

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a. m., on Tuesday, the 25th March, 1947.

PRESENT:

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, seven Hon'ble Ministers and fifty-five Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

(Starred Question No. 37 was not put and answered as the hon. Questioner Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed was absent.)

Firewood Contractor of Sibsagar

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

- *38. Will Government be pleased to state—
 - (a) Whether it is a fact that Mrs. P. R. Dutta, the wife of Mr. P. R. Dutta, the Divisional Forest Officer, Sibsagar is a fire-wood contractor under him ?
 - (b) How long she has been running the contract ?
 - (c) Who has given her that contract ?
 - (d) Whether there was no other contractor to take up that contract ?

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

- 38. (a)—No.
- (b), (c), (d)—Do not arise.

Causes of floods in Surma Valley

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

- *39. (a) Are Government aware that floods in the Surma Valley are mainly caused by the overflow in the Barak river ?
- (b) Is it a fact that floods have become a serious menace to agriculture over there ?
- (c) Are Government aware that by controlling the Barak river by putting dams, there is the possibility of checking floods, improving navigation and generating hydro-electricity ?
- (d) Have Government taken any steps to make the hydel survey of the Barak river and examine the possibilities of this project in all its aspects ?
- (e) If so, what are they ?
- (f) If not, do Government propose to take any such steps ?
- (g) Have the Government any other hydro-electric project for the Surma Valley or for the Assam Valley under survey ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

39. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government realise that if the Barak can be controlled effectively, there is the probability of checking floods, improving navigation and generating electricity. But in controlling a river many measures beyond erecting dams have to be adopted.

(d), (e), (f) and (g)—No hydel survey has been undertaken in recent years. Two posts of engineers have, however, recently been sanctioned to take up hydro-electric survey and to formulate projects.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will they be advised to survey the possibility of controlling the Barak river?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This will also be taken into consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Proposed abolition of I. C. S. and I. P. S.

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

161. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The position of the Assam Government with regard to the proposed abolition of the I. C. S. and I. P. S. ?
- (b) The amount of compensation likely to be paid for the purpose ?
- (c) Whether the question of compensation has been examined ?
- (d) The steps they have taken for early abolition of the I. C. S. and I. P. S. ?
- (e) The attitude of this Government on this matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

161. (a) to (e)—The Government of Assam have supported proposals that the I. C. S. and I. P. S. should be terminated and that in their place Central Administrative and Police Services should be built up. These matters are understood to be under correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State and this Government have no information about the present position or whether compensation is under consideration.

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to request you to stay this Question till the Hon'ble Prime Minister comes to the Assembly, because this Question is an important one, and he is absent to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, Unstarred Question No. 161 stands over.

Bhaganmari Professional Grazing Reserve

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

162. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the original area of Bhaganmari Professional Grazing Reserve within Gauhati Subdivision before 1935 ?
- (b) What was the area actually found in the traverse survey held subsequently by Srijut K. Medhi, the then Sub-Deputy Collector of Nalbari ?

- (c) What was the area found after deduction of all low-lying areas as river and river beds ?
- (d) Whether the immigrants who were served with a notice for eviction on 22nd January 1937 occupied the lands which were not included in the original reserve ?
- (e) On what date the Gazette notification was made for increasing the area of the Professional Grazing Reserve from the original areas ?
- (f) What is the amount of annual income from grazing fee realised from the said reserve and how much fee is realised on each head of the cattle ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

162. (a)—The area of the Professional Grazing Reserve was 7,743 bighas and odd within a specific boundary.

(b)—The Professional Grazing Reserve is in the Chapori area of the Brahmaputra. Due to accretion the area of the Professional Grazing Reserve was found to be 28,444 bighas and odd on resurvey in 1942 by Srijut K. Medhi, the then Sub-Deputy Collector.

(c)—The area after deduction of all low-lying areas as river and river beds or unfit for grazing was found to be 14,333 bighas and odd in 1944.

(d)—No. The area under occupation of the encroachers was included in the original reserve.

(e)—No Gazette notification is necessary under the rules.

(f)—The grazing fee realised from the assessed cattle in the Professional Grazing Reserve during 1945-46 was Rs.5,641 at the annual rate of Rs.3 per buffalo and annas 6 per cow.

Settlement of an area of land in Takergram village of Katigora Police Station, Cachar

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV asked :

163. (a) Are Government aware that a considerable area of land appertaining to village Takergram of Katigora Police Station, Cachar, has been given settlement by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, as Ilam land ?

(b) Do Government propose to make a survey and demarcate the boundary of the said land according to the Survey of 1894 ?

(c) Are Government aware that litigations are pending in Sub-Judge's Court, Cachar, as reformation *in situ* ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

163. (a)—No. The allegation forms part of a plaint in a civil suit which is *sub judice*.

(b)—No.

(c)—A title suit No. 27 of 1944 is pending in the Court of the Silchar Subordinate Judge and the plaintiff allege reformation of submerged land in the river Kushiara.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV : May I know why there is no possibility of having any survey ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : There is a civil suit, and it might so happen that surveyors may be appointed even by the Court. Therefore till the matter is not decided by the Court, the matter being *sub judice*, Government think it will not be proper to take up the survey.

***The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** replied the Supplementary in the absence of the Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi.

Devastation of Jhars in Mechpara Wards Estate

Srijut HARESWAR DAS asked :

164. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by them to detect the culprits, who have devastated several valuable Jhars of the Mechpara Estate, under the management of the Court of Wards, by felling timber worth lakhs of rupees ?

(b) Do Government propose to stop recurrence of such occurrence in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

164. (a)—Some of the contractors involved in the illegal felling of timber have already been dealt with and cases against others are awaiting disposal after proper enquiry by the Chief Forest Officer. Criminal prosecutions against a Deputy Ranger and a Forest Guard of the Estate have been started and four contractors prosecuted under sections 406, 379 and 148, Indian Penal Code.

(b)—Yes.

Karimganj Yarn Dealers Syndicate

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED asked :

165. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption “বান্ধবের হাতে পিঠি ভাঙের ভাবপন” published in the 32nd issue of the “Joger Alo” dated the 9th June, 1946, a weekly paper published from Sylhet ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have created a Yarn Dealers Syndicate in the Karimganj Subdivision and the said Syndicate has been granted the sole handling agency for all yarn and cotton allotted in the Karimganj Sub-division ?

(c) Is it a fact that Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya, M. L. A., Chief Whip of the Government Party, Babu Jitendra Goswami, Secretary, Subdivisional Congress Committee, Babu Sailaja Mohan Das, Assistant Secretary, Subdivisional Congress Committee and one Champalal, are the sole partners of the said Syndicate ?

(d) Are Government aware that the above named persons had no business in yarn in the past nor were they connected with the weaving industry of the Karimganj Subdivision ?

(e) What were the special considerations which prompted Government to grant such monopoly rights to this Syndicate ?

(f) Are Government aware that serious allegations of corruption and night has created deep resentment amongst the weavers of the Subdivision ?

(g) Are Government aware that serious allegations of corruption and black marketing are reported against the Syndicate ?

(h) Do Government propose to create such agencies in all other Subdivisions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

165. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is not a fact.

(c) to (h)—Do not arise.

Excavation of a canal from river Kushiara to Muthiura

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

166. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has received any representation from the Secretary, Mathiura Unnati Bidhayini Samity, dated the 12th May, 1946 praying for excavation of a canal from river Kushiara to Muthiura ?

(b) If so, what steps the Hon'ble Minister has taken in the matter ?

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

166. (a)—Receipt of a representation from the Secretary, Mathiura Unnati Bidhayini Samity is not traceable.

(b)—Does not arise.

Quota of cloth allotted in Surma Valley

Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY asked :

167. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The quota of cloth allotted for the people of the Surma Valley ?

(b) Whether the quota of cloth allotted for the said Valley has been duly imported in full and distributed amongst its inhabitants ?

(c) If not, who is responsible for such irregularities, viz., whether the Government of Assam, the exporting Province or the Government Agents ?

(d) In view of the insufficient supply of cloth in the Surma Valley, whether Government propose to take necessary steps to improve the situation at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

167. (a)—34 per cent. of the Provincial quota for the Sylhet and Cachar Districts amounting to 1,700 bales per month on the basis of 5,000 bales of cloth for the Province.

(b)—For the last six months a cut of 10 per cent. amounting to 720 bales per month has been imposed by the Textile Commissioner. Secondly due to riots, strikes, and falling off in mill production the Textile Commissioner could not release the full quota in any month and as a result the monthly quotas have fallen into some arrears. However, during the last two months there have been better releases and very large quantities have moved. Distribution is taking place.

(c)—The responsibility rests with the Government of India for smaller imports than usual. Recently, due to heavy imports some Subdivisional agents have found difficulty to release all cloth arrived and there has been some congestion.

(d)—The Government are taking all possible steps by making representations to the Government of India for full supply, keeping a strict watch on the Procuring agents that they purchase in full. The Government are also taking steps to relieve the present congestion in distribution.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the quota of Cachar regarding cloth ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot say that off-hand. I can supply the figures to my hon. Friend afterwards.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Is it a fact that 700 bales of cloth remained undelivered for months in Srimangal and that people suffered on account of that ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot say off-hand. If it is in the direct knowledge of my hon. Friend, I do not like to challenge that statement.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

Grant of stipends for various kinds of training abroad

Mr. LARSING KHYRIEM asked :

168. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of stipends already granted after the war by the Government of Assam for various kinds of training abroad ?
- (b) How many were granted to the people of the Surma Valley and the Assam Valley ?
- (c) Whether any such stipend has been given to persons belonging to Tribal Hills ?
- (d) If so, how many ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to consider the case of Tribal Hills next time ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

168. (a)—41.
 (b)—Surma Valley 17, Assam Valley 23.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—One.
 (e)—Does not arise.
 (f)—Yes.

* **Mr. LARSING KHYRIEM:** With regard to answer to (d), Sir, may I know whether he got a seat ?

* **The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** We gave the stipend and we tried through the Central Government to accommodate all our stipendiaries. But whether a particular stipendiary has got a seat, I cannot say off-hand. It is a fact that many of the stipendiaries have not got any accommodation anywhere as yet. I do not know whether the gentleman mentioned has got a seat or not. If he wants to know I will make enquiries and tell him afterwards.

* Speech not corrected.

