

**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 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 16th March, 1946.

PRESENT

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Barlikha-Hakaluki Road**

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

26. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to improve the Barlikha-Hakaluki road and extend it up to Kusiara river with a view to connecting it with Dhakadakshin (Thakurbari Road) ?

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

26.—At present there is no such proposal.

**Amount spent on Secondary Education**

Maulavi Md. ABUL KASHEM asked :

27. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent last year by them on Secondary Education ?

(b) The up-to-date number of Government High Schools and Government Aided High Schools in the Province (to be shown separately) ?

(c) The amount of money spent by Government on each of the said kind of High Schools during the said year ?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

27. (a)—The total amount spent by Government on Secondary Education for non-excluded areas during the year 1944-45 was Rs. 16,80,283.

(b)—The number of Government High Schools for boys and girls in non-excluded areas is 25 only and that of Government Aided High Schools is 156.

(c)—The amount spent by Government on Government High Schools during 1944-45 was Rs. 9,72,807 and that on Aided High Schools for the same year was Rs. 4,17,450.

†The reply was given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Home Department during the temporary absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Will Government be pleased to state if they realise that the money spent on each Government High School is more than 12 times of that spent for each Aided High School ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am afraid it is a Question of opinion. To ascertain the correctness of the hon. Member's statement it would be necessary to look into the figures and compare them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I suppose the hon. Member ascertained it from the figures supplied.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Do Government propose to improve the condition of the Aided High Schools ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, this matter would receive due consideration.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Will Government please state what means they propose to adopt for improvement of the condition of the Aided High Schools ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: That is going too far, Sir. I am not in a position to say anything now.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Do Government consider that the expenditure on the Aided High Schools is not adequate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: This is also a matter of opinion, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Will Government consider the question of de-provincialisation of the Government High Schools, so that all the High Schools may be on the same footing ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Does that Question arise, Sir, from the answers given ? This is a Question asking for a statement on the policy of Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. For the advantage of the new Members I would invite attention to Rule 31 of the Legislative Assembly Manual, Assam. Rule 31 reads thus:

"In order that a question may be admissible it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely:—

- (1) it shall not bring in any name or make any statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible ;
- (2) if it contains a statement by the member himself, the member asking it shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement ;
- (3) it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions or defamatory statements ;
- (4) it shall not ask for any expression of opinion or the solution of a hypothetical proposition ;
- (5) it shall not relate to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity ; and
- (6) it shall not be of excessive length ;
- (7) it shall not be a request for action ;
- (8) it shall be precisely and definitely expressed ; and
- (9) it shall be asked with the object of eliciting information pure and simple."

I would invite the attention of the hon. Members to the restrictions put by the Rules in the matter of asking Questions.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Of the Government High Schools, may I know how many are for boys and how many for girls ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I want notice of this Question, Sir.

### Grants to Barpeta Municipality

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

28. (a) Are Government aware that the sanitary condition of Barpeta town is very bad ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Barpeta town is situated in a very low lying area ?

(c) Are Government aware that there are innumerable pits and ditches there, where all sorts of refuse matter and stagnant water accumulate to make the neighbouring areas unhealthy ?

(d) Are Government aware that the present population of the town is in the neighbourhood of 20,000 ?

(e) Are Government aware that there has been a regular agitation for some years past for extension of the town and removal of its insanitary condition ?

(f) Do Government propose to give some special grants to Barpeta Municipality for improvement of the town to remove both congestion and insanitary conditions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR replied :

28. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The question will be considered along with similar questions of other Municipalities.

\*Srijut MAHENDRAMOHON CHOUDHURY: In view of the answers given, do Government propose to consider the case of Barpeta Municipality as a special one ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The hon. Member is referred to reply to (f), wherein it is laid down "the question will be considered along with similar questions of other Municipalities".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: Will Government please state why no step was taken to remedy the insanitary condition of the town ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Presumably the last Government must have attempted to remedy the defects. Possibly it has not been possible as yet to remedy them completely.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Are Government aware that similar insanitary conditions prevail in practically every town and village in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No.

### Class III Officers in the Assam School Service

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

29. (a) Is it a fact that in Class III of the Assam School Service there are many junior officers drawing higher salaries than some senior officers of the same Class ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove this anomaly ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI replied :

29. (a)—Might be. But no definite reply can be given unless the names of teachers drawing higher salaries are mentioned.

(b)—The higher salaries might be due to the officiating services rendered on different occasions before their permanent absorptions. And this is admissible under the rules and so this is not an anomaly.

### Construction of the Chaulkhowa Bridge

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

30. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount of expenditure incurred in the construction of the Chaulkhowa bridge, Barpeta ?

(b) What portion of this expenditure was met from the Provincial Exchequer and what portion from the Government of India grant ?

(c) The total amount realised up till now as toll on the said bridge ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that toll was imposed on the bridge only as a temporary measure till such time as was necessary to realise the costs met from the Government of India grant and the interest thereon ?

(e) Whether they propose to make the Chaulkhowa bridge to toll free from an early date ?

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

30. (a)—Rupees 1,50,321.

(b)—The bridge was constructed from the loan taken from the Government of India as distinct from the loan for the Road Board programme.

(c)—Rupees 96,384.

(d) & (e)—The policy of the Government up to date has been to make all bridges free from toll when the receipts from revenue equal the cost of construction plus capitalised cost of repairs.

The matter is under review of the present Government.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHON CHOUDHURY: With regard to reply to (e), may I know how long will Government take to review the matter ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I cannot tell that off-hand, Sir.

