

**Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the First Assam Legislative
Assembly, assembled under the provisions of the Govern-
ment of India Act, 1935**

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 p.m.,
on Friday, the 2nd December, 1938.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, yesterday we stopped
in the middle of question 305. But questions 304—307 are inter-related.
Will you kindly take up from question 304 so that we may put supple-
mentary questions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right.

Restriction of the Kuls Range sales to the local indigenous people

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*304. (a) Is it a fact that the timber contractors from the Surma Valley
are debarred from bidding at the auction held in respect of the Kuls range
of Kamrup ?

(b) If so, on what principle ?

*305. Is it a fact that the Kuls range falls within the constituency of
the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forests ?

*306. (a) Is it a fact that one Srijut Hem Chandra Chaudhuri has got
a coupe in the Kuls range at the auction held in April last ?

(b) If so, what was his bid ?

*307. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If any coupes have been allotted to Srijut Gajen Bora and
Srijut Arun Das ?

(b) If so, what are those coupes ?

(c) Whether any permits have been granted to them or any of
them for *Hati-Kheda* ?

(d) If so, when and on what terms and conditions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

304. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The restriction of the Kuls range sales to the local indige-
nous people has been made with a view to encouraging the small Assamese
timber traders who are unable to compete with big outside traders.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know if the
Hon'ble Minister approves the policy of the previous Government in reserv-
ing this range for Assamese contractors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think that was done
when the hon. member himself was Minister in charge.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know whether the
Hon'ble Minister approves of the policy then followed ? Again the Hon'ble
Minister is wrong in saying that the order was passed in my time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As I ruled previously, no question of policy can be raised in supplementary questions.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I correct myself and want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister wants to follow that order passed by the previous Government or cancel it?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The present Government will consider that question later on.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether Government will follow the same policy in other ranges of the province?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Again the question of policy.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Will the same practice be followed in other ranges?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That will be considered later on by the present Government.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that in Kokrajhar *elaka* the order of reserving coupes for local contractors has been passed by the present Ministry?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How does Kokrajhar come in?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The Hon'ble Minister just said that they are still considering whether that practice will be continued or not. I am asking whether he has followed that practice already in Kokrajhar *elaka*.

(No reply.)

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Do Government recognise the distinction of status between the contractors of different valleys?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think not.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: May I know if any distinction is made amongst the local contractors of this province?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: No.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Do Government make any distinction between the local contractors? Am I to understand that the local contractors mean only Bodo contractors?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Certainly not.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Then how in one Division in this province, the present Ministry has reserved particular coupes for Bodo people only?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That is a separate question. I want notice of that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: When it was asked whether the Hon'ble Minister makes any distinction between the local contractors, he said 'no'. Then how is it that he has reserved certain coupes only for Bodo contractors?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think that was done by the previous Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied:

305.—Yes, that is the Hon'ble Minister at the time when notice of the question was given.

306. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Rupees 200. It was the highest bid made in the auction.

307. (a)—If the questions refer to the year 1938-39 the answers are that Srijut G. C. Bora and Srijut Arunoday Mahajan obtained one coupe each in the open auction limited to Assamese traders. There is no contractor by the name of Arun Das.

(b)—Daluebari clear felling coupe No.9 and Karikura Parbat coupe No.2, respectively.

(c) & (d)—There was no *Khedda* operation in 1937-38. In the *kheddahs* sanctioned for 1938-39 it is understood that they are working with the Elephant Catching Company Limited, Gauhati, but on what conditions is not known to Government.

Income of the Chandnighat Ferry on the river Monu at Maulvi-bazar

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked :

*308. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

- (a) The income of the Chandnighat Ferry on the river Monu at Maulvibazar, for the three years immediately preceding the Public Works Department taking over charge of the same ?
- (b) The income of the same ferry since after the Public Works Department has assumed charge ?
- (c) The ferry rate per head during the pre-Public Works Department days and after ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

	Rs.
308. (a)—1934-35 	2,450
1935-36 	2,550
1936-37 	3,225

These figures include the income from the Bazarghat ferry which used to be sold in one lot with Chandnighat ferry.

	Rs.
(b)—1937-38 	2,608
1938-39 	2,470

These figures exclude the income from the Bazarghat ferry.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the Schedules of tolls, copies of which are placed on the Library table.

Rate of toll charged per head on the Keane Bridge at Sylhet

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ asked :

*309. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The rate of toll per head on the Keane Bridge at Sylhet ?
- (b) The name and nationality of the present leaseholder of the Sheola ferry of the river Kushiara in the subdivision of Karimganj ?
- (c) The number of years the present leaseholder has been holding the said ferry ?
- (d) When the said ferry has been last sold at auction to him and for how much and for how long ?
- (e) Whether there were local and indigenous bidders at the time ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

309. (a)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to starred question No.113(e) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assembly.

(b)—Babu Kamakhya Charan Das, Hindu, of Sheola Bazar, Sheola.

(c)—He took over the ferry on 1st April 1937.

(d)—Sold—15th March 1937.

Price—Rs.7,500 annually (including sub-ferry Mewa).

Period—5 years.

(e)—Babu Kamakhya Charan Das is a local man. There were other bidders from Sylhet town.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ*: With regard to (d) may I know for how long ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN*: It was sold for Rs.7,500 annually, for five years.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: Was any notice published for the auction of the ferry ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: Yes, Sir. It was done as usual.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN*: May I know whether it was notified that the lease will be granted for five years ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I want notice of that question, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, the principle of Government in leasing out the ferries of this kind ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I think, it was done by the previous Government. Probably these ferries are leased out for 3 or 5 years as the case may be.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I want to know whether there is any specified principle behind the policy of Government.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I am not aware whether the previous Government had any such principle.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: May I know the rule under which the ferries are sold ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: It is sold after the issue of proper notice.

Maulavi ABDUL AZIZ: Is there any rule ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the hon. members will remember that some time ago I issued a circular that if the rules are available in Government publications, no question should be asked to know the rules.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Reference to rules should be given.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When the rules are found in Government publications the hon. members are expected to know them.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Has that rule been followed in this case ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I don't know whether the previous Government followed the rule in this case.

Principles followed by Government in giving nominations to the Local Boards in the Province

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked:

*310. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The percentage of Hindu and Mussalman populations in the South Sylhet subdivision of the Sylhet district ?

*Speech not corrected.

- (b) The principle followed by Government in giving nominations to the Local Boards of the Province ?
- (c) Whether Government followed the principle of giving proper representation to each community during the last Local Board nominations ?
- (d) The percentage of scheduled caste population in the South Sylhet subdivision ?
- (e) Whether Government received any representation from any member of the scheduled castes for the nomination to the South Sylhet Local Board during the last Local Board nominations ?
- (f) If so, whether any member of the scheduled castes has been nominated to the said Board ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- *311. (a) Is it a fact that a native Christian has been nominated to the South Sylhet Local Board ?
- (b) If so, what is the percentage of native Christian population in the said subdivision ?
- *312. Will Government please state the grounds on which the claim of the native Christian community has been preferred to all others ?
- *313. (a) Is it a fact that the person nominated is not a *bona fide* native of the Province and not even a payer of local rate ?
- (b) If so, what considerations weighed with Government in giving him the nomination ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

310. (a)—55 per cent. and 44 per cent. respectively.
- (b)—The hon. member's attention is invited to Local Self-Government Rule 19(1) read with Section 4(1) and (2) of the Act.
- (c)—Yes, so far as possible.
- (d)—Roughly 13 per cent.
- (e)—Yes, one.
- (f)—No.
- (g)—Because of the various other factors required to be considered under Local Self-Government Rule 19.
311. (a)—The reply is in the affirmative.
- (b)—14 per cent.
- 312.—Because the Christians were not represented before.
313. (a)—Rev. Ghose is on the electoral roll as he pays the requisite amount of chaukidari tax to qualify him as an elector.
- (b)—Does not arise.

Conduct of the Subordinate Forest Officials under Police Station Tahirpur

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

- *314. Is it a fact that one Shek Monu of Bardal, under the police station Tahirpur, has been deprived of having possession of a log of wood by the subordinate forest officials under the police station Tahirpur, Sunamganj and Dharamapassa, for which he made payment to Extra Assistant Commissioner's Court, Sunamganj ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

314.—Government have enquired but no such case can be traced.

(Starred question No. 315 standing in the name of Miss Mavis Dunn was not called and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Vigilance of Police on the movements of Swami Satyananda and Dr. Miss Sabitri Debi of the Hindu Mission

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*316. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Law and Order be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the movements of Swami Satyananda and Dr. Miss Sabitri Debi of the Hindu Mission were watched by the Assam Criminal Investigation Department or Police during their last tour in the Assam Valley ?
- (b) Whether the police in the Assam Valley Districts were asked to enquire and report about their movements ?
- (c) Whether the Town Police in the district of Nowgong were asked to enquire about the mission of their visit to the town of Nowgong, from their hosts ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

316. (a), (b) and (c)—Government are not prepared to divulge what instructions are given to the Police, either generally or specially, in connection with the movements of strangers within their jurisdiction, or in what manner these instructions are carried out. Such disclosure would handicap the Police in discharging their duty to the public.

The Government have understood the implications of the questions and are giving the matter their consideration.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge please say whether the Ministers of the present Government and the members of their Party are now under the vigilance of the Police of Shillong ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Does that question arise, Sir ? (*laughter*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How does that question arise ?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: It does arise, as the main question relates to the vigilance of the Police.

Taking of licenses for holding meetings and making processions in the Margherita area

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

*317. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement issued to the Press by Srijut Kedarnath Goswami, President, Dibrugarh District Congress Committee and published in the *Times of Assam*, dated the 3rd September 1938, about a notice issued on several persons including him by the Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur, requiring the taking of licenses for holding meetings and taking out processions in the Margherita area ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the facts which led the Deputy Commissioner to come to the opinion that holding of meetings and taking out of processions in the area will lead to breaches of peace?

*318. Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by Government on these restrictions put on the rights of the public to hold meetings and take out processions?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

317. (a).—Yes.

(b)—The disturbed conditions at the time at Digboi and Margherita and on some of the neighbouring gardens, which, in the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner, were the result of the propaganda of the Digboi Congress Committee and Mazdur Sangha and their associates and emissaries.

318.—No action has been taken because the notice in question was in the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner legal and justifiable.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Is it not a fact that in this province serious breaches of peace occurred between the processionists and the public in many places?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: This is much too vague a question for me to answer.

Names and sites of ancient historical buildings and the amount spent for preservation of such monuments

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked:

*319. Will Government be pleased to state the names of ancient and historical buildings, and sites which are under the preservation of Government and the district to which each belongs?

*320. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of money annually sanctioned for the preservation of each such monument?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

319.—A list of historical buildings and sites has been placed on the table.

STATEMENT PLACED ON THE TABLE IN REPLY TO STARRED
QUESTION No.319 ASKED BY MR. ARUN KUMAR
CHANDA, M.L.A.

LIST OF ANCIENT PROTECTED MONUMENTS IN ASSAM

Serial No.	District	Locality	Name of monument	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	Cachar	Tulargram	Siva Tila.	
2	Ditto	Maibong	Rock-cut temple.	
3	Ditto	Ditto	Two inscribed stones.	
4	Ditto	Khaspur	Cachari ruins.	
5	Ditto	North Cachar Hills.	The Derebera group monoliths.	
		Ditto	The Khartong group monoliths.	
		Ditto	The Boloson group monoliths.	
		Ditto	The Kobak group monoliths.	
6	Darrang	Tezpur	Masonry remains on the Bamuni Hills.	
7	Ditto	Ditto	Platform in the Municipal park	Not protected but maintained from Central funds.
8	Ditto	Ditto	The rock on the bank of the Brahmaputra about two miles below Tezpur, and the inscription thereon.	
9	Ditto	Ditto	Sculptures in the Chummery compound.	
10	Ditto	Ditto	The mound and ruins of the stone temple at Dah Parbatiya.	
11	Ditto	Bishwanath	Bordole temple.	
12	Ditto	Ditto	The rock known as "Sukresvara."	
13	Ditto	Ditto	The rock known as "Vishvanatha Siva Linga".	
14	Ditto	Bhalukpang (Balipara).	Ruins.	
15	Ditto	Khatargaon (Mauza Gahpur).	Basudev dole.	
16	Ditto	N. C. Kamdayal Village (Mauza Gahpur).	Dhandi temple.	

