

Proceedings of the Third Session of the Second Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Govern-
ment of India Act, 1935

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M., on
Thursday, the 27th March, 1947.

PRESENT :

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Copyists and Typists attached to Civil and Criminal Courts and Revenue offices

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

*40. Are Government aware—

- (a) That the Copyists and Typists attached to Civil and Criminal Courts and Revenue offices work on a contract basis and are subject to all the liabilities and responsibilities as are enjoined to salaried Government servants such as the Lower Division clerks of Deputy Commissioner's office ?
- (b) That these Copyists and Typists are not allowed to enjoy the privileges and advantages enjoyed by other Government servants as regards pay, pension, leave, etc. ?
- (c) That the present arrangement of employing copyists and typists on contract basis is causing great hardship to this class of Government employees ?

*41. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have received a representation dated the 28th January 1947 from the Copyists and Typists attached to the Deputy Commissioner's office, Gauhati, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Assam praying the Chief to redress their grievances ?
- (b) Whether Government have received similar representations from the Copyists and Typists attached to the Subdivisional offices of Barpeta, Dhubri, Jorhat, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur recently ?
- (c) If the reply to question (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the said representation has been taken into consideration by Government ?
- (d) If so, what steps Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the Copyists and Typists ?

*42. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government were pleased to give an assurance to the General Secretary, All-Assam Ministerial Officers' Association, Sylhet, by letter No. JJD.18/15/36, dated the 1st February 1946 from the Secretary to the Government of Assam, to the effect that the question of granting the Copyists and Typists certain privileges as regards leave, pension, etc., is under consideration ?

- (b) Whether Government were pleased to give similar assurance by letter No. JJD.18/45/30, dated the 25th January 1946 from the Secretary to the Government of Assam in Judicial and General Department, addressed to the Commissioner of Divisions, Assam in connection with a representation submitted by some Copyists of Gauhati ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that only a small fraction of Government's earnings through the services of the Copyists and Typists is spent in remunerating them under the present contract system ?
- (d) Whether with a view to obviate the grievances of the Copyists and Typists, Government propose to treat them as salaried Government servants and to give them the status of the Lower Division clerks ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

40. (a) to (c)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 145 (a) to (c) asked by Maulavi Abdul Hai, M.Sc., B.L., in the current session of the Assembly.

41. (a)—No.

(b)—Representation from Copyists and Typists attached to offices of the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta and Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, have been received only.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Regarding Question No. 41 (b), may I know from Government whether they received similar representation from Golaghat subdivision ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** : I cannot say off-hand whether such a representation was received from the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat. If the hon. Member wants information on this, I shall furnish it.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

42. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—The matter is under consideration.

(Starred Question No. 43 standing in the name of Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed, was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

Appointment of Astrologer and Astronomer

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

*44. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they are aware that other Provinces of India have their own Astrologer and Astronomer engaged for helping the Government in fixing and prescribing auspicious time and dates for religious public holidays and to calculate almanacs for Government use in each year ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Astrologer and Astronomer engaged by the Bengal Government for the said purposes serve this Government also ?

(c) If so, what remuneration, if any, this Government pay to the said Astrologer annually ?

†Speech not corrected.

*45. (a) If the reply to the above Questions be in the affirmative, do Government propose to appoint a Jyotishce of this Province as their own Astrologer and Astronomer for the above mentioned purposes ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

44. (a)—Government have no information except in respect of Bengal where it is understood that an Astronomer and Astrologer is recognised by appointment.

(b)—The Bengal almanac is followed in this Province. Government also consult one of the Satradhikars in Assam through the Commissioner, for certain purposes.

(c)—No remuneration is paid by this Province, and the nature of arrangements in Bengal is not known to this Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Regarding 44 (b), will Government be pleased to let us know who is the Satradhikar Goswami who is consulted in preparing the list of holidays ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: One of the prominent Satradhikars. The hon. Member knows who are the prominent Satradhikars in Assam, and whoever is available from them he is consulted.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is there no fixed Satradhikar to be consulted ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: So far as I know there is no fixed Satradhikar.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do I understand that before the beginning of the year one of the Satradhikars is consulted ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: Not necessarily, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

45. (a)—Government see no reason for making such an appointment.

(b)—It is clear that great confusion would be caused if the Provinces of Bengal and Assam had almanacs which in fact differed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are Government aware that there is some sort of difference in the matter of calculating almanacs in Bengal and Assam ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: There may be some difference.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government ascertain whether there is any material discrepancy in the matter of calculation of almanacs in Bengal and Assam ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS**: Government are not aware of any inconvenience caused by the present system. Therefore, they do not like to undertake any responsibility in this respect.

†Speech not corrected

(Starred Questions Nos. 46 and 47 standing in the name of Maulana Md. Mufazzal Hussain, were not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

Diversion of Nodihing River

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

*48. Are Government aware—

(a) That owing to some military action the original course of the Nodihing river was diverted to the Buridihing and it overflowed many villages in Dibrugarh Subdivision and caused immense damages ?

(b) That Government party headed by the Chief Engineer surveyed the situation and came to the conclusion that steps should be taken to redirect the course of the Nodihing to its original course and prepared the Scheme and estimated the cost at about Rs. 70,000 (Seventy thousand) for the purpose ?

(c) That Government turned down the said proposal on the ground of paucity of fund ?

*49. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a certain well-known contractor of Dibrugarh offered to undertake the execution of the scheme prepared by the said Government party and wanted to have the money repaid from Government from their next year's budget without charging any interest ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government declined to accept the said offer ?

(c) If so, why ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to prevent the overflowing of the said localities and protect the people from future flood of the Buridihing ?

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

48. (a)—Government are not aware that some military operations are the cause of the flood in Dibrugarh Subdivision.

(b)—Some Government officers visited the place and it has been decided to divert the Noa-Dehing to its old course and an estimate of about Rs. 60,000 has been prepared.

(c)—No. The work is in progress.

49. (a)—Government have no information.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

(d)—As stated against item (c) to Question 48 the work is in progress.

(Starred Questions Nos. 50-53 standing in the names of Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed, Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed and Srijut Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury were not put and answered as the Questioners were absent.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Schemes for Hydro-Electric Survey and Oil Ghanny Industry

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

185. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have adopted any scheme for Hydro-Electric Survey in Assam ?

(b) Whether they have appointed any expert for this work ?

186. Do Government propose to consider a scheme for introducing oil Ghanny Industry in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

185. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Mr. Allsup, retired Electrical Adviser to the Government, was at first placed on temporary basis in charge of developmen of electric power. At present Mr. G. C. Goswami, Electrical Adviser, is carrying on the work in addition to his duties. A provision of Rs. 1,44,000 has been proposed in the next year's budget for the appointment of a staff for a Hydro-Electric survey. In the meantime three posts of Engineers have been sanctioned to initiate the scheme.

186.—The oil Ghanny Industry does not come within the purview of the Industrial policy of State-ownership or State-participation announced by Government ; but Government propose to encourage it in connection with their Rural Development schemes. They will also be prepared to consider every concrete scheme presented to them for the expansion of the industry.

Appointment of Kazi in Nowgong District

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

187. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that one Maulvi Sadaruddin of village Chalchali in the district of Nowgong has been appointed Kazi in place of Kazi Guljar Hussein since deceased ?
- (b) The names of applicants with their qualifications who applied for the post of Kazi at the time of appointment of Maulvi Sadaruddin ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the said Maulvi Sadaruddin is not a qualified man ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to rescind the appointment and appoint a qualified and suitable man to the said post ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied :

187. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(1) Maulavi A. K. Daliluddin Ahmed—Matriculate and Passed Calcutta Madrasa Examination.

(2) Maulvi Sadaruddin Ahmed—Passed Fazil Examination.

(3) Maulavi Saiful Islam—Passed Alim and Fazil Examinations.

(4) Maulavi Md. Motahir Ali—Passed Senior Madrasa Examination.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Selling of surplus paddy in Habiganj Subdivision

Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN asked.

188. Are Government aware—

- (a) That cultivators of the Habiganj Subdivision are at present finding it difficult to sell their surplus paddy for dearth of purchasers?
- (b) That there is no local sale of paddy in this Subdivision as the cultivators and the labourers have got some paddy now for their consumption?

- (c) That the new Procurement Scheme of the Government has not yet been put into operation in this Subdivision?
- (d) That the cultivators are now badly in need of selling paddy for wages of labourers engaged for harvesting paddy and for purchasing cattle?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

188. (a) —The Habiganj Subdivision was found to be a deficit area in respect of paddy and there were occasions when rice and paddy had to be transferred there to feed the people from surplus areas. Government would be obliged if the hon. Member give details of surpluses available for purchase by the Government.

(b)—As Habiganj was a deficit area it is likely that there might not be any local sale of paddy of the cultivator and the labourers after meeting their own consumption. If there is sufficient surplus certainly Government will open purchasing centres.

(c)—Yes, for reasons stated in (a) above.

(d)—Government have no information and as such Government will be obliged if the hon. Member give detailed information.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway Men's Union

Srijut BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI asked :

189. (a) Are Government aware that over three months have elapsed since the Tezpur-Balipara Railway Men's Union was formed and notified to the Company ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Company has not yet recognised the said Union ?

(c) If so, what steps have Government taken so that the Union might be recognised by the Company ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Union has since notified the Company of its minimum demands ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Company has not yet taken any steps to meet the same ?

(f) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in the matter ?

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

189. (a) & (b)—It has been ascertained that the Company have since agreed to recognize the Union provided it conforms with the State Railway Rules for recognition

(c) —Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—It is reported that the demands of the workers were discussed by the Tezpur-Balipara Railway authorities with the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Assam, and the representatives of the workers and their case is reported to have been represented to the Head Office of the Company for consideration of the Board of Directors.

(f)—Does not arise.

Sidli-Chapor Road

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of SIDLI asked :

190. (a) Are Government aware that the Sidli-Chapor Road in the Western Assam Division is being gravelled?

(b) Are Government aware that there are many temporary bamboo bridges on the said road?

(c) Are Government aware that the road is impassable due to want of permanent bridges during the rains?

(d) Is it a fact that many representations have been made praying for permanent bridges thereon?

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

190. (a)—It is already a lightly gravelled road.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Through traffic on the road sometimes becomes impossible when bamboo bridges in two rivers are washed away and there is not sufficient depth of water to ply a marboat. Traffic other than vehicular is rarely stopped.

(d)—Yes. Some bridges and culverts are being constructed and repaired on this road out of Motor Vehicles Taxation Fund—Provincial Share.

Maulavi Muhammed Arjad Ali, an employee of the Digboi Oil Company Limited

Maulavi MAYEENUD DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

191. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Labour be pleased to state whether he has received any copy of the representation submitted by Maulavi Muhammed Arjad Ali, an employee of the Digboi Oil Company Limited, to the Managing Director of that Company?

(b) If so, what steps the Hon'ble Minister has taken to redress the grievances of the said Maulavi Muhammed Arjad Ali?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

191. (a)—No such representation seems to have been received.

(b)—Does not arise.

Reconstruction of Bangoan Dispensary

Srijut HARINARAYON BARUAH asked :

192. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received any representation from the Chairman, Local Board, Jorhat, for a grant-in-aid from the Government for reconstruction of Bangoan Dispensary?

(b) If so, what steps, did Government take on the above representation?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

192. (a) & (b)—Government have received a copy of the representation submitted by the Chairman, Jorhat Local Board, through proper channel and are taking steps to expedite the submission of the original representation to Government.

Contribution made by Government to Local Boards

Srijut HARINARAYON BARUAH asked :

193. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the present contribution made by Government to Local Boards for medical purposes is sufficient?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the grants to Local Boards for medical purpose?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

193. (a) & (b)—As the contribution was considered not sufficient, Government recently sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 5,100 for a period of three years for the present in addition to the existing annual grant of Rs. 31,120. Government also propose to make a further grant if provision made in the Budget for 1947-48 for this purpose is passed by the Assembly.

Increase in the number of Muslim Holidays

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

194. (a) Are Government aware that the holidays granted to the Muslims on account of Idul-Fitr, Idul-Azha, Shabe-Barat and Maharram are insufficient?

(b) If so, do Government propose to increase the said holidays as follows :—

Idul-Fitr ...	...	10 days
Idul-Azha ...	...	5 "
Shabe-Barat	...	3 "
Muharram	...	10 "

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

194. (a)—Government do not consider this inadequate.

(b)—No. A Committee is, however, sitting to examine the list of holidays.

Condition of roads in Tezpur Municipality

Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

195. (a) Are Government aware that the roads within the Tezpur Municipality were much damaged owing to military traffic in 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to have these roads repaired at the cost of the military Department?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have represented to the Government of India urging for the payment of cost for causing such damage by military traffic ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

195. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The Government of India was moved in the matter without any result.

***Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** Will Government be pleased to state when the representation was sent to the Central Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Sir, I cannot say just now. I require notice of that for the exact date.

***Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** When the Government of India was moved ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : The reply we received some time back from the Government of India was dated the 4th April, 1946, in which they intimated us that no further correspondence in this respect should be made, because it would not be profitable. Apparently sometime before that time the Government of Assam referred the matter to the Government of India.

***Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS :** Shall I take it that the cost of repairs for the damages done to the roads will have to be borne by the Tezpur Municipality and that not only to the Municipality, but the Government have already granted some money from the Motor Vehicles Funds to some Local Bodies also.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : It may be, Sir. After a protracted correspondence it was made clear to the Government of Assam by the Government of India that no further correspondence should be made. So the Government of Assam ceased to pursue the matter any further.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Will Government take it from me that according to a request made by Government, the Municipalities and the Local Bodies submitted their estimates in connection with the damage done by the Military traffic during the last War, but nothing has been done as yet? The Municipalities and the Local Bodies have given several reminders, but no reply has been given as yet.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Government of India will not now look into the case of the Government of Assam and as a result nothing has been done. That was the reply of the Hon'ble Minister.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Sir, may I know from Government whether they have received estimates from different Local Bodies regarding the damages caused by the Military traffic?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Sir, I have no reason to doubt that when the hon. Member has said that the estimates have been submitted by different Local Bodies they must have been received by the Government. Without previous notice I cannot give the exact date of correspondence. There is no reason to believe that they were not received by Government.

***Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Will Government be pleased to move the Central Government regarding the payment of cost in connection with damages caused by the Military traffic to the roads of the Local Bodies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Sir, as I have already submitted, the matter was under correspondence with the Government of India. According to the last letter from that Government, there cannot be a question.

*Speech not corrected,

**Number of Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors
of Police**

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

196. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors of Police and Sub-Inspectors of Police in Assam (to be shown Valley by Valley and community by community including Tribals, etc.) ?
- (b) The proportion in each of these posts to which Muslims are entitled (to be shown Valley by Valley) ?
- (c) The number of transfers of officers in each of the above grades, made from February 1946 with the names and places from and to which transferred ?
- (d) The number of such officers transferred from Surma Valley to Assam Valley and from Assam Valley to Surma Valley during the said period ?
- (e) The names of such officers transferred to Assam Valley who served in Assam Valley before with the period of their previous Assam Valley Service ?
- (f) The number of officers-in-charge of different Police Stations in Surma Valley and how many are Muslims ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

196. (a)—The particulars cannot be supplied in respect of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors without enquiries which will take much time. If the hon. Member will be more specific, *e.g.*, stating a date for which the information is desired and whether it would include temporary officers, an attempt will be made to procure it.

(b)—A statement is given below for Deputy Superintendents of Police and for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors combined. Statement showing the total number of posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police, the number of posts to which Surma Valley Muslims are entitled and also the actual number of posts they hold

No. of posts of Deputy Superintendents of Police	Percentage of population	No. of posts to which Surma Valley Muslims are entitled	No. of posts to which Assam Valley Muslims are entitled	Actual No. of Muslims
21	Surma Valley Muslims 23.30 Assam Valley Muslims 14.29	4.8	3.09	8

Statement showing the percentage of posts in the Subordinate Police (Inspectors) held by each community and entitled to in January 1947

Community	Percentage of population	No. of posts sanctioned the community entitled to posts should be :—	Actual No.	Deficit	Excess
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1. Scheduled Caste Hindus—					
(a) Surma Valley ..	4.42	17.68	2	15.68	..
(b) Assam Valley ..	2.64	10.56	8	2.56	..
2. Other Hindus (excluding Ahoms and Tribal Hindus)—					
(a) Surma Valley ..	9.32	37.28	103	..	65.72
(b) Assam Valley ..	22.61	90.44	106	..	15.56
3. Muslims—					
(a) Surma Valley ..	23.30	93.20	62	31.20	..
(b) Assam Valley ..	14.29	57.16	38	19.16	..
4. Ahoms (including Buddhist Ahoms)	3.25	13	12	1	..
5. Indian Christians (other than Tribal Christians)	.32	1.28	4	..	2.72
6. Tribal Plains—					
(a) Assam Tribes ..	8.99	35.96	8	27.96	..
(b) Tea Garden Tribes ..	2.96	11.84	..	11.84	..
7. Tribal Hills—					
(a) Assam Tribes ..	7.64	30.56	6	24.56	..
(b) Tea Garden Tribes ..	Nil.	Nil.	..	..	..
8. Sikhs	.02	.08	3	..	2.92
9. Jains	.06	.24	..	..	..
10. Buddhist (excluding Buddhist Ahom and Tribal Buddhist)	.05	.20	2	..	1.80
11. Others (including Anglo-Indians, Europeans, other unspecified Christian, ..	.06	.24	15	..	14.76

(c) & (d)—Statements are laid on the Library table.

(e)—As a history of service is not maintained for non-gazetted officers, this would require laborious research and a special staff for the purpose.

(f)—Since transfers between police stations, courts, town and reserve are made by the Superintendent of Police this also would require collection of particulars as for a specified date.

Financial position of Provincial, District and Subdivisional Co-operative Banks of Assam

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

197. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The financial position of the Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam ?
- (b) The number of Subdivisional and District Co-operative Banks in Assam with their financial positions ?
- (c) The steps Government propose to take to improve their conditions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied :

197. (a)—A statement showing the financial position of the Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam is given below :

Statement showing the financial position of the Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam as on 1st April 1945

	Rs.
(1) Share capital	98,750
(2) Loans and deposits from individuals	31,096
(3) Loans and deposits from societies	57,147
(4) Deposits from central banks	35,680
(5) Reserve Fund	44,165
(6) Other funds	14,620
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Total working capital	2,81,458
Loan due against Central Banks	76,017
" " Societies	44,456
Of which overdues	97,874
Separate investment of R. F. & other funds	73,400

(b)—The number of Subdivisional and District Co-operative Banks in Assam is 18. A statement showing the financial position of these Banks is given below—

Statement showing the financial positions of the Subdivisional and District Co-operative Banks in Assam

Name of Central Banks	Share capital		Loans and deposits from individuals and other sources		Loans and deposits from Societies		Loans from Provincial Bank		Reserve Fund		Other funds		Separate investment of funds		Loans due by societies		Loans issued to societies		Loans repaid by societies		Working capital	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Cachar Central Co-operative Bank Limited.	17,978	99,102	26,835	8,100	14,572	30,100	17,656	323	14,600	1,96,867												
2. Sylhet Central Co-operative Bank Limited.	29,790	1,42,104	36,140	14,050	15,085	29,851	7,250	..	20,573	2,67,020												
3. Maulvibazar Central Co-operative Bank Limited.	4,216	3,430	11,433	18,845	2,235	1,125	3,550	..	1,209	41,284												
4. Karimganj Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	21,862	89,265	19,463	15,658	12,299	13,873	13,500	..	13,378	1,72,420												
5. Habiganj Central Co-operative Bank Limited.	8,069	60,148	11,794	..	33,074	151	500	..	8,870	1,13,236												
6. Bijni Co-operative Central Banking Union Limited.	4,600	3,220	3,202	..	1,904	991	2,000	..	2,014	13,917												
7. Dhubri Co-operative Central Bank Limited.	10,475	..	8,277	..	41,788	600	4,203	..	4,813	61,140												
8. Nalbari Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	3,250	6,050	2,818	..	3,028	1,272	1,211	..	2,508	16,418												
9. Gauhati Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	7,600	62,171	16,011	..	7,372	4,946	5,650	..	4,898	98,100												
10. Barpeta Co-operative Central Bank Limited.	3,375	641	4,173	8,280	871	580	2,500	100	3,096	17,920												
11. Nowgong Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	9,575	10,742	53,237	..	14,600	16,504	5,050	..	19,428	1,04,658												
12. Tezpur Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	5,025	39,230	11,377	..	5,775	5,214	4,000	..	6,707	66,621												
13. Mangaldai Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	6,825	4,290	10,213	..	2,277	1,358	9,550	203	4,128	24,963												
14. Sibsagar Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	7,175	2,582	17,193	..	4,823	2,602	550	..	15,664	34,375												
15. Jorhat Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	4,250	62,089	21,530	12,325	15,376	4,230	14,478	..	7,267	1,19,800												
16. Golaghat Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	7,675	33,828	7,745	..	18,210	17,686	2,500	4,500	12,558	85,144												
17. North Lakhimpur Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	2,725	..	3,357	..	1,039	1,421	1,200	..	295	8,542												
18. Dibrugarh Central Co-operative Banking Union Limited.	3,250	4,612	7,425	53	2,330	1,931	2,149	..	1,206	19,601												
.. .. Total	1,57,715	6,23,504	2,72,223	77,311	1,96,838	1,34,434	97,497	5,323	1,43,206	14,62,026												

(c)—A detailed investigation is in contemplation of Government.

Principle regarding allotment of Public Works Department Contract Works

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

198.(a) Is it a fact that Government enunciated and circulated the principle of distributing contract under the Public Works Department according to the ratio of communal quota and it is in practice now ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to discontinue this practice for the purpose of works under the Post-War Scheme ?

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

198.(a)—Yes. Copies are placed on the Library table.