### Creation of a new Province

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

31. (a) Are Government aware of the persistent rumour prevailing in the Province that the British Government is preparing to create a new Province to be known as the North Eastern Frontier Province and that for that purpose the eastern hill tracts of the Province of Assam are going to be cut off to form part of the proposed new Province ?

(b) Are Government aware of the public feeling that such action will be highly detrimental to this Province and will do immense harm to the Tribal peoples particularly ?

(c) Do Government propose to enquire and let the public know whether there is any truth behind the rumour as aforesaid ?

(d) If the answer to question (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to lodge an emphatic protest to the authorities concerned against this proposal ?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

31. (a)—Government are aware of various rumours regarding the division of the Province of Assam.

(b)—Government are aware of public feeling to this effect.

(c)—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communique No.LL.18B/46/32 of the 6th March, 1946, on the subject, a copy of which is given below :—

Assam Publicity and Rural Development Department Communique No.LL.18B/46/32, dated the 6th March, 1946.

### NO TRUTH IN RUMOUR OF PARTITION OF ASSAM

The attention of His Excellency the Governor has been drawn to allegations that schemes are under consideration for the separation of the hill areas of Assam from India and their constitution as a separate Colony or State. There is no truth in these allegations and no such scheme is being considered. Rumours have also been in circulation about the impending separation of the hills of the Province to form a new Province. The creation of any such Province would require Parliamentary legislation and no such proposal will be considered prior to the convening of the Constituent Assembly. Assurances to this effect have already been given in the Central Legislature.

(d)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Have Government ever enquired what was the foundation for these persistent rumours ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I think, Sir, the hon. Member has seen the Press Communique that was issued by this Government and also the statement that was made in the Central Assembly on behalf of the Government in answer to a Question put by the Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. There is absolutely no foundation for the rumours as stated in the Communique.

\*Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: On a point of order, Sir. Is the reply a pertinent and relevant one ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The rumour was so persistent that it appeared in various responsible newspapers, and therefore, the reply is pertinent and relevant.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Before an hon. Member puts a Question on the statement appearing in the newspaper, he has got to undertake the responsibility for the accuracy of the information. In this case, Sir, I don't think the hon. Member can possibly take the responsibility for the accuracy of the information that appeared in the newspaper nor the statement made in the Central Assembly.

\*Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is it a Question, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it the idea of the Hon'ble Minister that the Question will be re-opened after the Constituent Assembly is formed ?

\*Speech not corrected

†The reply was given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Home Department during the temporary absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It is very difficult to say. The hon. Member can draw his own inference.

\*Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: But there is the suggestion.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It may be that there is some suggestion on the point.

\*Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It is seen that the Hon'ble Minister is not aware of it.

### Occupation of educational institutions by Military

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

32. (a) Is it a fact that most of the premises belonging to different educational institutions of the Province are still in possession of the Military?

(b) Is it a fact that most of these premises are at present actually lying vacant but have not been released by the Military?

(c) Are Government aware that non-release of these premises is causing great hardship to the cause of education and that the students of these institutions are very much handicapped in their studies?

(d) Do Government propose to put pressure upon the authorities concerned so that these educational premises may be released without further delay?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied:

32. (a)—Only a few buildings are still occupied, notably in Gauhati.

(b)—Government are not aware.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have been negotiating with the Military authorities for the release of the educational buildings and many of the buildings have already been released in the meantime. Recently as a result of discussion with the Education Minister the Military authorities have intimated that they will release most of the buildings by the end of March next and the rest not later than 31st October this year.

Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE: Will Government please make an enquiry whether some school premises formerly requisitioned by the Military are now actually lying vacant but have not been released by the Military?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Certainly, an enquiry will be made, Sir, to ascertain if some school premises are actually lying vacant although not in occupation of the Military.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: In reply to Question No.32(d), does "March next" mean this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Yes, Sir, it means current March; the meaning is clear from the next line of the reply.

### Budget Discussion

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. We shall now proceed with the Budget discussion.

\*Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I don't know whether there will be any time limit fixed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now I shall ascertain how many hon. Members propose to speak today and will divide the time accordingly. The approximate number of speakers is 21 to-day on the list and there are 225 minutes at

\*Speech not corrected

†The reply was given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Home Department during the temporary absence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

our disposal. So, roughly it comes to about 11 minutes for each hon. Member to speak. Accordingly I fix the time limit at ten minutes for each of the hon. Members, relaxing it in appropriate cases. I hope the hon. Members will not please repeat the same arguments which had been advanced yesterday and the day before.

\*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: What time will be allowed for Government reply, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Government will reply on Monday next.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I know, Sir, what time will be given to Government Members to reply on Monday and what will be the programme on that day?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: For Monday the agenda of business is like this. Consideration of the Assam Finance Bill, 1946, clause by clause; introduction of the Assam Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1946. Then, we have the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricant Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1946,—introduction and motion for consideration both. Then, again, the introduction and consideration of the Assam Amusement and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1946. So, I suppose, we can spare one hour for the Government Member's reply.

\*Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I don't think that the Bills will be contentious. So, Sir, you can give more time to the Members.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: What I would suggest is that instead of crowding the agenda to-day, it will be better if Budget discussion is extended up to 1 o'clock on Monday and I may be allowed to speak after the Question period on that day. I would take 40 minutes and finish before lunch.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the opinion of the Hon'ble Finance Minister?

