



**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 1-30 P.M. on
Friday, the 25th March, 1949.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Headquarters Station of the Executive Engineer, Embankment
and Drainage, Lower Assam**

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked:

*9. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which they
have selected Nalbari as the headquarters Station of the Executive Engineer,
Embankment and Drainage, Lower Assam?

(b) Do Government propose to transfer his headquarters from Nalbari
to Dhubri in the interest of the public?

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

9. (a)—The headquarters Station of the Executive Engineer, Lower Assam,
Embankment and Drainage Division, is at Gauhati and not at Nalbari.

(b)—There is no proposal at present for transfer of the headquarters
to Dhubri.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Is there any proposal for setting up
headquarters of the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage, Lower Assam
at Nalbari?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already replied to
that, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Grant allotted to Jowai Subdivision from small scheme irrigation
project**

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked:

63. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount allotted in 1947 and 1948 to the Jowai Subdivision from
the grant of small scheme irrigation project?

(b) The names of persons and the amount received by them from the
said grant?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

63. (a)—Under the small scale irrigation scheme no amount was specifically provided for the Jowai Subdivision for the year 1947 but Government spent a sum of Rs.2,602 from savings. For the year 1948, Government has provided a sum of Rs.20,000.

(b)—It will take some time to collect the information. However, a list of the projects, showing Government contribution in each case, is placed on the table.

Irrigation project—worked—in Jowai Subdivision during the year 1948

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Nohmasi	345	14	0
(2) Bankamarang	852	0	0
(3) Liar Lulong	38	0	0
(4) Kaseh Lahar	1,121	0	0
(5) Myrkong	1,679	8	0
(6) Umingkhoi	221	7	0
(7) Myntiar	1,242	14	0
(8) Umtachi	1,187	10	0
(9) Talene	583	0	0
(10) Kydong Synnoh	510	6	0
(11) Pampilet	1,186	10	0
(12) Liardiem Shiem	550	6	0
(13) Shasim	1,177	5	9
(14) Skka Sitang	161	4	0
(15) Liar Shasim	402	0	0
(16) Kongong	418	10	0
(17) Wahslain	428	0	0
(18) Rening	27	8	0
	12,133	6	0

Irrigation project—worked—in Jowai Subdivision during the year 1947

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) 'Jaiktarch' of Sarbong Teinang Rtiang Sanfhlav	163	0	0
(2) 'Dieng Lieng' of U Rangbonginglang	140	0	0
(3) 'Mawpynieng' of U Gania Trang	200	0	0
(4) 'Kseh' of U Jaia Hanse	84	0	0
(5) 'Wahriong' of U Kwir Phawar	142	0	0
(6) 'Pamrupi' of U Poit Suching... ..	70	0	0
(7) 'Wapnug' of U Span Lungdoh	125	0	0
(8) 'Pasyih' and 'Khongweng'	180	0	0
(9) Wahrali	150	0	0
(10) Umbuit Mynso	310	0	0
(11) Wahrya	308	0	0
(12) Kharsanein	30	0	0
(13) Wahsynrang Khrop	108	0	0
(14) Wahiarain	80	0	0
(15) Wahawaw	73	0	0
(16) Wahmentypait	102	0	0
(17) Umbuit Shangpung	19	8	0
(18) Jonglai	257	8	0
	2,602	0	0

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: With regard to (a), for the year 1948 Government provided Rs.20,000 and the amount spent was Rs.12,133-6-0. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why the whole amount was not spent ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: As there were no other projects, Sir.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: Is it because that nobody asked for any grant ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Might be. But projects which were examined by the Irrigation Officers of the Department and sanctioned were only taken up and the amount mentioned relates to the projects thus completed.

Introduction of Compulsory Primary Education in Tea Gardens.

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA asked :

64. Will Government be pleased to state whether Compulsory Primary Education will be introduced in the tea gardens which have fallen in selected areas ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

64.—Primary Education has been made compulsory throughout the areas notified as compulsory areas ; and compulsion shall be enforced also in Tea garden areas wherever such are included in compulsory zones.

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA: I know in Golaghat Subdivision in Ghiladhari and Dhekial Mouzas, although the whole Mouzas have been included in the Compulsory Primary Education, no arrangement has so far been made for compulsion in the tea gardens. Will Government see into the matter ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): If any tea garden falls in any Compulsory Primary Education area, I see no reason why such a tea garden will be excluded.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know from Government whether any instruction has been issued for inclusion of these tea garden areas ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): No instruction is necessary for this purpose. When any tea garden falls under any area of compulsion it is expected that arrangement will be made in those areas for starting compulsion there.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: As a matter of fact, Sir, I know of tea gardens which have come under Compulsory Primary Education area but no arrangement has yet been made for opening of schools for school-going children of such tea gardens. Will Government take action to see that it is done ?

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): I will look into the matter, Sir.

National Highway between Imphal and Silchar

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

65. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any National Highway is being constructed to link up Imphal and Silchar ?
 (b) If so, when the work is likely to be completed ?

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

65. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.

Steps to check flood in Cachar

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA asked :

66. Will Government be pleased to state what concrete steps Government are taking to check flood in Cachar ?

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

66.—A Statement showing the schemes in progress and also under investigation in order to check flood in Cachar is given below.

A. In progress :—

1. Blasting the Rocky bed of Ghogra river at Silchar Subdivision.
2. Collection of Hydrological data in Silchar Subdivision.

B. Under investigation and preparation of plans and estimates :—

1. Protection of Silchar Town from Flood (Small measures).
2. Constructing a sluice gate at Lakhipur in Silchar Subdivision to prevent flood water in Chiri River entering into field.
3. Survey for improvement of flood affected portion in Kaliganj area of Karimganj Subdivision.
4. Construction of sluice gates at Kachua and Natikhal in Karimganj Subdivision.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA : Will Government be pleased to state, how long it will take to finish collection of Hydrological data in Silchar Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It is very difficult to say that, Sir.

Collection of grazing taxes in different Doloiships of Jowai Subdivision

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

67. (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No.159 (g) asked by the Questioner in the Assembly on the 2nd April 1948 regarding collection of grazing taxes in different Doloiships of Jowai Subdivision and state as to what action Government has taken in the matter ?

- (b) Whether all the Dolois concerned are allowed to collect grazing taxes from the graziers who are within their jurisdiction ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Is it a fact that one Ujirsingh is still allowed to continue as a collector ?
- (e) If so, why ?
- (f) Have Government lately received any representation from the Dolois and the Jaintia Durbar to this effect ?
- (g) Do Government propose to reconsider the question by allowing the Dolois concerned to collect the grazing taxes ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

67. (a) & (b)—Government, after due consideration have entrusted the collection of grazing tax in the Jowai Subdivision to the Dolois in their respective areas except in one area which is still under the charge of a Nepalese Grazing Sirdar who has been in the service since 1936.

(c)—This is due to the fact that all the graziers in that area being Nepalese, it was not thought advisable to deprive this old Nepalese Headman (Ujirsingh) of this job immediately, so he was allowed to continue for his life time only.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—*Vide* replies to (c) above.

(f)—No, but local Officers have.

(g)—The matter may be reconsidered when the question of Mikir Area is finally decided as most of the grazing area under this Nepalese Sirdar is in the Mikir area.

Industrial Planning and Development of Assam

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

68. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The decision of Government as regards the Industrial Planning and Development of Assam ?
- (b) Whether any step has been taken to bring into operation the measures suggested by Mr. K. D. Guha, Industrial Adviser to the Government of Assam ?
- (c) When Government propose to establish the Planning and Development Board as suggested by its author ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

68. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to the Government Communique of the 26th August 1946, announcing their industrial policy.

(b)—The question is vague. The hon. Member should state to what specific measures he refers.

(c)—The matter is under contemplation.

Creation of Provincial Leper Colony

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

69. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.119(b) asked by the Questioner on the 29th March, during the

Budget Session, 1948 (at page 559 of the Assembly Proceedings, 1948) and state—

- (a) Whether the proposed Provincial Leper Colony to be opened in the district of Nowgong has been started ?
 (b) What progress, if any, has been made for giving effect to the proposal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

69. (a)—No.