Serial No.	District	Locality	Name of monument	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
17	Darrang ..	Singri Hill ..	Ruins.	
18	Goalpara	Jogighopa ..	Ancient tombs.	
19	Ditto ..	Rangamati ..	Rangamati mosque and ablution tank attached thereto.	
20	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Idgah with its enclosure walls.	
21	Ditto ..	Jogighopa ..	Five Rock-cut caves.	
22	Kamrup	Hajo ..	The stone inscription inside the "Poa Mecca Mosque".	
23	Ditto ..	Gauhati ..	Duargarila rock inscription at the foot of the Kamakhya Hill.	
24	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Carvings and inscriptions on the Urbasi Island.	
25	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Rock sculpture of Vishnu Janardana.	
26	Ditto ..	Kamakhya Hill	1. Figures of Ganesha .. 2 2. Siva Lingas .. 12 3. Four handed Bhairabi .. 1 4. Miniature Sikhara shrines 4 5. Figure of Narakasur .. 1 6. Two handed Bhairabi .. 1 7. Stone Gateway .. 1 8. Dancing Bhairaba engraved on rock .. 1	
27	Ditto ..	Gauhati ..	Pillars on the Urbashi Island Approach road to Bishnu Janardan. Approach road to Kannachal Hillock.	} Not protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.
28	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Syndai ..	Tank.	
29	Ditto ..	Bhoi Country ..	Stone memorial of U Maw-Thoh-dur.	
30	Ditto ..	Nartiang ..	Stone memorial of U Maw-Thoh-dur brier.	

Serial No.	District	Locality	Name of monument	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
31	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Near Maput between Jowai and Jarain.	Megalithic bridge known as Thulu-um-wi.	
		On the Um-Nyakaneh between Jarain and Syndai.	Megalithic bridge.	
		On the Um-Kumbeh near Syndai.	Megalithic bridge.	
32	Ditto ..	Cherra ..	Scott's Monument.	
33	Ditto ..	Shillong ..	McCabe Monument	.. Not protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.
34	Naga Hills	Dimapur ..	Remains of a fort (Dimapur Ruins).	
35	Sadiya Frontier Tract.	Near Sadiya ..	Remains of a Bhishmaknagar, Kundilnagar and copper temple.	
36	Ditto ..	Sadiya ..	The stone boundary pillar of the Ahom period.	
37	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	The gun of the Emperor Sher Shah.	
38	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	The two Swivel guns belonging to the Mughal Nawwara.	
39	Sibsagar ..	Sibsagar ..	Sibdol.	
40	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Bishnudol.	
41	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Debidol.	
42	Ditto ..	Jaysagar ..	Sibdol.	
43	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Bishnudol.	
44	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Debidol.	
45	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Runghar Ruins.	
46	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Golaghar or Magazine.	
47	Ditto ..	Silakuti Mauza	The Karengghar of the Ahom Kings.	
48	Ditto ..	Gaurisagar ..	Sibdol.	
49	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Bishnudol.	

Serial No.	District	Locality	Name of monument	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
50	Sibsagar..	Gaurisagar ..	Debidol.	
51	Ditto ..	Kasomari Pathar	Monoliths.	
52	Ditto ..	Deopani ..	The Shrine with image of Durga.	
53	Ditto ..	Nigriting ..	Sibdol temple.	
54	Ditto ..	Garhgaon, Nazira	Ahom Raja's Palace.	
55	Ditto ..	Harupani ..	Three stones, namely that known as "The King of Assam's hand basin" an oblong troughed stone and an upright slab together with the remains of the wall that encloses them.	
56	Ditto ..	Sibsagar ..	Eight cannon of the Ahom period on the bank of the Sibsaagar tank.	
57	Sylhet ..	Badarpur ..	Old Fort.	
58	Ditto ...	Bhatera Bazar in South Sylhet Subdivision.	Bhatera Tila.	

320.—A statement for the year 1937-38 is placed on the table. Only a lump sum provision is made annually for preservation of these monuments.

Statement placed on the table in reply to starred question No.320, asked by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda, M.L.A.

Statement of expenditure on Archæological Works (Central) during the year 1937-38

Name of district	Name of work	Expenditure during 1937-38
		Rs. a. p.
<i>Excluded areas</i>		
Cachar ...	1. Annual repairs to the rock cut temple and two inscribed stones at Maibong and four monolithic groups in the North Cachar Hills.	76 0 0
North Hills. Cachar		
Sadiya ...	2. Annual repairs to Ahom Pillar at Sadiya.	4 0 0
Naga Hills ...	3. Annual repairs to Ruins at Dimapur	400 0 0
<i>Non-excluded areas</i>		
ASSAM VALLEY DIVISION		
Darrang ...	1. Annual repairs to Ruined Gupta Temple at Dah-Parbatia.	180 0 0
	2. Annual repairs to temple ruins on the Bamuni Hills.	49 0 0
	3. Annual repairs to Bordole temple at Bishnath.	60 0 0
	4. Annual repairs to Platform in the municipal park at Tezpur.	13 4 0
	5. Annual repairs to Basudev Dol at Kolabari (Khatargaon).	49 13 0
Goalpara ...	6. Special repairs to Bordole at Bishnath.	245 0 0
	1. Annual repairs to Five rock cut caves at Jogighopa.	35 8 0
	2. Providing reinforced cement concrete boundary pillars for demarcating the land attached to the five rock cut caves at Jogighopa.	60 0 0
Sibsagar ...	1. Annual repairs to Temples at Sibsa-gar.	298 2 0
	2. Annual repairs to Temples at Joysa-gar.	300 12 0
	3. Annual repairs to Temples at Gouri-sagar.	320 5 0
	4. Annual repairs to Karrenghar Ruins at Joysagar.	198 1 0
	5. Annual repairs to Ronghor Ruins at Joysagar.	98 2 0

Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works (Central) during the year 1937-38—contd.

Name of district	Name of work	Expenditure during 1937-38			
		Rs.	a.	p.	
Sibsagar—concl'd. ...	6. Annual repairs to Ahom Raja's Palace, Gorgaon.	243	0	0	
	7. Annual repairs to Golaghar Ruins at Joysagar.	50	8	0	
	8. Filling up the low places in the compound of the Ahom Raja's Palace at Gorgaon.	58	0	0	
	9. Carrying out certain petty works in the Temples at Joysagar.	114	0	0	
	10. Special repairs to Temples at Gourisagar in Sibsagar subdivision.	449	1	0	
	11. Special repairs to Temples at Joysagar in Sibsagar subdivision.	1,599	0	0	
	12. Annual repairs to Monoliths at Kosomaripathar and Image at Harupani.	25	0	0	
	13. Annual repairs to shrine with image of Durga at Deopani.	20	0	0	
	14. Annual repairs to Sibdole Temple at Negriting.	47	12	0	
	Kamrup ...	1. Rock sculpture of Vishnu Jonardan...	7	4	0
		2. Rock inscription at the foot of Kamakhya Hill.	6	0	0
		3. Carvings and Inscriptions on Urbashi Island.	3	12	0
		4. Images of Ganesh and Bala Bhairab in the Western slope of Kamakhya Hills.	65	0	0
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DIVISION				
Cachar ...	1. Annual repairs to Cachari Ruins at Khaspur.	244	12	0	
	2. Annual repairs to Siva Tillah at Tulargram.	34	15	0	
	3. Annual repairs to old Fort at Badarpur.	30	0	0	
Sylhet ...	1. Annual repairs to Bhatara Tillah in the Sylhet Division.	40	0	0	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	1. Annual repairs to Monolith at Nartiang.	4	0	0	
	2. Annual repairs to Monolith at Mynshru.	4	0	0	

Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works (Central) during the year 1937-38—concl'd.

Name of district	Name of work	Expenditure during 1937-38		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Khasi and Jaintia Hills—concl'd.	3. Annual repairs to Tank at Syndai ...	5	0	0
	4. Annual repairs to Megalithic bridge at Thlu-Umwi.	5	8	0
	5. Annual repairs to Megalithic bridge at Umiaknieh.	12	8	0
	6. Annual repairs to Megalithic bridge at Um Kumbeh.	51	0	0
	Add establishment charges at 28½ per cent.	1,569	12	0
	Add Tools and Plant charges at 1½ per cent.	82	11	0
	Pensionary charges ...	285	0	0
	Grand total ...	7,445	6	0

Statement of expenditure on Archaeological Works (Provincial) during the year 1937-38

Name of district	Name of work	Expenditure during 1937-38		
		Rs.	a.	p.
<i>Non-excluded areas</i>				
ASSAM VALLEY DIVISION				
Kamrup ...	1. Pillars on the Urbashi Island ...	22	13	0
	2. Approach Road to Bishnu Janardan	9	8	0
	3. Approach Road to Kannachal Hillock	45	14	0
Goalpara ...	1. Annual repairs to ancient Tomb at Jogighopa.	9	0	0
	2. Rangamati Mosque and ablution tank attached thereto.	163	0	0
	3. Edga on Rangamati Hills with its enclosures.	33	0	0
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DIVISION				
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1. Scott's Monument at Cherra ...	10	0	0
	2. McCabe Monument at Shillong ...	15	0	0
	Total ...	308	3	0

Post of a lecturer in Assamese in Cotton College

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

- *321. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) If the Public Service Commission called for applications for the post of a lecturer in Assamese for the Cotton College, Gauhati, stating in the advertisement that ladies would be preferred ?
 - (b) Whether the Public Service Commission interviewed any ladies ?
 - (c) If the Public Service Commission nominated any ladies ?
 - (d) If so, whom ?
- *322. Will Government be pleased to state who has been appointed to the post and why ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

321. (a) and (b)—Yes.
- (c)—The Public Service Commission were asked to advise on the relative capacity of the lady-candidates. The Commission did so, but was unable to advise the appointment of any of them.
- (d)—1. Miss Usha Bhattacharyya.
2. „ Leela Devee.
3. „ Narmodabala Sinha.
4. Mrs. Rajabala Das.

322.—Srijut Birinchi Kumar Barua has been selected to fill the post as recommended by the Commission.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know, Sir, why no lady-candidate was appointed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : That was the decision of the previous Government (*Laughter.*)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know whether any of these four lady-candidates was properly qualified or not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think some of them were properly qualified.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : May I know, Sir, whether Srijut Birinchi Kumar Barua was given the first nomination by the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think he was given the first nomination after the question regarding the appointment of lady-teacher for Assamese was disposed of.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : May I know whether all the qualifications of the lady candidates were found in the professor appointed ? (*Laughter.*)

Neglect for Assamese in the Cotton College

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*323. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Education been drawn to the editorial comments over the caption কটন কলেজত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ প্ৰতি আওহেলা (neglect for Assamese in the Cotton College) published in the issue of the bi-weekly edition of "The Assamiya" dated the 27th *Sraavan* 1860 *Sak* ?

*324. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Cotton College re-opened after the vacation ?

*325. Is it a fact that Assamese has been approved of as a second language to be taught in the aforesaid College by the authorities ?

*326. Is it a fact that no syllabus has yet seen the light of the day for teaching the subject ?

*327. Is it a fact that no Assamese Lecturer has yet been appointed to teach the subject ?

*328. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the reason for the inordinate delay in the matter of preparation of the syllabus, for teaching the subject and for non-appointment of a Lecturer up till now ?

*329. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the names and qualifications of the applicants nominated and recommended by the Assam Public Service Commission for the post of the Assamese Lecturer in the Cotton College ?

*330. Is it a fact that Government have not accepted the recommendations of the Public Service Commission in the matter ?

*331. If the answer to question 330 is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the reason of his non-approval of the nomination by the Public Service Commission ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

323.—Yes.

324.—On the 28th June 1938.

325.—Yes.

326.—The syllabus has since been prepared and published.

327.—No.

328.—The preparation of the syllabus rests with the University authorities and this Government is not responsible for any delay in this matter. There was some delay in deciding whether in view of the fact that the majority of the students taking up Assamese were girl students, it would not be possible to get a qualified lady lecturer ; another cause which contributed to the delay was that the first nominee of the Public Service Commission was not immediately available.

329.—A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION No. 329, ASKED BY SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA, M. L. A.

