

Proceedings of the First Session of the Second Assam Legislative Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 P.M. on Friday the 15th March, 1946

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers and 94 Members.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The following Member was sworn in :—

1. Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

Various posts created in different Departments since April, 1937

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

*1. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the various posts created in the different Departments of Government in the Province with salaries starting from Rs.250 per mensem upwards, year by year since April, 1937, up to the time of assumption of office by the present Congress Ministry (with particulars as regards the designation of the posts, Department to which they belong, names of the first occupant of the posts, date of his appointment, scale of pay and nature of the posts whether permanent or temporary in each case) ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

1.—The information in respect of posts that are still continuing is being collected. It may take time and the particulars may not be available during this Session of the Assembly.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the statement asked for during the next Session of the Assembly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : If the particulars would be available by the time we would have no objection to supply the materials asked for.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Will Government be pleased to put pressure upon the Departments concerned so that all those particulars could be made ready before the next Session of the Assembly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : My hon. Friend will be glad to know that before we received his Question we asked for those particulars in some other connection. So those particulars will be supplied to the hon. Member as soon as they will be available.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Establishment of Poultry Farms

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

18. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating to start some poultry farms in the Province in the near future ?

(b) Are Government aware that poultry rearing is being carried on extensively by a large number of villagers in the Nalbari Circle on old and crude methods ?

(c) Are Government aware that Nalbari will prove to be one of the fittest localities for establishing a model poultry farm ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to start a model poultry farm in a suitable place near about Nalbari and thereby spread knowledge of sound poultry rearing amongst the ignorant villagers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

18. (a)—Yes at Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Silchar.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Government will examine the suggestion contained.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge be pleased to state whether the circular was issued regarding poultry farms as was promised by Government during the last Session of the Assembly on a Cut Motion moved by Mr. Moore ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This is a new Question, Sir, and I require notice of it.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, as regards 18(c), the Question was "Are Government aware that Nalbari will prove to be one of the fittest localities for establishing a model poultry farm" and the answer given is "No". May we know what are the reasons for Government to say so ? What are the data ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is yet to be ascertained whether Nalbari will prove to be one of the fittest localities. The possibility has yet got to be examined. Unless that is done it is not possible to say whether this station would be one of the fittest ones.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May we know, Sir, why Sylhet cannot be one of the fittest stations without examining the possibility of being so and as such how the answer can be said with a definite 'No' ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government are not aware of this possibility.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know what was the basis for selecting the three places for poultry farms ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That was on the advice of the expert of the Department.

*Mr. P. M. SARWAN: May I know, Sir, why are not the poultry farms established in the typical rural areas ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That Question does not arise in this connection.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that there are no poultry experts in Assam?

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

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: In view of that, Sir, how does the Hon'ble Minister take advice of the expert?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I mean the Departmental Head as the expert as he administers the Department.

Process-servers

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

19. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Process-servers get free medical service from Government doctors?

(b) If not, do Government propose to give them this privilege?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

19. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

Establishment of Libraries for *Tols*

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

20. (a) Are Government aware that students in *Tols* of the Province are very much handicapped in their studies for want of suitable and helpful books in their libraries?

(b) Are Government aware that most of these *Tols* have no libraries worth the name for want of funds?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Assam Sanskrit Samiti (Assam Sanskrit Association) in their 12th Conference held at the Kamakhya Dham on 16th December 1945 requesting the Government for a non-recurring grant of Rs. 2,000 to be distributed amongst those *Tols* recognised by the Assam Sanskrit Board for enriching their libraries?

(d) Do Government propose to provide the *Tols* with adequate funds for building up libraries helpful for the teachers and the taught alike?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

20. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—The question of provision for a non-recurring grant to the Assam Sanskrit Board for the purpose of giving library grants to the deserving affiliated *Tols* is under consideration of Government.

Re Post-Sastri Examination

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

21. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Assam Sanskrit Samiti (Assam Sanskrit Association) in their 12th Conference held at the Kamakhya Dham on 16th December 1945 requesting the Government to devise ways and means to hold a Post-Sastri Examination to be called "Acharya Examination" with a view to encourage research work and higher studies in Sanskrit?

*Speech not corrected.

(b) If so, do Government propose to accept the proposal and give effect to it as early as possible ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

21. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—Does not arise.

Publication of the book "Britta Manjari"

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

22. Will Government be pleased to refer to the assurance given by the then Hon'ble Premier at page 1041 of the Assembly Debates of 19th March, 1940 in connection with the Cut Motion moved by the Questioner under "47.—Miscellaneous Departments" urging upon the Government to publish at Government cost the monumental work on Sanskrit prosody of the late Mahamahopadhyaya Dhireswar Acharya called "বৃত্ত শতিকা" (Britta Manjari) and state—

(a) What steps have been taken by them to implement the said assurance ?

(b) (i) Whether the work of editing the said book has been finished and (ii) whether it is ready for being sent to the press for printing now ?

(c) Whether anybody has been entrusted with the task of editing the said book ?

(d) If so, to whom ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the Kamrupa Anusandhan Samiti by its Resolution, dated 29th July 1932, informed the Director of Public Instruction, Assam in reply to his Memo. No.11847-E., dated the 16th June 1932 that the work of editing the said book might be entrusted to Srijut Dibakar Goswami, M.A., B.L., and Pandit Gauri Datta Misra, Vidyabhushan jointly, both of whom had agreed to undertake the work ?

(f) If so, whether that suggestion has been accepted ?

(g) If not, why not ?

(h) Whether it is a fact that the said Pandit Gauri Datta Misra by his letter, dated 15th September 1945 reminded the then Hon'ble Education Minister about the Hon'ble Premier's aforesaid assurance and the Kamrupa Anusandhan Samiti's suggestion and offered his services to edit the book with Srijut Dibakar Goswami ?

(i) Whether Government are aware that the said Srijut Dibakar Goswami and Pandit Gauridatta Misra are members of the Assam Sanskrit Board ?

(j) With whom the manuscript of the said book is lying at present ?

(k) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to get the book published without further delay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

22. (a)—There is a scheme for provision of funds for publication of 'Britta Manjari' and the scheme will be considered after the Budget Session.

(b) (i)—No.

(ii)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The suggestion will be considered if and when funds are provided for the purpose.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—The Honorary Director of Historical and Antiquarian Studies.

(k)—The hon. Member is referred to the reply to (a) above.

*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: As regards Question No.22(e), Sir, will Government be pleased to state whether they have not decided to get the 'Britta Manjari' edited by these gentlemen as recommended by the Kamrupa Anusandhan Samity ?

*The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply has already been given that it will be done so as soon as funds will be available.

Provincialisation of Dhubri Charitable Dispensary

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

23. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they propose to provincialise the Dhubri Charitable dispensary ?

(b) If so, when ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

23. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In the Five-Year Post-War Plan.

*Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS: May I know, Sir, how many dispensaries in the Province are going to be provincialised ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Is that not a new Question, Sir ? I want notice of it.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, whether there are more dispensaries for inclusion in the Five-Year Post-War Plan ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is a new question. This question relates to one charitable dispensary only.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Does not the Question arise because in the reply to Question No.23(b) there is mention of Five-Year Post-War Plan ? He ought to be in a position to say the names of all the dispensaries to be provincialised.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Sir, I can give him that information, although it does not arise. All the district headquarters hospitals are included in the Post-War Plan to be provincialised.

*Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech said that the Post-War Schemes are not yet complete. How can the Hon'ble Medical Minister say that Dhubri dispensary is included in the Post-War Plan ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That is a new Question, Sir. I do not like to add anything to what I have said.

*Speech not corrected.

Project of linking Beanibazar and Jaldhup with the S. T. Road

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

24. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether they propose to take up the project of linking Beanibazar and Jaldhup with the S. T. Road by a new road from Mewa (Karimganj) ?
 (b) If so, when ?

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

24. (a)—Not at present.
 (b)—In the next programme.

Award of stipends for education abroad

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM asked :

25. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether communal ratio will be observed in awarding stipends for education abroad under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme ?
 (b) If so, whether valley question will be given due consideration in awarding the same ?
 (c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, whether Government propose to give preference to the candidates of Goalpara district in consideration of its backwardness ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

25. (a) & (b)—Yes, so far as candidates with the academic qualifications desired by the Central Government, namely, a first class Master's degree, are available from various communities in the two valleys.

(c)—Distribution of scholarships cannot obviously be on a district basis, but a deserving candidate will receive due consideration from whatever place he comes.

*Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : May I point out, Sir, that the name of the Questioner has been put as 'Abul Kashem', it ought to be 'Abul Kasem'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Assembly office will take note of it.

General discussion of the Budget

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, we shall resume Budget discussion. Today, as many as eleven hon. Members from the Muslim League Party and four hon. Members from the Congress Party want to take part. We have got approximately 105 minutes and fifteen Members to take part. Today I propose to fix time limit for each hon. Member who desires to speak. It will be approximately seven minutes for each hon. Member.

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Will it be possible to give at least ten minutes, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER . I cannot on the face of it, unless some hon. Members withdraw their names from the list of those speaking, in which case we can allot ten minutes to each Member taking part.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I think, my name has been included. I am not going to speak today and my time may be given to the Deputy Leader of our Party.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot give it that way. One hon. Member cannot ask his time to be allotted to another friend of his but I will see that when some hon. Members take up important subjects I will relax this rule.

I now call upon Khan Sahib Maulavi Nurul Hossain Khan.

*Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: As the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party was not in this House for nine years, he may be given more time than others.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yesterday, some of the hon. Members used certain words in their speeches which are not strictly parliamentary, such as, deliberate lies and also made other statements which touches religious susceptibility of certain community. I hope, hon. Members will agree that this is neither proper nor adds to the dignity of the House and a high level of the debate. I did not interrupt yesterday because it might disturb the flow of a manuscript speech. I request the hon. Members not to indulge in expressions which might wound the feeling of other hon. Members and which are not consistent with the dignity of the House.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget for 1946-47 presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister appears to be a very stereotyped one. I do not see any special feature in it. It is difficult to understand why the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has described the Budget as a surplus one, though on his own admission the Budget is a deficit one to the extent of about 30 lakhs of rupees.

This is the first Post-War Budget before the Assam Legislative Assembly. During the war the people of the Province suffered terribly and when the war is over they naturally expected that the Government would take measures which would go to ameliorate their condition. But alas! when we look into the Budget we do not find anything hopeful in it. It brings no relief to the people. Having presented the Budget the Hon'ble Finance Minister cannot disown any responsibility for it. It is a pity that we look in vain for any measures whatsoever for improving the condition of the suffering people in the countryside.

Sir, Agriculture is the present key-industry in the Province of Assam, on which about 95 per cent. of the people depend for their livelihood. But there is hardly any attempt at improving the condition of agriculture. The Agricultural Department is full of officers, but their actual work in the field is more or less negligible. On account of abnormal rise in the prices of consumer goods and all articles of food-stuffs, other than rice and paddy, the cultivators find it difficult to make their two ends meet.

Both labour and cattle are dear, so much so that the cultivators do not find it always possible to grow paddy in their lands as the price of paddy does not cover even the expenses of cultivation. I come from Baniyachong which is well known for abundant production of paddy and I know personally that last year many cultivators were compelled to keep their lands fallow and waste.