(b)—The land was acquired. Some work in connection with jungle cutting was done and the Public Works Department were asked to prepare plans and estimates.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, will Government be pleased to state, whether the Public Works Department has prepared the plan and estimate for the construction of the colony ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I have already said that the plans and estimates were called for, but, at the same time, I must inform the House that the limited resources of the province may not allow us to start the colony now. It was a Post-war Scheme and was to be constructed from the Government of India grant but due to reduction of grant by the Government of India it may not be possible for us to start the colony.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I know whether the scheme is going to be abandoned ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: At present that is the plan, Sir.

Subdivisional Officer, Jowai Subdivision

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

70. (a) Are Government aware that the Subdivisional Officer of Jowai Subdivision very badly requires one officer to cope with the various works which have tremendously increased in the last 3 or 4 years ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint an Assistant (to the rank of a Sub-Deputy Collector) to assist the Subdivisional Officer ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

70. (a)—It has recently been represented to Government that Subdivisional Officer, Jowai, requires an officer to cope with the increased work.

(b)—The desirability of posting a Sub-Deputy Collector at Jowai to assist the Subdivisional Officer, is being examined.

Amount sanctioned for Rural Development Scheme for the year 1948-49

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

71. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount sanctioned for the Rural Development Scheme for the year 1948-49 ?

(b) The amount of expenditure incurred or likely to be made from the aforesaid total grant towards—

- (i) the salaries of the Development Officers ;
 (ii) their living allowance ; and

- (iii) their travelling allowance ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that all the Rural Development Officers do not get the same amount of pay from the date of their appointment ?
- (d) If so, what is their minimum and the maximum initial pay ?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

71. (a)—Rs.94,68,500.
 (b) (i)—Rs. 32,476.
 (ii)—Rs.8,010.
 (iii)—Rs.24,800.

(c)—Yes. Individual Officer's pay has been fixed on the basis of age and experience.

(d)—Rs.250 and Rs. 575 in the time scale of Rs 250—25—750.

Proposed Public Health Dispensary at Selenghat

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA asked :

72. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether the proposed Public Health Dispensary at Selenghat is going to be started ?
- (b) What steps they are taking to open that dispensary ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that *Kala-azar* is very rampant there ?
- (d) Whether they have come to a final decision to make Chungi *Kala-azar* Dispensary a full-fledged Public Health Dispensary ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

72. (a)—The matter is under consideration.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—The Chungi *Kala-azar* Dispensary is already a full-fledged Public Health Dispensary.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা খাটাং কৈ জানি লব পাৰোনে যে চেলেং হাটত পাব্লিক হেল্থ ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰা কাৰ্য্য অতি সোনকালে হাতত লব ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: এইবাৰ বাজেটত এখন ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰা হব বুলি স্থিৰ কৰা হৈছে। প্ৰদেশৰ ভিতৰত ক'ত ক'ত সেই কেইখন ডিস্পেন্সৰী দিব পৰা যাব তাক স্থিৰ কৰাৰ আগতে তেখেতক এই বিষয়ে কোনো প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিব নোৱাৰে।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: এই বিষয়ে পৰিষদৰ যোৱা অধিবেশনত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰা হৈছিল আৰু তেতিয়াও তাত ক'লাজৰৰ প্ৰকোপ অতি বৃদ্ধি হোৱাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এখন পাব্লিক হেল্থ ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰিব বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি

দিছিল, আৰু এই প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰতো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই ঠাইত ক'লাজবৰ প্ৰকোপ বেছি হৈছে বুলি স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে। এনে অৱস্থাত চেলেং হাটত পাৰ্লিক্ হেল্থৰ এখন ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰা অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয়। সেই কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি জনাবনে যে তাত অতি সোনকালে পাৰ্লিক্ হেল্থৰ এখন ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰিব ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপোনাৰ প্ৰশ্ন অতি দীঘলীয়া হৈছে; ছুটি কৰি প্ৰশ্নবোধক বাক্য প্ৰয়োগ কৰক।

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA: গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি ৫ খন পাৰ্লিক্ হেল্থ ডিস্পেন্সৰী স্থাপন কৰা হব বুলি কৈছে তাৰ এখন চেলেং হাটত স্থাপন কৰিবনে ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিবেচনা কৰিব বুলি কৈছে নহয়।

Enforcement Police Force in Assam

Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN asked :

73. (a) Are Government aware that the Central Government proposes to appoint some enforcement Police Force in Assam ?

(b) If so, whether appointments in that force will be made in consultation with the Provincial Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

73. (a)—The Government of India propose to set up a Central Enforcement Organisation in Assam and in other provinces.

(b)—The Central Government had asked for the services of suitable Police Officers for appointment in the said organisation, but unfortunately it was not possible to spare any such Officers just at present.

Names of Gazetted Officers of different ranks district by district

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

74. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of Gazetted Officers of different ranks district by district at present ?

(b) The period of their stay in the present place of their posting without transfer ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

74. (a)—Information regarding the I.C.S., I.A.S., A.C.S. and A.J.C.S. officers will be available in the latest issue of the Civil List.

As regards rest, the information will be collected but in view of the general nature of the question, it will take time.

(b)—If the hon. Member has any particular point to make out in this question, Government will be glad to consider it.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: With regard to (b), may I know from Government, whether there is any fixed period in which a Gazetted Officer should be kept in one particular place?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I suppose, the implication of the reply is well understood by the hon. Member over there. It is not quite easy to collect the information he has sought for, the name of the Gazetted Officers of different ranks, district by district, at present, I say, Sir, the information cannot be collected. But if the hon. Member has any particular matter in view for the reason for which he wants this information, we shall be glad to furnish him that.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Is there any fixed period for which the Gazetted Officer is put at one centre?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: My reply is that the principle is being acted upon, but I cannot be definite that every officer is stationed in a particular place for three years only. But as I said if the hon. Member questions regarding any particular officer I will look into it.

Quantity of Cement allotted for Assam

Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI asked:

75. Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) How many tons of cement have been allotted to Assam per quarter?
- (b) How many tons of cement Assam has actually received during the last two quarters?
- (c) How many bags of cement were actually given to each subdivision during the last two quarters?
- (d) Whether the full quota of cement have arrived Assam regularly?
- (e) If not, what are the reasons for it?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

75. (a)—Regular quota 6000 tons besides an additional quota of 3000 tons per quarter.

(b)—3590½ tons.

(c)—Barpeta	...	...	36	tons = 720 bags.
Karimganj	...	...	107½	„ = 2150 „
Tezpur	...	...	185½	„ = 3710 „
Gauhati	...	...	933½	„ = 18670 „
Hailakandi	...	...	74½	„ = 1497 „
North Lakhimpur	...	...	60¾	„ = 1215 „
Goalpara	...	...	69¼	„ = 1385 „
Silchar	...	...	185½	„ = 3710 „
Dhubri	...	...	225½	„ = 4513 „
Jorhat	...	...	420	„ = 8400 „
Nowgong	...	...	185½	„ = 3710 „
Mangaldai	...	...	79½	„ = 1588 „
Dibrugarh	...	...	210½	„ = 4208 „
Golaghat	...	...	94½	„ = 1895 „
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	312½	„ = 6250 „
Sibsagar and Naga Hills	...	...		No report as yet received.

(d)—No.

(e)—Transport difficulties and Land Customs barriers.

Assault of Gauhati Police by some people

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

76. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Law and Order be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the Police of Gauhati were assaulted by some people with broom-stick, mekhela, etc. ?

(b) What led to this incident ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Communist menace in the Gauhati Town is going on unabated and that the police have not yet been able to arrest the ring leaders ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

76. (a)—Yes, with broom-sticks and lathis.

(b)—On the 23rd January, 1949 in the morning the Court Inspector, Gauhati Circle, with some constables went to investigate cases at Kotohabari in Beltola Mauza. Two persons concerned in the cases, were arrested. While the police party were returning to Gauhati town, a mob of women with brooms and lathis intercepted them on the way and demanded unconditional release of the two accused. The incident arose out of this.

(c)—No.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS**: My question was with regard to the Gauhati thana and not with regard to the Gauhati town.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Beltola is in Gauhati thana.

***Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA**: With regard to (a), are Government aware that broom-stick has become a favourite weapon for the Communists ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It is not a question.

***Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA**: Sir, I am only mentioning that the broom-sticks have become a favourite weapon with the Communists now-a-days.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: One instance has been brought out in reply to the question, generalisation is very difficult from one or two such cases.

***Maulavi ABDUL HALIM**: Sir, may I know the names of the persons who were arrested ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: If necessary I can give the names. The names were not asked in the question. But this is a new question.

***Maulavi ABDUL HALIM**: Sir, I think this is not a new question.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: If the hon. Member is anxious to know the names, I can supply him with the names.

***Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB OF SIDLI:** Was the trouble of a communal nature ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: He went in connection with a cognisable offence.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** May I know whether the police were assaulted by the women ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Of course the legal definition of 'assault' is, if a man raises his hand and the other man is within his reach, it is 'assault'.

***Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Whether the people who assaulted were men or women ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Women.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** The police were all males ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Yes.

Tribal people of Gauhati Subdivision

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

77. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether they are aware that the Tribal people of the Gauhati Subdivision have become Communist minded ?
 - (b) Whether Government have ascertained the cause of the unrest among the Tribals ?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that their grievances are mainly economic rather than political ?
 - (d) Whether Government are aware that no amount of granting of scholarships, appointing them in Government services, etc., can solve the real problem of the Tribals ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

77. (a)—No.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Partly economic and partly political.
 (d)—Government do not expect that the granting of scholarships and appointment in Government Services in themselves would improve the condition of the Tribal people and are taking other steps for their amelioration and general uplift.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know the cause ascertained by the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Partly economic and partly political.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** May I know the steps Government have taken to remedy this difficulty ?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The Communists who were at work were so long agitating for *tebhaga*. By legislation we have given more benefit to the cultivators, because now they are entitled to three-fourths and the landlord gets only one-fourth. We are trying to improve the economic condition of the cultivators by allowing them to retain three-fourths of produce for their maintenance in place of half.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Is it a fact that the tribals are refusing to pay one-eighth of their produce ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I do not know. There is provision in the Adhjar Protection Act itself. If the landlord is not given any crop laid down, then he can apply to the Sub-Deputy Collector or the Deputy Commissioner and seek remedy under the provisions of the Adhjar Protection Act.

***Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** As there will be thousands of cases of this nature, will Government be pleased to appoint Special Magistrates for them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: We will see to it if Magistrates are unable to cope with the work.

Troubles and disabilities of the people of North Lakhimpur in attending the Sessions Court at Jorhat.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

78. (a) Are Government aware of the troubles and disabilities of the people of North Lakhimpur Subdivision in attending the Sessions Court at Jorhat specially during the rains ?

(b) Do Government propose to remove these troubles and disabilities of the people of North Lakhimpur by making proper arrangements for holding Sessions Court at North Lakhimpur ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

78. (a)—Yes, it is inherent in the geographical situation of the subdivision.

(b)—Government do not consider that it would be possible to hold the Sessions Court at North Lakhimpur.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: বাৰিষা উত্তৰ-লক্ষিমপুৰৰ পৰা যোৰ-হাটলৈ যাবলৈ হলে ৩৪ দিন লাগে আৰু কেতিয়াবা শিলঘাটেদিও যাবলগীয়া হয়। এনেকুৱা অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে “ছেছন কোৰ্টৰ” দুই এটা sitting বাৰিষাৰ দিনত উত্তৰ-লক্ষিমপুৰত বহা উচিত বুলি গৱণমেণ্টে ভাবেনে ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: মোৰ উত্তৰ পৰিকাব বুলি মই ভাবোঁ। ইয়াত কোৱা হৈছে যে “Government do not consider that it would be possible to hold the Sessions Court at North Lakhimpur.” ইয়াৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ হৈছে যে উত্তৰ-লক্ষিমপুৰৰ ভিতৰত যিমান qualified juror লাগে সিমান পোৱা নাযাবও পাৰে। এই এটা কাৰণ, আৰু এটা কাৰণ হৈছে যে উত্তৰ-লক্ষিমপুৰৰ চ'ৰ্ভিভিজনত যদি এই সুবিধা দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে আসামৰ অন্যান্য চ'ৰ্ভিভিজন বিলাকতো সেই সুবিধা দিব লাগিব,

কাৰণ সেই বিলাকৰ পৰাও তেনেকুৱা demand পাইছে।। সেই কাৰণে উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰত এই সুবিধা দিয়া অসম্ভৱ। তাত দিলেই অন্যান্য চ'ৰডিভিজনৰ কথা ওলাব আৰু এই demand concede কৰা টান হ'ব।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰ backward ঠাই। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিবেচনা কৰে নে যে উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰত দিলেই আন আন ঠাইতো দিব লাগিব?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The reply is already given, উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰৰ ভৌগলিক অৱস্থাত দেখা যায় যে তাত বৰ অসুবিধা। কিন্তু সেই অসুবিধা স্বত্বেও অন্যান্য চ'ৰডিভিজনৰ কথা ভাবি তাত তেনে সুবিধা দিয়া সম্ভৱপৰ নহ'ব বুলি ভাবে।।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰ অসুবিধাৰ ঠাই। সেই অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণেই এই অনুৰোধ কৰিছে।। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়টো বিবেচনা কৰিবনে?
(No reply)

Non-selection of people of North Lakhimpur as Jurors for Sessions Court at Jorhat.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

79. (a) Are Government aware that the people of the North Lakhimpur Subdivision have been deprived of being selected as Jurors for Sessions Court at Jorhat ?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to appoint Jurors from the people of North Lakhimpur Subdivision specially for the cases coming from that subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

79. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are considering the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we come to the Demands for Grants.

Demands for Grants

GRANT NO. 22.

("42—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies")

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,50,300 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 "42—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies".

Sir, the reply to the Cut Motions will be given by my hon. Friend Mr. Chaliha, the Parliamentary Secretary who is in-charge of the Co-operative Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,300 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 '42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies'.

We have got half-an-hour for this demand and there are four Cut Motions. Maulavi Muhammad Abul Kashem may move his Cut Motion No. 4 as it desires to raise a general discussion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 6,50,300 under Grant No. 22, Major head—42—Co-operation—1.—Co-operative Societies, at page 195 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,50,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion on the Co-operative Department. The object of the Co-operative organisation is really a noble one, but the success of this organisation must depend on the working of the Department and also on the Co-operation of the people. Now, Sir, very recently Government have decided to start Co-operative Societies in each area for every ten thousand of population mainly for the distribution of cloth and yarn in those areas through the Co-operative Societies. These Co-operative Societies would have removed the difficulties of the people and in getting cloth at a cheaper rate because with the decontrol of cloth the price rose very high and many people had to pay double the rate. Now, after these Co-operatives have been formed Government have failed in supplying cloth to them in many places with the result that the public have abstained from taking any shares in many of these Co-operatives. This again has resulted in the very small number of share-holders in the Societies and the share money needed for the successful operation of these Co-operatives is not forthcoming.

Further, the object of these Co-operatives was mainly for distribution of cloth and yarn, but if cloth and yarn is not available for them to distribute, the people cannot be expected to join them as members and to invest their money. Moreover, there is a strong propaganda from the side of the merchants and those who are interested in the merchants saying that these Co-operative Societies will fail and the people need not invest their money in them. So, Sir, even just to counteract such propaganda it is the duty of the Government to ensure a regular supply of cloth and yarn to these societies so as to be attractive to the people to join them.

Another fact is that, it has been found both in Shillong and Gauhati that large quantity of cloth is being sold in the open market. We do not know whether these cloths are of pre-control days or not. If they are brought during these days of control, then Government ought to have taken steps to see that they are distributed through the Co-operative Societies. If this is not done, the public will get all their requirement of cloth from the open market and as such they will not take any interest in the formation of these Co-operatives. In the bordering areas of the districts of Kamrup and Goalpara people are getting plenty of cloth from the open markets at Gauhati. So, until and unless these dealers of cloth are made to distribute their cloth through Co-operatives at reasonable rate, the question of starting these Co-operatives in the rural areas would be meaningless.