Name	Qualifications	Service experience
Srijut Birinchi Kumar Barua.	<p><i>B.A.</i>—1st class Honours in Pali. Topped the list and awarded the college Foundation scholarship and Vishnupriya Devi prize.</p> <p><i>M.A.</i>—1st class, 1st in Pali in Group C (Epigraphy and Hist.) with gold medal and prizes. Carrying on Research work on Assamese History and Culture in Calcutta University, during Post Graduate course. Carried on an antiquarian survey in Kapili and Jamuna Valley of Nowgong under Historical and Antiquarian studies, Assam.</p>	<p>Appointed as lecturer in the Under-graduate Department (both intermediate and Bachelor courses) of Calcutta University in 1936, to teach Assamese and also appointed as Honorary Lecturer in Post-graduate Department of Pali. Has been examiner for Matric. in Assamese and History and for M. A. in Pali since 1936. Has been appointed as lecturer in Assamese in Post-graduate classes. Served as Secretary of Assamiya Vaiganik Paribhasa Committee and compiled the Assamese Paribhasik words.</p>
Srijut Upendra Ch. Lekharu.	<p><i>B.A.</i>—2nd class in Philosophy and with Sanskrit as other subject. Completed M. A. course in English.</p> <p><i>M.A.</i>—in Indian Vernaculars in class III and had Bengali, Assamese Prakrit and Pali for the group. B.L.</p>	<p>Served as Assistant teacher in North Lakhimpur High School for some time and as a Librarian in Cotton College for about 1½ months.</p>
Srijut Jaineswar Sarma.	<p><i>Matric.</i>—Secured a competitive scholarship. Awarded the Auniati Gold Medal for proficiency in Assamese.</p> <p><i>I. A.</i>—With distinction in Sanskrit and Assamese. Stood 1st in Sanskrit in University and was recipient of Sarada Prasad and Pachete Prizes for that year. Secured the highest mark in Assamese. Was awarded a competitive scholarship.</p>	<p>Working as a Professor of English and Assamese since October 1930. Serving as an Examiner in Assamese to the Calcutta University.</p>

Name	Qualifications	Service experience
	B.A.—With 2nd class Honours in English and with Assamese, Sanskrit and Economics as other subjects.	
	M.A.—2nd class, 5th in English. Secured 1st class marks in 2 papers. Has edited and published an anthology of Modern Assamese Poetry. Engaged in writing a History of Assamese literature.	
Miss Usha Bhattacharyya.	B.A.—With Honours in Philosophy. M. A.—2nd class 1st (Calcutta).	Serving as Professor of Philosophy and Logic in Lady Keane Girls' College, Shillong, also teaching Assamese to the Intermediate and B. A. classes.
Miss Leela Devee	Matric.—Secured highest marks and a distinction in Assamese with a gold medal. B.A.— M.A.—2nd class in Philosophy.	Serving as Professor of Philosophy and Logic in St. Mary's College, Shillong, and also teaching Assamese in Intermediate classes.
Miss Narmoda-bala Sinha.	Matric.—1st division, stood 1st in Assamese and secured the Hemoprova Memorial Gold Medal and a scholarship. I.Sc.—1st division. B.A.— M.A.—3rd class in English.	Officiated as Assistant Mistress in Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School for 6 months, as Head Mistress in Assamese Girls' High School, Laban, Shillong, for 2 months. Now serving as Assistant Mistress in the same school.
Mrs. Rajabala Das.	I.A. and Matric.—1st division with Assamese as second language. B.A.— Composed 5 school books in Assamese for lower classes and one "Strishikhya".	Has been serving as Head Mistress and Secretary, Panbazar Girls' High School, for the last 3 years and acted as Lady Superintendent of Panbazar College Girls' Hostel.

330.—No.

331.—Does not arise.

Number of venture primary schools among the backward and tribal people in Nowgong

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked :

*332. Will Government be pleased to state the number of venture primary schools among the backward and tribal people in the district of Nowgong ?

*333. Do Government propose to provide money for the taking over of these schools as early as possible to encourage further schools among those people particularly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

332.—Among backward people	...	...	...	4
Among tribal people	...	...	...	16
				20
		Total	...	20

333.—Yes, when funds will be available ; and Government expect to provide some funds in the next year's budget.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : Do Government know that there are large number of venture schools in the immigrant areas too ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I am not given the number, but I presume there are some.

Maulavi MD. MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY. Do Government propose to make provision for these schools also ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, as far as funds permit.

Maulavi MD. AMJAD ALI : Do immigrants come under 'backward people' ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : No, but we consider them as part and parcel of our population.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : Immigrants are known as jute growing people, and is it not a fact that Government receive a large sum of money from jute duty ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Possibly it is true, but does that question arise, Sir ?

Education of the children of labourers in the tea gardens of Assam

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

*334. Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken for the education of the children of the labourers in the tea gardens of Assam ?

*335. Are Government aware that in some gardens the labourers have been paying tuition fees for the education of their children ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

334.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question No.1138(b) asked by him at the first budget session of the Assembly.

335.—Government understand that fees are not charged in any primary school in a tea garden under the Indian Tea Association,

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Will Government take it from me that in some gardens, at least in my district, fees are being taken from the pupils of the labourers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government will be glad to be enlightened on the subject.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Will Government be pleased to make the necessary enquiry ? Our information is that the information of the hon. questioner is not accurate.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We will make an enquiry.

Number of pupils and award of free-studentships in the Tezpur Government High School

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

*336. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of pupils in the roll of the Tezpur Government High English School in the year 1938-39 ?

(b) The total number of Muhammadan pupils there in the said year ?

(c) The number of free-studentships being enjoyed respectively by the Muhammadan pupils and the non-Muhammadan pupils in the year 1938-39 ?

(d) The number of petitions for free-studentships submitted by the Muhammadan pupils in the year 1938-39 ?

(e) The number of petitions rejected and the grounds for rejecting them ?

(f) The names of the sitting non-official members of the Managing Committee of the above school ?

*337. Is it a fact that no Muhammadan non-official member has ever since been nominated as a member of the Managing Committee of this school ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

336. (a)—Three hundred and thirty-six.

(b)—Thirty-seven.

(c)—Muhammadans 7, non-Muhammadans 16½.

(d)—Nine.

(e)—Seven.

The reason for rejection is that the conditions under which free-studentship is granted were not satisfied in those cases. (Moreover 4 more free-studentships which were already being enjoyed by the Muhammadan pupils were cancelled for bad progress).

(f)—1. Srijut Chandra Nath Sarma, B.L.

2. Srijut Annadakumar Padmapati, M.A., B.L.

3. Babu Jatindra Chandra Maitra, M.A., B.L.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: With regard to (c), may I know, Sir, what percentage of free-studentship is awarded to the Muhammadan boys there ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It must be given according to the fixed percentage.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: What is the principle followed in granting free-studentships to different communities ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is always dependent on the number of students in a particular school in proportion to the allotted number of free-student ships to be given.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that a certain percentage of them should be reserved for the Muhammadan Community? I think there is a circular from the Director of Public Instruction to that effect.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, the circular is not like that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that according to the rules of the Education Department, free-studentships to the extent of 8 per cent. of the total population of the school go to Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: How many Muhammadan students in the Tezpur Government High School are entitled to Government free-studentships?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that. I want notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is there no Muhammadan at Tezpur fit to be taken in the Managing Committee of the said school?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The question has been replied very adequately. There has been a number of official Muhammadan members in the Committee but there is no representation for non-official Muhammadans to be included in the Committee.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Why not?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Because there has been no representation, as I said.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: How is that? Because there is no representation, therefore, no non-official Muhammadan members would be taken in?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sufficient representation has been given on communal lines to official members.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Are those officials, schoolmasters?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Why non-officials were not taken in?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have said repeatedly that no representation was received for inclusion of non-official Muhammadan members in the Committee.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Will Government consider the question if there is any representation from the Muhammadan Community?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes.
337.—Yes. There have been many official Muhammadan members of the Committee and there has been no demand for a non-official Muhammadan member.

Transfer of Babu Sris Chandra Gupta to Shillong

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

- *338. (a) Are Government aware that the Sylhet Government School sustained a serious loss by transfer of Babu Sris Chandra Gupta to Shillong ?
 (b) Do Government propose to re-transfer him to Sylhet in the interests of the High School there ?
 (c) Will Government be pleased to state when he entered the Education Department ?
 (d) Do Government propose to consider the question of his promotion to a Headmastership in view of his meritorious career as a teacher ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

338. (a)—No.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—9th February 1917.
 (d)—Yes, when his turn comes.

Award of indigenous Muhammadan Scholarships

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

- *339. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) How many of the 25 junior scholarships reserved for indigent Muhammadans went to students of the Surma Valley and how many to the students of the Assam Valley ?
 (b) How and on what basis the scholarships were allotted ?
 (c) How many students from the Assam Valley applied for such scholarships and how many from the Surma Valley ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

339. (a)—Surma Valley 22
 Assam Valley 3

(b)—The present Government cannot answer this question ; but the outgoing Ministry thought the scholarships were awarded in order of merit of the eligible Muhammadan students of both the Valleys taken together exception being made in one case.

(c)—No applications are required under the rules but the Headmasters are to furnish a list of eligible candidates. The number of stray applications received was :—

- Assam Valley 26
 Surma Valley 34

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : May I know the present policy of the Government with regard to the award of scholarships ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Again the question is regarding policy, Sir. (*Laughter.*)

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAIYIDUR RAHMAN : May I know if the present Government will consider to revise the basis on which these scholarships are awarded, so that the claims of students of both the Valleys may be equally considered by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI. The suggestion will be remembered by Government.

Ambarihati Girls' English School in Barpeta

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

*340. Are Government aware that this year class VII has been opened in the Ambarihati Girls' English School in the town of Barpeta with the approval of the Education Department ?

*341. Are Government aware of the fact that there is a good number of students on the roll sufficient for Girls' High English School ?

*342. (a) If the replies to the above questions are in the affirmative do Government propose to consider the necessity of giving annual grant to the said institution to encourage higher female education ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

340.—Yes.

341.—Yes.

342. (a)—Yes, if funds are available.

(b)—Does not arise.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : In view of the backwardness of the Subdivision and the urgent public necessity, will Government make it a special case ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The matter will be considered by Government.

Applications for Gun licenses

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*343. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of applications received from Indians in the district of Cachar during the last three years for Gun license ?

(b) How many licenses were granted during the same period to Indians in the district ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

343. (a)—221.

(b)—58.

Time-limit of keeping any particular officer in the same station

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*344. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any time-limit for keeping any particular officer posted to a station ?

(b) If so, whether it is always observed ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to observe it rigidly ?

(d) The number of transfer orders of Magistrates kept in abeyance during the last six months ?

*345. (a) Is it a fact that Babu U. C. Roy, Senior Magistrate, Habiganj, was ordered to be transferred to Silchar some months back ?

(b) If so, under what special reasons, his order of transfer has not been given effect to ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

344. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

(d)—Three.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Do I understand that any particular officer may be posted in a particular place for all his life ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is no rule as a matter of fact, but some practice is followed and that practice may not be consistent with keeping a particular officer all his life in one place.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: What is the practice ordinarily followed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As far as I know, the practice is to keep officers in a particular place for about 3 years.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: With regard to (d) Sir, under what circumstances the order of transfer was kept in abeyance ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply to the question will be found in reply to question 345(b).

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

345. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This Extra Assistant Commissioner was there twice before. Government, therefore, considered it necessary to make some other arrangement.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Since then whether any order of transfer of this particular officer was gazetted and that has been again cancelled ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that. If it has been done, it must have been done by the last Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The gentleman was again transferred to Sylhet, and this order has again been cancelled. Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to make an enquiry why and under what circumstances the order of transfer has again been cancelled ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I will make an enquiry.

Motor accidents in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar

Srijut DEVESWAR SARMAH asked :

*346. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of motor accidents caused by Europeans or their drivers during the 3 years ending the 30th June 1938 in the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar ?

(b) The number of such accident cases in which they were prosecuted in the Law Court ?

(c) The number of acquittals and convictions of such prosecutions ?

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

346. (a)—Lakhimpur—5.
Sibsagar—5
(b)—In all cases.
(c)—In Lakhimpur 4 ended in conviction and 1 in acquittal. In Sibsagar 2 ended in acquittal and 3 cases were withdrawn during trial.

Appointments in the Education Department

Srijut **BELIRAMI DAS** asked :

- *347. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leader under the caption "Recruitment to Assam Services" in column I at page 4 of the "Times of Assam" of Saturday, the 6th August, 1938 ?
(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state—
(i) Whether any appointments in the Assam Education Department have been made since April, 1937 on the ground of the candidates' relationship to some higher authorities or to members of the Legislature ?
(ii) Whether the advertisement for the posts are drafted by the Public Service Commission or by Government ?
(iii) Whether vacancies in the Education Department are filled up temporarily without reference to the Public Service Commission ?
(iv) For how long these vacancies can be kept on temporary basis ?
(v) Whether the period of such temporary appointments is regarded as additional qualification of previous experience ?

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

347. (a)—Yes.
(b) (i)—No.
(ii)—Usually by the Public Service Commission.
(iii)—Yes, under Assam Public Service Commission Regulation 33.
(iv)—The statutory limit in such cases is three months.
(v)—All services though temporary add to a candidate's experience.

Deputation vacancies in the Assam School Service in the Assam Valley Circle

Srijut **GHANASHYAM DAS** asked :

- *348. Will Government be pleased to state—
(a) The number of deputation vacancies of the teachers of Class III in the Assam School Service occurred in this year in the Assam Valley Circle ?
(b) The names and qualifications of those by whom the said vacancies were filled up ?

*349. Is it a fact that those vacancies have been filled up with persons who have no B.T. qualifications or any technical educational qualifications ?

*350. (a) Is it a fact that there were some candidates for those vacancies with B.T. qualifications ?

(b) If so, what is their number ?

*351. If the answer to question 350(a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why those candidates were not taken in those vacancies ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

348. (a)—6.

- (b)—(1) Srijut Abhay Charan Das, B.A.
 (2) Maulavi Syed Abdul Mannan, B.Sc.
 (3) Srijut Krishna Ram Sarma (Kaivarta), M.A.
 (4) Srijut Abani Kanta Bhagabati, B.Sc.
 (5) Srijut Chawmang Awng Gohain, B.A.
 (6) Maulavi Shamsuddin Ahmed, B.A.

349.—Yes.

350. (a)—No, it is not a fact. One caste Hindu candidate subsequently passed the B. T. Examination.

(b)—Does not arise.

351.—Does not arise.

Award of scholarships to girls in the last Matriculation Examination in the Surma Valley

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*352. (a) Is it a fact that scholarships for girls on the results of the last Matriculation Examination have been awarded disregarding the claim of the girl who stood first in the said Examination in the Surma Valley Division ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how the case of the girl who stood first came to be overlooked ?

