

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution
of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Saturday, the 25th March, 1950.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, six Hon'ble Ministers and forty-four Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Tezpur Municipality

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

85. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government aware that for the paucity of fund the Tezpur Municipality has not been able to remove the grievances of the people of Ward No. 1, specially of Kumargaon and Lalmati areas, who are suffering greatly for want of water supply, latrine and light ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Tezpur Municipality applied for some fund to Government for improving the condition of the Tezpur Municipality ?

(c) If so, for what amount ?

(d) Do Government propose to sanction the said loan to improve the condition of the Tezpur Municipality ?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government aware that the rates of house taxes and other taxes have lately been increased by the Tezpur Municipality ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

85. (a)—This is possible. No specific demand for the provision of latrines has so far been made to Government.

(b) to (d)—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to his questions [Unstarred Question No. 6. (a)—(c)] on the subject in this Session of the Assembly.

(e)—Government are aware that there was revaluation of holdings in the Tezpur Municipality in September 1949. From the assessor's report, it appears that the taxes have been nearly doubled.

Social Adult Education

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

86. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Centres opened in Assam under the Social Adult Education at present ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

86.—One thousand one hundred and forty Centres have so far been opened, of which 501 are new and 639 are under the old Mass Literacy Scheme.

Boat Disaster in the Brahmaputra near Pandu

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

87. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.156 (b) (i) to (iv) asked by the Questioner during the September Session of the Assembly, 1949 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 20th September at page 1057) on the subject of Boat disaster in the Brahmaputra near Pandu and state—

- (a) Whether the report called for from the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup has been received ?
- (b) If so, what is that report ?
- (c) Whether the persons responsible for the boat tragedy near Pandu have been detected ?
- (d) If so, who are they and how they have been punished ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

87. (a) & (b)—A judicial enquiry into the matter was made by a First Class Magistrate, Gauhati. A copy of his report is laid on the table. Some of the accused are still untraced.

The Boat Disaster at the Brahmaputra at Pandu on 10th June 1949

On 10th June 1949 the 3-Up Assam Mail arrived very late at Amingaon. Soon after the arrival of the train at about 5-30 P.M. some of the passengers went to the river side to board the country boat for crossing. The water level was very high at the time, and there was no rain and the weather was clear. It was at the time of sunset at about 6 P. M. the ill fated boat left the Amingaon bank with approximately 40 passengers on it. There was nothing wrong when the boat left the Amingaon bank. The river was calm and the boat proceeded smoothly and crossed half the distance when suddenly a storm arose. There were high waves and the water from the rising waves got into the boat. The waves came in succession and as more water got into the boat it lost its balance and the boat was capsized. All the occupants were thrown into the river. Some of the persons managed to keep afloat by catching the bamboos on the sides of the boat and one remained afloat by catching a holdall that was drifting at the time. Some went to the bottom and never rose again and the others were washed away due to the strong current of the river.

Before the boat sank one Apachandra Mudai a boatman at the Pandu bank saw the plight of the boat when it was taken by the sudden storm. Anticipating danger he proceeded with one boat to render any help that might be needed by the ill-fated boat. The helmsman Jamuna Rajbhor of the ill-fated boat behave in a strange manner. As soon as Apa's boat came nearer to the other boat Jamuna Rajbhor pushed aside the other boat with his oar. He did so twice, one Gokul Chandra Sarma of Fancy Bazar was in the ill-fated boat. He recognised Apachandra and asked him to park the boat somehow by the side of the other boat—Apachandra some how managed to bring his boat nearer to the other boat for a few minutes when 4 or 6 persons jumped into the other boat and saved themselves. After some minutes Gokul Chandra Sarma could see the other boat sinking amidst heart rending cries of the passengers.

Just before sinking one Motor launch passed by the boat from Pandu to Amingaon. The passengers cried for help, but those who were in the boat remained unmoved and they did not care.