Vigilance Committee's Election in Habiganj Subdivision

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

169. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Why the Vigilance Committee's Election in the Habiganj Subdivision was postponed all of a sudden giving wide circulation for holding election on the 22nd September 1946 ?
- (b) Whether this has been done at the request of some local Members of the Legislative Assembly ?
- (c) If so, who are those Members of the Legislative Assembly ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the members of the Vigilance Committee are to be elected ?
- (e) If so, whether many such Committees in the Habiganj Subdivision formed by nomination, have been recognised by the Subdivisional Officer ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to hold the Election of the Vigilance Committee in the Subdivision immediately ?
- (g) If so, whether Government propose to fix a date ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

169. (a)—The election was postponed due to communal tension.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Members of the Vigilance Committees were selected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly in consultation with recognised political organisations and Subdivisional Officer formally approved the list.

(f)—Yes. This will depend on local conditions.

(g)—Does not arise.

* Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: The election was postponed due to communal tension. Was any election held after the communal tension had subsided ?

* The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We think that tension is still there. It is not yet the opportune moment to hold any election at present.

Public Works Department Muharrirs

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

170. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether all Public Works Department Muharrirs are treated as temporary officers ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to give them equal status with the Mondals of Revenue Department ?

*Speech not corrected.

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

170. (a)—Yes. The Public Works Department Muharrirs belong to the work-charged Establishment.

(b)—The question as to what status they should be given is under consideration of Government.

* **Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister for how long the matter of mohurrirs is under the consideration of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It has been for several months.

* **Srijut BELIRAM DAS** : How long will it take to come to a decision ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have already replied to the question the other day that it will take some time, because it is a question of finance and the Finance Department is considering it. At present the Province is running a deficit budget.

Publication of various Development Schemes of Government

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR asked :

171. (a) Do Government propose to publish in detail the various development schemes of the Government of Assam and elicit public opinion on the same ?

(b) Who are the experts who formulated and examined the schemes ?

(c) Do Government propose to publish the schemes in Bengali and Assamese and the probable expenditure and the opinion of the experts on the same ?

(d) Do Government propose to establish a District Development Board in each district to examine the schemes before they are put into execution ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

171. (a)—They have already been published in the 3 full drafts and skeleton of the fourth draft issued by Government and except in the matter of Development of Industries consist mainly in the expansion of the activities of various nation-building Departments of Government.

Government are closely following public opinion in reference to the drafts that have so far been prepared and published and propose to elicit further public opinion as they proceed with the execution of the plans.

(b)—The Schemes were formulated by the experts of each Department and are examined and approved by the experts of the Government of India, before they are put into execution.

(c)—Government will give the necessary publicity to the schemes in Bengali and Assamese.

(d)—The matter is already under the consideration of Government.

Staff of the Veterinary Department and their work

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

172. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they received a memorial from a deputation of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons a few months ago at Shillong requesting Government to raise the scale of their pay ?
- (b) If so, whether the said memorial has been taken into consideration ?
- (c) Whether the scale of their pay is going to be raised ?
- (d) If so, to what extent and from what date Government propose to give effect to the new scale ?
- (e) Whether retrospective effect is proposed to be given to the new scale ?

173. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of cattle that died of Haemorrhagic Septicemia and Anthrax respectively during the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, in the whole Province ?
- (b) The approximate loss caused to the people by these deaths during the said five years ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that microscopic examination of blood and dung can be held and Serum for inoculation can be obtained only from the Laboratory of the Gauhati Veterinary Hospital ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that without microscopic examination it is difficult to distinguish the above-named two diseases ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that in most cases cattle-epidemics subside after taking a heavy toll of animals before the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons can reach the locality for inoculation, being armed with the result of microscopic examination and the necessary serum from Gauhati ?

174. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Veterinary Dispensaries in the Province ?
- (b) The approximate price of a microscope ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that serum required for inoculation in cases of attacks by diseases mentioned in Question 173 (a) above can be stored in each Veterinary dispensary at a nominal expense ?
- (d) Whether with a view to obviate the above-mentioned difficulties and to enable the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to take prompt measures for combating cattle-epidemics, Government propose to provide each Veterinary Dispensary with a microscope and a stock of necessary serum for inoculation ?

175. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of (i) Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and (ii) Veterinary Field Assistants in the Province as it stood on the 31st December, 1946 ?
- (b) The total number of Inspectors in the Veterinary Department of the Province before the creation of the posts of Veterinary Field Assistants ?

- (c) The total number of Veterinary Inspectors in the Department on the 31st December, 1946 ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the existing number of Veterinary Inspectors is quite inadequate ?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to increase their number adequately ?
- (f) If not, why not ?

176. Are Government aware :—

- (a) That carcasses of cattle dying from Haemorrhagic Septicemia, Anthrax, Rinderpest, Rabies, etc., generally thrown away by the people in open fields ?
 - (b) That the above named diseases are highly infectious ?
 - (c) That this practice of thus throwing away carcasses is often responsible for spread of these fell diseases ?
 - (d) That Chamars who take away the hide from such diseased carcasses often help the spread of these diseases ?
 - (e) That by burying these carcasses a great check in the spread of these diseases can be achieved ?
177. (a) If the reply to the above questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose to get suitable legislation enacted for enforcing proper burial of carcasses of cattle dying from any of the above named diseases ?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to get such legislation enacted ?
 - (c) If not why not ?

178. Are Government aware—

- (a) That at present most of the Veterinary Field Assistants (not specifically engaged in the Dispensary) have no fixed office which they are to attend or no fixed place where they are required to reside ?
- (b) That these Veterinary Field Assistants are allowed to reside wherever they like ?
- (c) That mostly they reside in their own village—often in the out of the way places ?
- (d) That the present arrangement causes great inconvenience to the public in reporting cases and in securing their services ?

179. (a) If the reply to the above Questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose (i) to fix the residence of the Veterinary Field Assistants (not engaged in the Dispensaries) at certain central village within easy reach of the public and (ii) to provide them each with a quarter and a Shed for storing their equipments and medicines ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

- 172. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.

(d)—It has been decided to raise the initial pay of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to that of the Civil Sub-Assistant Surgeons with effect from the next financial year, viz. 1947-48.

(e) No.

173. (a)—The number of cattle died of Hæmorrhagic Septicemia and Anthrax is given below:—

	Hæmorrhagic Septicemia	Anthrax
1941	1,966	1,385
1942	894	572
1943	633	538
1944	238	115
1945	608 *	214

(b)—The approximate loss to the people is Rs. 1,86,200.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No ; in most cases the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons attend the epidemics of cattle disease as soon as it breaks out if the information reaches them in time.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, my question was "whether Government are aware that in most cases cattle epidemics subside after taking a heavy toll of animal lives before the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons can reach the locality for inoculation, being armed with the result of microscopic examination and the necessary serum from Gauhati." But the reply has been given as "No ; in most cases the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons attend the epidemics of cattle disease as soon as it breaks out if the information reaches them in time." Sir my complaint was that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons cannot attend the epidemics being well armed with the result of examination they require for ascertaining the diseases. I do not mean to say that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons do not attend such cases promptly. My complaint is that the result of examination do not reach them in time. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to remove this handicap ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Sir, certain diseases are of such a nature that whatever precaution Government might take some cases would prove fatal unless, of course, preventive measures have already been taken. Sir, it is a fact that sometimes the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons being in charge of vast areas cannot attend in time. There is another difficulty that Serum and Vaccines cannot be placed except in Gauhati because in other places there is no arrangement for cold storage, so the particular Veterinary Assistant Surgeon had to requisition medicines either from Gauhati or from some places outside the Province after the breakout of the epidemic had been brought to the notice. If the medicine is not available within the Province at short notice it takes time to get medicines and actually we had to get them by wire. So, the difficulty Government has to face cannot be obviated unless, as I have already stated, there is arrangement in some other places than one in the Province. I have already stated that sufficient steps are being taken to establish as many as possible cold storage in the Province. The problem of epidemic may be to some extent met in that case, otherwise difficulty will continue as at present unless we have cold storage in more places than one.

We are also understaffed. Of course, we hope this difficulty of being understaffed would be over by the appointment of some Veterinary Field Assistants whom we have already trained and when they will be placed in various places, the problem of being understaffed will be to some extent met.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government propose to take measures to manufacture Vaccines and Serum in our own Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, the other day I have stated that we have already made arrangement to establish cold storage not only in Gauhati but in some other places and also arrangement is being made for the local preparation of Vaccines and Serum. It is also under the contemplation of the Government to extend the sections to other stations in the Province. That is the only way how we can combat cattle epidemic.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

174. (a)—Fifty-one Veterinary dispensaries and 3 Veterinary hospitals.

(b)—Rs.2,000.

(c)—No. The serum for inoculation cannot be stored in a dispensary unless it is thoroughly equipped with cold storage and a Frigidaire.

(d)—No, but Government will consider the question if and when the prices of microscopes and Frigidaires come down.

175. (a)—Total number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons is 67 and Veterinary Field Assistants is 92 on the 31st December 1946.

(b)—Four.

(c)—Four.

(d)—Yes.

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

(f)—Does not arise.

176. (a)—Yes. Government advised the ryots to bury and cremate the carcasses but the ryots most of whom are illiterate sometimes pay no heed to the advice and throw them in the open fields.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to give us some idea as to how the Government advise our people to bury carcasses?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The answer to the Question is already there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know from the Hon'ble Minister what are the methods by which advice was tendered to the ryots.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This is already given in the reply to Question No. 176(a). Sir, this is the method applied in some places. This is only a common sense method to encourage labours to dig a sufficiently big hole.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Government advice is there. But the hon. Questioner wants to know, how and when, and by what arrangements advice was actually tendered to the ryots.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, it is the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons who very often visit localities. It is they who are in charge of the matter and they advise the people to take this step.

Srijut GAURI KANTTA TALUKDAR: We understand verbally? Will Government be pleased to take steps to instruct our villagers as to the necessity of burying such carcasses by issuing pamphlet and leaflets, etc.?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Certainly, Sir, it will be done. It is for the good of the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Did the Hon'ble Minister issue any Circular letter to the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons to do so ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, so far my information goes, it was not done.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir it is left to the sweet will of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, it seems.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

177. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The legislation is under the consideration of Government.

(c)—Does not arise.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, may we have some idea as to the time that will be taken by the Government in undertaking certain measures i.e., to enact certain laws to compel people to bury carcasses dying of infectious diseases ?