\*The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There are three Bills to be introduced and Amendments on the Assam Finance Bill, 1946 to be considered on Monday. So, they may take much time. It will be advantageous to hear Sir Muhammad Saadulla to-day so that I may reply on Monday on the points that might be raised by him.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury press his Amendments?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Surely, Sir.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I can assure the hon. Members of the House that all the Bills fixed for Monday will be finished within two hours. So, there will be sufficient time on Monday.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. Leader of the Opposition will speak on Monday.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: May I enquire, Sir, what will be the number of Questions that will be coming up for answers on Monday next?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Not many.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: We shall get some time then from the Question hour also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Likely. Hon. Maulavi Nasir-ud-Din Ahmed will please continue. The hon. Member had already ten minutes yesterday. Since he is introducing certain new matters he will continue.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am beginning with the question of the establishment of a University and a High Court in this Province. The establishment of a University and a High Court for a poor Province like Assam, in my opinion, is a question of luxury as these will give benefit to a very much smaller section of the public, namely, the

intelligentsia. While we have no suitable arrangement for Primary Education of masses, the question of establishment of a University and a High Court may be left for the future.

Then Sir, coming to matters of Supply, I find that the Hon'ble Supply Minister is not in the House. It would have been better if we could have put our grievances in his presence so that he could take a note of them. The grievances of the public in matters of getting kerosene oil and clothes are acute and we see that Government's measures to give relief to the public is by appointing more officers. It is experienced that the greater the number of officers appointed the greater the miseries caused to the public. These officers instead of doing good to the public exploit them. My submission, Sir, is that if Government want to lessen the miseries, their first duty would be to lessen the number of their Supply Officers.

Then, a few words regarding the immigrant issue. Before coming to it, Sir, I should like to say that the Hon'ble Finance Minister's Budget speech has caused much provocation on this side of the House. And if some Members of this side in reply used some terms which Government do not relish the responsibility of this lies with the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Then coming to the question of immigrant issue, I think, too much importance has been given to the political aspect of the issue. If we could look to this issue from other angles of vision, namely, from economic standpoint, from legal standpoint and from humanitarian standpoint, it would have been easier and it would have been better for all of us. Now, coming to the legal aspect of the question, these immigrants who have come from the neighbouring Province and probably from the adjoining districts of Assam, have got every right to come and settle here and there is no legal bar to that. Then on the economic aspect of the issue, these immigrants are very hardy and painstaking people. They brought the fallow and waste lands under cultivation and thus helped the Government in getting increased revenue and they also increased the productivity of the Province. Then coming to the humanitarian aspect of the issue, Sir, these immigrants are most unfortunate people under the sky. They have come to this Province as they have got nothing in their own Province under which to take shelter, Sir, and their case should be most sympathetically considered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has already taken double the time allotted for each hon. Member to speak. I think, I can feel justified for extending the time only when new matters are introduced. If the same arguments are repeated, I regret my inability to extend further time to him.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: I am finishing within two minutes, Sir.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to utter a few words, as a matter of caution to the Government side. The Congress Party has accepted office this time in Assam and I wish that the flutter of getting into power will not make them over-zealous and intoxicated with their power as I have got information that schemes are now being prepared for the transfer of officers only because they happen to belong to some particular community. I expect, Sir, in the present regime things will be managed in such a way that the landlord will not exploit the poor tenants and the unscrupulous creditors will not harass the helpless debtors and the unsympathetic capitalist will not be allowed to usurp the poor earnings of the cursed labourers.

With these words, I resume my seat.



Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir. As a Member of the only party in this House which is practising a rigid economy in speech-making, I trust you will allow me not more than 25 minutes to speak on behalf of nine Members of this Group.

My Hon'ble Friend, the Finance Minister, made a very original speech. He has given not only his financial views, but also his political views with great frankness, and frankness is a quality which is so sorely needed that I welcome his speech.

But besides giving his political views the Hon'ble Minister has also delved into history and reached the conclusion that India was one of the richest countries in the world before the advent of the British. I have only sufficient knowledge of politics to respect my Hon'ble Friend's views, but I have a little more knowledge of history than of politics and I would suggest that the 17th and 18th centuries were not the golden age of India's civilisation. It was a very early Roman historian who, writing in Latin, observed :

“The good of ancient times let others state,  
I think it lucky I was born so late”.

I think that on a reasonable interpretation of history the Hon'ble Finance Minister and I can think ourselves lucky that we were born so late. These “golden ages” are very largely mythical whether they relate to India or Europe or China. India was a rich country but only in the sense that the riches were exclusively for the privileged classes—the Emperors, Nawabs and Maharajas and their palace attendants. The common man in those days lived in conditions which in present times would be called intolerable. I would prefer to judge the wealth of any country by the well-being of the common man, and on this test the golden ages, whether in India, Italy or England are lost in the mists of antiquity. At the same time, if I apply my own test, namely, the well-being of the common man I must agree with the Finance Minister that India is a poor country—and that the poverty of the common man is public enemy No. 1.

To return to the Budget, the current year's Budget is, on any reckoning, an extremely bleak affair. The War babies, such as the petrol tax, excise duty and forests, made very lusty growth during the war years and put on plenty of flesh, but they put on no bone and it is quite obvious that they are already showing signs of malnutrition. The Finance Minister must have been reminded of Mother Hubbard when he went to the cupboard and found it almost completely bare except for a surplus of Rs. 10 lakhs, which is only a surplus because no new schemes have been put forward and a credit of Rs. 20 lakhs due from the Government of India for the Public Works Department schemes has been anticipated. Several critics have referred to the closing balance and I notice with dismay that the Press have trumpeted the balance of half a crore of rupees and failed to realise that solvency depends on the revenue surplus, not on the closing balance. I seem to detect in the Minister's approach to this Budget something of a Dicken's character in Martin Chuzzlewit, of whom it is said : ‘he spoke with affection beaming in one eye and calculation shining out of the other’. What this mixture of affection and calculation will produce in the June/July Session is anybody's guess. I personally agree with the Finance Minister's policy of presenting this Budget as the Finance Department prepared it. Had he attempted to bring in new schemes most of these would have been half baked and would have resulted in a deficit. The Finance Minister is clearly right in refusing to bring in new schemes till he has brought in new revenues.