To add to the difficulties of the poor cultivators, it is found that paddy fields are swept away by water-hyacinth. The Water-Hyacinth Act intended for stopping propagation of this scourge is practically a dead letter. For this reason, it is necessary that the Government should take immediate steps for erecting bunds in places where they are found necessary.

In low-lying areas the chances of *amon* crops have become very uncertain on account of flood and ravages of water-hyacinth. It is therefore necessary that attempts should be made to increase *boro* growing areas, but in many places cultivators cannot grow *boro* crop for want of water. This is an urgent matter for the Irrigation Department to look to. Small streamlets and canals, which

have silted up, should be re-excavated to ensure a regular flow of water in *boro* areas. Wherever necessary water should be provided with the help of power pump to convert *amon* lands into *boro* areas. Unless these things are attended to, no amount of research work by the research officers in the Agriculture Department or appointing higher officers at the top will have any influence in improving either the condition of the cultivators or increasing the production of food stuffs in the country which both the Central and the Provincial Governments have so much at heart.

Establishment of State Agricultural Banks in important rural centres for supply of money at cheap interest to the cultivators is essentially necessary. Co-operative Banks will not do. Because of the principle of joint responsibility involved, people are shy of taking help from these Banks. There may be difficulties in the way, but if Government are really serious in helping the cultivators they have to do it.

Another subject which is vitally connected with the uplift of the country as a whole is the enforcement of free and compulsory primary education throughout the Province. While there is a strong rumour that Government wish to proceed with the establishment of a University in Assam, there is no mention of anything about primary education in the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Government previously passed an Act in 1926 in which Government pledged themselves to pay two-thirds of the cost, provided the people agreed to pay one-third for introducing free and compulsory primary education in any area. According to that scheme the Habiganj Local Board twice submitted schemes for introducing compulsory primary education at Baniyachong, but Government made no response whatsoever. If the present Government have really the good of the people at heart they should forthwith proceed with the introduction of compulsory primary education in the country. When people of Baniyachong have shown so much eagerness for compulsory primary education, I would respectfully appeal to Government to start compulsory primary education in that village as an experimental measure. It has a compact area of six square miles with a population of 40,000 souls, the largest number of population of any village in the world.

Government have started two Women's Colleges at Gauhati and Sylhet. In a Province like Assam where 93 per cent. of the people are illiterate and steep in ignorance, it is a luxury to spend money on Women's Colleges. I think Government would have served the country better by spending the money on compulsory primary education than on these two Colleges.

The pay of the poor Lower Primary School teachers remains the same as it was quarter of a century back. They begin with Rs. 12 per month and get the same even after fifteen years of service. Since November 1944, they are getting dearness allowance of Rs. 8 per month but this is not enough. Even this is a temporary measure for war time only. A Chaprasi of a Government office gets Rs.20 or so a month and also free ration. But alas! a poor Lower Primary School teacher gets much less than that. Are we to understand that the value of services of a Lower Primary School teacher is less than that of a Chaprasi. The result is that these ill-fed and ill-clad Lower Primary School teachers cannot devote their full time and energy for the education of the children placed under their charge. The children whom we look upon as the future hopes of the country and our prop and support in our old age are thus neglected and it appears that Government are altogether indifferent to this state of affairs. If Government cannot implement the unanimous Resolution of the Assembly for giving Rs. 40 as monthly pay of these teachers they should at least make this Rs. 20 which they are getting at present as their recurring and permanent pay.

I have been a member of the Habiganj Local Board for the last 20 years or more and at present I am its Chairman. I know from personal experience the

miserable condition of the Local Board school buildings and furniture. For want of benches in most of the schools, boys and girls are made to sit on planks and bamboos placed on the earth. The defects have to be removed. The charge of imparting primary education has been left to the Local Boards but they are not provided with sufficient funds for meeting the growing demands of education. If Government are really anxious to spread primary education in the country they should either provide adequate funds to the Local Boards or take up the work in their own hands.

Sir, Baniyachong is my native village. It is the biggest village in the world. It had a population of forty-five thousand, but the scourge of malaria epidemic which broke out in April 1942 took a heavy toll of human lives and swept away about 12 or 13 thousand souls. Baniyachong once a seat of affluence, prosperity and happiness has now put on the dismal appearance of a deserted village. Doors of many a family have been closed as the members fell victim to the ruthless malady. The then Prime Minister Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla with his Colleagues Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri and Miss Mavis Dunn very kindly visited the village in December 1942. The then Speaker and now Home Minister the Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Das and Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee also visited this unfortunate land and saw with their own eyes the untold miseries and sufferings of the people caused by malaria. His Excellency Sir Andrew Clow and Lady Clow were gracious enough to visit the village about 15 months back to personally acquaint themselves with the sufferings of the people and His Excellency was pleased to promise the establishment of a permanent Government Hospital with at least 25 beds at Baniyachong. I, on behalf of the people of Baniyachong, gratefully acknowledge that the Government did their best to combat the fell disease and to give relief to the people. Only recently the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Colonel Bhatia visited the village and saw its present condition. Malaria is still lingering in the village. For some time past a large number of persons are suffering from *Kala-azar*. It appears to be the after-effect of malaria. I would request Government to take effective steps to stamp out the malady from the village. As in the case of war zones, this village requires reconstruction and rehabilitation for which Government may kindly take early and necessary steps.

Sir, as an old member and Chairman of the Habiganj Local Board, I personally know under what difficulties the Local Boards are run. The grants given to the Local Boards under different heads are quite inadequate and insufficient, with the result that Local Boards cannot undertake any original and useful work. Besides they are compelled to incur heavy liabilities. If Government are really anxious to do some service to the people through these Bodies it is incumbent on them to make sufficient grants to the Local Boards.

Sir, Baniyachong as stated before is the biggest village in the world. It has a High School, a Police Station, a Sub-Registrar's office, a Dispensary, a number of Lower Primary and Middle schools and several zemindary *kutcheries*. It had the privilege of having a telegraph office for the last 40 or 50 years; but for want of an office building near the Police Station, Government have withdrawn the telegraph office for the last two years. It is a necessity for the village and I would request Government to acquire a plot of land, which is available near the Police Station, construct necessary buildings and restore the telegraph office at Baniyachong without any loss of time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I take the sense of the House in respect of one point? It will be found that in previous Sessions, that is to say in the last Assembly, manuscript speeches were not encouraged and I think rightly. But all the same, they are being used by some because some have come fresh and they are not yet used to extempore speeches. Can we take them as read and get them in the proceedings?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, I think, you will find that extempore speeches

are sometimes so incorrectly reported in my experience that unless you get sufficiently good reporters type-written speeches will be necessary.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, may I point out to you one difficulty? The Hon'ble Government Members on the other side will not be in a position to give replies.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I quite appreciate. But the difficulty is with regard to time. One cannot cut down a portion when he is reading a manuscript.

*Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, according to rule, I do not think, written speeches can be taken as read.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, the difficulty may be partially obviated if the manuscript speeches are handed over to the Hon'ble Minister concerned so that he may be in a position to give replies.

*Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: But, Sir, the other hon. Members are also interested in the speeches. So, only a copy submitted to the Hon'ble Minister will not serve the purpose.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The difficulty can be obviated by extending the time. You can extend the time by half an hour or so, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I venture to speak a few words on the Budget Estimates that has been presented before the House. To begin with I will take up the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. In more than one point of view it is a remarkable speech. Here in it everything can be found but the Budget itself is missing. From the Quit India Resolution of the Congress up to the bogey of Pakistan every political issue has found a place in the lengthy discourse but we fail to find in it a true picture of the financial implications of the fair Province of Assam.

Sir, we on this side of the House do not hesitate to share the misgivings that has been expressed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister regarding the award meted out to Assam by Sir Otto Niemeyer. In spite of the earnest efforts made by the previous Governments, this gross injustice could not be set right. But very soon drastic changes are going to be affected at the Centre and probably a Congress member is going to be appointed as the Finance Member of the Government of India. We do hope that the Congress Government of Assam will take up the matter with him and secure a fair deal for this poor Province.

We do not expect that the present Government would endorse what their predecessors did. But at the same time we do not expect unwarranted criticisms from a person of the calibre of the present Finance Minister. He lacks in grace when he says that the huge collections made under Agricultural Income-Tax was absorbed in giving fat salaries to innumerable persons appointed in various departments created during the war emergency period. He conveniently forgets that a major portion of these receipts were spent for the spread of primary education and in giving dearness allowances to our officers.

Sir, I have the privilege of representing the poor agriculturists of the most neglected area of the Province. I know from my personal experiences in what pitiable state they are passing their days. In these days of control and rationing they do not know how to keep their body and soul together. The uneconomic price of their only wealth, that is paddy and rice, has rendered their position all the more miserable. From the public platform we have been clamouring for the last three years for the fixation of a minimum price for these essential commodities. We are really heartened to hear that the present Government propose to fix such minimum price. I do not understand why the maximum that has already been fixed should stand in the way. It can

* Speech not corrected.

be modified in the light of the price level of other essential commodities and also to leave a comfortable margin to the cultivators over the cost of production.

Sir, much stress has been laid on the All-Party Conference that had been convened by Government over the Land Settlement Question in 1945. Is it not a fact that the Resolution was adopted on the face of very strong opposition from the Muslim League representatives attending the conference? We are not here to plead for land-grabbers but we stand solidly behind those landless people who have made this Province their home and who have contributed to make Assam what it is to-day. The Hon'ble Finance Minister wants to create an atmosphere of good will and amity but at the same time he is determined to carry on a policy of ruthless eviction. This policy of merciless eviction will no doubt plunge the whole Province in a state of civil war.

It is really surprising that the exponents of the Indian National Congress which is pledged to the one nation theory should raise an artificial barrier between Indian and Indian and stand against the peaceful settlement in vast cultivable waste land lying fallow for centuries, only on the ground that they happen to be Muslims.

Much has been said about planned settlement. But we do not understand how planned settlement can be effected in the present land system that prevails in the country. Before they can hope to succeed, the Congress Government should take courage in both hands and do away with the private ownership of land. Otherwise planned settlement will remain in our imagination only.

The Congress Government did not feel shy to present the Budget that had been prepared by their predecessors. But they have thought fit to withhold all the new schemes on the plea of re-examination. We doubt their sincerity. If they wanted, these could be scrutinised in the time that was at their disposal and presented before the House. May I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to circulate the Schemes so that the hon. Members might be the best judge whether these were aimed at real benefit of the Province?

Sir, great scarcity of cloth and kerosene is being felt in the rural areas. Profiteering and black-marketing on a very wide scale have added to our difficulty. Bribery and corruption have been the order of the day. I do not place [the blame on Government whose good intentions we do not doubt. Perhaps it is our heritage from the war that has just ended. What I suggest is that very determined efforts should be made to root out this evil and all parties should combine for a successful campaign.

The food situation at present is very alarming. The Amon crop in the Surma Valley has been very unsatisfactory. Such being the case, we should not lose time to build up a solid food front. But our District and Subdivisional Officers do not seem to realise the gravity of the situation. They are employing themselves in all kinds of frivolous activities. As for instance I may refer to the Subdivision of Sunamganj. The position in my constituency is already very serious. People are finding it very difficult to procure one meal per day. But the Subdivisional Officer taking advantage of his position is realising subscriptions amounting to thousands of rupees for fancy shows. He has arranged an exhibition and is going to spend twenty thousands of rupees over it. He has invited the Mohan Bagan Team to Sunamganj and going to spend another ten thousand rupees over it. Rome is about to burn but the local Nero is fiddling at the expense of the people. The way in which he is collecting these huge sums is really objectionable. The Supply Officers and the Rice Control staff are entrusted with the realisation of money. This is giving direct encouragement to corruption. Over and above, a subscription of one anna per rupee is being realised on the sale of all cloths and that without receipt. I respectfully urge that the activities of this officer should be checked without delay.