The Hon'ble ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, the answer is there. The Government of Assam is going to legislate certain measures, if we get a sample from another province. We have got a sample of an Act which has been passed in the province of Sind and we are also going to have an Act on that line. I think legislation of this kind will be taken up on the line of that Act.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that the Government of Bengal has also passed such a law.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I have no information, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:

178. (a)—Yes, they are attached to Veterinary Dispensaries as they are required to work under the guidance of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Department.

(b) & (c)—No, they are to stay in places where they are posted by the

(d)—No.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: In reply to Questions Nos. 178 (b) and (c) the Government say that the Veterinary Field Assistants are to stay in places where they are posted by the Department. May I know, Sir, whether by the word 'Department' Government means the Veterinary Department or the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, the Veterinary Field Assistants attached to Veterinary Dispensaries act under the instructions of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. So it is implied that they must remain near about the station so that they might be available when they are called upon. Government have not as yet provided any residences for the Veterinary Field Assistants.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are Government aware that most of these Veterinary Field Assistants stay wherever they like ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government is not aware of that, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. What is the import of this Question.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, in some places more than one Veterinary Field Assistants are attached to one Dispensary and they have no quarters to live in. So they stay wherever they like, either in their own villages or in any other places according to their sweet will.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That cannot be the fact, Sir. They must live within their jurisdiction.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that they are required to attend the dispensary every day when they are not on tour?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be the custom, Sir. But I have no data before me to answer this Question now.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that most of the Field Assistants are not often within easy reach of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons as they stay at distant and unspecified places?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If they are not under the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, then they are not entitled to draw their salaries.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: This should come from the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I cannot allow any more Supplementaries under this Question. I now take up Unstarred Question No. 179.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, my Question is quite pertinent and if I had been allowed.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I disallow any more Supplementaries under this Question, please.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied:
179. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to Question 178 (a).
(b)—Does not arise.

Use of Gas by the Assam Oil Company

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

180. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) What steps have been taken by Government to charge the Assam Oil Company for using gas emerging from Oil wells?
 - (b) Whether any enquiry has been made regarding the extent of the use of these gases by Government?
 - (c) Whether any statement regarding the extent of the use of these gases have been asked for from the Company?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

180. (a)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 21 asked by Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, B. L., M. L. A., during the current Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly on this matter.

(b)—Government propose to arrange for an enquiry as soon as the services of an Expert are available.

(c)—Yes.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the opinion of the Advocate General, Assam, had been taken as to the liability or otherwise of the Company to pay royalty on gas used by them ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: No, Sir, Not yet.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Do Government propose to take the opinion of the Advocate General, Assam, on this matter ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Yes, Sir.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: With regard to question (b), am I to take it that Government are going to appoint an Expert ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Yes, Sir.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: With regard to question (c) may I know whether any statement from the Company has been received by the Government by now ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: We have not received any statement up till now.

Order *re* appointment to Sub-Registrarship and Sub-Deputy Collector

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

181. (a) Is it a fact that there was an order by the Government of Assam passed as early as in 1918 or so that those who pass the Assam Madrassah Final Examination with English, may be appointed in Sub-Registrarship and Sub-Deputy Collector ?

(b) If so, did Government appoint any one having that qualification in such a post up till now ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Do Government propose to give effect to that order at present ?

(e) If not, why not ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee** replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

181. (a)—Under rule 2(c)(ii) of the Rules for the appointment of Sub-Registrars, candidates having passed the Assam Senior Madrama Final Examination with qualification in English corresponding to Matriculation are eligible for the posts of Sub-Registrars. There are no such orders for appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

(b)—Two Sub-Registrars on commission basis have been appointed with such qualifications. They are Sub-Registrars of Dera and Kamalganj.

(c), (d) and (e)—Do not arise.

Export of oil seeds and quantity of sugar and flour allotted to Tea Gardens

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

182. Do Government propose to regulate the export of oil seeds in view of the oil shortage in the Province ?

183. Will Government be pleased to state the total quantity of (i) sugar and (ii) flour allotted for tea gardens in the Province of Assam for the years 1945 and 1946 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

182.—The question of regulation does not arise in view of decontrol of mustard seed and oil as ordered by Government of India.

183.—*Sugar*.—For 1945 upto January 1946—3,200 maunds per month. From February 1946 upto September 1946—3,300 maunds subject to 13 per cent cut. From October 1946 upto date—2,116 maunds.

Wheat Products.—For 1945 upto July 1946—5,400 maunds per month. From August 1946 upto date—3,620 maunds per month, in addition 675 maunds of imported flour for July 1946 per month.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Are Government aware that on account of the shortage of oil seeds many of the local oil mills and Ghanis remain idle for many months in the year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government is fully aware of that, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In view of the fact that these Ghanis and oil mills remain idle, do Government propose to impose a ban on the export of oil seeds from Assam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is beyond our control, Sir. There was a ban on the export of oil seeds from the Province during the previous year but since this has been decontrolled by the Central Government, this Government cannot impose any ban on its export.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Instead of banning the export of oil seeds, do Government propose to procure some oil seeds for the indigenous Ghanis and oil mills of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the Government considered that question. Two years back the Government procured oil seeds for the oil mills and Ghanis. But the mill owners and the Ghani owners combined together and caused a great loss to Government. They did not purchase from the Government stock but they purchased from outside and as a result of which some of the Government stock deteriorated and the Government had to suffer a great loss. Government have bitter experience in this respect and therefore they are not going to adopt this policy again.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Did Government receive any representation from the indigenous Ghani owners recently for procuring oil seeds?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We received such a representation when there was control but after decontrol no such representation has been received.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Do Government propose to consider the desirability of procuring seeds for the indigenous cottage industries in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. If any assistance from Government in the present circumstances is necessary then they will see if they can assist any particular class of people who require such help. But as the matters stand at present, the Government have no hand in the matter, and I have got great doubts whether Government will be of any use to those people in procuring oil seeds. Every one has got the equal right to purchase and store.

Formation of Assam Madrassah Board

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked:

184. Will Government be pleased to state—
- When they have formed the Assam Madrassah Board?
 - Whether the said Assam Madrassah Board has been recognised by the Dacca Madrassah and Intermediate Board?
 - If not, what arrangement they have made for higher Islamic Education for the students passing from Assam High Madrassahs?
 - Whether it is a fact that the Hamidabad Islamic Intermediate College has been directed to obtain recognition of the Dacca Board?
 - If so, whether they have taken steps to get the Assam Madrassah Board recognised before directing the Hamidabad College to obtain affiliation of the Dacca Board?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

184. (a)—1st December, 1945.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—Except the Senior Madrassa and Title Examination no other facility is available in the Province for higher Islamic Education.
 (d)—Yes, once on the 22nd April, 1946 and again on the 13th September, 1946.
 (e)—Yes, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muslim Education was deputed to discuss with the authorities of the Dacca Board and to secure recognition for the Assam Madrassa Board by that Board.

Information re-Shooting at Barpeta

Mr. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of information. May I bring to your notice that there is a rumour which has been circulated by an hon. Member of this House that shooting had taken place at Barpeta resulting in serious loss of life? Naturally, Sir, we are very anxious to know what amount of truth there is in that rumour and what is the actual situation there. If the Government kindly make a statement in that regard it would be very helpful to the Members of this House to get a correct idea about the situation there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have no objection if Government wants to make a statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Home Department is at the present moment busy in the Upper House and I would therefore request you, Sir, to wait till he returns from that House. We have also got this matter in our mind and if the Hon'ble the Home Minister do not return in time, I would certainly make a statement in this behalf.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We will now pass on to the next item.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No 31.

(63.—EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES)

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,300, be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary charges".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head '63.—Extraordinary charges'."

There is no Cut Motion under this Demand. Therefore I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.14,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '63.—Extraordinary charges'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.11

(27.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE)

***The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.11,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice."

*The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee moved the Demands in the absence of the Hon'ble Ministers concerned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.11,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '27.—Administration of Justice'."

There is one ** Cut Motion under this Demand but the hon. Member is absent.

So I put the Demand as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.11,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '27.—Administration of Justice'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 24

(47.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS)

† **The Hon'ble Srijut BHIMBOR DEURI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,27,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head "47.—Miscellaneous Departments".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,27,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'."

There is no Cut Motion. So I put it as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,27,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '47.—Miscellaneous Departments'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.3

(8.—PROVINCIAL EXCISE)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,67,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head "8.—Provincial Excise."

**1. Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams to move:

That the total provision of Rs. 11,89,000 under Grant No. 11, Major head 27.—Administration of Justice, at page 74 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 11,89,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To criticise the Government policy of not taking any effective steps to combat corruption in the Judiciary in Assam and also amongst Jurors with the result that corruption is spreading in the Judiciary and the Jurors.)

† **The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy** moved the Demand in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,67,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head 'B.—Provincial Excise'."

There is no Cut Motion. So I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.5,67,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head '68 —Provincial Excise'."

The question was adopted.

The Assam Trades, Professions, Callings and Employments Taxation Bill, 1947

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we pass on to the supplementary list of business for to-day. But one thing was mentioned to me in connection with the Assam Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Bill, 1947 and I wish to point it out to the House.

The Bill printed on brown papers was circulated among the Members. There was a printing mistake but the official copy as well as the Gazette were correct. I draw the attention of the hon. Members to part B of the Schedule in item 2:— "In the case of every Hindu undivided or joint family where the total gross annual income exceeds Rs.5,000 but does not exceed Rs. ——"there is nothing. This was a printing mistake. The figure "10,000" should be inserted after the word "Rs." This was published all right in the Gazette as well as in the official copy. I think the House will not mind this discrepancy.

Amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We now pass on to item No.1 of the supplementary list of business, i.e., consideration of Amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, item by item.

There is no further Amendments to the Amendments laid on the table. So I take it that the House has adopted the Amendments laid on the table.

Debate on the Post-War Reconstruction Programme of Government

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We now pass on to item No.2—Further debate on the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, Planning and Development regarding Post-War Reconstruction Programme of Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while taking part in the Budget discussion the other day I drew the attention of the Government to the necessity of starting Co-operative Collective Farms with a view to make our Province self-supporting in the matter of production of pulses, sugar, gur and mustard oil. I also requested the Government to take effective and bold measures to check the damages done to paddy cultivation and fisheries by the water-hyacinth pest. Sir, if these two suggestions are accepted and made parts of our Post-War Development schemes and executed in right earnest, I believe, the problem of making Assam self-sufficient in the matter of food will be solved to a great extent.