(b)—No.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state whether the communal ratio will be kept district by district or the Province as a whole ? What is the policy of Government in this respect ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : The policy of Government is already laid on the Library Table and the Government policy will be found there in writing.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : We have not seen, Sir. Whether the communal ratio will be observed district by district or the Province as a whole ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : I cannot say just now what the Government policy is. But it is there laid on the Library Table and it is written there and the hon. Member may find from the items of the policies what the policy of the Government is. As far as I remember, the policy of the Government is according to the ratio in the district.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Are we to understand, Sir, that no outsiders or non-natives of the Province will be allowed to offer tenders ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : I suppose, anybody can offer tenders.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA : Whether Government are prepared to consider the tenders of such persons ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : In exceptional cases, Government can consider the tenders from outsiders when there are no tenders from inside the district concerned.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What about the companies ? To which communal complexion do they belong to ?

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : That will be considered, Sir, according to the necessity of the case. If there is any such company and if they are given work it is given only for the benefit of the Province and the case of that company will be considered by the Government.

*Speech not corrected.

Sub-Inspector of Schools, Beanibazar Circle

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

199. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of years that the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Beanibazar Circle, has put in at this station ?
- (b) Whether Government have received any complaint from the public regarding the conduct of this officer since his posting to that Circle ?
- (c) If so, whether any step was taken over these complaints ?
- (d) Whether Government purpose to transfer this officer from Beanibazar in the interest of the public service?

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

199. (a)—About ten years.

(b)—Government received complaints about the officer in connection with his alleged participation during the last electioneering campaign.

(c)—Enquiries were made and the allegations found baseless.

(d)—Orders have already been issued for the transfer of this officer from Beanibazar.

• **Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister where is that officer posted who has been transferred from Beanibazar in the interest of the public service ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : I cannot say anything off-hand. The Questioner's intention was whether Government has proposed to transfer the officer from Beanibazar in the interest of public service. I thought that the interest of the hon. Questioner is limited to that and therefore the officer is already transferred.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that he has been transferred to Seola, a place at a distance of three miles from Beanibazar ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : This might be so. But the officer has been transferred to a place three miles from the former place. If it is the intention of the hon. Questioner that he should be externed, in that case, Government will consider that question.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that Seola is three miles from Beanibazar? Will the Hon'ble Minister please see that he is transferred to a place beyond the sphere of his previous activities ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sir, that is an insinuation, because it would be found from the replies that orders have been already issued for the transfer of this officer from Beanibazar. The allegations are found baseless. The particular officer was in that place for several years together and as desired he has been transferred. Now if there is any definite allegation brought before Government against that particular officer, Government will take steps to transfer the officer from that locality.

*The Supplementaries were replied by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

†Speech not corrected. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in the

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : I was not going to raise any question about his participation in election in view of the orders of transfer. Otherwise I would have asked that a thorough enquiry be made about the conduct of that particular officer not only for his participation in the election affairs but for other activities under the advantage of Government Service.

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I would request the hon. Member to give something in writing—not here but outside the House, so that Government can proceed on the basis of this allegation. Otherwise this kind of vague allegations will not serve the purpose. If the hon. Member is really serious, I would request him to give something in writing, so that I can make necessary enquiries.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Have not some written reports already been filed by the people of this locality ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** May I know the date of such applications and whether these applications have been submitted after the enquiry or before ?

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA : Those do not relate to his complicity in the electioneering campaign, but defects in the discharge of his duties.

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** As I have already stated, I shall be obliged if my hon. Friend gives me something in writing, so that we can proceed.

†**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** Will Government be pleased to state when this enquiry was made ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I want notice of that Question.

†**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA :** Was it a public enquiry ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** It was a departmental enquiry.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : He was for ten years in that particular place. Did that fact attract Government's notice after receipt of the Question ?

†**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** This Government was not responsible for keeping that officer for ten years there.

Govindganj-Sunamganj portion of the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

200. Will Government be pleased to state in what short time do they propose to make the Govindganj-Sunamganj portion of the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road an all weather road ?

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

200. The surface will have been improved to all weather standard in 1947-48, but a number of gaps will remain unbridged. The present programme includes bridging only 8 out of 24 gaps, 2 of which must remain as ferries for a considerable number of years after the 22 gaps have been bridged.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: When do Government expect to finish the bridging of the gaps except the two rivers over which there are ferries?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: When materials will be available.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: What is the time when materials are expected to be available?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Within five years.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: Can it not be done earlier and thus avoid the difficulties to the public?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We are very much alive to the difficulties of the people, but materials are not available now. We should be thankful if we can get the materials to complete even the eight bridges which are in progress now.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: Did Government make any attempt to move the Government of India in proper time?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Government have done all that is possible to do.

†**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA**: Most of the gaps may be filled up by cement and bricks.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The question of cement is a big one. Cement is controlled by the Government of India. The share that we get will not be enough for work in the whole of Assam. So we are handicapped on account of materials.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: Is it not a fact that this Government did not make a demand for materials from the Government of India in proper time?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The question of proper time is a question of opinion.

†**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: That is the old monotonous reply given by Government. May I know from Government what active steps they have taken to remove this difficulty of men and materials?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am talking about the question of materials. What steps we are taking now, I have already replied to that.

*Speech not corrected.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: Can we not build the bridges with other materials ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We can build with bamboo which will be washed away in the middle of summer.

†**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA**: With wood ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Wooden materials will also be washed away in the middle of summer when the country will be flooded. There are some places in which we can build wooden bridges. There are others where we cannot, especially in a place like Sunanganj.

Sericultural Station at Jowai

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM asked :

201. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Why the proposed sericultural station at Jowai in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district which was accepted and included in the Budget for 1946-47, has not yet been started ?
- (b) Who is responsible for this delay ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to see that this is done at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied :

201. (a)—The Scheme was finally approved in January last. There was some unavoidable delay in selection of site and acquisition of land.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

†**Mr. LARSINGH KHYREIM**: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state where the site has been selected ?

†**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED**: I want previous notice of this Question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question was: "Will Government be pleased to state why the proposed sericultural station at Jowai in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills which was accepted and included in the Budget for 1946-47, has not been started?" The reply was: "The scheme was finally approved in January last. There was some unavoidable delay in selection of site and acquisition of land." It seems that the Hon'ble Minister is not conversant with the subject.

***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED**: The site has already been selected. In which particular place I cannot say.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: We shall be much obliged if the hon. Questioner gives the information himself. Perhaps he knows which site has been selected.

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: I do not know that, Sir. I wanted to know, by my Question, which site has been selected.

†Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED: The reply says that the scheme was finally approved in January last. There was some unavoidable delay in selection of site and acquisition of land.

Therefore, Sir, it will take a little more time to start the work.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister in reply says that the site has been selected and land has been acquired. Is that so?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the Hon'ble Minister is not aware which site has been selected.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Who selected the site?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED: The site was selected by the Department. Only in last January the site was selected and I have not yet been informed as to which site has been selected.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is strange that the site has been selected by the Department but the Hon'ble Minister has not been informed of it. Very well, I come to the next Question.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether an hon. Member is entitled to ask a certain Question to Government in order to be more sure about it even though he might have some idea of the Question.

The Hon'ble SPEAKER: Questions are asked and the supplementaries are allowed to be put in public interest to elicit information. This is the fundamental principle of putting questions and supplementaries. If any hon. Member already having the information sought for puts Questions by way of cross-examining the Hon'ble Minister with the intention of putting him in an awkward position, then he misuses the right of questioning. This is neither the purpose nor the intention of a Supplementary Question.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: How can Government presume that the hon. Member has got some idea of the Question he has put?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister did not say so. The hon. Member has put the Question and it was reasonable to suppose that he might know something about that particular matter as the hon. Questioner come from the Hill District to which the subject relates.

Price of Mustard Oil at Habiganj Town

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked:

202. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Messrs. Priya Bhandar of Habiganj town were allowed to sell mustard oil at Rs. 2-4-0 (Rupees two and annas four) per seer when the control rate was at Re. 1-11-0 (Rupee one and annas eleven) per seer?

(b) Is it a fact that at the same time the mustard oil imported by Messrs. A. Majid Khan, Isab Ali, Messrs. Afazuddin and others of Habiganj town were seized and sold at the control rate ?

(c) If so, why this differential treatment has been made ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

202. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

Holding of Muharram and Sikh Processions at Sylhet

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

203. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Muharram procession was allowed this year in the Sylhet town ?

(b) Why there was so much delay in granting permission for the same ?

204. Will Government be pleased to state why an unprecedented Sikh procession was allowed in Sylhet town on the 29th December, 1946 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

203. (a)—The procession was allowed on 8th December 1946 but was actually taken out on 22nd December 1946.

(b)—There was no delay in granting permission. The delay in taking out the procession was due to the leaders of the procession themselves, as they objected to certain restrictions imposed by the Deputy Commissioner to prevent any breach of the peace.

204.—The procession was allowed because a permit was taken out by the Sikhs.

Number of Muslims and Hindus in the Police Department

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked :

205. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Muslims in the Police Department in the Sylhet District, subdivision by subdivision, in respect of officers and constables and also the number of Hindus ?

(b) The number of Hindus and Muslims separately, in the Police Force both officers and subordinates, in the Sylhet town ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :
205. (a) & (b)—Statement is given below :—

Statement showing number of Hindu and Muslim Officers and men in the Police Department in Sylhet District, Subdivision by Subdivision and also in the Sylhet Town.

—	Deputy Superintendent of Police		Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Sub-Inspector	Assistant Sub-Inspector	Head Constables		Constables	Total				
	H.*	M.					H.	M.						
Sylhet Subdivision ...	2	1	3	3	24	7	28	8	4	3	146	106	207	128
Habiganj „	1	...	2	1	15	6	17	7	2	1	56	63	93	78
Sunamganj „	...	...	...	2	9	6	13	6	1	1	55	45	78	60
Karimganj „	1	...	1	...	10	2	10	3	1	1	37	44	60	50
Maulvi Bazar „	1	...	...	1	7	4	8	6	1	1	48	24	65	46
Total ...	5	1	6	7	65	25	76	30	9	7	342	292	503	362
Sylhet Town ...	2	1	3	3	15	5	19	5	4	3	99	77	142	94

* H—Hindu.

M—Muslim.

River Jiadhah in Dhemaji of Dibrugarh Subdivision

Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA asked :

206. (a) Is Government aware that the River Jiadhah in Dhemaji of Dibrugarh Subdivision diverges its course annually and causes heavy loss to crops ?

(b) Does Government propose to drain the river and straighten its course to the Brahmaputra?

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

206. (a) and (b)—Government have no information, but will have the suggestions examined.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH : Am I to take it that the suggestions will be examined after making an actual survey of the country and not on paper ?

The Hon'ble Mr. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I do not understand, Sir, why this Question has been asked, because examination does not mean merely a paper examination. It must be based on actual survey of the places.

Hardships and inconvenience experienced in travelling by the Bengal-Assam Railway

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

207. Are Government aware—

(a) That passengers travelling by Inter and Third Classes of the Bengal-Assam Railway are experiencing great hardship and inconvenience owing to overcrowding of passengers ?

(b) That passengers travelling with their families are put to untold misery while travelling by the said Railway ?

(c) That the Inter classes by which most of the middle class people travel with their families are being indiscriminately used by third class passengers and often by persons travelling without ticket causing great overcrowding and consequent inconvenience to Inter class ticket holders ?

(d) That there is no regular checking of tickets and even when some sort of checking takes place it becomes generally ineffectual owing to indifference on the part of the checkers ?

(e) That generally there are no cushions on the benches of Inter class compartments ?

(f) That owing to absence of cushions in the Inter class compartments ignorant third class passengers unable to distinguish Inter class compartment from third class and often occupy Inter class compartment ?

(g) That owing to the class indicating writings and figures being in English passengers ignorant of English are put to great inconvenience in ascertaining their compartments ?

(h) That there being no distinctive colouring of compartments according to the classes for which they are meant—passengers experience much inconvenience in ascertaining their compartments into which they are entitled to enter ?

208. If the reply to the above question be in affirmative, do Government propose to refer these grievances to the Bengal-Assam Railway authorities for redress and to suggest—(i) to increase accommodation for passengers of the Third and Inter classes adequately, (ii) to insist upon proper and regular checking of tickets, (iii) to provide Inter class compartments with good cushions,

(iv) to mark class indicating writings and figures in compartments in Indian Vernaculars and (v) to paint compartments in different colours according to different classes so as to enable a passenger to ascertain the compartment he is entitled to enter into, without difficulty ?

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

207. (a) to (h)—Government have not in their possession materials necessary either to admit or deny the allegations brought forth in the Question.

208.—Government will bring these to the notice of the Bengal-Assam Railway authorities and request for removal of the grievances.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In reply to Questions Nos.207 (a) to (h), the Hon'ble Minister has stated that—"Government have not in their possession materials necessary either to admit or deny the allegations brought forth in the question".

Are we to understand that the Hon'ble Minister did not travel in the Third or Inter Classes of the Bengal-Assam Railway or has not got any personal knowledge of the great hardship and inconvenience owing to over-crowding of passengers in the Third or Inter Classes of the Bengal-Assam Railway ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The Government are not in possession of materials either to admit or deny the allegations.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: My Question is whether the Hon'ble Minister has got any personal knowledge of the inconveniences of passengers travelling in the Third or Inter Classes.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no personal knowledge, Sir, in this respect of present conditions of particulars stated in the Questions, but I know there are inconveniences.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know whether the grievances of the passengers travelling by the Third and Inter Classes of the Bengal-Assam Railway have been brought to the notice of the authorities of the Bengal-Assam Railway by this time ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, Sir. We have sent the Questions of the hon. Questioner to the Bengal-Assam Railway authorities and we have asked them to remove the grievances.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: In this connection, may I submit one thing, Sir? The hon. Questioner has got a Representative in the Central Assembly and as this constitutes to be a Central subject, it would be more convenient if he would request his Representative in the Central Assembly to put this Question there. There is also a Railway Advisory Board where this question can be raised through the representatives of this House on that Board. It will, Sir, expedite the matter if this procedure is followed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course, the Hon'ble Minister is right so far what he states. But answers to the Questions indicate a state of affairs as if the popular Government are not in touch with the actualities in the Province.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: There are certain rules to be followed in regard to Central Subjects.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the people of this Province certainly look up to this Government for redress of their grievances.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If the Government feel that there are genuine grievances, I think, it would be better if the Provincial Government move the Railway Board in the matter. Though individual members may put Questions in the Central Assembly I do not think that will be so weighty as it will be if the Provincial Government move in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, this is not a new thing, particularly relating to this Province. This applies equally to almost all other Provinces and this fact is not unknown to the Central Government. The hon. Members may take it from me.....

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I think the condition is not similar in all the Provinces. Some improvements have already been made in other Railways.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Whatever might have been the condition in other provinces, I think, Sir, I, as a Member of this Assembly, am quite entitled to represent the grievances of the public of this Province travelling by that section of the Bengal-Assam Railway that fall in our Province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Nobody is disputing that.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I only request our Government to take it from me that the grievances are genuine and to do all they can to redress the grievances of the travelling public.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: I would suggest, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department should henceforward travel by the Third or Inter Classes of the Bengal-Assam Railway.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already said, Sir, that Government have written to the Bengal-Assam Railway Authorities asking them to remove the grievances.

Surma Valley Food-grains Syndicate and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Syndicate

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE HMED asked:

209. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following informations:—

- (a) The total quantity of paddy and rice purchased by the Surma Valley Food-grains Syndicate and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate during their period of operation?
- (b) The quantity that was taken delivery of by Government?
- (c) The quantity that was destroyed as decomposed and the quantity sold in auction as being unfit for human use?
- (d) The amount of money that was involved in the total transaction?
- (e) The total amount that were paid to the two Syndicates and their outstanding dues?
- (f) The amount that was spent by Government for direction and supervision?

(g) The total amount of loss sustained by Government ?

(h) The outstanding dues of the purchasers and other dealers to the Syndicates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

209. (a) to (h)—The matter is *sub-judice* and the information sought cannot therefore be supplied at this stage.

Arrangement for the conduct of Civil and Criminal cases before the High Court

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

210. (a) Is it a fact that Government are contemplating to make separate arrangements for the conduct of their Civil and Criminal cases before the High Court ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consult Mr. Nur Uddin Ahmed, President of the Assam Advocates Association, formed by the Advocates of this Province in Calcutta, in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

210. (a)—Yes.

(b)—At the instance of the Assam Advocates Association this question was raised, and Mr. Holi Ram Deka, Secretary of the Association, corresponded with this Government. So it is not necessary to consult any other gentleman in the matter. Moreover it is now too late to consult anybody as the decision has already been made.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for conducting Civil and Criminal cases before the High Court ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: We have appointed one Senior Government Advocate and two Junior Government Advocates to conduct the cases before the High Court in which the Government would be interested. They will maintain an office in one of the rooms of the High Court buildings with a Clerk. Monthly retainer of the Senior Advocate has been fixed at Rs.200 and that for the Junior Advocates has been fixed at Rs.100 each.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will Government be pleased to state the names of the persons appointed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The Senior Advocate Mr. Satyendra Kumar Bose, M.A, B.L., and two Junior Advocates, Mr. Bhabesh Chandra Barua and Mr. Sudhir Ranjan Dutta.

Industrial Training Institutions in India

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

211. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Industrial Training Institutions in India with their locations ?

- (b) The number of students that are being sent out to such Institutions by the Government of Assam annually ?
- (c) The number of such students who received training and are receiving training in various Industrial Institutes from 1930 onward (to be shown year by year, Valley by Valley and community by community including tribals, etc.) ?
- (d) Whether any students from Assam are sent out for Technical Engineering training to any such Institutions ?
- (e) If so, the number of students sent from 1930 onwards (to be shown year by year, Valley by Valley and community by community) ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied :

211. (a)—One hundred and five in the Madras Presidency, 39 in Bihar, 32 in the Punjab and 4 in Assam. Information from other provinces is not yet available.

(b)—There is no fixed number. The number of students deputed to other provinces depends upon the availability of seats and of provision for stipends in the budget.

(c)—The total number of students trained from 1930 onwards is 43. The number of students trained in each year is—

1930-31—7.
 1931-32—nil.
 1932-33—nil.
 1933-34—nil.
 1934-35—2.
 1935-36—nil.
 1936-37—4.
 1937-38—7.
 1938-39—8.
 1939-40—nil.
 1940-41—9.
 1941-42—nil.
 1942-43—nil.
 1943-44—nil.
 1944-45—1.
 1945-46—1.
 1946-47—4.

In the absence for records, some of which were destroyed, it is not possible to show the number of students valley by valley and community by community.

(d)—No student is sent out to Industrial Training Institutes for Technical Engineering Training, by the Department of Industries.

(e)—Does not arise.

**Head Clerk of the Public Works Department Subdivisional Office,
 Maulvibazar**

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

212. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) The period for which the Head Clerk of the Public Works Department, Divisional Office, Maulvibazar, is at Maulvibazar ?
- (b) Whether there is any time limit for such officials for staying at any particular station ?
- (c) If so, the reason for his stay at Maulvibazar for such a long time ?

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

212. (a)—Since 1st January 1944.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

Amalgamation of the Live-Stock Department with Veterinary Department

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

213. (a) Are Government aware that milk is the best balanced food for all especially for the children and that mortality amongst children is now increasing for want of milk ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider amalgamation of the Live-Stock Department with Veterinary Department as in Madras, the Punjab, Bombay and Mysore ?

(c) Are Government aware that Live-Stock Department is doing much better work in those Provinces than any other sister Provinces where this Department is kept under the Agriculture Department ?

(d) Do Government propose to ascertain these facts from those Governments, viz., Madras, the Punjab, Bombay and Mysore and place the results on the floor of this House for a careful examination and advice accordingly ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

213. (a)—Yes, but Government have no information of the increase of mortality for want of milk.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No ; at any rate, it is a matter of opinion.

(d)—Government do not see the utility of such a course as circumstances are not the same here as in other Provinces.

Special training in Journalism, Publicity and Propaganda

Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

214. (a) Are Government aware that there is lack of trained men in Assam for a successful Publicity and Propaganda ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to send students abroad, as a part of its Post-War Training Scheme, for special training in Journalism, Publicity and Propaganda ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

214. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government will consider this.

Golapganj-Bhadeswar Road

Maulavi Dewan ABDUR ROB CHOUDHRY asked :

215. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the last Government wanted to take up Golapganj-Bhadeswar Road of North Sylhet under the Public Works Department ?

(b) What were the reasons for which the present Government gave up the idea ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

215. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Assam Road Communications Board did not recommend its inclusion in the Post-War Reconstruction Programme.

Audit Report of the Motor Transport Organisation

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked :

216. (a) Is it a fact that in the Audit Report in the year 1946 under the Motor Transport Organisation the following defects were pointed out :—

“The Local audit of the accounts of the organisation revealed that the Stores Ledgers were not maintained properly”?

(b) Is it a fact that the same objections were raised in the Report previous to that ?

(c) If so, what was the reason for not remedying the defect and who was responsible for it ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

216. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A new system has been introduced with effect from 1st April 1946 in consultation with the Comptroller. It is designed to obviate past defects, which form the subject of the Report of the Enquiry Committee, now under review.

Stipends for Aero-nautical Training

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

217. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether this Government or the Central Government have made any provisions for giving Aero-nautical training to some youths of this Province ?

(b) If so, what are they ?

(c) Whether any persons of this Province have been given any stipends for obtaining higher training in Aeronautics in foreign Countries ?

(d) If so, who are the recipients ?

218. (a) If the reply to the above question be in the negative, do Government propose to take early steps to give some youths of this Province facilities for getting Aero-nautical training in India as well as in some foreign Countries ?

(b) Are Government aware that a number of youngmen of this Province who got preliminary training in Aero-nautical subjects and served during the last world war in the Air Force are sitting idle ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to give them facilities for acquiring higher training in aeronautics ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

217. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—The Government of India have included aeronautical training in the subjects proposed for foreign stipends. This Government have, however, not yet selected this subject for any candidate sponsored by them.

218. (a)—The matter will be considered in connection with stipends for 1948-49, as the subjects for 1947-48 have already been selected and advertised and the selection of candidates is in hand.

(b)—Government presume that this is so.

(c)—The information is given in the reply to (a) above.