Those who remained afloat were drifting down the current for nearly two miles and their cries attracted the villagers of Garigaon. It was getting dark and the villagers succeeded in rescuing about 13 persons.

Those who died and remained untraced included Professor Dinesh Chandra Misra, M. Sc., Mohendra Lahkar, Prosecuting Sub-Inspector of Gauhati Court, Nagendranath Sarma of Sandheli, Nalbari and a Muslim boy aged 10 years. About 20 persons lost their lives. The passengers in the boat mostly consisted of men, one or two women and a few children.

The ill-fated boat was very large, about 40 cubit in length and 6 cubit breadth. There was no overloading at the time.

The accident was unforeseen but the behaviour of the helmsman was strange at the time. The crews of the steam launch also remain unmoved in spite of piteous cries from the persons of the ill-fated boat.

M. N. KHANIKAR,
Magistrate, 1st class.

The 27th August 1949.

(c) and (d)—Jamuna Rajbhor, Helmsman of the ill-fated boat is being prosecuted under Section 304 (a), Indian Penal Code, in connection with the boat tragedy. The case is still *sub-judice*.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do not Government consider it desirable to reward Apachandra Mudai who at the risk of his life went to save the lives of the passengers of the ill-fated boat ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : It will be considered, Sir.

Senior and experienced Veterinary Field Assistants

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

88. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether it is in the contemplation of Government to promote the senior and experienced Field Assistants to the post of Veterinary Sub-Assistants to be in charge of Veterinary Dispensaries ?
 (b) If so, how many such posts are to be created and when the posts will be filled up ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

88. (a)—Government do not propose to promote the senior experienced Veterinary Field Assistants to the post of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons as they have got only preliminary training in Veterinary Science.
 (b)—Does not arise.

Holding of a Census before the next election to the State Assembly

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

89. (a) Do Government propose to hold a census in Assam before the next election of members to the State Assembly ?
 (b) Do Government also propose to make a complete census, house to house, of indigenous persons of Assam having (i) no land and (ii) having lands not more than 5 bighas *per capita* in the family, immediately ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

89. (a)—The All-India Census is fixed to start in February and finish by 1st March, 1951. In the opinion of this Government the elections need not wait till after the census.

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

Acquisition of "Stony Land" Hotel by Government

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

90. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one "Stony Land" Hotel has recently been acquired by Government for providing accommodation to the Government Gazetted Officers at Shillong ?
- (b) If so, at what price the property has been acquired ?
- (c) How many officers can be accommodated there ?
- (d) The class of officers to be accommodated there ?
- (e) Whether any of the officers have been accommodated in this building ?
- (f) If so, the name and designation of such officers and the Department they belong ?
- (g) The conditions under which they have been accommodated ?
- (h) Whether a circular letter was issued by Government to all the offices and Heads of Departments inviting applications from Gazetted officers for this purpose ?
- (i) If so, the name of such offices ?
- (j) If not, why not ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that none of the offices except the Secretariat office could know about such a circular ?
- (l) If so, what is the underlying motive thereof ?
- (m) Whether Government are aware that many of the officers of Government do not get suitable accommodation at Shillong.
- (n) If so, what arrangements have been made by Government for accommodating them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—At a cost of Rs.1,73,982-11-0.

(c)—Five.

(d)—Government Officers of the status of Under-Secretaries and above.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Quarters have been allotted to—

(1) Srijut M. M. Chaudhuri, Parliamentary Secretary, Education.

(2) Srijut P. Chetia, Parliamentary Secretary, Labour.

(3) Srijut B. C. Kapur, Secretary, Finance and Revenue.

(4) Srijut A. M. Dam, Secretary, Supply Department.

(5) Srijut G. C. Phukan, Under-Secretary, Finance Department.