Then again Sir, just to induce the people to take shares in these Co-operative Societies, Government should make arrangement for distribution of other controlled commodities through these Co-operative Societies. At present commodities like kerosene oil, atta, flour etc., are distributed by the dealers, that is, the retailers. Kerosene is needed by all persons and if it is distributed through the Co-operative Societies the people will be bound to purchase shares in these Co-operative Societies. So the Government would do well to see that kerosene is distributed through the Co-operative societies both wholesale and retails. Moreover sufficient quota of kerosene oil to the societies will allow them sufficient margin to meet their incidental expenses for the management of the societies. At

this infant stage Government should give them all facilities to grow and this they can do by giving them quotas of kerosene oil, atta and flour for distribution besides cloth.

Now, Sir, it has been stated here under this head that a sum of rupee s2½ crores has been borrowed from the Imperial Bank of India. As the province has to pay a huge sum of money as interest it would be better to fix the price of cloth after adding the interest as well so that the people will not feel much for paying a few pies more than the actual price of cloth and thereby Government will be saved from this huge drainage.

I will come now to the specific provision in the Budget. I think some of the expenditure under this head may be curtailed. There is one provision for a Propaganda Officer and he will get a salary of Rs.2,470.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is a separate Motion for that in the name of Moulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: I thought, Sir, that it would be better if I am permitted to speak on this also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a separate Motion.

Now I will put the Motion.

Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs 6,50,300 under Grant No.22, major head—
—42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies, at page 195 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,50,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

***Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA: (Parliamentary Secretary)**
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully appreciate the intention of the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion, because he has taken some labour in order to bring the Co-operative movement into a successful establishment. While discussing the various Cut Motions about the supply position, the textile position was also discussed and the reason for which we have not been able to bring cloth to this Province according to the quantity we want, was fully explained. This is a problem which has got to be solved in order to maintain adequate supply of cloth through our Co-operative societies. Recently we appointed two private companies to bring cloth in block into this province and we expect that each of their ship will carry about 4,000 bales: in all we expect to bring about 8,000 bales of cloth to the province for sale.

So far as railways are concerned, although we are allotted two wagons a day I am sorry to inform the House that it has not been possible to utilise those wagons on account of interference by Pakistan railways. But whenever we shall be able to avail of these wagons, we shall do it.

With regard to free control I may say that we are to abide by the decision of the Government of India which sent us a general order on the 30th November last. According to this order we cannot compel a merchant who has a certain stock of cloth to sell it through a particular organisation or dealer. All that we can do in this respect is to seize the stock of cloth, but even after doing so, the merchant has a right to dispose of the stock either by himself or through a selected dealer, if he so desires before it had been possible for us to dispose of seized stock through trading co-operative societies. But under the present circumstances I am sorry to inform the House, it is not possible.

With regard to controlled-commodities, I may state that this is a subject which is under examination. After establishment of our trading co-operative societies for cloth the responsibilities for distribution of the controlled commodities and also for their procurement, will gradually be given to them. But in view of heavy demand of cloth Government is considering whether they should utilise the co-operative societies for distribution of those controlled commodities also. No decision on the subject has yet been arrived at.

Regarding extra charges for interest and other things I am to inform the hon. Members that whatever may be the extra expenditure according to the Textile Control Order, we have to make the cloth available to the consumers at 20 per cent. above the ex-mill price, and we cannot charge more than this. But I may say that while fixing the price, taking into consideration the various percentages for freight and interest, we have kept enough margin in view of the abnormal condition of the country so that Government may not have to lose any money.

As there are more Cut Motions under this Grant I do not propose to speak any more and I request the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion to withdraw his Motion.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Sir, hearing the statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs 1,288 under Grant No.22, major head—42.—Co-operation.—1.—Co-operative Societies, minor head.—A(B).—Provincial Organisation (Post-War), sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, detailed head—(1).—Assistant Propaganda Officer, at page 197 of the Budget, be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,50,300 do stand reduced by Rs.1,288.

Sir, my object of moving this Cut Motion was to raise a discussion on the imperative need of abolishing the post of Assistant Propaganda Officer. This Motion is a part only of the Motion No. 1, but in the absence of the hon. Mover of these Motion No. 1, I may have to partly deal with that Motion. Sir, this post of Propaganda Officer under the Provincial Organisation who draws an amount of Rs. 2,470 and the post of Assistant Propaganda Officer who draws an amount of Rs. 1,288 should be abolished. There had already been discussion on the floor of this House that the Publicity Department is spending money uselessly and so we should curtail our expenditure on that account. If propaganda for the Co-operative Department is to be done through the departmental Propaganda officers then what is the use of maintaining the Publicity Officers in the Publicity Department? So it will be quite in the fitness of things if propaganda work for the Co-operative Department is handed over to the Publicity Department. Over and above that, Sir, there is a propaganda van in the Department purchased at a cost of Rs.14,000. This may also be transferred to the Publicity Department so that they can utilise this van for giving publicity for the Co-operative movement. The hon. Members will realise that at this

stage we should not unnecessarily maintain some officers whose services are not of public benefit.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs. 1,288 under Grant No. 22, Major head—42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies, Minor head—A(B).—Provincial Organisation (Post-War), Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment, detailed head—(1).—Assistant Propaganda Officer, at page 197 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,50,300 do stand reduced by Rs.1,288.”

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that I have to oppose this Cut Motion with all the emphasis at my command. Only while moving the Cut Motion No.4, the hon. Mover, of the Cut Motion said that the interested parties have already been carrying on intensive propaganda against the trading co-operatives and the co-operative movement generally. Unless we have some arrangement of counteracting these propagandas, how can we expect to bring this co-operative movement into a successful existence? Of course there is one reason for which he may be justified in suggesting us to get our propaganda done through the Publicity Department *i.e.*, for centralisation of publicity. But, Sir, so far as the Publicity Department is concerned, the Department has not yet been fully organised. The hon. Members of this august House may remember that there was a time when the question of complete abolition of the Publicity Department was thought of, but subsequently it was decided to retain the organisation and develop it. Till now the Publicity Department is not fully organised and in the meantime unless the Department is given some facility for propaganda, I think, it will be simply impossible to expect from the Department successful execution of the works entrusted to it. But it is the desire of Government to amalgamate these propaganda sections of the various departments with the Publicity Department as soon as circumstances permit. I think the time for determining that should be left to the respective departments. It is not the intention of the Government to decentralise Publicity, but as a measure of expediency this has become necessary. With these few words, Sir, I would request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: My part has been served. I am glad that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has agreed that the Department of Publicity is not working well. As he has agreed this much, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,000 under Grant No.22, Major head—42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies, Minor head—A(B).—Provincial Organisation (Post-War), Sub-head—4.—Contingencies, detailed head—(4).—Propaganda Van and equipments, at page 197 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,50,300 do stand reduced by Rs.3,000.

Just now the Parliamentary Secretary has replied that the Publicity Department has not yet been well organised and is not doing the work as the Government wanted them to do. At present they have several vans and other equipments for the purpose of propaganda. I do not think these are at

all necessary for propaganda purpose. So those vans and equipments which are not utilised may be used for propaganda under the rural development movement. With these words, I move my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.3,000 under Grant No.22, Major head—42.—Co-operation—1.—Co-operative Societies, Minor head—A(B).—Provincial Organisation (Post-War), Sub-head—4.—Contingencies, detailed head—(4).—Propaganda Van and equipments, at page 197 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,50,300 do stand reduced by Rs.3,000.”

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope it was possible for me to explain to the Hon'ble House the necessity of this propaganda section of the Co-operative Department while replying to the previous Cut Motion. I have, Sir, nothing more to add to what I have already said and I would request the hon Mover of the Cut Motion to please accept my previous explanation and kindly withdraw his Cut Motion.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: 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.6,50,300 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 ‘42.—Co-operation—1.—Co-operative Societies’.”

The question was adopted.

Grant No.22-A

(“42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development”)

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Asam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.15,51,900 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 “42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.15,51,900 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 ‘42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development’.”