Sir, the rural population are still groaning under the heavy burden of indebtedness. The Debt Conciliation Boards and the Money-lenders Act could not give enough relief. Steps must be taken to release them from this burden. Then only can they lead a happy and prosperous life.

Sir, before concluding my speech I would like to say a few words about our accommodation in the Members' Hostel at Shillong. The hon. Members are undergoing great difficulty and inconvenience due to inadequate accommodation. I urge upon the Government to make provision for another hostel building so that our hon. Members may not feel any difficulty in future to live in Shillong during the Session time. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am convening a meeting of the House Committee very soon before whom the matter will be placed.

Maulavi MD. IDRIS ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to offer my humble criticisms on the Budget Estimates that have been presented before the House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister: Sir, at the very outset I must be excused if I express my sore disappointment at the manner in which the finances of Assam have been tackled by the new Minister in charge. We frankly confess that we were not prepared for such an oratorical outburst. As a matter of fact we were expecting something big and bold from the first Congress Finance Minister of Assam. We were expecting that he would try to implement some of the items of the high-sounding Congress programme. Herein our disappointment lies.

Sir, there has been a remarkable departure in this year's Budget. For reasons best known to them the new schemes which generally form a component part of the Budget have been left out. The argument put forward by the Hon'ble Minister is not at all convincing. We really wonder why these schemes could not be examined within the course of a month. The Government which prepared these schemes was an all-party Government. And the Finance Minister of that Government is still adorning the Treasury Benches of the Congress Government. So, in withholding those schemes, the present Government have indirectly indicted one of their own Members. We demand that those new schemes be circulated so that the Members may judge for themselves whether these were not aimed at the real benefit of the Province.

Sir, in the present session the Government have sponsored two taxation measures. I am afraid that these will not yield even enough money to maintain their respective departments. Without troubling themselves with such scrappy measures, they ought to concentrate their efforts to extract our legitimate share of the huge petrol duty from the Central Government. Without straining their energy in finding out new avenues of income, let them throw out the vast culturable waste lands available in the Province and I assure them they will not be in want of funds to take up new projects. But this is something which they are determined not to do. The Pakistan programme of the Muslim League has wedded them permanently to the "dog in the-manger" policy.

From the Budget itself we find that same fat salaries have been provided for the Congress Ministers. The Congress Prime Minister of Assam is going to receive Rs. 2,500 per month as salary and allowances. There is not the slightest indication in the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that they would be coming with an amending Bill. This is how they are proving their sympathy for the poor.

Sir, we have the privilege of representing the poor masses. We know in what pitiable condition they are passing their days. The very essentials of a civilised life have been denied to them. They have got no proper scope for education, sanitation or communication. In these days of hardship, they have been the worst victims. We have not as yet been able to provide free and compulsory education to their children; they are the easiest prey to squalor and disease. There are no means of easy communication in the rural areas. Public enemies in the shape of profiteers and racketeers (*sic*) have fattened themselves at the

cost of their life blood. Should we not try to give them the much-needed relief?

Sir, we hear that the Congress Government is going to establish a University at Gauhati. To all intents and purposes it will be a Hindu University. The vast Muslim population of Assam will resist this mad project with all their might. But before the Congress Government indulges in such wasteful extravagance, should not they try to redeem their pledges in starting free and compulsory education throughout the length and breadth of the Province? The Post-war.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has got one minute more. *Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. It seems to me that your decision to fix a time-limit of seven minutes for each hon. Member is not very satisfactory. Many of the hon. Members have prepared speeches which they cannot deliver within the time allotted. Formerly when there were many speakers, the time of the sitting of the House was extended beyond 4 P.M. I think it would be better to follow that precedent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: May I know the sense of the House? Personally I am prepared to sit as late as the House wants.

*Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I would suggest we sit up to 4-30 P.M. to-day, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If we make a limit of ten minutes for each hon. Member, even then we shall have to sit till 4-30 P.M. I seek co-operation of hon. Members in this matter. If the House want to sit longer time I have not the slightest objection.

*Mr. A. WHITTAKER: We can sit till 4-30 p-m.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do I take that it is the sense of the House that we will sit till 4-30 P.M.?

*Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Cannot some of the hon. Members speak tomorrow also?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are ten hon. Members on the list for tomorrow. What I decide is this: that ten minutes will be allowed to each hon. Member to speak till 4-30 P.M. Those hon. Members who cannot have time to speak to-day will deliver their speeches tomorrow. So, I request hon. Members to finish their speeches within 10 minutes each so that we rise at 4-30 P.M. to-day.

Maulavi MD IDRIS ALI: Sir, the constituency which I have the honour to represent lacks sadly in communication. The Latu-Hingajia Road, if improved and made motorable and connected with the Juri-Kulaura Trunk Road will remove a long felt want. I do hope that the Government will take up this project as early as possible.

In spite of our repeated demands, the Government have thought it fit to keep as waste the vast rich tracts of lands in the Hakaluki and the Langai Valley in the Karimganj Subdivision on the pretext of protecting some small fisheries. We do hope that the present Government will see their way to open these prosperous areas to settlement. They need not be afraid I assure them there are no immigrant population there.

Sir, before I conclude I will be failing in my duty if I do not register my emphatic protest against the ruthless eviction of our fellow brothers in the Assam Valley. This is no happy augury for the Province of Assam. The Congress Government are deliberately plunging Assam in a state of civil war. We do not know what awaits in future. But surely the responsibility will lie with them who have chosen to play with fire.

With these words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

✓ Srijut BELIRAM DAS, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on the immigration problem and also on land settlement. Mr. Jinnah's demand for inclusion of Assam in the Eastern zone of his proposed Pakistan, has been to a great extent responsible for the complication of the land settlement problem of Assam, even though the problem is purely an economic one. In the three vitally affected districts in the Assam Valley, *viz.* Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong, Pakistan officers, officially known as the Colonization Officers, were appointed by the previous Government under the guise of the Colonization Scheme, who have actually been promoting the cause of Pakistan only. Under the plea of Grow More Food Campaign valuable lands including professional grazing reserves and game sanctuaries, absolutely necessary for the very existence of the Assamese people had been thrown open for settlement with the immigrants. For the last 4 or 5 years the onrush of the immigrants has been so great that the very existence of the Assamese people as a race has been threatened. What the great Moghuls could not achieve with their vast armies and resources in the past, has been achieved by the out-going League Ministry within the span of a few years, taking advantage, of course, of the incarceration of the Congress men and Assembly Members within this period. Assam's land settlement problem was nothing but an attempt by the League Ministers to convert Assam into a Muslim majority province with a motive, pure and simple, to include her in the Eastern zone of Pakistan, as envisaged by Mr. Jinnah, by bringing in men from Bengal, particularly in the Assam Valley districts.

In Assam there has not been any actual survey of the culturable and unculturable waste lands. Assam is full of hills, jungles, marshes, *beels*, forests, tea gardens and rivers. Unless an unbiased and true survey of such lands is taken up, it will be very difficult to find out the actual position of the culturable waste lands. I shall discuss this later on. The very fact that the Professional Grazing Reserves and Game Sanctuaries had got to be thrown open for settlement with the immigrants by the out-going Ministry, goes to prove that there is no sufficient culturable waste land in Assam.

The area of settled lands in Assam was 206 lakhs of Bighas in 1941 and the area *per capita* was about 2 Bighas only. The Government of Assam has defined 20 Bighas as an economic holding for a family of 5 and as such the number of actual indigenous landless people will be in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent. There has not been any attempt in the past of finding out the number of actual landless people of the Province by the previous Government, though they made lavish promises to the Government of Bengal to give lands to the Bengalee immigrants brought into Assam. Within the period of 5 or 6 years the League Ministry settled 5 lakhs of Bighas of land with the immigrants. If the process of settlement of lands with the immigrants goes on like this there will be no land left for the natural growth of the indigenous population, who will be compelled to cultivate lands as tenants of the immigrants. There has sprung up a new class of immigrant Zemindars in the meantime.

In Assam there is no such thing as surplus land in the reserves, rather most of the reserves are deficit in areas. I would urge upon the Government to make provision of sufficient lands of reserves in deficit areas after due enquiry.

✓ This sudden onrush of immigrants into Assam is an actual invasion of the Province for the political design of the Muslim League. Most of the hon. Members of the League Party have, expressed in their Budget speeches that this immigration has no connection with their demand of inclusion of Assam in the Eastern zone of Pakistan and that they want us to believe that it is not an invasion for their political design. I would like to refer to a speech of Maulavi Abdur Rouf, leader of the immigrant Muslims, in course of his address as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the League meeting presided over by no less a person than Chaudhury Khaliqzaman, held at Barpeta on 7th and 8th March 1944.

"The same fresh blood which runs through their veins even to-day again took the rudder to tow their boats against the current of the ever flowing Jomuna, to make their way for a new conquest of Assam. Being deprived of their arms, shields and swords by the mercy of the British Rulers, they with a cane shield bamboo stick, spears and plough came and effected their landing either in *chars* or in the jungles adjacent to the rivers. The souls of martyrs and devotees of past, are witnessing this new expedition of the Bengalee Muslims—the Holy servants of Allah, from above with yawning eagerness and thankfulness too ... with increased vitality in the life of the community and with the help of numerous new reinforcements, the figure in the subdivision of Barpeta alone could be raised up to 65,000."

Sir, this is sufficiently clear that this immigration is nothing but an invasion of Assam for the purpose of including her in the Eastern zone of Pakistan. Pakistan as a principle cannot be accepted by any Indian. The Government of India must not allow at the same time conversion of a Hindu majority province into a Muslim majority one by undermining the legitimate claims of the people of the province, even though it may be advantageous to their imperialistic design to create so many "Ulsters" in India. This encroachment into the grazing reserves and also squatting on other lands by the immigrants was being resented to by the Assamese population, specially the Tribals from the very beginning. District officers in many places wanted to cause eviction of such encroachers in the past. But there had been a fear in the minds of the officers that if they carried on eviction on such persons they might incur displeasure of the League Ministers who were out to convert Assam into a Muslim majority Province. Whenever there had been any attempt to evict such persons Government came to their rescue by way of stay orders. In many places encroachers were evicted by District Officers and soon after the return of the officers the immigrants reoccupied those places without any check or hindrance on the part of the Government.


The propagandists of Eastern Pakistan demand inclusion of Assam in the Eastern zone of Pakistan, *inter alia*, on the grounds that Assam is within the zone where Muslims are in a majority and that the majority of the non-Muslims in Assam are Tribal people, basing their arguments on wrong figures and mis-statement of facts, supplied to them by that immigrant ridden League Ministry of Assam. In the census of 1941 the tea garden labourers have been shown as Tribals. But according to previous census nearly 14 lakhs of such labourers were shown as Hindus. It is also a well-known fact that the bulk of the Tribal population are Hindus. As such it was a folly on the part of the League Ministry to enumerate the labourers as Tribals to reduce the number of Hindu population.

