract

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA** asked:

54. (a) Are Government aware of the famine-stricken condition of the Hill Tribes of Subansiri Area and Balipara Frontier Tract due to the devastation and destruction of paddy and maize by rats in the months of May and June 1948?

(b) Is it a fact that only a sum of Rupees four thousands was sanctioned for giving relief to the people?

(c) Was the attention of Government and the department concerned drawn to the press reports and letters from responsible persons praying for immediate steps for giving relief to these people?

(d) Are Government aware that some of these people met premature deaths due to malnutrition?

(e) Are Government aware that these people had to live on roots and herbs due to want of paddy and maize?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether they received any direction from the Central Government to give appropriate help to these people?

(g) If so, what help, if any, was extended to these people by the Provincial Government?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

54. (a)—Consequent on the flowering of a particular species of bamboo, there was an unusual increase in the population of the rats in the Dafla Hills of the Balipara and Subansiri Areas, during the months April to August 1948. These rats have been responsible for the devastation of vast stretches of paddy and maize crops and also for the destruction of whatever reserve food-stocks the Daflas had kept in store, thus causing famine conditions to prevail in these areas.

(b)—No. A sum of Rs.6,200 has been sanctioned so far, by way of gratuitous relief.

(c)—Yes. Government have been receiving reports from time to time, both from the Political Officer and other sources on the famine conditions in these areas and the need for relief.

(d)—No reports have reached Government.

(e)—No reports to this effect have been received from official sources, but the facts as stated are quite believable in the circumstances. It may, however, be stated that roots and wild fruits form part of the Daflas' diet even in normal times.

(f)—No specific directions have been received from the Central Government. But all the relief measures referred to have been undertaken under orders of His Excellency the Governor, who functions as the Agent of the Dominion Government for the Administration of these Tribal Areas.

(g)—The administration of these areas being the responsibility of the Dominion Government, all the expenditure incurred on relief operation has been met from Central funds. It was not considered necessary for the Provincial Government to undertake any separate relief measures.

#### **C. I. Sheets quota in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District**

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked :

55. (a) Are Government aware that out of the 90 per cent. of C. I. sheets given for the District of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, only 10 per cent. were allotted to the Jowai Subdivision ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that at least 35 per cent. out of the said 90 per cent. be given to meet the needs of the Jowai Subdivision ?

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary)** replied :

55. (a)—Previously 60 per cent. of the district quota was placed at the disposal of the district authorities and the allotment was—

10 per cent. for Jowai Subdivision

and

50 per cent. for Shillong Subdivision.

But at present 90 per cent. of the district quota is at the disposal of the district authorities and the allotment is—

20 per cent. for Jowai Subdivision.

70 per cent. for Shillong Subdivision.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The suggestion of the hon. Member will be examined.

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM:** With regard to (a), may I know, when was the quota increased ?

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** I am sorry, Sir, I cannot give the exact date.

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM:** How was the allotment made ? Was it on a population basis ?

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Generally it is made on a population basis *plus* the special needs of particular places. For example, for a town like Gauhati some special consideration has got to be made.

### Withdrawal of Salt Control Order

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA** asked :

56. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the Salt Control Order was withdrawn immediately after it was promulgated ?

(b) Are Government aware that this control and decontrol order led to scarcity and exorbitant rise in price of salt in some of the Subdivisions of the Province ?

(c) Are Government aware that such changes of orders without assigning reasons thereof lead to various speculations in the minds of people and that the workers find it extremely difficult to explain these situations ?

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary)** replied :

56. (a)—Salt is still a controlled commodity under the A. C. C. D. Order, 1946. Restriction on import into the Province and movement within the Province were only withdrawn in accordance with the Government policy of gradual decontrol as adopted in January 1947, *vide* Press Note No.SD.-243/47, dated 29th January, 1947.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

**Srijut BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to make a slight modification to the answer 56(a). Instead of "the A. C. C. D. Order", it should be "the Assam Controlled Commodities Distribution Order".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, Government should avoid these abbreviations.

### Lower Primary School situated in the compound of Akbarpur Agriculture Farm in Karimganj

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

57. (a) Are Government aware that there is a Lower Primary School situated in the compound of Akbarpur Agriculture Farm in Karimganj Subdivision ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Government employees of the said farm do not send their children to this school ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to shift this school elsewhere in the village for convenience of those boys who come to this school ?

(d) If not, why not ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

57. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c) and (d)—The site of the school is reported to be pretty good ; hence the question of shifting it to some other place does not arise for the present.

#### Introduction of Compulsory Primary Education

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

58. (a) Is it a fact that Compulsory Primary Education has been introduced to remove illeteracy from the whole of the Province specially from backward areas ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason for not introducing Compulsory Primary Education under Ratabari Police Station ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

58.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Practically speaking Patharkandi Police Station and certain portion of Badarpur area where compulsion has been introduced cannot be called less backward than Ratabari. However as the selection of area for compulsion has been made by the respective Subdivisional School Boards and Government find no just reason to interfere with its decision.

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** : With regard to reply to (b), will the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary take it from me that Ratabari is far more backward than those areas ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : No, Government have not got in their possession any comparative figures of backward areas. If the hon. Member can convince Government with facts and figures that Ratabari is more backward than Patharkandi I shall be prepared to accept his statement.

**Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA** : Is it not a fact that according to the recommendations of the Backwardness Removal Committee, Patharkandi and Ratabari thanas had been declared as backward areas in the Karimganj Subdivision ? Then, why should preference be given to Badarpur than Ratabari ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : Patharkandi has already been included, Sir.

**Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA** : According to the decision of the Assam Primary Education Board, in every Subdivision of Assam one urban area and one rural area should be selected for introduction of compulsory primary education. May I know why a breach was made in case of the Karimganj Subdivision in selecting Badarpur thana instead of Karimganj town ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY** (Parliamentary Secretary) : The recommendation of the Primary Education Board to select one

urban area and one rural area was not accepted *in toto* by Government. Government gave option to the respective School Boards to select their own areas, whether urban or rural. But it was emphasised from the side of Government that as far as practicable rural areas, particularly backward areas, should get preference.

### Creation of a third post of Conservator of Forests

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS** asked :

59. (a) Are Government aware that owing to the regeneration, plantation, etc., for the development of the Forest Wealth of the Province of Assam, the works of the Conservators have increased enormously ?

(b) Are Government aware that the two Conservators of Forests cannot efficiently manage the executive and administrative works of the Forest Department ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to create a post for another Conservator of Forests for efficient working of the Forest Department ?

(d) Is it a fact that creation of such a post will cost Government about Rs.6,000 only ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

59. (a)—Yes, to some extent.

(b) & (c)—At present the two Conservators have been managing the works. There was a proposal for having a third post of Conservator, but it has been dropped for the present owing to the present financial position of the province.

(d)—No. The Conservator of Forests' revised scale being Rs.1,000—Rs.1,500 per mensem. Such a post will cost Government, Rs.12,000 a year exclusive of Travelling Allowance, etc.

### Cancellation of licenses to Dealers in arms and ammunition

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN** asked :

60. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The grounds on which they have cancelled any licences to dealers in arms and ammunition during the year 1948 ?

(b) On what ground the licence of Maulavi Abdul Aziz of Dibrugarh, dealer in arms and ammunition, was cancelled ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

60. (a) The dealers licences of certain dealers in arms and ammunition had to be cancelled in the public interest and for safety of the State.

(b)—The licence of Maulavi Abdul Aziz was cancelled for the reasons stated above as well as for reasons of his association with undesirables.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** With regard to (b), the grounds on which licenses were cancelled, as given in reply to (a), having become non-existent now, will Government state for what reasons Government consider Maulavi Abdul Aziz as an undesirable?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The answer is very clear, Sir. "The license of Maulavi Abdul Aziz was cancelled for the reasons stated above, as well as for reasons of his association with undesirables".

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Will Government define the term "undesirable" so that we may know how to avoid becoming an 'undesirable'?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** "Undesirables" are those who, in company with other similar people, engage in subversive activities, or persons who are likely to commit a breach of peace. There are also others, but I am simply giving an idea.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Is a non-Congressman undesirable?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Certainly not, unless he is engaged in subversive activities. I don't know why my Friend has put this question. Can he, or does he like to say that all non-Congressmen are engaged in subversive activities?

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** May I know from the hon. Questioner whether all the dealers in arms in the province are Congressmen?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** They are all non-Congressmen.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Since the *ex*-Leaguers have been deprived of their licenses, the arms dealers in Dhubri Subdivision are Congressmen.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Can my Friend give a single instance of a Congressman being an arms dealer? I challenge him to cite the instance of a single Congressman who is dealing in arms.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I will reply to the challenge, Sir. Babu Upendra Kumar Pal of Dhubri is a Congressman and he is an ammunition dealer.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** He was a dealer from long before Congress formed the Government.

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** He may be a four-anna member, but he does not hold any office.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** He has been a dealer since long before Congress came to power.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** May I inform hon. Mr. Kashem that the Muslim Brothers of Golaghat, who are arms-dealers, are not Congressmen.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** After the statement of the Hon'ble Minister, there can be no further supplementary questions.

### Development of Forest Plantations in North Lakhimpur Subdivision

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA** asked :

61. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken for developing forest plantations in North Lakhimpur Subdivision ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is necessity of one more Forest Conservator's Assistant, so that the Conservator may deal in planning and plantation works more efficiently ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to appoint one more Assistant for relieving the present Forest Conservator of his multifarious office works ?

(d) Are Government aware of the numerous inconveniences caused to the people of North Lakhimpur forest the works of that Subdivision being placed under Lakhimpur Division ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to form a new Forest Division for North Lakhimpur ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

61. (a)—A trained Senior Forest Ranger has been posted to North Lakhimpur to take up works in connection with the development of Forest plantations in the Subdivision.

(b) & (c)—At present the two Conservators have been managing the works. There was a proposal for having a third post of Conservator, but it has been dropped for the present owing to the present financial position of the province.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—This will be taken up as soon as the Dhansiri Valley Division is created.

### Condition of Ratabari and Karimganj Area before and after the construction of Dullab-Cherra Railway line

**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

62. (a) Are Government aware that floods were rare in Ratabari and Karimganj area of Karimganj Subdivision, before the Dullab-Cherra-Karimganj Railway line and the Public Works Department bridge upon the Kachua river were constructed ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table an account of the last three years showing how many acres of land were cultivated in Karimganj Subdivision and how many acres were damaged by flood along with a separate account of three years before the construction of Dullab-Cherra Railway line ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

62. (a)—No, as no records are now available.

(b)—It is not possible to supply the information required, and it will take a considerable time to collect it. Moreover it will not be possible to obtain any information of the conditions prevailing before the construction of this Railway line.