There are 5 Cut Motions. No.5, I think, will be an omnibus Motion.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got another Cut Motion *i.e.* No.2. I may be permitted to speak on that also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, you can speak.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.15,51,900 under Grant No.22-A, Major head—42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development, at page 205 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,51,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my moving this Cut Motion is not to criticise the Government but to suggest to them how this Department should be administered. Now, Sir, in addition to the money provided in the Budget a huge sum of money is being granted by the Central Government for this Department. This Rural Development Department is the most important Department for the development of the country specially the rural societies. On the activities and sincere services of the officers concerned depends the success of this Department. So, Sir, I rather request the Government to be alert on this matter at the time of making appointments. The Government should not make appointments for the sake of appointment only and to make provision for some unemployed people. They must select the people who are active and who can work in the villages for the good of the rural people. Now, Sir, about the appointment of the Development Officers we have heard some criticisms from the public that some officers are quite raw and not fit for village activities. Those officers simply like the town environment and are not habituated to tour in the interior villages. Sir, if those Development Officers are such that they do not like to leave the town, then the object of the Rural Development Department will not be served. We have got many officers for executive work and these officers should not be allowed to sit idle and they should not remain in town. They should be put on additional work and they must go to the villages and make the people understand that the Government has been doing something for their good.

Then, Sir, as regards my Cut Motion, I would request the Government to consider the establishment of a Rural Panchayat in the Lakhipur Thana. The Lakhipur Thana area is a very big area and the people are agriculturists. So, I hope, the Government will do their best, if at least one centre is opened there and give those rural people an incentive to have co-operative idea and to do work regarding development in the villages.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.15,51,900 under Grant No.22-A., Major head—42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development, at page 205 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,51,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak on my Cut Motion No.4.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think you can touch all the points.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM : Sir, in support of the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend, Maulavi Nazmal Haque, I want to add a few words only. I agree that this is the most important for the uplift of the rural areas in the Province, but at the same time it is our lookout to see that while we are going to do good to the people of the rural areas, we do not spend money unnecessarily. So, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Parliamentary Secretary and the Members of the House to a certain item of expenditure.

Sir it has been discussed on the floor of the House that the Marketing Officers would be no longer in service in the Department of Agriculture. But here, my hon. Friend has included the service of one Marketing Superintendent and also one Marketing Officer. Sir, if the Marketing Officer is appointed to supply the rates

of commodities and goods of each area where they may be posted then I think, we should do away with this service. The officers of the Agriculture Department go round the villages and they are acquainted with the villagers ; so it is expected that the Department should be able to collect those informations through those officers in the rural areas.

Another Development Officer has been proposed to be appointed and his pay has been fixed at Rs.6,500 a year. I quite agree that with the operation of the Rural Panchayat Act we will require the services of some men at the Secretariat or at the Centre, but for this purpose we have got the Deputy Director who can do the work through the Development Officers already appointed for each subdivision. The Development Officers were appointed to give effect to the Rural Panchayat Act and not for any other purpose and they are now engaged in forming co-operative societies ; but Sir, it is only a part of the Rural Panchayat Act. If the Rural Development Officers do their respective work in the respective subdivision and submit their reports to the Department or to the Director or Deputy Director in-charge of the appointed area there will be no need to have any person appointed as Panchayat officer and the new man appointed for this post shall not be in a position to control so many Development Officers. Experienced officers of the Department would do better for the purpose.

There is also provision for Marketing Organisers and they fall under the head—"Marketing Officers". There are also some posts of Rural Instructors. Of course, we have not got any opportunity to know from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary what he proposes to do with them. If he wants them only for propaganda work then their services may not be needed. If they are trained men in any particular art, then of course, they may be utilised in the rural areas.

There is also a proposal for having Medical Officers—as many as 30—in the rural areas. If he has proposed that each Rural Panchayat must have one Medical Officer, a Medical Officer may be posted there and for this purpose provision has been made. But I would say that there would be lack of supervision of their work until the Medical Department do not take sufficient steps to inspect their work, or it would be better if there is better co-ordination of the Medical Department and get people appointed through the Medical Department. I think if the amount provided be transferred to the Medical Department then there will be no need for an additional doctor unless the Rural Panchayat requires a doctor. To have a doctor in a certain area we should consult the Medical Department whether there is any need, in a particular area and whether the technically trained men shall not be under the control of the Director or the Deputy Director.

There is provision for Compounders. My arguments about Compounders are also the same.

Then, Sir, there is provision for 13 school teachers. Here also they should come under the guidance of the Education Department as in that case there would be no necessity for a separate inspecting staff. It would be better if the money could be spent through the Provincial School Board or the Subdivisional School Board, as the case may be.

Then, Sir, there is provision for one permanent Principal and 4 Instructors for the training organisation for Rural Development Institute. The training will be for a short term only, and the Department should see that these persons are utilised in some substantive posts in the Rural Development Branch, as soon as the training is over.

Again, there is a provision of Rs.2,000 for co-operative societies and Rs.5,000 for contribution to Local Bodies for Development of Industries, long-term loans to Model villagers and co-operative societies—Rs.50,000; Self-help enterprise grants Rs.25,000; grants to industrial organisation—Rs.25,000; grants to Public exhibitions and fairs—Rs.13,000 and so on. The difficulty is that a grant of Rs.2,000 for co-operative societies for the whole province is nothing. Instead of giving one or two rupees to a co-operative society it would be better if this amount, along with similar other amount, are distributed through local organisations. The contribution for development of industries is only Rs. 5,000; that means the share of a local body will not be more than three or four hundred rupees. How is it possible for a local body to do this work with the small amount? The grant to industrial organisation is Rs. 25,000, but Government do not know the actual area where the amount is to be distributed.

I would therefore request that the grants which I have mentioned, along with the loans to Model villagers should be distributed through the Self-help Boards in each subdivision. The Self-help Boards now consist of M.L.A.S. with Deputy Commissioner as President, and it is expected that the money given to them will be properly distributed. If the hon. Parliamentary Secretary wants any grant to be earmarked for any particular item he may give this direction to the Self-Help Boards.

With these few words, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Nazmal Haque, and I hope to be excused for taking so much time of the House.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the question raised by Maulavi Nazmal Haque about the selection of officers, I think, Sir, we are doing our best in the matter. We tried to select the best and the most suitable men possible. I am rather disappointed to hear that he found some Development Officers not going to the villages. If he finds any difficulty in giving the names of the officers here I will request him to give me later a report about the particular officer, or officers, about whom he complains. It may be, Sir, that out of so many officers one or two may not behave, or discharge their duties, properly and I shall be thankful if the hon. Member kindly let me know the names of the officers whom he finds to be defaulting in their duties.

With regard to starting of a Rural Development Centre at Lakhipur thana, we have made provision for starting 30 Rural Panchayats this year in the whole of the Province. We have already instructed the District Officers to select and let us know the boundaries of the first Rural Panchayats. The recommendations of some District Officers have come and some are awaited. The criteria for determining the first Rural Panchayats, as indicated to the District Officers, will be read out for the information of the House. The Hon'ble House will appreciate that the fate of the entire Rural Development Scheme will to a considerable extent depend upon the success of the first Rural Panchayats, because we expect that if the first Rural Panchayats succeed in its working then the villagers of other places will follow them. I will read out the relevant extract from the Circular which was sent by the Secretary, Rural Development Department to the District Officers:

“The recent determination of trading co-operative areas of operation should be of help in this respect. In making your choice the first consideration will be the likelihood of success in view of the location, ease of communication, general development, economic self-sufficiency and the co-operative spirit of the people. The opinion of non-officials and officials will be useful in determining this. The

average population of a Rural Panchayat should be 10,000 and the average size of the area should be such as to make no house four miles from the Rural Development Centre”

So, Sir, in asking the District Officers we have advised them to take the representatives of the people into their confidence. I, however, strongly feel that the whole fate of the scheme will depend on the success of the first Rural Panchayats.

So far as Goalpara is concerned, we have not yet come to a decision. Some reports are awaited from the Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara. So, at this stage it is difficult for me to commit to the request of the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion.