Public are aware of the fact that in Sindh the non-Sindhis are being deprived of settlement of lands by the League Ministry there; so is the case with the Jews in Palestine. Curiously enough while for their own benefit they refuse lands to the non-Sindhis in Sind, Jews in Palestine, the League High Command had issued orders on the League Ministry of Assam not to evict any immigrant if any one of them was able to grow even a single crop in any reserve in Assam even by trespass. It is not a fact that there is no waste lands fit for settlement in the province of Bengal. There are vast areas of uncultivated culturable waste lands in both Zamindari and Sunderbon areas. There are 10.6 million acres of good fallow lands in Bengal. I would urge upon the League leaders to arrange settlements with the immigrants of such lands in Bengal. During the last famine over 50 lakhs of Bengalees have died and it will be in the interest of the people of Bengal to repatriate the Bengalee immigrants from Assam to replace those who died due to famine.

For us the Assamese, the land settlement problem is purely an economic one. There is no sufficient lands even for the present need of the indigenous population. Nearly half the population of this Province are practically landless. During the last 20 years 25 lakhs Bighas of lands have been settled with the

immigrants and the Assamese people specially the Tribals rightly apprehend that they will be very soon ousted by the immigrants if the present policy is allowed to be continued. For the mere political design of the Muslim League the interest of the children of the soil cannot be sacrificed. I would urge upon the Government to cry a halt of this ruinous policy of distribution of lands at the cost of the indigenous population of the Assam Valley. ✓

The hon. Members of the Muslim League have contended in their Budget speeches that the immigrants have made Assam very prosperous by growing rice and other food crops, but I am sure that their contribution on these heads are nil, rather they consume much of the surplus food which the indigenous population grow. Let me examine the facts.

The Government of Assam after making proper survey of paddy growing areas recently constructed 10 ration godowns in Assam for the purpose of storing and distribution of rice. But it is most striking that none of these godowns are stationed in or near the immigrant areas. Again there are large number of rice mills in the Assam Valley, but none of them are situated near immigrant areas, even in these days of better communication by roads, railways, boats and steamers. All these go to prove that the immigrants, instead of contributing towards the prosperity of Assam, have been a liability on Assam on the contrary. The immigrants have not been able to contribute more than 10·1 per cent. of the total outturn of the food crops of Assam Valley including sugarcane, while on the other hand they consume about 29 per cent. of the available crops. Besides this bulk of the revenue paid by the immigrants as land revenue had to be paid back to them in the shape of gratuitous relief, revenue remission, agricultural loans and ultimately written off. The floods of 1931 in Kamrup, of 1934 in Nowgong and of 1941 in Kamrup will testify this. 

Hon. Mr. Abdur Rouf has taken exception to the term 'Kamla' as used by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech. From my experience I can tell him that at the first instance the male members of the immigrants come to Assam as Kamlas under some Dewanis and Matabbars. They find out lands with the help of such Dewanis and Matabbars, and cultivate them and raise with the help of such Dewanis and Matabbars, and cultivate them and raise dwelling houses. It is after this period that they bring in their wives and children and permanently settle in Assam. So Mr. Rouf should not have taken exception to the use of the term 'Kamla' which he himself uses in his own society.

Furthermore it was not good on his part to call it a lie when the Hon'ble Finance Minister mentioned in his speech that 160 thousand Bighas of lands in the grazing reserves were settled with the immigrants by the last Ministry. I would like to remind him that in the district of Nowgong alone about 50,000 Bighas of lands of Bhurbandha, Borghuli, Loakhowa, etc. have been settled by the last Ministry with people 95 per cent. of which are Muslim immigrants. So my friend has no justification to criticise Government for stating facts. The whole speech of Mr. Rouf is practically a challenge to the Government. I would like to point out to him that challenges are very dangerous things. We do not bear any grudge or hatred towards the immigrants, they are also human beings like us. Assam would have been too glad to accommodate them if she could. When the Assamese people themselves are practically landless, it is impossible to accommodate them by sacrificing the interest of the children of the soil. The leaders of these immigrants should take back and settle them in the 10·6 million acres of good fallow lands in Bengal itself under the re-habilitation scheme of the Government of Bengal at practically Government cost and supervision.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member's time limit is over ; he should finish now.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: I am finishing very soon, Sir.

It is a pure myth, Sir, that there are waste lands in Assam.

The lands that have been shown as waste lands are practically non-existent. In the figure of waste lands, *beels*, marshes, hills, *dobas*, roadside lands and Bakras, *i.e.* the fallow lands used by the villagers for throwing away corpse of dead cattle. *Baries* used for purposes other than cultivation, etc. have also been included. Besides this, this figure includes lands where a single crop can be grown. Sir, I would like to point out that even in the bed of some rivers, dried up during winter, one crop can be grown. It will be a folly on the part of the Government to include such lands in the figure of cultivable waste lands. And at the same time all the so-called waste lands do not situate in large blocks, one Bigha here and two Bighas there. So if we deduct all the lands referred to above, it will be found that there is practically no actual cultivable waste lands in Assam, specially in the Assam Valley. I do not like to enter into any discussion about the waste lands in the Surma Valley because of the miseries we have been thrown into by the invasion of the immigrants in the Assam Valley.

Sir, if the present Government do not follow a definite bold policy regarding land settlement problem of Assam, which has already been a complicated one, the political horizon of Assam will be darker still and the society will be in a chaotic condition. The cattle population of the Province are in a decaying condition in Assam, due to the encroachment of the reserves. I would urge upon the Government to give a serious consideration to this urgent problem. ✓

Lastly, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his introductory speech which has reflected the policy and programme of the Party he has the honour to represent.

Maulavi MAYEEN-uD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members of this House have already taken part in the general discussion of the Budget. Such Budgets are like annual rituals and I would not have taken the time of the Hon'ble House but for the reason that politics of a section of Indian people and not the budgetary provisions has found prominence in the introductory speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. One thing stands out most clearly and boldly from all that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has said in his speech that the present Ministry in Assam is completely divorced from Muslim public opinion and as such I make bold to declare that this Ministry does not enjoy any confidence of the Muslims of Assam (*Voices: Hear, hear from opposition Benches*).

The Budget, as has been stated by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, was prepared by the previous Ministry and as such he does not want to shoulder the responsibility. Is not this really taking shelter under a false plea? If this Ministry could not prepare the Budget, they should not have presented the same before this House. Now that they have presented it before us there is no going back from the responsibility, and they are responsible for every figure put therein. It is therefore futile to shirk the responsibility and try to throw the same on the shoulders of those who are not in office now. It is quite evident that the Ministry which prepared this Budget did so under uncertain circumstances and hence no provision for any new plan or scheme finds plan in this budgetary provisions and this Ministry is simply taking advantage of that. Even if we take the Hon'ble the Finance Minister at his word that the Ministry could not find time to prepare a Budget, what prevented him, may I ask, from laying down the principle and policy the Government propose to adopt with regard to certain matters of vital importance to this Province such as Post-War Reconstruction, supply of cloth and other necessities of life and compulsory primary education, etc. Not a word to that effect has been said by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his 14 page Budget speech, except that a summer session of the Assembly would be called by July next. Does the Ministry propose to take time thereby and after completing their schemes and distributing the works according to their sweet will come to this House for a vote for Grant? Nothing, no plan, no scheme for the improvement of the fate of the people of this Province, of the masses, has been placed before us by this so-called peoples' Government, but instead the

Hon'ble the Finance Minister has delivered a sermon explaining in his own way as to how the British Ruling classes have exploited the masses and how the Congress came into conflict with the British. I should like to point out here that the Hindu National Congress did not enter the Legislatures with the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy to avail itself of the transfer of power in spite of the irresponsible Centre as has been stated by the Hon'ble the Minister of Finance. The election of 1937 was fought by the Congress to wreck the Government of India Act of 1935 and surely not to work it out ; and it is well known to every student of politics how the Congress refused to accept office in the beginning and how being disillusioned by their own actions, accepted office afterwards, and then again resigned on the plea that the British Government did not consult the Congress before declaring India to a belligerent country ; and how subsequently taking advantage of the apparent helplessness of the British in the War, adopted the "Quit India" Resolution to coerce the British into submission on the one hand and to encourage the Japanese on the other ; and in doing all these the Congress even did not think it worthwhile to consult the 10 crores of Muslims of India. The remarks passed by no less a Congress Leader than Mahatma Gandhi about the Cripps Proposals of 1942, characterising it to be a "post dated cheque on a crashing bank", goes to show with what eye the Congress looked at the British and its power to win the War ; and as a result of all this the country was let loose to the horrors of lawlessness and for sometimes the whole Congress organisation started dancing on the tune of Tokio and Saigon. But with the passage of time the Congress Leadership realised its mistake and with one plea or the another, its Leaders came out of jail and are now out to placate the British for their own ends. Unlike the election of 1937, they are fighting these elections to capture Ministries. Now, this Congress Ministry in Assam is going to release all the saboteurs and refund their fines and confiscated properties with a plea on the one hand, of creating an atmosphere of peace and good will between the Hindus and the British as the British Cabinet Mission is coming to India soon and to wage war against the Muslim India on the other. Their first act in this direction has been to create a split amongst the Muslims by misleading a section of our Ulemas and inducing them to fight our national organisation, the Muslim League, with their men and money. The three hon. Members of this House belonging to the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, who are sitting with the Congress Members, do so as a result of Congress manipulations ; and their second act comes in the shape of turning out the poor Muslims who have come and settled in Assam. Is this the way in which the Congress thinks of creating an atmosphere of peace and goodwill for the British Mission ? The Muslim League, on the other hand, is fighting these elections not to form Ministries but to wreck the Government of India Act of 1935 and establish Pakisthan. I would request the Congress Leadership to face facts and if they mean what they say by independence, they should come to a settlement with the Muslim League on the basis of Pakisthan. (*Voices : Hear, hear, from Opposition Benches.*)

✓ Sir, coming to the land settlement policy of the Government, I should like to point out here that I was one of those five hon. Members of this House who visited the evicted village known as Pukuripar on the 7th of this month. It was really a heartrending sight to see the poor people left to the mercy of nature with their wives and children, all belongings thrown out in the open air, having no place to go none to seek and for help and protection. The act of irresponsibility of the Government officers reached its climax when the Party without paying any heed to the religious sentiments of the Muslims destroyed one Mosque of that well-established village. Such an irresponsible and unjustified act on the part of a Government which calls itself civilised is going to produce countrywide indignation and agitation. I was taken by surprise when the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister said the other day that he had no information about the acts of brutality perpetrated at Pukuripar. But, when such inhuman acts are being done at the

instance of the Government he is not expected to say more than what he said the other day, for the officers are simply carrying out the orders received from the Government, however brutal and inhuman they might be.