## GRANT NO. 30

## (57.—Miscellaneous)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that the sum not exceeding Rs.70,26,000 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 "57.—Miscellaneous".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.70,26,000 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 '57.—Miscellaneous' "

There is no Cut Motion, so I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.70,26,000 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 '57.—Miscellaneous' "

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No.13

## (29.—Police)

**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.68,70,500 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 "29.—Police".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.68,70,500 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 '29.—Police' "

There are four Cut Motions. Motion No.3 will serve the purpose of the other Cut Motions also.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The hon. Member is absent. Cut Motion No.4 may be moved.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.68,70,500 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 95 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,70,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of the Cut Motion is to criticise the general policy as regards the Police Department.

In my opinion, Sir, and, I hope, in the opinion of all hon. Members present, the Police Department has not been functioning satisfactorily. There has been



of late a progressive deterioration in the efficiency of this particular Department, meant for the preservation of peace, tranquility, law and order of the country. Because of this lack of efficiency in this Department the number of thefts and dacoities in Assam have increased, I think, substantially. Of this inefficiency efficiency of this particular Department, the reactionary elements are taking the fullest advantage. I hope, Sir, there has been no substantial or any amount of infiltration by these reactionary elements into the Police Department—into the rank and file of this Department.

I may be asked to give a concrete illustration as to the failure of some people of this Department in discharging duties properly. In this connection, I might bring to the notice of this Government a theft case that happened to be committed in my house on the night of March 6, 1948. After the thief decamped when it was known to the few inmates of my house, they instantly reported the matter to the police. The thief in the meantime fled somewhere. The police tried their best to trace him but could not. But it was only a relative of mine, who was a railway employee at Karimganj, and who, when he was given timely information of the theft in my house, could catch the thief while he was returning from Pakistan. He handed the thief over to the police. The police at Jorhat took some steps to bring him back and while he was being brought he made good his escape from the train. I do not know what subsequently happened either to the thief or to the police men who escorted him.

With these words, I want to commend the Motion for the acceptance by the Members of this House.

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

“That the total provision of Rs. 68,70,500 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 95 of the budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.68,70,500 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to support the Motion moved by hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. In doing so, I want only to point out few instances of difficulties experienced.

As for the Home Guard administration in Garo Hills, I must say that it is being administered very unsatisfactorily. They are giving enormous trouble to people of both Garo Hills and Goalpara Districts, but in Goalpara the authorities took action against their high handedness and consequently they had been brought under control, but in Garo Hills nothing has been done to stop mis-administration of the Home Guards. The Home Guards have been posted in the border areas and they in contravention of the existing rules and regulations harass and exact illegal gratification from people. Although such instances were brought to the notice of the authorities no action has been taken as yet.

In the Forest Department also the Home Guards have taken law into their own hands and are making illegal money. There are instances in which some persons moving bamboos with permits from the Forest Department were prevented by the Home Guards and were assaulted. These matters although have been reported to the Deputy Commissioner and the Commander of Home Guards no tangible effect has been felt. So, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to see that such high handedness on the part of the Home Guards are stopped ; or, in the alternative, put the Home Guards under the Police Department.

After the partition, the border area has been infected with dangerous tribes of burglars and other criminals to a great extent. It has been brought to the notice of the Government in the shape of questions about their activities. I want to discuss further about them under this Cut Motion. After the partition these people have got the advantage of committing crime in the Dominion of India and flying to the Dominion of Pakistan and *vice-versa* to be immune from detection.

The result is that these border areas have become the sanctuary of the criminals. Sir, the Government would do better for the interests of the people in the border areas if they would arrived at some agreement with the Pakistan Government to lay down common rules and procedure such as existed in the pre-partition days, so that warrants may be issued from the districts of Assam directly to the Subdivisional Officers or Magistrates in the districts of Pakistan and *vice-versa*. Unless some such actions are taken, Sir, the lots of the people in the border areas will be simply intolerable.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion of my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury. This morning the Question hour has revealed a fact that there are certain personnel in the Police Department who are committing excesses upon innocent public. From this stray incident I do not want to impute that the character of the present Government has changed from Non-Violent to Violent. But at the same time it is apparent to every one that there are black sheep in every fold and in spite of the highest and best motives of my hon. Friends the Khaddar-clads, there are people in the guise of following the principle of Mahatmaji, who have been committing excesses. The other day I was thoroughly rated by two Hon'ble Ministers about my reference to what happened in the peaceful (?) revolution of 1942. Statement after statement was made by the two Hon'ble Ministers to show that the peaceful atmosphere of those days was violated by orders from my administration and that many people lost their lives. I am sorry, Sir, that people died at the hands either of the military or the police who thought that they were discharging their duties in trying to preserve law and order. Nobody is more sorry than myself that those deaths took place.

The incident at Dhekiajuli is very nearly parallel to what happened at Mankachar under similar circumstances during the regime of my hon. Friends of the Congress Government. At Dhekiajuli, it is alleged that a peaceful procession was going on to hoist the Congress flag or the flag of independence over the police thana, that this procession was assaulted by the police and the military opened fire in which a small girl and about 3 other persons were shot to death. It is really tragic, but the tragedy of the thing is heightened when those processionists used to take small boys and girls of immature age to head the procession so that the police might be deterred, by seeing those little innocent ones, from taking any disciplinary action.

Sir, at Mankachar the Muslim League national guards wanted to raise the Muslim League flag on the Mankachar Police Station. As usual what happened in my time also occurred in the time of my Hon'ble Non-Violent Friends of the Congress Ministry. The police of Mankachar either of their own action or under instructions from the present Government charged the peaceful procession with bayonets and as the movement was under the Civil Disobedience Movement the peaceful processionists did not use any violence. In spite of that as many as 25 persons received bayonet injuries, and ..... (disturbance by Srijut Sarat

Chandra Sinha .....) Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard of depredations from the King of Beasts in the jungle but there is a "Singha" here from whose depredations I seek protection from you. (*Laughter*). The hon. Mr. Interrupter has been a menace to the peaceful and dignified discussion of matters of public moment on the floor of the House! He has not even the courtesy, when he wanted to raise any point of order or information, to rise from his seat but in guttural voice interrupt sitting the proceedings.

As I said, Sir, as many as 25 persons received bayonet injuries. These peaceful people have got no arms to retaliate but they resorted to what is known as Non-violent Non-co-operation. These poor people approached every merchant and every trader in the 'hat' not to sell goods to those people who have committed excesses upon them. The result was that the traders refused to sell goods to the police and the military who resorted to firing in the 'hat'. It is known to every one that 2 persons were killed and some 11 others received bayonet injury. From these incidents I do not want to be uncharitable as to impute motives on the Hon'ble Minister in charge. These incidents cannot but be concomitant if any one want to have law and order by suppressing every procession which might have started with good intentions, but on account of human nature be converted into a frantic congregation of fanatical people.

Sir, my Hon'ble Friend the Finance Minister read out a long list of persons being killed in the Congress Camp probably at Berhampur in Nowgong district. Nobody is more sorry than myself for what had happened there. A Congress volunteer camp was established definitely in violation of the orders for the purpose of paralysing the Government at the time when Government was fighting a life and death battle against a ruthless and powerful enemy. As a retaliation for the unfortunate deaths, Sir, there was such depredations from some people—I do not want to say that they were Congress people but every army has a retinue of camp followers. The main army of the Congress, the followers of non-violence, had a satellite corps of violent people who took advantage of this movement for their nefarious ends of committing destruction, arson, and murder in the midst of which one young Brahmin police officer was killed. I do not say that he was killed by the Congress volunteers, but it may be, by the camp followers. However, the fact remains that a young and promising officer lost his life while doing his duty. And as a result I had to settle, out of humanitarian motives, a pension upon the young Brahmin widow.

We all know, Sir, the history of the so-called eviction policy of the present Government. However mistakenly some people had encroached upon the Government land, no body is willing to give up his hearth and home. It may be that some of those people refused in a body to move out of those professional grazing reserves. But what action the Non-violent Ministry took? They sent the military with arms and ammunition to drive away those people and as a result there were many deaths at Barpeta and Tezpur.

\***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: Sir, was not all this discussed in the previous Session and as such is it necessary now to narrate them again?

\***Srijut Sarat Chandra Sinha**: Sir, these points were already debated.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA**: The usual interruptions from the Sinha yet continues. It may sound bitter to some, but to the general public and to some hon. Members of the House these are all blatant facts. Sir, I simply

raise these points to show that however non-violent method the Government ordered the police to adopt occasions arose when the police had to resort to firing. If police firing took place in my regime which has been dubbed to be a regime of re-actionaries, a regime with the help of the capitalist or a regime controlled and guided by "imperial masters", the Congress Ministry has got the same sordid record of affairs to reveal, when peaceful people have lost their lives inspite of their adoption of non-violent and peaceful methods. I was amused to hear, Sir, that my regime was under the orders of "His Imperial Majesty". The Hon'ble Minister dealing with Finance seems to have very poor knowledge of the Constitution. He will be surprised to learn that even now he and the Central Authority are in a Dominion only and His Imperial Majesty at Buckingham Palace is his "Crown" of the adapted Government of India Act.

**Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, মাননীয় বিবোধী দলৰ নেতা ছাদুল্লা চাহাবে আজি দুদিনমান ধৰি ১৯৪২ চনৰ ঘটনাৱলীৰ সংশ্লিষ্ট কেইটামান মন্তব্য কৰিছে যি কেইটা মন্তব্যৰ সম্পৰ্কে আমি এটা উত্তৰ নিদিয়াকৈ কেতিয়াও থাকিব নোৱাৰো। ১৯৪২ চনৰ অৱস্থাৰ লগত, তেখেতৰ সেই সময়ৰ কাৰ্য্যাবলীৰ লগত তেখেতে কেনেকৈ যে আজিৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত ঘটনাৱলীৰ তুলনা কৰিব খোজে আমি বুজি নাপাওঁ। ১৯৪২ চনৰ সময়ত যি বিলাক ঘটনা ঘটিছিল সেইবিলাক ঘটনাৰ সোঁৱৰণীয়ে কেৱল এই পৰিঘদৰ সভা সকলৰ অন্তৰতেই নহয়, সমগ্ৰ ভাৰত বাসীৰ অন্তৰত গভীৰ আঘাত কৰিব পাৰে। বিবোধীদলৰ মাননীয় নেতাৰ অন্তৰত কেনে ভাৱে প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া কৰে আমি নাজানোঁ, কিন্তু ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ সমূহ ৰাইজৰ অন্তৰত ই যে বিষম আঘাত কৰে সেই বিষয়ে অলপো সন্দেহ নাই। মাননীয় বিবোধীদলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই দিনাৰ অৱস্থাৰ লগত আজিৰ অৱস্থা তুলনা কৰিবলৈ বৃথা প্ৰয়াস কৰিছে। তেখেতে অসম চৰকাৰৰ অৰ্থমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ কথা নাজানে বুলি দেখুৱাব খুজিছে। কিন্তু আমি বুজি নাপালো তেখেতে কি শাসন তন্ত্ৰৰ জ্ঞানেৰে সৈতে এই কথা কবলৈ সাহ কৰিলে (শুনক, শুনক) যে সেই দিনৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰ আৰু আজিৰ শাসন তন্ত্ৰৰ মাজত মৌলিক পাৰ্থক্য নাই (hear, hear) সেই দিনৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰত ইংলণ্ডৰ চৰকাৰৰ একাধিপত্য আছিল; কিন্তু আজিৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰত ইংলণ্ডৰ বজাৰ আধিপত্য নাই। সেই দিনৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰ আৰু আজিৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ মাজত কিমান আকাশ-পাতাল ব্যৱধান, শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ অলপ জ্ঞান থকা যি কোনো লোকেই তাক ধৰিব পাৰিব। মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, সেই দিনত তেখেতে ৰাজত্ব কেনেকৈ চলাইছিল মই সেই বিষয়ে আজি কব নোখোজোঁ। কিন্তু শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ কথা জনা যি কোনো লোকে নিশ্চয় স্বীকাৰ কৰিব যে সেই দিনৰ ৰাজত্ব, তেখেতে নিজ দেশৰ ৰাইজৰহে চলোৱা নাছিল; দৰাচলতে তেখেতে আনদেশৰ চৰকাৰৰ এজেন্ট হিচাপেহে সেই শাসন চলাবলগীয়া হৈছিল। এই কথা নুই কৰিবলৈ গৈ তেখেতে নিজে শাসনতন্ত্ৰ চলাইছিল বুলি কৈছে। কিন্তু শাসনতন্ত্ৰ সম্পৰ্কে অলপ অভিজ্ঞতা থকা মানুহেই কব পাৰিব যে সেই দিনৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰত তেখেতৰ প্ৰকৃত ক্ষমতা থকা সন্দৰ নাছিল। ১৯৪২ চনৰ ঘটনাৰ লগত মানকাছাৰৰ ঘটনা কোনোৰকমে তুলনা হ'ব নোৱাৰে। ১৯৪২ চনৰ ঢেকীয়াজুলীৰ ঘটনা সম্পৰ্কে তেতিয়াৰ মেজিষ্ট্ৰেটে যি ৰায় দিছিল সেই ৰায়ৰ প্ৰতি মই এই পৰিঘদৰ মনোযোগ আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজোঁ। সেই ৰায়ত পৰিষ্কাৰকৈ কোৱা হৈছিল—ই এটা আন্দোলনকাৰী দলৰ কথা নহয়, এজন নিৰপেক্ষ বিচাৰকৰ কথা,—যে শোভাযাত্ৰা কৰিবলৈ যোৱা কিছুমান নিৰুপদ্রব লোকৰ ওপৰত পুলিচে গুলি চলাইছিল। যি সকলে শোভাযাত্ৰা কৰিছিল তেওঁ বিলাকৰ হাতত কোনো অস্ত্ৰ-শস্ত্ৰ নাছিল। মাননীয় বিবোধীদলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই কব খুজিছে যে লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাক শোভাযাত্ৰাৰ আগত আছিল আৰু ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ মুনিহ, তিবোতা বিলাক পিচত লুকাই আছিল। এই কথা যে সম্পূৰ্ণ ভুল তাক এটা কথাই প্ৰমাণ দিব যি সকল পুলিচৰ গুলিৰ আঘাতত ঢুকাল, সেই সকল সকল লৰা ছোৱালী নাছিল। যি সকল ঢুকাল সেই সকলৰ আটাই কেইজনেই বয়সীয়া ডেকা আৰু বয়সীয়া তিবোতা আছিল। কাজেই কি যুক্তিৰ বলত তেখেতে কব পাৰে যে অকনি অকনি লৰা ছোৱালী আগত ৰাখি ডাঙৰ মানুহ বিলাক পিচত লুকাই আছিল।

মুছলিমলীগে পাকিস্থানৰ নিমিত্তে যি আন্দোলন কৰিছিল আৰু মানকাছাৰত যিহৰ কাৰণে এই অভিযান হৈছিল তাৰ লগত ঢেকীয়াজুলীৰ ঘটনা কোনোৰকমে তুলনা হ'ব নোৱাৰে। এই দুটা অৱস্থাৰ এটা মৌলিক পাৰ্থক্য আছে। মুছলিমলীগে অহিংসানীতি কেতিয়াও

গ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই। মুছলিমলীগে হিংসানীতিক আশ্ৰয় কৰিয়েই পাকিস্থানৰ নিৰ্মিত্তে যুজ কৰিছিল। মই কব খোজোঁ যে পাকিস্থানৰ যুজ আৰু ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ যুজ এই দুটাৰ ভিতৰত মৌলিক পাৰ্থক্য আছে। এই দুটাৰ বিজনি কেতিয়াও খাপ খাব নোৱাৰে। কাজেই মই নিবেদন কৰিব খুজিছোঁ যে পৰিষদৰ মাননীয় বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই এই পৰিষদৰ আগত কিছুমান তিতালগা কথা শুনাই অকল সদস্য সকলৰেই নহয়—সমগ্ৰ দেশবাসীৰ মনত আঘাত দিবলৈ যি চেষ্টা কৰিছে সি সচাকৈয়ে দুখৰ কথা হৈছে। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিলোঁ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must oppose this Motion and also make certain observations against some of the remarks which have come from the lips of my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition. He has tried to identify the activities of the people of the 1942 Movement with the anti-State activities which were being carried on by the Muslim League during the last efforts of the people of India to attain her Independence and immediately after Independence was obtained. I am not going into the details of incidents nor do I propose to discuss them. But there are certain principles which any man in a free country must observe. People in a free country have got to know to distinguish actions which are anti-State and actions which may be in the nature of opposition but which respects the State and try to maintain its integrity. This must be clearly understood by any party or association which is worth the name today. Any anti-State party or association and its activity to that purpose, must be put down by all the legitimate powers that rest in the hands of Government. On the other hand if there is any party of opposition within the State, that opposition can be tolerated and should be allowed to function to the extent that its activities are not inconsistent with the maintenance of law and order in the country.

The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, to my surprise, was trying to put them in the same category of the actions of a whole nation trying to attain its Independence as the actions of the Muslim League, both before the attainment of Independence and immediately after, were definitely anti-State. He was trying to identify the activities of the 1942 martyrs with the activities of the Muslim League of 1947. I must say, Sir, that these cannot bear any comparison whatsoever. The one represented the heroic efforts of a country to be free from an alien rule, which was represented by the Leader of the Opposition. The other was an organised attempt by a communal party to prevent attainment of a Statehood, and after it was attained, to break it. Therefore, Sir, whatever action Government took in order to prevent these anti-State activities must be considered justified. That is the general remark which I wanted to make.

As I said, I do not propose to discuss the details of facts which the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition was trying to explain in his own way. But I think I have sufficiently replied to his criticism that the actions of the martyrs and those who supported an alien power and communal hatred are to be judged from the same point of view. One set of activities have brought all that we aspired for during a long period of struggle, and which must now be maintained at all costs.

In this perspective, Sir, the maintenance of a free State is indeed a very difficult task; I will, to a large extent, agree with the main Mover of the Motion, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, that the high level of efficiency that is necessary for running an Independent State has not yet been acquired by our present police force nor even by the best of us. We have yet to acquire it. That is a plain fact which we should all be prepared to agree. The fact is that we are succeeding a regime which belonged to our learned Leader of the Opposition. It was indeed a Police Rule, in which the Police could do anything and yet be exonerated from any kind of control. The whole machinery of Government was out to applaud their action. Sir, we are only having that heritage. And my own view is that it will take some time before we get rid of that deficiency, efficiency or inefficiency in order that our Police administration can adjust itself to

the new set-up. Therefore to that extent the criticism made by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury may be fair. But to say that the police have not done their duty just at the present moment in maintaining law and order, I consider, is far from fair. I feel that they have done the best they could in the circumstances. The peace and order that we enjoy is no less due to them. The cost for this security has possibly been more than what was necessary, but I repeat that peace and order that now prevail in the country must be due to largely the efforts of the police in the province. Subject to this general condition, there may be small individual cases of excess in one place or possibly of slackness in another. But if we take an overall picture we are bound to agree that the police have not failed in their duty, and that we have reasons to be thankful to them for the manner in which they are discharging their duty to the country.

In order that police efficiency might improve, we have already started a Training College. For that we put up a scheme before the Government of India and asked for its sanction to include it as a post-war scheme. I am sorry to inform you that till now they have not agreed to do so. They desire that it should be a purely provincial scheme. The correspondence on the subject is still going on and we do not know whether ultimately the Home Department of the Government of India will agree to treat it as a post-war scheme. We propose to train every year about 100 officers and about 700 constables.

But I agree, Sir, that to attain the desired efficiency in the present set-up of things, the mentality of the police must change, and a great desire to really serve the people must become part of their training and life. To attain the proverbial efficiency of the London Police will surely take some time, but we do hope that will come in time.

But even as they are, they do not deserve the criticism made against them. They now work under very difficult circumstances, and I feel we should have all sympathy for them at this critical hour of new India's history. I divulge no secret to the House when I say that certain parties are trying to create all manner of mischief not only inside the Province but also on our borders with the idea of jeopardising the safety of our Province. I have to admit also that the crimes have increased in a proportion, which nobody can like. These are indeed very difficult problems for the Police by themselves; but their difficulties are becoming all the greater when the present Government policy is to be carried out. I have spoken in the House more than once that the object of this Government is not to follow a policy of mass repression even against the parties that are doing the greatest harm to the country. We are taking action only against those who are connected with violence or are guilty of exciting violence. We all know how in certain plains tribal areas difficulties are being created by certain unscrupulous people by working on their views over the agrarian and other matters and leading them to riots etc. In this perspective to pursue, the policy of the Government of discrimination is not quite an easy task. If therefore the police failed here and there to act up to the standard insisted upon by the Government, I would request the hon. Members to remember the difficulties which they had to face. We must be prepared to agree that in spite of all these, they have, on the whole, done well.

Those, therefore, who would like to maintain the integrity of State, I hope they should not have much reason to criticise the police administration of the Government.