There are however two hopeful features in this otherwise dismal Budget, viz., the stability of land revenue and the stability of Agricultural Income Tax. These two foundations of Assam's revenue depend clearly on the prosperity of the cultivator. My Planting Friends will forgive me if I describe them as merely large scale agriculturists who are as afflicted or as blessed by nature as much as

the humble cultivator is. For that reason I wish to make a point which will be unpopular with all quarters of this House—Government must, in no circumstances, consider large scale remission of land revenue. In a Province like Assam where the resources of Government are poor and inelastic, no Ministry will be able to carry out the people's mandate for raising the standard of living if it succumbs to pressure to remit revenue. There will be always hard cases but I hope Government, with its big development programme in mind, will remember that the hard hearts of Ministers are the best cure for the hard cases of voters. It is a truism that in any progressive State, Government must spend more revenue on the forgotten man than on the pressure groups who are always in the public eye. It is equally a truism that where the common man numbers 95 per cent. of the population, the common man will have to pay taxes. Soaking the rich may be a sound taxation policy but it will not produce all the revenue the Government of Assam need. Whatever the forgotten man or the hard cases pay in the way of taxation, it is going to come back to them tenfold by wise Government expenditure. I have listened now to hard luck stories told in this Assembly for seven years, but always have I formed the impression that the genuine hard cases seldom reach the Assembly. Therefore I shall continue to hope that a Congress Ministry which has habitually remitted land revenue in the past will now maintain and even increase that revenue. I can assure the Ministry that my Group share their view that the future of Assam depends on increasing the prosperity of the agriculturist and that any wise measure which this Ministry brings forward which will increase the capacity of the agriculturist to pay revenue will have the critical support of this Group.

A constant feature of the Budget is the operations of the trading departments, notably Supply, Cloth control and Assam Transport. Regarding the operations of Supply Department, one must again lament that no intelligible accounts are produced. These trading departments are interfering more and more in the daily life of the citizen. I think, most people's views about the Supply and its minion departments are best summed up by A. P. Herbert. In the British House of Commons A. P. Herbert is the champion of the rights of individual M. P.s and also of the inarticulate citizen. And this is how he described the bureaucracy in Great Britain:—

“Let's find out what every one is doing and then stop every one from doing it.”

That, Sir, I think, is Supply Department's motto in Assam.

Then there is the Assam Transport which follows exactly the same principle. It finds out how a man moves his goods from place to place and then stops him moving his goods in private lorries so that the shop-keeper or the merchant will be compelled to send his goods in Assam Transport trucks at a very expensive Assam Transport rates. My main quarrel with the Assam Transport is that the rates which they fix as being profitable to Government are *excessively* profitable to the favoured private operators who are allowed petrol. There is no question whatever that in many of the daily necessities of life control is still required but that surely, Sir, does not mean that Government should take every single trading risk and guarantee a margin of profit. Government control should insist that private shop-keepers do take some risk; instead Government in Assam guarantee traders against loss and guarantee them a rate of profit they can never hope to get in peace time. No wonder there is a rush for permits, no wonder there is a rush for license and more important no wonder there is corruption because obviously people are going to pay a large sum of money in order to enter the safest profession in Assam, namely, to become a shop-keeper with Government money and Government license.

It has for a long time been the complaint of my Group that the Finance Department has never yet been able to devise a system of cost accounting showing how efficiently Government Agents are working. Costing the various process of trade or manufacture is an essential feature in any business. In the case of rice procurement, all the accounts are jumbled together and the Members of the Assembly are left to guess whether a particular agency is making a profit or loss. What I have asked for repeatedly is that the Finance Department should take the operation of each agency and find out how much profit it is making for Government or find out how much of Government money it is losing every day. What is the common factor, Sir, between trading in Gur and trading in rice? The only common factor is that they are both food-stuffs but the method of handling is quite different. What is there in common between the experience and the skill of Messrs. Steel Brothers who are the largest rice merchants of the East and those overnight associations—I borrow the expression 'overnight associations' from a previous speaker—whom Government encouraged to trade in food-stuffs? On this particular aspect, I have some figures. I know in the Assam Valley, for example, Messrs. Steel Brothers have supplied during the last three years to the Tea Industry over 30 lakhs maunds of rice and on each of these maunds of rice we have paid a cess to Government of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. The whole of that amount now reaches the total of over 23 lakhs of rupees which we have paid into the Government Treasury. Now a great part of that sum represents share profit for the Government of Assam because that sum is in excess of the cost of maintaining Steel Brothers and it is in excess of the cost of writing down stocks of rice. The Assembly should also know, that during the last three years the Defence Service took much more rice than the Tea Industry and the Central Government also paid the  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. cess—one anna in the rupee—on the price of paddy or rice. The result, therefore, by a simple calculation is that the Government of Assam have received by way of cess on rice and paddy about 75 lakhs of rupees during the last three years. The result has been that Steel Brothers trading, which has, in my experience, been done punctually and efficiently, has produced a large profit to the Government of Assam which that Government have never showed separately. What Government have done is to take the profit of Steel Brothers' success and merge that in the losses made by other amateur traders dealing in Gur, Dal, consumers goods, hurricane lanterns, etc., so that it is impossible for any person to find out what is the real picture. Now that the war is over, it should be possible for Finance Department to insist that every agent shall produce a trading account showing his profit or loss, month by month, and this account shall be put before this Assembly in a form which we, the common men, can really understand.