To-day I would like to draw Government's attention to another equally vital question that confronts our Province and that is—how to clothe our people, how to make our Province self-supporting in the matter of supply of cloth. Sir, as regards cloth it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that this Province is today entirely at the mercy of other Provinces. Of course, we are producing some *endi*, *muga*, and *pat* fabrics no doubt. But these varieties of cloth are not only not adequate but are not meant for every day and universal use.

Sir, though ours had been a land of spinners in days gone by, today, to our disgrace, we can no longer take pride in that fine cottage-industry, namely, spinning. And had not Mahatma Gandhi made *Khaddar* indispensable for Congress workers, spinning would have further dwindled. Weaving, of course, is in a better position. But the productions of our hand-loom are extremely meagre and insignificant, when compared with the actual requirements of the people. It is for this reason that our Government are proposing to start cotton mills in the Province. And our Government may succeed in satisfying our demand of yarn and cloth to some extent. But, Sir, the mighty problem that will confront our Government will be where to get and how to get cotton in good quantity and of such quality as may be demanded by the mills. I think the quantity of cotton now grown in the Garo and Mikir Hills and in a few other places of the Province is extremely meagre and will prove quite inadequate to meet the demand of the mills. Moreover, Sir, I am afraid, in quality it is inferior and unsuitable for weaving finer class of cloth. If thus our Province be found to be deficient in cotton and wanting in its quality then we shall have to be again dependent upon other provinces or countries for supply of cotton. This problem, therefore, shall have to be solved. And to my mind the best way to do this will be to make all possible endeavours to grow cotton of good quality in huge quantity in our own Province. To do so our Government should start some Co-operative Collective farms in big scale solely for cultivation of cotton simultaneously, if not before starting cotton mills. Such farms, if helped by the Government with lands, tractors and other improved tilling implements, good seeds, manure, etc. and provided with expert supervision, will, I am sure, be able to satisfy our demand within a few years and make our Province self-supporting in the matter of cotton supply.

In this connection I would like to make another suggestion regarding another important subject, *viz.*, growing or cultivation of fish. Sir, fish forms an important item of diet of the major portion of our population. But fish is a rarity in the greater part of the Province. Government should include in their Post-War Development Schemes this item of cultivation of fish. I am surprised to find that our Government is engaging their attention and labour more in opening markets for selling fish than in production of fish. If fish could be made abundant, there will be no dearth of markets. So I request our Government to take early steps to encourage Co-operative Societies or individuals to grow fish in extensive scales by giving them leases of suitable lands at easy terms, advancing money to dig tanks, helping them in procuring fries and providing them with expert advice in the art of growing fish, instead of focussing their attention to co-operative marketing of fish.

Sir, I next like to draw the attention of this hon. House to another problem *viz.*, scarcity of milk products in the Province. These are daily becoming rare articles. For want of fodder and owing to ignorance and negligence on the part of their keepers our cows and buffaloes have deteriorated and are giving scanty yield of milk. Importing of foreign cows does not seem to be of much help. So, bold steps, as parts of the Post-War Development Schemes, shall have to be taken to improve our indigenous cows and buffaloes by encouraging establishment of dairy farms, imparting of expert knowledge of cow-keeping amongst our villagers and by solving the problem of fodder scarcity immediately. Sir, our grazing reserves are rapidly being encroached upon and destroyed by a section of people thoughtlessly. And our grazing grounds in villages have ceased to exist. People cannot keep cows simply for want of fodder and grazing grounds. So the milk-problem can never be satisfactorily solved unless the fodder problem be first

solved. So I request our Government to give due attention to this fodder problem while discussing the question of increasing milk-production in the Province.

Sir, flood has become a chronic disease, as it were, in our Province. The Drainage and Embankment Department has made a good beginning. But unless we succeed in controlling and in training our turbulent rivers, the Department will not give us full relief. So, Government should make it a part of their Post-War Development Schemes and engage some person or persons really expert and experienced in river-training and skilful in drainage, embankment and irrigation works. Government should not mind the expenditure involved. For without such bold actions Government will never succeed in protecting our people from the ravages of flood and in making the people prosperous and happy.

One other suggestion which I consider I must make is regarding the re-organisation of the Publicity Department. Sir, if we hope to make our Post-War Development Schemes a success, if we want to seek and secure the full co-operation of the people in making these schemes usefully work in villages, if we wish to rouse our people to various activities that make people prosperous, if we desire to impart useful knowledge that will help our villagers to enable them to do the right thing in the right way in the right time, if we want to fight epidemics and diseases both amongst men and cattle in the villages, if we want to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions of our villagers, if we want to establish peace, amity and harmony amongst different classes and communities, in other words, if we want to give a new and healthy tone to our society, then we must take the help of propaganda—propaganda by means of booklets, pamphlets, lectures, periodicals, films and practical demonstrations. And for this purpose we need a strong and efficient Publicity Department headed by persons with experience and imagination. The existing Department was fitted with certain set purposes to serve certain specified objects. It should, therefore, be fully re-organized and put into action without the slightest delay, if we really mean business and wish to make the Post-War Development Schemes serve the people in the true sense of the term.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks with the hope that Government will give my suggestions their due consideration and see what can be done to ameliorate the miserable and helpless condition of our people in respect of food and cloth at least.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the speech on the Budget Estimates made by the Leader of this Group, a reference was made to the nationalization policy of the Government of Assam and this was criticised on the ground that Government were not likely to be able to expand industry at a sufficiently fast rate by means of State-owned enterprises only, and that the initiative in industrialization would pass to other Provinces where, in our view, a more enlightened industrial policy prevails. We considered that Assam needs a large number of new industries and a large development of existing industries if full employment is to be provided for the inhabitants of this Province, and if this Province is to produce as much as possible of its own requirements and not to be dependent for so many items on other parts of India. We were very much encouraged by the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister. He explained that the industrialization policy of Government had been revised and that Government were only interested in five industries—bulk generation of electrical power; cotton textile mills; sugar and alcohol factories; jute mills; and paper mills. If my impression is correct, I understood him to say that the whole field of industry outside these specified industries is wide open for private industrialists. We welcome this revision of the nationalization policy and hope that full publicity will be

given to it so that at a time when money is available with individuals for investing in new industries, it can be attracted to the establishment of new industry in Assam. *

I would, however, point out that in the pamphlet "The Progress of Assam's Planning", which has only recently been published, there is a statement of the industrial policy of the Government of Assam which had been published in August 1946, apparently before the new and latest revision of their policy had taken place. This policy we have felt has done a great deal to discourage the expansion of industry in this Province and the establishment of new industries, and we think that no delay should be allowed to occur in making a clear and precise statement of the new policy.

There will apparently be no industries outside the specified group of five industries in which Government will have a compulsory right to acquire a share. It will of course be open for Government to approach industrialists who are establishing new industries with proposals either to become ordinary Preference or Debenture shareholders in a new enterprise. This is a very different proposition, however, from compulsory rights of association with Government and there are many industrialists who would, for obvious reasons, prefer to run their own enterprises without Government assistance in the shape of funds and consequent control over the management of the enterprise. It is not a question that the industrialist wishes necessarily to keep the profit to himself but he may be of the opinion that Government methods cannot easily be reconciled with the methods of Administrative Departments. It is also very important that the restriction on the import of capital goods which has been imposed in respect of other industries should be cancelled at once as now it is evidently of no value to have these imported requirements dealt with in the Assam Secretariat.

We feel that the Government of Assam have undertaken a vast responsibility in assigning to themselves the function of establishing all units for five important industries but we would not seriously quarrel with this decision as it is not likely to retard industrial development in this Province, particularly as the remaining industries are now freed for private enterprise.

We would, however, urge that even more emphasis should be placed on the bulk generation of electrical power since we regard electricity as the key to the future development of this Province. We are fortunate in having almost unlimited resources of hydro-electric power and it is a misfortune that this has not been developed in the way in which it has been developed in other parts of India, but we are glad that Government are now taking the initiative in this matter and we would emphasize the need for great expedition in carrying out these important schemes.

There is a provision in the Post-War Plan for hydro-electric development. There is, however, in the Budget only a provision of Rs.1,44,000 for appointment of staff for a hydro-electric survey. We do not dispute that surveys have to be carried out but if these large surveys are to be carried out quickly it is necessary for a much larger staff to be provided. There is inevitably a big delay involved in obtaining and considering the data from surveys, and the inauguration of schemes. Electricity is wanted quickly if industrial development is to be assisted. It is also necessary to consider development of thermal electric power stations as these will be necessary to supplement the hydro-electric supply which, if hydro-electric power is to be used at maximum efficiency, must be supplemented, since water supplies may not be constant throughout the year. It is recognised that the cheapest form of power can be secured by linking thermal electric power stations with hydro-electric supply. This is the principle which is being adopted in the Damodar Valley Scheme and it is, therefore, equally desirable for Government

to consider building electric power stations, preferably near coal fields, which can supply electricity to an electric grid to enable electricity to be available in most parts of the Province.

The provision of electricity is merely one of the ways in which Government can encourage industrialization by means of private industries. Both cottage industries and larger industries are certain to spring up in abundance if electricity is made available. Large-scale industry, however, has other requirements and if Government can make developed sites available, it will, I am sure, attract new industries. It is important that these new industrial sites should be properly planned and that they should provide all reasonable requirements for new factories and also suitable areas for the residential accommodation of the industrial workers. There is a very big future for planned industrial areas as these will ensure the development of industry on proper lines. Government should not attempt to make large profits on the development of sites but these can be leased to persons prepared to start new industries on terms which will guarantee Government a return on their expenditure. All new sites should be provided with electricity and should have all other essential services provided, such as water supply and sanitation. A great contribution can be made to the health and happiness of workers by having well planned factories and well-designed industrial towns. There are in England a number of industrial towns which have been planned on very praiseworthy lines. The industrial town Port Sunlight, where a large soap industry has been established, is but a single instance of this, but it is recognised that it represents a very high technique in industrial planning, though this was developed very many years ago.