(g)—Free in the case of the two Parliamentary Secretaries in lieu of house rent allowance of Rs.150 per mensem to which they are otherwise entitled. In the case of the other officers, on payment of standard rent or 10 per cent. of their monthly emoluments whichever is less, the occupants being liable to pay service taxes.

(h)—Yes. All Departments were informed of the acquisition of 'Stony Lands'. Land applications were invited for allotment of quarters to officers of the rank of Under-Secretaries and above.

(i)—The answer is contained in (h) above.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—No. Applications were received from officers of all Departments.

(l)—Does not arise.

(m)—Yes.

(n)—Government are doing their best to provide accommodation for as many of their officers as possible.

B. C. G. Vaccination

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

91. (a) Is it a fact that services of some members of staff recruited for the B. C. G. Vaccination in Assam have been done away with ?

(b) Are Government aware that this is a handicap to the small number of staff now left to carry on the task ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

91. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Necessary arrangement has been made to carry on the work with the reduced staff.

Number of persons died of Cholera and Cold Wave

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

92. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of victims of Cholera that broke out in Nowgong District during the fortnight of September last ?

(b) Which were the villages affected thereby ?

93. Will Government be pleased to state the number of people that may have died in Assam during the cold wave which over-whelmed the country on February 11th last ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

92. (a)—Four attacks and two deaths from Cholera during the first part of second fortnight of September last.

(b)—Only Pakhimoria Musalmangaon was affected.

93.—Nil.

College Students receiving Government Scholarships belonging to the Tea Garden and *ex*-Tea Garden Labourers

Prof. P. M. SARWAN asked :

94. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of College students belonging to the tea garden and *ex*-tea garden labourers now receiving Government scholarships ?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the number of scholarships ?

95. (a) Are Government aware that a large number of children belonging to tea garden labourers and *ex*-tea garden labourers having read upto Standard VI have given up education on account of poverty ?

(b) If so, what help Government have rendered for the education of such children ?

(c) How many scholarships have been given to such children during 1949-50 ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

94. (a)—Two.

(b)—The question may be examined as and when more pupils come up for Collegiate education.

95. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Dergaon Aided High School

Srijut CHANOO KHERIA asked :

96. (a) Is it a fact that a new school is going to be opened at Dergaon for the benefit of the children of the Assam Police Battalion ?

(b) If so, are Government aware that there is an Aided High School within half a mile from the area of the Assam Police Battalion Camp ?

(c) Do Government propose to provincialise the said Aided High School to serve the purpose ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

96. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

Report of the Soil Conservation Experts of the Government of India

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

97. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.87 (c) (d) asked by the Questioner during the September Session of the Assembly, 1949 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 20th September at page 1018) and state—

- (a) Whether the report submitted by the Soil Conservation Experts of the Government of India and their suggestions for fighting erosion and flood have been considered by this Government and whether the Government propose to publish the same for the information of the members of this Hon'ble House ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

97. (a) & (b)—Government have considered the report and have appointed Mr. P. C. Goswami, A. C. F. who had specialised training in Soil Conservation in the United Kingdom and America, to study the possibilities of implementing some of the suggestions contained therein in the Garo and Mikir Hills, which contain some of the worst and eroded tracts in the State. Other suggestions contained in the report, such as the settling up of a Soil Conservation Board are still under consultation with the different Departments concerned.

The report will be published as soon as Government's decision as regards specific action to be taken is finalised.

(c)—Does not arise.

Grow-More-Food Campaign

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

98. Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to help the people of the State in the matter of Grow-More-Food Campaign ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

98.—A brief statement is laid on the table.