What I hope the Finance Minister will insist on for the future is the operation of each agency in detail cost their services and find out what their efficiency is; dismiss those who are working at a loss, retain those who are working at a profit but before he makes any change be quite certain that the change will result in a more efficient service at a smaller cost to the Provincial Exchequer. We have been told, Sir, for the first time, and I welcome the frankness with which the statement was made, that in the Surma Valley rice procurement operations there may be a loss amounting to more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores. I would merely like to make a marginal note that the surplus of 10 lakhs in the present Budget against an impending loss of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores is mere chicken feed.

I should like to make my second unpopular point, that is, to stress the need for export from this Province. The shortage of food in India will be to the order of six million tons in 1946. It is quite impossible for any country in the world or any group of countries in the world to send this enormous quantity of food in time. Distress and desolation in South India is inevitable and in fact it has already begun and my appeal to the Congress Ministry would be to export

till it hurts. I should like to repeat that phrase—I think, we must export until it hurts. By export, of course, I mean, controlled export through Government channel. I do not mean export by smuggling by country boat or lorries, which merely goes to black market and thus becomes a source of profit to unscrupulous merchants who trade in human misery. I am satisfied that the Supply Minister with wisdom and skill will divide the food resources of the Province equitably but I must urge on a party, a party which is consistently advocating the unity and oneness of India, the moral and economic obligation to go to the assistance of the distressed of the other Provinces of this country. I know, Sir, the other Provinces do not follow that line when we ask for Gur, when we ask for cloth, when we ask for Dal. At the same time, the distress in South India is so acute that we should come to the rescue by exporting rice and paddy until it hurts. It is, therefore, all the more important that Government's procurement arrangement should work with maximum efficiency. At the same time, the distress is so real in South India that we cannot afford not to come that to the rescue of these areas. It is, therefore, all the more important Government's procuring arrangements should work with maximum efficiency and that their price control policy should be such as to establish the confidence of the cultivator so that he will not feel tempted to hoard two years' consumption of paddy in the hope that there are better prices round the corner. For any measures which this Government can bring forward to establish confidence of the cultivator we from our side can assure Government of our full support.

My third unpopular point—I am specialising in unpopular points—is to enter a plea for efficient administration and technical services at adequate salaries. It is not given to many of us to work for salaries which the Congress Party consider sufficient for their own self-less workers. The Hon'ble Mr. Medhi's remarks on the expenditure head under "Reconstruction" show that big money is involved and that Government will have to experiment with new techniques and new enterprises. It seems to me, Sir, that the risk of making costly mistakes in these experiments is so great that it would pay the Government of the day to import skill and brains for launching some of their enterprises. By importing I do not mean bring them from Great Britain necessarily, I mean bring them from other Provinces if they are available, or bring them from other countries if they are not available in India. What I am asking for, and have asked for on previous occasions, is free trade in skill and free trade in brains and the payment at market rate for the best advice, at least in the stages when we are still experimenting. Most cheap things are nasty, and that phrase goes for Government servants as well as for commodities. My Friend, Mr. Talukdar, complains about the number of high salaries in the Civil List. It is not very easy to keep to full sense of proportion about these high salaries. All I would ask Mr. Talukdar to remember is that if all the salaries over Rs.1,000 a month were reduced to Rs.1,000 he would not still be able to pay even one rupee extra to the sorely-tried primary school teachers of this Province.

(A voice: But we can give a certain amount of relief to them.)

When we remember that for entrusting rice procurement in the Surma Valley to self-advertising M. L. As. this Government have lost  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees I think even Mr. Talukdar might agree that administrative skill is worth paying for. We should also remember that the market price for technical skill is not what Assam is willing to pay, but what other Provinces and private business are prepared to pay. If the Tennessey Valley Power Authority pays its electrical engineer a salary of two lakhs of rupees per year, we shall not get a man here of that class on Rs.500 a month to advise about the hydro-electric possibilities in Assam.

I propose, Sir, in conclusion to pay the Finance Minister a sincere compliment by imitating him and giving him a political testament from my own Group. He has referred to the criticisms of measures introduced by the previous Congress Ministry. I have already stated our views about the merits of Agricultural Income Tax as a source of revenue. It is necessary to state once more that the principle of that tax was not opposed by this Group. What we did oppose was the form in which the Bill was presented to this House and I still think that in some respects the measure is defective.

There have appeared in the Press certain statements that the European Group proposed to align themselves with other sections of the House who form the Opposition. The correct position is we shall cast our votes with whichever party introduces measures aiming at increasing the standard of living of the great mass of population of this Province. That does not mean that we shall refrain from criticising those measures because we believe that criticism is both healthy and necessary. We shall criticise such measures as citizens of Assam with an interest in the prosperity of Assam and with an interest in the general well-being. Our community though small is an integral part of Assam's public life. We believe, with pride, that we have made a contribution to Assam's prosperity and that in a period of tolerance and friendship we shall continue to play a not unimportant part. Perhaps a small part of our duty will be to voice unpopular points of view in this Legislature so long as we are a part of this Legislature. All I would ask from the Government of the day and from the Opposition of the day is to believe sincerely that our views will come not as from representatives of a Raj but will come as from citizens of Assam, believing in Assam and believing that we can help to make this Province a going concern. We shall not ask for privileges which cannot be shared by every other community; we shall take on liabilities according to our strength; we shall carry burdens according to the provincial need and our capacity to carry those burdens. And having said so much, Sir, in criticism of the present and also of the outgoing Ministry I would remind the Finance Minister of another Finance Minister in another place. Disraeli once said in the House of Commons, "My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in some respects I shall not agree with the Finance Minister, but I trust he will not on that account describe me as a disagreeable person. The more one examines the intractable problems of Assam the more certain it is that for many of them the Government of the day is going to require the support of all Parties and all Members and speaking for my own Party, Sir, I would like to assure the Finance Minister and his Government that that assistance will be forthcoming (*Hear, hear*).