Number of Hostels in the Cotton College, Gauhati

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

219. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many hostels are there in the Cotton College, Gauhati, and how many of them are for Muslim students and how many for the Hindu students ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that two more new hostels have been opened for the Hindu students only ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that many Muslim students are living outside for want of hostel accommodation ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to open another new hostel for the Muslim students ?
- (e) How many Hostel Superintendents are there in the Cotton College and how many of them are Hindus and how many are Muslims ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that there is one cosmopolitan hostel in Cotton College.
- (g) If so, who is the Superintendent of that hostel now ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction recommended the name of a Muslim Officer of the teaching staff for the Superintendentship of the Cosmopolitan Hostel ?
- (i) If so, why that recommendation has not been accepted by Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

219. (a)—Seven in all (including one for Girls), one Muslim and six Hindus.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—It is not a fact.
 (d) There is no demand at present.
 (e)—Seven in all. Six Hindus (including the Lady Superintendent for Girls' Hostel) and one Muslim.
 (f)—Yes.
 (g)—Professor Harendra Kumar Chaudhury.
 (h)—Director of Public Instruction is the appointing authority and the question of recommendation to Government does not arise.
 (i)—Does not arise.

**Vacancy in the Philosophy Department of the Murarichand College,
Sylhet**

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

220. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Who was appointed to the temporary vacancy in the Philosophy Department of the Murarichand College, Sylhet in the chain of the transfer of Professor P. C. Sanyal to Cotton College, Gauhati, as Principal ?
- (b) Who made the appointment ?
- (c) Date of joining the duty by the appointee ?
- (d) When was the gentleman so appointed discharged from service ?
- (e) By whom was he replaced ?
- (f) What are the academic qualifications of the two persons concerned ?
- (g) The principle underlying such an arrangement, namely, appointing to a temporary vacancy and then within a few days having him replaced by another ?

†The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

220. (a)—Maulavi Rafique Uddin Ahmed.

(b)—Government.

(c)—19th November 1946 (afternoon).

(d)—The appointee is still continuing in another chain.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—The appointee is a second class M. A. in Philosophy.

(g)—Temporary appointments against short time vacancies are generally filled under Public Service Commission Regulation 33 by those who acted on previous occasions and their appointments had the approval of the Public Service Commission.

In the present case Government was moved for the acting appointment of Maulavi Rafique Uddin Ahmed (Unofficial No.435-A., dated 13th November 1946) as he acted on a previous occasion and he was asked to join in anticipation of sanction. In the meantime one Babu Guru Saday Bhattacharjee (M. A. in Philosophy, class I) was entertained as a stop-gap arrangement. He acted for the period from 13th to 19th November 1946 when he was relieved by Maulavi Rafique Uddin Ahmed (Unofficial No.479-A., dated 6th December 1946).

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA : Is it a fact that Babu Guru Saday Bhattacharyya was appointed temporarily in the vacancy of Professor P. C. Sanyal ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** The position has been made perfectly clear in last paragraph under (g).

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA : Was he taken as a temporary measure ?

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

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA : What was the necessity of temporarily appointing Babu Gurusaday Bhattacharyya ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Temporary short time vacancies are generally filled up by those who acted on previous occasions and their appointments have to be approved by the Public Service Commission. As regards Babu Guru Saday Bhattacharjee it will be found that in the present case Government was moved for the acting appointment of Maulavi Rafique Uddin Ahmed (Unofficial No.435-A., dated the 13th November 1946) as he acted on a previous occasion and he was asked to join in anticipation of sanction. In the mean time one Babu Guru Saday Bhattacharjee (M. A. in Philosophy, Class I) was entertained as a stop-gap arrangement. He acted for the period from 13th to 19th November 1946 when he was relieved by Maulavi Rafique Uddin Ahmed (Unofficial No.479-A., dated 6th December 1946).

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA : What is the principle behind appointing a man for 6 or 7 days only ?

†The Supplementaries were replied by the Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE in the absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

*Speech not corrected.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He was appointed as a stop-gap arrangement as he had got some experience just like Mr. Rafique Uddin Ahmed. This principle is followed by Government in other cases also.

Numerical strength of wholesalers and retailers in Surma Valley

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked:

221. Will Government be pleased to state the numerical strength of the wholesalers and retailers, subdivision by subdivision, in the Surma Valley and the percentage of Muslim and Hindu wholesalers and retailers in each subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:

221.—A statement is placed on the Library table.

Government grants to non-Government Public Libraries

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

222. Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given by them to Unstarred Question No.66 asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua, M.L.A., during the last September Session of the Assembly (page 1131 of the Assembly Debates) and state—

- (a) Whether Government have decided to create an item of expenditure for giving Government grants to non-Government public libraries?
- (b) If the reply to the above question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—(i) Whether Government have made provision for such a grant in the coming year's Budget and (ii) the amount of money allotted for this purpose?
- (c) If the reply to question (a) above is in the negative, do Government propose to create such an item of expenditure in the near future?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

222. (a)—Yes.
 (b) (i)—Yes, Rs.1,000 for 1947-48.
 (ii)—Another sum of Rs.1,000 recurring was provided in 1945-46 for village and circulating libraries in connection with the Mass Literacy Campaign.
 (c)—Does not arise.

Professors of Sanskrit College, Sylhet

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY asked:

223. (a) Is it a fact that the Professors of the Government Sanskrit College at Sylhet draw a lesser grade of pay than the Professors of the Government Madrassa, Sylhet?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to revise the scale of pay of the Professors of the Sylhet Sanskrit College to bring it at par with that of the Professors in the Sylhet Madrassa?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI replied :

223. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No, because the Sylhet Sanskrit College is not on a par with the Sylhet Madrassa.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : May I know, Sir, what is the difference between the syllabus of the Government Sanskrit College and the Government Madrassa, Sylhet ?

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Sir, I have not got the syllabus with me and so I cannot answer the question off-hand.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.13

(29.—POLICE)

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.60,98,800 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 "29.—Police".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.60,98,800 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 '29.—Police'."

The first † Cut Motion stands in the name of hon. Mr. Stevens.

Mr. W. R. FAULL : I am sorry to say that Mr. Stevens is in hospital and he is not therefore in a position to move his Cut Motion, Sir.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : I beg to move, Sir, that the total provision of Rs.60,98,800 under Grant No.13, Major head 29.—Police, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.60,98,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the desirability of establishment of some additional Police Stations in the BARPETA Subdivision. That there is a definite need of some additional Police Stations in the Subdivision cannot be doubted by any body. The jurisdictions of some Police Stations having been great, and some of the localities having been placed at great distances from the Police Stations and besides the communication of the whole Subdivision being very bad, in a great number of cases the charge sheets are not submitted for obvious reasons and the miscreants escape

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied the Supplementaries in the absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

†1. Mr. H. J. STEVENS to move :

That the provision of Rs.89,054 under Grant No. 13, Major head 29.—Police, Minor head B.—District Executive Force, (a) District Police, Sub-head 1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 86 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.60,98,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw the attention of Government to the need for having a sufficient number of senior and responsible officers attached to the armed forces.)

freely. In this connection I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that in the jurisdiction of one Police Station alone during the course of about the last eight months there have been six reported cases without any charge sheets. There are besides many unreported cases and burglary cases. In the aforesaid circumstances, I think, that the Government will see their way to have at least two Police Stations—one in the immigrant area and another in the tribal area—established immediately in the Subdivision. I venture to suggest that Baghbar in the Baghbar mauza and Salbari in the Bijni mauza will be suitable sites for the same.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“ That the total provision of Rs. 60,98,800 under Grant No. 13 Major head 29.—Police, at page 85 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 60,98,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1. ”

Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we are discussing about the Grant for Police, may I just draw the attention of Government to the desirability of having additional armed constables in view of the situation that is being attempted to be created in the Province? Sir, it is well known that there is a threat, an organised threat, to peace and tranquillity of the Province, and it is specially so in a number of Districts which adjoin the Province of Bengal. The strength of the police at the disposal of the Government is known to you, Sir, and to all hon. Members of this House. So, I beg humbly to suggest that it is high time that Government should take into consideration the immediate necessity of giving additional strength to the police, especially the armed police, so that no untoward incidents can be possible in the Province. It is no good giving relief to sufferers or to rush help to quell disturbances after mischief has been done. I, therefore, feel, Sir, that unless immediate steps be taken to increase the present strength of the police that is at the disposal of the Government, it would not be possible for the Government to maintain law and order just at the present moment. I therefore suggest that, even though it will be an additional expenditure to the Province for some time, steps be taken by Government for having additional armed police with other necessary equipments.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Cut Motion that has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Das, I may assure him that the point on which he laid stress is under the consideration of Government. As a matter of fact, Sir, Government has undertaken the question of creating a police station at Bahgbar. Now, my hon. Friend wants another police station in the tribal area. Of course, that matter will be taken into consideration by Government.....

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Sir, may I request the Hon'ble Minister to have more police stations in the District of Kamrup?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The Hon'ble Minister to raise a discussion about the desirability of establishment of additional police stations in the Subdivision of Barpeta. But when my Friend has raised that question I can tell him that that matter also is under the consideration of Government.

With regard to the point that has been raised by Mr. Himatsingka I like to tell him that I quite appreciate what he has emphasised and that Government are aware of the situation that is developing in this Province, and I assure him that what can be done to strengthen the Police is engaging the attention of Government.

I may again assure my hon. Friends that as soon as Government come to a decision that decision will be implemented with promptitude.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Sir, on the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,98,800 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 '29.—Police'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 19

(39.—PUBLIC HEALTH)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,45,800 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 "39.—Public Health."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,45,800 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 '39.—Public Health'."

There is a Cut Motion standing in the name of Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 10,000 under Grant No. 19, Major head 39.—Public Health, Minor head B.—Grants for Public Health purposes, Sub-head—Grants for Economic Development of Rural Areas, Detailed head—Water Supply, at page 130 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 19,45,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, the object of my bringing this Cut Motion is to criticise the Government on their failure to make adequate provision for concrete ring wells for drinking purposes in both the urban and rural areas.

In the urban areas, some municipal towns such as Tezpur and Gauhati particularly have not been able to provide proper water supply to the tax payers on account of their old and damaged water pumping machines. The Tezpur water pumping machine is so old and damaged that the Tezpur Municipality cannot supply adequate drinking water to the rate payers as they should. In such cases the Government should help such municipal towns with such grants as to enable them to remove the scarcity of water which the rate payers find. Sir, where the water pumping machine does not work properly the Government should allot some special grant for a new machine as the Tezpur Municipality requires or

grant loans for the same. They might also earmark some special grants for providing concrete ring wells. The Tezpur Municipality, for want of fund, cannot even provide sufficient concrete ring wells for drinking purposes. So, Sir, I urge upon the Government to provide a special fund for the Tezpur Municipality in order to relieve the poor suffering people of their hardship on account of drinking water, which is so very necessary to maintain their lives.

I have finished what I had to say about municipal areas. I shall now deal with the rural areas. In Tezpur Local Board area, from where I come, sufficient arrangements do not exist for supplying drinking water to the people in the interior villages. We all know that pure drinking water is very necessary for our health. If people drink foul water they are liable to suffer from all sorts of diseases such as cholera, malaria, and other water-borne diseases. I must therefore request the Hon'ble Minister not to forget the case of these poor people in the interior villages, and to grant some contribution to them to have enough concrete wells.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 10,000 under Grant No. 19, Major head 39.—Public Health, Minor head B.—Grant for Public Health purposes, Sub-head—Grants for Economic Development of Rural Areas, Detailed head—Water supply, at page 130 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 19,45,800 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member in moving his Cut Motion has drawn the attention of Government towards the water supply condition of Gauhati and Tezpur Municipalities. His intention is that Government should give grants to these Municipalities for the purpose of supplying pure drinking water. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government in reply to certain questions stated the other day that Government would consider the question of granting aid for the purpose to these local bodies when they will submit their representations to Government through proper channel.

As regards supply of pure drinking water in the villages, Government are not unmindful of their duties towards the villagers in this respect. And it is only for this reason that Government have this year budgeted a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for aiding the local bodies for the supply of pure drinking water in the villages. It is therefore obvious that Government are not at all unmindful to this problem. In view of all these, Sir, I hope the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : After the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health, I do not find any necessity to press my Motion, Sir. I would only hope that the cases of the Tezpur Municipality from where I come and the Tezpur rural areas would receive his sympathetic consideration. I would therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,45,800 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 '39.—Public Health'.”

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 18

(38.—MEDICAL)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,61,200 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 “38.—Medical”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,61,200 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 '38.—Medical'.”

There are several Cut Motions.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 9,48,652 under Grant No. 18, Major head 38.—Medical, Minor head B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 124 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 18,61,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, the object of bringing this Cut Motion is to criticise Government on their failure to establish enough hospitals and dispensaries in the interior villages of the Province. Hospitals and dispensaries are at present located at great distances apart, some 10 miles, some 20 miles and even more in some cases. The hospitals are very few in this Province compared to other provinces. The poor suffering patients in the interior villages cannot go to distant Government or Local Board dispensary to get their medicine. So, they suffer terribly, in some cases patients die for want of medicine. The poor people in the interior villages, due to their ignorance, use quack medicine and *jungli* medicine, and in some places we find untrained *dais*, who cannot treat properly, and as a result women have also to die for want of medical attention and nurses. Do not the Members of this hon. House feel for them? Government should open more hospitals and dispensaries in the interior villages. If for lack of funds they cannot increase the number of hospitals and dispensaries, at least they should have enough travelling dispensaries with doctors and medicines for the poor people in the interior villages, and this can at least save them from their suffering and death. I hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical will do his best to help these poor people in getting medical supplies which are essential for their very living.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 9,48,652 under Grant No. 18. Major head 38.—Medical, Minor head B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 124 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.18,61,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under section 56 of the Local Self-Government Act the responsibility of giving medical aid in the rural areas lies with the Local Boards. Although, Sir, it lies with the Local Boards, Government are not unmindful of their duties in this respect towards the village people. In the year 1945-46 Government in order to give medical aid to the village people sanctioned, in addition to the existing number, three subsidised dispensaries, but in the year 1946-47, that is, in our time, we have sanctioned eighteen subsidised dispensaries for the village people. And in the next year's Budget we have provided fifteen more subsidised dispensaries for this purpose. Sir, we have taken this matter in right earnest and, therefore, we have been gradually increasing the number of subsidised dispensaries in the villages.

Furthermore, Sir, we have decided to provincialise five District hospitals which are at present being run by Local Boards. In coming to this conclusion we have made it a condition precedent with the existing Local Boards that the money that would be saved by the provincialisation of the District hospitals will have to be devoted by them in giving medical aid in villages. Besides, Sir, as the condition of the Local Boards is not good, this Government have budgeted Rs. 76 lakhs to help them so that they may be able to improve the medical aid in villages. With these words, Sir, I hope, the hon. Member is convinced that this Government are not unmindful towards giving medical aid to the villagers and will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: What I understand from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Medical is that he has got a plan for the future to see to the needs of the poor villagers in the interior and to provide them with good medicine in place of quack and unscientific medicine and that he will also see that Assam is brought up to the level of other provinces. Everybody knows that Assam is the abode of malaria and *kala-azar* and, as such, the people are suffering and dying on account of these diseases and they need scientific medicine above all other things. As now the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Medical has assured that he is not unmindful to the matter, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am constrained to tell the hon. Member that in future opportunities will not be provided to make this House a ready platform for his cheap propagandâ.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Mr. Palmer may now move his Cut Motion.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 18,61,200 under Grant No. 18, Major head 38.—Medical, at page 119 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 18,61,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Cut Motion is to urge the need for amending section 4 of the Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944, at an early date. The Planting and Commerce Group had intended to introduce a Bill with this object in view, but the period prescribed for notice of Private Members' Bills had expired before the Bill could be drafted and it will probably be quicker in the end if Government sponsor a measure for making the necessary change. The reasons for amending the Maternity Benefit Act are well known and I need not perhaps go into details. A Tripartite Conference was held in New Delhi on the 8th and 9th of January in which the Government of Assam, the employers and workers

were represented. It was agreed at this Conference that the existing scale of Maternity Benefit should be raised and the effect of this decision renders section 4 of the Act obsolete since it fixes by law a minimum which is lower than employers will have to pay. While it might be argued that this higher payment can be left to agreement, the view of this Group is that it will be in the interests of both employers and employees to have the statutory minimum raised to the level accepted mutually by agreement between the Governments concerned, employers and employed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 18,61,200 under Grant No. 18, Major head 38.—Medical, at page 119 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 18,61,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion that section 4 of the Assam Maternity Benefit Act, 1944, should have to be amended and brought in line with the agreement reached in the Tripartite Conference. But, Sir, the details discussed in the Tripartite Conference to reach the agreement have not been given to us; only the figure of Rs. 5-8-0 was noted. But whether the other concessions in addition to cash payment that are contemplated under the present Maternity Benefit Act would or would not be given effect to in addition to the cash benefit they agreed to give according to the agreement, i. e., Rs. 5-8-0 per week, is not clear to us; and before amending this section, I think, Sir, this point should be cleared and then the section amended. I assure the hon. Member that this point will be discussed with the representatives of the Tea Industry as well as the representative of the Government of India. After discussion, the necessary amendment to the Bill will be brought before this House.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: I am sorry, Sir, I do not quite understand the point.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The point is—that in addition to the cash payment there are many other concessions granted under the Maternity Benefit Act. But I am sorry to inform the hon. House that the Hon'ble Minister in charge who attended the Conference is now ill, and is lying in hospital, and therefore I am not aware of the points that were discussed. The points that have to be examined are—

(1) Is the cash benefit to be in addition to, or reduced by, free issues (e. g., in hospital) and the value of food concessions?

(2) From what date is the eight weeks of cash benefits to run? Is this to be dependent, as in the Assam Act, on medical advice?

(3) If the provisions of the Assam Act are satisfactory on the latter point, then is the period of eight weeks to be extensible according to medical opinion and the actual date of delivery? Is any minimum period for post-natal benefit to be laid down?

(4) Is the woman, as in the Assam Act, to be allowed light work during the pre-natal period? If so, then is the cash benefit to be inclusive or exclusive of her earnings?

(5) Is any maximum limit to be laid down, as in the Assam Act, to guard against an incorrect calculation of the period for which the cash benefit is to be drawn at Rs. 5-8-0 per week, during the pre-natal period?

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Yes, that is quite so. But we feel that this benefit should have statutory force.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I quite agree with the hon. Mover. After consideration of these points the Bill will be drafted to amend section 4 of the Maternity Benefit Act.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister to amend section 4 of the Maternity Benefit Act as soon as the points have been elucidated I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,61,200 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 '38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

Motion *re* Creation of Publication Fund

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we pass on to the supplementary list of business of the day. The first item, namely, *motion *re* Creation of "Publication Fund," is in the name of Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. I think, this item should stand over till his arrival.

Item No. 2 stands in the name of Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee.

Motion *re*: Food and Supply position of the Province

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Food and Supply position of the Province be taken into consideration.

In moving this Motion I would like to place before the hon. House certain facts which will make the present position clear. It is well-known to the hon. Members that excepting rice and paddy this Province is almost entirely dependent on other provinces for all other foodstuffs, *viz.*, dal, wheat products, salt, sugar, mustard oil, gur, etc. So far as rice and paddy are concerned, the Province continue to be surplus in spite of the floods of the last year, but the Government's export policy has been guided by the consideration of internal requirements and safety. The position was explained in a booklet entitled "The Supply Position in Assam" about nine weeks ago.

Sir, the Procurement Department since it commenced operations from July 1946 has exported about 40,000 tons of rice to Madras, Bengal, Bihar and for the Defence services. Besides this, all internal requirements have been fully met. Those Indian Tea Association circles which take rice and paddy through Government are regularly supplied with about 1,50,000 maunds of rice and paddy monthly. Besides the Indian Tea Association, there are other industries and concerns who are regularly supplied with rice. The Railway in Assam is a large internal consumer and is supplied with from 20,000 to 25,000 maunds of rice every month. Besides industries and railways there is a considerable demand for rice by rationed towns and areas. In Lakhimpur District and deficit areas such

*1. Motion to be moved by the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi regarding the creation of "Publication Fund" in connection with the compilation and publication of historical works by the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies.

as the Frontier Tracts the monthly demand for approximately 20,000 maunds of rice is fully met. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills take large quantities of rice and while about 40,000 maunds a month comes up to Shillong, another 10,000 maunds are taken by Khasi and Jaintia Hills traders, for the southern portion of the Hills from Sylhet godowns. While these are normal demands and are fully met, crisis in various parts of the Province often arises and supplies are rushed to the affected areas. Between August and December 1946 a serious situation arose in the Surma Valley. Rationed areas and tea gardens in that Valley were supplied with about 3,00,000 maunds of rice and paddy from the Assam Valley. With a good winter crop in Cachar, supplies to that Valley from the Assam Valley have been stopped.

Government have opened a fair number of centres for direct purchase from the cultivator. Government's concern was to ensure the cultivator a minimum price. Due to competition from mills, tea gardens, etc., the cultivator, except in inaccessible areas, has been getting a fairly good price for his paddy. Though Government has not been able to buy large quantities of paddy direct from the cultivator the object of opening godowns has been achieved, and the cultivator gets more than his minimum price.

The Procurement Department has been able to ensure supplies to all areas ; has prevented speculation and hoarding ; has maintained prices at a stable level ; has helped deficit provinces ; has brought in fairly substantial revenues to the Provincial Exchequer. In view of the alarming rise in the prices of foodstuffs other than rice which have to be imported from outside the Province, as well as the other necessaries of life, the Government have moved the Central Government to raise the prices of rice and paddy to benefit our cultivators and to save them from their present economic difficulties. The Government of India did not agree in the past, but as we were pressing hard all along, recently a conference has been called and we have sent our representatives to attend the conference and to place our view-point before it. In the past, though the Government of India did not agree to raise the prices of rice and paddy they however gave an explicit assurance that the prices of all other commodities would be scaled down to bring them in parity with the prices of rice and paddy, which unfortunately has not been fulfilled as yet. Up to 1st March 1947 we have exported 10,335 tons of rice and 3,477 tons of paddy under the current 'Kharif Plan' and we have given the Central Government sufficient indication and warning that unless the prices of rice and paddy are raised we would not be in a position to implement our commitments under the current 'Kharif Plan'. The situation will be clear when our representatives return from Delhi after attending the conference.