A brief statement of Grow-More-Food activi-

Name of the Scheme	Object of the Scheme	Aid to the Public	Target aimed
			1948-49
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
I. WORKS SCHEMES —			
I.—Irrigation—			
(a) Minor Irrigation ..	To provide irrigation and water control for crops, mainly paddy, by means of small irrigation projects which do not require expert Engineering knowledge.	Total cost are shared by cultivators and Government on 1/3rd, 2/3rd basis.	Projects—275 Nos. area to be benefited—68,750 acres. Additional production—11,281½ tons. (in rice).
(b) Power Pump ..	To provide irrigation by Power Pumps for cultivation of boro paddy.	Pumps are issued to cultivators on moderate rent.	Pumps (Old & New)—21 Nos. Area to be covered—1,260 acres. Additional production—630 tons.
(c) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Major Irrigation Projects.	To assure better water supply by means of bigger irrigation projects which cannot be executed without expert engineering knowledge. These are undertaken by the Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Section of the Public Works Department.	Whole of the cost are borne by Provincial and Central Government on 1/3rd, 2/3rd basis.
II.—Land Improvement Scheme—			
(a) Reclamation of Waste land by Tractors.	To bring new area under cultivation and also to provide timely cultivation for old areas where cattle power is inadequate.	Tractors as far as they are available, are issued to cultivators on payment of nominal rent.	10,000 acres to be reclaimed and brought under plough. Additional production—5,000 tons.
2. SUPPLY SCHEMES—			
I.—Distribution of Manures and Fertilizers—			
(a) Bonemeal for Hill Rice.	Bonemeal are issued to the cultivators of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills to increase the production of the Hill Paddy.	Bonemeal are distributed at a concession of 25 per cent. less than the cost price.	Quantity of bonemeal to be distributed—12,000 maunds. Area to be covered—4,000 acres. Additional production—225 tons.
(b) Compost ..	To encourage people and the utilization of available vegetable wastes and refuses by composting them on a village or collective basis.	A subsidy of Rs.3 per 100 C.ft. of the made compost are given to the cultivators.	Compost to be made—13,360 tons. Area to be covered—2,215 acres. Additional production—136 tons.
II.—Seed Multiplication and Distribution—			
(a) Paddy, Pulses, Wheat and Potato seeds.	To encourage the production and distribution of improved seeds of paddy and pulses, etc., on as wide a scale as possible in concentrated areas.	Concession are allowed at the rate of 20 per cent. of the cost price, excluding incidental charges.	Quantity to be distributed—62,600 maunds. Area to be covered—75,488 acres. Additional production—13,056 tons.

ties during 1949-50

at during		Target achieved during	
1949-50	1950-51	1948-49	1949-50 (Upto September 1949)
(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Projects—552 Nos. Area to be covered—1,18,480 Acres. Additional production (in rice)—17,595 tons.	Projects—552 Nos. Area—1,38,000 acres. Additional production (in rice)—18,630 tons.	Projects completed—435 Nos. Area benefited—1,56,250 acres. Additional production—28,416 tons.	Projects completed—90 Nos. Projects surveyed—754 Nos. Area covered—48,565 acres. Additional production—9,547 tons.
Pumps—21 Nos. Area—1,260 acres. Additional production—630 tons.	Pumps—21 Nos. Area—1,260 acres. Additional production—630 tons.	As the pumps did not arrive in time only 166½ tons of additional food-grains obtained from the operation of 7 old pumps. Area covered—300 acres. The Scheme is in operation from 1949-50.	As the power pump season begin from November the results of operation have yet to be known after harvesting in March 1950.
Projects—12 Nos. Area to be covered—56,700 acres. Production—12,923 tons.	Projects—10 Nos. Area—1,08,000 acres. Production—24,525 tons.		Five projects have been undertaken which will benefitted an area of 10,000 acres and 2,280 tons of additional food-grains when completed.
10,000 acres to be brought under plough. Additional production—5,000 tons.	Area to be reclaimed—15,000 acres. Additional production—9,562½ tons.	Area brought under plough—2,676 acres. Additional yield of paddy—1,189 tons.	Area reclaimed upto September 1949—2,500 acres. Additional yield—Not yet known.
Quantity to be distributed—19,500 mds. Area to be covered—6,500 acres. Additional production—357½ tons.	Quantity to be distributed—26,958 mds. Area covered—8,952 acres. Additional production—560 tons.	Quantity distributed during 1948-49 as covered. } No distrib- Additional production. } tion during Quantity of Compost actually made—5,938 tons. Area covered—923 acres.	Quantity distributed upto September 1949—11,998 mds. Area covered—3,999 acres. Additional production—182 tons. Quantity made upto September 1949—1,409 tons. Area covered—352 acres. Additional production—Yet to be known.
Compost to be made—5,000 tons. Area to be covered—1,250 acres. Additional production—84 tons.	Quantity to be made—55,000 tons. Area—6,000 acres. Additional production—381.5 tons.	Additional production—85 tons.	
Quantity—14,710 mds. Area—18,210 acres. Additional production—2,035 tons.	Quantity—66,810 mds. Area—64,074 acres. Production—14,021 tons.	Quantity distributed—72,090 mds. Area covered—53,864 acres. Additional production—15,675 tons.	Quantity distributed upto September 1949—4,510 mds. Area covered—5,228 acres. Additional production—Yet to be known.