There was one Motion by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem regarding the alleged oppression of Home Guards in the Goalpara District. I heard also a few complaints not only from Goalpara but also from Mangaldoi Subdivision. We do not propose to shield anybody when they commit an offence. But from the reports of the Deputy Commissioners received from almost all the Districts, we read, Sir, that the Home Guards were doing their duties assigned to them efficiently and well. It is only the persons who are connected with

smuggling either of rice, or opium have felt their presence bitterly and are raising a sort of propaganda about the tyranny of the Home Guards. In many places they were discharging grave responsibilities at the risk of their lives. On account of financial difficulty, the Government were compelled to give up utilising their services in areas other than the border areas and keep them in Reserve. It is very well known that in the border areas smuggling of rice is yet going on; therefore, they have to be maintained. I am sure there will be no cause or any ground for complaint about the work of the Home Guards, and I assure the House that if there are any individual cases of latches, we shall surely be prepared to take them into consideration.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, I wanted only to bring to the notice of the House the distress caused in the Garo Hills by the Home Guards.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** If any specific instances of any evil done are brought forward against the Home Guards, surely Government will look into them.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am sorry, I cannot allow any more time to the Hon'ble Premier.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, only two minutes will do.

I want to declare to the world that the Home Guards did great service at a critical time in this Province. Sir, it may be well known that the Government of India is proposing to establish a Territorial Force and an Act has been passed by the Central Legislature which has received the sanction of the Governor General of India in September, 1948. We might possibly have done a very good piece of work in giving some training to these 2,000 Home Guards, and it is possible that they may be included in this new Force, if recruitment is proposed.

With these few words, I request my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, in view of the full and frank statement made by the Hon'ble Premier for the administration of the Police Department, 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.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,70,500 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 '29.—Police—'".

The question was adopted.

### GRANT No. 19

(39—Public Health.)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,14,200 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 "39.—Public Health".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,14,200 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 '39.—Public Health'."

There are five Cut Motions on this grant. As Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury's Cut Motion is an omnibus one I think he can move his Cut Motion.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I understand, Sir, that Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury is not going to move his Cut Motion.

**Maulana MD MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 40,018 under Grant No. 19, Major Head—39.—Public Health, Minor head A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Rural and Assistant Rural Health Inspectors, at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

I wish to draw the pointed attention of the Government to the fact that the pay scale of the ill-paid Rural Health Inspectors instead of being increased has been reduced by the Pay Committee very unreasonably. It was previously Rs. 40-75 and now it has become Rs. 40 to Rs.70

I do not know, Sir, what the Committee thought. Did it think that their pay was too high? I submit, Sir, that they were ill-paid previously and as such, their pay ought to have been increased according to the increased price of commodities. Moreover, the Sub-Assistant Surgeons for epidemics are given a risk allowance of Rs. 40 p. m. whereas these unfortunate fellows get nothing though they are also to do the same duty. Are not their lives valuable? So, Sir, I request the Government to kindly consider their case again

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 40,018 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Rural and Assistant Rural Health Inspectors, at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit that as a result of Pay Committee's recommendation the maximum of the pay scale of the Rural Health Inspectors has been reduced by Rs. 5. At the time when the Pay Committee considered this proposal, there were two kinds of Health Assistants in the Public Health Department, *viz.* Assistant Rural Health Inspectors and the Rural Health Inspectors. The pay of the Assistant Rural Health Inspectors was from Rs.30—45 and that of the Rural Health Inspectors was from Rs. 40—75. The Pay Committee thought it desirable to amalgamate these two categories of pay scales into one and therefore they reduced the maximum by Rs. 5. But, Sir, I should say for the information of the House that at present there is not a single officer belonging to the cadre of Assistant Rural Health Inspectors, and as such, we are considering revision of the pay scale of the Rural Health Inspectors. The matter is still under the consideration of the Government. In view of this, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Motion.



**Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN:** 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:** We come to Cut Motion No. 2, standing in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,33,140 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Sub-Assistant Surgeons, at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The purpose of this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of Government towards non-posting of any Public Health Sub-Assistant Surgeon for Dhubri South Bank. It is known to the Hon'ble Minister that Dhubri South Bank is being visited by epidemics for the last few years. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Public Health was posted for this particular area, but since that incumbent opted for Pakistan, no substitute has yet been posted there. It is known to the hon. Members that since the last earthquake that area has become low in level, and is visited by flood every year as a result of which epidemics break out. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see that early steps are taken to post one Sub-Assistant Surgeon there before the rains set in, so that he may take all preliminary measures to stop any spread of epidemics. 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. 1,33,140 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, Detailed head—Sub-Assistant Surgeons, at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

**The Hon'ble Srijiut RAMNATH DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the doctor posted in that area opted for Pakistan and has gone there. We are very short of the required number of doctors in our cadre. Because of this shortage none could be posted there so long. Although we have not been able to post a Sub-Assistant Surgeon in that locality, we have given two Rural Health Inspectors. I can assure the hon. Member that as soon as arrangement can be made, Government will try to send one doctor to that area. In view of this, I request my hon. friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, 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:** Cut Motion No.3.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,09,021 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 150 of the budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My intention is to discuss about the injustice done to the employees of this Department in regard to the fixation of their pay scales. Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that this is a very important Department of Government whose function is to take precautionary measures to save the people from epidemics or fell diseases. It would be sheer injustice if we do not look to the grievances of the officers of this Department. Sir, compare the pay scales of the Subdivisional Medical Officers with those of the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, who are promoted from the ranks of the Overseers. Their pay scale is from Rs.200—400 plus subdivisional allowance, but what is the case of the Subdivisional Officers of the Public Health Department, their pay scale is from Rs.125—275 and the pay scale of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons is from Rs.120—270, *i.e.*, difference is of Rs.5 only. By this scale the Assistant Surgeon does not get any benefit although he holds charge of a Subdivision. A Subdivisional Medical Officer is either an Assistant Surgeon or a Senior Sub-Assistant Surgeon promoted to the rank. When an Overseer of the Public Works Department is promoted as Subdivisional Officer he gets higher scale, why not the Subdivisional Medical Officer? Besides, they have been deprived of the Gazetted status and they are given third grade officers' travelling allowance. How can it be expected of a Subdivisional Medical Officer to tour for inspection of dispensaries and work of his subordinates in his charge, with such inadequate travelling allowance? If he is given travelling allowance of subordinate officers, as he cannot undertake tour at his own expense, the only alternative for him will be to sit at the headquarters and not move about. Further at the same time, Government have issued circular letters directing the touring officers to lessen their tours as a measure of economy. Then how can he give service to the public at large?

Further, Sir, the Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been granted an additional allowance as they have to go through the epidemic areas and treat the persons suffering from epidemic. The Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeons are allowed to practise but the Public Health Sub-Assistant Surgeons are not allowed to do so. As the Hon'ble Minister has agreed about need for medicine and equipments for the Public Health Dispensaries, I request him to also permit the doctors of the Public Health Department to practise. Permission for practice by them may kindly be accorded.

As my hon. Friend, Maulana Saheb, has brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister the necessity of raising the pay scale of the Rural Health Inspectors, I also want to say about the pay scale of the Epidemic Assistants which should be more than the Compounders as the Compounders are not required to tour in the epidemic areas as the Epidemic Assistants have to.

My whole object in moving this Cut Motion is to lay emphasis on this Department as it is the most important and vital Department, to my mind, and as such special attention should be given towards improvement of the lot of employees of this Department.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.3,09,021 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 150 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

As no other hon. Member is taking part, the Hon'ble Minister may reply.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not say that the scales proposed by the Pay Committee for the staff of the Public Health Department are sufficient, but I do say that the pay proposed by the Pay Committee are higher than which the officers used to get before. The Pay Scale of Sub-Assistant Surgeons was from Rs. 75—175, but now it has been raised to

Rs.120—270 and the new pay scale of the Subdivisional Medical Officer is Rs.125—275. I know, Sir, the difference between the pay scales of the Subdivisional Medical Officers and the Sub-Assistant Surgeons is only Rs.5 both at the initial and at the maximum. But, Sir, I should like to point out that Subdivisional Medical Officers are posted in Subdivisional Headquarters and thus they remain in towns getting all the amenities of town-life, whereas, Sub-Assistant Surgeons are posted to interior villages having no facilities of civic life ; so there is justification in giving this scale to officers posted in the interior villages. I must say, Sir, again that although the pay given by the Pay Committee is not sufficient yet, it must be admitted that they are higher than what they were before.

But as regards the pay of the Rural Health Inspectors, I have already stated that this has drawn the attention of Government and the matter is under review.

With these words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Motion to withdraw his Motion.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, I beg to withdraw the Motion, with the request that Government, do take into consideration the fact that posting of Subdivisional Medical Officers in towns is not sufficient reason to give them almost equal scale of pay of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons as having been posted to towns they have to incur higher expenses for maintenance of their family than the expenses incurred for their family by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons posted in the villages.

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

✓ **The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion No.4, hon. Mr. Kashem.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.70,269 under Grant No.19, Major head 39—Public Health, Minor head C.(B)—Development Schemes (Post-War), Sub-head—(b)—Tuberculosis Organisation (total), at page 156 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is simple. It is with a view to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the inadequate provision for arresting the spread of Tuberculosis in the province. Sir, it has already been discussed on the floor of the House that this disease has become a real menace in the province. As a result of the survey conducted in Jorhat it was found that in 4 Wards alone the percentage of the persons affected by T. B. germs was 58.2 of the total population. (A *voice*—of the total population of Jorhat ?) No, I was saying of the total population of the four Wards where survey had been completed. Sir, similar things also prevail in many other areas in the province especially in our areas of Dhubri and Mankachar. The same state of affairs exist and the death roll is also very heavy. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge during the last session of the Assembly promised me that he would send survey staff as early as possible to conduct surveys in Mankachar, but now he has said that he has not got sufficient survey staff. Sir, not to speak of arresting this disease, it is very regrettable that there are not even sufficient survey staff to find out the number of those people suffering from this disease.

Further, even those persons who have already been examined and found to be suffering from T.B. have got no beds and the Hon'ble Minister also knows that there are no adequate beds in the hospital for these people. We know that it is not possible for him to make arrangement for thousands and thousands of beds at a time, but a least provision for beds in turns of hundreds each year should be found out. I would request him, Sir, to urge the Government, specially the Hon'ble Finance Minister who sits close to him, to find out money for this T.B. Department I would appeal to him to exert his influence on the Hon'ble Finance Minister to

find the money for this purpose and to bring in a Supplementary Demand in the September Session and we will all support it. It has been said, Sir, that the province is running a debt of 5 crores—we won't mind if we have to bear another crore for this purpose.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.70,269 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head C.(B).—Development Schemes (Post-War), sub-head—(b).—Tuberculosis Organisation (total), at page 156 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs.30,14,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to add my voice in regard to the Motion that has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem. It is a fact that enough money has not been provided for arresting the spread of this fell disease, Tuberculosis, either in Assam or in any other part of India. But as we are concerned with the spread of this terrible disease in my province, let us confine ourselves to it to see what our Government are doing in this very important regard. This is a disease whose incidence is daily increasing, in fact it is increasing every minute and hence the urgency of taking steps to stop it from spreading. The money provided is hardly adequate for the purpose.