Sir, allotments of foodstuffs are made by the Central Government on the surpluses declared by the respective provinces and States. The Central Government or the Provincial Governments of the deficit areas have practically no say in the matter of declaration by the respective surplus provinces and States. Whatever is declared as surplus is taken as correct, though the experience of this Government goes to show that the provinces and States generally under-estimate their surplus in order to safeguard the interest of their own traders and consumers. So, naturally the Government of India's allotments based on the declared surpluses fall far short of the requirements of the deficit provinces. In addition to this owing to the unreasonable attitude of the surplus provinces and States, combined with ineffective control of the Central Government, only a fraction of the provincial allotments can be imported, which upsets all the plans of procurement and equitable distribution within the deficit provinces. Almost in all cases the plans remain in paper, the control remains in paper and prices and quotas are nothing but paper quotations. Over and above this there are other difficulties, viz., the quotas are allotted from different provinces and States which also make the procurement position more complicated. In spite of our protests our quotas have been allotted from different provinces and States.

Our traders who used to deal formerly with the neighbouring provinces are to go to far distant places where they had formerly no business connection. Ignoring our repeated protests the small allocation for Assam has been spread over to several provinces and farflung Indian States, causing enormous difficulties in procuring Assam's meagre quotas. In comparison to our actual requirements we got very little allotment from the Central Government. Moreover the allotments made at the first instance are cut down and at the same time prices of all commodities are raised by the surplus provinces far above even the wartime level with the concurrence of and sometimes even in violation of the directions from the Government of India, with the result that the consumers of the deficit provinces are suffering beyond description.

I shall take up one after the other the imported foodstuffs.

Gur.—If we take 50 per cent. of the population as consuming Gur at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per head per month the total annual requirement comes to approximately 33,000 tons. The indigenous production cannot be more than 13,000 tons—thus leaving a deficit of about 20,000 tons. But the quota allotted to us is only 10,000 tons.

Sugar.—Taking 10 per cent. of the population as consuming at the rate of 1 seer per head per month, the requirement comes to about 12,000 tons. Taking 40 per cent. of the population consuming $\frac{1}{4}$ th seer per head per month, the requirement comes to 12,000 tons, and taking another 40 per cent. of the population as consuming at the rate of $\frac{1}{8}$ th seer per head per month, the requirement comes to 6,000 tons. Thus our total requirement is 30,000 tons. This leaves out 10 per cent. of the population as not taking sugar at all, but the quota allotted is 16,700 tons only.

Wheat products.—Taking 40 per cent. of the population as taking wheat products at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ seer per head per month on average, our total annual requirement comes to about 36,000 tons. The rest of the population, let us take, do not consume wheat products. Our current month's quota for wheat and wheat products is : wheat—700 tons and imported flour—300 tons, i.e., a total of 1,000 tons, as against the normal monthly quota of 2,500 tons (2,000 tons of wheat and 500 tons of imported flour). We have been promised that from April next, the present quota will be raised and we shall be getting 2,000 tons per month.

Salt.—Sir, it is well known that salt has been decontrolled and our information is that there is no scarcity of this commodity anywhere in this Province.

Pulses.—Excluding children, Hills population and a fair portion of plains population, half of our total population may be taken as consuming *dals* and pulses at the rate of 1 seer per month per head; on this basis our annual requirement is approximately 66,000 tons. The indigenous production is about 16,000 tons; so we are in deficit to the extent of approximately 50,000 tons. The total quota allotted for Assam during 1946-47 was about 40,000 tons of which we received only about 20 per cent. There is a great danger for the next year in moving our balance quota from the Central Provinces as our report is that the pulse crop there has entirely failed due to some kind of insect attack. Now, Sir, not only our quota is short but there are other difficulties and it has become impossible for Government to fix the price in some places as Rs. 6-4-0 was charged per maund as cess on *dal* that we received from some States. For the *dal* received from Nava and Faridkut there are difference in prices. This also has caused difficulties, in fixing the prices. Over and above that, Sir, the quality of *dal* is also not satisfactory and, sometimes, our traders are compelled to refuse. Sometimes it was reported that the *dal* from the United Provinces was not fit for human consumption. This matter was brought to the notice of the Central Government, but practically without any effect.

Mustard Oil.—Deducting 10 per cent. of the total population as not taking mustard oil and allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per head per month to the rest of the population, the annual requirement of oil, exclusive of local product, comes approximately to 30,000 tons; as against this we were allotted a quota of 8,000 tons from the United Provinces, and 2,000 tons from the Rajputana State, of which barely 20 per cent. could be procured. Here also I need not dilate because edible oils have been decontrolled, but on account of the feeling prevailing in different parts of the Province I do mention here a few facts just to explain why people suffered so much due to scarcity of mustard oil. Our traders could not procure mustard oil at the controlled price because the United Provinces traders made some arrangements with the traders in Bengal, who offered higher price. This matter was brought to the notice of the Central Government as well as of the United Provinces Government, but they could not render any help to us. Sir, it sometimes so happened that our traders purchased and made payment for the mustard oil. They moved the mustard oil to the railway station and when they were about to load the mustard oil, some circular reached the station master concerned that no more oil should be sent to Assam until further notice, and thereby our traders were put to great difficulties. On two or three occasions, while I was at Delhi this was brought to the notice of the Central Government and after a great deal of struggle I became successful just to have this quota moved. I give one or two instances how difficult it was for us because of the unsympathetic attitude of the United Provinces. I think it will not be divulging any secret when I say that I enquired of the places in Rajputana State where we were allotted mustard oil. The officer in-charge could not give me the names of particular States. This was the condition in which we were put and this is why we could not bring our allotted quota of mustard oil for the people of the Province. I am sorry, Sir, that the inhabitants of this Province suffered a great deal for the scarcity of mustard oil, but I hope as the commodity has already been decontrolled, in the course of a few months the matter will come to normal stage and the price will be stabilised so that everybody will be able to have some mustard oil for their consumption.

Kerosene.—From 1st October 1946, Assam's monthly quota has been 6,68,077 gallons which is 86.48 per cent. of 1941 offtake. The population has since increased by about 10 per cent and our deficit comes to about 70,000 gallons per month. The total requirement per month may be taken as approximately 7,40,000 gallons. However the position is not unsatisfactory.

Consumer Goods (General).—As long as there was control over distribution of the more important items of consumer goods, viz., cycles, lanterns, stationery articles, crockery, watches, toilet goods, spectacle-frames, glass-sheets, fountain pens, silk and woollen materials, etc. we were getting quotas of all these articles under Release Orders issued by the Government of India from time to time and the supply was fairly satisfactory as far as these articles were concerned. Unfortunately, however, these articles were gradually taken out of the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order with a gradual fall in the supply to this Province. Despite our protest, the last item, viz. woollen materials have also been decontrolled by the Government of India with effect from 1st January 1947. The supply position in Assam is all the more unsatisfactory on account of its having no port of its own and thereby being wholly dependent on Bengal for imported materials. While decontrolling the above-mentioned consumer goods, the Government of India however expressed that they believed that the supply position had considerably improved and they hoped for further improvement in the near future. As regards Indian woollen goods, for which there is a great demand in this Province, particularly in the Hill stations, our Deputy Director of Consumer

Goods personally contacted the Deputy Director of Industries, United Provinces, recently and the latter assured him of his assistance in arranging supplies of wool-len materials from his Province to indentors of this Province.

At present there is control over the distribution of the following important items of consumer goods, viz. (1) umbrella cloth, (2) cocoanut oil, (3) iron and steel, (4) non-ferrous metals, (5) cement and (6) paper.

(1) *Umbrellas and materials.*—We were allotted 1,05,000 yards of umbrella cloth last year which was distributed among the *bona fide* manufacturers of umbrellas all over the Province. Umbrellas manufactured out of this cloth have been sold through *bona fide* dealers at controlled prices. Besides, this, a quota of 5154 dozens of readymade umbrellas was allotted to Assam which were to be supplied by the Calcutta Umbrella Merchants' Association. Unfortunately, however, only about 3,000 dozens umbrellas were made available by them not only late in the season but with old and rusted ribs and inferior quality cloth. As a result, despite the great demand for umbrellas some quantity has still remained unsold. In 1945 we were allotted only 59,800 yards of umbrella cloth for manufacture of umbrellas in this Province and we were asked to collect major portion of our requirement in the form of readymade umbrellas from the Calcutta Umbrella Merchants' Association. In 1946 although a larger quantity of cloth was allotted to us, we were all the same tagged to the Calcutta Umbrella Merchants' Association for supply of a large number of readymade umbrellas and it will appear from what I have mentioned just now that our experience has not been any sweeter than before. The 1,05,000 yards of cloth which was allotted to us in 1946 could readily be converted into good quality umbrellas by the manufacturers in this Province and it was ascertained that they could easily consume more materials if they were made available to them. It is for this reason and also for the fact that we have every time been let down by the Calcutta Umbrella Merchants' Association, we have asked for 1,50,000 yards of umbrella cloth for 1947.

(2) *Cocoanut Oil.*—During the year 1946 the supply position was very bad Assam's quota of Ceylon cocoanut oil was 5 per cent. of Bengal's quota and was to be available through Bengal. During the year only 2 quotas were received from Bengal one of 180 tons in April and one of 30 tons in November/December 1946. Private enquiries, however, revealed that Bengal had received several consignments of Ceylon cocoanut oil during the year, and presumably Assam was deprived of its legitimate share of 5 per cent. We, therefore, approached the Government of India for a separate quota independent of Bengal, sufficient to meet our requirements and have got assurance of an adequate quota. As regards Cochin cocoanut oil hitherto there was a free trade, in other words, any *bona fide* party could go to Cochin and collect and transport its requirement of cocoanut oil to Assam under a permit to be issued by us. Cochin and Travancore oil has since been controlled by the Government of India and we have been assured of regular quota of the same. Assam has been tentatively allotted 300 tons of Ceylon and 900 tons of Cochin and Travancore cocoanut oil for 1947. At my request, the Government of India have agreed to increase these allotments by 100 per cent. We are going up to the Government of India with a proposal supported by actual figures of our requirements for a further increase in our quotas by another 100 per cent.

(3) *Iron and Steel.*—Up to the end of March 1946 this Province was getting a quarterly quota of iron materials from the Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India. The articles were collected by the Assam Government's agents in Calcutta and sent to the different distribution centres in this Province according to Government instructions. With effect from 1st April 1946 Government of India relaxed Iron and Steel control and abolished the licensing system and we were

advised by them to ask all persons requiring iron materials to procure their requirements from the open market in Calcutta. This virtually stopped all supplies to Assam. The Government of India have since re-controlled iron and steel and have decided to allot a regular quarterly quota to this Province which are to be collected and distributed through registered stock-holders of this Province. Government of India have also authorised our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods to issue permits on such stock-holders in favour of persons or parties requiring iron and steel.

According to the policy of the Government of India *bona fide* dealers who had genuine business in iron and steel in pre control days are only eligible to get such quotas. Indents were collected from such parties and all arrangements however two lists containing 14 and 11 parties as registered stock-holders of this Province were received from the Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India, but excepting only four, all of them appeared to be either not existing at all or not *bona fide* parties. The facts were immediately brought to the notice of the Iron and Steel Controller by our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods with the suggestion that the list should be forthwith revised with a view to weeding out *non-bona fide* parties and appointing registered stock-holders only from among the *bona fide* parties of pre-controlled days of this Province. As no instruction was forthcoming, our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods personally contacted the Iron and Steel Controller in Calcutta and after a detailed discussion with him succeeded in getting our proposals accepted by him. Action is being taken to get these parties notified as registered stock-holders and to collect our quarterly quotas through them.

For our general consumers, this Province has been allotted a quarterly quota of 708 tons of iron sheets (galvanised, corrugated, plain and black) and 780 tons of other iron materials. Arrangements for supply of iron materials to tea gardens, different Departments of Government for Development Schemes, Public Bodies, and for Rice Mills, Oil Mills and Public institutions such as schools, colleges, mosques, temples and cinemas, etc., will be made by the Government of India, outside the quarterly quota meant for the general consumers. The supply position still continues to be unsatisfactory owing to decreased production and heavy demand. The position has further worsened by the long continued labour strike.

Our quota of iron materials for period I/1946 (January, February and March) was collected by the Assam Government's Agents in Calcutta who had already despatched a part of the quota to the different distribution centres and the balance is being despatched now.

Period II/1946 (April, May and June) when the control was lifted, no quota was allotted to this Province but the Deputy Director of Consumer Goods managed by personal contact with the Deputy Regional Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India, to get a special quota against period II for the war and flood-affected areas of this Province.

Period III/1946 and IV/1946 (July to December). A quota was allotted against period III/1946 but this was subsequently cancelled by the Government of India owing to great shortage of supply and for the same reason no quota was allotted against period IV/1946. This action was taken in respect of all provinces.

On account of the great scarcity of iron materials, particularly galvanised and black corrugated and plain sheets, the permit system for the sale of these articles has been reintroduced. District and Subdivisional Officers have been authorised to issue permits for quantities upto 5 bundles in the case of an individual and 10 bundles in the case of an institution, with instructions to

dispose of each case after having the applications duly enquired into and in consultation with the local Liaison Committees. Applications for larger quantities are, after necessary enquiries, to be forwarded to the Deputy Director of Consumer Goods for disposal by Government.

(4) *Non-ferrous materials*—(Brass, copper and aluminium) During the year the supply position was bad but this Government had very little hand in the distribution, as, from the very beginning, the Government of India entrusted the distribution to Messrs. East India Metal Merchants' Association for brass and copper and to Messrs. Jeewallal (India), Ltd. for aluminium. Both these firms have their offices in Calcutta without having establishments whatsoever in Assam. Despite instructions, they did not submit any statement of supplies made to this Province, and as such, it is not known whether or not these firms have supplied Assam's legitimate share of brass and copper and aluminium through their own selected dealers. Recently in a conference convened in connection with the distribution of non-ferrous metals by the Government of India in Bombay, this hopeless state of affairs was pointed out by our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods with the suggestion that the control over internal distribution should be left to the provinces. The same view was expressed by representatives of other provinces and it was unanimously decided that henceforth control over internal distribution of brass and copper would be entrusted to Provincial authorities.

As regards raw aluminium, it was decided to make the distribution by a pool system instead of quota system. As Central Government decided to exercise no more control over distribution, it was not possible to arrange a quota of aluminium utensils from the manufacturers and we have no other alternative but to revert to the normal trade channel for procurement of aluminium utensils.

(5) *Cement*.—Owing to great scarcity of cement which has further been precipitated by labour strike, cement has been re-controlled by the Government of India. In each case a consumer has to obtain permit from the Honorary Regional Cement Adviser, Government of India, Calcutta, for purchase of any quantity of cement. This causes a considerable amount of inconvenience and delay to the average consumer in this Province and in order to help the general public our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods suggested to the Honorary Regional Cement Adviser that he might be authorised to issue permits for quantities up to one ton. The latter has agreed to the proposal and has gone upto the Government of India for formal approval.

(6) *Paper*.—The supply position has deteriorated and the condition has further worsened owing to poor import of "Newsprint" which necessitated conversion of quotas of Newsprints of many newspapers into ordinary white paper. This encroachment has resulted in less quantity of white paper being available for the general consumers. Our monthly quota of 70 tons, which was already inadequate to meet the full demand, was further reduced by 10 tons owing to the All-India scarcity with effect from 1st November, 1946. To meet the situation and as advised by the Government of India, permit system for the sake of paper and as quantities over one ream has been reintroduced. Action is also being taken to make paper available only for essential purposes. The price however continues to be reasonable. With effect from 1st February, 1947 our quota of 60 tons per month has been increased to 85 tons. but as ill luck would have it we could not get any benefit of the increased quota owing mainly to the strikes in the two big mills, viz. (1) Indian Paper Pulp Co., Ltd. and (2) Titaghur Paper Mills Co., Ltd. and the transport difficulties caused by Port Commissioner's employees' strike and the scarcity of wagon on the railways.

Out of our monthly quota of 85 tons only about 29 tons of paper could move to Assam during the month of February. No intimation of any movement of paper during the current month has yet been received.

We have requested East India Railway authorities to arrange for through railway booking of paper from Raniganj—Bengal Paper Mills to Assam via Parbatipur or Santahar. Permits have also been issued in favour of big parties direct on the mills so that permit holders could get their own requirements from Calcutta.

Drugs.—From the very beginning, the distribution was left to the trade and only prices of the more important drugs were controlled. The supply position has considerably improved since the termination of hostilities and the prices show a downward trend.

Matches.—Although no control over the distribution is exercised by the Central or the Provincial Government, extraordinary circumstances necessitated some action to be taken by this Department. Of late, there was a great scarcity of matches. This was caused by the stoppage of work in a number of match factories owing to troubles in Bengal and to labour strike. Our Deputy Director of Consumer Goods took immediate action and induced the Western India Match Company to arrange special supplies to all the stations in this Province. The position has much improved and is fast coming back to normal.

Now, Sir, I come.....

Statement re extension of time for Submitting Cut Motions under Supplementary Demands for Grants

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: At the request of the European Group, I gladly announce extension of time for submission of Cut Motions in respect of Supplementary Demands. This is extended till 3 P.M. tomorrow. Now they say that they are handicapped in submitting Cut Motions for want of details in respect of new schemes for which Government have come up with Supplementary Demands but without giving any details of new schemes. I have my own doubt if the Finance Department do not provide with necessary details whether any extension of time will be fruitful. But anyway I extend the time till 3 P.M. tomorrow for submission of Cut Motions for Supplementary Demands coming up within 31st instant. They may be given in the office till 3 P.M. tomorrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

(After lunch)

(The Deputy Speaker was in the Chair)

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Madam, I now come to the question of cloth and yarn. From January 1946 to December 1946 the amount of cloth procured comes approximately to 39,728 bales out of which 37,476 bales were despatched. In the corresponding period the amount of yarn procured was 15,432 bales and 16,665 bales were actually despatched including the purchases of previous period. The amount of yarn procured for January and February 1947 comes to 4,158½ bales of which 3,625 bales were despatched. I am sorry I have not got the figures for cloth as yet for the corresponding period, namely, January and February 1947.

The per capita quota allotted by the Government of India is most iniquitous, for instance, the quota fixed for Assam and Orissa, the lowest in India, is 11 yards per head per annum (including yarn) and that for Bengal and Bihar is 12 yards and for Bombay and Punjab 18 yards, Sind 18 yards, Baluchistan 24 yards, Delhi 18 yards, United Provinces 13½ yards, Central Provinces 12 yards, Hyderabad 12 yards, Rajputana 12 yards, North-West Frontier Province 18 yards, Baroda 18 yards and Western Indian States 12 yards. This matter has been thrashed out in every Textile Conference without any result and the inevitable conclusion that a small Province has to come to is that more important and bigger provinces get the r own way almost everywhere. The Government of India's stock answer is the statistics of movements during the pre-war period by Railways and Steamer. These figures do not include the considerable volume of trade carried on by country boats and the fact that the people in the bordering regions of Sylhet, Garo Hills and Goalpara Districts always brought their requirements from the nearest markets in Bengal. While it cannot be denied that the requirements and consumption of cloth per head is higher in richer Provinces like Bombay and the Punjab where habits of dress are also different, I do not think that there is the slightest justification in fixing different scales for the provinces in Eastern India, viz., Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and probably the United Provinces, where the dress is more or less common and habits are similar. The population is taken by the Government of India to be about 11 millions on the basis of 385 millions for the whole of India, whereas according to our calculation due to normal immigration of tea garden labour, influx of people during the war, immigration of East Bengal cultivators and the natural growth, it is not less than 12 millions as our rural rationing figures show. The yarn quota is also insufficient and we have to forego over 10 per cent. of it because we cannot utilise the yarn under count 10s. We got no redress on this point, but the Textile Commissioner has recently been pleased to give us an *ad hoc* quota of 1,000 bales before 31st December 1946 and 500 bales per month for 4 months from January to April 1947 but 20 per cent. of which is for 1 to 10s. for which we have no use.

As regards actual supplies, we got the benefit of the 11 yards quota only from October 1945 to May 1946. In June last a 10 per cent. cut was made which has not been restored, and there seems to be no prospect of its restoration. Furthermore the productions in the Mills have fallen so badly during the last few months that our actual purchases and despatches have been much less than the monthly quotas of both cloth and yarn. I have already given the figures for actual procurement and despatches, Madam. According to information received purchases for August were also not complete till January and release orders were not issued for September and part of August 1946. The whole thing has gone into arrear by some months. We have been informed that no quota will be allotted for the month of December 1946. The Government of India are very well aware of the reasons for the fall in production. On top of the riots, strikes, etc., the real reason is that the control of the Government of India over the Mills has always been limited leaving for them considerable discretion in manufacturing. Due to the increased demand for finer cloths the mills are going in for producing more finer cloth where profit is larger resulting in a fall in the overall production. They have been pressing the Government of India alternatively to raise the price of coarse cloth which will be disastrous for the poorer public who specially in Assam are being bled white as prices of all necessaries of life which the villagers have to buy have gone higher and higher while the paddy prices have been stabilised and scope of employment and earning have fallen very drastically due to cessation of Defence projects and allied activities. The Government of India, in order to increase production started the Utility Cloth Scheme which has been sabotaged by the mills, and the whole country is entirely at their mercy. Unless the Government of India tighten their control very much more so that mills are

compelled to produce varieties dictated by the Government of India of certain rigid standards of quality, the cloth position cannot be improved. The price fixation is done by the Industries Sub-Committee of the Textile Control Board which has no Government representative and instances of anomalies are legion. For the same quality of cloth different mills stamp different prices, and these have been represented to the Textile Commissioner both in conference and by correspondence. Short packing in intact bales continues quite unhampered and the mills go on producing unwanted varieties, where their profit is the highest. For Assam with a minimum quota this has always caused the greatest possible hardship. First of all we have not been able to get sufficient Dhooties, Sarrees, Markins and such cloths most needed by the people. We get tents and prints and many other varieties, sometimes amounting to 20 to 30 per cent. of the monthly quota, which though probably saleable make very great inroad into the available supply of cloths mostly in demand. Often the sizes of Dhooties and Sarrees allotted to our buyers are odd and their reallocation is also a dilatory and difficult task. If we are to refuse them we have to go without so much of cloth and if we are to accept them we are in difficulty to satisfy the public. It is a strange fact that after so many years of control the Government of India have no inspecting or checking staff to see that the mills are stamping prices correctly or manufacturing cloth most in demand. At the last Textile Conference held at Delhi in January last, I pointed out all these defects and pressed that if the Government of India want to meet the crisis that has arisen and which looks like getting worse, they would have to control with an iron hand the entire production of mills to the last details and limit them to reasonable margin of profit. The number of intermediaries should also be reduced. The question of exports should also be tackled whether they can be stopped or cut down till the demand in the home market is fully met. Large quantities of our cloth are exported even now. It should also be explored how far imports of desired varieties of cloth can be arranged. The imported cloth now coming in very small quantities from England are most in high class shirting and dress materials, etc., which cannot meet the crying demand for ordinary varieties of cloths in common use and at cheaper prices.