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the hon. Members in the Opposition in their Budget criticism speeches made certain remarks which I would like to refute.

It is indeed very unfortunate that although the Hon'ble Finance Minister made it absolutely clear in his speech that time factor is responsible for not being able to present a Budget drawn according to the policy and programme of the present Government and a new Budget drawn according to the policy and programme of the present Government will be presented before the House before July next, some of the hon. Members of the Opposition refused to appreciate this most reasonable explanation and went to the extent of making certain unkind remarks. I am however glad that there are Members in the same opposite camp who have accepted the reasonable explanation of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

One hon. Member in the Opposition yesterday said that although there was plenty of waste land in the Sibsagar district the land *per capita* of the people of the said district had remained the same since the last three years. And from that the hon. Member came to the conclusion that the people of the Sibsagar district either

have no further necessity of land or unwilling to acquire more land. Sir, I want to remove this wrong notion of the hon. Member. I represent the Sibsagar West General Constituency and I can boldly say that the people of this district are definitely suffering for want of land. I receive many applications every day for land and I have with me records of survey conducted at my instance of some villages which will prove beyond doubt that there are many villages which have no land sufficient to earn their subsistence. In my tour in my constituency I had the occasion of visiting a village Bongaon by name in the Meteka Bongaon Mauza. There was a Lower Primary School in that village which unfortunately had to be closed down for want of pupils. The explanation which the villagers gave for not sending their boys and girls to the school was indeed very pathetic. They say that the first thing is food, a hungry boy cannot sit for study, we have no land sufficient to earn our livelihood. This is the position of land.

Again in the Panidihing Mauza the villagers of one complete village which was standing at Mesakichapari which was washed away by the Brahmaputra some three years back are still living as evacuees. No suitable land has as yet become available for them. Applications for more land of the people of Bokota, Khaloighogora and Silakuti Mauzas are daily coming up. These are but a few cases I have put forward to remove the wrong notion of the hon. Member and I would impress upon the hon. Members in the Opposition that the indigenous people of the Province are actually in need of land.

✓ Sir, it will however be very unfair if our discouragement of encroachments and statement of facts that the indigenous people need more land and this Province has no capacity to bear further immigration are interpreted as our want of sympathy for the landless people of India. Sir, we are quite aware of our responsibility towards the problems of India. We also know very well that the problems of India shall have to be solved by the Indians themselves. We know of the pressure on land in the other provinces. The picture of Bengal famine is still before our eyes. But, Sir, we are not prepared to accept a scheme which while going to solve a problem creates new problems. By that I mean that this Province has already absorbed innumerable immigrants and it has no capacity to bear further immigration and therefore any further settlement of land with immigrants will create an insoluble problem detrimental to all. Adoption of such schemes will be like the fox chasing his own tail. Sir, we had enough of unpleasantness for short-sighted and evil planned works in the matter of land settlement. Let us call a halt to it and see how best things can be managed. I believe the present way the Bengal Government is shirking its responsibility in respect of immigrants is unwarranted. The advocates of immigrants will be justified in putting their pressure on the Bengal Government for satisfactory solution of the problem as the primary responsibility for these people rests with the Government of Bengal.

Sir, as was said by an hon. Member in the Opposition the other day, there was no construction at all in our country to reconstruct. Whichever side you look at you find innumerable problems to be tackled. Bad health, bad water supply, bad food, bad agriculture, bad livestock, want of education and every thing—all these problems need to be tackled and we are determined to tackle them. The Congress Government will no doubt do their best for the uplift of the country for all sections of the people at the shortest possible time. Money, of course, shall have to be found out. Every bold step for the fulfilment of our object shall surely be taken in proper time. In the meantime, let us have patience. Let us talk less and do more. We are confident that the present Government will prove worthy of the confidence the people have reposed on them.

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

Mr. P. M. SARWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said in his Budget speech that he had no time to prepare the Budget according to the policy and programme for which he stands, and that he had no time to scrutinise new proposals or formulate new schemes for amelioration of the condition of the people living in the villages. He had no schemes which could help the moral, intellectual and economic uplift of the people. As regards his lack of experience, tact or skill, I would not admit it, as otherwise he could not have been one of the Hon'ble Ministers in the Government. He spoke about ill health, illiteracy, under-nourishment, under-employment and of them, the most formidable is poverty regarding the people of India. The Indian National Congress as representing the people's will to freedom decided to enter the Legislative Assemblies with the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy to mend it or end it, but we are afraid neither of these has materialised. The Congress Coalition Cabinet at the time of presenting the Budget had to introduce a few new taxation measures based on the principle of taxing the rich who can well afford to bear the burden and for giving relief to the poor, already crushed under the weight of taxation, in the shape of land revenue remission and also to set apart funds for rural water supply, primary education, adult education, prohibition of opium, etc. Of these measures of taxation, the Agricultural Income Tax alone contributed a sum of Rs.2,70,12,406 up to the end of January, 1946. But before the money thus realised could be utilised for the benefit of the masses, the Congress Coalition Government had to resign for an issue not known to the masses of Assam. The Congress Government resigned on the issue that they asked the British Government for immediate declaration of complete independence and a Constituent Assembly elected by the people to frame the Constitution of Free India for the formation of the National Government at the Centre to carry on the administration of the country so that the Congress Working Committee might come in, in place of the British. On this issue of complete independence and on the very same issue of the Quit India Resolution, the Congress contested the election and the people of all races and tribes and followers of all faiths living in hills and plains have given a clear verdict that they are behind the Congress demand of complete independence.