(c) If the reply to question (a) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to rectify the error ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

352. (a)—No.

(b)—She was returned by the Head Mistress as a native of Barisal.

(c)—Does not arise ?

List of books proscribed by Government since 1930

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

*353 Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of books proscribed by the Government of Assam since 1930 ?

*354. Will Government be pleased to state whether the novel "Pathar-dabi" written by Dr. Sarat Chandra Chatterjee is still on the proscribed list ?

*355. Are Government aware that some other provincial Governments have withdrawn the ban on this book ?

*356. Do Government propose to lift the ban on "Patherdabi" and revise the list of proscribed books ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

353.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to starred question No.18 (i)(b) asked by Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda, M.L.A., at this session of the Assembly.

354.—The novel was proscribed by the Government of Bengal and the Government of Assam republished their notification. The order remains in force throughout British India unless the Bengal Government lifts the ban.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Is it not a fact that under the new Government of India Act, each province is a separate autonomous unit responsible to its own legislature ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : That question is just now receiving our consideration as to whether a notification passed by another Government will also be binding here.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

355.—Government have no information.

356.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to unstarred question No.1001 (a) and (b) asked by Srijut Deveswar Sarmah at this Session of the Assembly.

Hindu-Moslem riot at Hailakandi

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*357. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there was a Hindu-Moslem riot at Hailakandi on the occasion of the last *Ulta-rath* day ?
- (b) The cause of the said riot ?
- (c) The number of Hindus and Moslems injured ?
- (d) The number of Moslems and Hindus who have so far been arrested by the Police ?
- (e) The name of the investigating officer in connection with this riot ?
- (f) Whether he was particularly brought to Hailakandi for conducting the investigations several days after the riot ?
- (g) Whether Government held any enquiry into the riot through the Inspector-General and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police ?
- (h) If so, whether these officers heard any evidence ?
- (i) Whether they examined any one ?
- (j) If so, what is the result of their investigation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

357. (a)—Yes.

(b) to (j)—Certain criminal cases are now *sub judice*, and Government are, therefore, not prepared to give particulars at present.

Participation of Government servants in Congress or Muslim League processions

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*358. Will Government be pleased to state whether teachers of Government Madrassa, teachers of Local Board Aided Muktabs, Primary Schools and Marriage Registrars can participate actively in any procession organised by Congress or Muslim League ?

*359.(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Maulavi Martuja Ali, Teacher, Muktab, Tahirpur, Abdul Wahab Choudhury, Headmaster, Lutfi Madrassa, Tahirpur, and Maulavi Abdul Quaiyum, Marriage Registrar, led a procession of a dozen of people on 20th August 1938, at Tahirpur, in the Sunamganj subdivision, in favour of Muslim League with the cries "Muslim League Zindabad", "Haque Ministry Zindabad", etc., and the officer in charge of the Tahirpur Police Station noted down their names ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps against them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

358.—Government servants who are amenable to the Conduct Rules are prohibited from taking part in politics in any way. Persons such as local board teachers who are not Government servants do not come within the scope of these rules. Muhammadan Marriage Registrars are not paid servants of Government.

359. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Do Government know that Maulavi Musaddar Ali, a teacher of the Government Madrassa, Sylhet, went to Karimganj and asked the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali to join the Congress ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Government have no information on the point.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Will Government care to enquire into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : If full particulars of what the hon. member means are given, Government will make an enquiry.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Will the Hon'ble Minister, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali answer this question ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali is not responsible for the reply to this question.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI : Are Government aware that the Subdivisional Inspector of Police was employed to escort the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali up to Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think the information is false.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Was any enquiry made by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI : No matter arose for an enquiry.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : If no enquiry was made, how can Government say that it was false ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister says that the information is false. How can he say that if no enquiry was made?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I did not make any formal enquiry, but I have the Hon'ble Minister sitting by me, and he denies it.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURY: May I ask Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy why he only mentioned about teachers of Muktabs and Madrasas and not *tols*, *Patsalas* and *chatuspathis* which have become hotbeds of politics?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is for me to reply, and it is not open to any member to put a question to another member.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: An hon. member may also put questions to another hon. member.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Because he led the procession before my eyes. (*Laughter*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is giving a fact and also an opinion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that Government servants attended the meeting presided over by Mr. Subhas Bose, the Congress President?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member here too is giving a fact.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I am asking of the Premier whether it is a fact?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of it.

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: Were not holidays granted to Government institutions at Barpeta when this present Government assumed office?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is true; but I am afraid that it does not at all arise in connection with the question we are discussing.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Do Government know that the village of Tahirpur was under water on the 20th August and no procession was possible that day?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government have no such information?

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: I find in the question whether "the officer in charge of the Tahirpur Police Station noted down their names". May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether police diaries are given publicity to the Congress members?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a question the reply to which must be in the negative.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: May I know from the hon. member who tabled the question, as to how he could secure the information, that it was noted by the officer in charge?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Facts are to be elicited from Government and not from Congress members.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Then, Sir, how was this question asked by a member of that party?

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: The hon. member will please put his question so that it may be followed by the Hon'ble Minister.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Is there any circular to the effect that the police diaries and notes should be shown to the members of this House?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Surely not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then, are we to take it that the police officers should take the Congress members into confidence?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I really do not know. But as a matter of fact it will be seen that these questions related to events of the last Government's time.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Did I hear the Hon'ble Premier saying that he does not know whether he enjoys the confidence of the police officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not bound to disclose what confidence I have with the police officers.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I want to know in this particular case from the nature of the question, whether the hon. member secured the notes from the station diary of the police officers and I ask whether the Hon'ble Premier will take into consideration whether this particular officer was justified in giving publicity to the diary's contents?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is absolutely a matter of opinion and I am not prepared to answer. The officer did not give any publicity.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: May I know whether the officer in charge of the Tahirpur Police Station is a Congress member?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know. But this is quite certain that no police officer, or as a matter of fact no Government servant can belong to any political party.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Can the hon. member, Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, deny that he got the information from the police diary?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Yes, I can deny.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then the question is how he got the information?

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Who is to answer the question, Sir, is it not the Government?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is a rule to the effect that a member may put a question to another member to elicit some information. The hon. member here has put down a certain question from which it can legitimately be inferred that he must have information as to what the position is. So any other member will be certainly within his rights to ask the member putting the question to disclose how he got the information.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: As the hon. member has denied that he did not get the information from the police diary, will he now admit that he tabled the question on false grounds?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: No.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then, Sir, what is the source of the information?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. members are not taking into consideration another aspect of the case. The member may put a question merely from his guess in order to take the chances of getting an answer which may prove his guess to be correct.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether the statement that the officer in charge of the Tahirpur Police station noted down their names is correct?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Yes. (*Loud laughter*).

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Will the hon. member please repeat the question?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether the statement that the officer in charge of the Tahirpur police station noted down their names is correct?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It was not considered necessary for the Government to enquire into that.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Do Government know that the Tahirpur thana was under water at that time and that no procession could pass?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government is not aware of it.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Will Government please enquire whether this was a question based on false facts?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government do not consider it necessary to make enquiries.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Is it because that the member belongs to his own party?

(No answer).

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI: Is it a criminal offence to cry 'Moslem League Zindabad'?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Never.

Treatment of a European planter towards a female labourer

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*360.(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published in the columns of the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 16th August, 1938 making grave allegations of barbarous treatment on the part of a European planter towards a female labourer?

(b) If so, what steps, do Government propose to take to put a stop to such barbarities?

*361. Are Government aware that the office-bearers of the local Congress Committee, Congress Socialist Party, and the Sylhet-Cachar Labourers' Union went to the garden in question in order to amicably settle up the dispute that has arisen?

*362. Are Government aware that the manager of the garden dismissed them with extreme discourtesy?

*363. Do Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

360.(a)—The letter cannot be traced in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of that date, but Government received independently reports about an incident at Cossipore Tea Estate, to which the hon. member presumably alludes.

(b)—The Deputy Commissioner in the course of enquiry into the labour dispute heard an allegation that a woman had been assaulted and badly treated by the Assistant Manager, but he did not find the allegation proved. The then Government saw no reason to pursue the matter. Government will be prepared to take action on proved facts.

361.—Yes.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: Are Government prepared to hand over the judiciary to private individuals ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Certainly not.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: Do Government approve of private individuals entering into a Manager's bungalow to hold an enquiry into a matter that does not concern them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: If there is any trespass the matter should be reported to the Court.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: Then I understand that Government do not approve of private individuals taking upon themselves the onus of enquiring into matters with which they are not concerned and entering into a private individual's bungalow for the purpose of prosecuting an enquiry ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This question is put on certain assumptions and it is hypothetical and is hardly a question.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: I beg your pardon, Sir ; I am putting my supplementaries on a fact.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is more or less hypothetical.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: Will Government be pleased to give an answer to my question ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is more or less hypothetical. The question is whether a private individual is entitled to trespass into another man's bungalow in order to make an enquiry as to what happened there. In the absence of any particular case being referred to, the question, I think, is hypothetical.

Col. A. B. BEDDOW: In this case it is a matter of fact and I ask if Government will condone such an action.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the question put is really a hypothetical one.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: The question, Sir, is whether Government approves of private persons trespassing into another man's bungalow ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

362.—Government received a report that the Manager refused to allow them to remain in the garden. They have no information about the alleged discourtesy.

363.—Government do not propose to pursue an incident so long past and would advise the alleged assaulted woman to seek remedy in a Court of law.

Applications for gun licenses in Goalpara district

Srijut PARAMANANDA DAS asked :

- *364. Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of applications submitted for gun licenses in the official year 1937-38 in the Goalpara district ?
 - (b) The number of such applications refused for gun licenses ?
 - (c) The classes of people that applied for those licenses ?
 - (d) How many among them were men of dangerous character ?

*365. Will the Hon'ble the Prime Minister be pleased to state why no license for a .315 bore Mannlicher-Schonauer rifle has been issued in my name though I applied for it on the 31st May 1938 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

364. (a)—One hundred and eleven.
 (b)—Eighty-two.
 (c)—The classes of people that applied for those licenses were cultivators, tea-garden labourers, Panchayat members, dafadars or chaukidars, Marwaris, businessmen and Government servants.
 (d)—None, so far as Government are aware.
- 365.—It appears from enquiry that the hon. member applied for a shot gun and a rifle. A license to buy a shot gun was allowed and it was thought undesirable and unsafe to grant a license for a rifle to an applicant who has no previous experience to use a gun or a rifle. He did not appeal against the order.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which replies were laid on the table)

Breaches in the North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari Road

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

589. Are Government aware that the North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari road which was recently gravelled, has been breached by the last July flood in sixteen places ?

590. Are Government aware that this road besides connecting North Lakhimpur with the nearest railway station, viz., Kokilamukh afforded shelter to a large number of people and cattle during the high flood ?

591. Is it a fact that the water level on the eastern side of it was 7 or 8 feet higher than that on the western side and that there was almost no water passage left in the road except the rivers and two permanent breaches ?

592. Are Government aware that for the safety of the road as well as of the villagers on its either side, more water passages (preferably culverts) are necessary ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUHAMMAD ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

589.—Yes.

590.—Yes.

591.—The water level on the east of the road which acts as a bund against the westward spread of the Subansiri water, was naturally higher than that on the western side and that excepting the unbridged channels, the Bordubi in mile 13, the Khabuli in mile 15, the Lohit in mile 20, the Dariadubi in mile 23, the Kharjan in mile 25 and the Tooni in mile 26, there are no waterways between miles 5 and 26 of the road.

592.—No.

However many small waterways (culverts) are provided they will not be able to discharge the overflow of the Subansiri river when in flood, and each will prove a source of weakness in the road which acts as a bund and protects the villages on its west side. They will also not appreciably reduce the intensity of the flood on the east side which is all uninhabited jungle.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know from Government if many villages on the eastern side, viz., Basagaon, Paingaon, Salalgaon, Kolitagaon, Esarakhana, Sonardheki, Bauhpati, etc., were heavily inundated during the last flood and remained under water for several days and it was due to the presence of this road without any water passage?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ALI HAIDAR KHAN: It might have been so to a negligible extent.

Period for which Haji Ismail Seth & Sons supplied country liquor to the Government of Assam

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

593. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The number of years for which Haji Ismail Seth & Sons supplied country liquor to the Government of Assam ?
 - The name of the present supplier ?
 - Whether tenders were called for before the present settlement was made ?
 - If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of tenders received with the names of those who submitted tenders showing their rates ?
 - Whether it is a fact that Government have stood surety for the present tenderer for payment of the price of the vessels and other articles for storage of liquor to Haji Ismail Seth & Sons ?
 - If so, what is the amount for which Government have stood surety ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

593. (a)—Nineteen years.
 (b)—Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, B.A., M.L.C.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—The information is furnished in the statement below:—

Names of tenderers	Cost price of country spirit per L. P. gallon tendered	Bottling charge	Price of empty bottles	
			Qt.	Pint
(1) Messrs. Haji Ismail Saith & Sons, Limited.	Rs. a. p. 1 2 0	Rs. a. p. 0 4 6	Rs. a. p. 0 3 6	Rs. a. p. 0 3 0
(2) Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman Motwalli, Proprietor of Sultan-ganj Distillery in Bihar and Betul Distillery in Central Provinces.	0 15 9	0 4 6	0 3 6	0 3 0
(3) Messrs. Standard Drug and Chemical Company (India), Limited.	1 0 0	0 4 6	0 3 6	0 3 0
(4) Babu Hamendra Nath Roy.	1 0 0	0 4 0	0 3 0	0 2 6

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The amount determined to be payable to Messrs. Haji Ismail Saith & Sons, Limited under clause 20 of the then license.