Extension of production.—It is obvious to everyone that a tremendous gap exists between production and demand and this must be bridged as soon as practicable.

Unless production improves, I suggested that 25 per cent. of the looms should be sealed and more yarn should be given to the weavers; the working hours in the mills should be increased as a temporary measure by giving the workers remuneration on a higher scale to avoid the present crisis. I do not know what has been done in this direction. A minimum quota should be fixed for all the provinces and States on per capita basis and the balance after meeting the minimum demands may be given to those provinces and States who require more for climatic conditions, habits and high standard of living. Bare necessity must be met first. I pressed all these points with all the emphasis at my command but nothing has been communicated up till now. I gave many other suggestions which I do not like to quote here.

We are trying our best to make our Province self-sufficient as soon as it is possible on the face of various difficulties and drawbacks. We have already taken up schemes for increasing the production of pulses, mustard seeds, etc., by both intensive and extensive cultivation.

We are going to keep stocks of both long staple and short staple cotton for the benefit of the hand spinners. We shall take up the question of long staple cotton cultivation in our Province soon.

We have taken up the question of starting sugar, paper and cotton textile mills in our Province. But I would appeal to my hon. Friends, specially the Congressmen, to take up the question of hand spinning, charkha spinning and hand weaving in right earnest. It will not only save our worthy cottage industries, but will solve the cloth problem too to a great extent ; above all, it will be implementing our Congress pledge.

As regards procurement and distribution systems there is nothing new to add. The hon. Members are well aware of the present system, no change has been made in the meantime. The defects which are being brought to our notice are being gradually removed. But there is still scope for improvement, I admit.

Madam, I have tried my best to explain the position in short and I hope I have been able to convince my hon. Friends that this Government are doing their very best to solve the acute problems of food and supply, though the desired effect could not be achieved due to various causes beyond their control.

Now, Madam, I would sincerely request my Friends to assist us with their valued constructive suggestions, which will help the Government in serving the people by removing their present difficulties.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Food and Supply position of the Province be taken into consideration.”

Mr. P. D. HIMATSINGKA : Deputy Speaker, Madam, you have heard the Hon'ble Minister who has given a narrative of the food and supply position of the Province. He has laid the blame for short supplies of various needed commodities and articles of food on the surplus provinces, the difficulty of wagons and other difficulties created by the States and provinces. As I mentioned the other day, some of the difficulties can be avoided and met if our officers be prompt and active. I will make certain suggestions with regard to that which I hope the Hon'ble Minister will bear in mind, so that in future we may have some relief.

Madam, the position is that when any commodity is allotted to this Province the Government appoints procuring agent or agents, and the procuring agents are expected to make a deposit for cess and security. I know of instances where more than two months have elapsed from the date of the order appointing the procuring agents and the deposit of cess and security having been made for no fault of the procuring agents, but for the fact that the Department will not allow deposit to be made until they know to the exact pie and farthing the amount that is to be deposited. A procuring agent is expected to deposit 2 pice per rupee of the value of the goods he is to import, and so long as the Department is not in a position to know the exact price at which the thing is going to be imported from the supplying province, it does not accept any deposit. I have suggested, and still suggest, that the easiest method will be to ask the deposit to be made on the basis of a lump sum price. If the price is about say Rs.12-5-4 or Rs.12-8-0 the procuring agent may be asked to make a deposit say on the basis of Rs. 12 or Rs.13, which can be later on adjusted when the supply has begun to come and the exact price is known. It should not be difficult to make the adjustment on the basis of the actual price at which the commodity has moved into Assam and the procuring agent can then adjust the deposit to the last pie. That will expedite procurement of the things to a very large extent. It also happens that on account of the delay the other deficit provinces, who go first, get the supplies, and by the time Assam's procuring agents have gone to the exporting surplus Province, the quota may have been exhausted or some thing may have happened which upsets the calculations of the supply. And due to this

delay many factors may crop up for which the supplying province refuses supply. If Assam's agents can get our supplies in the first instance these difficulties might be avoided. Therefore the Department should see that there is no delay in the matter of payment of deposit for cess and security.

Another thing that I want to mention in this connection is with regard to despatch and distribution of articles that arrive in the different districts. Instances are known to various hon. Members that much delay is made by the Deputy Commissioners or officers dealing with the stuff in distributing and despatching the articles that arrive in the districts, for want of orders. In certain districts these articles lie undistributed, whereas in other districts people are in need of them. It takes a lot of time and much delay is caused in moving articles from one place to another. Sometimes three to five months are past without orders. Things also get damaged in this way and people also suffer in the deficit areas and the dealers also suffer loss of interest and are to bear godown charges, etc.

Another thing that Government should always keep in view is that procurement of things should be entrusted to persons who are able to handle it efficiently. If that is done, there will be no difficulty in procurement even if things have got to come from far flung states or provinces. Government should also keep in view that procurement should not be entrusted or confined to one or two particular persons only and that they should give it to reliable business men of the different districts, keeping in view the ability and capacity of such persons and merchants to move the things quickly and then they would be able to do justice to the business and there will be no heart burning among the business men as well.

We have heard how the efforts of the Hon'ble Minister in charge have been successful in procuring about 100 tons of cocoanut oil per month for Assam, whereas last year only 180 tons approximately of cocoanut oil came into Assam through Bengal for the whole year. Now, proper steps should be taken for procuring and moving into Assam the cocoanut oil that has been allotted by the Government of India.

I must warn the Hon'ble Minister of the difficulties that are being attempted to be created by the supplying provinces. Nine hundred tons of cocoanut oil are to be supplied by Cochin and Travancore. If I remember aright, Travancore have intimated that they have entrusted some agents of theirs to move the cocoanut oil to Assam. Madam, I can assure the Hon'ble Minister that if agents from Travancore are allowed to move cocoanut oil allotted to Assam, then Assam will not see the face of it.

(The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee: The Hon'ble Minister knows it.)

I am sure before the cocoanut oil reaches Assam, it will be disposed of on the way. Therefore, Government should insist on the appointment of somebody over whom they can exercise some sort of authority in the Province.

Similarly, in the case of iron and corrugated iron sheets, the new arrangement according to which the Government of India are asking the dealers of Assam to procure the stock needed by them from Calcutta will not in my view, work successfully and those who had anything to do in procurement of iron and corrugated iron sheets in Calcutta know the difficulties that are created in the matter of supply in Calcutta. Therefore, steps should be taken by Government to see that the quota allotted to Assam is obtained for Assam by the dealers. In this connection, I may draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the cases that when applications are made to the Deputy Director of Consumer goods for import of required iron materials for mills, big establishments

and other important consumers, recommendation should be made by him or by the Government of Assam when the applications are bonafide and the persons applying for the articles need them. No difficulty should be created in recommending such applications as these applicants, if successful, will bring in additional quantities, thus leaving the usual quota of Assam for the use of the ordinary residents. On the subject of procurement and supply, Madam, I have another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister. It is that now various articles have been and are being decontrolled. But the officers in the districts are not posted with up-to-date information or with the list of articles that have been decontrolled, and months go by before they are informed or become aware of the fact. In the meantime, the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers expect the dealers who import these decontrolled articles to pay and deposit money and the cess, and unless they do it, they are not allowed to take delivery of the goods from the Transport authorities. These officers should be instructed to exercise a certain amount of common sense in the matter.

Regarding the matter of procurement of rice, the Hon'ble Minister knows that the suppliers have been making complaints in respect of methods adopted for payment of their bills. The millers who have been supplying rice do not get payment in time. Messrs. Steel Brothers have been procuring rice for the Indian Tea Association and there has been no complaint, so far as they are concerned and payment is made almost immediately on presentation of the Railway Receipt to them. I do not know why there should be any delay in making payment promptly in the case of millers when the procurement is by the Government. I know Government have instructed officers to make payment promptly but in fact, it is not done for some reason or other which may be bonafide mistake or otherwise on the part of the officers. Any way, Government should see that payment is not delayed beyond a particular limit of time. I have instances of bills which are outstanding from the first week of February and the millers have been made to suffer for that. I want to mention the names of K. P. Baijnath Rice mills some of whose bills are outstanding from the 6th February and the Srimanta Mills one of whose bills is outstanding from the 31st January 1947. Therefore, certain definite instruction should be issued to the officers concerned to make payment within a particular limit of time and if the officers without reason delay payment, they should be asked to explain their conduct. Unless this is done, there will be no inducement on the part of the officers to carry out the Government instructions. If, however, there may be any particular defect in the bills, it should be brought to the notice of the suppliers so that they may be in a position to mend the same, and the defect should be specified. In connection with the supply of rice, I have also to make certain other suggestions. As we know, Madam, the rice millers have got their own association in which all the millers or in any event almost all the millers are members. Complaints have been heard that certain millers are sometimes favoured by the Government procuring agents and are given comparatively larger orders than they would be entitled to on the basis of their capacity. Some millers are also preferred in the matter of quick deliveries being taken from them. In order to avoid all possibilities of such favouritism being shown by the Government Agents, I suggest that whenever any purchases of rice are intended to be made, the Assam Rice Mills Association may be consulted and if the Association is consulted the possibilities of such kind of irregularities or complaints will be necessarily avoided and removed.

Next is the question of complaint or disputes regarding quality of rice. Certain standards have, I understand, been laid down by the Assam Quality Standard Orders, 1946, but Madam, such standards are neither very definite

nor complete and I believe a good deal of room has been left for disputes cropping up. As the House may know, the deficit Provinces or Institutions which obtain rice from Assam have generally their representatives at the purchasing centres. Sometimes these representatives object to quality or standard of rice intended to be supplied. Our Inspectors and other officers dealing with the matter do not make any decisions and they feel more or less helpless or rather indifferent. I suggest that whenever there is any dispute as to the quality or standard of rice offered for supply, the Government representatives should draw two samples of the rice in dispute, get such samples sealed, hand over one sample to the suppliers and send one to the higher Government authorities; then there can be no difficulty in ascertaining as to whether or not the rice offered was being rightly rejected or there was any ulterior motive. If this procedure is adopted, it will by itself, lessen these complaints to a very large extent as neither party will like to be exposed. At present, the dealers have no remedy and when rice is rejected either they have to satisfy, and you know, Madam, how, the agents or to allow the rejection to stand and suffer loss.

Next as regards the price of rice, we have heard the Hon'ble Minister to say that on account of competition in the matter of purchase of paddy, the price of paddy has gone up. It is also a fact as the Hon'ble Minister must be aware that the price of rice agreed to be paid to the millers was fixed on the basis that a maund of paddy produces 25 seers of rice. But now I understand, the Government has accepted the position that it is not 25 seers but 24 seers of rice that a maund of paddy produces. I therefore, suggest that the question of increasing price of rice should be taken into consideration and the price raised.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I may inform the hon. Member that the margin is so high that it ought to be reduced. I am thinking of reducing the price.

Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA: Do it then. If there is justification for reduction of price, I would suggest that it should be done. I do not suggest that anybody should be given a price that he is not entitled to. I would suggest that the facts and figures should be taken into account and if there is a justification for alteration of prices fixed—whether on the higher or lower side—it should be done.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That has always been done, Madam.

Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA: Regarding some of the articles for which our Province is deficit, I would suggest the Hon'ble Minister to personally take up the matter with the authorities of the Government of India and tackle as energetically as he had been tackling in respect of some of the commodities. If the Hon'ble Minister puts up a fight with or puts forth his case vigorously before the Government of India, I am sure, much can be done to increase the quotas in respect of various commodities. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will take into consideration these matters and do what he can.

Another thing that occurs to me is regarding the hand-pound rice of North Lakhimpur. I understand in North Lakhimpur, there are no or practically no rice mills and most of the rice that come is hand-pound (*Dhenki Chanta*). The Government has entered into contracts for purchase of rice with various dealers but no rice is being taken delivery of and the position has become very difficult. You know, Madam, that when the Government does not take delivery of rice,

it may be that the immediate effect of such delay falls upon the dealer who has agreed to supply and who has got stocks. But ultimately, it reflects and falls on the actual suppliers of rice, I mean, the large number of cultivators and villagers who produce rice from paddy in their homes by means of Dhenki or otherwise. It is obvious that if the middlemen's rice be not taken delivery of by the Government, the middleman cannot naturally take delivery or purchase from the actual producers. Also in the opinion of very large number of persons handpound rice is more beneficial to health, and I feel that Government should look into the matter immediately and remove the difficulties of the persons involved.

Babu BIDYAPATI SINGHA: Deputy Speaker, Madam, when we are going to consider about the food and supply position of our Province the Hon'ble Minister of Supply may reasonably expect some constructive suggestions to improve the present condition. But so much destruction has already been wrought through human agencies, nothing valuable can be advanced in the absence of post-war control development scheme. Only I can draw a picture of some egregious shortcomings in the arena of supply administration. Madam, it is now clear to all that black-marketing and profiteering of a stupendous scale have been indulged in from the procurement centres to the distributing units. In the present discussion, I think the Hon'ble Chair will allow me to make no differentiation in the chain of foodstuffs, consumers goods, procurement and textile as these things are emanating from the same top.

From a sparrow's whisper I learnt that a permit for procuring some thousands of tons of cocoanut oil has been allotted to a concern without any gazette notification for tender. Foodstuffs have been reported to be black-marketed by the wholesale dealers in collaboration with high supply officials. Madam, now it is every day affair that Government officers of supply do not like to bring the big culprits to book whereas the small fishes of black-market are often devoured. Fat-salaried officials have been maintained for consumers goods which are not available. In our district after the last flood not a single piece of tin arrived and so in all fairness the 'laissez policy' faire should be adopted.

To the detriment of the interest of umbrella repairers, agencies of umbrellas have been given without any scheme of distribution or encouraging co-operative concerns of umbrella repairers.

About 20 thousand maunds of oil-seeds are procurable in Cachar but due to lack of initiative on the part of the Government this huge quantity evaporates for other provinces through secret agencies. Due to recent de-control the equilibrium between demand and supply of mustard oil is going to be almost established but meanwhile the Government may take up the procurement of mustard seeds for country *ghanis*.

For cloth and yarn the Surma Valley agencies without sound financial strength have been employed who had to run 'pell mell' even to Marwari business man of Hailakandi for money after obtaining permit and as a result of this financial weakness, due quotas were not available and though fine cloth were allotted in good quantities, the procuring agents black-marketed those, making unholy agreement with mill-owners. Madam, I draw the serious attention of the Government to the disproportionate quota of cloth and yarn of Cachar which is deprived of its due share on the basis of population.

The Liaison Committee cannot function properly though non-official representation is sound, being totally powerless bodies. I think if the power of search

be given to the members and if the district and subdivisional authorities are compelled to accept the majority decision of the Liaison Committee, the distribution will be fair and equitable. It cannot be denied that Presidents and Secretaries of Vigilance Committees in many cases, have been pocketed by interested businessmen and so in many subdivisions according to the condition the Sarpanches may be entrusted with local distribution.

At the cost of some lakhs of rupees godowns have been constructed and a recurring expenditure of more than Rs. 1,000 is incurred on salary to procure paddy in Cachar which is a surplus district in paddy produce but only some 200 maunds of paddy are purchased daily in Hailakandi. The people of Cachar whose main source of income is paddy do not obtain the controlled price, being cheated by rice dealers who smuggle *via* Katigora thana and Mona-Cherra-Patharkandi road, unchecked by Government. So the hell of smuggling of paddy from Cachar is loose which should be met by proper direct procurement and vigilance.

Excepting cloth and yarn, the Government will not run a great risk if altogether controlled commodities are de-controlled in a progressive scale.

With these few words, Madam, I beg to resume my seat.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA : মাননীয় Deputy Speaker

মহোদয়া, বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের অবলম্বিত পদ্ধতির ফলে মফঃস্বলে corruption অনেকটা কমেছে। (*A voice*—কমে গেছে?) আমি সমস্ত মফঃস্বল নাহলেও অন্ততঃ আমাদের Subdivision যুরে একথা বলছি। তবে এখনও যেটুকু রয়েছে, গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি একটু দৃঢ় হস্তে দমন করতে চান, তাহলে পারেন। প্রদীপের নিচটা প্রায় সব সময় অক্ষকার হয়। তাই এই শিলং সহরে যে Black এর কারবার চলছে সেটা বোধহয় সমস্ত প্রদেশের মধ্যে জয়পাতিম। শিলংয়ের কাপড়, তৈল, চিনি সমস্তই চোরা বাজারে বিক্রয় হয়। শিলংয়ের লোকের যে পরিমাণে বা যে জাতীয় কাপড় পাওয়ার কথা, সেই পরিমাণে বা সেই quality র কাপড় তারা পাননা—সেটা আমরা শুনি এবং আমি দেখেছি। পাহাড়ের বিভিন্ন বাজারে, সুদূর মফঃস্বলে এখানের কাপড় যে বিক্রয় হইতেছে তার খবর জানি। আমাদের দেশের লোকও সর্বদাই সেইসব বাজার থেকে কাপড় কিনে নিয়ে যায়—সেকথা আমি বলতে পারি। (*A voice*—তাহলে corruption কমেছে?) পূর্বের চাইতে অনেক কমেছে। (*laughter*) জিনিষ যদি আদৌ নাপাওয়া যায় বা কম পাওয়া যায়, মানুষ সেটা সহ্য করতে পারে; কিন্তু নিজেদের মধ্যে যেটা গোলমাল সেটা সহ্য করতে পারাজ। (*laughter*)

Cloth Society হয়েছে, কিন্তু তারা সময়মত গুদাম থেকে কাপড় ছাড়তে পারেনা। প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় তাদের টাকা নিতান্ত কম, তাই তারা retailers দেব কাছ থেকে টাকা আদায় করতে চায়। আমাদের Subdivision এ এবং অন্য দুই এক জায়গায় দেখেছি এবং অন্যান্য জায়গার কথাও শুনেছি যে Subdivisional Cloth Society retailer এর কাছে দাবী করে যে যত টাকার কাপড় তারা নেবে তার অর্ধেক টাকা Supply Society তে স্থায়ী আমানত রাখতে হবে অথবা সেই পরিমাণ টাকার অংশ কিনতে হবে—এটা নাকি নিয়ম। Retailer অনেকস্থলে গেটা পারেনা। তারজন্য যদি বা ভাগ্যক্রমে মাঝে মাঝে কাপড় এসে পৌছেই যায়, আমাদের যুনাগঞ্জ Subdivision এর মফঃস্বলের অনেক

স্থলে সেটা অত্যন্ত দেরীতে পৌঁছায় অথবা পৌঁছায়ইনা। ইহাতে বেশীর ভাগ লোকের দারুণ অসুবিধা এবং দুর্ভোগ হইতেছে। Supply Society কে এই টাকা নেওয়ার অধিকার দিল কে? যখন প্রশ্ন করা হল তারা বললেন যে গভর্ণমেন্ট দিয়েছেন। গভর্ণমেন্টের একটা Supply Society কে এরকম facility দেওয়ার কারণ কি? Supply Society বলে যে “আমরা Procuring agency কে টাকা দিয়েছি। গভর্ণমেন্ট সে টাকা আমাদের কাছ থেকে নিয়েছেন বা গভর্ণমেন্টের মধ্যস্থতায় আমরা দিয়েছি। সুতরাং সেটা পূরণ করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের বলে দিয়েছেন যে আমরা retailer এর কাছ থেকে টাকা নেব।” মহকুমা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট যথেষ্ট চেষ্টা করেছেন, কিন্তু এর প্রতীকার করা সম্ভব হয়নাই এবং তার জন্য লোকে ভয়ানক কষ্ট পাইতেছে। সেই কষ্টটা লোকে গহ্য করতে নারাজ এবং তারা ভয়ানক প্রতিবাদ করিতেছে। তাদের পক্ষে আমিও প্রতিবাদ জানাই। এর যদি একটা আশু প্রতিকার নাহয় তাহলে বাস্তবিক পক্ষে একটা ঘোরতর অন্যায করা হবে।

তারপরে cement এর কথা। ছাতকে cement এর একটা factory আছে। আমাদের জেলার মানুষ বা ছাতকের কাছাকাছি লোক বা সুনামগঞ্জ মহকুমার লোক factory থেকে cement পাইবার আশা করে, কিন্তু সেই cement পাওয়া যায়না। নিয়ম হচ্ছে কলকাতাতে কোম্পানীর head office এ দখল করতে হবে এবং সেখানে যদি মঞ্জুর হয় তাহলে cement পাবেন। পেতেও পারেন, নাও পেতে পারেন—পাওয়ার কথা আছে। অনেক সময় নাও পাওয়া যায়। ছকম হতে হবে কলকাতা থেকে। ছাতকে cement factory আছে—চারদিকের লোক দেখছে—cement তৈরী করার সাহায্য করছে, অথচ তারা cement পায়না। এইযে অদ্ভুত নিয়ম এটা যদি বাস্তবিক মানতে বাধ্য হই, আমরা তাহলে এই cement factory র দ্বারা আমাদের কোন উপকারই হইলনা। আমি এর প্রতিকার প্রার্থনা করি।