✓ Sir, the so called Line-System in Assam, as is known to everybody, has no legal sanction behind it inasmuch as it is neither an act of Legislature nor an enactment of His Excellency the Governor. But when an agitation was started against that inequitous and illegal measure, the Government realising its untenable position, have taken recourse to this Professional Grazing Reserves. In their anxiety to drive out the Muslims, the Government did not even inquire before declaring a particular area to be a Professional Grazing Reserve whether there was any grazier or whether it was actually required for the indigenous people. Believe me, Sir, when I say that within a radius of over 5 miles of Pukuripar village there was not a single village or house of any graziers, for the fodder of whose supposed cattle the Government is depriving so many human beings of their legitimate rightful claims to the land. The vast areas on all sides of that Pukuripar village were lying waste except only the small portions cultivated by these unfortunate Muslims who have been unjustly and mercilessly rendered homeless and there was not a single buffalo or cow within our sight of the so-called graziers for whose supposed comfort the Government is not hesitating to sacrifice so many human beings. Why then take recourse to such a farcical term as "Professional Grazing Reserves" when there is none to graze his cattle there? And who are these graziers, may I ask? Are they not Nepalese? Why then the Government is so much careful about these Nepalese who are also outsiders and merciless with these evictees? Is it because the Nepalese are Hindus and the evictees are Muslims? Should not such an attitude on the part of our Hindu friends make us more serious in our demand for Pakistan and the inclusion of Assam in the same? Our Hindu friends want us to live in Akhand-Hindusthan but is this the way how the Hindu Congress can create goodwill between the two Nations so that they may live together? Such treatments will, on the contrary, Sir, widen the gulf between the two Nations. I would therefore warn the Ministry against such measures which are sure to kindle a fire that will be impossible for the Ministry to bring under control. (Hear, hear.)

✓ Sir, the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has said in his Budget speech, "We stand for a planned settlement of the arable waste land. For that purpose we propose to have an enumeration of the landless people and devise measures by which the landless as well as those who have got uneconomical holdings are settled in better and more economic holdings." I would, Sir, request the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to stick to what he has said and prove true to his utterance by staying all eviction orders till all figures of available waste land are available and they are settled. I can assure the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister that we also do not want that some persons should become landlords at the cost of many who are going without land.

According to my information, Sir, the figures of cultivable waste lands which are being withheld from cultivation are 4,577,400 acres and other uncultivated lands excluding current fallows are 18,275,093 acres. So in all probability lands are there for all the landless in Assam if only the Government cares to give the matter its due importance.

Sir, it is far from truth to say that due to the demand of the Muslim League to include Assam in Pakistan there has been an onrush of immigrants. If an impartial enquiry is made in the matter it will be found, to the utter surprise of our Hindu friends, that 99 per cent. of the immigrant Muslims have come into Assam long before 1940, the year in which the All-India Muslim League adopted the Pakistan Resolution; and from my personal experience I can assert that the Muslims of Pukuripar village have settled there long before 1940. It is evident, therefore, that it is not for the love of graziers or indigenous

ous people that the Muslims are being turned out, but for the fear of Pakistan which is hanging over the heads of my Hindu friends like the Sword of Democles.

✓ Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru while addressing the people on the food crisis, the other day advised the people not to die like cats and rats in holes; if they are to die they must die like men. Should not this same advice hold good in the case of the Muslims who have settled down in Pukuripar for over 10 years and who are now being mercilessly thrown to the wolves and to the jaws of death by this Government by driving away from their rightful holdings having their houses pulled down and crops destroyed? Is it not an act of brutality and barbarism to demolish the houses of people who are living there for a long time having converted the jungles into smiling paddy fields, yielding food for thousands and revenue for the Government Exchequer? Not only their houses have been demolished and crop destroyed, the indigenous people who accompanied the Government raiders took away all the poor Muslims had in their possession. Can any civilized Government act in this manner in this century, much less a Cabinet whose Members are wedded to the creed of non-violence? (*Hear, hear.*)

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: On a point of order, Sir, I should like to say that the hon. Member has given misstatement of facts. In the statement that I made there was no mention of mosque and destruction of property. I had no information on that regard.

Maulavi MAYEEN-uD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: He is not expected to know. When such acts were done at the instance of Government, he is not expected to know more than what he said the other day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has completed his time limit.

Maulavi MAYEEN-uD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: I am quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Sir.

Sir, in one of his recent speeches on the food problem, Mahatma Gandhi has advised the people not to leave a single plot of cultivable land uncultivated including the flower gardens which according to him should be converted into paddy fields. But here in Assam his worthy lieutenants are turning out people, who have by the sweat of their brow made heaven out of jungles during the last 10 years or so, and who according to the statement made by the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister the other day fall within the protected class, from their rightful homes and hearths, mercilessly destroying their crops. Is this the way in which the Congress Ministry in Assam going to honour the advice of the accredited Leader of Hindu India? (*Hear, hear.*)

In conclusion, I would like to ask the hon. Members belonging to the Jamiet-Ulema-i-Hind if they have a drop of Muslim blood in them, to support the Muslim League in their fight to protect the helpless Muslim settlers of Assam from the inhuman brutalities of this Hindu Congress Government (*Applause.*)

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir. Is it parliamentary to say like that: if they have a drop of Muslim blood in them they are to support the Muslim League

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MD. ROUFIQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in considering the Budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, it is necessary that we define our attitude to the Government constituted as it is.

The Muslim League fought the election not on the issue of working the Constitution but on the issue of Pakistan. The result of the election has unmistakably shown that the Muslims are solidly behind the demand of Pakistan and that the Muslim League is the only authoritative organisation of the Muslims of India. The present Government formed as it is, cannot claim to represent or act for the 40 lakhs of Muslims inhabiting this Province. It is practically a Government of the non-Muslims by the non-Muslims and we may imagine for the non-

Muslims. It is in this context of the situation that we have to consider the Budget and offer our criticisms. The introductory speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister sounds more like a speech in a Congress meeting than a speech suited for a legislative gathering composed of different political parties. It is only too clear that the Hon'ble Minister has been at pains to extricate himself from commitments made outside the Assembly and finding himself unable to redeem promises of big things to come, is desperately engaged in laying faults at everybody's door except his own. Instead of blaming others it would have redounded to the credit of the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the party which he represents if he had frankly admitted that no substantial good could be done to the people under the present constitution—the Hon'ble Minister has tried to hoodwink the public by making yet another promise of bringing in measures for the betterment of the lot of the people a few months after. He himself has tried to show that it was a deficit Budget. I, therefore, fail to see what hope can be entertained for the future too.

It has taken the Congress nearly 10 years to discover that a solution of the Indian problem on the basis of complete independence can be found by negotiation for the good of India and Britain, and therefore, the Congress is preparing to meet the British Cabinet Mission in an atmosphere of good will and peace. The attitude of wresting power from British hands has given place to an attitude of flattery and submission which probably explains why the Congress which declared its intention of wrecking the Constitution in 1937 and after starting successive movements of Civil Disobedience and non-co-operation culminating with the 'Quit India' Resolution of 1942, is now in the year of the Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-six hugging the Constitution to its bosom. It is a fact that the Congress is mortally afraid of the application of Section 93. We do not grudge the Congress the honour and pleasure of working the Constitution—to ameliorate the condition of the people if they can—remove poverty and improve the economic life of the people—if these are possible. We are prepared to wish them good luck and god-speed. But we warn them that they must not lay their hands on the Muslim or Muslim interests. The Muslims have bitter experience of Congress rule of 26 months in the past in different provinces of India. Pirpur report is the standing indictment and the verdict of Muslim India on Congress rule. Out of evil cometh good. It did at least one good to the Muslims—it brought home to them that the Congress despite its claim to represent all the communities and races inhabiting this vast sub-continent is purely a Hindu organisation. This knowledge has led the Muslims to unity and made the Muslim League the strongest and the only authoritative organisation of the Muslims of India.

History is repeating itself in Assam. Within 15 days of the assumption of the reins of administration by the Congress the Hon'ble Finance Minister who happens to be also the Revenue Minister performed his first constructive act by ordering mass eviction of immigrant Muslims from the so-called grazing reserves. I am sorry to say that one of the local Congress organs immediately came out with an editorial eulogising the services of the Revenue Minister and expressing appreciation of the action taken in such undue haste, as if it was a pastime with the Congress to break down houses, destroy homes and hearths, render the people homeless and destitute, drive them on to streets to face exposure, misery and starvation. If this was not ruthless, if this was not cruel, if this was not brutal, I do not know what it should be called.

The Hon'ble Minister pleads that whatever action was taken by him was in pursuance of a certain Government Resolution. I admit this was one part of the Resolution and was there no other part of the Resolution? I mean the part referring to the planned settlement. These people could have been saved from the hardship to which they were subjected if the Hon'ble Minister had put into effect both parts of the Resolution simultaneously and transferred these people to planned areas instead of making them homeless with their women and children to suffer untold sufferings. The whole eviction business taken up so soon after the election smacks of vengeance. Is it to teach a lesson to the immigrants for being supporters of the Muslim League? Whatever it may be, I sound a note of warning that the Muslims will not take lying down such inhuman treatment. Action of this nature explodes the myth of the Congress representing the hungry millions. You say that the immigrant have been encouraged to come to Assam to swell its Muslim population. Is this true? They have been coming on for the last 25 years or so. They have certainly not come here on our invitation. We are absolutely not responsible for their coming and settling here. If any body is responsible for this influx of immigrants it is the Hindu Zaminders of Bengal whose oppression and repression made the lives of people intolerable in their own country. Goaded by hunger and want they came to Assam in search of land and livelihood. The miserable condition in which they came excited the sympathy not only of the Muslims but also of the Hindus who gave them all possible help to settle down. The immigrant question in its inception is essentially an economic one, but only since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy it has been given a communal colouring because political power has come to be assessed on the numerical strength of different communities.

There is another side of the immigrant question which is always lost sight of. People are given to understand that only the Muslims are coming to Assam. There are nearly fifteen lakhs of Hindus who came from outside and are settled here. Besides there are thousands other who have come and captured the trade and commerce of the Province and have earned by lakhs and crores by exploiting the poor peasants and working havoc on the economic life of the people. They have made themselves and their Province rich by robbing the people of Assam of their hard earned money—money earned by sweat, toil and tears. There is not a word of protest against those who have come and sucked the blood of the people of Assam, no restriction is placed on their way. But the immigrants who have come and settled here permanently and have become part and parcel of the population and who have converted jungles into beautiful villages and have grown fine crops, enriched and added to the prosperity of the country—and it is they who should be damned and hounded out of the country because they are Muslims! Those who are allowed to remain here must be segregated by lines. It is said that the Assamese as a race will be extinct if the cordon is not placed. However attractive a remedy it may look, its efficacy is doubtful to save a nation. Not to speak of such artificial barriers like the Line System, if a Chinese wall is erected around them they are bound to be extinct if they are not made strong and industrious. May we know what the Congress has done in this direction? Rather a beautiful picture of Swaraj has been drawn before their eyes where there will be only remission of land revenue and free supply of everything that a man needs for his existence. Is this conducive to the building up of a healthy strong nation to fight the battle of life?

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself admitted he was unable to provide for any constructive scheme in the present Budget but has been kind

enough to arrange for refunding the collective fines to the people from whom these were realised. We have no objection to his giving back the money if he likes. He may pay them back with compound interest. I am mentioning this as an instance how he holds the interest of his party above the interest of the people. Instead of refunding the money to the individuals he could have proposed to return the same to them in the shape of some service for the collective good of the people. By taking the responsibility of presenting the Budget (which he says he feels it his honour to do) without taking the responsibility for the figures incorporated in it, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is going to establish a precedent in the history of administration. Responsibility of Government in the matter of administration is a continuous one—whoever holds the reigns—and none can with propriety draw a line between the old and the new Government to take all the credits to himself and discredits to his predecessor. This is not an honest way of escaping responsibility.