Sir, I would particularly like to draw the attention of my Hon. Friend, Mr. Ramnath Das, not to keep T. B. patients along with patients suffering from other diseases in the Jorhat Hospital. It causes a great deal of anxiety to patients suffering from other diseases to find that they are placed along with T. B. patients. The sooner arrangements are made for their segregation the better.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kashem and commend it to the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would be greatly obliged if, when the Hon'ble Minister makes his reply, he would indicate what attitude his Department is taking with regard to the BCG Vaccination Scheme. I apologise to the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition for being compelled to use abbreviations which, I regret, I do not myself know the meaning (*laughter*) but it is a well known German system which, I believe, is being backed by the Government of India. We feel that if the supply of this vaccine is made available to the medical profession in this province, it would be possible to give a certain amount of immunity to a certain section of the population.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is really the full term of these initials?

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It is a technical term, Sir, and not abbreviation. There is no full stop between the characters BCG

**Dr. JINARAM DAS:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, T. B. ইমান বেচিকৈ spread কৰিছে যে ইয়াক বন্ধ কৰাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিছু টকা খৰচ কৰা উচিত। কিছুমান বেসাৰীয়ে থাকিবলৈকো ঠাই নোপাৰা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ যাতে এটা সোনকালে বন্দৰস্ত কৰা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ।

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, দেশত যক্ষ্মা ৰোগ যে দিনক দিনে বাঢ়িছে তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। সিদিনা অসমীয়া কাগজত পঢ়িবলৈ

পাইছে যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি census কৰিছে সেই census মতে তেখেত সকলে শতকৰা ৬০ জন মানুহৰ শৰীৰত যক্ষ্মাৰ বীজ থকাৰ সন্ধান পাইছে। এইটো এটা বৰ ভয়াবহ কথা। কেৱল যক্ষ্মা ৰোগ কিমান বাঢ়িছে তাক অনুসন্ধান কৰিলেই নহব। যদিহে আমি এই যক্ষ্মা ৰোগৰ বৃদ্ধি বন্ধ কৰিব খোজোঁ তেনেহলে তাৰ কাৰণ বিলাক প্ৰথমতে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব লাগিব। কেৱল যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিছুমান টকা খৰচ কৰিলেই এই ৰোগ বন্ধ হব এনে নহয়। প্ৰথম কথা হৈছে খাদ্য। মানুহে আৰ্গৰ দৰে মাছ, গাখীৰ, মাংস আৰু অন্যান্য খাদ্য বস্তু খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই। এই নিমিত্তে মানুহ বিলাকৰ স্বাস্থ্য দিনক দিনে অতি বেয়া হৈ গৈছে। এই এটা প্ৰধান কাৰণ। আৰু এটা কাৰণ হৈছে খিলি পানৰ দোকান আৰু tea stall (চাহৰ দোকান) বিলাকৰ অস্বাস্থ্যকৰ ব্যৱস্থা। এই tea stall আৰু খিলিৰ দোকান বিলাকৰ ব্যৱস্থা অতি জঘন্য। আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে “চিনেমা” ঘৰৰ চাৰিওফালে খিলি পানৰ দোকান আৰু চাহৰ দোকান হৈছে। তাত গধূলি ৩০০।৪০০ মানুহ গোট খায় আৰু সেই মানুহ বিলাকে পান খাই পিক পেলায় তাৰ বাহিৰে খেঁকাৰ-শেঙুন পেলায়। সেই পিক আৰু খেঁকাৰ আদি দিনত শুকাই থাকে আৰু মটৰ গাড়ী আহিলেই সেই খেঁকাৰাদিৰে শুকাই থকা ধূলি উৰি গৈ পান বা আন খোৱা বস্তুৰ ওপৰত পৰে আৰু তাকেই মানুহে খায়। আন ঠাইৰ কথাই নাই নংপুৰ নিচিনা ঠাইতো দেখা গৈছে যে এবাৰ খোৱা পিয়লা ধোৱা বাল্কিৰ পানীতে আকৌ পিয়লা আদি জুবুৰিয়াই মানুহক চাহ খাবলৈ দিয়ে। আমি সকলোৱে এইবোৰ দেখিছো, অথচ দেখি শুনিও তাকেই খাইছো। এই অৱস্থা হাটে-বাটে-বাটে সকলোতে একেই। আজি কালি গাৱঁৰ মানুহৰো প্ৰধান কথা হৈছে খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ আৰু দ্বিতীয়তে গাৱঁৰ লৰা বিলাকৰ মাজতো চাহৰ দোকানত চাহ খোৱাৰ চখ বাঢ়িছে। এই কাৰণে এই বেমাৰ চাৰিওফালে বিয়পি পৰিছে। অৱশ্যে এইটো ঠিক যে পাৰ্লিক হেল্থ ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টে আজি কালি যিবিলাক বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায় উলিয়াইছে সেই বিলাক বৈজ্ঞানিক চিকিৎসা আদিৰ সহায়েৰে ৰোগৰ চিকিৎসা আৰু প্ৰতিবিধান লোৱা আৰু লোককো সেই বিষয়ে শিক্ষা দিয়া নিতান্ত উচিত; কিন্তু যেতিয়ালৈকে মাছ, গাখীৰ, মাংস আদি খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ গুচুৱা নহয় আৰু পৰিষ্কাৰ পৰিচ্ছন্নতা শিক্ষা দিয়া নহয় মোৰ মনেৰে তেতিয়ালৈকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কেৱল টকা খৰচ কৰি ডাক্তৰখানা বঢ়াই এই ৰোগ কেতিয়াও বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰে।

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, শ্বিলঙৰ T. B. হাস্পাতাললৈ যোৱা যিটো বাস্তা দেখিছো, সেইটো বাস্তাই দি গলে T. B. নোহোৱা মানুহৰো T. B. হব। সেই বাস্তাই দি Department অৰ Incharge মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহাশয় গৈছিল নে আৰু সেই বাস্তা ভাল কৰিবনে ?

*Voices* :—ক'ৰ ?

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG:** শ্বিলঙৰ। মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যে সেই বাস্তাটো অতি সোনকালে ভাল কৰিব লাগে। অনাৰেবোল মিনিষ্টাৰে মাজে মাজে গৈ চোৱাহলে ভালকৈ বুজিব পাৰিলেহেতেন। এই বাস্তাটো যদি সোনকালে ভাল কৰা নহয় তেন্তে যিবিলাক ৰোগী ভাল হব পৰা অৱস্থাত আছে সেই বিলাক ৰোগীয়ে এই বাস্তাই দি গলে বেয়াৰ ফাললৈহে গতি কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে T. B. হাস্পাতাললৈ যোৱা বাস্তাটো অতি সোনকালে যেন ভাল কৰা হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Mover of this Motion and also to the other hon. Members who have taken part in this Motion, because they have wished well of my Department and have advised me to request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to grant more money for this Department. But, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House the steps that have been taken by the Government since we have assumed office.

The Chest Hospital which was previously run by the Tuberculosis Association with 55 beds was provincialised and within the current year another 26 beds were added to it at a construction cost of Rs.51,000 apart from the equipments and other running charges that we have to bear. Over and above that, Sir, we have paid Rs.25,000 to the Tuberculosis Hospital at Jorhat to help in construction at another building to include another 35 beds. I am told, Sir, that this hospital has been started from the 2nd February of this year. Besides all these, Sir, we have a Tuberculosis Organisation which has been carrying on survey to find out incidence of this disease in Assam. I am sorry, Sir, to say that this party of workers is taking a long time. However, I have asked the Officer-in-charge of the Survey party to complete the survey report within the next month. I am told that 65 per cent. of the people of Jorhat.....

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I did not say it was 65 per cent. of Jorhat.....

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I said, Sir, that it was 65 per cent. of the people of our side who are getting Tuberculosis.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Any way, Sir, we cannot accept the figures mentioned by the hon. Members until they are confirmed by the final survey report which is expected shortly.

As regards BCG vaccines, Sir, I may inform the House that it is under an experimental stage in Madras and Bengal. In a poor province like Assam, we should first of all wait to see the result of this experiment.

Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan has said that Government is not giving much attention to provide accommodation to the increased number of Tuberculosis patients and to the sanitary habits of the people. I may inform the House that Government is not getting the required amount of fund to provide beds for the increased number of patients in Assam. Only the increase in the number of beds will also not help us to solve the problem. We have in the meantime to see first of all to provide nutritive food to the people and then to advise those people who are suffering from this disease and who cannot be accommodated in the Tuberculosis Hospital either for want of beds or for some other reasons, to remain isolated at home with sanitary habits. But it is the duty of one and all to inculcate the sanitary habit in the minds of the people to prevent the spread of this disease. I do not believe, Sir, that with a limited number of staff and fund, the Government is in a position to inculcate this sanitary habit to the people unless they are helped by the public in general.

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

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, after hearing the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister of Public Health 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 put the original Motion.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.30,14,200 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—‘39.—Public Health’.”

The question was adopted.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

**After lunch****GRANT No.18.****(38.—Medical)**

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.35,92,300 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—"38.—Medical."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.35,92,300 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—"38.—Medical'."

There are two Cut Motions.

Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury may move his Cut Motion.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, I do not feel encouraged to move my Cut Motion in the light of the statement made by Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das in accepting our request sometimes.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Sir, what was the request? That was with regard to the Public Health and not with regard to the Medical Department.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** About Tuberculosis patients, Sir. Sir, I am not going to move my Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Sir, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury stated that the Government should discourage keeping of Tuberculosis patient in the same Ward with other patient in the Jorhat Hospital. For the information of the House, I should state that a Tuberculosis Clinic at Jorhat was started in a separate Ward and it is at a distance from the main Ward. The Tuberculosis patients are not kept in the main Ward.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I now put the main Demand as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.35,92,300 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—"38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

**GRANT No.36****(Loans and advances bearing interest and not bearing interest)**

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.85,60,000 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 head—"Loans and Advances bearing interest and not bearing interest."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.85,60,000 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—'Loans and Advances bearing interest and not bearing interest'."

There are no cut Motions on this Grant.

Now I put the question.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.85,60,000 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—'Loans and Advances bearing interest and not bearing interest'."

The question was adopted.

### GRANT NO.9

**(18-B and 68-B Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works).**

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.15,40,700 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—"18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.15,40,700 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—'18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage'."

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.15,40,700 under Grant No.9, major head 18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Work, at page 56 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,40,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I urge upon the Government for distribution of money to each district on population basis.

Sir, the other day we have come to know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that the total provision under Embankment and Drainage schemes has mainly been made for Jorhat and Nalbari areas and other places have been neglected. Sir, Goalpara is always neglected, and unfortunately on this occasion also nothing has been done for the district of Goalpara. So I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister in-charge as the district of Goalpara is backward, at least on population basis some more money should be allotted for the purpose.