Supply Department এর corruption টা লেগেই আছে। হয় ত বা আগে অনেক বেশী ছিল—এখন কমেছে একটু, কিন্তু সেটা এখনও রয়ে গেছে। লোকের ধারণা যে পূর্বে কোন Department এ কোন দিন এরকম অন্যায হয় নাই। এটা দূর করবার জন্য আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট চেষ্টা করিতেছেন, কিন্তু কি কি করেছেন সবটা ঠিক ঠিক জানা দরকার। যারা এতদিন যাবৎ অন্যায করে আসছে, তাদের দোষ প্রমাণ করার জন্য, তাদেরকে ধরার জন্য বা তাদের বিচারের জন্য আজ পর্যন্ত কি ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে? কতজন লোককে ধরা হয়েছে, কতজন অন্যাযকারীর বিচার হয়েছে, কতজনকে সাজা দেওয়া হয়েছে, এটা জানতে পারলে ভাল হয়। আর যদি কিছু না করা হয়ে থাকে, তাহলে উনি এইযে গুড়ের কথাই বলেছেন—এই Department এ কোন গলদ নাই, সেটা জানতে পারলেও মন্দ হতনা। গভর্ণমেন্টের ব্যবহারে আমরা বুঝি না যে এরকম মস্ত বড় কিছু অন্যায এই বিভাগের মধ্যে আছে। এমনকি শুনেছি যে এসম্পর্কে দণ্ডিত দুই একজন আসামীকে শ্রীহট জেল হতে ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। সত্য কিনা সেটা অবশ্য গভর্ণমেন্ট আসামীকে শ্রীহট জেল হতে হয়েছে তাদের অসুখ বিনুখের অজুহাতে। লোকে বলে—যে রকম অবস্থায় সাধারণতঃ কয়েদি ভাবে সাজা হউক সেটা আমরা চাইনা। সাজা হউক—কিন্তু লোকের অন্যায ভাবে সাজা হউক সেটা আমরা চাইনা। কিন্তু কেউ যদি অন্যায করে তাহলে তার সাজা

হওয়া খুবই উচিত এবং হলে পরে তাকে leniency দেখান খুব সম্ভব নয়। তাহলে এই ব্যাপারের আর কোন সুরাধা হবেনা।

Rice control এর একটা কারবার চলছে। আমি সেটাকে কারবারই বলছি, কারণ যারা সেখানে আছেন তারা অধিকাংশ স্থলে কাজ না করে কারবারই করছেন—এককম লোকে বলে। আমরা গত বর্ষায় নিজেরাই দেখলাম যে ধান চাল অন্যথা বাইরে চলে যাওয়ায় দেশ ধান চাল শূন্য; অর্থাৎ সেখানে আমাদের Checker, উপরওয়ালার কর্মচারী সকলই আছেন। কর্মচারীর সংখ্যা প্রচুর নয় গুনলাম। না থাকার কারণ কি? আমার মনে হয় এসম্পর্কে Subdivisional Officer কে অনেক ধানি ক্ষমতা দেওয়া দরকার। কোন কিছুই প্রয়োজন হলেই যেতে হয় Deputy Director of Supply এর কাছে। তিনি থাকেন গিলেটে। তার কাছে সহজে যাওয়াও যায়না এবং প্রতিকারও পাওয়া যায়না। যদি Subdivisional Officer এর কাছে প্রতিকারের ভার পাকে তাহলে সহজে হয় এবং যদি সম্ভব হয় গভর্ণমেন্ট Deputy Commissioner কে ক্ষমতা দিতে রাজী হন, তাহলে আমার মনে হয় এই মাঝখানের Deputy Director of Supply এর অফিস তুলে দিলেও ক্ষতি হবেনা। ধান চাল গোপনে চালান বন্ধ করতে হলে, গভর্ণমেন্টের তরফ হতে খরিদ করার ভাল বন্দোবস্ত করতে হবে। প্রথমতঃ ধান চালের দর বাড়ান প্রয়োজন। কারণ অন্যান্য জিনিষ পত্রের তুলনায় ধান চালের দর অনেক কম। অর্থাৎ এটাই আমাদের প্রধান অবলম্বন। এটা ধান, বিক্রি করব এবং আমাদের সমস্ত প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ আনব। সুরাধা এর দাম যদি না বাড়ান যায়, তাহলে মানুষের গোপনে বিক্রি করার যেটা ইচ্ছা সেটাকে সহজে দমন করা যাবেনা। সুরাধা ধান চালের দাম বৃদ্ধি করা প্রয়োজন যাতে মানুষের মধ্যে গোপনে বিক্রি করার প্রবল ইচ্ছা না আসে। এবং অন্যদিকে control করে রাখবার জন্যও উপযুক্ত বন্দোবস্ত করা দরকার।

আমাদের কাপড় এবং চিনি যে ভাবে বণ্টন করা হয় সে সম্বন্ধে আরও আলোচনা হয়েছে। পূর্বে গভর্ণমেন্ট দিয়েছিলেন সহরে মাথা পিছু ৩০ গজ কাপড়—গ্রামের জন্য মাথাপিছু কিছুই ছিলনা। পরিবারে ২০—২৫ বা ৩০ জন লোকের জন্য একখানা কার্ড দেওয়া হত এবং তাতে উর্দে ৫ গজ পর্যন্ত পাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা ছিল। অর্থাৎ প্রয়োজনের হিসাবে কিছুই পাওয়া যাইতনা। সহরের এবং গ্রামের লোকের চলাফেরা বা কাপড় চোপড় ইত্যাদির ব্যবহারের ব্যবধান আছে, আমি স্বীকার করি। কিন্তু সহরের সমস্ত লোক যে গ্রামের সমস্ত লোকের চেয়ে বেশী কাপড় ব্যবহার করে সেটা বলা চলেনা। সহরের এমন অনেক লোক আছে যারা গ্রামের অনেক লোকের চাইতে কম কাপড় ব্যবহার করে এবং গ্রামের অনেক লোক আছে যারা সহরের অনেক লোকের চাইতে বেশী কাপড় ব্যবহার করে। তাছাড়া এটা যদি একান্ত অভাবের এবং নিতান্ত প্রয়োজনের কথা নাহত, তাহলে সহরের লোক বেশী চায়, তাদের বেশী দেওয়া হউক, তাতে আপত্তি হতনা। কিন্তু যখন সকলেরই অভাব বেশী তখন কতক লোকের জন্য অধিক কাপড় রাখা ভাল হয়না এবং গ্রামের এবং সহরের ব্যবধান এত অধিক থাকা উচিত নয়। বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট সহরের কাপড় মাথাপিছু বৎসরে ৩০ গজ থেকে ২০ গজ করছেন। বোঝা যাইতেছে যে এরা গ্রামের লোকের জন্য কিছু দরদ দেখাইয়াছেন—কারণ এরা কংগ্রেস people, বর্তমানে সহরে ২০ গজ এবং গ্রামে বৎসরে মাথাপিছু ৯ গজ দেওয়ার নিয়ম হয়েছে। অবশ্য ১০ গজের কথাও শুনেছি, কিন্তু আমার জানামতে ৯ গজের উপরে দেওয়া হয়না। তবে

২০ গজ এবং ৯ গজের যে ব্যবধান গোটো বড় বেশী। গ্রামের লোক এর বিরুদ্ধে তীব্র প্রতিবাদ করিতেছে। অনেক সময় তাদের সভায় উপস্থিত হয়েছি এবং তাতে তারা তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানিয়েছেন। এই যে অবস্থাটা, এর অন্ততঃ কতকটা পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন। কারণ, আমার জানা আছে যে সহরের কতক লোক যারা অভাবের জন্য কম কাপড়ে চলাইতে বাধ্য হয়, তাদের কাৰ্ড নিয়ে গ্রামের লোক সময় সময় কাপড় কিনেছে এবং তারা বলে যে সহরের যারা কাপড় খরিদ করতে পারেনা তাদের বেশী কাপড় দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাদের প্রয়োজন নাই, কিন্তু তাদের দেওয়া হয়েছে; অথচ আমাদের এত প্রয়োজন, তবুও আমাদের দেওয়া হইতেছেন। অন্ততঃ পক্ষে কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেন্ট এর জন্য আরও অবহিত হওয়া উচিত।

চিনির কথা যে বলা হয়েছে—চিনি সহরের লোক মাথাপিছু মাসে তিনপোয়া পাইত; আর গ্রামের লোকের জন্য কোন চিনি ছিলনা। গ্রামের শিশুরা সামান্য পরিমাণে চিনি পাইত। যখন এনিয়ম ছিল তখন আবার সেই retailer দের অনুগ্রহে শিশুদের জন্যও প্রায়ই চিনি পাওয়া যাইতনা। আমি বলতামনা এই চিনির কথা—চিনিকে আমি luxury হিসাবেই ধরতাম যদিও গুড়ের দর চিনির ২।৩ গুণ হত। গুড় ১—১।০—১।।০ পর্যন্ত সের বিক্রি হয়েছে। সহরের লোক—যাদের পয়সা আছে, যারা চাকরী করেন, ব্যবসা করেন তারা ১।০ আন সের দরে চিনি খাইতেছেন এখন অবশ্য দর কিছু বেশী হয়েছে—৫০ আনার মত হবে বোধহয়। কিন্তু গ্রামের লোক এই চিনিতে পায়ইনা তার পরিবর্তে ১—১।০—১।।০ টাকা দরে গুড় খেতে বাধ্য হয়। সুতরাং এট একটা সাংঘাতিক অন্যায বলে যদি তারা গ্রহণ করে তাতে আপত্তি করার কি কারণ আছে? এখনও গুড়ের দর খুব কম নয়—এখনও বোধ হয় ১—১।০ আন সের হবে। গ্রামের দুঃখ, অভাব, অভিযোগ হয়ত আমরা বুঝতে ও নাপারি যেহেতু আমরা প্রায় সহরেই থাকি। আমাদের অনেক মেম্বার সহরেই থাকেন এবং গ্রামে কদাচিত যাতায়াত করেন কেউ কেউ বা একটু যান। এ অবস্থায় আমরা গ্রামের কথা ঠিক ঠিক ভাবে বুঝিনা—বুঝিনা যে গ্রামের লোক কি পরিমাণ চিংকার করে। তাদের কষ্টের কথা পৌছায়না আমাদের কাছে। কিন্তু তাদের মধ্যেও চিনি খাওয়া লোক আছে, তবুও চিনির তিনগুণ দাম দিয়ে তাদের গুড় কিনে খেতে হয়। আমরা নিজেরা স্বীকার করছি যে চিনি তাদের পক্ষে luxury, বা তাদের দরকার নাই; কিন্তু তারা তিনগুণ বেশী দরে গুড় কিনে থাক, সেটা আমরা চাই কি? তারা হয়ত গ্রাম থেকে ভাবছে যে আমরা এটাই মনে করি। আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি এই প্রশ্নটার প্রতি আকর্ষণ করি। সময় বলাহয় যে গ্রামে এই সবেৰ বিরুদ্ধে বিশেষ প্রতিবাদ হয়েছে এমন জানা এটাই বলছি যে যদি কখনও গ্রামে যান তাহলে প্রতিবাদের চোটে হাটতে পারবেন না। কোন কোন সভায় আপনাদের জিজ্ঞেস করবে এবং বলবে যে গ্রামের লোকের জন্য আপনারা প্রত্যেকটি এইযে ব্যবধানটা দেখছি সেটা যেন ভয়ঙ্কর ভাবে নাথাকে—সেটাই গভর্ণমেন্টের কি করছেন। অনেকেই প্রশ্ন করে যে যুদ্ধের সময় যদি আমরা জিনিষপত্র এরচেয়ে বেশী পেয়ে দেখা দরকার। যুদ্ধ শেষ হওয়ার পর সেসব জিনিষ কম পাওয়ার কারণ কি? এটা সম্ভব প্রশ্ন। থাকি, আজ tion এর বেলায় এত ব্যবধান কেন এটাও তারা প্রশ্ন করে। যুদ্ধের সময় যে পরিমাণ জিনিষ পাওয়া গেছে, যুদ্ধের পরে সেই পরিমাণ জিনিষ তারা পাইতেছে না। Distribution দুই এক বৎসর মানুষের ভয়ানক দুঃখ কষ্টে গেছে। এটা কেন হল, মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয় এবার ভালকরে বুঝিয়ে দিয়েছেন। তবুও লোকের ধারণা যে Procuring Agency যাদের দেওয়া

হয়েছিল তাদের অনেকেরই যোগ্যতার অভাব ছিল। এটা লোকের বন্ধন নাশনা যে যারা জিনিষগুলি সংগ্রহ করার ভার নিয়েছিল, সকলেরই না হটক, তাদের মধ্যে বহুলোকের সেই ক্ষমতাই ছিল না এবং সেজন্যই এরকম হয়েছে। আশা করি গভর্নমেন্টের দিক থেকে যদি কন্ট্রোল দেওয়ার কোন কিছু গোলমাল হয়ে থাকে তাহলে অবশ্যই গভর্নমেন্ট এবার সেটা দেখবেন। কিন্তু লোকে যে যুদ্ধের পর থেকে জিনিষ কম পেয়েছে সেটা দিক। এর উদ্ভবে আমরা বলছি যে দিক যুদ্ধের সময় পিস্তল মাধ্যম করে কাজ করানো হয়েছে—৮ মণ্টার জায়গায় ১২ মণ্টা পাটানো হয়েছে। এখন strike চলছে, rioting হচ্ছে, কাজের সময় কমছে, সেজন্যই জিনিষও কম এবং পাইতেও অসুবিধা হইতেছে। কিন্তু Procuring Agency ত আমরাই নিযুক্ত করেছি। যদি বাস্তবিক তথ্য দিকলোক নাহলে থাকে তাহলে উপযুক্ত লোকের বন্দোবস্ত করা গভর্নমেন্টের কর্তব্য। এই যে জুদানে এতগুলি জিনিষ নষ্ট হয়ে পড়ে গেল যেখানে জিনিষ পাওয়া যায় নাই সেখানে যে এত জিনিষ নষ্ট হয়ে গেল, তাদের জন্য লোকের জিনিষের কষ্ট হল সেইসব অফিসারের বিরুদ্ধে কি করেছেন গভর্নমেন্ট? যেখানে জিনিষ পাওয়া যাইতেছে না সেখানে যদি বাস্তবিক এরকম অবস্থা হয়ে থাকে, এ অবস্থা তাদের জন্য হয়েছে তাদের সম্বন্ধে কি ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে? যদি কিছু করা না হয়ে থাকে তাহলে অনতি-বিলম্বে করা উচিত হবে বলে আমি মনে করি। তাহলেই এই যে অমায়ের শ্রোত চলছে তাহা কিছু বন্ধ হবে আশা করা যায়। এই যুদ্ধ আমাদের দেশে যে মিত্যা, চোরাবাজার ও অন্যায়ের শ্রোত এনেছে তাহা বন্ধ করার উপযুক্ত অধিকারী আমাদের সমাজ এবং আমাদের গভর্নমেন্ট। এরা যদি তাহা না পাবেন তাহলে লোকের অত্যন্ত দুর্দশা হবে। এবং সেটা বন্ধ করতে হলে প্রথম Black এর হস্ত বন্ধ করার চেষ্টা নাকরলে হবেনা। খাতির, অনুরোধের ত প্রশ্নই উঠে না। যদি কোন রকম শিথিলত থাকে তাহলে এটা অত্যন্ত নিন্দনীয়; কংগ্রেস গভর্নমেন্টের পক্ষে সেটা শোভনীয় নয়।

আমাদের সুনামগঞ্জ মহর হতে জগন্নাথপুর বা দিরাই থানার পূর্বাঞ্চলে আমরা হেমস্ত কালে সাধারণতঃ কোন supply পাঠাইতে পারি না। অনেক জিনিষ তারা গত ৪/৫ মাসের মধ্যে নিতে পারে নাই। আমরা চিৎকার করেছি, কিন্তু প্রতিকার ত হয় না। সুনামদী পৈন্দা হতে জয়কলস পর্যন্ত পলি পড়ে একেবারে ভাঙি হয়ে গেছে। সেখানে নৌকা চলে না, কোন মোটর বা truck যায় না, কারণ রাস্তা নাই। বা দুই একটা আছে তাতে ও petrol নাই বলে মোটর যাতায়াতের অনুমতি দেওয়া হয় না। সুনামগঞ্জ-জগন্নাথপুর রাস্তায় মোটর চলাচল করে না, সেজন্যই ঐসব জিনিষ নেওয়া সম্ভব হয় না। Hon'ble Supply Minister বলতে পারেন যে এটাতে আমরা কি করব। সেটা সত্য। কিন্তু গভর্নমেন্টের দায়িত্ব কি যেখানে কিছু নাই? গভর্নমেন্টের দায়িত্ব সবদিকে। কিন্তু তার কোন বন্দোবস্ত আজ পর্যন্ত ও হয় নাই সামনে হবে কিনা জানি না। ভগবানই জানেন।

তারপর mustard oil এর control উঠে গেছে। অত্যন্ত সুরের কথা। এই তৈলের জন্য যে কি দিগদারী পেতে হয়েছে তাহলে এখন আর লাভ নেই। এখন কেরোসিন আর চিনির উপর থেকে যদি কোন রকম control তা Provincial Government ছাড়িয়ে দিতে পারেন, তাহলে রক্ষা হয়। কেরোসিনের কথা আগে বলা হয়েছে; আর বলতে চাই না। চিনির সম্বন্ধে অনেকেই বলেছেন যে Black market এ যদি জায়গায় জায়গায় চিনি পাওয়া যায় তাহলে এই control টা রেখে লাভ কি? চিনির ও এখন বেশী অভাব নাই। শিলঙ্গের

লোকে বলে যে তেলের control উঠে যাওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এখন দোকানীরা লোককে ডাকে তেল নেবার জন্য। চিনি যদি জায়গায় জায়গায় থাকে এবং যদি Black market এ পাওয়া যায়, তাহলে চিনির control তুলে দেওয়াই ভাল—অন্ততঃ তুলে দেওয়ার জন্য চেষ্টা করা উচিত। এই পর্য্যন্ত বলেই আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করলাম।

(The hon. Member spoke in Bengali against all-round corruptions still existing in the Supply Department, particularly in respect of the management of Cloth Society, supply of cement, administration of Rice control, distribution of cloth, sugar, etc., and requested that the Hon'ble Minister should pay more careful attention to all these and see that corruptions and defects pointed out be removed without further delay.)

Babu SURESH CHANDRA BISWAS: Deputy Speaker, Madam, we have heard the statement made by the Hon'ble Supply Minister that he is trying his utmost to improve the condition of supply matter but I may point out that the people have not been fully satisfied with it. Of course the Hon'ble Minister said that there are defects for which he has not been able to satisfy the people to the full. I may say that in spite of the earnest efforts of the Government they have failed to satisfy the people and this failure is due to several reasons. Firstly, the system adopted by the Government in many cases is so defective that the dealers even cannot get their commodities. In this connection I may mention here an instance that at Sunamganj at present two dealers have refused to take delivery of foodstuffs and thereby causing great difficulty to the people of that locality. These dealers are not taking any foodstuffs because instead of making any profit they are sustaining heavy losses and this loss is due to the defective system adopted by the Government. Madam, these dealers are required to pay the price for the quantity shown in the invoice but when they are actually weighed they fall short of the actual weight. It must be remembered that these things have to come by steamer and Railway and they had to pay the full amount as charged in the invoice but practically they do not get the actual quantities of commodities as shown in the invoice and they thereby sustain heavy losses. For this reason, the dealers are not taking delivery of foodstuffs. If they are to make good such losses they will have to adopt black-marketing. I fail to understand why should the dealers receive 50 maunds of sugar and be charged for 70 maunds. How will they make good this loss? They will have to adopt black-marketing otherwise they cannot cope with this loss even by selling all their properties. So this system should be stopped.

Next point, Madam, I want to deal with, is about the dishonesty of the staff under the Supply as well as the Rice Control Departments. This staff was appointed by the last League Government. They appointed their favourite persons most of whom were from the illiterate section of the society, illiterate persons, such as cart drivers, tea stall servants and as such, they are not capable to check export of rice and control supply matters of the Province. On these persons we are to rely and to believe that they will check smuggling. And for this reason, Madam, my Subdivision from which I come and which is a bordering Subdivision, became a deficit area as far as rice and paddy are concerned, in the last year. For the dishonesty, corrupt and paddy are neglected, about 90,000 maunds of rice and paddy to the Government had to utter Subdivision. This year also, during the last three months, the surplus quantity of rice and paddy of this Subdivision has been exhausted, the reason being that thousands and thousands maunds of rice and paddy have gone to Bengal with the assistance of the Rice Control Staff. Madam, as a result of this illegal export due to the negligence, dishonesty and incapability of the

officers concerned, my Subdivision is going to be a deficit area again and after two or three months people are going to starve in consequence and Government shall have to supply double the quantity of rice and paddy that Government supplied last year in order to save the suffering people. Madam, this staff has made their position enviable to the public. Any persons appointed under the Rice Control Department can make themselves rich in a short period. This, Madam, reminds me of a story, that once an old wretched woman approached a Deputy Commissioner for something by way of begging and the Deputy Commissioner was pleased to give her something and she was so pleased with his behaviour that she left by saying "Well my child, I bless you to become a Daroga". Now, Madam, this was her blessing, because at that time the post of a Daroga was a very lucrative one. Had the old begger lady been still alive she would have blessed the Hon'ble Supply Minister saying "My good lad, I bless you to be a Rice Control Sub-Inspector or at least a checker". Because the job of such an officer under the Rice Control is far more lucrative than that of an Hon'ble Minister.