Planned industrial areas should be provided with efficient systems of transport so that workers can easily travel from their places of residence to their places of employment; efficient roads should be provided; many industries also require abundant supplies of water for their industrial processes and this can be organised by Government Water Boards, who will recover from industrial consumers the cost of the upkeep of modern water works. A pure water supply would also go a long way towards improving the health of industrial workers since a large number of diseases are water-borne.

I cannot commend too highly the remarkable achievement of Tata's in establishing a modern industrial town at Jamshedpur and this, I feel, might well serve as a pattern for new Government developed industrial towns in Assam.

Closely linked with the question of industrial planning is the important question of town and country planning. In England and in parts of India it is recognised now that planning of town and country development is essential if slums are not to be allowed to develop on a large scale. I have looked in vain through the papers on the Post-War Plan to find any reference to the need for town and country planning and we consider that Government should appoint, without delay, a qualified town and country planning staff and also create a sufficiently large Department to enable effective town and country planning to be carried out. It is perhaps unnecessary for me to make any special case for this very essential measure. At present towns are being allowed to develop without any control or at best very unsatisfactory control, and new areas which are being developed show signs of being unfit for urban habitation. The toll in lives through unsatisfactory living conditions is appalling, and the health of residents in towns is liable to deteriorate still further if effective control measures are not adopted. There should be effective control without delay of all expansion of towns and when rebuilding takes place within towns, this should be brought under direct Government control to ensure that new construction is in accordance with modern constructional ideas and also with modern ideas of hygiene. In

this way countless lives can be saved and the future health of urban areas can be assured. There is a steady and persistent drift from the rural areas into towns and the census figures show that towns are spreading rapidly. It is, therefore, essential that no time should be lost in starting this most important Department of Government. Measures to prevent serious illness are, in our view, far more important than cure.

We hope that the Hon'ble Minister for Planning will be able to give us an assurance that Government intend to give their serious attention to these most vital and important suggestions.

Mr. J. R. S. TELFER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my rising is to respectfully request Government not to forget the needs of the present in planning for the future.

With all attention on post-war planning, we are not certain that sufficient emphasis has been laid on the need for strengthening and improving existing medical institutions. Many of these are to-day doing very useful work but they could do very much more and very much better if they had larger staffs, better equipment, and more funds. Many of the hospitals in the Province stand in urgent need of modernization. They are badly designed and often their equipment is unsatisfactory, to say the least, by ordinary medical standards. There is a shortage of nursing staff to refer to just one section of this problem. I understand that in the Sylhet Civil Hospital catering for a population running into many millions, there is no X-Ray plant. Is it fair to expect any surgeon to carry out major operations, etc., without the assistance of this most essential unit of medical equipment?

There is a tendency to regard progress as being proved by the establishment of new institutions, and the result is that a new hospital can secure support where there is far too little enthusiasm for strengthening existing units where, with more funds, better equipment and bigger staffs, greater benefits would be available to the public.

Let us take the example of the Civil Hospital, Silchar. At the last meeting of the Silchar Local Board figures were tabled showing that the hospital was in debt to the extent of about Rs. 9,000 with an outstanding of over Rs. 4,000 against local purchase of medicines alone, and we were led to understand that local pharmacies were refusing to grant further credit until these big bills are cleared. The effect of this, Sir, is that treatment of patients may suffer and there is even the possibility of the hospital having to close down unless a substantial subvention is quickly forthcoming.

I am also particularly interested in the Nari Sikasram, Silchar. From a small beginning as a training centre in midwifery this has now developed into a Maternity Hospital with over 200 accouchements in the past year. While this popularity is most pleasing it also means a tremendous amount of extra work and as there are more than 400 applicants for training the Committee would like to increase the number acceptable annually from 10 to at least 20 seats. Only lack of accommodation precludes this, and until such time as proper quarters can be erected and this at the moment is, I understand, solely dependent on donations and public subscriptions, the number must remain at 10 only.

It is, therefore, Sir, for these and other such medical centres, already in being and doing such magnificent work, that I plead will not be forgotten while contemplating the new.

Finally, Sir, I would touch on the subject of water supplies. It is noted that a sum of Rs.5,00,000 has been budgeted under the head "Rural Water Supplies", and I would suggest, Sir, that every pice of this sum be used for fencing and other anti-contamination measures of the existing tanks and wells.

I have never yet heard of any person in Assam dying from thirst, but each year we have numerous cases of cholera and dysentery, mainly water-borne diseases. In the Surma Valley, from Habiganj to Jirighat, I have hardly seen one rural tank which could be considered safe. In addition to a complete absence of fencing, the surrounding bunds are either broken or non-existent. Consequently there is little to stop rubbish and bacteria from the adjacent bustees being washed directly into the water the people drink.

There is no doubt, Sir, that the maintenance, control and proper use of water supplies is one of the greatest problems in Public Health. So that strong action may be taken, there is every necessity to nationalise all water supplies, under a Central Water Board with Sub-Committees in each Subdivision. By direct and close contact, it should not take long to not only repair and maintain but also instil a sense of civic responsibility which would mitigate the use of the village drinking water for the multiple purposes which at present pass as proper.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয় ভাদ্রা গড়া জগতের নিয়ম। মানুষ যেনন ভাঙ্গে তেনন গড়েও। তাই গত মহানুষ্ঠের সময় বাহা ভেঙ্গে গেছে যুদ্ধের পরে আবার সেগুলি গড়তে হবে। আমাদের দেশে ভেঙ্গেছে কম; সুতরাং আমরা গড়তে পারব বেশী। এটাই আমাদের মানস। গড়বার স্বযোগ আমাদের অনেকদিন পস্ন এসেছে। বহুদিন ধরে আমরা যেন নিজস্বীৰ হয়ে পড়েছিলাম, আজ আমাদের মধ্যে মস্ত একটা জাগরণ এসেছে। আর আমরা নতুন করে আমাদের সব গড়বার একটা স্বযোগও পেয়েছি। সুতরাং আমাদের বিশেষ লক্ষ্য রাখতে হবে এই যে গড়াটা, এটা ঠিক যেন আমাদের জাতীয় ধারার অনুকরণে হয়। তাহলেই শক্তির অপচয় হবেনা। বিদেশীয় ধারার অনুকরণে বেশীদূর অগ্রসর হওয়া যায়না। আবার স্থানে ফিরে আসতে হয়। এই সম্পর্কে আমাদের প্রথম হতেই সাবধান হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was wondering whether the hon. Member is speaking poetry or prose. (*Laughter*).

A voice: It is a কথা কবিতা।

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: পাশ্চাত্য অনুকরণে যদি আমরা সব গড়ে তুলতে চেষ্টা করি, তাদের যেসব institution আছে যেসব institution যে ধারায় করেছে সে ভাবে যদি আমরাও করতে চাই, তাহলে হয়ত আমরা ক্ষতিগ্রস্তই হব—হয়ত তুল পথে চলে আমাদের আবার ফিরে আসতে হবে সেই স্থানেই। আমি সমস্ত বাজেট আলোচনা না করে মাত্র দুই একটা বিষয় সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করব এবং তাতে থেকেই আমি দেখাবার চেষ্টা করব যে আমরা প্রায় সবদিকেই যেন একটা ভুলের মধ্যে পড়েছি। আমাদের চলে যেন একটা গলদ আছে।

আমরা Medical Department অথ ১৭ চিকিৎসা বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে যদি ধরি তাহলে দেখতে পাই যে আমাদের গ্রামাঞ্চলে চিকিৎসার কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই বললেও চলে। অথচ আমাদের দেশটা গ্রামেরই সমষ্টি। পাশ্চাত্যে সহরগুলিই প্রধান, সুতরাং তারা সহরের জন্যই প্রধানতঃ ব্যবস্থা করে। আর আমাদের যদি সত্যিকার ব্যবস্থা করতে হয় তাহলে গ্রামের জন্যই করতে

হবে। যে ব্যবস্থা গ্রামের জন্য নয় সেটা ভারতবর্ষের জন্য নয়। আমাদের আলোচ্য পোষ্টওয়ার ভেভেলপ্‌মেন্ট বাজেটকীমে ধরণ বড় বড় ডাক্তার খানার ব্যবস্থা, বড় বড় বিভাগের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। Medical institution থাকবে কোন এক বড় সহরে। সেখান থেকে Motor Van এ X-Ray নিয়ে স্পেশিয়েলিষ্ট বেরোবেন জিলায় জিলায়। এক বড় সহর হতে আর এক বড় সহরে; পাকা রাস্তা আছে এবং সেগুলি আরও বাড়বে। তাতে বিলাতের চিত্রই মনে পড়ে। আমাদের যে রাস্তা বিহীন জবাজীপ ঘর বাড়ী পুণ গ্রাম তার চিত্র সেখানে দেখতে পাইনা। গ্রামের চিকিৎসা লোকের বোর্ডের হাতে পড়ে আছে। লোকের বোর্ড বৎসরে একটা ডাক্তারখানাতে বড় জোর ৩০০—৪০০ টাকার ঔষধের ব্যবস্থা করে। আমি নিজে লোকের বোর্ডের মেম্বর ছিলাম এবং আমি দেখেছি যে এই ৩০০—৪০০ টাকার ঔষধই মস্তবড় একটা এলাকার (area) বহুলোকের এক বৎসরের কাজ চালাতে হয়। আমাদের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে যদি কোন ব্যবস্থা করতে হয় তাহলে প্রথমেই গভর্ণমেন্টের হাতে সমস্ত চিকিৎসার ভার নেওয়া উচিত। আজ লোকের বোর্ড যে পরিমাণে ডাক্তারখানা দিয়েছে, এক একটা Subdivision এ অন্ততঃ তার ৫৭ গুণ ডাক্তারখানা করা প্রয়োজন। আমি বলতে পারি যে বর্তমানে এমন অনেক খানা এলাকা আছে যেখানে একটাও ডাক্তারখানা নাই। আমি যদি সুনামগঞ্জ মহকুমার কথাই বলি, সেখানে তাহিরপুর, ধরমপাশা, এবং গান্ধী এই তিন খানার মধ্যে একটাও ডাক্তারখানা নাই। এই তিন খানার লোক সংখ্যা কত হবে? যদি কম করেও ধরা যায় তাহলেও দুইলক্ষ হবে—অন্ততঃ দেড় লক্ষের উপরেই হবে। এর মধ্যে একটাও ডাক্তারখানা নাই, কোনও ঔষধপত্রেরই ব্যবস্থা নাই। এটা কেবল সুনামগঞ্জের কথাই নয়—সমস্ত আসাম প্রদেশ এরকম অবস্থায় আছে। কিন্তু তার ব্যবস্থা না করে প্রথমেই বড় বড় বিভাগ, বড় বড় কর্মচারী, বড় বড় ডাক্তারখানা, ডাক্তারের বেতন, কেরাণীর বেতন এভাবে যদি আরম্ভ করা যায়, তাহলে হয়ত শেষে District Headquarters এ ই সব টাকা শেষ হয়ে যাবে এমনকি Subdivisional Headquarters এ ও পৌছবে কিনা সন্দেহ। আমারত এরকমই মনে হয়।