Number of failures in Intermediate Examinations

Maulavi ATATUR RAHMAN asked :

99. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education aware that of late the number of failures in Intermediate Examination specially in Arts have been abnormally on the increase ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that these failures are in a large measure due to deficiency in English of students who in their Matriculation classes used Assamese as the language in answer papers and then at College are abruptly made to answer questions in English ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of allowing the Intermediate Arts students also the option of answering questions in Assamese in the allied subjects pending change in the medium of instruction at the collegiate stage ?

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

99. (a)—Yes, the number of failures has been large.

(b)—It is correct that failures are due to deficiency in English.

(c)—No. There are practical difficulties. Besides, this is a matter for the University to consider and decide.

Provision of Sub-way and Ghat on the Dikrong River and construction of Hurmuty Diversion Road

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

100. (a) Are Government aware of the big gulf created by the Dikrong river at its crossing ghat during the last flood ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state, if any action has been taken by the Public Works Department to provide any other Sub-way and Ghat to avoid troubles during the next rainy season ?

(c) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to complete the construction of Hurmuty Diversion road so that the communication from the North Lakhimpur Subdivision with the rest of the State may not be completely cut off during the rains ?

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

100. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The question of making the old approach road serviceable is being examined.

(c)—The matter is under investigation.

Srijut Anil Kumar Choudhury (formerly a Sub-Deputy Collector) now appointed as Assistant Political Officer, Abor Hills

Maulavi ABDUL HALIM asked :

101. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total length of service of Srijut Anil Kumar Chaudhury (formerly Sub-Deputy Collector) now appointed as Assistant Political Officer, Abor Hills ?
- (b) The date of his appointment as Assistant Political Officer ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that his grade now as Assistant Political Officer is equivalent to that of Extra Assistant Commissioner (Senior grade of A. C. S. II) ?
- (d) The last pay as Sub-Deputy Collector which he was drawing before appointment as Assistant Political Officer ?
- (e) The pay he is drawing now ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that Government by Notification No.GA.84/48/41, dated 22nd November 1949, replacing his services on his appointment as Assistant Political Officer at the disposal of the Government of Assam in A. C. S. II have in fact appointed him to the senior grade of the service, viz., Extra Assistant Commissioner ?
- (g) If so, what are the reasons that have led Government to depart from the distinct practice laid down with regard to promotion of the members of the junior cadre to senior grade ?
- (h) Whether Government are aware that such discrimination in promotion ignoring the legitimate claims of the many senior and efficient officers in this important branch of the Revenue administration has brought discontentment amongst them ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

101. (a)—Six years 5 months on 15th March, 1950.

(b)—4th November, 1949.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Rupees 190 per mensem.

(e)—Rupees 250 per mensem.

(f)—Yes, but only as a temporary measure.