Settlement of Excise shops for 1938-39 in Dibrugarh

Srijut RAJANI KANTA BAROOAH asked :

594. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the settlement of Excise shops for 1938-39 in Dibrugarh, that was due to be made in February last has been postponed by an order from Government for about a month ?

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

595. (a) Is it a fact that the lessee of Jaipur Country Spirit shop has been refused settlement for 1938-39 ?

(b) If so, for what reason ?

596. Will Government be pleased to state the grounds for which the settlement of Excise shops is refused ?

597. (a) Is it a fact that in the last settlement, the Jaipur Country Spirit shop was settled with a new man ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether he deposited the necessary security-money and started the business of the shop ?

598. (a) Is it a fact that the new lessee was subsequently removed ?

(b) If so for what reason, and from what date ?

599. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether his security-money was refunded ?

(b) Whether Government invited tenders for settlement of this shop after the removal of the new lessee ?

(c) If so, when, and how many tenders were received, and who obtained the settlement ?

(d) Whether the old lessee also submitted tender for this shop in the bye-settlement ?

600. (a) Is it a fact that pending the settlement, the old lessee was allowed to run the shop ?

(b) If so, from what date, and why ?

601. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he furnished the necessary security required to be made in respect of the shop ?

(b) Whether he is still running the shop ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

594. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The postponement was made in order that effect may be given to the orders issued on 17th January 1938 by Government for the gradual elimination of foreigners from the business.

595. (a)—Yes.

- (b)—The lessee was a foreigner and was selected for elimination.
- 596.—The grounds are contained in the Revised Instructions regulating the settlement of opium and excise shops as modified by Government orders of 17th January 1938. (Copies of both are placed on the Library table.)
597. (a)—Yes.
(b)—Yes.
598. (a) & (b)—Yes: from 2nd April 1938. It appeared during the hearing of an appeal by the Excise Commissioner that the new lessee who had been on the Excise business before had several punishments and that he was permanently debarred.
599. (a)—Yes.
(b)—Tenders were invited.
(c)—On 2nd May 1938, 14 tenders were received. Resettlement was kept pending under orders of the Revenue Tribunal.
(d)—No.
600. (a)—Yes.
(b)—From 2nd April 1938. Because it was undesirable to let a man who had been permanently debarred to run it and as fresh settlement was deferred under the Appellate Courts' order, the most convenient course was to let the old lessee work the shop temporarily.
601. (a)—As the period was anticipated to be short and the old lessee was asked to work the shop for administrative convenience, no security was realised.

(b)—The Appellate Court has since passed orders and the Deputy Commissioner is taking steps to resettle the shop.

The number and names of Ganja and liquor shops in the province
Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

602. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of *ganja* and liquor (both country and foreign) shops with their names in the province, district by district, at the end of the 31st March 1938 ?
- (b) The quantity of *ganja* and liquor (country) consumed in the province during the last 5 years ending on the 31st March 1938 district by district ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

602. (a)—A statement is laid on the Library table.

(b)—The information is given in the statement below :—

Statement showing the quantity of ganja and country spirit consumed in the province during the last 5 years ending on the 31st March 1938 district by district

Name of districts	Country Spirit						Ganja						Remarks
	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38			
Cachar ..	L.P.G. 5,712·7	L.P.G. 5,381·9	L.P.G. 14,179·9	L.P.G. 16,573·0	L.P.G. 16,792·0	Srs. 1,194	Srs. 978	Srs. 1,177	Srs. 1,272	Srs. 1,256			
Sylhet ..	8,122·8	8,492·5	14,751·5	20,620·5	22,243·9	2,716	2,627	2,796	3,169	3,387			
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	..	..	..	..	..	33	30	38	45	58		
Naga Hills ..	338·5	351·5	436·5	755·0	489·5	10	11	12	15	14			
Lushai Hills ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goalpara ..	5,546·5	6,747·5	11,042·0	12,939·5	15,513·5	740	818	875	1,025	1,086			
Kamrup ..	6,635·5	6,870·4	11,065·0	11,341·5	12,256·0	923	1,207	1,434	1,650	1,741			
Darrang ..	7,458·8	7,338·6	11,065·2	13,525·0	17,052·5	314	405	446	503	525			
Nowgong ..	3,564·5	3,876·8	6,994·5	9,052·5	10,768·5	267	393	404	585	636			
Sibsagar ..	32,120·2	32,128·1	50,021·5	49,387·0	54,277·7	970	1,144	1,260	1,226	1,245			
Lakhimpur ..	62,633·6	60,007·8	85,989·9	93,788·8	104,154·0	1,593	1,685	1,598	1,523	1,446			
Garo Hills ..	58	103	128·5	101·0	161·5	23	20	21	26	42			
Total ..	132,191·1	131,298·1	205,612·5	227,616·9	253,709·1	8,783	9,318	10,061	11,039	11,436			

Instructions issued to chuck out people engaged in excise business who are not natives of this Province

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

603. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise be pleased to state :—

- (a) If any instruction was issued this year to chuck out people engaged in the excise business in this Province who are natives of other provinces ?
- (b) If so, whether Government notified their intention to do so before tenders were invited ?
- (c) Whether any such policy intended to be followed by Government was ever published or placed before the Legislature ?
- (d) Whether any tender was rejected by the Excise Department this year on the ground of the nativity of the lessee ?
- (e) If so, will Government be pleased to state the instructions issued by Government for eliminating the lessees who are neither natives of nor domiciled in this Province ?
- (f) Will length of service and efficiency of management be taken into consideration in the adoption of this policy ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

603. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The instructions were for the gradual elimination of foreigners and so far as the settlement for 1938-39 was concerned, applied to those shops the settlement of which was not finished when Government order were issued.

(f)—Yes, so far as these are not inconsistent with the general policy of eliminating all foreigners within a period of four years.

Reports on the marketing of Agricultural produce

Maulavi Md. MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

604. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of reports on the marketing of Agricultural produce the marketing officer have completed and submitted up to date ?

(b) What are these ?

605. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken any action to improve the marketing facilities of the agricultural produces of Assam ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to consider the necessity to take up immediately the work of improving the marketing facilities of Agricultural produces in this Province ?

606. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of officers at present in the marketing section of the Agricultural Department ?

(b) Whether the staff is adequate for the work in the marketing of Agricultural produce ?

- (c) If not, do Government propose to take steps to increase the marketing staff in order to take up the development work immediately ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

604. (a)—Twenty-six.
 (b)—(1) Cereals—Rice, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Maize.
 (2) Oilseeds—Linseed, Groundnut, Cocoanuts, Mustard.
 (3) Fruits and Vegetables—Bananas, Deciduous fruits, Orange, Mango, Pineapples, Potato.
 (4) Special crops—Tobacco, Coffee.
 (5) Animal Husbandry and Dairy products—Cattle, Milk, Eggs, Hides and Skins, Sheep and Goats, Ghee and Butter, Wool and Hair.
 (6) “Co-operative-Marketing” and “Markets and Fairs”.
605. (a)—Yes. Marketing of Assam pineapples in Calcutta has been taken up recently as an experimental measure for 3 months only.
 (b)—Several schemes for development work have been submitted, but for want of sufficient staff and funds nothing could be done yet.
606. (a)—Three.
 (b)—The present temporary staff of the marketing section is not adequate to take up any development work in addition to the marketing survey work for which the present staff has been sanctioned from the funds mainly supplied by the Government of India.
 (c)—Yes, proposal for a permanent staff from 1st April 1939 is under consideration.

Amount spent for repairs and original works in the buildings of the Sylhet Technical School

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

607. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The amount of money spent in repairs and original work in the buildings of the Sylhet Technical School during the last three years ?
 (b) Whether the works were done departmentally, *i.e.*, through the Principal of the School ?
 (c) If the reply to question (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the works were not done through contractors ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

607. (a)— Year	Repairs			Original works		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1935-36	983	14	6	354	10	9
1936-37	1,230	0	0	2,703	8	6
1937-38	1,199	1	3	1,157	15	3

(b)—Most of the works were done departmentally under the supervision of the Principal.

(c)—The amount available for annual repairs is rather small compared with the large number of buildings of a semi-permanent nature. With a view to keep these in proper order utmost economy is necessary and such portion of the works as can be done in the school workshop is done at a comparatively cheaper cost. The students of the school also incidentally get some opportunity of good practical training.

As regards original works, tenders were duly invited from the contractors and where the quotations were higher than the estimates, the works were departmentally done.

Realisation of a fee known as "Britti" by the Marwari traders of the Goalpara

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

608. Are Government aware that the Marwari traders of the Goalpara town do realise from the Non-Marwari sellers of Jute and Mustard seed a fee known as "Britti" at the rate of three annas per hundred rupees on the sale price of these commodities and that the indigenous traders are not allowed to realise the same fee when the sellers happen to be the Marwaris ?

609. (a) Is it a fact that the Marketing Officer, during his visit to Goalpara, was made known of this fact by the local traders ?

(b) If so, what steps the said officer took to stop this illegal realisation ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

608.—The Marwaris collect a fee known as "Britti" from both Marwari and non-Marwari sellers as contributions towards a fund said to be used for charitable purposes.

609. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A report is expected shortly.

Mining, Engineering and other technical scholarships created under a trust by the late Mr. B. Barua

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

610. (a) Are Government aware that certain Mining, Engineering and other technical scholarships created under a trust by the late Mr. B. Barua of Calcutta in the Benares University are available for the Assamese students ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said scholarships have so long remained unutilised by the Assamese students and enjoyed by Non-Assamese students till the current year ?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take so that these scholarships may be henceforth duly enjoyed by the proper and rightful beneficiaries under the trust and that the amount of the scholarships so far enjoyed by others may be recovered for the benefit of the Assamese students ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

610. (a)—(c)—Government have no information but have enquired,

Invention of a spinning wheel called "Sudarshan Jatar" by Srijut Nidhi Ram Das of Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

611. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that a spinning wheel called "Sudarshan Jatar" for spinning *muga* and *endi* has been invented and patented by Srijut Nidhi Ram Das of Gauhati ?

612. Are Government aware that this Charka has proved a very useful machine in easing the prevailing laborious and tiresome processes of spinning *muga* and *endi* and that it will immensely help the people of Assam in manufacturing *muga* and *endi* yarns in an extensive scale and in increasing their income to a great extent ?

613. Do Government propose to take early steps for spreading the use of the said Charka amongst the people ?

614. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has rendered any help to the inventor of the Charka ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to render him adequate help to lighten the pecuniary burden he has to bear in spreading the use of the machine and as recognition of the invaluable service rendered by him to our people ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

611.—Yes.

612.—Government understand that the machine is an improvement upon the *muga* reels and *endi* charkas now in use and that it would have been a boon to the weavers but for its prohibitive price.

613.—Nothing can be done unless the price is fixed within reach of the poor spinners and reelers.

614. (a)—No.

(b)—Government will consider an application for an industrial loan.

Fall of price of the agricultural produce of the province

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

615. Will Government please state—

(a) Whether Government has been able to ascertain the present fall of the price of the Agricultural produce of the province ?

(b) Whether it is possible to regulate the price ?

(c) Whether the fall of price is due to the capture of market by traders and trading concerns ?

616. Is it a fact that the import of rice from Burma is one of the causes of the fall of prices ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

615. (a)—The question is not clearly understood. If it means whether Government has been able to ascertain the fact of the fall of price, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—No, as it depends on the general question of demand and supply.

(c)—Not exactly. It is due to general economic depression.

616.—Yes, to some extent.

Publicity of agricultural researches

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

617. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state—

- (a) If any step has been taken for publicity of Agricultural researches ?
 (b) If not, do Government propose to have any scheme for such publicity work ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

617. (a)—Yes. The results of the work on agricultural researches are published in the Departmental Annual Report every year and also in the form of leaflets and bulletins from time to time for the benefit of the general public.

(b)—Government are considering what other improved methods of publicity could be undertaken for giving wider publicity to the activities of the Department.

Employment of the person trained in carpet-making

Srijut BELIRAM DAS asked :

618. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government granted a stipend to an Assamese student to learn carpet-making ?
 (b) Whether he has come out successfully in the said training ?
 (c) Whether Government has given him any employment ?
 (d) Whether it is a fact that there is a demand for such trained persons by the public ?

619. Do Government propose to employ such trained persons under the Department concerned ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

618. (a)—Yes. An Assamese student was trained in carpet weaving in Madras with a stipend from the Assam Williamson Fund.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Demand for this trained man was received from one locality only, viz., Nalbari in the district of Kamrup.