There are a considerable section of the people in India who differ from this statement of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. The issue of complete independence is not the same as the issue of Quit India Resolution of the Indian National Congress. The Congress have clearly not obtained a clear verdict from all races and tribes and followers of all faiths living in the hills and the plains of Assam. (*Hear, hear.*) It is clear that all peoples of India need and the vocal sections clamour for independence—but all are not agreed about the "Quit India" demand of the Indian National Congress. The two issues, namely, that of independence and "Quit India" have been confused by the upholders of the creed of "truth and non-violence". The Congress demand for the transfer of power from the British hands to those of the Congress Working Committee is not the same thing as the demand of all peoples, tribes and nationalities of India that there should be full and complete self-government for the smallest minority in India.

Let us all fervently hope that the British Cabinet Mission will enable the Indian peoples, tribes and nationalities to solve their political zig-saw puzzle so that complete independence may be found for all races, tribes, castes and peoples of all creeds, not in accordance with the demands made by any one man, or party or group in India, but in accordance with the demands of the common man—the cultivator, the labourer and the worker. Otherwise the setting up of the "Kisan and Majdoor Raj" in India will not be possible. Let not the "Kisan

and Mazdoor Raj " be a fraud perpetrated on the dumb and dormant millions in India.

Let me now refer to page 4 of the Budget Speech, wherein it is stated :—

" During the period the Congress M. L. A.s left the legislature, almost the entire amount raised by the new taxation measures sponsored by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Congress Coalition Cabinet for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the poor peasants, labourers and the backward people was absorbed in giving fat salaries and special allowances to innumerable persons appointed in various new departments created during the war emergency period." One would agree to this statement of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, but one would also be justified in asking whether the representatives of the people of Assam were justified in leaving their posts at the Assam Legislature at the behest of some people outside the Province of Assam. One would ask, who voted for the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Assam Legislature—the people of the Province or those living outside the Province? Whose fault was it that a considerable section of the people of Assam were left unprotected in the Assam Legislature during the last six distressing years?

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given the House an elaborate preliminary in presenting a very tame Budget. In that Budget he has shown no departure from the older varieties of Budget—he has merely dotted the i's and cut the t's and has flourished a " take it or leave it " type of schedule truly indicative of a " Kisan-Mazdoor Raj " that is on the threshold as conceived by the Congress—shall we say ?

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has frankly admitted in his Budget Speech, that time being too short he could not make even a slight change in the Budget Estimates. He was, therefore, forced under unavoidable circumstances to present the Budget as prepared by the previous Care-taker Ministry. That the Budget Estimates do not reflect the policies, programmes and outlook of the present Government, whatever these might be,—it goes without saying. Any criticism of the present Budget Estimates will virtually amount to the criticism of the former Government. Suffice it to say, nevertheless, that the present Budget Estimates fully represent an entirely bureaucratic outlook and an attitude of mind directed towards the fattening of the rich at the cost of the poor. Thereby I refer to the top-heaviness of the administration ; most of the budgetary provisions are usual resolvable into four age-old items, " pay ", " honoraria ", " allowances " and " contingencies ", a lion's share of which goes into the pockets of the rich upper class people. Very little amount has been contemplated to be spent on the development of unlimited resources of the Province for feeding the hungry mouths and clothing the naked. This has been pointedly criticised by previous speakers and I have nothing further to add. Anyway, I should like to see that under the present Congress regime, the existing *status quo* vanishes in no time, and that an entirely new outlook comes into operation.

Sir, under the existing system of administration it is the number that counts. Number seems to be the governing consideration in almost all spheres. Seats in the Legislatures and Local Bodies and appointments under the Government or under the semi-Government institutions, for instance, are almost in all cases, distributed on the basis of numerical strength of the communities and other convenient social groupings. If numerical superiority be the criterion now-a-days, we see no reason why the budgetary provisions should not be allocated and distributed with a view to the greatest good of the greatest number. From a perusal of the Detailed Estimates and Memorandum thereon, one fact particularly comes to our notice. And it is this : that it is the vested interests who are holding their eternal sway and that the principle of numerical superiority is conceded to the extent of helps the ruthless and merciless aggrandisement of the vested interests at the cost of the poor voiceless millions.



Sir, it is common experience that as a person goes uphill, higher and higher, his physical and mental defects become visible more and more and come to the forefront. During war time we went up to such a peak of difficulties that we had had the bitter experiences of the inequalities and injustices of the existing economy, may we say feudal economy, which picturesquely came into our view and yet that economy persists with a vengeance. If the Congress Government have had the boldness to work out the progressive items in Manifesto No.2 issued by the Congress High Command for Provincial elections, we may unhesitatingly say that the existing feudal economy will yield place to a socialistic one and that the existing inequalities and injustices will become things of the past.