(g)—This was not a case of promotion ; but appointments of Assistant Political Officers were made by direct recruitments after consulting the Assam Public Service Commission who advertised for those posts.

(h)—Does not arise.

***Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** : With reference to Question No.101(f), may I know, Sir, for what period he has got this temporary promotion ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As stated in the answer, Sir, the appointment was as a temporary measure, but I cannot give now the period that he had been on this post as a temporary measure.

***Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** : I want to know, Sir, when this gentleman is relieved from his present post whether he will revert to his old post or not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I think, Sir, this matter needs a little elucidation which I may give for the hon. Member's information. So far as services in this part of the country is concerned, this is Governor's responsibility ; and what the Governor's Secretariat do is to ask for the services of people whom they consider to be able to carry out the duties in this difficult part of the country. So far as this particular officer is concerned, apart from his aptitude for work in such country, the Ad-hoc Committee for recruitment of the Government of India selected him as a person who could be tried in more responsible duties. I suppose, on the strength of that recommendation, the Assam Public Service Commission, who asked by the Governor's Secretariat to look into this matter, chose Mr. A. K. Chaudhury as Assistant to the Political Officer for performance of those duties. This is the history of his appointment. So far as fixation of his pay is concerned, I suppose some rules have been framed by the Finance Department regarding the delegation of these officers for working in those areas and it is according to that that his pay has been fixed.

*Re : Statement of Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam, Minister of State,
Government of India*

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY : With regard to the recent serious statements and counter statements, made between the Central Government and the Provincial Government in which all Assam is interested, have the Government received any reply to their letter to the Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, I am sorry I have left the letter of Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam in my room which I am going to bring just now.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : The letter is going to be placed now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : In the meantime let us take up the other items of the Agenda.

**Presentation of authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure
in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1949-50**

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the authenticated Schedule of authorised expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1949-50, which has just been placed on the table of the hon. Members.

Presentation of Finance Account and Appropriation Report for 1947-48

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Finance Account and Appropriation Report for 1947-48. This has already been laid before the hon. Members of the Assembly.

Government Business remaining unfinished

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The business that remains to be taken up is as follows : —

(1) Consideration of amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, item by item, and Motion for adoption,

(2) Consideration clause by clause and Motion for passing of the following Bills :—

- (a) Assam Appropriation Bill, 1950.
- (b) Assam Enhanced Police Disciplinary Powers Bill, 1950.
- (c) Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1950.
- (d) Assam Cement Control (Amendment) Bill, 1950.

(3) Two Government Resolutions which were placed on the table of the hon. Members yesterday. If the house has no objection we shall take up the Resolutions to-day.

Re: Statement of Hon'ble Mr. Santhanam, Minister of State, Government of India

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got the letter now, and am placing it before the House.

It is a Demi-official letter No. 267-HMS(0)/49, dated New Delhi, March 21, 1950. It reads as follows :—

“Dear Mr. Nichols-Roy,

Please refer to your telegram of 17th March and your letter of 18th.

You would have already received a copy of the extracts from the speech of Mr. Chaliha and my reply thereto.

I was taken by surprise when Mr. Chaliha made the charges of negligence and lack of foresight on the part of the Central Government with reference to the Shillong-Haflong-Churaibari road and the Churaibari-Agartala road. He also claimed to represent your views on these matters.

You know very well that so far as these two roads are concerned, my reply was a mere statement of fact.

You have only objected to the sentence “Assam is specialising in wasting public funds without gaining any benefit for itself”. I only meant to say that the Assam Government, in spite of their experience regarding the Shillong-Haflong-Churaibari road, made the same mistakes regarding the Churaibari-Agartala road. I had not the remotest intention to cast any general reflection on the Assam Government. I appreciate, however, that the sentence you have quoted is liable to be misunderstood as casting a general reflection. I should have been more careful and wish to express my regret for the sentence to which you have taken legitimate objection. You may publish this letter if you think fit.