619.—No.

Amount spent for construction and repairs of the Surma Valley Technical School of Sylhet during the last five years

Maulavi Md. ABDUS SALAM asked :

620. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount spent for the construction and repairs of the Surma Valley Technical School of Sylhet during the last five years ?

(b) The agency through which the works were done and the name of the contractor or contractors who undertook the work ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

620. (a)--					Rs.	a.	p.
1933-34	...	...	...	...	2,469	5	9
1934-35	...	...	...	...	3,768	9	9
1935-36	...	...	...	...	1,338	7	3
1936-37	...	...	...	...	3,933	8	6
1937-38	...	...	...	...	2,357	0	6

(b)—The works were executed departmentally by engaging casual daily labourers and partly through the following contractors—

1. Babu M. K. Sen,
2. Maulavi Abdus Sattar,
3. Babu Surendra Kumar Pal,
4. Md. Akloo Mia.

The number of Weaving Demonstrators in the Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Subdivisions

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

621. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Weaving Demonstrators in the Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat subdivisions ?
- (b) The number of fly shuttle looms introduced in each of those subdivisions and how many of them are in the running order ?
- (c) Are Government aware that one Demonstrator cannot cope with the work for Jorhat and Golaghat ?
- (d) If so, do Government propose to give one Demonstrator for each subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

621.(a)—Two in the district with headquarters at Gaurisagar and Dergaon.

(b)—216, 81 and 70 respectively in Sibsagar, Golaghat and Jorhat subdivisions. Almost all of them are in running order.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Director of Industries is being asked to submit proposals.

Setting up of commercial and industrial museums at Gauhati and Sylhet

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

622. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of setting up commercial and industrial museums at Gauhati and Sylhet ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

622.—The intention of the hon. member is not clearly understood. If however he means to have a museum for display of products of the Province and increase their sales, the Government Emporia at Gauhati and Sylhet serve the purpose intended by displaying products of the Cottage industries of the province as far as possible.

Cattle mortality in the Raha and Kampur circles of Nowgong

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

623.(a) Are Government aware that there has been abnormal cattle mortality in the Raha and Kampur circles of Nowgong this year ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to prevent the mortality and help the people in their distress ?

624.(a) Is it a fact that no Veterinary aid could be rendered in an appreciable degree on account of the dearth of qualified men ?

(b) If so, what steps, Government propose to take to prevent recrudescence of such mortality in future ?

625. Will Government be pleased to state—(a) Whether any steps have been taken to ascertain the extent of cattle mortality in the above mentioned circles of the district ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of deaths of cattle in the above mentioned area ?

(c) If not, why not ?

626. Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases treated by the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and the number of deaths after treatment in the said area ?

627. Are Government aware that the agricultural loan issued is quite inadequate to cope with the situation and that a large number of people who have lost their cattle have not been able to plough their lands and sow the seasonal crops ?

628.(a) Is it a fact that Srijuts Mahi Chandra Bora, Dhirsingh Deuri and Rai Sahib Balabox Hanseria drew the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister about the inadequacy of agricultural loans and pitiable condition of the cultivators due to unprecedented cattle mortality in a joint statement submitted to him on the 29th July, 1938 ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken to relieve the cultivators since then ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

623.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Six extra Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were deputed to supplement three Local Board Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. The Veterinary Inspector, Central Assam Circle, was specially deputed to organise and supervise the epidemic work. The Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, visited some of the infected localities and suggested ways and means to control the epidemics in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and the Chairman, Local Board.

624.(a)—It is admitted that the Veterinary staff is inadequate but the Department concentrated all attention as indicated in reply to question 623(b).

(b)—The Government have, under consideration, schemes for expansion of the Department.

625.(a)—Yes, as far as possible.

(b)—The total mortality in the district, as far as could be collected, was 3,051.

(c)—The question does not arise.

626.—The number of animals treated was 29,914 inclusive of prophylactic treatment. The accurate figure of mortality amongst the treated is not available; roughly it is estimated to be 6 per cent. inclusive of prophylactic treatment.

627.—No.

628.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have already informed Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora and other two gentlemen that Rs.10,000 was sanctioned for agricultural loans for the purchase of cattle and that more funds would be provided, if asked for by local officers.

Centres of *pat* silk operations

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

629. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Industries be pleased to state—

(a) When the Sericulture Department was started ?

(b) The number of centres for spreading the cultivation of silk (৭.৫) both indigenous and foreign opened by the Agricultural Department in the province with their names ?

(c) The number of localities with their names where *pat* is produced without Government aid ?

630. Do Government propose to make greater endeavour for spreading and encouraging the cultivation of silk in the province ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

629.(a)—From July 1919.

(b)—The number of centres is 51. A list is placed on the library table.

(c)—Now there is not a single *pat* rearing village which does not get professional advice of the Sericultural Officers or purchase departmental seeds.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what villages have rearing centres in the district of Kamrup ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: That will be found in the list.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Are the districts given in the list ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: The hon. member will find that the list contains everything.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We want to know whether the districts are mentioned in the list.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Yes, Sir, I think so.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :
630.—Government are prepared to do all that is possible.

Election of Chairman in the Dibrugarh Local Board and resignations of members in this connection

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH asked :

631.(a) Is it a fact that 10 out of 13 elected non-Muhammadan and Muhammadan members of the Dibrugarh Local Board have resigned their memberships ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reason for their resignations ?

632. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, asked the Chairman to request the members so resigning, to withdraw their resignations ?

633. Is it a fact that the Chairman did not send any letter to the members and reported to the Deputy Commissioner that the members did not respond to his request ?

634. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner wrote to Government and Government directed the Deputy Commissioner to ask the members to withdraw their resignations ?

635. Is it a fact that the members did withdraw their resignations in response to the request of Government ?

636.(a) Is it a fact that Government is not going to accept the withdrawal of the resignations now and contemplate ordering bye-election ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state why the members were requested to withdraw their resignations ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

631.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The letter of resignation, dated 27th May 1938 was as below :—

“The bulk of the Local rate is paid by the *raiya's*. Tea Planters have got representation which is out of all proportion to the Local rate paid by them. As a result representatives of the people have no effective voice in the election of the executives or in controlling expenditures. The amount contributed by poor people are spent mainly for the benefit of the Tea Planters. As a protest against this unjust distribution of seats we resign our membership of the Local Board from to-day”.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any endorsement of acceptance by the Chairman on the body of the resignation letter ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Do Government regard that the resignation was in order ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I may refer the hon. member to the answer to question No.636, which says ‘At any rate the Chairman wrote to the Deputy Commissioner on the 10th June, 1938 long before the resignations were withdrawn that he had accepted the resignations’ We cannot but accept that statement.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: My question is different, Sir. I want to know whether that acceptance was in order.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Yes, Sir. An acceptance, even if made verbally, is in order.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Do Government accept the statement of the Chairman that he accepted the resignations on the very day the letters were handed over ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: There is some dispute about it. But after the letter of the 10th June, there is no use pursuing

the matter. At any rate after the 10th June it is quite clear that he had accepted the resignations, and that date was long before the resignations were withdrawn ?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In view of this discrepancy, will Government advise the Chairman to accept the withdrawal ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I shall be glad to do so, if there be no legal difficulty.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN replied :

632.—The Deputy Commissioner advised the Chairman to give the resigning members a chance for reconsidering their decision before the resignations were accepted.

633.—The facts appear to be disputed. For reasons which will appear in the later replies, Government perceived no advantage in pursuing the enquiry.

634.—As there was reported to be a general desire among the members who resigned to reconsider their decision and withdraw their resignations, Government stated what they understood to be the legal position indicating the stage up to which withdrawal is permissible and indicated that if the resignations had not already been accepted, it would perhaps be well to avoid the unnecessary trouble and expense of bye-elections by withdrawal of resignations.

635.—Yes.

636.(a)—Government have been informed by the Chairman that he did in fact accept the resignations on the day of the election to the office of Chairman. At any rate the Chairman wrote to the Deputy Commissioner on 10th June 1938 long before the resignations were withdrawn that he had accepted the resignations. Orders have, therefore, been issued that bye-elections should be arranged.

(b)—As already explained, Government were not at that stage aware of the Chairman's position, as later stated by him.

Steps taken for the promotion of indigenous industries in the Province

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

637. Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken for the promotion of indigenous industries in the Province ?

638. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have taken steps to establish contact with rural industries, marketing and sales organisations ?

(b) If so, what steps have hitherto been taken in that direction ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

637.—The main two indigenous industries of the province are handloom weaving and sericulture ; and Government are helping them by technical advice through the demonstration parties. They have also started peripatetic Soap Instruction classes to encourage soap industry on cottage scale. Instructions are also given in durrie weaving at the Sylhet Technical School and fine silk weaving at the Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati. For the benefit of the handloom weavers arrangements have been made for instructions in dyeing and calico printing. Government also patronize cottage industries by purchase of the products of cottage factories such as rubber stamps, inks and other necessaries of Government Departments. They also support indigenous industries, in deserving cases, by industrial loans and contributions.

638.(a)—Yes, to some extent as far as the handloom weaving industry is concerned.

(b)—For giving sale and marketing facilities to the local weavers, Government have established a Central Emporium and Stores at Gauhati and a branch at Sylhet which supply to the cottage workers improved appliances and materials, by sale or on hire purchase system, advertise Assam products to consumers at home and abroad and put weavers in touch with the markets and sell finished products of cottage industries on commission. With the assistance of the Central Government grant these Emporia purchase articles from the local producers as far as funds permit for resale. With the grant from the Central Government one Marketing Officer and two canvassers have been appointed for securing orders and to advise producers as to the nature and standards of the demands for products of the weavers.

Education amongst the Muslims in the Lakhai Thana

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

639. Are Government aware that education amongst the Muslims in the Lakhai Thana is very backward ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

639.—The Muslims in the Lakhai Thana are generally backward in Education.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know what steps Government are going to take for improvement of education in the backward area at Lakhai Thana ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We will consider about improvement of education in that area when funds are available.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: May I know when, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a difficult matter to say.

Adjournment motion on account of the failure of Government to grant adequate relief to the flood-stricken people of the Goalpara district

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

I have received notices of 14 adjournment motions. I wish to dispose of them one after another. The first one stands in the name of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: আমি নিম্নলিখিত মূলত্ববী প্রস্তাব* উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

“গোয়ালপাড়া জেলার বন্যা প্রপীড়িত ব্যক্তিদিগকে গবর্ণমেন্ট কর্তৃক পর্যাপ্ত সাহায্য প্রদান না করা”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is to show how his motion is in order. সভা মহোদয়কে দেখাইতে হইবে যে আমাদের এগেন্ডায় যে সকল নিয়মাবলী রহিয়াছে, এই প্রস্তাব সেই সকল নিয়মাবলী সঙ্গত হইয়াছে। ঠিক নিয়ম অনুযায়ী এই প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছেন কি না সেইটা দেখাইতে হইবে।

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: ইহা একটা অত্যন্ত গুরুতর বিষয়; যেহেতু বর্তমান বৎসরের প্রবল বন্যায় South Salmara থানার প্রায় দুইজার লোক অস্বাভাবে মারা গিয়াছে। এজন্য আমি মনে করি এটা অত্যন্ত গুরুতর বিষয়। এবং এখনও দৈনন্দিন অনাহারে থাকিয়া নিজের জমি জমা—ছেলে মেয়ের মায়া পরিত্যাগ করিয়া অনেক লোক স্থানান্তরে চলিয়া যাইতেছে। এই জন্ম আমি মনে করি ইহার চেয়ে গুরুতর বিষয় আর কিছুই হইতে পারে না। দেশে এরকম ভয়াবহ অবস্থা হইতেছে, তবুও গবর্ণমেন্ট কোন step নিতেছেন না।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is:

‘That this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of Government to grant adequate relief to the flood-stricken people of Goalpara district’.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the floods in this area took place in the month of July, and the hon. member, if he had any grievance against Government, should have come forward with his motion when the Assembly met in the month of September.

Sir, as a matter of fact, if records are looked into, you will find that the same hon. member had also given notice of such a motion in the present session; but later on for reasons known to himself he waved his right by not asking the permission of the House to move this motion and I do not know on what grounds he can now come forward and bring this motion

*The notice of the motion was: “That this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of Government to grant adequate relief to the flood-stricken people of the Goalpara district”.

when he has already once waved this right. But, in any case, for the information of the hon. member and also of the public outside, I would like to make it clear that this Government have accepted office only with the purpose of serving the people, whether immigrants.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think all that is not necessary. As I read the motion it appears to be vague. The flood took place long ago.....

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Other hon. members have not spoken yet, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed says that this motion is out of order because the floods took place as long back as July and so the motion should have been moved earlier. The main point of the grievance of the hon. member who moved the adjournment motion is this: he thinks that though the floods started in July, Government then in power contributed to relieve the sufferings of the flood-stricken people. It is against the present Congress Government who are apathetic to the suffering of the flood-stricken people that he wants to move the motion. There have been more than one flood in that area and he refers to the necessity of relief as a consequence of subsequent floods. This matter is explicitly given in the motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion is against this Government regarding the failure of Government to grant adequate relief to the flood-stricken people.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: The Government of the day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well. As I read the motion, it appears to be vague and indefinite. The motion contains an information which is more or less a matter of opinion.