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

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

"That the total provision of Rs.15,40,700 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Work, at page 56 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,40,700 do stand reduced by Re.1".



**Prof. P. M. SARWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mover of the Cut Motion has tried to draw the attention of the Government to the need of paying attention to his locality. This will have a salutary effect on the Government if this is carried out, because the tendency of the Government is to pay more attention to the clamorous section of the people. It is in evidence all over the world. Therefore this will have a salutary effect on the Government so that Government will be forced to pay attention to all sections and all classes of people and all divisions of people situated in out of the way places. Therefore, I support this Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Motion has been moved only to urge the Government to distribute money to each district on a population basis, and the hon. Mover has said that attention has been given only to certain areas of Assam, viz., Jorhat and Nalbari.

First of all, I want to say that our policy has been to do work wherever it is urgently and most urgently necessary in order to protect the areas that are flooded by rivers and where a great deal of devastation is caused by the floods and in order also to save cultivation to give food to the Province. This is the idea why Government has adopted the policy to do Embankment and Drainage work wherever it is considered most urgently necessary. Of course there are schemes which may be of first priority, of second priority and of third priority. There are schemes like the scheme suggested by Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem in South Goalpara and South Dhubri which will cost about a crore of rupees and it will be beyond the financial possibility of the Government of Assam. On such schemes we cannot spend much time. We can investigate whenever hon. Members ask for investigation, but we cannot spend too much time and send our officers there. It will simply disturb the work which are of first priority. This proposal cannot be practicable at all, for it will mean that some amount of money that we have will be blocked if we distribute it according to population basis; supposing in one area according to population basis 30 lakhs of rupees is to be allotted to that area but that area may not have schemes which are considered to be most urgently necessary and that money will have to be diverted to some other districts or that money will be blocked. Therefore it will be seen that it is impracticable in some districts to start Embankment and Drainage schemes, and some of these schemes are not ready. It is impossible for the Department with a small staff that we have to send Overseers and Engineers to every place in every district. Therefore, first we are to see where are the most urgent schemes that may be carried out. This is the policy of the Government and not because we do not want to reach out of the-way places as Mr. Sarwan seems to suggest in his speech, but we have to serve those places which are most urgently necessary, I therefore hope that the hon. Member will withdraw his Motion considering the impracticability of his suggestion. Government is trying its best to attend to the needs of the Province as a whole.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** With a request of the Hon'ble Minister that the case of Goalpara will be given priority, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I put the original Motion.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,40,700 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—‘18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage’ ”.

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 29

## (56.—Stationery and Printing)

**The Hon'ble Maulana MD. TAYYEBULLA:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,68,400 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—“56.—Stationery and Printing”.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,68,400 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—‘56.—Stationery and Printing’ ”.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 3,76,867 under Grant No. 29, Major head—56.—Stationery and Printing, Minor head—D.—Government Press (total), at page 260 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,68,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to criticise Government's failure to materialise the assurance given on the floor of the House for supplying stitched Gazettes. My hon. Friend, the Minister-in-charge, assured in the last Assembly Session to supply us with stitched Gazettes, but up till now we are getting this Gazette in loose form which may be lost. So I hope this time I will get an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister remedying this defect.

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

“That the provision of Rs.3,76,867 under Grant No. 29, Major head—56.—Stationery and Printing, Minor head—D.—Government Press (total), at page 260 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,68,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1”.

**The Hon'ble Maulana MD. TAYYEBULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. In the last September Session, an assurance was given to the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion in regard to the supplying of stitched Gazette. About that time two stitching machines (with stitching wires) were ordered. In December end, 1948, the stitching machines arrived; but stitching wires have not yet come, nor are these available now in the market. So, the matter is regretted, as hon. Members have been put to a great deal of inconvenience. The stitching wires are coming very soon, I understand.

When these arrive, we will be soon able to supply stitched Gazettes, possibly from the next financial year. On this assurance, I hope the hon. Mover will withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** On the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister, 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:** The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.7,68,400 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—‘56.—Stationery and Printing’ ”.

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No.4

## (9.—Stamps)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.59,800 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—"9.—Stamps".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,800 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—"9.—Stamps'."

There are no Cut Motions. I am putting the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 59,800 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—"9.—Stamps'."

The question was adopted.

## Resolutions

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We have finished with the Government Business fixed for today. We shall now take up Resolutions. We dealt up to No.16, Nos.17 and 18 stand in the names of Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua and Raja Ajit Narayan Dev, both of whom are absent. No.19 stands in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** I have got an assurance from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary; so I do not like to move this Resolution.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution No.20 stands in the name of Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

**Resolution regarding reduction of prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in the Province**

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to decrease the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in the Province.

In moving my Resolution I beg to call the attention of this House to the fact that the masses of people in Assam are greatly exercised about the high prices that are prevailing in the Province in regard to foodstuffs and other commodities, such as cloth. I do not think that the Government or any hon. Member of this august House can gainsay this. That is, the great majority of the people in Assam want that the Government do take immediately steps to reduce the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities, such as cloth, in the province. The truth of what I have said is indicated by the good men of the Province, namely, the leaders of village Pathshalas and of schools and colleges. The village Pandits, the school teachers and the college professors all have their respective associations. Through these associations these honourable people (the best that any country can produce and who really build up the Nation and produce the future leaders of the country)—have all demanded either increased salary or adequate dearness allowance. All this shows that even these good men, the Pandits, school masters and the college professors are getting discontented because of the prevailing high

prices. This discontent, originating from high prices of foodstuffs and other commodities such as cloth is spreading far and wide throughout the Province and is likely to engulf everybody, if the Government do not take timely action to reduce prices by all means in their power, since the great majority that is supporting them in Assembly is not likely to say "nay" to any Government measures, which might reduce prices.

The Government may say that nothing could be done as the whole world is affected. Yes, Sir, the whole world may be affected, but it does not prevent me to give food and clothing to my children, and the Government has no business to say that the whole world being affected, the Government of Assam can do nothing about it to help out the common people of Assam. Where there is a will there is a way. I give an example. The Indian Tea Association is an Association of foreign people. Look at what they are doing for those who labour and depend on them. The Indian Tea Association has no governmental power to issue ordinances and ukases to reduce prices, and yet the Indian Tea Association has realised long ago the frightful need of providing foodstuffs and other commodities at decreased or reduced prices. They have done what is in their power. Those tea estates that are associated with the Indian Tea Association are providing foodstuffs and other commodities at greatly reduced rates, on a par with the pre-war prices, by subsidising. If the Government are powerless to reduce prices in the market, they must decide to subsidise the foodstuffs and other commodities, just as the Indian Tea Association have done, and thereby the Government can remove the present discontent in the province of Assam. The Government should do one or the other. I therefore urge on the Assembly to pass this Resolution so that to improve the conditions in the Province the Government will decrease or reduce prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in the province of Assam.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Resolution moved :

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to decrease the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in the Province."

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the present moment the most important thing that the Provincial Government could and should do is to reduce the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities necessary for the common man. On the ability of the Government to reduce prices, to help out the common man, in his admittedly intolerable distress, with the least delay, depends the very safety of the country during this present time of unravelable world tangle. This would be a short-term plan, as well as a scheme, for the province of Assam, but it throws into the shade dozens of long-term ambitious schemes, which are causing such dizzying headaches to the Provincial Government.

I have often heard people repeat that Democracy is the Government of the people, by the people and for the people. As Democracy works out, say for instance, in Great Britain, a truly democratic-minded Government finds out what the majority of the people that is, the common men want, and gives priority to meeting the wishes and immediate wants of the common people. What do the common people in Assam want just now, as distinct from the desires of the vehement, vocal, vociferous, microscopic minority that seek jobs, contracts, monopolies and so forth? Are not the wishes and wants of the common people, the overwhelming majority of people in Assam, expressed in demands for foodstuffs and other commodities, such as cloth, at reasonably reduced rates?

This Resolution, if passed, would ask the Government to reduce the prices of foodstuffs and commodities that the common people of Assam need. If the Government accept the Resolution they must give priority to reduction of prices,

before all other schemes. If the Government will not accept the Resolution it will imply that they think that the common people do not want reduction of the present prices of food-stuffs and other commodities. Let the Government say so and declare that it is all a matter of opinion. But if the Government are convinced that the people are suffering from high prices (and nobody wants to endure suffering if it could be avoided) the Government have no other option but to reduce prices, if possible and necessary, even by means of ordinances, which have become so democratically handy these days.

The undoubtedly unbearable suffering of the common people in Assam needs to be ended and prices in Assam have got to be brought down forthwith, if necessary, by subsidies. The British were asked to quit India so that conditions of life for the common people would ease, and that the burden on poor people would lighten. The British quitted taking care of the people in 1946 with the 1946 election, and finally quitted the land with bag and baggage on August 15, 1947. What has been happening since 1946-47? Has there not been a continuous and progressive deterioration in the conditions under which the common people in Assam have been living? We have the spectacle of the rise in prices such as never has been witnessed even in the worst days of the last global war. Things have gone away, with administrative corruption sky-rocketing the prices of cornered food-stuffs and essential commodities such as cloth.

I request the hon. House to accept the Resolution so that the Government might make an all-out effort to bring down prices. I shall not, this time, urge that the Assembly be dissolved (*Laughter*), but I have something more palatable to suggest. I humbly suggest that should the Government fail to bring down prices in the Province of Assam within the next six months, for the sake of suffering humanity, they could not do better than resign and make room for others, (*Loud laughter*), who might try a hand at reducing prices of foodstuffs and other commodities in the province of Assam, even if they have to subsidise this scheme, namely, price reduction. Incidentally the improved condition of the common people will automatically force the Communists, if there are any in Assam, to go underground and thence outside the boundaries of Assam.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It seems no other hon. Member is taking part. The Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary may reply.

**\*Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject of this Resolution is of urgent national importance, but what I expected is that the Government would profit by the deliberations on this Resolution and what more I expected is that the Mover would be throwing out some concrete suggestions as to the nature of measures which the Government should adopt for dealing with this very important and serious problem.

I feel, Sir, that this inflation and the high prices of commodities has got great relation, as a matter of fact to convertible stages. What do we find from the cost of living index of India basing on the price for week-ending 19th August, 1939? The position under the week ending 19th January, 1944 price index in case of agricultural commodities is 285.9 and in January 1947 it went up to 319 and January 1948 it again went up to 386.3. and in January 1949 it has gone up to 385.9. So, Sir, the tendency of inflation is still there and there has been practically no improvement. With regard to this question in our country taking India as a whole.....

**\*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** May I get an explanation as to what kind of index figures the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is giving?

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** These are cost of living index, that is, figures of the week ending 19th August, 1939, the price that were prevailing in 1939 and how they compare to the price index of today. This is a Government of India paper.

**\*Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Do these figures relate to Assam or India?

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Relating to India.