Your sincerely,

Sd. K. Santhanam,²

After this I sent a reply like this.

Shillong,
The 24th March 1950.

Dear Mr. Santhanam,

I thank you for your D. O. No. 267-HMS(0)/49, dated the 21st March 1950, expressing regret for the expression you have made in Parliament against the Assam Government.

I have made my speech in the Assam Legislature, a copy of which I am sending to you by Air Mail in a separate cover.

It is very clear that you are confusing about the two roads—the Shillong-Haflong-Silchar-Churaibari road and the Churaibari-Agartala road. This latter road is not under my charge. It is dealt with by the Governor with the Chief Engineer. I as Minister of Public Works Department have had nothing to do with this road.

I request you to kindly read the whole speech of mine. It may be that you have not had time to study the different letters which passed between the Government of Assam and the Government of India. In your letter you said these words “I only meant to say that the Assam Government, in spite of their experience regarding the Shillong-Haflong-Churaibari road, made the same mistakes regarding the Churaibari-Agartala road”. You would know that the Assam Government had nothing to do with this road.

Moreover, I do not know what you meant by the words “in spite of their experience regarding the Shillong-Haflong-Churaibari road”. I wish you would make it clear what experience you refer to. Then I shall be able to give you a reply.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

To

The Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam,
Ministry of State, Government of India,
New Delhi.

Government Resolution re Construction of Public Health Dispensary and Staff quarters at Nazira and Sibsagar in Sibsagar district and Tikrikilla and Parakhasia in Garo Hills etc.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do approve the projects undertaken by the Government of Assam, for the construction of the Public Health Department Dispensary buildings and staff quarters at Nazira and Sibsagar in the Sibsagar District, Tikrikilla and Parakhasia in the Garo Hills District and Kamargaon, Daulasal and Barama in the Kamrup District and the expenditure of Rs.63,275 involved in that connection being met from the existing provision of Rs.72,500 made through schedule under “39.—Public Health Works” in the current year's budget for opening of five Public Health Department Dispensaries in the different Districts of the Province.

The explanatory notes* are clear and explained the needs for this. It says that the total expenditure thus involved in the aforesaid projects comes to Rs.63,275. No separate provision for this amount could be made in the Budget for 1949-50. A provision of Rs.72,500 exists in the current year's Budget for construction of five new Public Health Department Dispensaries in the State. As time is not opportune to take up any new projects by way of constructing new Public Health Department Dispensaries due to present financial stringency, Government have agreed to meet the expenditure of Rs.63,275 from the existing Budget provision of Rs.72,500.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

"That the Assembly do approve the projects undertaken by the Government of Assam, for the construction of the Public Health Department Dispensary buildings and staff quarters at Nazira and Sibsagar in the Sibsagar District, Tikrikilla and Parakhasia in the Garo Hills District and Kamargaon, Daulasal and Barama in the Kamrup District and the expenditure of Rs.63,275 involved in that connection being met from the existing provision of Rs.72,500 made through schedule under "39.—Public Health Works" in the current year's Budget for opening of five Public Health Department Dispensaries in the different Districts of the Province."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As no hon. Member taking part, I put the question :

The question is that the Assembly do approves the project undertaken by the Government of Assam, for the construction of the Public Health

*EXPLANATORY NOTES

Simaluguri and its adjoining villages in the Sibsagar District are found to be heavily infected with *Kala azar* requiring a fully-equipped hospital. As present financial position of the State does not permit opening of such a hospital Government have decided to open two Kala-azar wards—one to be attached to the Sibsagar Civil Hospital and the other to the Nazira Local Board Dispensary. Accordingly an expenditure of Rs.35,500 for construction of these two wards was sanctioned in February 1949. As time was very short, the work could not be taken up and completed during the last financial year and had to be carried on this year. The work has since been completed.