(A voice: there may be difference of opinion. What may be adequate to one may be inadequate to others).

Instead of moving an adjournment motion on matters like this a member can have the same object achieved by putting questions and getting answers from Government. If the answers that may be obtained disclose any very serious lapse of duty on the part of Government an adjournment motion, under certain circumstances, may subsequently be allowed. In strict compliance with a parliamentary practice that an adjournment motion should not be allowed if it is perceived that the purpose of the motion can very well be served by putting questions, this adjournment motion cannot be allowed. Such instances of disallowance of adjournment motions can be found also in the Mother of Parliaments. Further, hon. members may refer to the new Rules we have framed. Proviso to Rule 40 provides that on any matter of urgent public importance forming the subject-matter of a question a debate on the answers given may be raised to continue for half an hour after 4 p.m. on the very day the question is asked. In this view and holding that the subject-matter of the motion is also not definite, I hold that the motion is not in order.

Adjournment motion on account of inadequate reduction of land revenue in the plain portion of the Garo Hills for the year 1938-39

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, the next motion of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan,

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: নিম্নলিখিত কারণে আমি আর ২ কটি মূলত্বী প্রস্তাব* উপস্থিত করিতেছি।

“গারোহিলে সমতল এলাকার ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সালের খাজানা যথোপযুক্ত পরিমাণে হ্রাস না করা”।

অন্যান্য ডিষ্ট্রিক্টে, যেখানকার অবস্থা বর্তমান জ্ঞান, সেখানেও শত করা ৩০ টাকা হারে খাজানা হ্রাস করা হইয়াছে; কিন্তু বড়ই দুখ এবং পরিতাপের বিষয় যে গারো হিলের লোক খাইতে পাইতেছে না, বন্যার জন্য কোন রকম ফসল হয় নাই, কোন প্রকার খাজানা দিবার সঙ্গতি নাই—গবর্ণমেন্টেব পাহাৰো জীবন নিৰ্বাহ করিয়াছে এবং এখনও তাহারা ২:৩ দিন অনাহারে মালতিপাত করিতেছে। এ অবস্থা জানা স্বত্বেও গবর্ণমেন্ট অন্যান্য ডিষ্ট্রিক্টের তুলনায় মাত্র শত করা ২৩ টাকা খাজানা হ্রাস করিয়াছেন। ইহা সম্পূর্ণ অন্যায়ে এবং ইহার প্রতিবাদ কল্পে আমি এই প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is “that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, that is, the inadequate reduction of land revenue in the plain portion of the Garo Hills for the year 1938-39”.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir. In this connection if I place certain figures before the hon. member, he will realise.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is to show how the motion is not in order.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This is a matter which can easily be the subject-matter of a resolution, and if the hon. member has in fact any grievance he can bring forward a resolution and thereby have the matter discussed on the floor of this House. I may also inform the hon. member that I intend making a statement in course of this session which will help the hon. member to know the attitude that we have taken in connection with the reduction of the land revenue which will be granted to all the districts. I may also assure the hon. member that the reduction where we have granted this year is nearly double the reduction that was given last year and much more than in previous years. I think, that in view of this, the hon. member will not press this motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss a grievance which in fact does not exist.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Is it not a fact that the Resolution on the question of land revenue reduction was published in the Government Gazette only on the 16th November 1938 and therefore no resolution could be tabled on this subject because the session has begun from 1st December and 21 days' notice is necessary?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Short notice resolution may be moved with the consent of the Minister in charge. Has any other member got anything to say on this?

*The notice of the motion was that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, that is, the inadequate reduction of land revenue in the plain portion of the Garo Hills for the year 1938-39.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: But that again is left to the discretion of Government and the Speaker whether to allow it or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In this motion also I find that the subject-matter of the motion contained in that the wording—"the inadequate reduction of land revenue in the plain portion of the Garo Hills for the year 1938-39", is vague and indefinite. Moreover it is really an opinion of the hon. member. The question of reduction of land revenue is a very very old question and the last Government did what they could in regard to this question and the present Government have tackled this question in their own way and have passed a resolution sanctioning certain relief to people. If that relief is considered inadequate, the House can table a resolution and have the matter discussed in a proper way. So, I think, in that view this is not a matter which can be called to be so urgent as to justify an adjournment motion although it is a matter of public importance. I therefore, hold that the motion is not in order.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it the ruling of the Chair that debatable matters should not form the subject matter of an adjournment motion ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When it is the opinion of an individual member only in a matter of this nature I always hold that adjournment motion cannot be allowed. Of course there are matters on which there may be different opinions and those opinions can be discussed in a debate on a matter of great public importance ; but the opinion of an individual member to be a matter of great public importance to be discussed in an adjournment motion cannot be considered to be a definite matter justifying a discussion. If the hon. members refer to my previous rulings they will find that I have systematically adhered to this view and have disallowed similar adjournment motions.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: That it is an urgent matter and is not the opinion of an individual member but of the party .

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But that does not appear.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I make a submission Sir ? Did I hear the Hon'ble Chair to say that the matter is not urgent ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I said that the matter is not of such urgent public importance as to justify an adjournment motion.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am bound to point out, of course we are subject to your ruling in this House, that the matter is extremely urgent and unless the matter is discussed in this House we have no opportunity of ventilating our grievances. The new revenue will be realised from the 15th January and in the meantime there will be no more sessions of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Within the course of this session if the hon. member wants to discuss the matter he may table a motion and Government may fix a date for that purpose. That has been done always.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In that case we shall be left to the mercy of the Hon'ble Minister in charge. Unless we are given a right under rules 86 and 87 we have no opportunity of discussing the matter.

Adjournment motion on account of inadequate reduction of land revenue for the year 1938-39, in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to ask for leave of the House to move "that this House do now stand adjourned in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance that is, inadequate reduction of land revenue payable for the year 1938-39 in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar".

Sir, if you look to the Gazette of the 16th November 1938, you will see that the reduction is made in such a way that the present Government have made invidious distinction between district and district and by this Sylhet and Cachar are hard hit. I therefore like to discuss this matter in this House and I shall show that the present Government did not consider the cases of Cachar and Sylhet as they considered the cases of other districts. Sir, the matter is quite clear and so I don't think that any lengthy speech is required to impress the House as to the importance of the subject.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is: "That this House do now stand adjourned in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, that is, inadequate reduction of land revenue payable for the year 1938-39, in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar".

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I need hardly add to what I have already said in connection with the adjournment motion moved a little while ago by my hon. friend Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. The matter is exactly of the same kind as the one which the hon. Maulana wanted to discuss and I think, therefore, the hon. member will not press his motion.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We must press this motion because it will give the House an opportunity of discussing the relief, which has been granted, before the revenue for 1938-39 is actually realised.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I can inform the House for the benefit of the hon. member that I intend to make a statement in the course of this session in connection with the reduction which Government have granted for the year 1938-39 and I may also assure them that the reduction, which we are giving this year, is much higher than what was given in the previous years.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I know, Sir, if you will please give us an opportunity of discussing the statement which the Hon'ble Minister wants to make and move a motion on that?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDALOI: The previous Government also submitted a report during the last session and we are really continuing the last session. The last Government did not fix such a date for discussion of their report, and I do not see any reason why beyond making a statement we should go further.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I remind the Hon'ble Premier what the last Government did? They placed the report on the table and there was a discussion on it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble Minister makes a statement, I think it will be only just and proper to discuss that statement. Having regard to the importance of the matter and the statement that would be made, I think, an opportunity should be given to the House to discuss the subject.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall have no objection to give an opportunity to the House to discuss the matter when I shall make the statement.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Shall we be allowed to move amendments to that?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If Government come forward with any resolution of course amendments may be made but some resolutions may be tabled by the members who want to discuss.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Sir, if that position be accepted by Government then I think, we may not move this adjournment motion now.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I am not prepared to state beyond what I have already stated.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Having regard to what I have already held in regard to previous two motions, I hold that this motion also is not in order. It appears that there have been other motions of similar nature to discuss the question in relation to different districts. Now this motion relates to the districts of Sylhet and Cachar and there are also other motions relating to Goalpara district and the Garo Hills and so I hold that this motion is not in order.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I would like to say something. Many members of the Goalpara district have tabled similar adjournment motions and so Sir, it is not the opinion of only one member. I think, Sir, you will consider the case of the Goalpara district as the members of that district are responsible for the flood-stricken people and you will kindly allow us to discuss about the condition of the people and the inadequacy of the relief they are getting now. If you kindly allow us to discuss we will be in a position to show how the grants that have been sanctioned by this Government have been withheld by the authorities of that district.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That forms the subject matter of another adjournment motion.

Adjournment motion on account of threatened black-listing and eviction of some contractors from the Forest Depot of Kukurmara, Singra and Palashbari

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Maulavi Amjad Ali will please read out his motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr Speaker, Sir, the adjournment motion that stands in my name, reads thus:—"That this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit—the threatened black-listing and eviction of some contractors from the Forest Depot of Kukurmara, Singra and Palashbari as stated in notice No.B/879 of the 16th November, 1938 issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup". The circular notice, dated the 16th November, 1938, as stated in my motion has been published in the Newspapers of this week. It runs thus:—"To all Contractors of Kukurmara, Singra and Palashbari Depot.—It has been brought to the notice of the undersigned on good authority that there is much ill-feeling between the local Assamese contractors and those from elsewhere. Of late certain gentlemen have been causing trouble to the contractors

of the other party by picketing their coolies and by various means attempting to interfere with their work. You are now reminded that the depôt is free to all approved contractors of this division. I do not propose of taking any action more but you are hereby warned that if any such further case is brought to my notice and found to be true, I shall not have the slightest hesitation in black-listing whoever is responsible of whatever party and turning him out of the depôt. I trust, therefore, that there will be an end of the matter.

J. B. ROWNTREE,

Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup Division."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is to show how it is urgent and important.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, it is an attempt on the part of Government through the Divisional Forest Officer of Kamrup to put the Local Contractors in a disadvantageous position. If I remember aright, during the last December Session of the Assembly my hon. friend Srijut Beliram Das moved an adjournment motion that one Mr. Himat Singka of Calcutta was given lease of certain portion of land in Kukurmara forest depôt and that he being an outsider ought not to have been given the lease by the last Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was that adjournment motion allowed?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: An assurance of the cancellation of the lease was given and so the motion was withdrawn. Then, Sir, the last Government did not allow any outsider to come to that spot but ever since this Government came into being the local contractors have been handicapped and a foreigner like Mr. Himat Singka who contributed to a large extent towards the resignation of the last Ministry is given a reward in this shape by this Government. Now that the local traders have recently combined and floating a limited Company to protect themselves against cut-throat competition by Mr. Himat Singka, they asked the present Ministry to give effect to the order of the previous Government. In return they have been served with a notice from the Divisional Forest Officer of Kamrup.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is to show how this motion is in order.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I am showing, Sir, how the local contractors are being ousted by this device.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It seems that the hon. member is discussing his motion himself. He is to show that the motion is in order.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: This motion is in order because of the threat held out to local contractors, inasmuch as they have been put in a serious disadvantageous position by this notice of the Divisional Forest Officer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is "that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit—the threatened black-listing of some contractors from the Forest Depôt of Kukurmara, Singra and Palashbari as stated in Notice No.B/879 of the 16th November, 1938 issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup".

Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge say anything?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know how the motion moved by the hon. friend is in order. From his speech it appears that he has no personal knowledge of serving the notice. He has not been able even to show that any effect has been given to that notice. He has moved this motion simply on the information from the newspaper.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Has not this notice been given seriously? How is it that no effect has been given to that notice?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I ask the hon. mover to read the number and date of the notice?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The number is B879, dated the 16th November 1938.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister says that no action has been taken on that notice. Do we understand that the notice was issued without the knowledge of this Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Save and except the copy of the notice Government have no other information.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Was any action taken by Government after receipt of this notice?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Just after receiving the copy of the notice we cannot take action on it. We can make enquiries and take action.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir. Does the Hon'ble Minister approve of this notice?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When the Hon'ble Minister says that he will make an enquiry the question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Enquiry about the genuineness of the notice?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The circumstances under which the notice was given.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Are we to understand that pending enquiry no action will be taken?

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: May I know whether picketing will be allowed in the meantime?