**\*Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Is the Paliamentary Secretary correct in saying that this index is of cost of living?

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA—(Parliamentary Secretary):** Cost of living index.

I have this price of living index of agricultural and other commodities.

**\*Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** If it is cost of living index, then it must have been in rupees, annas and pies.

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Yes, Sir, these are in rupees.

**\*Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It cannot be.

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Whatever is taken the basis is taken on the 19th August, 1939, as hundred. If you....

**\*Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Is this the price index ?

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Yes. Sir.

Of late, this position has changed and there has been inflation by 12 per cent, as it is compared to the figure on the 7th August, 1948 and as compared to the figure of the 22nd January, 1949. Whereas the position about price of rice in our province has remained almost stationary and as a matter of fact, there has been slight improvement now. The price of rice in Assam in January 1944 was Rs. 19-8 per maund and in January, 1945 it came down to Rs. 13-8 to Rs. 14-8, in January, 1946 it went down again to Rs. 12 to Rs. 13, in 1947 it remained the same and in 1948 January, it went upto Rs. 15-8 to Rs. 15-12 and in 1949 January, it was between Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per maund.

With regard to the prices of decontrolled commodities, I propose to show the comparative prices prevailing in February, 1949 as compared with those prevailing on the 30th June, 1948. Salt—in June 1948 the price was between Rs. 8 and 10 per maund as compared with that in February when it came down to between Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per maund. In the case of sugar it was Rs. 1-4 to 1-6 per seer in June, 1948 and in February 1949 it was Rs. 1-1 to 1-4 per seer. Pulses 12 annas to 1 rupee in June 1948 and 12 annas to 15 annas in February, 1949. Mustard Oil, Rs. 2-4 to Rs. 2-8 in June, 1948 and the same price is prevailing in February, 1949. There was no change in the price of this commodity.

Sir, I fully appreciate the necessity for bringing down the prices of foodstuffs, but the vicious circle that has created all this inflation had to be cut through by all possible means. The hon. Members of the House are fully aware of the measures that the Government of India have taken in fighting this inflation problem. So long we have not been able to fight this inflation in our country as it is not possible for a single province or a particular province to bring down prices. Yet, Sir, I would like to inform the House that Government have decided to cut down the price of rice and paddy with effect from the 1st of April next and thereby to have another cut again in the month of May next. In this way, Sir, the Government intend to bring down the prices with the co-operation of the public.

**\*Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** You are going to cut down the price of rice and paddy ; why not cloth ?

**\*Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** With regard to the price of cloth, Sir, this is fixed by the Government of India. When the price of cloth in the mills went up very high, the Government of India decided to bring the price of cloth again under control. And with regard to certain other commodities also, such as wheat and other things, the prices are determined by the Government of India and, therefore, we have not got much hand in those commodities.

As regards the suggestion about subsidy for bringing down the price for the relief of the consumers, Sir, you may take the dearness allowance and rice concession now being given by the Government to their employees as more or less a subsidy. But I do not think, Sir, with the very small resources of the province it will be possible to extend this scheme of subsidy or concession to the general public of the province. What is more necessary in this regard is, I suppose, to make our people conscious of this national problem. Sir, I have the opportunity of meeting some friends who have recently returned from overseas—they had been to England for study—it is very encouraging to hear from them about the national character of the British people, how in spite of acute scarcity there the British people behaved themselves. Although there is great scarcity there in which a man cannot get even two cups of tea for want of sugar, yet this black marketing is not in existence in England. I enquired of one of my friends whether there was blackmarketing in England. He said that there were only in two quarters—I am sorry to have to tell the hon. Members that these two quarters where blackmarketing exists in England are the restaurant of our Indian people and another of a Jew. These are the only two places in which black-marketing is known, but in other places it is not in existence. Sir, only if we can stop this black-marketing, if we can make our people conscious about the importance of this problem and ask them to co-operate with the Government in whatever measures they are taking, I think it will be possible to bring down prices within a reasonable period of time.

With these words, Sir, I would request my Friend, the Mover of this Resolution, to see his way to withdraw it.

**\*Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the assurance given by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary in charge of Supply that he will take steps in bringing down the prices, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

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

(Voices—yes, yes).

The Resolution stands withdrawn by the leave of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution No. 21 — Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem to move.

**Resolution Regarding Opening of a Steamer Sub-Agency at Mankachar**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the difficulties now being experienced by the businessmen of Mankachar and the Garo Hills in booking their goods at Rowmari Ghat in Rangpur District, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to move the R.S.N.Co. and I.G.N.Co., for opening a Sub-Agency at Mankachar as early as possible.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member must not use abbreviations.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I beg your pardon, Sir, I mean the River Steam Navigation Company and the Indian General Navigation Company.

Sir, my object in moving this Resolution is to do away with the difficulties which the people of these areas are experiencing now. In the pre-partition days the arrangement was that our commodities for the Garo Hills and for the part of Goalpara district which falls near the boundary are taken to Rowmari which now falls in Pakistan, but due to partition these people nowadays cannot take their commodities to those places. There was previously no difficulty in taking the goods to Rowmari and bringing them to Mankachar side. But now since partition when marchants want to take goods for booking at Rowmari to Calcutta or to any other place in the Indian Dominion, they still violate the existing custom rules. According to custom rules the merchants living in the Indian Dominion are not allowed to take their goods to Pakistan territory. So, it is not known whether they book their goods to any other place in the Indian Dominion or they sell them in Pakistan. This is a difficulty felt inside the Indian Dominion by the public concerned. The goods from the Indian Dominion, are generally detained in Pakistan while passing through it, and as a result our merchants suffer a good deal. Sometimes, in case of important articles, difficulties are experienced due to the interference by the National Guards and custom officers as they consider that those goods are to be actually exported from Rowmari to any other place in the Indian Dominion, which is a foreign Dominion to them. Because marchants, in bringing commodities from Calcutta to our side, are to book them from Rowmari, and as Rowmari is a landing ground for them, the Pakistan officers do not like to allow free export of those goods from Rowmari Ghat to our side. I would, therefore, suggest, Sir, that the Government should move both the steamer companies to start one sub-agency at Mankachar to do away all these difficulties of the public and the merchants especially. By a sub-agency I mean an agency of the steamer company where the steamer company can book goods of our merchants or people to any place in the Indian Dominion. And in that case it will be the duty of the steamer company to take those goods from Mankachar to Rowmari through Pakistan, and similarly the steamer company shall be able to give delivery of goods at the sub-agency to the marchants or other consignees, and thus great difficulty could be averted. If any extra charges will be necessary for carrying goods to Rowmari Ghat from this suggested sub-agency, the people will be quite ready to pay them, if that will be reasonable. Moreover, Sir, it is known to many that when there is no other means of transport, and the river Brahmaputra passes far away from the Indian Dominion in that portion of the area, there cannot be any regular Ghat in the Indian Dominion wherefrom the goods can be diverted. A Ghat if opened near Dhubri on the



either bank would serve no useful purpose, and at the same time the cost of transport charges by trucks are so heavy that it will be impossible for our merchants to bear.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House, and I ask all the hon. Members coming from either Goalpara or Garo Hills Districts to support my Resolution, they being fully aware of the difficulties that I have just now mentioned.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution moved:

"That in view of the difficulties now being experienced by the businessmen of Mankachar and the Garo Hills in booking their goods at Rowmari Ghat in Rangpur District, this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do take immediate steps to move the River Steam Navigation Company and Indian General Navigation Company for opening a Sub-Agency at Mankachar as early as possible."

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I do not think a second reply is necessary for this Resolution which aims at a particular purpose. The subject which has been brought before this House is nothing new to us.

It is as old as 25 years or more. A long time ago a voluminous correspondence was carried on between the Governments of Assam and Bengal when Bengal was undivided—for fixing up a road from Mankachar to Rowmari. Both Governments ultimately agreed that this road should be utilised for traffic by both the provinces for the benefit of the people of that area and of the District of Garo Hills. But subsequently, after doing many preliminaries, nothing was done and things remained as it was. Soon after the partition the question came to the forefront of this Government, particularly for the reason that a large quantity of raw materials from the Garo Hills had to pass through Pakistan territory in order that it may go to India. In the agreement arrived at in the Inter Dominion Conference held in Calcutta, it was agreed that for transport of things in such areas it should be governed by a wholesome provision (which is nothing more than what relates to other international relationship between free countries,) that goods in transit should not be held up by any party. So far as the Ghat is concerned, we received representation from the people of that area, but I do not know whether my hon. Friend is aware of it. In order to avoid difficulties mentioned by him, it was represented that a Ghat should be opened within the Indian Dominion to maintain direct contact with the Garo Hills. The matter was taken up by us even then. And what the hon. Member is seeking in his Resolution was done by Government even then. But it was pointed out by the Steamer Companies that it was not possible to have a Ghat nearabout for a direct connection, but it could be possible to have one at a distance of about 20 or 25 miles from Mankachar, that is, near about Fakiragram; and that in the winter season the Ghat would be somewhere near Mankachar. This matter was examined and is still under examination, but I do not really know how far, if this Ghat is accepted, it would be of any benefit to the people. Very recently we had referred the matter again to the Steamer Companies and I would read for the information of the hon. Members the recent communication we had from the Joint Agent of the Steamer Company.

"In reply to your letter No. TIRY. 27/49/4 of 5th March 1949, I have to advise that Mankachar is some miles distant from Rowmari Ghat and in the rains communication is maintained by boat and in the dry season by carts. There has been much correspondence in the past regarding the cart tract from Rowmari cold weather Ghat to Mankachar—part of which falls in the Province of Bengal and part in Assam and for many years prior to partition attempts were

made to get the Governments of Bengal and Assam to acquire the right of way so that carts could pass freely. Unfortunately, in spite of voluminous correspondence and many inspections by various Government officials nothing resulted. With the advent of partition part of the track now falls in Pakistan and part in Assam and naturally the difficulties are much greater and it is not practicable for the Steamer Companies to open an Out Agency at Mankachar.

Attempts have been made to find a site for the Ghat in the Indian territory, but the only possible site at present is at the entrance to Dematollah Nullah which is about 4 to 5 miles south of Fakirganj and 3 to 4 miles north west of Salmara. This site is at a *chur* nearly 1 mile out from the main bank and there is no road connection. During the rains boating will be necessary. The site is about 38 miles distant from Mankachar”.