I, therefore, draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply to the nature of dishonesty that has been going on unchecked. This is applicable to the Supply Department staff also. The quotas of foodstuffs that are sent to different parts of the subdivision are not properly distributed and most of those stuffs go to the black-market. With regard to one point I differ from what Mr. Bhadra has said, that is, corruption has decreased to some extent. Rather I am of opinion that it has increased to a great extent. When this Ministry took office, the officers I am speaking of, were afraid of the Congress Government but now they openly say that 'so long this Government exists they can do every thing according to their sweet will.' Madam, this is a disgrace and so this Government should take note of all these things. In my Subdivision rice and paddy are being exported in thousands and thousands of maunds every week. Therefore, Madam, steps and great care should be taken by this Government to put a stop to all these.

With these words, Madam, I finish my observations.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: মাননীয়া সভাপতি মহোদয়া, মই গুড়ৰ কথাও কবলৈ গুলোৱা নাই বা চেনিৰ কথাও কবলৈ গুলোৱা নাই। এই কব খুজিছোঁ আইন এটা কথা। কাৰণ আমাৰ Tribal মানুহে চেনি নাথায় বুলিলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়। গাৰলীয়া মানুহে চেনিৰ নিমিত্তে আৰু অন্যান্য বস্তুৰ নিমিত্তে কিমান যে ঘোচ দিব লাগে তাৰ সীমা নাই। তাৰ উপৰিও কোনো কোনো সময়ত Supply Minister ৰ গুচবলৈকো যাব লগা হয়। Tribal মানুহ বিলাক দুখীয়া। গতিকে তেওঁলোকে টকা দি permit লব নোৱাৰে।

মই কব খুজিছোঁ অনু আৰু বস্ত্ৰৰ কথা। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ধান চাউলৰ যত্নে যি নীতি কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ নিমিত্তে যিটো দৰ বান্ধি দিছে, সেই দৰ খেতিয়ক বিলাকে কেতিয়াও ঠিকমতে নাপায়। ধানৰ দৰ বান্ধি দিছে চৰকাৰে ৬০ অন্যকৈ কিন্তু খেতিয়ক বিলাকে ৪১ টকা কৈছে পায়। কাৰণ Tribal area ত কোনো বাস্তৱ্যট নাই আৰু গাড়ী নিবলৈকো সুবিধা নাই। গতিকে আপোনালোকে চাব লাগিব Tribal বিলাকে ধানৰ উচিত দৰ কেনেকৈ পাব পাৰে। তেওঁবিলাকৰ নিজৰ গাড়ী নাই, সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে খেতিৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ উচিত দৰৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হয়। গতিকে তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি অলপ সময় চকুৰে চাই সুবিধা কৰি দিব লাগিব যাতে তেওঁলোকে ধান চাউলৰ সুবিধা দৰ পায়। গাড়ীৰ খাজনা দিওঁতেই তেওঁলোক জৰ্জৰিত হয়। আপোনালোকৰ idea নাথাকিব পাৰে যে তেওঁলোক এনেকুৱা

জাগাত থাকে যটল মানুহ যাব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ নিচিনা মানুহ অৱশ্যে যাব পাৰে আৰু মই নিজে সেইবিলাক ঠাইত ফুৰিছো। কিন্তু মিনিষ্টাৰ বা ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ অফিচাৰ বিলাক তালৈ যাব নোৱাৰে, কাৰণ সেই বিলাক ঠাইলৈ মটৰ নাযায়। গতিকে সেই বিলাক ঠাইলৈ যাতে যাব পৰা হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে বাস্তাঘাট তৈয়াৰ কৰি দিয়া উচিত।

Tribal area ৰ বাস্তাৰ কাৰণে মই নিজে এখন লিষ্ট দিছিলো, কিন্তু সিদিনা বাজেটত দেখিলো যে তাৰ এটা বাস্তাও লোৱা হোৱা নাই। এই বিলাক বাস্তা লোৱা হলে ধানৰ যিটো দাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বান্ধি দিছ সেইটো তেওঁলোকে পালে হেতেন।

আৰু এটা কথা আপোনালোকে চাব লাগিব যে চেকিত ছটা চাউল আৰু কলত ছটা চাউলৰ ব্যৱধান কিয় কৰা হৈছে। এই Tribal মানুহ বিলাকে ধানৰ দৰ কম পায় বুলি চেকিত চাউল ছাতি বেচিবলৈ আনে। কিন্তু চেকিত ছটা চাউলৰ দাম কমকৈ দিয়ে আৰু কলত ছটা চাউলৰ দাম বেচিকৈ দিয়ে। এই ব্যৱধানটো কিয় কৰি দিছে কব নোৱাৰো।

বহুতে কাপোৰ আৰু সুতাৰ কথা কৈ গৈছে। তেওঁলোকে কৈছে যে গাৰ্ভ মানুহে প্ৰতি ৯ গজ পায় আৰু নগৰত ২০ গজকৈ পায়। সুম্ভাভেলীৰ কথা কব নোৱাৰো, কিন্তু আমাৰ গৌহাটী নগৰত মাহে ৩ গজকৈ লৈ পায় আৰু গাৰ্ভত ১৫ গজকৈহে পায়। Liaison committee লৈ মই গৈছিলো আৰু তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে ১৫ গজৰ ঠাইত ২ গজকৈ থাকে গতিকে যিবোৰ পাব লগা বস্তু তাৰ পৰাও তেওঁলোক বঞ্চিত হয়। মই লেখা লেখি কৰিও কোনো সুবিধা কৰিব পৰা নাই। Tribal বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত কোনো retailer নাই। বহুত চেষ্টা কৰাৰ ফলত বন্ধিয়া আৰু টিহুত Tribal retailer দিয়া হৈছে, কিন্তু কিছুমান গাৰ্ভৰ পৰা বন্ধিয়া আৰু টিহু ২৫/৩০ মাহল দুবৈ। সেই কাৰণে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে Tribal area ত Tribal retailer দিব লাগে। দুবৈ গাৰ্ভৰ পৰা যেতিয়া তেওঁলোক পাইছো; তোমালোকক দিব নোৱাৰো আৰু তোমালোকে সময়মতে অহা নাই। এনেকুৱা বহুত সময়ত মই নিজেই দেখিছো। গতিকে Tribal চাৰ্কেলত Tribal retailer দিব লাগে। মই ওচৰত থকাৰ কাৰণে টিহু চাৰ্কেলৰ বহুত Tribal retailer দিব পাইছো। অথচ বন্ধিয়াত গোটেইবোৰ Caste Hindu retailer, এ retailer ৰ shop retailer নাই। বহুতে কয় যে Supply Superintendent এ দিয়া নাই। তাৰ কাৰণ তেওঁলোকে কৈছে “আমি ভোট দিব নোৱাৰো সেই কাৰণে নাপাও”। Supply Superintendent, আৰু Inspector এ নিজে চেষ্টা কৰিম বুলি কৈছিল, কিন্তু শেষত কলে যে তেওঁবিলাকে কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সিফালে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা আজিও কাপোৰ পোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক কওঁ যে Tribal area ত যাতে Tribal retailer হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে দৃষ্টি দিয়ে যেন।

গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে Tribal, Scheduled Caste আদি লোকক সুবিধা দিব বুলি কয়। Scheduled Caste এ মাছ মাৰে, সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে মাছ মৰা জালৰ কাৰণে সুতা পায়। সেই সুতাবে তেওঁলোকে ঘৰৰ কাপোৰ ববলৈকো সুবিধা পায়। (A voice: It is

not a fact). It may not be a fact, কিন্তু তেনে কৰা দেখা যায়। Scheduled Caste ৰ নিমিত্তে সুকীয়া consideration আছে কিন্তু Tribal বিলাকে সূত্ৰা নাপায়। কংগ্ৰেছে সকলো ঠাইতে কৈ আহিছে যে Tribal, Schedule Caste আদি অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ নিমিত্তে special consideration কৰা যায়। কিন্তু কাৰ্যত আমি একো দেখা নাই। মই communal basis ত কোৱা নাই। যদি সঁচা সচিকৈ স্বাধীনতা পাও তেন্তে গোটেই দেশখনকে উন্নত কৰিব লাগিব। আৰু সকলো ঠাইৰে ৰাস্তা খাট দি Town ৰ সমান কৰি উঠাব লাগিব। সেই ফালৰ পৰা চাই কওঁ যে গিৰিলাক creek and corner অৰ্থাৎ গিৰিলাক দুৰৈৰ interior ঠাইত Tribal বিলাক আছে সেই বিলাকৰ পুতি বেচি দৃষ্টি দিয়ে যেন।

বহুতে কয় যে ধানৰ দৰ ৮ টকা লৈকে হৈছে, কিন্তু Tribal ৪ ৯ টকা কৈছে পাছ। গতিকে control Government এ উঠাই নিদিলে আপোনালোকে পোকাই দিব নোৱাৰে। সেইটো দিয়াৰ পাৰিব যদিহে Tribal বিলাকক গাভীৰ ৰাজ্যনাৰ পৰা বেচাই দিয়াৰ পাৰে। ৰাস্তা নাই, সেই কাৰণে গাভীৰ ৰাজ্যনা ভৰিব লগা হৈছে। (A voice: It is a matter of Local Board). Local Board ৰ হলেও ৰাজ্যনা মাফ কৰি দিয়াৰ পাৰে। সকলো কথাতে যেতিয়া Tribal আৰু অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ক সুবিধা দিবলৈ শুলাইছে, তেনেহলে প্ৰেতি বাতি সকলোতে তেওঁলোকক সুবিধা দিয়ক। তেওঁলোকৰ যদি সকলোতে সমান সুৰলৈ আনিব পাৰে, তেন্তে স্বাধীনতা পালে আপোনালোকৰেই সুবিধা হব। আৰু যদিহে তেওঁলোক backward হৈ থাকিব লগা হয়, তেনে হলে তেওঁলোক সদায় backward হৈয়ে থাকিব।

(The non. Member spoke in Assamese and urged upon the Government to see that the tribal people get their proper share of food, cloth and roads.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we proceed further, may I know how many hon. Members will take part in this debate, because we must finish the debate to-day.

(Three hon. Members rose in their seats)

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: This is a very important subject, and the debate may be continued for the next day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But there is no time on other days.

A Voice: We might sit up to 5 P.M. to-day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that the sense of the House?

(Voices: Yes, Yes.)

Srijut HEMCHANDRA HAZARIKA: মাননীয়া সভানেত্ৰী মহোদয়া, ভাৰত চৰকাৰে যিখিনি অসুবিধাত পেলাইছে আৰু বহুত কষ্ট কৰি সেইখিনি অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰি আমাৰ দেশৰ কাৰণে যোগনীয়া বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যি চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাৰ বাবে মই মাননীয়া মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অন্তৰবে সৈতে ধন্যবাদ দিছোঁ। কিন্তু তাৰ লগে লগে কেই আঘাৰ মান কথা কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছোঁ যে আসাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বহু কষ্ট কৰি যিখিনি বস্তু আমাৰ ইয়াটলৈ আনিছে সেই বস্তুখিনি যাতে সমভাবে সকলোৰে পায় তাৰ দিহা কৰে বা সেই সম্পৰ্কে যাতে আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নজৰ থাকে তাৰ বাবে মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

কাপোৰৰ যি ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে, কাপোৰ যিখিনি আছে সেইখিনি প্ৰত্যেক মহকুমাতে যি হিচাবে দিয়া হৈছে সেই লিষ্টিখন চালে দেখা যায় যে কোনো কোনো মহকুমাতে লোকসংখ্যা অনুপাতে যি তাৰতম্য কৰা হৈছে সেই তাৰতম্যৰ ফালে তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছে আৰু উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ Liaison Committee কেইবাবাৰো লেখালেখি কৰিছিল— প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছিল যে সেই মহকুমাৰ নিমিত্তে যি quota দিয়া হৈছে সেই কাপোৰৰ quota লোকসংখ্যা অনুপাতে পৰা নই—সেই quota বৃদ্ধি কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈকে তাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী নকৰাত সচাঁকৈয়ে ৰাইজে বৰ কষ্ট অনুভৱ কৰিছে। তাৰ পিচত আৰু এটা কথা হৈছে কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনতো এই যে এটা নীতি অৱলম্বন কৰা হৈছে—গাঁৱলীয়া আৰু নগৰীয়াৰ পাৰ্থক্য, সেইটোৱে বোধ কৰো কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰতি গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজৰ এটা অবিশ্বাসৰ ভাৱৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে বুলি মনত হয়। কেইবা ঠাইতো ৰাইজে কংগ্ৰেছৰ ৰাজহুৱা সভা পাতি প্ৰস্তাৱ পৰ্য্যন্ত দিছিল যে এনেকুৱা চেনি আৰু কাপোৰ আদি যিবিলাক বস্তু ইমান দুশ্ৰাপ্য হৈছে— যি বস্তুৰ নিমিত্তে ৰাইজে ইমান হাঁহাকাৰ কৰিছে, ৰাইজে যি বস্তুৰ অভাৱত মানুহক নগ্ন অৱস্থাত থকাও দেখিব লগা হৈছে আৰু যি কাপোৰৰ দুই এক গজো পোৱা নাযায় তেনে অৱস্থাত কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নগৰীয়া আৰু চহৰীয়াৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে, তাত সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজে বৰ সন্তোষ পোৱা নাই। এই বিষয়ে অৱশ্যে অন্য ৰাইজৰ মতামত কি কব নোৱাৰো, মোৰ নিজা ব্যক্তিগত মত এয়ে যে বস্তু পোৱাত যদি ইমান কষ্ট হয়, ইমান অভাৱ হয়, সেই অভাৱৰ দিনত যিখিনি পাও সেইখিনি সকলোৱে সমানে ভাগবাটি নাখাও কিয়? এইটো আমাৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ মতামত। অৱশ্যে অন্যান্য মহকুমাৰ কথা কব নোৱাৰো, কিন্তু উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ কেইবাখনো ৰাজহুৱা সভাত দাবী প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে যে এই ব্যৱস্থা সন্তোষজনক নহয়। আশা কৰো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়ে এবাৰ ভাবি চাব তেওঁলোকৰ সেই উক্তি যুক্তিযুক্ত হয়নে নহয়।

তাৰ পিচত ধান আৰু চ.উলৰ সংগ্ৰহ সম্পৰ্কে যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে, ধানৰ যি দাম বান্ধি দিয়া হৈছে সেই দাম মতে সকলো ঠাইতে ৰাইজে সমানে পাইছেনে নাই সেইটো যাতে চৰকাৰৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা অনুসন্ধান কৰা হয়। কাৰণ একোটা মহকুমাতে যি দুই তিনটাকৈ গুদাম আছে, সেই গুদামলৈ মটৰেৰে বা গাড়ীৰে আনিব পাৰিলেহে গৱৰ্ণ মেণ্টে বান্ধি দিয়া দাম পাব পাৰে কিন্তু আওহতীয়া ঠাইত বেপাৰীবিলাকে নিজ ইচ্ছামতে ধানৰ দাম দিয়ে বা ৰাইজে তাক লবলৈ বাধ্য হয়, কাৰণ সেই ২০।৩০ মাইল দূৰৈত যি গুদাম আছে তাত নিজে গৈ দিয়া অসম্ভৱ। গতিকে মধ্যস্থ বেপাৰীয়ে যি দাম দিয়ে তাকে লবলৈ ৰাইজ বাধ্য। মই ফুৰিবলৈ যাওতে জাগায় জাগায় ৩—৪ টকাৰ ওপৰ নিদিয়া ঠায়ো পাইছোঁ। উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ পূব অঞ্চলত চাৰিটা মৌজা আছে। সেই চাৰিটা মৌজাৰ পৰা যিমান দূৰৈত গুদাম আছে তালৈ ধান অনা ৰাইজৰ পক্ষে অসম্ভৱ। সেই কাৰণে বেপাৰী সকলে ইচ্ছামতে তাত দাম দিয়ে গৈ। এজন মানুহে কৈছিল যে উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ পূব অঞ্চলে স্বাধীনতা পাইছে, কাৰণ বেপাৰী সকলে তাত যি ইচ্ছা কৰিব পাৰে—তাৰ কোনো প্ৰতিবন্ধকতা নাই। সেই অঞ্চলত ধানৰ দাম কম। বদতিত যি জন Procuring Deputy Director আছে তেখেতক মই নিজে কৈছোঁ আৰু ইয়াত প্ৰথমে যেতিয়া এই ব্যৱস্থা অৱলম্বন কৰা হৈছিলোঁ, কিন্তু আওহতীয়া ঠাইলৈ আওকান কৰাৰ নীতিৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তনৰ যে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে হৈছিলোঁ, কিন্তু আওহতীয়া ঠাইলৈ আওকান কৰাৰ নীতিৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তনৰ যে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে তাৰ কোনো দিহা নহল।

তাৰ পিচত গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে সদায় কৈ আহিছে যে তেওঁলোকে কৃষ্টিৰ শিষ্টৰ উন্নতি সদায় কামনা কৰে। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে, যে চেকিত বনা চাউল বিক্ৰি কৰাৰো বাধা আছে। এই সম্পৰ্কে মাননীয় হিন্দুসিংকা মহোদয়ে কৈ গৈছে যে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ পৰা ধৰম অ গিছে যে তাত গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ Procuring agent যি বিলাক আছে তেওঁলোকে চেকিত বনা চাউল নোলো'ৱাৰ কাৰণে বহুত চাউল পচিছে। এই বাৰত যি বিলাক ৰাইজে দুই পয়চা পানৰ নিমিত্তে চেকিত ধান বানি আনি মহাজনৰ দ্বৰত থৈ যায় সেই বিলাক ৰাইজে চাউল বিক্ৰি কৰিব নোৱাৰে, কাৰণ তেওঁলোকে কয় যে গাৱলীয়া মানুহে চেকিত বনা চাউল গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট লবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰে। গাৱলীয়া মানুহে আৰু বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায়ে গাৱৰ পৰা ধান কিমি লৈ গৈ ধান বানি আনি লোকানত বা বজাৰত বিক্ৰি কৰে আৰু সেই চাউল মহাজন বিলাকে কিমি লৈ যায়। সেই চাউল যদি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ Procuring Departmentৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষই মলয় তেনেহলে বনুৱাবিলাকৰ এটা ভাঙৰ বোজকাৰৰ বাট বন্ধ হৈ যাব। তাৰ লগে লগে নগৰৰ যি বিলাকে চেকিত বনা চাউল কিমি খায় সেই সকলৰো নানা বকৰ অসুবিধা হব। তেওঁলোকে ৬—৭ মাইল বাট বোকা ৰচকি আছে। যদিহে তেওঁলোকে বজাৰত চাউল বিক্ৰি কৰিব নোৱাৰে, তেনেহলে চেকিত বনা ৰীতি বন্ধ হ'ব আৰু তাৰ লগে লগে তেওঁলোকৰ বোজকাৰৰ দাটো বন্ধ হৈ যাব। এই সম্পৰ্কে মই মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক ৰাইজৰ পৰা অহা চেলিগ্ৰাম চাই যাতে যোগকালে তাৰ এটা বাৰত্বা কৰে তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনলোঁ।

তাৰ পিচত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে মহাশ্বা গাৰ্হীৰ চৰকাৰ কথা মনত পেলাই দিছে। ৰাইজে চৰকাৰ কথা পাহৰা নাই। কিন্তু ৰাইজৰ বহুত অসুবিধা বিশেষকৈ কপাহৰ অসুবিধাৰ বাবেই এই চৰকাৰ আগৰ দৰে যবে যবে চলাবলৈ অসুবিধা পাইছে। আশাকৰোঁ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যোগকালে যাতে কপাহৰ যোগান দিয়া হয় তাৰ বাবে যত্ন কৰিব।

তাৰ লগে লগে যি বিলাক বস্তৰ বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে অৰ্থাৎ মাহ, কাপোৰ কানি, গুড়, ইত্যাদিৰ উৎপন্ন বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ যিবিলাক উপায় অৱলম্বন কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা বাবে বাবে কোৱা হৈছে সেই সম্বন্ধে আমাৰ ফালৰ পৰা কওঁ যে কুছিয়াৰ খেতি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বা যিকোনো ৰাধ্য জৰ্য উৎপন্ন কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ৰাইজৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা যদি কোনো সমৰায় সমিতি গঠন কৰা হয় তেতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰাও যাতে সেই সমৰায় সমিতিৰ পুঁজি বা মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হয় আৰু যাতে পূৰ্বৰ Red Tap ৰ হেচাত পেলাই থৈ তদন্ত অৰ্দি কৰো'তে কৰোতেই যাতে ফাল কাটোতেই মাহ বতৰ শেষ নহয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে বিশেষ অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ। যত তেনেকুৱা সমৰায় সমিতি চলে ৰাত যদি কিছু টকাৰ দৰকাৰ হয় বা তেওঁলোকে কুছিয়াৰ খেতি কৰিবলৈ মাটি বিচাৰে—এতিয়া চ'ত মাহ, তদন্ত কৰি Deputy Commissioner বা Commissioner ৰ জৰিয়তে যদি পাৰ লগা হয় তেনেহলে কুছিয়াৰ খেতি কৰাৰ সময় যাব—তাত এনেকুৱা নকৰি যোগকালে অনুসন্ধান কৰি তেনেকুৱা সমৰায় সমিতিক উৎসাহ দিবৰ কাৰণে যাতে ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক মই টানি অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

এনেকুৱা দেখা গৈছে যে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ পূব অঞ্চলত পুচুৰ পৰিমাণে মুগা আৰু এড়ি উৎপন্ন হয়, কিন্তু আজিলৈকে কোনো Sericulture বা Agriculture বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে সেই মৌজাবোৰ দেখা পোৱা নাই।

মহকুমাৰ দুই এজন কৰ্মচাৰী কেতিয়াবা দেখা যায়। তেওঁবিলাকে মটৰ বা চাইকেলত চলে। সেইবিলাক মৌজালৈ বাস্তা অগম্য, তালৈ বোকাতে খোজ কাঢ়ি যাব লাগে। সেই বাটেদি যাবলৈ এই বিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ ভাগ্যত কষ্ট লেখা নাই। গতিকে যাতে সেই অঞ্চলৰ নিমিত্তে কৃষি বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী বা Sericulture বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী বা Weaving Departmentৰ কৰ্মচাৰী দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে আৰু সেই অঞ্চলত যাতে বাইজে সেই বিষয়ে সমবায় সমিতি খুলি অধিক উৎপন্নৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাত চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা সহায় কৰি বাইজক উৎসাহ দিয়ে তাৰ বাবে মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক গানুনয়ে অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