(Some other hon. members also stood up.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I have heard the hon. mover of this adjournment motion and also the Government member in charge. This motion is directed against a certain notice issued by a particular district officer, and the notice is against some contractors. Now, it has not been said that action has been taken on the strength of that notice.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I do not understand how a notice is being issued by Government and no action taken.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The issue of the notice is in itself an action on the part of Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course, it is. But it has not been shown as yet that any persons have been affected. No contractor has been asked to vacate. If any contractor has been affected, he can apply to Government and have the notice cancelled. So, I think it is not a matter of urgent public importance. Hon. members know that on some previous occasions it was held by me that issue of similar notices is not a matter of urgent public importance.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: After the adjournment motion is ruled out of order, may I enquire from the Hon'ble Minister what action he proposes to take on the notice in his hand ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have already replied that I shall make an enquiry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: With regard to what ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Whether any effect has been given to that notice.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: On a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether these discussions are in order after the motion itself has been ruled out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course, it is so ; but I have been indulgent to the hon. members because they feel very keenly on this motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know the attitude of the Hon'ble Minister regarding this ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister has said that he will make an enquiry whether any contractor has been asked to vacate.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I am afraid we are at cross purposes. The whole grievance, as far as I understand, from the speech of my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali, is that the notice contained a threat and thus action has been already taken. The grievance is the threat given in the notice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. members remember that on other occasions I ruled that on such administrative actions adjournment motions should not be moved. I would now call upon Maulavi Amjad Ali to state if he asks for leave to move his next motion.

Adjournment motion on account of failure of Government to distribute the sum of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by the Bijni Court of Wards in September last in flooded areas of the Estate

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to move the following motion :

"That this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, failure of Government to distribute the sum of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by the Bijni Court of Wards in September last in flooded areas of that Estate".

It will be remembered, Sir, that during last July and August there was heavy flood throughout the whole of lower Assam, and the Bijni Court of Wards sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,000 to be distributed among the people of flood-affected areas of that estate. In spite of serious distress prevailing even now, the sum has not yet reached the flood-victims. References have been made to Government. The answer given is that instructions have been issued. But till now not a single pie has reached the flood-affected areas out of that sum. The distress is growing acute day by day and in view of the urgency of immediately relieving the sufferings of the poor tenants this sum was needed. As the money has not been distributed till now I place this motion before the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When was the sum granted ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On the 20th, *i.e.*, a day later than the day on which this Government assumed office. It was the Hon'ble Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen who was in charge of this portfolio then.

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The amount was sanctioned by my predecessor in office, not by me.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Was it not endorsed by the Hon'ble Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen ?

The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: No question of endorsement comes in. The order was communicated before I took over charge of the Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is "that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, failure of the Government to distribute the sum of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by the Bijni Court of Wards in September last in flooded areas of that estate".

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the grievance in this motion, as I understand it, is that this Government have not distributed the amount sanctioned by my predecessor. But the hon. mover has not definitely shown or has not levied any charge against the officer who was responsible for distributing this amount. We have handed over the amount to the authorities concerned and as far as our information goes they have been distributing the amount sanctioned by Government. It is not the case of the hon. member that we have passed orders to the district authorities to withhold payments to deserving people, and there is no information, in our hands, to the effect that the district officers concerned are not carrying out our orders. The hon. member had written to me about this, and I gave him a sporting chance that if he, in fact, had a grievance against Mr. Fletcher, he should be prepared to substantiate those allegations and I would make an enquiry into the matter. But the hon. member did not take that sporting chance. I am prepared even now to say that if the hon. member is ready to substantiate the allegations against the district authorities or officers concerned, Government is prepared to institute an enquiry and to see that the amount that was sanctioned is distributed among the people. I think in view of what I have said, the hon. member will realise that his purpose will not be served by this adjournment motion, and that no action will be taken on it.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, I take the opportunity of telling my hon. friend the Revenue Minister that although I accompanied the District Officer, who is a white-skinned gentleman (I do not know to what nationality he belongs) throughout all his enquiries, and although he has seen the distress of the people himself, and although I have made several references to him, he has not responded to them. So I made a special grievance of it and sent telegrams to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. Of course I cannot say that he did not reply to it, but the only reply that came was that instructions had been issued.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All these facts are not necessary at this stage. I am first to see whether the motion is in order, or not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The Hon'ble Revenue Minister has said that if I can substantiate my allegations he will have an enquiry made, *i.e.*, that the sum sanctioned has or has not been distributed, he will issue orders, so I am telling him that not a single pie of the Rs. 25,000 sanctioned has been distributed amongst the people. This, Sir, has caused a lot of suffering, and the suffering still continues ; the people are in acute

distress. If he has got any information to say that loans have been given, I must tell him to his face that if he institutes an enquiry, he will find that not a single pie has been given out yet. In view of this I submit that the urgency is there, and I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: From what has been stated by the hon. member intending to move the motion and by Hon'ble Minister in charge it appears that the failure of Government to distribute this sum of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by the Bijni Court of Wards in September last is not an admitted fact. The Hon'ble Minister has said that he has tried his best to induce the District Officer to distribute the money, and further it appears that Government are trying to have that money distributed, so, as yet it cannot be said that Government have failed. In this view of the matter I hold that the motion is not in order.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Now that the motion has been ruled out of order, may I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to institute an enquiry as I have stated not a pie has been distributed?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: If the hon. member is prepared to shoulder the responsibility involved in this enquiry, I have no objection to institute an enquiry into the matter.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I take the full responsibility of the allegation upon myself.

Adjournment motion on account of failure of Government to check the spread of cholera epidemic in Habiganj

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay before the House a motion for adjournment, and my motion runs thus:—"That this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, failure of Government to take adequate steps to check and treat the spread of cholera epidemic which has been causing havoc in the subdivision of Habiganj since a month, particularly in the town for the last one week".

Sir, the ingredients under which hon. members of this House are entitled to move such motions are generally as follows:—that the matter must be of recent occurrence, that the matter must be very urgent and that it should be of public importance. I submit, Sir, that my motion embodies all these three ingredients, *viz.*, for the information of the House I will simply refer to a newspaper article which was published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* yesterday:—"Habiganj in grip of cholera. One hundred thirty-two deaths. Epidemic Spreading Cholera. Cholera has been creating havoc throughout this subdivision for the last few weeks and it is still increasing. Last week the number of villages affected was 76, whereas during this week the figure has, it is learnt, mounted up to 132. The town itself is also badly affected and there have been already several deaths, and some more cases are hovering between life and death. During the last quarter century there has been no such visitation. In the province of Assam Habiganj is the worst affected area".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: From the newspaper article it appears that there is cholera in the subdivision. The hon. member is to show what steps Government have taken.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: When cholera first broke out in the neighbourhood of my *basha* in the town only one case was reported on the first day, but for want of adequate number of medical officers the

vicinity could not be disinfected and 5 more cases occurred, and by 11 in the morning next day there were 3 deaths. Those people who live in the vicinity—(we do not live far away from the place where cholera has broken out)—are in constant danger of infection

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I want to know what action has been taken by Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: There are several doctors there, but they are quite insufficient in number, and they are not able to cope with the number of cases that have been reported.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was the matter represented to the higher authority ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: On a point of information, Sir, Is it the first attack of cholera in the history of Assam ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: It is the first time in the history of Habiganj at least.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion to be moved is "that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., failure of Government to make adequate steps to check and treat the spread of cholera epidemic which has been causing havoc in the subdivision of Habiganj since a month ; particularly in the town for the last one week".

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member begs leave of the House to move for an adjournment of the House to discuss the inadequate steps taken by Government to tackle the cholera epidemic that is prevailing in the Habiganj subdivision. In the motion that he has tabled, the hon. member says that Government have taken steps but that the steps taken by them are not adequate. Therefore, Sir, the motion, as it stands, raises a question of opinion and is further vague and, therefore, it is not in order. Besides this, Sir, only a few minutes before you have ruled out of order such adjournment motions and therefore, I submit, Sir, that this motion should also be ruled out of order.

Government took all possible steps to cope with the cholera that is prevailing, not only in Habiganj but in all the places in which cholera has broken out. Specially this year Assam has been faced with cholera of an unprecedented nature because of the unusual rains and the unusual flood that have occurred. With a view to cope with the situation Government have mobilised all their resources and have done all that they could do to tackle the epidemic. Therefore, I submit that this motion should be disallowed.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I speak a few words in reply to the Hon'ble Minister's statement.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are other adjournment motions.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Only a few words, Sir, in reply. The Hon'ble Minister has said that he has taken steps ; but in my motion it is mentioned that the measures taken are very inadequate resulting in the increased cases of deaths. This is the subject matter that has to be discussed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the measure of adequacy ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: More Medical Officers should be engaged.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How many ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: As many as necessary. My information is that the Medical Officer in charge has been asking Government for more doctors but the reply of Government, it is reported, is that doctors are not available.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How many officers are to be deputed so that the hon. member may consider the number adequate?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In the mufassil the deaths are often reported and all the thanas are affected. There are weekly returns of cases of attacks and deaths submitted by the Subdivisional Medical Officer and the local board gets copy every week. Moreover certain areas of this subdivision has been declared cholera affected by a Government notification. When I left Habiganj 3 days before, I got definite information that the number of cases are increasing day by day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Government has said that all that is necessary has been done.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether in any other subdivision cholera has raged more furiously than in Habiganj? May I know whether the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Director of Public Health have recruited Local Medical Officers from other places and sent them to Habiganj?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I admit that the state of cholera is very bad at Habiganj and it is the worst in the province. For this the Assistant Director of Public Health and the Director of Public Health have gone there to see and for this subdivision alone 40 doctors have been mobilised. For the province in which we have many places affected with cholera, we have deputed for one subdivision alone as many as 40 doctors. Government are doing and will be doing their best.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA: On a point of information, Sir. Has the public done their duty?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am to see whether the motion is in order.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I will speak only a few words.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: To show that the motion is in order?

Mr. A. F. BENDALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge has said that Government had done all that they could. But the newspaper tells us that the number of cases is getting higher each day. Therefore, is it not a fact that the measures taken are inadequate?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Sir, it has been said that 40 doctors have been sent to Habiganj. But we find that the cholera cases and deaths also are mounting up. Do Government mean to say that 40 doctors are enough to cope with the situation and if 40 doctors could not cope with the requirements of the situation, do Government mean that people should die without medical relief?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, the object of this adjournment motion is to censure Government for inadequate steps taken to combat cholera in Habiganj. The Hon'ble Minister in charge has been at pains to describe what he has done so far to achieve the object which is prevention. Now, Sir, I know of several instances of outbreak and the action taken by previous Government on such occasions. I can say definitely that very much more attention was paid (Cries: never) in such cases than has been done now. (*A voice:* What about Nowgong?). I think the Hon'ble Premier himself will remember what steps were taken in the year 1934-35, when, not to speak of Government doctors in the different places and the local board doctors, private doctors were appointed, wherever needed on a small remuneration in order to check the spread of cholera. It is astonishing that the Hon'ble Minister should say now that all possible steps have been taken. I do not want to

go into the merits of the motion but I want to say at this stage that Government have not done all that is possible to do in a matter of such serious calamity. What is more, Government say that they have done all that they could and it is not possible to do any more. That shows that Government are calous and indifferent to the needs of the situation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: They have not said that.

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: They have said that it is not possible to do any thing more and that they have done their best. The information of members on this side is that Government have not done enough to meet the necessities of the case. The newspapers say so. That is the public opinion. And now whether that information is correct or not can only be discussed and decided by admitting this motion and debating it on the floor of this House. That is why I say, Sir, that the motion should be allowed. That the matter is urgent admits of no doubt; that it is of public importance cannot be questioned. That it is a matter of recent occurrence is obvious. Therefore, I submit that the motion is perfectly in order from any point of view. If in the course of discussion the House finds that everything possible has been done by Government, the motion will either be withdrawn or defeated. But there is no justification for throwing out the motion at this stage without being even admitted. (*Hear hear.*)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have to disperse now. Having heard the mover of the motion and Government and other members who have spoken on this question, on the grounds which I gave in regard to other motions, I hold that this is not in order. Before I adjourn the House I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. members one fact which I have repeatedly mentioned on previous occasions in this House. An adjournment motion is a method of ventilating the grievances of the people, and under certain circumstances it may be taken as a motion for censuring Government for any act of commission or omission on their part. Now, with regard to such motions hon. members will perceive that really they are an encroachment on the items of business of the House which are previously arranged to be transacted on a particular day. From the proceedings of the Mother of Parliaments and also of other Legislative Bodies it appears that they are tabled only when it is very necessary that such motions should be discussed, and that is on account of the fact that the present tendency is to discourage such motions as far as possible. If I may be permitted, I may quote a passage from Redlich where it is stated that "The formal moving of the adjournment of the House as a tactical method of introducing new matter into the day's work has during the 19th century been gradually but steadily discouraged by the rules of the House."

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know what is the date of that book?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may himself consult the book. I am reading from a ruling which was given by the President of the Central Legislative Assembly, on the 16th July 1930. Of course I do not want to discourage the hon. members from tabling adjournment motions but I want to impress upon them the desirability of very carefully weighing the matters in the light of the Rules of the Assembly relating to adjournment motions before they are put down for adjournment motions.

The hon. members will realise what has been the result to-day. Government have not been able to go on with the business that was put down to be transacted. So I wish to impress upon the House that in tabling adjournment motions they will consider whether the object which they want to achieve by moving an adjournment motion could not be achieved in other ways.

The House stands adjourned till.....

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: What about the other motions, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: They all lapse. We have already reached the time, and unless there is a request from members to continue we must stop. The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 3rd December, 1938.

Shillong:
The 9th January 1939.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.