In replying to Maulavi Abul Kashem, I would first clarify the position. There has been some misunderstanding about these “Marketing Organisations.” We are not starting any new Marketing Organisation. What happened is that while co-ordinating the work of the Departments of Rural Development, Cottage Industries, Sericulture and Weaving and Co-operative, certain redistribution of works between these Departments were deemed necessary. As a matter of fact, this organisation is already there under the Sericulture and Weaving Department. The Sericulture and Weaving Department deals with textiles mainly, but our desire now is to extend marketing facilities to other cottage industries also.

Therefore, it was found desirable of transferring this Marketing Organisation to the Rural Development Department. Of course, Sir, we have appointed a Marketing Superintendent, but the other Marketing Officers were already there and no new appointments have been made. This reorganisation is done so that the Marketing Organisation besides dealing in textile may deal in other cottage industries.

The hon. Member has suggested for the abolition of the post of Panchayat Officer. This is also not a new appointment. This officer actually drafted the Rural Panchayat Bill and subsequently after the Bill was passed by this House, he framed the rules under the Act and he also drafted the Co-operative Societies Act and the Fisheries Act. The Fisheries Act, unfortunately, could not be presented to this House in this Session. There must be somebody to look to the legal side of this Rural Panchayats. The Rural Panchayat have been given sufficient powers to make rules and to impose penalties and in order to see that the responsibility imposed on the Panchayats are properly discharged and the powers given under the Act are not abused and the rules framed by Rural Panchayats are thoroughly examined before approval by Government. The services of this Officer is essential for this purpose. Therefore, services of this officer cannot be dispensed with.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: May I know from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary whether Government is going to make an appointment of Assistant Legal Remembrancer? If so, cannot he be entrusted with the works that are to be done by the Panchayat Officer?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I think, Sir, I should reply to the question. At present the Legal Remembrancer is so hard pressed that we have to give him an Assistant with the additional work to cope with. It will not be possible for him to examine the rules framed by 742 Rural Panchayat Centres.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary): With regard to various appointments such as of Rural Inspectors, Medical Officers, etc., I should like to refer the hon. Member to page 211 of the Budget—“Rural Organisation”. This gives an idea of how this money will be spent by

respective Rural Panchayats. It is already stated that this amount will be spent from district, subdivisional or Rural Panchayat Funds. But, I would mention here, Sir, all these officers will be under the supervision of the respective departments, *i.e.*, the responsibility of supervision of these officers will depend on the competent departments. None of these posts are permanent and permanency of these posts will depend on the result of working of this scheme. We will have to decide in future which of these posts will be made permanent and which of these posts should be abolished. Therefore, it will not be possible at the moment to decide whether the teaching staff for training of officers can be made permanent or will remain temporary.

With regard to grants-in-aid, the hon. Member will kindly refer to page 216 of the Budget, F(a) and F(b). His suggestion in this regard cannot be accepted as it will be apparent from F(a) that the amount will be spent from the provincial revenues and the amount under F(b) will be spent from the Post-War Grant from the Government of India. But the hon. Member's suggestion that these amount should be spent through the Self-help Boards will receive our consideration.

With these words, Sir, and as there is no time for me for further clarification, I request the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion to please withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE : Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I put the original Demand as a question :

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.15,51,900 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 “42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development”.

The question was adopted.

Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1946-47

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Assam for 1946-47.

The Report is already before the hon. Members of this House.

Government Resolution *re* : taking of an advance to the extent of Rs.2½ crores from the Imperial Bank for financing procurement of cloth and yarn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Item No.4, the Hon'ble Premier to move :

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, this Resolution will be moved by my hon. Friend, Srijut Bimala Prosad Chaliha.

Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):
 Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House approves the action of the Government of Assam in taking a cash credit advance to the extent of Rs.2½ crores from the Imperial Bank for financing the procurement of the provincial quotas of cloth and yarn for Assam.

It is explained in the note, which clarified the whole position, which I propose to read out :—

On the 27th September, 1948 the Assam Legislative Assembly approved the Scheme adopted by the Government of Assam of procurement and distribution of Textiles through a system of Trading Co-operative Societies formed by the Consumers and the financing of this Scheme, by means of a Co-operative Bank having full Government backing and a Government loan of a sum up to two and a half crores of rupees. The condition precedent to the formulation of the Scheme was that there should be a strong financial organisation to be known as the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, Limited, with branches in every Subdivision of the Province. This Apex Bank was to receive from the Government loans as aforesaid upto two and a half crores of rupees until its share capital, debentures and deposits were large enough to be able to finance the procurement of cloth and yarn.

2. It was apparent that the current revenues of Government and the available cash balance were not sufficient to give the requisite assistance to the Apex Bank to enable it to finance the Scheme immediately but it was the intention of the Government to raise the requisite amount from Treasury Bills.

3. While the question of financing the Apex Bank was under active consideration, the money market suddenly became tight due apparently to the announcement of anti-inflationary measures by the Government of India and this Government unexpectedly met with difficulty over the raising of this short term loan on account of the Reserve Bank's advice that the time was not favourable for Treasury Bills.

To secure a temporary loan from the Government of India was also a matter of time, for which circumstances did not permit waiting.

4. Until, therefore, the Apex Bank was in a position to raise the necessary funds and acquire sufficient assets for financing the scheme, an alternative arrangement for funds had to be planned. With the consent of the Reserve Bank and the approval of the Central Government a cash credit advance to the maximum limit of rupees two and a half crores has been secured from the Imperial Bank of India for financing the Scheme. The necessary documents formally to secure this advance were executed on the 13th of December, 1948 to come into effect from that date. The advance will carry interest at 3 per cent. per annum *plus* one-sixteen per cent. commission, the usual Bank rate.

5. According to this arrangement the cloth and the yarn purchased will be hypothecated to the Imperial Bank as a security against the advance granted by the Bank. The cloth and the yarn will be fully covered by insurance both while in transit and storage. The sales will be on cash payment and the sale proceeds after a part being retained in recoupment of the expenditure incurred by Government in payment of freight, insurance, handling and other incidental charges will be remitted fortnightly direct by the distributing centres to the Imperial Bank at Shillong.

6. Arrangements are now in train for the Apex Bank to enter the field of procurement and to progressively take over as funds permit till it finally assumes the sole responsibility for this work.

It is sought to obtain the approval of the Assembly to the arrangements made by Government as described above.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Resolution moved :

“That this Assembly approves the action of the Government of Assam in taking a cash credit advance to the extent of Rs. 2½ crores from the Imperial Bank of India for financing the Procurement of the Provincial quotas of cloth and yarn for Assam”.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we on this side feel it our duty to speak something on this scheme. Before this was known to us rumours spread in the air that due to financial difficulties Government are going to abandon the idea of starting these Co-operative Societies for the distribution of cloth and yarn. Really it is gratifying to note that Government are determined to distribute cloth and yarn through Co-operative Societies. It is a good sign that Government are really interested in the success of this scheme by taking so much money on credit in the shape of a loan from the Imperial Bank of India. It is said here that the cloth and yarn will be sold on cash payment, but there is a provision in the Co-operative Bye-laws that the necessary quotas of cloth and yarn shall be supplied to the Co-operative Society on credit. There must be some rectification in this connection so that there may remain some provision in which cloth and yarn may be given to these Societies on credit for a month or so, so that those Societies who could not get sufficient share money may be able to function.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it)

Now, Madam, we are really grateful to Government for their venture and we fully endorse their action of taking this money from the Imperial Bank of India. With these words, Madam, I support this Resolution.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: Madam, I want to speak a few words in this connection, but I am afraid some of my hon. Friends might think that I will speak again in those same harsh words that I have been accused of using before (*laughter*), but I assure them that I will not use those words which had caused nausea to some of my hon. Friends, because I also endorse this particular move on the part of the Government as a move in the right direction. This is something extremely good because I think this will serve as a subsidy to the poor masses. I am sure that the general public as well as the people whom I represent will give full co-operation in this fine move of the Government for alleviating the distress of the people and ameliorating the condition of the masses.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any other hon. Member want to take part in this discussion ?

(*After a pause*).

I will put the question.