I appreciate the difficulties of the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the shortness of time but that can hardly justify his inaction in not modifying the Budget to the extent to which it was possible within the short period. Yesterday one of the hon. Members cited a list of fat-salaried posts which were described as redundant and fit to be retrenched. The Hon'ble Finance Minister also mentioned in his speech about the utilisation of the surplus revenue raised by the then Congress Government in giving fat salaries and in creating unnecessary posts. If the Government sincerely held that view, what was there to prevent them from retrenching some of the posts thereby saving some money so much needed for nationbuilding activities. By not doing so they either admit the justification for these posts or they are guilty of wasting rate-payers money by continuing to maintain these unnecessary posts.

Sir, I can enumerate hundreds of wants and needs which my district is smarting under in the matters of education, communication, water supply and others but I do not feel encouraged to place them before the House after we have heard from the Hon'ble Finance Minister about the tightness of the Budget provision. Instead of looking to Government for this redress or that redress of grievances we would rather wait anxiously to see the end of this Constitution with the emergence of Hindustan and Pakistan in this vast sub-continent of India.

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when my name was called out I was absent. May I speak now?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will take his chance after other hon. Members listed for this day have spoken.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, I had not been in intimate touch with the politics of Assam and the financial position of the Assam Government yet I welcome the opportunity to make some observations.

Sir, I sympathise with the Hon'ble Finance Minister who had not had enough time for preparing the Budget. But I do not for a moment think that he has no responsibility for the Budget he has presented. The Budget has become an orphan though its parent is alive. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to throw the entire responsibility to the previous Government. All the damaging criticisms that have been levelled against it were received with expression of glee by the Members opposite and I saw smiles on the face of the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches as if it hit the outgoing Government (*Lughter* in the Government Benches). Sir, you have your laugh and smile but presently you will see the real position. It is always better to have patience.

Sir, the previous Government did not prepare the Budget. Perhaps it was

prepared by the Departmental Officers. It did not reach the discussion stage. It must have been made at the direction of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

His ability for preparing the Budget is perhaps responsible for his installation in the *Gadi* of Congress Ministry. Not only has he been given a place in the Treasury Benches, he is, I find, sitting next to the Hon'ble Premier. Was he not the Congress nominee in the previous Coalition Government ?

Sir, like a very astute lawyer (and I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister because he belongs to a profession to which I had once the honour to belong), he took a leaf from the passing of the "Quit India" Resolution of 1942 and the arrest of the Congress Working Committee members to the ruthless repression started by the Government. He discreetly omitted to mention the events in between the two periods. As soon as the Congress Working Committee Members were arrested, widespread disturbances occurred all over India ; telegraph lines were cut, attempts were made to destroy the bridges and all sorts of things were done which meant loss to the public Exchequer. And all these things were done when the enemy was knocking at our door. At that time the Congress Party, both inside the Legislature and outside, sedulously tried to absolve themselves of all responsibility. Patriotic Congress-minded people were responsible for them. But, Sir, it transpired later that everything was done under Congress direction. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, a member of the Working Committee, gave out the secret that the whole matter was discussed in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi...

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Is the hon. Member speaking on the Budget, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That was what I was wondering.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Sir, I am speaking on the propriety of giving relief to those responsible for acts of sabotage. Mahatma Gandhi admitted that the matter was discussed, but it was not for publication. The Saint of Sabar-mati, for whom I had great regard, gave up his high ethical principle of non-violence. The Hon'ble Finance Minister regards those who lost their lives as martyrs. I sympathise with them and consider them victims of misjudged and misguided direction from the Congress. I do realise that they were patriots whose services could have been useful in the real battle for freedom.

Sir, coming to the question of immigration, Assam is said to be a benighted Province, and the sort of lawless eviction of immigrants that is going on can be carried on only in this Province. For the last 20 years eviction is being carried on under rule 18 of the Settlement Rules under the Land Revenue Regulation. I must say with all the emphasis I can command that the said Rule 18 gives power of summary ejection only from the village grazing reserves and waste lands and not from the grazing grounds from where the largest number of villagers are being evicted. Government decided in a Resolution that they should be evicted from those grazing grounds. Do Government suggest that as soon as that decision is made every officer of Government has got the right to drive these people away and wipe out their existence without starting any legal proceedings against them? That will be a barbarous method. The Government say, there is no available land in Assam. The density of population in Assam was pointed out by my hon. Friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Ziaosh Shams, which does not suggest that there is no land in Assam. Sir, all these years ex-tea garden coolies have been settling by lakhs and no whisper about land not being available was heard.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Did they encroach reserves ?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : These ex-tea garden coolies compete in the matter of settlement with indigenous Assamese people. They occupy high lands which the Assamese people also like to occupy. The immigrants occupy low lands which are not suitable for the Assamese.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Sir, the word "coolie" had not been used on the floor of this House for the last nine years.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think the hon. Member should say "labourer".

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : I have the greatest regard and sympathy for those who earn their livelihood by the sweat of their brow, and I did not use the word in any spirit of disparagement.

Sir, cattle is insufficient in Assam, milk is insufficient. Can any hon. Gentleman opposite honestly deny that in places where the Mymensinghians have settled there is also dearth of milk? They rear cattle without grazing grounds. So long as you allow the primitive system of rearing cattle through Gurkha *Khutiwalas*, there will be dearth of cattle in your Province. I shall ask the hon. Members opposite to compare the figure of cattle of Bihar with the area of grazing grounds there and also to compare the number of cattle in the Punjab with the area of grazing grounds they have got there. Miles and miles of land have been kept reserved as grazing ground in Assam. Within an area of 10 miles in the Professional Grazing Reserve you will find 100 to 200 heads of buffaloes of professional graziers. This is the state of things in Assam. There is a political design which is responsible in the matter of settlement of waste lands—for all these troubles to the immigrants. But these immigrants have converted the jungles into green gardens of crops, they are growing three or four crops instead of one in a year, and are teaching the Assamese people how best to utilise the soil.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister complains he has no money for development schemes. The best way of getting money will be to settle all spare lands of Assam with cultivators irrespective of race, creed and colour. Some hon. Members have spoken about the Line System. It is based on Executive Orders of doubtful legal validity. Is not Assam governed by the Act of 1935? Do not the hon. Members opposite know that the Government of India Act, 1935 does not recognise any domicile other than Indian domicile? Is it fair or have you any legal authority to deny His Majesty's subjects the right to settle in the waste lands? You cannot and you have not restricted anybody excepting the Muslims who came from Mymensingh. There is no quarrel between the immigrants and the local Assamese people. The immigrants settle in low lands which Assamese cultivators do not like. The quarrel is really between the people who came to Assam some 50 years ago and the people who are coming now. You will find this if you examine the genealogy of many families. Kala-azar and other diseases created havoc in the plains of Assam. Jungle conquered large part of the Valley. The immigrants cleared the jungle and improved the land. The insinuation that the Muslim League brought the immigrants is absolutely false. The hon. Leader of the Muslim League Party as well as others know that the problem of settlement of landless immigrants is a very old affair.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member has already taken 18 minutes.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID : Before I sit down, Sir, I may assure the hon. Members opposite that if they devise any measure for removing corruption, they will receive whole hearted support from us. Corruption is said to be wide-spread in the Province of Assam. The rule of the people, by the people and for the people should not be tarnished by the canker of corruption, I would advise

Government to set up machinery for detection of corruption. Assam Council rightly abolished the Criminal Intelligence Department because its members specialised in pursuing patriots. If the Department is revived and manned with really honest men who are expected to perform their duties without any regard for persons of position, I am sure the corruption can be checked. If you succeed in removing ugly aspects of corruption from Assam, you will be reaping a rich harvest in the shape of gratitude from its teeming millions. (Applause.)

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget that has been produced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister seems to me a unique document. It contains the shell of the Budget without the kernel. As has been mentioned by many hon. Members before, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made no provision for new schemes in his Budget. Never in the history of Assam Administration was a Budget presented in this skeleton form. A Party, Sir, which took up the responsibility of running an administration, is expected to have at least some idea as to how to develop the Province morally, materially and economically. But the Congress seems to have a blank and vacant mind in this matter. The out-going Ministry provided an expenditure for 10 lakhs of rupees for new schemes which has been omitted by the present Hon'ble Finance Minister without providing any substitute. He assured, however, that in the July Session he would formulate new schemes and place them before the House. We hope, Sir, that in two months time the Congress Ministry will acquire some idea and will atone in July Session for their obvious neglect of duties in the present session.

Sir, the Budget is a negative one, not merely with regard to new schemes, but the Hon'ble Finance Minister seems to be absolutely silent about how the Congress Government proposes to deal with the most menacing problem with which India is faced to-day, I mean the problem of impending famine in India. (*voices: hear, hear*). What part Assam is going to play, what contribution the Congress Ministry is going to make in saving the lives of hundreds and thousands of people who will be affected by the famine in the near future? It is well known that there are millions of acres of land lying fallow within this Province. It is equally well known that there are hundreds and thousands of landless people who are ready to undertake to cultivate all this land and produce food crops which will go to save the lives of thousands of people in the areas affected by famine. But the Line System as is well known debar the landless people from cultivating Government waste lands and producing food crops. Whatever justification the Line System might or might not have been in the past, it has outlived its utility and this system which now blocks and impedes the production of food crops must go. My hon. Friend Maulavi Mayeenud-Din Ahmed Chowdry has rightly referred in his speech what Mr. Gandhi says about food production. Mahatma Gandhi has asked people to cultivate all available lands including flower gardens. Sir, his followers in Assam turn a deaf ear to his humanitarian advice. They prefer to wallow in the mire of blind communal prejudice and adopt a dog in the manger policy. Sir, if the Congress Government would remain silent as spectator in the grim drama of famine in India, if they would sit tight with folded hands and watch thousands of people going to die for want of food, then they would deserve and earn universal condemnation and disgrace. I may tell them that if they would remain passive, others will not.