Maternity সম্বন্ধে গ্রামের লোক কি রকম বিপন্ন তা আর বেশী বলতে হবেনা। সহরে কিছুটা ব্যবস্থা আছে—তাও খুব ভাল বলছি না, কিন্তু কিছুটা আছে। যা আছে District Headquarters এই আছে আর Subdivisional Headquarters এ কোন রকম আছে বলা চলে, কিন্তু গ্রামাঞ্চলে ধাত্রীর ব্যবস্থা নাই। এই যে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক আছে লোকের চিকিৎসার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই—ধাত্রীর কোন প্রয়োজন নাই! এই যে অস্বাস্থ্য—সেটা কি আমাদের প্রথমেই দূর করার প্রয়োজন ছিল না? এই যে অস্বাস্থ্যটা যে, আমাদের প্রত্যেক গ্রামে প্রত্যেক লোক যাতে তাদের বিপদে ডাক্তার এবং ধাত্রীর সাহায্য পায়? বিপদ বলছি কেন? নূতন বংশধরের জন্মের সময় তারা বিব্রত হয়ে পড়ে যে এবার শিশুর মা বাঁচবে কি না, শিশু বাঁচবে কি না এই নিয়ে। ছেলের জন্মতে তার মা বাঁচবে, আনন্দ লাভ করবে পুত্রের মুখ দেখে। আমাদের তা নয়—মরার প্রস্তুতাই বেশী উঠে। কিন্তু সেসব দিকে দেখবে কে, শুনবে কে? বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্ট শুনে নাই, তা বলে আমরাও কি শুনব না যদি না শুনি তাহলে কেন থাকব আমরা এখানে? গভর্ণমেন্ট পোষ্ট-ওয়ার বাজেটে এক একটা বিভাগের কর্মচারীদের জন্য স্কুলের জন্য, কলেজের জন্য যত টাকা খরচ ধরেছেন এই টাকা খরচ করে আমরা সমস্তগ্রামের জন্য তদনুযায়ী বন্দোবস্ত করার মত এত টাকা পাব কোথায়?

তাহলে গভর্নমেন্টকে একটা জার্জাপ-যুক্ত করতে হবে। পূর্বের দেশকে ঠিকীয়ে পাঁচাতোকা এক ব্যয়-বহুল আড়ম্বরপূর্ণ সভ্যতা গড়ে তুলেছে এবং পূর্বের দেশ হতে কে কত বেশী ধনবহু সংগ্রহ করতে পারে তার প্রতিযোগিতায়ই বাব বাব যুদ্ধে লিপ্ত হচ্ছে। আমরাও কি সেই পথে চলব? আমাদের গভর্নমেন্ট গোড়াতেই যে ব্যবস্থা করেছেন তাতে বেশীদূর চলতে পারবেননা। আমাদের বর্তমান অবস্থার প্রতীকার করতে গেলে, আমাদের যে লক্ষ লক্ষ গ্রাম-নগরিত ভারতবর্ষ, সেই গ্রামেরই ব্যবস্থা প্রথমে করতে হবে। আমাদের দেখতে হচ্ছে যে, কি উপায়ে কন খরচে সকল লোককে বেশী সুবিধা দেওয়া যেতে পারে। ডাক্তারী চিকিৎসাতে যে পরিমান চিকিৎসার জন্য যে পরিমিত খরচের ব্যবস্থা এবং যে পরিমান লোকের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, আমাদের কবিরাজী বা ইউনানী যে সব চিকিৎসা ছিল সে সব চিকিৎসার যদি ব্যবস্থা হয় তাহলে অনেক কন খরচে অনেক বেশী সুবিধা হইত আমরা পেতে পারি (laughter)। এত দিন একটা বিদেশী শক্তি অধীনে থেকে বিদেশী ভাবাপনুহয়ে হঠাৎ কবিরাজী চিকিৎসাতে বিশ্বাস নাও হতেপাবে, কিন্তু মহসু মহসু বৎসর ধরে সেই কবিরাজী বিদ্যাই আমাদের বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছিল, আমাদের বিপদে সাহায্য করেছিল ঔষধ পত্র দিয়ে, ব্যবস্থা দিয়ে সেই ঔষধ আজও আমাদের যেমন সময়, এই ডাক্তারী ঔষধ তেমনভাবে সময়। রাজী বিদ্যাও ছিল তার সামান্য এখনও আছে এবং তাতেই এখনও গ্রামে কোন রকম চলছে। ডাক্তারী চিকিৎসা বা তাহার অধীন রাজী বিদ্যা এখন পর্য্যন্তও গ্রামাঞ্চলে আসন পায়নাই। আমি এখানে হস্ত: বাজেটের একটা বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে বলছি কিন্তু সমস্ত বিভাগ সম্পর্কে আমার বক্তব্যের ধারা একই হবে। ঠিক এই হিসাবে অর্থাৎ ভারতীয় ধারার হিসাবে যদি আমরা নূতন ভাবে গভর্নমেন্টে নাকনি তাহলে আমাদের কিছুই হবেনা।

এই ডাক্তারীর মধ্যে আবার Public Health এবং Medical, এই দুইটা বিভাগ আছে এবং তারজন্য দুইটা বন্দোবস্ত—তাতে একজন ব্যক্তি প্রধান হলেই চলবেনা। (A voice—বেশ চলে)। চলছিল—কিন্তু এখন দেখতে পাই তা নয় কোন সময় এমন হয় যে ব্যক্তি বিশেষকে কাজে রাখার জন্য গভর্নমেন্ট পদ এমনকি বিভাগ পর্য্যন্ত সৃষ্টি করেন। এরকম অনেক সময় আমরা দেখি। অবশ্য আমাদের বর্তমান গভর্নমেন্ট সম্পর্কে একথা নয়। তবে এই দুইটা বিভাগ একজনের অধীনেই বেশ চলতে পারে। এবং district এর বেলায় ও এই দুই বিভাগ যদি একজনের হাতে থাকে তাহলে ভাল হয়। তা না থাকতে যে কি ফল হয়েছে সেটা দেখা দরকার। এতে অনেক খরচ কমবে। তার উপর district এর ভার একজনের হাতে না থাকার জন্য এই দুই বিভাগের মধ্যে জায়গায় জায়গায় রেখা রেখি চলছে। যেমন অনেক জায়গায় হয়ত লোকেল বোর্ডের ডাক্তারখানা আছে এবং সেখানেই হয়ত Public Health এর Rural Health Inspector আছেন। তাদের দুজনের মধ্যে চলছে একটা পালটা পালটি ভাব—পরস্পরকে সাহায্য করার সেখানে ক্ষমতা নাই। এই Rural Health Inspector এর চলবার কোন বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা নাই সেখানে থাকবার ব্যবস্থা নাই—কোন কাজ করার সুবিধা নাই। নকঃস্থলে যাবারও কোন রাস্তাঘাট নাই এমন অবস্থায় যাবে কোথায়? একদিকে এই অসুবিধা হচ্ছে আর অন্য দিকে visiting officer যিনি থাকেন তারও সেখানে যাবার পথ নাই। এরা মোটর না চললে যাবেন কি করে? সুতরাং তারা যেতে পারেননা। সেসব

দেখবে কে? এবং দেখতে নাপারলে ঠিক ঠিক চলবে কি করে? আজকাল আবার বেতনের চিন্তাই বেশী। কাজের চিন্তা নাই। ঠিক এ অবস্থায় এই সব বিভাগ চলছে! এ ব্যবস্থা দূর করতে নাপারলে গড়বে কি করে? নূতন করে গড়বার সময় যদি আমরা দেশী ভাবে গড়তে নাপারি তাহলে আবার ধুরে আসতে হবে। যে Bureaucratic mentality আমাদের মধ্যে রয়েছে, যে বিদেশী ভাবধারা ছাড়ি ছাড়ি করেও এখনও আমাদের মধ্যে আছে, সেটাই পাশ্চাত্যধাতে আমাদের বেশ আকৃষ্ট করে তুলেছে এবং তারইজন্য আমাদের মধ্যে এত ব্যবধান হয়ে গেছে। মানুষে মানুষে আগে তেমন ব্যবধান ছিল না। বড় চাকরীর প্রশ্নই ধরুন একহাজার টাকা বেতনের প্রিন্সিপাল এবং ৫০০ টাকা বেতনের প্রফেসরের মধ্যে বিভেদ। একই কাজ করবেন—সবই প্রফেসর, তবুও তাদের মধ্যে কত ব্যবধান! আমাদের এই যে পদ মর্যাদা—সেই মর্যাদার সঙ্গে পোষাক পরিচ্ছদ, মোটর সবই এসেছে এবং এসব মিলে আমাদের মধ্যে এক ব্যবধান সৃষ্টি করেছে। এই ব্যবধান যদি চলতে থাকে তাহলে আমাদের কোন সমস্যার মীমাংসা হবেনা। গেজন্স গভর্ণমেন্টকে বলছি যে গড়বার সময় তারা এভাবে গড়বেন যাতে ব্যবধানটা কমে যায়, যাতে সেটা আমাদের ধাতের হয় এবং যাতে সেটা প্রত্যেক গ্রামে পৌঁছে—প্রত্যেক পরিবারে পৌঁছে এবং যেন কেবল সহরের মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ না থাকে। এই সহরের সভ্যতা—এই বৃষ্টিশ সভ্যতা—গ্রামে পৌঁছিলে ক্ষতিরই কারণ হবে। সুতরাং তাকে ছেড়ে দিয়ে আমাদের নিজের ধাতে সব গড়ে গ্রামের পুনঃ প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হবে। লক্ষ লক্ষ গ্রাম যদি উন্নত না হয় তাহলে মুষ্টিমেয় সহরের উন্নতি হলেই কোন লাভ হবেনা—এই রাস্তা-ঘাট করেও কোন ফল হবেনা। বড় বড় কতকগুলি লোক চাকুরী পেলেও আমাদের কোন উন্নতি হবেনা।

[Babu Jatindranath Bhadra spoke in Bengali and stressed about the necessity of giving more attention to the needs of the vilages, without following the western ideals, in matters of reconstruction of the country under the Post-war Development Schemes.]

Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am taking this opportunity to emphasise the need for a more progressive attitude in regard to Mechanised Farming.

I am informed on the most reliable authority that the Province lacks no less than 2,12,000 tons of pulses and 78,000 tons of mustard oil. To make up this deficit an additional area of nearly 15 lakhs acres of each crop would require to be sown. We have all-told 57 lakhs acres under cultivation. Only 2.6 lakhs acres of this is under pulses and 3.6 lakhs acres under oil-seeds. It may be assumed that a considerable area of the paddy land is suitable for growing pulses and mustard as a second crop to paddy. It is, however, very unlikely that a much larger area of the existing fields will be double-cropped because at the end of the rice season the plough bullocks are in a semi-starved condition and quite unable to do the extra work. It will take many years to teach the people to feed their cattle and we cannot afford to wait for this to happen. It is therefore necessary to use mechanised methods in the growing of pulses and oil seeds on the areas at present under cultivation, if any large increase is to be expected within a reasonable time. On account of the small size of the average rice fields this is a problem which preliminary experiments are necessary. It is therefore suggested that four compact areas of paddy land be temporarily requisitioned for this purpose in the vicinity of one of the Government farms. Experiments could then be carried out under supervision with little delay or extra expenditure. During the progress of the experiment, the villagers temporarily dispossessed may be provided with the amount of grain

they would normally grow. At the conclusion of the experiment they may be given the option of taking over their original holdings or of continuing to work together co-operatively. Such an experiment would serve the dual purpose of ascertaining the practicability of mechanising the cultivation of existing paddy areas and of working a village area as a collective farm.

Further experiments are also necessary to ascertain the best method of mechanised farming on high land with a view to developing the large areas of waste land now under elephant grass and unsuitable for small farming on account of the heavy overhead expenditure per acre necessary to develop small areas by hand.

These experiments are essential before any progress can be made with co-operative collective farming. It would be a tragedy if such farming proved a failure as a failure would probably lead to the abandoning of the whole idea. It is therefore suggested that the co-operative collective part of the farming be held up until sound knowledge and considerable experience of mechanised farming has been obtained.

The above suggestions will take some time to work out but in the absence of trained personnel with experience of the management of the mechanised farms it is desirable to proceed with caution and not to involve poor people in unsatisfactory schemes which may lead to their ruin.

Meanwhile, the position in regard to oil seeds and pulses is desperate. At present there are limited amounts of these commodities available, but at any time even these limited supplies may fail. Political unrest, strikes, etc., may at any time interfere with the movement of supplies from outside the Province. It is doubtful whether the small cultivator will ever be able to produce all the requirements. Industrialised production such as very large mechanised farms may be necessary for many years. Government has not got the personnel essential for the successful carrying out of such farming itself and it would be wise to encourage large scale private enterprise in the production of pulses and oil seeds. Big Indian industrialists are in a much better position to obtain the necessary staff and get the work going in a short time. There is plenty of land under elephant grass that is too far from lines of communication and too far away from other settlements for development by small cultivators but eminently suited for large scale development. Ample facilities should be offered to such farms on conditions that would enable Government to take over the farms as going concerns and run them as co-operative collective farms as and when conditions permit. In this way the business organisations concerned could make sufficiently attractive profits, while the Province would benefit by the increased production of the foodstuffs now in deficit. At the same time experience of such farming would be accumulated at no expenditure to Government and in due course co-operative collective farming could be introduced with a really good chance of success. It should be possible to open out a lakh acres of this waste land within a reasonable time. This would supply less than one-tenth of the amounts required but it would be worth having and would lay a sound foundation for further developments. It may be found desirable to offer large contracts for the local production of the supplies in deficit. Adequate provision for the encouragement of large scale farming is essential for the local production of the 2,12,000 tons of pulses and 78,000 tons of mustard oil which Government is vainly endeavouring to obtain from outside.

The position in regard to pulses and mustard oil is such that there is urgent need for Government to do everything possible to increase the area under these crops. I estimate that given suitable tractors and implements, our own Assam Regiment could, by using one-tenth of their personnel at any one time, cultivate

not less than 2,000 acres per battalion without detriment to their efficiency as a Defence Force. Of course the money required to finance such a project could not be legitimately provided in the Army Budget, but it could be financed by an agricultural loan on term similar to those offered to private individuals and other Organisations. In this way the Army personnel concerned would gain experience in the care and maintenance of mechanised vehicle, grow most of their own food requirements, provide a surplus to cover the interest and sinking fund on the loan and do their bit to relieve the food shortage in the Province. In addition, the Army personnel concerned would be receiving training that would be invaluable to the Province in the running of Collective Co-operative Farms. The primary object of the Armed Forces is defence and it is unlikely that the initiative for the work I have suggested could be taken by Army Headquarters. The potential benefits to the Province are, however, so manifest that it would surely be worth while for this Government to make the offer. I feel quite sure that it would be considered sympathetically as its acceptance would help so much to make the Assam people realise that the Assam Regiment is their own Regiment. There is plenty of suitable land which is too remote for settlement by ordinary cultivators, such as part of the Sadiya Frontier Tract, which could be used by military organisations for both cultivation and military training.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had not any intention to take part in this debate, but some of the observations of Mr. Tunstall have tempted me to say something. It seems, Sir, that he has been very much hard on one important section of our cattle population, *viz.*, the bullocks, because he wants to substitute their services by means of machines. Probably he does not know that bullocks are the by-product of our milk. So long as human population require milk, they must have calves from their cows and at least 50 per cent. of the calves would necessarily be bulls. So we must know how to utilise these bulls. If their occupation, as Othello's is gone, naturally the owners will be less careful about their maintenance. So there is likely to be much more suffering on their part than what it is today and the result would be that the cattle population seeing that they are thrown into unemployment and negligence by their owners will at once form themselves into Unions and Strikes. The result would be disastrous. If the bullock population serve strike notice to the effect that they are not going to help us in getting milk and consequently calves for their cows, the human population will be worst sufferers in this respect. Therefore, it is high time for us to consider whether we should be so much hard on that important section of our cattle population—I mean the bullocks, who serve such a useful purpose.

Now, Sir, in our country, whether mechanised farming would be profitable is another matter to be considered. Our soil is very soft and in Assam the rains continue for about eight months in a year. It is also said that the sub-soil—the lower crust of the soil—is not quite suitable for the purpose of agriculture, specially pulses and cereals. So, whether deep ploughing by means of machine would be helpful or profitable is a point to be considered. Having regard to this point, I would suggest that we should not be so much apathetic to the bulls, rather we should try to improve our cattle in order to utilise them for the purpose of cultivation and we should harness them to our best advantage, as far as we can.

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Post-War Reconstruction has given us a Statement which is a bit philosophic in its tone. He tried to fill up the lacuna in the schemes by idealistic touches. But after all, his speech has been quite interesting and we appreciate the outlook which has imbued him in planning

for the development of our Province. I quite understand, Sir, that a Medical College here or an Agricultural College there or one Deputy Director for the Assam Valley or one Director for the Surma Valley is no planning at all. Unless the Department can say that by spending one or two crores in a year, they are in a position to increase our agricultural output by 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. it is no use spending money for one post here and another post there. As there is no complete scheme as yet before us—as the Government have not been able to envisage a complete scheme for rural development, these schemes look more like parts of a zig-saw puzzle and require the hand of a master artist to assemble them in order to make them fit into a complete whole. In the absence of that picture, we are afraid, we are not in a position to say how far the amount that has been allotted to a particular Department would be helpful in conjuring up a complete picture of the plan. Any way, Sir, we have made a good beginning and although out of the allotments for 1945-46 and 1946-47, a large amount has not yet been spent, we hope in the year 1947-48 Government will be able to spend more money with some appreciable results for the Departments for which this amount will be spent.

With these words, Sir, I again thank the Hon'ble Minister of Post-War Reconstruction for having presented a nice brochure and very nice Statement about the future planning of the Province.

Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL: I quite agree that the cattle play a very important part in rural economy and there is no suggestion that the scope for the use of bullocks be reduced. The need for growing more food is so obvious that we may even use elephants in order to help in producing crops instead of merely allowing them to eat them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has got no right of reply. He can only explain himself, but I think he has sufficiently explained.

***Mr. H. PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some points in the programme of the Government's proposed anti-tuberculosis organisation which I would bring to the notice of Government for their consideration. Firstly, it is proposed to appoint a Provincial Tuberculosis Officer, highly experienced in tuberculosis work and organisation, on a salary of Rs. 500 per month, but I am very doubtful if a salary of Rs. 500 per month which it is proposed to pay him, will attract the fully experienced and qualified expert desired. It will be seen in the report of the Health Survey and Development Committee, Volume 4, Summary, page 36—Sections 115 and 116, that there are only 70 to 80 doctors in India qualified for posts in Tuberculosis Institutions, whereas there are 250 to 300 who have had a four weeks' course on this subject. We must have a highly trained and experienced doctor to organise the whole provincial scheme, and I feel that to offer only Rs. 500 a month for such an expert is insufficient. If the head of this Department is not fully conversant with the work in hand, the training and supervision of health visitors, for instance, is out of the question.

Secondly, it is proposed to provide a mobile X-Ray unit, in order to make a start on the work, while X-Ray units are in short supply. While commending the wish to start on this important work, I am afraid the idea will not work. X-Ray units are very delicate instruments, Sir, and to be shaken and jarred in a motor van on Assam roads is inviting disaster to the only unit this Department will have this year. Mechanics who can repair these

* Speech not corrected.

instruments must come from either Calcutta or Bombay, with the usual delays one expects now-a-days. While on this point of X-Ray units, I am sure all hon. Members will appreciate that these very useful instruments are used for a number of purposes apart from the detection of tuberculosis, and I would therefore suggest, instead of the mobile van idea, we instal this instrument in a Subdivisional or District hospital where it could function with the very useful and double purpose of serving the Subdivision or District Tuberculosis Clinic in addition to the general requirements of that hospital, and would ensure a successful start being made with the work of the Tuberculosis branch in that area, under the direction and guidance of the Tuberculosis officers whom it is proposed to appoint.