The question is :

“That this Assembly approves the action of the Government of Assam in taking a cash credit advance to the extent of Rs. 2½ crores from the Imperial Bank of India for financing the Procurement of the Provincial quotas of cloth and yarn for Assam”.

The question was adopted.

**Government Resolution re: Special repairs to the buildings at
Salonibari Air-Field for accommodating the Assam Police
Training College**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We come now to item No. 5—to be moved by the Hon'ble Premier.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Madam, I beg to move that this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs.80,166 for carrying out special repairs to the buildings at Salonibari Air-Field for accommodating the Assam Police Training College as a temporary measure.

The work of construction of permanent buildings at Dergaon has not yet been taken up and it is not known if it could be taken even in the next year. The construction will take some time. As the establishment of the College cannot however be delayed any longer, it has been decided to locate the college, as a temporary measure, pending the construction of permanent buildings at Dergaon, in the Salonibari Airfield buildings which have been taken over from the Defence Department. The buildings cannot, however, be used for accommodation of the college unless special repairs are carried out. With a view to establish the college as early as possible it has been decided to carry out the repairs departmentally at an estimated cost of Rs.80,166.

I would like to add a few words for the information of the House that it took some time to negotiate with the military authorities to settle upon the site of the proposed College at Dergaon, and as such this College had to be fixed upon a temporary basis on the site we have mentioned in this Resolution. The importance of this College was sufficiently explained by me in the course of the debate that was raised over a Cut Motion on the Grant for the Police Department.

Now, taking these factors into consideration I hope the hon. Members of the House will approve the expenditure that has been proposed here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs. 80,166 for carrying out special repairs to the buildings at Salonibari Air Field for accommodating the Assam Police Training College as a temporary measure.”

(After a pause)

The question is:

“That this Assembly do hereby approve the expenditure of Rs. 80,166 for carrying out special repairs to the buildings at Salonibari Air Field for accommodating the Assam Police Training College as a temporary measure.

The question was adopted.

**Government Resolution re: Appropriation of grants from savings
under the head “50.—Civil Works—Provincial” and
“18-B.—Navigation Embankment and Drainage”**

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Madam, I made a request to the Hon'ble the Speaker that this Motion be postponed till the 28th instant. But now I find that it may not be possible to move this Motion even on the 28th instant, for certain details have to be submitted by the Finance Department which would not be ready by the 28th and so it will be better if the Motion is postponed till the 31st instant.

**Government Resolution re: re-constitution of Assam Roads
Communication Board**

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Madam, I beg to move that the Assembly recommends that the Assam Roads Communication Board which was constituted for 3 years by a Motion moved in the March Session of the Legislative Assembly, 1946 be reconstituted with the following as members and that the members do hold office for the rest of the term of the present Legislative Assembly:—

- (1) Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department...*Chairman* ;
 - (2) Hon'ble Minister, Transport ;
 - (3) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department ;
 - (4) Secretary, Finance Department ;
 - (5-7) Superintending Engineers, *Ex-officio Joint-Secretaries* ;
 - (8) The Leader of the European Planters and Commerce and Industry or of the European Group in the Assembly ;
 - (9) Mr. H. N. Sarma, M.L.A., Representative of Indian Planters;
 - (10-17) Eight members of the Assembly to be elected by a majority vote;
 - (18-19) Two members from among Chairmen of Local Boards to be nominated by Government ;
 - (20-22) Three gentlemen to be co-opted by Government ;
- to advise Government on all important Schemes relating to development of communications generally in the province of Assam.

I may add that the present Board was constituted in March, 1946 and its term expires on the 31st March, 1949. Therefore it is necessary to reconstitute this Board and the Assembly is asked to approve of this proposal.

The time and date for holding the election will be fixed by the Hon'ble Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That the Assembly recommends that the Assam Roads Communications Board which was constituted for 3 years by a motion moved in the March Session of the Legislative Assembly, 1946 be reconstituted with the following as members and that the members do hold office for the rest of the term of the present Legislative Assembly:—

- (1) Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department...*Chairman* ;
 - (2) Hon'ble Minister, Transport ;
 - (3) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department ;
 - (4) Secretary, Finance Department ;
 - (5-7) Superintending Engineers, *Ex-officio Joint-Secretaries* ;
 - (8) The Leader of the European Planters and Commerce and Industry or of the European Group in the Assembly ;
 - (9) Mr. H. N. Sarma, M.L.A., Representative of Indian Planters ;
 - (10-17) Eight members of the Assembly to be elected by a majority vote;
 - (18-19) Two members from among Chairmen of Local Boards to be nominated by Government ;
 - (20-22) Three gentlemen to be co-opted by Government ;
- To advise Government on all important Schemes relating to development of communications generally in the province of Assam.”

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Madam, I beg to oppose this Motion. The Hon'ble Minister, while proposing to reconstitute the Board, is going to do an injustice to this House. First of all he has intended to include certain Members of the Assembly as Members of the Board in addition to the two Hon'ble Ministers, and he had mentioned the names of them. Madam, that selection ought to have been left to the Legislature on the principle of democracy. Moreover, Madam, you may have seen, Government has not given us the idea to understand what they are actually going to do. How Government can co-opt Members? Co-option can be made only by a committee and not by a Government. This is quite imperfect. I do not understand how this question of co-option by Government can arise here. It is written here that 'three gentlemen to be co-opted by Government'. This sounds very odd, Madam. Government is again going to nominate two Members from among the Local Bodies. Besides that they want to co-opt more persons. It could have been quite a democratic matter if the Chairmen of the different local bodies would have been asked to elect their own representatives because they are supposed to know their interest best. Government might take somebody who may not know the interest of the local bodies. So in the fitness of things this should not be done. I therefore vehemently oppose the resolution.

Prof. P. M. SARWAN: I heartily support my hon. Friend Mr. Abul Kashem when he pointed out at the same time that the men who are going to be co-opted for this important Committee should not be co-opted by the Government, but should be co-opted by the Committee itself. It is very good that Government is going to appoint a Committee to consider about the road communications of Assam. But it is very necessary that this Committee should be appointed in a democratic manner with a democratic spirit. Now the ways in which these appointments have been made will exclude many important interests being represented in the Committee. It is not quite a democratic thing that is being done. I would therefore suggest that since Government have their own public servants to take care of the Government interest and they also have a large number of their party men in this very important Communication Board others might have a chance to represent those that have been left out.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Madam, I am somewhat surprised that my hon. Friend, Mr. Abul Kashem, should oppose this Resolution on the ground that we have named some Members of the Legislature to be members of this Road Communication Board. First I should like to say that last time in 1946 also we did the same thing—in the very same wording. The Resolution was placed before the House in the March Session, 1946. Now we have just followed those wordings. Nobody raised any objection at that time.

In respect of Members of the Legislature we have named only two, one is the Leader of the European Group. We consider that the Leader of the European Group, whoever he may be, is necessary in this because they have big interest which should be represented in the Board. Then we have named another gentleman, Mr. H. N. Sarma, who is the only representative of the Indian Tea Planters. These are the only two persons named here because, as I have said, the interest of these two groups is very large indeed. Regarding the others we have not said that Government would nominate all the 8 members. The Legislature is asked to elect these 8 members from this House. So there is election, 8 members will be elected by the Legislature.

Regarding 2 Local Board Members, we have said that these two members will be nominated by the Government. That is what we did in 1946 also. Then 3 members would be co-opted. Co-opted or nominated is a matter of expression and Government will have to do that and the practical effect is the same whether they are co-opted or nominated.

Now I do not see why the hon. Member should object to this Resolution. Since there are 8 members who are going to be elected, I hope the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his objection.

Mr. Sarwan has supported the hon. Member who has opposed this Resolution. As far as I understand he wants to be represented in this Board. Well he has a chance for election. He has been crying so many times for election. Here he has a chance to stand for election. So democracy is not all out, it is in practice in this election.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** Madam, may I know how many members are there on the Board?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Twenty-two members. Many of them are officials including the Minister for Transport, Minister for Public Works Department, Chief Engineer and three Superintending Engineers one of whom is the Secretary. We need them in the Board in order to give facts and figures and also to explain to the members the conditions of roads and so on. So the objection of my hon. Friend is only with regard to two members *i.e.*, the Leader of the European Group and the representative of the Indian Tea Planters. I think there should be no objection to their being named. As a matter of fact the Leader of the European Group is not named. We have only named Mr. Sarma because there is only one member to represent the Indian Tea Planters. I therefore request the hon. Member to withdraw his objection.