The Congress in Assam has got a bee in their bonnet and that is Professional Grazing Reserves. The Hon'ble Finance Minister devotes a considerable portion of his speech in the discussion on this matter. Now what is Professional Grazing Reserve? Under this name, Sir, a vast area of land has been kept reserved for graziers which is much in excess of the requirements of the graziers. I may say, that under this convenient pseudonym, Sir, vast area of land has been kept back from productive use. In Barpeta Subdivision alone there is over a lakh bighas of surplus Professional Grazing Reserve, in Gauhati Subdivision there is over a lakh and a half, in Mangal-

dai there is over ten thousand bighas, in Tezpur over 25 thousand bighas and in Nowgong over a lakh and half bighas. These figures are quoted from Mr. Desai's Report. Besides this there are vast areas of grazing reserves in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts which are much in excess to the requirements of the graziers. Now, why did those people go to those reserves? Sir, thousands of people whose lands were croded by rivers and many who were roaming about like nomads for years in search of lands have reclaimed waste lands in the Reserves, built their huts and are cultivating few bighas of land each in the Reserves. They have gone to the Reserves because they have nowhere else to go in the wide world. Because of the Line System they could not go to the Government waste lands and so they had to take shelter in the Professional Grazing Reserves. Now the Congress Government seem determined to turn them out, to evict them from those reserves by demolishing their houses and destroying their food crops and driving them into wilderness. Hon'ble Finance Minister wants co-operation from the Leaders of all parties in this work of eviction of encroachers. I can tell him categorically that we absolutely decline to give such co-operation and refuse to be a party to do this nefarious task of demolishing the poor people's houses and of destroying their crops. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister considers evictions as humane, but I consider it as satanic. Our attitude in this matter has been defined in a resolution adopted by the Working Committee of the Assam Muslim League at Gauhati on the 8th March, 1946. I shall read out the relevant portion of the resolution in connection with the eviction policy of the Congress Government. The resolution runs thus:—"In view of the very serious situation created by the action of the Congress Government in Assam in ordering mass eviction of hundreds of families of settlers from the so-called Professional Grazing Reserves and Government waste lands, rendering them destitute and homeless and destroying their crops and also in view of the fact that hundreds and thousands of landless people within the Province are debarred from earning their livelihood from land because of the operation of the oppressive and illegal Line System and regard being had to the urgent necessity of producing food crop to avert the impending all-India famine the Working Committee of the Assam Provincial Muslim League hereby resolves that the landless and the evicted persons be advised to spread out and cultivate all surplus cultivable Government waste lands to produce food crop to save themselves and thousands of others from miseries of famine, starvation and death". These landless people have been dragging on with miserable existence for a number of years. We think, Sir, that this state of things must cease. Call it Civil Disobedience Movement, call it defiance of law, call it by whatever name you please, Sir, we are determined that we shall spare no effort to see that food crop is produced in Assam extensively to save thousands of people from starvation and death—Line System or no Line System, Professional Grazing Reserves or no Professional Grazing Reserves (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*). Sir, there is no special sanctity attached to Professional Grazing Reserves or Government waste lands that they should be kept in tact while thousands die for want of food. They must be utilised to produce food crops to save hundreds of thousands of lives in the famine affected areas. I still hope that the Congress Government will desist from their insane policy of evicting those settlers from Professional Grazing Reserves and Government waste lands, demolishing their houses and destroying their crops. If they do not, Sir, the responsibility for the consequences will be theirs.

Srijut KHORSING TERANG : সভাপতি মহোদয়, মই ইংৰাজী ভালকৈ নাজানো। সেই কাৰণে মই অসমীয়াতে কব খোজোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ভাল, অসমীয়াতে কওক।

Srijut KHORSING TERANG : শ্ৰী ৯ বছৰ ধৰি আসাম ব্যৱস্থাপক সভাৰ সদস্যগিৰী কৰি গৰণ মেণ্টৰ লগত সহযোগীতা কৰি দেশৰ ভালৰ কাৰণে কতাব কত কথা কৈ

আহিছে, কিন্তু কোনো সুফল নাপালো। আজিও বাজেট আলোচনাৰ সুযোগতে কেইআঘাৰ মান দেশৰ ভালৰ কাৰণে কবলৈ আগ বাঢ়িলোঁ।

যোৱা ৯ বছৰ কাল এই এচেম্বলীৰ জৰীয়েতে মোৰ constituency ত থকা প্ৰজাবিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ অৰ্থে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আসাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওচৰত কতবাৰ কাকুতি মিনতি কৰি আহিলোঁ, কিন্তু দুৰ্ভাগ্যবশতঃ আদিম পূৰ্বপুৰুষৰ দৰে লেংটি মৰা মিকিৰ সেই লেংটি মৰা মিকিৰ হৈয়ে থাকিল। নিজৰ দেশৰ কাৰণে কোনো এটা সুবিধা কৰি উন্নতিৰ পথত আগুৱাবলৈ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই দুখীয়া নিৰীহ প্ৰজাৰ ওপৰত সন্মুখিপাত নকৰিলে। মাত্ৰ এসময়ত কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনতহে ১৪ মাহৰ ভিতৰত মহংদিজুয়া আৰু টিকা পৰ্বতত দুখন এম্, ই স্কুল দিছিল। কিন্তু তাতো স্কুলৰ ঘৰবিলাক ভালকৈ সাজি দিয়া হোৱা নাই আৰু সুবিধাজনক মাঠৰ দি নিয়মিত ভাবে স্কুল কেইখন চলোৱা হোৱা নাই।

কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত আসামৰ পৰা বৰবিহ কানি খোৱাৰ নিয়ম একৱাই দিবলৈ যি ব্যৱস্থা অৱলম্বন কৰিছিল, লগতে মিকিৰ পাহাৰতো সেই ব্যৱস্থা অৱলম্বন কৰাত, কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত প্ৰায় কানীয়াই কানি খাবলৈ এবাৰত সিহঁতৰ চেহেৰা ভাল হৈ পৰিছিল। আশা কৰিছিলোঁ যে মিকিৰবিলাকেও যেতিয়া কানি খাবলৈ এৰিছে, সিহঁতে উন্নতিৰ পথত আগুৱাব পাৰিব। কিন্তু যেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনো কাৰণত পদত্যাগ কৰিবলগীয়া হ'ল, তেতিয়া লগে লগে চোৰাং কানি ভৰি পৰিল আৰু কানীয়া ককাইসকলে বেচি দাম দিও আগৰ দৰে আকৌ কানি খাবলৈ ধৰিলে। বৰ্তমানে কানীয়া ককাইসকলে আগতকৈ দহগুণে চৰা বুলি কলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়।

সি যি কি নহওক, ১৪ মাহ কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লগত থাকোঁতে কিছু সহায় আৰু সহানুভূতি পোৱাত এইবাৰ Election তো কংগ্ৰেচৰ টিকট লৈ Election ৰ কাম আৰম্ভ কৰি ভোটাৰসকলৰ অনুগ্রহত এই ব্যৱস্থাপক সভালৈ আহিছোঁ। মই আশা কৰোঁ এই কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ জৰীয়েতে মোৰ constituency ত থকা মিকিৰ সমাজৰ কিছু উপকাৰ হব।

শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে কবলৈ গলে, আমাৰ মিকিৰ সমাজ শিক্ষা বিষয়ত একেবাৰেই পিচপৰা। আসামৰ ভিতৰত অইন অইন জাতিৰ লগত তুলনা কৰিলে মিকিৰবিলাকৰ শিক্ষা একেবাৰেই নাই বুলিলেও হয়। অইন অইন জাতিৰ দৰে মিকিৰবিলাকৰ পক্ষে শিক্ষা লাভ কৰা বহুত কঠিন; কাৰণ, মিকিৰ সমাজৰ মাজত তেনেকুৱা শিক্ষালয় নাই। ঘৰৰ পৰা বহুত দূৰে ঠাইলৈ গৈ শিক্ষা লবগৈ লাগে। গোলাঘাট আৰু নগাঁও টাউনকেই ওচৰ বুলিব পাৰি। কিন্তু তালৈকো বহুত দূৰে। তেনেকুৱা ঠাইলৈ শিক্ষালাভ কৰিবলৈ গলে যথেষ্ট টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হয়। কিন্তু ভগৱানে আমাৰ মিকিৰ জাতিক সিমান টকা দিয়া নাই। গতিকে কংগ্ৰেচ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে মিকিৰ জাতিৰ প্ৰতি সন্মুখি ৰাখি বৰ্তমানলৈকে যিবিলাক প্ৰাইমাৰী, এম্, ডি আৰু এম্, ই স্কুল খুলি দিছে সেই স্কুলৰ ঘৰবিলাক যেন ভালকৈ সজাই দিয়ে আৰু তাত যেন ভাল শিক্ষক নিযুক্ত কৰে। আৰু অহা পহিলা এপ্ৰিলৰ পৰা নগাঁও জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত মেৰক এম্, ই স্কুলটো Aided ৰ পৰা pure গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত দুৱাৰ বাগৰী মৌজাৰ দেওঘৰ নামে ঠাইত এখন Aided এম্, ই, স্কুল দিব লাগে। আৰু ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও যথেষ্ট প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুল আৰু এম্, ই, স্কুল খোলাৰ ব্যৱস্থা সোনকালে কৰিব লাগে। Scholarship ৰ সংখ্যাও যথেষ্ট বৰমে দিব লাগে আৰু ৰচাব লাগে।

মিকিৰ জাতিৰ অৱনতিৰ মূল কাৰণ হৈছে অহা যোৱা কৰা আলিপদুলিৰ অভাৱ। মিকিৰ জাতি বাস কৰা ঠাইৰ পৰা কোনো টাউন বা বেলৰ ষ্টেচনলৈ যাবলৈ আলিবাট নাই। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকৰ উৎপন্ন বস্ত্ৰ ধান, কপাহ, সবিয়হ, তিল, এৰিখোলা, এৰিককন, ধুনা, জলকীয়া আদি অতি কম দামত বেচিব লগীয়া হৈছে আৰু আমদানী মাল—যেনে কাপোৰ, তেল, নিমখ আদি বহুতগুণে বেচি দাম দি কিনি লব লগীয়া হৈছে। এতেকে অতি সোনকালে মিকিৰৰ মাজত নগাঁও জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত ডবকাৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি পাৰ খোৱা, দেনগাঁও, দক্ষমোকা, সোণাপুৰ, ফুলনী, তাৰাবাছা, দীমনপানী, তেতেলীগুৰি, বকলীয়াঘাট, মহংদিজুয়া আৰু দিয়ানইৰ মাজেদি ডিমাপুৰলৈকে এটা Public Works Department ৰ আলি কৰি দিব লাগে। ইয় বাহিৰেও মহংদিজুয়াৰ পৰা ডিফু বেল ষ্টেচনলৈ, কামপুৰ বেল ষ্টেচনৰ পৰা বৈঠালাংছু আৰু ধৰম-

তুলৰ উপৰি দলঙৰ ওচৰৰ Public Works Department ৰ আলিৰ পৰা আমৰ্ছৰ মাজেদি বৰগাঁওলৈকে আৰু এটা Public Works Department আলি বাট কৰি দিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও প্ৰয়োজন অনুসাৰে অন্যান্য ঠাইত আলি বাট কৰি দিব লাগে।

মিকিৰ জাতিটো একেবাৰেই নিৰীহ, দুখীয়া আৰু ভয়াতুৰ জাতি, গতিকে এই জাতিয়ে দন্দ-কাজিয়া কৰিবলৈ ভাল নাপায়। সেই কাৰণে যমুনামুখ, হোজাই, লক্ষা, কন্দুৰা, অক্চেৰ পথাৰ আদি ঠাইত থকা মিকিৰ ভাই সকলে আদিম পুৰুষৰ পৰা থকা মাটি বাৰী এৰি পাহাৰলৈ উঠি যাবলগীয়া হৈছে। ইংৰাজ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে মিকিৰ জাতিটোক নিৰীহ আৰু ভয়াতুৰ জাতি বুলি জানি ঠায়ে ঠায়ে “মিকিৰ ব্লক” কৰি ৰাখিছিল কিন্তু এতিয়া জানিব পৰা গৈছে যে সেই “মিকিৰ ব্লক” বিলাক ভাঙ্গি বিদেশী পমুৱা সকলক বাস কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও ঠায়ে ঠায়ে স্থানীয় চৰ্ভিডিপুটি কলেজৰ আৰু মণ্ডল কাননগো বিলাকে পমুৱা সকলৰ পৰা টকা পইচালৈ মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ সীমা ভাঙ্গি পমুৱা সকলক বহুৱাবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে বুলি জানিব পৰা গৈছে। যদিহে এই কথাটো সঁচা হয়, তেন্তে মিকিৰ জাতিটোৰ যে খিতাপি নোহোৱা হবগৈ তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। গতিকে এই কথাটো সঁচা নে মিছা তাক তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ জনালোঁ। আৰু লগে লগে এইটোও অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ যেন মিকিৰ পাহাৰত বান্ধি দিয়া ব্লকবোৰ চিৰস্থায়ীকৈ ৰাখি যাতে পমুৱা বিলাক তাত সোমাব নোৱাৰে তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও এই নিৰীহ জাতিটোৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট মাটি বিজাৰ্ত কৰি ৰাখিব লাগে।