So one can at once see whether any benefit will accrue for having the Ghat over here. It will, therefore, be seen that what was proposed in the Resolution is being done by this Government for a long time past; and now the initial difficulties that have been pointed out by the Steamer Company have also been placed before the hon. Members. I shall give further assurance that we shall carry on the correspondence with the Steamer Company whether any alternative is possible. But as the things stand, I think, the hon. Mover will agree that there is no necessity for pressing this Resolution and that he should withdraw it. We have done very much—more than the hon. Member had contemplated and I could tell him that we do not like to rest till any possibility of a better communication with Mankachar than the one that has been proposed is investigated. With these words I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

✓ **Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** Possibly I can speak on this something more. From what has now been given out by the Hon'ble Premier I quite appreciate that the Government has taken all possible steps to have a sub-agency or a steamer Ghat near about Mankachar. But as the area is not known to the Hon'ble Premier, I want to give some information particularly to the Hon'ble Premier. The distance from Dematollah to Fulbari would be about 12 miles or so. From Dematollah to Fulbari there is no road and it is not possible to have any road by that side, because the current of the mighty Brahmaputra will be against it and a road on the westernly direction is also not possible. So the only connection between Dematollah and Fulbari would be by river route and not by road. But the difficulties arise—only during the rains this is navigable, so this will not serve any useful purpose. As for a sub-agency the main objection of the Steamer Company, as it appears from their reply, is that it will not be possible for them to cover the risk of communication from Mankachar to Rowmari for the absence of any good road. But I think that can be remedied as some suitable parties may be found out who can take the responsibility of carrying goods from Mankachar to Rowmari Ghat. If the Steamer Company find that some reliable company come to take the sub-agency on contract basis then they will have no objection to open this sub-agency there. The main difficulty of road communication and river communication will not arise in that case, because the merchants are now in the habit of bringing those goods from Rowmari Ghat to Mankachar and Mankachar to Rowmari Ghat either by carts or by boats. People are in the habit of doing that. In view of what I have said, I hope the Hon'ble Premier will kindly communicate with the Steamer Company that they would help them in finding out a suitable party for this. As I have said we shall be ready to pay for having a sub-agency there. With these words, as no other Member is taking part, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**Resolution re-arrangement of motor launch service from  
Hallidayganj to Dhubri to connect the South Bank  
of Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision.**

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM :** Sir, I beg to move :  
“This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to arrange motor-launch service from Hallidayganj to Dhubri to connect the South Bank of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision with district headquarters at Dhubri throughout the year”.

Unfortunately for me the Minister concerned is absent now. However I expect a reply from the Hon'ble Premier.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** He will just come.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM :** It has been stated times without number that the areas on the south bank of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision *i.e.*, Mankachar and South Salmara are not connected with the headquarters at Dhubri for want of proper communication. The existing Public Works Department road is in such a condition that it is not motorable, even for the dry season *i.e.*, for 5 months not to speak of having a road for the whole year from Dhubri to Mankachar. So even for the dry season we are not having a good road. It is not known whether it would be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to construct a road connecting those areas with the district headquarters at Dhubri. Once in reply to a question of mine, I was not the least surprised to get a reply that Mankachar has been connected *via* Tura. The distance will only be tripled and more if Mankachar is connected *via* Tura. So this is the proposition which is practically impossible and it helps in no way the public to get over the difficulties of communication. There is a proposal for an all-weather road from Halidayganj to Garobada, but it should be from Halidayganj to Oiduba and if this road is constructed that will become a motorable road all the year and there will be no difficulty of communication from Halidayganj to Mankachar throughout the year. But difficulty remains in regard to communication between Halidayganj and Dhubri and it has been said that it is not possible to improve it due to flood and due to erosion. The difficulty will remain there for ever. This cannot be remedied unless there be an embankment in the whole area which will take centuries or such time as will probably wash the whole area. So, Sir, for this intervening period I suggest that the headquarters at Dhubri be connected with a motor launch service from Halidayganj. Now there has been a connection of the Brahmaputra with Jinjiram and it has become navigable throughout the whole year. If a steam launch service is started, Sir, it can carry passengers from Halidayganj touching at Sukchar and Hazirhat and South Salmara and this may reach Dhubri. This is the only possible way by which the Government can do away with the difficulties of the people of the area. I know that the Hon'ble Minister will say at once that ferries shall not be available and also that there is no money at his disposal. It will be seen that assurance for the Goalpara ferry took a year to materialise. I think the Hon'ble Minister will divert some money from other heads or other parts of the Province to connect this area with the district headquarters. It is most reasonable that to go to our headquarters we are linked with Dhubri, but we are not getting opportunity to go there for want of communication. On one occasion I got a letter that our Hon'ble Revenue Minister was paying a visit to Dhubri and I received the letter two days before the visit of the Hon'ble Minister. I had to refrain from going

to Dhubri for shortage of time because it takes  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days to reach Dhubri from Mankachar—the only way is to go by boat by up-current and the hon. Members know that the speed of the boat cannot be more than 2 miles per hour. This is the situation in which we are and as these difficulties cannot be exaggerated I think the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, instead of giving me similar reply as before, this time he would give an assurance that he will do away with our difficulties and that the people will find opportunity to go to their headquarters. They are in extreme difficulty.

With these few words, Sir, I move the Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution moved:

“That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to arrange motor launch service from Halidayganj to Dhubri to connect the South Bank of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri Subdivision with the district headquarters at Dhubri throughout the year”.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY:** I am sorry, Sir, I was out just for a few minutes because a question just arrived from an hon. Member which needed my immediate attention.

First of all I want to give information to the hon. Members that the Jogighopa-Goalpara ferry is running now. It was started from the 20th of this month. So the statement that Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem made when the ferry would be running is replied to. The delay was due to the fact that the ferry purchased by the Government of India need repairs, and certain alterations had to be done before it was brought to Assam.

With regard to the question itself we have had this proposal examined. I fully sympathise with the difficulty of the hon. Member. He would like very much to quicken the communication between Mankachar and Dhubri. Of course, this is the policy of the Government to quicken communication everywhere. I realise it myself when I have to go to certain places in Assam. You can go to Delhi in one day, but you cannot reach certain parts of Assam even in two or three days. We would like to eliminate all these difficulties everywhere including Mankachar which is just like Kalapani or Andaman Islands during the rainy season. The report that we have received from the Superintending Engineer who investigated the matter runs thus:—

“As there is already a Public Works Department motor ferry from Dhubri to Fakirganj during winter and to Tindubi during rains, the proposed motor ferry, if feasible, will be from Halidayganj to Fakirganj and Tindubi. But I do not think the latter ferry is feasible for the following reasons:—

The ‘Suti’ (branch of the Jinjiram river) at Bamni connecting the Brahmaputra river which formed only last year, as it is understood, cannot be relied on for future. It may either be silted up in near future closing the ‘Suti’ or the entire course of the river Jinjiram may be diverted through this ‘Suti’ leaving the down portion of the river dried up gradually making it impassable for plying boats.

The second difficulty is that the distance from Halidayganj to Tindubi will be about 30 miles along the river route. It will take at least 12 hours for a motor boat to perform the journey against the current of the rivers including two stoppages on the way. Even if the boat starts from Halidayganj early in the morning she will be too late to catch the ferry from Tindubi to Dhubri. This means

the passengers will have to stop for the night at Tindubi to catch the ferry for Dhubri next morning. So, a daily ferry is not possible. This proposition does not appear to be economically sound also considering the small volume of traffic likely to be served."

Sir, we had great difficulty in getting anybody to run a steam ferry from Dhubri to Fakirganj. When we advertised no one came forward. If the hon. Member can help us in finding out some people who would come forward to purchase a steamer and run the ferry there, we shall be very glad indeed. For the present, Sir, it seems almost impossible, but nevertheless we shall examine what can be done. If the hon. Member can suggest some practical methods by which this can be done we shall be very thankful. We are very sympathetic and would like to eliminate these difficulties, if possible; that is all I can say at the moment. In view of this, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Resolution.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to hear that the Hon'ble Minister will examine the question. But before I withdraw my Resolution I would like to say a few words regarding the report of the Superintending Engineer.

As for the first reason given by the Superintending Engineer I would say that in case Bamni, that is the place where Jinjiram joins with Brahmaputra, is silted up this can be run upto Hazirhat, *i.e.*, only about four miles down of Bamni. The road from Hazirhat to Halidayganj is quite good and in case this is silted up, it is better for the people and they can come upto Hazirhat by motor.

As for the second difficulty that it will take 12 hours for a journey from Halidayganj to Tindubi and that the steam launch will be too late to catch the ferry to Dhubri, I should say that it would not be possible to use the ferry from Fakirganj to Dhubri for passengers coming from Halidayganj, as that ferry, in order to ply twice a day, has to leave once in the morning at, say, 8 and again in the afternoon at, say, 5-30. So a separate ferry will have to be arranged.

About the third difficulty mentioned by him that this will not be an economical proposition, I should say that this is not correct. It will be seen that hundreds of boats remain at Dhubri Ghat and at least 50 to 60 per cent. of them belong to the people of the parts I have mentioned. At present people generally employ these boats for carrying passengers and cargoes. So it will be a very profitable concern. Of course I am not sure whether any private party will come forward to start a steam launch at this stage as it will require a huge amount of money. I do not know whether any one in our locality will be in a position to invest such a big sum of money. Some foreigners may come in. So advertisement may be made; if some one comes up well and good. If nobody comes up an experiment may be made by a boat driven by motor engine. Of course a huge quantity of petrol will be required. I think one such boat can carry 20 to 25 passengers. So, if two boats are employed for carrying passengers from Halidayganj, or in case of silting up from Hazirhat to Dhubri the difficulties may be overcome. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will re-examine the position in the light of what I have said. I really appreciate his sympathetic treatment of the question and the assurance that I have got from him.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Sir, I would like to say a few words in reply before the hon. Member withdraws his Resolution. The hon. Member has suggested running of motor engine fitted boats. Anybody can run such boats where the ferry has not been declared a Public Works Department ferry. If any private person comes and says that he would like to run an engine

fitted boat and applies to Government accordingly, we shall give him all the chance. So if the hon. Member can find out somebody who will run that ferry we shall be glad to see what can be done. Upto now nobody has come forward even to run the Dhubri-Fakirganj ferry by steamer. This is the real difficulty standing in our way.

**Maulavi MD. ABUL KASHEM:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We have disposed of Private Members' Business. May I suggest that some of the Government Resolutions be taken up on the 25th and 26th, if we can dispose of the days' business earlier? 29th and 31st will be heavy days and if my suggestion is accepted, this will lighten the work on those days. There is a Government Resolution asking for approval in taking a cash credit advance to the extent of Rs.2½ crores from the Imperial Bank of India for financing the procurement of Provincial quotas of cloth and yarn for Assam. There is another Resolution asking for approval of an expenditure of Rs.80,166 for carrying out special repairs to the buildings at Salonibari Air Field for accommodating the Assam Police Training College.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I think, Sir, some of these Resolutions can be taken up from to-morrow.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, that will lighten the heavy agenda for the 29th and 31st.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you allow me I can move the Resolution, for making the Public Works Department Muharrirs permanent, to-day.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think it will be better to have it to-morrow.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 p.m., on Friday, the 25th March 1949.

SHILLONG :  
The 4th June, 1949. }

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