As an instance of this proposal, I would quote the Anti-tuberculosis Clinic at present functioning in Shillong. The Anti-tuberculosis Clinic is close to the hospital and forms part of the work undertaken there. If my proposal is accepted, the cost of the van, driver, petrol and upkeep, and damage to the X-Ray Unit will be saved. It will make certain that at least one Subdivision will be on a full working basis this year. Work may also go on in the other Subdivisions, because anti-tuberculosis measures do not depend entirely on X-Ray units.

A small point, but necessary, is Item 17—X-Ray films at Rs. 750. This is insufficient and should be considerably increased. I would like to have more details of the Rs. 4,000 for Tuberculosis Surveys. This is a very important part of the scheme, and I doubt if any great portion of Assam can be surveyed in the present year. This only goes to strengthen my request that one Subdivision be thoroughly done this year. Next year, I suggest that another Subdivision is treated in this way, and so on yearly, until a few years hence we shall have the whole scheme working. The two Tuberculosis Health Visitors per Subdivision will in all probability be unable to cope with such vast areas, and their difficulties will be enhanced by bad road communications, and if one of the Health Visitors is a lady, I am doubtful how many villages she will be able to visit in a year. It would seem prudent, therefore, for the Health Visitors to divide the Subdivision up, and thoroughly examine the portion of their area this year, rather than attempt too big an area with sketchy examinations.

It will be seen, Sir, from this short appreciation that I am strongly in favour of doing well and thoroughly a portion of the Province this year, rather than attempting more than we can efficiently handle.

The unsatisfactory and inadequate arrangements which exist in Assam for dealing with the problem of the insane has long been a matter of grave concern to those who are interested in this question. There is only one institution in this Province for the accommodation of lunatics, namely, the Mental Hospital at Tezpur. This hospital, which is always full to overflowing, has accommodation for 750 patients and it is the intention of Government to increase the number of beds to accommodate a larger number. The institution is by no means up to date and the serious lack of modern amenities is a handicap in the present day treatment of lunacy. A high percentage of its inmates come into the chronic category and therefore there is very limited scope for fresh admissions. Existing conditions necessitate close contact between those cases which might respond to treatment and the chronic cases, and this is very prejudicial towards their slender chances of recovery. This gloomy picture which I have briefly sketched of our Provincial Institution has its repercussions throughout the whole Province.

An appreciation of the realities brings the problem vividly before us and we are faced with the fact that only inadequate provisions exist for the proper housing and treatment of a very small percentage of the insane. The consequences of this are very serious and in practice results in its being possible to dispose of the

more violent and dangerous lunatics only by the cruel and archaic practice of having them confined in the local jail. In short, Sir, they have to be treated as criminals. Those in charge of jail administration of the Province are keenly alive to this injustice and I quote the following from one of their annual reports.

"As a result of the inadequate accommodation provided in the Tezpur Mental Hospital, certified lunatics had to be detained in jails for periods considerably in excess of the proper period. This is very undesirable, even in jails which have a sufficient number of cells to accommodate them, but in the smaller jails which have few cells or none, it has frequently been found necessary to accommodate certified lunatics in barracks along with convicts, an expedient which cannot be defended on any ground except that of sheer necessity. The provision of increased accommodation for mental patients is, from this standpoint alone, an imperative necessity."

I venture, Sir, to suggest that ample evidence is available to show the necessity for Government to take action in this matter. Increased modern accommodation on a large scale is essential and it is believed that the problem could best be solved by establishing a separate institution in the Surma Valley in the neighbourhood of Sylhet. This would at once ensure relief to our overburdened mental hospital in Tezpur and, from a geographical point of view, would be a far more efficient and satisfactory arrangement than further enlarging and encumbering the existing one. It is a long way from the Surma Valley to Tezpur and the effect on the family and relations of patients is the same as sending them to a distant country. The result, Sir, is to deny the benefits of treatment to patients in the Surma Valley, which is heaping misfortune on these unfortunates.

It will not be out of place here to mention that the scheme for a separate Institution in the Surma Valley was put forward by this Group some years ago, but I suggest, Sir, that all of us, as Provincial Legislators, should not remain indifferent to the serious need which exists for a betterment of conditions, and extension of accommodation for the insane in this Province, and I confidently ask for the support of all sections of this House in bringing it to the notice of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I sincerely thank the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate, because today—constructive and concrete suggestions have been given by the hon. Members which can be found very seldom in the House. Today I have heard the hon. Members with rapt attention and I must admit that the suggestion that they gave are all of high standard and deserve full consideration of Government. But, Sir, the problems are so many and our drawbacks and wants are so many that it is simply impossible for us to give effect to or to take up all those suggestions at a time, and it is only owing to our limited resources that we cannot give assurance in spite of our earnest desires. But, Sir, I can give this much assurance to the hon. Members that even with our limited resources we shall try our best to implement those suggestions as far as possible.

Sir, at the beginning my hon. Friend, Mr. Talukdar, stressed upon the co-operative collective farms. It is also, I may inform him, the intention of this Government to encourage co-operative collective farms if and when funds permit. As regards scarcity of cloth and foodstuffs there were suggestions not only from Mr. Talukdar but from some other hon. Members from the European Group, and I can tell them that we are not unmindful to those problems and we are trying our best to increase our production so far as mustard seeds, pulses and sugar-cane are concerned. Sir, there was one other suggestion from Mr. Tunstall; that mechanised farming should be encouraged in all seriousness and Government should take this up. It must be remembered, Sir, that all lands are not

suitable for mechanised farming. Moreover mechanised farming is not a pre-requisite for collective farming. I admit that it is necessary, but if the private enterprises form co-operative societies and if the the collective farming is their intention, then Government will assist them as far as possible in procuring machinery for them. It has already been pointed out by Mr. Aditya that there is a danger also in this respect. But I am sure it is not the intention of Mr. Tunstall that the entire cultivation system in the Province should be mechanised. In his zeal probably to see the Province self-sufficient as quickly as possible in the matter of foodstuffs he gave this suggestion. I know that my hon. Friend is not an idolater—I mean machine worshipper. Sir, Government is not willing at this stage to take up mechanized farming by themselves, but they are ready to help others, as I have already stated, by procuring machineries if they so want. Mr. Palmer gave a very good suggestion in his lengthy speech. He laid special stress upon hydro-electricity that Government should take up in right earnest as soon as possible so that the Province can be developed in the sphere of industries by supplying cheap current not only to the big industries but to the cottage industries as well. Sir, it is in the mind of this Government that this should be expedited. But there are difficulties also. We have got no experts on this line and so we have been asked by the experts under the Central Government to collect data in this respect and we are trying to do so. At the same time I can inform this House that an expert of the Central Government came here to discuss matters and said eventually that unless some data were collected beforehand it would not serve any useful purpose to take up the matter as it stands at present. Now we are going to employ two persons for this purpose, I mean for collecting data. Already we have got one such officer who is doing this work in addition to his own duties. But that would not serve our purpose.

So, we are going to engage more men, we are already in the line and we shall do all that is necessary to expedite the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How long will the Hon'ble Minister take ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I shall take five or six minutes more, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has practically dealt with all the points.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I was so pleased to-day to hear such constructive suggestions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister might repeat that he will give due consideration to all the suggestions within the limits of finance available.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If you want me to finish in a minute or so, Sir, I shall have to repeat one or two sentences, viz., that all the suggestions that have been given to-day are worth consideration and they have been given with the best of intention and motive and this Government will consider them and try to implement them as far as possible under the present circumstances. By "present circumstances" I mean within the limited resources of finance (The Hon'ble the Speaker : And technical personnel ?) Yes, Sir.

Statement re shooting at Barpeta

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. P. M. Sarwan made a reference to.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member is absent.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : The hon. Member made a reference to a matter of great public importance and asked for a statement from Government. It has now become the property of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May be, but I do not want to encourage such discourtesy in this House. When any hon. Member makes a reference, or asks for a statement he should be in his seat when the statement is made. He should have been here. The hon. Member came twice and went away. The Hon'ble Minister may make his statement day after to-morrow if he wants.

(After a pause)

Of course, if other hon. Members want to hear the statement I have no objection.

Voices :—Yes, Sir, we want to hear the statement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : All right.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really sorry that when this matter was raised I was absent from my seat in order to attend to my duties in the Legislative Council. Otherwise I would have made my statement at the moment the question was raised.

Now, Sir, as a result of the propaganda encouraging deliberate aggression on professional grazing reserves which had been cleared of unauthorised settlers under the agreement reached between all the parties in July 1945, encroachments took place on the 18th and the 21st instant in two reserves in the Barpeta subdivision, viz., Fulara and Mandia grazing reserves. In the latter case alone, as it appears from reports received, actual violence was shown to the officials whose business it was to check disobedience of the orders of clearance, and the police parties protecting them. The Police were menaced in such a way that they had unfortunately to open fire with the result that four persons were killed and four wounded. The Police then retreated to their camp when they were attacked by a large crowd and again had to fire causing death of five persons—one of them unfortunately a woman—and four others injured. At both these reserves cultivation in defiance of the Settlement Rules appears to be still in progress. This Government deeply regret that lives should have been lost through defiance, by misguided people apparently acting under the false doctrine which had latterly been widely preached, of the ordinary regulations of administrative necessity. The facts will no doubt come under a judicial enquiry and I cannot, therefore, Sir, elaborately deal with all the facts at this stage. But since continuance of such unjustifiable practices must involve constant danger of the repetition of such unfortunate occurrences, Government sincerely trust that all good citizens will do what in them lies to discourage a challenge to authority which Government can in no case abrogate.

This is the short statement that I make, Sir. As I said it will not be to the best interests of the Province to make a detailed statement now as it may prejudice the judicial investigation that will take place.

Motion re Food and Supply position of the Province

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The next item on the agenda is the motion standing in the name of Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee that the Food and Supply position of the Province be taken into consideration. I was informed by the Minister-in-charge of the Supply Department that it would be necessary for him to attend the Council and the hon. Leader of the European Group was pleased to agree that this item might stand over for another day. So, I take it that the House agree to this item standing over till day after to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Thursday, the 27th March, 1947.

SHILLONG :
The 30th May 1947.

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