✓ **Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM:** I want to add just a few words in regard to what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister. He has now mentioned that he is going to give a chance to Mr. Sarwan for election, but, Madam, you can easily see what chance he is going to give. He has minimised the number of elected Members. Then how he has given a chance to Mr. Sarwan? If he had said that 10 Members would be elected then of course Mr. Sarwan could have been elected because these 10 Members would be elected on transferable vote. But now as it is, this is no election at all because only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Members of the Board are being given chance for election. Again the Hon'ble Minister has said that co-option and nomination are the same thing. As nobody has brought an amendment for the omission of the word 'co-opted', I think the Resolution cannot be accepted by the House.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Madam, I am afraid, his objection to the co-option has no foundation to stand at all. I consider that his objection is altogether wrong. To say that there is no principle of election here is altogether wrong, because there are 8 Members to be elected. The Leader of the European Group has been proposed here as a Member. He represents a big interest, and the representative of the Indian Tea Industry is also an elected Member of this House. He is the only Member who represents a big interest namely the Indian Tea Planters. These interests have been proposed because it is necessary for them to be there. Only two Members from among Chairmen of Local Boards will be nominated and three other members are proposed to be taken according to necessity of and interest which may not be represented in the Board. This is why we have proposed this co-option

in order to give a chance to any interest in the country which may not be represented in the Board.

So, Sir, I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his objection.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Madam, the steam-roller majority will carry the Resolution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Assembly recommends that the Assam Roads Communication Board which was constituted for 3 years by a motion moved in the March Session of the Legislative Assembly, 1946 be reconstituted with the following as members and that the members do hold office for the rest of the term of the present Legislative Assembly:—

- (1) Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department... *Chairman*
- (2) Hon'ble Minister, Transport ;
- (3) Chief Engineer & Secretary, Public Works Department ;
- (4) Secretary, Finance Department ;
- (5-7) Superintending Engineers-*Ex-officio Joint-Secretaries* ;
- (8) The Leader of the European Planters and Commerce and Industry or of the European Group in the Assembly ;
- (9) Mr. H. N. Sarma, M. L. A., Representative of Indian Planters ;
- (10-17) Eight members of the Assembly to be elected by a majority vote ;
- (18-19) Two members from among Chairmen of Local Boards to be nominated by Government ;
- (20-22) Three gentlemen to be co-opted by Government ;

to advise Government on all important Schemes relating to development of communications generally in the province of Assam.”

The question was adopted.

Under the Rules I hereby fix Monday, the 28th March, 1949 as the date, and Committee Room No. 1 of the Assembly building as the place where the election will take place.

The Voting will be held between 1 P. M. to 3 P. M. or as soon as the business of the day is finished, whichever is earlier.

Government Resolution *Re*: Re-construction of Police Barracks at Dhubri and Shillong

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Madam, I beg to move that in view of the scarcity of residential quarters and barracks in the Province for Police Officers and men consequent on the increase of the Police force, the housing problem of the police has become extremely acute and the construction of the following projects at an estimated cost noted against each has become imperatively necessary. The expenditure has already been provided in the Public Works Department Budget but these being major works, approval of the Assembly is necessary. I am, therefore, to move that the expenditure be approved.

1. The Re-construction of the Dhubri Police Reserve Lines ... Rs.4,23,609
2. The Re-construction of 3 barracks for married Constables at Police Lines, Shillong. Rs.59,800

Madam, a lump sum provision was made in the current year's Budget for about 28 lakhs of rupees. There were several proposals from the Department, but with the approval of the Finance Department these two items, which are considered necessary and urgent have been included in this Resolution for the urgent necessity of accommodating the Police force. It is essential that Police should be ready at a moment's notice to go and carry out orders wherever necessary. For better discipline also it is necessary that they should be given accommodation and provided with quarters in one place. In view of this, I hope the hon. Members will accept this Resolution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That in view of the scarcity of residential quarters and barracks in the Province for the Police Officers and men consequent on the increase of the Police Force, the housing problem of the Police has become extremely acute and the construction of the following projects at an estimated cost noted against each has become imperatively necessary. The expenditure has already been provided in the Public Works Department Budget, but these being major works, approval of the Assembly is necessary. I am therefore to move that the expenditure be approved.

1. The Re-construction of the Dhubri Police Reserve Lines ... Rs.4,23,609
2. The Re-construction of 3 barracks for married Constables at Police Lines, Shillong. Rs.59,800.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Madam, really I am glad that this time somehow or other the Hon'ble Finance Minister made a provision for expenditure in the district of Goalpara. Though this is not a beneficial measure, yet this is also a change in outlook. My point is that the amount proposed to be spent has been more than 4 lakhs of rupees. Madam, the other day I have criticised the Government that only the Constables were given dearness allowance amounting to Rs.8 lakhs out of Rs.30 lakhs. So you have seen how much they are getting from the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I do not know why other Departmental Heads are not in a position to exert their influence for getting more money for their respective Departments. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has been glad to give dearness allowance to the Police Constables, but he has declined to increase the rate of pay to the Village Chaukidars and the Daffadars and he wanted to increase the rate of assessment of Choukidari Tax for the Chaukidar which is a part and parcel of the Constables. I think this proposal to spend so much money is not reasonable, therefore, I oppose the Motion.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: But this is a matter concerning Dhubri.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Madam, I am really surprised to see Jonab Kashem Saheb bringing this matter of the Chaukidari Act. The Chaukidari Act is an Act for exercise of powers by the people of the locality. The democracy is there, for which he is crying hoarse. Whenever there is a Panchayat formed under the Act they are at liberty to raise as much money as they like and pay for the person whom they want to pay. Madam, I do not know why he is mixing this expenditure and really accusing against the Finance Minister that I do not give any

sanction for money which goes to the benefit of the villagers. I think, Madam, he has forgotten by this time what I stated in formulating the Budget for new schemes that first priority would be given to those schemes which go to the benefit of the villagers and secondly to those schemes which are essential for meeting the needs of the Province, in training the necessary personnel for Development of the Province. I may remind him that in the new Schemes, out of a provision of Rs.50 lakhs as recurring grant as much as Rs.36 lakhs have been allotted for Primary Education. All the money will be spent in the rural areas for the benefit of the villagers. He forgets this for the time being. In case he forget these things every moment I cannot help him. I cannot supply him with sufficient retentive capacity. My whole idea,—rather the idea of the Congress organisation, as we are guided by Congress principles—is to spend money for the benefit of the villagers more than anything else.

Then, Sir, the hon. Member knows that the Goalpara District, particularly Dhubri, is a border area and there is every necessity of increasing the Police Force for preserving peace and tranquility there. How can we carry on with our normal avocations if there is no peace and tranquility? If there are disorders at Mankachar, Dhubri or in any other part, will my hon. Friend be able to carry on his normal avocation? Sir, in these days the Police force is scattered all over the place in case of trouble their help will not be readily available. People will have to run after them and find them out.

This is the reason why this expenditure is essential. I do not deny that other officers are also in difficulties regarding accommodation, but their case will be looked into consistent with the finances. In view of this, Sir, I hope my hon. Friend will appreciate the urgency of these two measures and will approve the expenditure.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the question.

The question is:

“That in view of the scarcity of residential quarters and barracks in the Province for Police Officers and men consequent on the increase of the Police force, the housing problem of the Police has become extremely acute and the construction of the following projects at an estimated cost noted against each has become imperatively necessary. The expenditure has already been provided in the Public Works Department Budget, but these being major works, approval of the Assembly is necessary. Therefore, it is moved that the expenditure be approved.

1. The Re-construction of the Dhubri Police Reserve Lines ... Rs 4,23,609.
2. The Re-construction of 3 barracks for married Constables at Rs.59,800.
Police Lines, Shillong. ”

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 26th March, 1949.

SHILLONG:

The 7th June 1949

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