এই ধিনিতে এটা কথা কওঁ যে যিবিলাক খাদ্য বস্তুৰ অভাৱ বা অসুবিধা হয় তাৰ বাবে গাৱলীয়া তদাৰক কমিটি বা Town Liaison Committeeৰ পৰা যিবিলাক অনুৰোধ বা দখাস্ত আহে সেই বিলাকৰ পুছানুপুছক্ৰমে অনুমোদন হৈ যাতে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা সহায় পোৱা হয়, তাৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো। Liaison Committeeক বহুত ক্ষমতা দিয়া হৈছে বুলি circular খনত দেখিছো, কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যতঃ দেখা যায় যে মহকুমাধিপতি বা Deputy Commissionerএ নিজ ইচ্ছাবে বহুত কাম কৰে। তেনেকুৱা যাতে নহয় তাৰবাবে যেন গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে চকু দিয়ে।

কিছুদিনৰ আগতে এই মৌজা বিলাকৰ দাঁতিকাষৰীয়া অঞ্চলত যলৈ গাড়ী নাযায়, মানুহ যাব নোৱাৰে তেনে অঞ্চলত দোকানৰ license দিবলৈ এটা প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰিছিল আৰু মহকুমাধিপতি চাহাৰে কৈছিল যে তেনে অঞ্চলত আৱশ্যকমতে license দিয়া হব। কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমান মহকুমাধিপতিয়ে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ বদ কৰি ১৯৪২ চনৰ আগলৈকে যিবিলাকে কাৰবাৰ কৰি আহিছে সেই বিলাকক হে license দিব পৰা হব বুলি কৈ এই দাঁতিকাষৰীয়া দোকানী বিলাকৰ license cancel কৰিছে আৰু যি বিলাকক license দিবলৈ তদাৰক কমিটিয়ে অনুমোদন কৰিছিল সেই বিলাকক license দিয়া বন্ধ কৰিছে। ফলত যিবিলাক কেন্দ্ৰীয় স্থানত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ মহাজনৰ দোকান আছে সেই মহাজন বিলাকেহে কাপোৰৰ quota পাব আৰু সেইবিলাক দোকানৰ ওচৰৰ যিবিলাক Ration Card Holder আছে তেওঁবিলাকে ততাতৈয়াকৈ অইনতকৈ বেচি কাপোৰ লৈ যাব। ফলত দাঁতিকাষৰীয়া আওহতীয়া ঠাইৰ বাইজে কেতিয়াও সেই সুবিধা লব নোৱাৰিব, আৰু সেই অবস্থা সদায় হৈয়েই আছে। মই মফঃস্বলত এই মৌজা বিলাকত ফুৰিবলৈ গৈছোঁ। তাত এনেকুৱা অঞ্চল পাইছো যত Ration Card পোৱা মানুহেও ৬৭ মাহলৈ কোনো কাপোৰ নাপায়। এনে অৱস্থাত বৰ্ত্তমানে যি নীতিত মহকুমাধিপতিয়ে দোকানৰ license দিবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে সেই হিচাবে যদি চলিবলৈ দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে আওহতীয়া অঞ্চলৰ বাইজে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা যি এগজ ডেডগজ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে সেই এগজ ডেডগজো নাপাব। এনেকুৱা যদি কোনো circular আছে তেন্তে তাক বদ কৰি আৱশ্যকমতে তদাৰক কমিটি আৰু Liaison Committee এ অনুমোদন কৰামতে যাতে কাপোৰ বা controlled goodsৰ license দিয়া হয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক টানি অনুৰোধ জনালোঁ। এইখিনিকে কৈ মই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

(The hon. Members spoke in Assamese describing the existing pitiable condition of the people with regard to food, cloth and other necessities of life and urged upon the Government for equitable distribution of cloth and foodstuffs.)

Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Deputy Speaker. Madam, our Hon'ble Supply Minister has made a detailed statement on the present food and supply position of the Province. He has also let us know how he has been trying to ease the situation in our Province at this stage. He has been able to do at least one thing, *i.e.*, the removal of control of mustard seed and mustard oil in our Province. That is really, I should say, a great blessing to the people of our Province.

Now, Madam, I shall be very brief in my speech. I shall touch one or two points only. Several hon. Members have spoken on different aspects of the supply position of the Province but very little has been said on the lot of the poor paddy producers of the country. They have to purchase their necessary commodities at much higher rates. They cannot have their proper value for their paddy as the rate of paddy has been fixed by Government. The maximum rate for paddy has been now little over Rs. 6 per maund. That is quite insufficient for the poor cultivators. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister, as he did something beneficial to the poor people of the country in case of mustard oil and mustard seed, so he will try his level best to remove the control of paddy. He will have blessings from the millions of the poor cultivators.

My hon. Friend Mr. Basumatari has referred to certain difficulties which are being experienced in Tribal areas in getting yarns and other necessary things. Probably it is well known to the hon. Members of this House that the Tribal women, I mean, specially the Kachari women are very expert in weaving. They weave their own cloth themselves. They have got very beautiful designs of their own which they exhibit in their cloths. These Tribal Kachari women are not accustomed to use bazar cloths. So in the present position of cloth and the yarn we can see what difficulty they are experiencing in the areas inhabited by the Tribals. If we cannot give them sufficient quantity of yarn in those areas inhabited by these Kacharis and other Tribal people, we can imagine what a miserable life they will have to lead. I therefore appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Supply and to the whole Ministry that in the same way as has been done for arranging special quota for the Scheduled Caste people in preparing fishing nets, I think, some special quota of yarn can easily be reserved at least for the Tribal people who are not accustomed to use bazar cloth. They weave their own cloths. What is needed is special quota of a sufficient quantity of yarn for the Tribal people.

My learned Friend Mr. Himatsingka has stated elaborately the causes of delay in the movement of the imported goods into our Province. I think Hon'ble Minister's attention has already been drawn to this.

Madam, I do not wish to take the time of the House and with these few words I beg to resume my seat.

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, আমি একটা বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেন্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করবার জন্য সামান্য কিছু বলতে চাই। এক দিকে আসাম জঙ্গলাকীর্ণ স্থান, অন্য দিকে ইহা জলে পরিপূর্ণ এবং বর্ষায় জলে আসামের অনেক জায়গা ডুবিয়া যায়, সেইজন্য হেমন্তে আমরা এখানে যা বলি তাহা জঙ্গলের মধ্যে আটক পড়িয়া যায় এবং আমাদের বস্তব্য অরণ্যে রোদন ছাড়া কিছুই হয়না। এবং বর্ষায় যা বলা হয় তাহা বন্যার জলে ভাসিয়া যায়। Congress Election Manifesto আলোচনা করিলে দেখা যায় যে তার মধ্যে একটা বিষয়ও আমরা পুরোপুরি ভাবে আজ পর্যন্ত পালন করিতে পারি নাই। একটা বিষয়ে আমি বিশেষ ভাবে গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি; আশা করি তাহা জঙ্গলেও আটক পড়িবেনা, জলেও ভাসিয়া যাইবে না। সেটা হয়েছে Syndicateএর মাগলা সম্পর্কে।

এই Syndicate এর মামলা নিয়ে শ্রীহট্ট সহরে শ্রীহট্ট জেলায় এবং কাছাড় জেলায় বিরাট আন্দোলন হয়েছিল এবং সে বিষয়ে একটা তদন্তও হইয়াছিল, সেই তদন্তে প্রকাশ পাইয়াছে ইহাতে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক জড়িত আছেন এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার হিসাব জাল করা হইয়াছে এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে ঠকানো হইয়াছে। তদন্তের পর বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট একটা মামলা রুজু করিয়াছেন। সেই মামলাতে আমরা দেখতে পাই যে অত্যন্ত দুইটা তারিখ অতিবাহিত হইয়াছে এবং সেই দুই তারিখে গভর্ণমেন্ট তাদের পক্ষ থেকে কোন উকীল আদালতে উপস্থিত করিতে পারেন নাই। ইহা যদি শুধু গভর্ণমেন্ট এবং আর একটা পক্ষের মধ্যে একটা মামলা হইত তাহা হইলে আমরা ধরিয়া নিতে পারিতাম যে এ বিষয়ের একটা মিম্যাংসা যাহা হউক উভয় পক্ষের হইয়া যাইতে পারিত, আপোষেও একটা মিম্যাংসা হইতে আপত্তি ছিলনা, কিন্তু আমরা দেখছি যে Syndicate এর যারা দালাল ছিল তারা লক্ষ লক্ষ লোককে ঠকিয়েছে এবং শুনেছি যে অনেকেই তাদের নিকট বহু টাকা পাওনা দাবী করিয়াছেন। তদন্ত কমিটির যে Report তৈয়ার হইয়াছিল সেটা গভর্ণমেন্ট জনসাধারণের কাছে প্রকাশ করেন নাই, কারণ এজন্য অবিলম্বে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বিত হইবে এই আশ্বাস আমাদেরকে সরকার হইতে দেওয়া হইয়াছিল। এবং সেই বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা হিসাবে একটা মামলা রুজু হইয়াছে। আমরা বুঝতে পারি না যেখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ঠকানোর বিষয় গভর্ণমেন্ট অবগত আছেন সে সম্পর্কে যে মামলা চলছে সেই মামলাতে আজ পর্যন্তও উকীল নিযুক্ত কেন করা হলনা তাহা আমাদের বুদ্ধির অগম্য। তাতে আমাদের স্বভাবতঃই সন্দেহ হয় যে এই মামলা কোন দিন শেষ হইবে তাহা অনিশ্চিত বা কখনও শেষ হবে কি না এ বিষয়েও সন্দেহ জাগে। এ জন্য আমাদের যে ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা প্রয়োজন সে বিষয়ে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। হয়ত গভর্ণমেন্ট মনে করিতে পারেন যে এই মকদ্দমার জন্য আমাদের বহু টাকা খরচ করিতে হইবে এবং সেজন্য হয়ত সরকারের অনেক কিছু চিন্তা করারও প্রয়োজন রহিয়াছে। তাহাতেই হয়ত গভর্ণমেন্টের সীদ্ধান্তে দেবী হইতেছে, অথবা ইহাও হইতে পারে যে গভর্ণমেন্ট এই মামলায় উপযুক্ত উকীল খুজিয়া পাইতেছেন না—বাংলা, আসাম বা ভারতবর্ষেও এরূপ উপযুক্ত উকীলের অভাব ঘটিয়াছে অথবা এজন্য বহু উকীল নিযুক্ত করা প্রয়োজন এবং সেই ক্ষেত্রে অনেকে দাবী দাওয়াও পরিপূরণের আবশ্যিকতা ঘটিয়াছে তাহাতেই বিলম্ব ঘটিয়াছে কিন্তু এ বিষয়ে আমি নিরাশ না হইয়া পুনরায় গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি বিশেষ ভাবে আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। এই এসেমব্লিতে আমরা ইতিপূর্বে বিশেষ ভাবে তাদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিনাই বটে কিন্তু বাইরে এ বিষয়ে বার বার দাবী জানান হইয়াছে। আজকে আমি বিশেষ ভাবে এ সম্পর্কে গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি এবং গভর্ণমেন্টকে এই কথাই জানাইতে ব্যাপার হইবে। এবং যাহা ঘটিয়াছে তাহার পর এ বিষয়ে ভবিষ্যতে যে তারিখ পড়িবে সেই তারিখে যেন ইহা উকীল নিযুক্তের অস্ববিধার কথা আর না শুনিতে হয়। আমি জনসাধারণের পক্ষ হইতে শুধু একথা বলতে চাই যে এই মোকদ্দমা যথাযথভাবে পরিচালনার ব্যবস্থা হউক এবং জনসাধারণকে ঠকানো ছাড়া আর কিছুই হইতে পারেনা। যদি তাহা করা হয় তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেন্টের একটা বিরাট কর্তব্য রহিয়া যাইবে। এই মামলা শেষ হওয়ার পরেও হইয়াছে তাহার পরিমাণ নির্ধারণ করিয়া তাদের ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য আছে কি না এবং তাহা দিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত কি না সে সম্বন্ধে বিবর্তিত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা প্রয়োজন হইবে। যদি দেবী হয়

তাহলে যাহারা ন্যায়-পালনাদার রহিয়াছেন তাহারা তাহাদের পালনা সম্পর্কে যথাযোগ্য সাক্ষ্য ও দলিল পত্রাদি পাইবেন। ফল হইবে এই যে দেশের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ তাদের ন্যায় প্রাপ্য থেকে বঞ্চিত হইবে। তাই এদিকেও বিশেষভাবে গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। যাতে তাড়াতাড়ি এই মোকদ্দমা শেষ হয় এবং যারা এই মোকদ্দমায় জড়িত আছেন তাদের বাহাতে উপযুক্ত শাস্তির ব্যবস্থা করা হয় সেদিকে যেন সক্ষম থাকে, অতঃ পরে এই ব্যাপারে যাহারা জড়িত আছেন তাহাদেরকে যেন আসামী হিসাবে কোর্টের কাটগোডায় দাঁড় করানর চেষ্টা গভর্ণমেন্ট করেন।

(The hon. Member spoke in Bengali and urged upon Government in particular to take prompt action in the matter of the Case in Court against the "Surma Valley Supply Syndicate".)

Srijut JIBAN SANTAL: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি সুরমা ভ্যালী চা-বাগানের গরীব মজুরের মেম্বর। এই সুরমা ভ্যালীর মধ্যে ১৯৯টি main বাগান আছে; এবং যাহাকে out বা ফাঁড়ি বলা হয় সে বাগানও প্রায় ৩৫০ এর কম হবেনা। কাজেই দেখা যায় যে ৭৫০ এর মত বাগান আছে। এর মধ্যে কংগ্রেসের আশীর্বাদে এবং আসাম গভর্ণমেন্টের ক্ষমতায় আমি প্রায় ৪৫০ টি বাগানে গিয়ে কিছু কিছু কাজ করেছি এবং করিতেছি। কিন্তু প্রত্যেক বাগানেই তারা আমাকে বলে—“সাতাল জি আমাদের ইজজত আগে রক্ষা কর। সব বিনয়ত কষ্টে হইতেছে, কিন্তু কাপড়ের জন্য আর আমাদের বেঁচে থাকবার মত শক্তি নাই। এসময় যদি কংগ্রেস মিনিষ্টার বা কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের জন্য সব সময় দৃষ্টি নারানেন, তাহলে আমাদের না-বোনেরা ঘর থেকে বাইরে যাবে কেমন করে এবং চা-বাগানের কাজই বা করবে কেমন করে?” আমাদের মজুরের জন্য অতঃ চা-বাগানের মজুরের জন্য বৎসরে ৪ খানা বা ২০ গজ কাপড় নাহলে চলবেনা। সুতরাং যত শীঘ্র চেষ্টা করে বাগানে কাপড় দেওয়া হয় ততই ভাল হবে। তা নাহলে হয়ত কাপড়ের অভাবে এবার অনেক বাগানে তারা হরতাল বা ধর্মঘট করতেও পারে। এই অনুরোধই আমি বার বার আসাম গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে জানিয়ে যাইতেছি। চা-বাগানের মজুরের সম্বন্ধেই আমি এপর্যন্ত আলোচনা করলান। এতে হয়ত অনেকের মনে হবে যে শুধু বাগানেই কাপড়ের অভাব হয় নাই—সমস্ত আসামেই কাপড়ের অভাব। সেটা আমিও জানি। অনেক থ্রামের লোকের সম্বন্ধে আমার আলোচনা হয় এবং নিজেও গিয়ে দেখেছি। তাহলেও আমি জানি যে বাগানের মজুরদের জন্য থ্রাম থেকে বেশী লাগবেই লাগবে। কেন বেশী লাগবে সেটা আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্টের জানা আছে। বেশী লাগবে কিনা তাহা অনুমান করে এই বিষয়ের উত্তর দিয়ে মজুর ভাই বন্ধুকে সুখী করবেন। ইহাই আমার শেষ অনুরোধ। ন্যায় অন্যায় মার্জনা করবেন।

(The hon. Member spoke in Bengali and brought to the notice of Government the dire scarcity of cloths amongst the labour people and said that if better arrangement of supply of cloths to the women folk among the Tea garden Labourers is not made, they must be compelled to observe *Hartal* and urged upon Government to see to this at once.)

Babu JAGATBANDHU SARKAR: মাননীয় Deputy Speaker মহোদয়, এখানে অনেক কিছুই বলা হয়েছে। আমি আর বেশী সময় নষ্ট করবনা অল্প সময়ের মধ্যেই আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করব।

আমাদের Tribal Labour এবং Schedule এর মধ্যে যারা বঞ্চিত করেছেন তাদের বঞ্চিতার মধ্যে suffering এর কথা বলেছেন এবং তাহা সকল মেধারেরই জানা আছে। তারা বলেছেন যে এটা দেওয়া হয় না, ভুটা দেওয়া হয় না সমস্তই control হয়ে গেছে। কিন্তু actual sufferer যারা তাদের দুঃখের কোন control হচ্ছে না। আমি অনারবোল মিনিষ্টারকে জানাইতেছি যে তাদের দুঃখের যাতে একটা সীমা হয়, তারা যেন তাদের ন্যায্য প্রাপ্য জিনিষ পাইতে পারে তার একটা ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করতে হবে। যারা suffer করেছেন, তারা suffer করেই যাচ্ছেন একথা অত্যন্ত সত্য।

আমার জানা আছে যে হবিগঞ্জ সাবডিভিজনের নবিগঞ্জ থানার অন্তরগত খৈয়া রমজানপুর প্রভৃতি চারটি গ্রামের লোক দুঃভিক্ষের মুখে পতিত হতে চলেছে। They are going to meet with starvation. ধান চাউলের সেখানে দর ছিল ৭৯—৮৯ টাকা মণ। এবার ১৩৯—১৪৯ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত হয়েছে এবং তারা উপস্থিত মৃত্যুকে বরণ করবার পথে যাইতেছে। তার প্রধান কারণ হচ্ছে হবিগঞ্জে যেগুলি Supply Officer আছেন, Checker থেকে আরম্ভ করে উপর পর্য্যন্ত, তাদের সামনেই ধান চাউল smuggled হইতেছে এবং সেটা সকলেরই জানা আছে। আমি শুধু এই অনুরোধ করছি অনারবোল মিনিষ্টার যেন অবিলম্বে একটা বন্দোবস্ত করার জন্য চেষ্টা করেন এবং খৈয়া রমজানপুর প্রভৃতি চারটি গ্রামের loan দিয়ে সাহায্য করেন যাতে তারা মৃত্যুর মুখ হতে রক্ষা পাইতে পারে।

এবং Schedule এবং মুসলমানদের মধ্যে যারা purely fisherman আছেন তাদের জন্য যে সুতা allot করা হয়েছে সেই সুতার quota আরও বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া নিতান্ত দরকার। তারা যে পরিমাণ সুতা পেয়েছে তাতে তাদের এক চতুর্থাংশও প্রয়োজন মিটে না। তাই আমি

Further discussion on the Motion re Food and Supply position of the Province. 682—683

(Srijut Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury was absent.)

Complaint re Non-receipt of replies to certain Questions.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information. I submitted a set of Starred Questions on the 6th of this month, but so far I have not got any reply. Might I enquire, Sir, if there is any possibility of getting replies to my Questions during the current Session?

অনুরোধ করছি যে অবিলম্বে তাদের জন্য যেন সুতার quota বাড়ানো হয় এবং তার জন্য Supply Minister যেন অবিলম্বে ব্যবস্থা করেন। এই বলেই আমি আমার বক্তব্য সমাপ্ত করিলাম।

(The hon. Member brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Supply Minister the difficulties that were being experienced by the people of Khaiya Ramzanpur villages in Habiganj subdivision in respect of food-stuff supply and requested that Government loan be given to the affected people and that the yarn quota be increased for the scheduled caste people and the fisherman class in particular.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : In view of the fact that this is an important subject, I would like to take the sense of the House whether we should sit till 5 P.M. or we should adjourn now. I would like to take the opinion of the hon. Leader of the European Group.

Mr. W.R. FAULL : I think there will be plenty of time to-morrow to continue this debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : This will stand over till to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Friday, the 28th March, 1947.

SHILLONG :

A.K. BARUA,

The 6th June 1947.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.38—118+2-10-6-1947.

বাগানে তারা হরতাল বা ধর্মঘট করতেও পারে। এই সমস্যাটির সমাধানের জন্য সরকারের গভর্নমেন্টের কাছে জানিয়ে যাইতেছি। চা-বাগানের মজুরের সম্বন্ধেই আমি এপর্যন্ত আলোচনা করলাম। এতে হয়ত অনেকের মনে হবে যে শুধু বাগানেই কাপড়ের অভাব হয় নাই—সমস্ত আসামেই কাপড়ের অভাব। সেটা আমিও জানি। অনেক গ্রামের লোকের সঙ্গে আমার আলোচনা হয় এবং নিজেও গিয়ে দেখেছি। তাছলেও আমি জানি যে বাগানের মজুরদের জন্য গ্রাম থেকে বেশী লাগবেই লাগবে। কেন বেশী লাগবে সেটা আমাদের গভর্নমেন্টের জানা আছে। বেশী লাগবে কিনা তাহা অনুমান করে এই বিষয়ের উত্তর দিয়ে মজুর ভাই বন্ধুকে স্মৃশী করবেন। ইহাই আমার শেষ অনুরোধ। ন্যায় অন্যায় মার্জনা করবেন।

(The hon. Member spoke in Bengali and brought to the notice of Government the dire scarcity of cloths amongst the labour people and said that if better arrangement of supply of cloths to the women folk among the Tea garden Labourers is not made, they must be compelled to observe *Hartal* and urged upon Government to see to this at once.)

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