The expenditure of Rs.10,050 and Rs.6,200 were sanctioned in the latter part of 1947-48 and 1948-49 for construction of the Public Health Department dispensary buildings and staff quarters at Tikrikilla and Parakhasia respectively in the Garo Hills District. The work could not be taken up during the years due to scarcity of building materials. Construction of these buildings was taken up this year and has since been completed.

An expenditure of Rs.9,500 was sanctioned in November 1947 for construction of the Dispensary buildings and staff quarters at Daulasal in the Kamrup District. The work was taken up that year but could not be completed for want of cement and C. I. Sheets and so an amount of Rs. 3,000 remained unspent. This amount has since been expended this year.

An expenditure of Rs.1,641 was sanctioned in February 1948 for construction of the Public Health Department Dispensary buildings at Kamargaon in the Kamrup District. This amount was quite inadequate due to enhanced rate of building materials and labour necessitating an additional amount of Rs.6,125. The work is expected to be taken up and completed this year.

The incidence of *Kala-azar* at Barama in the Kamrup District is on the increase. The existing shed at Jakaikhora (Barama) which can barely accommodate 4 patients is managed by Mr. B. K. Bhandary, a private individual and hence improvement and extension to this shed at Government expense, is not desirable. It has therefore been decided to construct a separate shed near the Public Health Department Dispensary or at a convenient place at Barama at an expenditure of Rs.2,400 to accommodate four more indoor *Kala-azar* patients. It is expected that the work will be taken up and completed during the current year.

The total expenditure thus involved in the aforesaid projects comes to Rs.63,275. No separate provision for this amount could be made in the Budget for 1949-50. A provision of Rs.72,500 exists in the current year's budget for construction of five new Public Health Department Dispensaries in the State. As time is not opportune to take up any new projects by way of constructing new Public Health Department Dispensaries due to present financial stringency, Government have agreed to meet the expenditure of Rs.63,275 from the existing Budget Provision of Rs.72,500.

Department Dispensary buildings and staff quarters at Nazira and Sibsagar in the Sibsagar District, Tikrikilla and Parakhasia in the Garo Hills District and Kamar-gaon, Daulasal and Barama in the Kamrup District and the expenditure of Rs.63,275 involved in that connection being met from the existing provision of Rs.72,500 made through schedule under "39.—Public Health Works" in the current year's Budget for opening of five Public Health Department Dispensaries in the different Districts of the Province.

The question was adopted.

Government Resolution re approval of an expenditure of Rs.20,000 for improvement of communication in Goalpara East and West Forest Divisions

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do hereby approve an expenditure of Rs.20,000 for improvement of communication in the Goalpara East and West Forest Divisions. The amount will be met from within the sanctioned grant.

10.—Forests.

(1) Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs.36,84,400.

(2) Sub-head under which the proposed Supplementary Demand will be accounted for :—

AVI(a).

The explanation says that there is a provision of Rs.1,06,600 for Goalpara Tramway in the Budget for 1949-50 out of which an amount of Rs.61,040 has been allotted to the extension of the Tramway line to Pratapkata. As the reply from the Assam Railways for providing a siding in Pratapakata on the new Assam's Rail Link has been received late, the whole amount cannot be spent for this project. There are urgent works in connection with development of communications in the Goalpara East and West Forest Divisions. So the amount of Rs.20,000 has been proposed to be diverted to these projects.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Resolution moved is that this Assembly do hereby approve an expenditure of Rs.20,000 for improvement of communication in the Goalpara East and West Forest Divisions. The amount will be met from within the sanctioned grant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As no hon. Member is taking part, I put the question :

The question is that this Assembly do hereby approve an expenditure of Rs.20,000 for improvement of communication in the Goalpara East and West Forest Divisions. The amount will be met from within the sanctioned grant.

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It finishes the agenda of to-day.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10-00 A.M. on Monday, the 27th March, 1950.

SHILLONG :
The 8th June 1950.

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