মোৰ constituency ত গোটেই মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ মাজত মহংদিজুয়া নামে ঠাইত নামমাত্ৰ এখন গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ডিচপেন্‌চৰী আছে; আৰু বৈঠালাংছুত আৰু দুৱাৰবাগৰী মৌজাৰ দেখৰ নামে ঠাইত পাব্লিক হেল্থৰ ডিচপেন্‌চৰী দিছে। কিন্তু তাতো চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো সুবন্দবস্ত নাই। কোনো সময়ত ডাক্তৰ থাকে আৰু কোনো সময়ত নাথাকে। গতিকে তেনেকুৱা ডিচপেন্‌চৰী দিয়া নিদিয়া সমান কথা। এতেকে সেইবিলাক ডিচপেন্‌চৰীত ভাল ডাক্তৰ নিযুক্ত কৰি লগতে সহকাৰী হিচাবে একোটা ডিচপেন্‌চৰীত একোজন কম্পাউণ্ডাৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হ'উক। যোৱা ইং ১৯৪২ চনৰ পৰা গোটেই মিকিৰ পাহাৰত বসন্ত ৰোগ বিয়পি পৰাত হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মানুহ মৰিবলৈ ধৰিছে, কিন্তু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো ভাল বন্দবস্ত আজিলৈকে নকৰিলে। বহুত ঠাইত কলাজৰ হোৱাত আৰু ওচৰত কোনো চিকিৎসালয় নথকাত বহুত মানুহ অকালতে মৰিবলৈ ধৰিছে। এতেকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে দয়া কৰি গোটেই মিকিৰ পাহাৰ সাৰ্ভে কৰি ঠাই বুজি চিকিৎসাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত।

মোৰ constituency ৰ সমতল ভাগত থকা প্ৰজা বিলাকে প্ৰায়েই ভাল পানী খাবলৈ নাপায়। নিজে কৰিলোৱা সাধাৰণ কুঁৱাৰ বোকা পানী খাই নানাৰকমৰ বেমাৰত পৰি অকালতে মৰিবলৈ ধৰিছে। এতেকে নগাঁও জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্গত লাংকেৰ মৌজাৰ এবাগাও, বালীজান আৰু তেতেলীপুৰিত, বংখাং মৌজাৰ বৰখৰ, আৰু নমাটি মৌজাৰ তাৰাবাজা আদি ঠাইত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা একোটা ভাল কুঁৱা দি দুখীয়া প্ৰজাসকলক অকাল মৃত্যুৰ হাতৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰক।

কানি এটা বৰবিহ। যোৱাবাৰ কংগ্ৰেচ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি বৰবিহ কানি নিৰাৰণ প্ৰথা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল তাৰ ফলত কংগ্ৰেচ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে থকালৈকে মানুহবিলাকে ভালকৈয়ে কানি খাবলৈ এৰিছিল। কিন্তু তেওঁবিলাকে পদত্যাগ কৰাৰ পিচত কানি আকৌ আগতকৈ বেচি বৰকমে চলিবলৈ ধৰিলে। ইমানলৈকে শুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে Checking Officer বিলাকে অইন ঠাইৰ পৰা কানি আনি চোৰাংকৈ ৰেচাসকলক দিয়েহি আৰু মাহিলী বোলে কিবা হিচাপ লয়। এতেকে এই আসাম প্ৰদেশত যাতে কানি প্ৰচলন বন্ধ হয় আৰু যাতে চোৰাং কানিৰ কাৰবাৰ বন্ধ হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে যথেষ্ট টকা খৰচ কৰি হলেও বিশৃঙ্খলী Checking Officer নিযুক্ত কৰা উচিত।

Supply ৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ ভিতৰত মিকিৰ পাহাৰত আমি লোণ আৰু তেল পাওঁ। যোৱা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী স্যাৰ চাদুল্লা চাহাৰৰ ওচৰত কেইবাবাৰো আপত্তি জনাইছিলো, কিন্তু তেখেতে মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ নিমিত্তে একো কৰি নগল। লোণ আৰু তেলৰ নিমিত্তে দোকান দিছে নাই। গতিকে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওচৰত অনুৰোধ জনাও যেন মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ মানুহবিলাকক মানুহ বুলি গণ্য কৰি কাপোৰ আৰু লোণ-তেল পোৱাৰ এটা ভাল ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

মিকিৰ পাহাৰত কুকিবিলাক সোমাইছেহি। সিহত dangerous জাতি। সেইকাৰণে সিহতক মিকিৰবিলাকৰ পৰা separate কৰি ৰাখিবলৈ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

মোৰ আৰু বিশেষ কবলগীয়া নাই। গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন সিবিলাকে মই ওপৰত কৈ অহা কথাবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি সন্মতি দিয়ে।

(Srijut Khorsing Terang, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese and urged upon Government for the improvement of the condition of the Mikir peoples by way of establishing schools, constructing roads and distributing foodstuffs and cloths.)

Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words not with the idea of criticising the Budget as presented by the present Ministry but with the idea of replying to some of the points raised by some hon. Members opposite. I refrain from criticising the Budget not so much because I belong to the same party as the Ministry does, but as because I do not really believe, in accusing a man for faults not of his but of others. The hon. Members opposite are indeed making a great show out of the position the Hon'ble Finance Minister has taken in disowning any responsibility for presenting the Budget inasmuch as the Budget was prepared by the last Ministry—by the last unwanted and unpopular Ministry, if I may call it so. The Opposition Members are trying their best to impress this House that since the Budget has been presented by this Ministry, it should be held responsible for every item thereof. Technically speaking this may be correct but we all know what the actual position is. Now, Sir, about the immigrants, some of the hon. Members opposite seemed to express the view that people from East Bengal coming to settle in Assam should not be called immigrants at all. But I personally fail to see what else they could be described. Could we possibly describe them as so many “trespassers” or rather as “the seeds of Pakistan imported into Assam”? Perhaps these epithets would be more suitable to properly describe these immigrants. Another point raised by some hon. Members opposite in this connection was that the door of Assam should be kept open for all persons whether they come from Bengal or from anywhere else on the theory of ‘*Akhanda Bharat*’.

*Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir, Is the hon. Member replying on behalf of the Hon'ble Finance Minister?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has he not got the right to express his views?

Mr. HARENDRA NATH SARMA: Another hon. Member has gone even beyond and expressed the view that all the subjects of His Majesty's Government regardless of the fact from which part of the world they might come should not be refused a place in Assam. I think this is too much. Assam cannot welcome one and all. If anybody has no place in his Province to stay I wonder why of all places he should select Assam for settling in there. Let the hon. Members in the Opposition not think that we will ever agree to the view that lands in Assam are open for settlement to all subjects of His Majesty's Government. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I enter into the discussion of the Budget, I would like to convey my feelings through you to my hon. Friend Mr. Beliram Das who has done an injustice to us by not allowing us to follow his Budget speech, on account of the hurry with which he read it. So far as I could gather from his speech he is haunted by the ghost of Pakistan. In his anxiety to decry Pakistan he forgot that he subscribed to a creed in which there is absolutely no difference between the Hindus and Muslims or any other creed or caste.

*Speech not corrected.

Next, Sir, coming to the discussion of the Budget, like many other hon. Members on this side of the House I also hold that the Hon'ble Finance Minister, while introducing this Budget before this House ought not to have shirked responsibility for the same. I have great doubt, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Finance Minister can shirk his responsibility in this way, and I shall be glad to find if the Hon'ble Finance Minister can cite a precedent from any other Legislature.

Then, Sir, coming to the Budget I find that on the face of it the Budget appears to be a surplus one, but on closer scrutiny and from the very admission of the Hon'ble Finance Minister we get that in reality this is a deficit Budget—a deficit of nearly 78 lakhs. In this connection we must not forget the fact, Sir, that in this Budget there is not a single scheme for the improvement of the nation-building departments.

Now, Sir, what is our position at the present moment? We, the people of this Province, have just come out of the ravages of a world-wide total war. Our Province of Assam being placed on the eastern border of India, and the war entering within our very border, we the people of this Province have suffered very heavily from the ravages of the war. Now, Sir, with such a dismaying condition of our finance and with so much to be done immediately for our war-famished people, I should submit, Sir, that the future of the Province is no-doubt very gloomy. And I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his clear exposition of the real financial position of the Province before the House.

Now, Sir, if we are to build a newer and a happier Assam, I think, all will agree with me that we require some new sources of income. Now in this connection my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Khaleque has rightly pointed out that the present Government should exert their utmost to prevail upon the Central Government to get all the excise duties from kerosene and petrol which the Central Government is usurping.

In the next place I press upon the Government to have a well-planned and well regulated land policy from which Government can expect to get a good amount of revenue. We all know, Sir, that vast tracts of land is lying fallow in this Province particularly in the Upper Assam Valley and if the Government settle these lands with intending parties with an annual rental and with a premium we can get a good amount which would be helpful for our future work.

In the third place, Sir, I think it is admitted on all hands that the present administration of our Province is top-heavy and we can ill-afford to maintain such a top-heavy administration. The Government should do well to put an end to this top-heavy administration and put the axe on the top and thereby save some money which may be first utilised in giving relief to the ill-paid Ministerial Officers and utilising the rest in other beneficial purposes.

In the fourth place, Sir, this Government like any other Government may resort to taxation on condition that they tax only those who have the capacity to pay and that the money so obtained is spent for the benefit of the poor masses. Now, Sir, we know, taking advantage of war conditions, many people of our Province have earned a lot and in the reconstruction of the Province if they make some contribution and in their failing that if Government tax a portion of their income, it will be only fair and equitable and the present disparity of wealth in the society to some extent may be minimised. These are some of the sources, Sir, from which Government may try to get more revenue. The Government should harness all other resources so that we may have enough money for our essential requirements. If we once get the required money, Sir, we can take to spread of education, say primary, secondary or collegiate education. In the matter of education, my humble opinion is that primary education should have priority to secondary or collegiate education. Primary education should be made compulsory without any further delay. The pay of the primary teachers should be raised and it should not be below Rs.30 per

month so that they may keep their body and soul together to give instruction to the children.

Sir, I may also mention that if we have enough money we can give more medicine and more doctors for the remotest corners in the villages. We can take up improved irrigation project and all such other beneficial works.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How long the hon. Member will take? If he has much to say, it will stand over for to-morrow.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: I shall speak to-morrow, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 16th March, 1946.

SHILLONG:

The 20th April, 1946. }

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.