There is discrimination and exploitation perpetrated on the undeveloped people of Assam. The hon. Members might turn to the details in the Budget. Corruption is running riot in the Province and the poor people—the cultivators, the labourers and the workers are already groaning under the heavy loads of oppression, suppression, exploitation and taxation, driven from post to pillar, not able to keep the wolf of immediate starvation from the door—have not been given any attention in the Budget. They are told that they must wait until the Government might in a leisurely manner see what might be done for them at some indefinite future. Is this a good augury, I say for the “Kisan and Mazdoor Raj” that is being promised to the common man from the roof-tops? (*Hear, hear*).

During the last Provincial election it was proclaimed that if the people voted for the Congress and Congress came into power in Assam the heaven would be established among the people of Assam. For this purpose the people had to be cajoled and rocketted to the polling booths. The common people of Assam who have been induced into voting Congress into power in Assam, are on the tiptoe of expectancy. The Provincial Congress in its election broadcast promised much and indicated much more to the common people, the peasants, the labourers and the workers in Assam—and behold Congress is now in power in the land!

The people of Assam are expecting, while the Assembly is in Session, that a new era of prosperity, progress and happiness is being forged in the workshop of the Assam Provincial Legislature. But alas! When one turns to the Budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, one finds no indication whatsoever that even a caricature of an attempt is being made by the Government for the people of Assam that their poverty, squalor, ill-health or illiteracy are going to be mended or ended.

Under-nourishment and under-employment are grimly stalking the land. Hundreds of boys and girls from schools and colleges are going forth into the world to find themselves swelling the ranks of the multitudinous unemployed. These young people can never be employed, nor the hosts of unemployed labourers until a move is made now, on the floor of this House, to introduce a “Kishan-Mazdoor Raj” in the Province of Assam, no matter whether the other provinces want to introduce such a raj or not. If the promises lately made by the Congress to the people, tribes and nationalities in Assam are not to end in smoke, the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance needs to be drastically changed to provide for the extermination of profiteers and social sharks, to provide for the proper distribution of commodities in the rural areas, to provide for the removal of corruption and malpractices in the Government departments, to provide lands or livelihood for the landless indigenous people including the tea garden tribes and castes settled in Assam and who number 20 lakhs of people, to efficiently control Circle Sub-Deputy Collectors and Maujadars many of whom are exceedingly corrupt and intent on land speculation. There are many other provisions that should find place in the Budget. But this brief reaction on the Hon'ble Finance Minister is indicative of what is generally expected of the party that claims to be on the verge of establishing “Kisan Mazdoor Raj”.

Particularly I should draw the attention of the Government that ever since the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy in 1937 under the Government of India Act of 1935, nothing has been done in this Province for the Indian Christians of the Indian Christian Constituency, and nothing has been done for the tea garden tribes and castes settled in Assam, though these tribes and castes have been producing wealth for the Province to the tune of Rs.50,00,000 on the average, annually.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has taken more than a quarter of an hour.

Mr. P. M. SARWAN: Very well, Sir, I am finishing.

We thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting a very elucidating Budget. It has succeeded in elucidating this fact that the present Cabinet finds that Congress has been taken at its word by the people and nationalities of Assam and the Congress sponsored Cabinet finds itself non-plussed by the prospect of practising according to its oft repeated and broadcasted professions of the party that has sponsored it.

I request the Government to enable the people's representatives—Members of the Legislative Assembly—to go back to their constituencies at the end of the present Session and to tell the voters the outstanding benefits that the Government has planned and decided to confer on the common people—the tribes of Assam. I beg also to inform the Government on the floor of this House—the Legislature of the people—the wrongs that are being perpetrated on the tea garden tribes and castes settled in the villages of Assam. These people have now settled in Assam and become the indigenous people of Assam and possess the same rights and privileges as those enjoyed by other sections of the people of Assam. These people are being denied the basic rights and privileges of citizenship not by the 'white men' but by the Indian public servants themselves. There is discrimination and exploitation perpetrated on these undeveloped people by the Forest Department, the Revenue Department and the Supply and the Textile Departments. Government is requested to take note of all these. I warn the Government that there is an inactive volcano in Assam and at any time it may become terribly active and sweep over the whole of the Assam Valley. I warn the House that a hurricane may sweep over the middle east and whoever knows what its direction will be?

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take the privilege of speaking a few words on the Budget as introduced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. It is no use going into the details of the Budget as it is a stereotyped one. The Hon'ble Finance Minister to get the credit of a surplus Budget has introduced a fictitious Budget leaving the whole responsibility on the previous Government. We had expected some definite and planned schemes for the moral, intellectual and economic uplift of the people of the Province, but to our utter surprise we have been left dupes of hopes.

The major portion of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech has been occupied by Congress propaganda. The Hon'ble Minister seems shivering at the dawning of Pakistan over the country. But I do not blame him for when the whole world has been crying 'Light, light and more light,' the forces of darkness and of reaction will naturally shudder. Pakistan is the only solution of all evils of India and for the good of all — Hindus and Muslims, rich and poor, we must have it. I take great objection to the word 'Kamla' used by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the Muslim immigrants coming to Assam. Now, Sir, coming to the question of Muslim immigration into Assam, I am surprised by the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has made the economic question into a political one which is dangerous and fatal to the interests of the people of the Province. Essentially it is an economic question and it should be solved in an economic way. Sentimental tackling of

the question with communal bias will provoke sentimental difficulties and communalism. There are still about 57 lacs of acres of uncultivated land in the plains Districts of the Assam Valley excluding current fallow land according to Agricultural Statistics of Assam (1940-41).

To develop Assam economically, these uncultivated waste lands should be thrown open for cultivation to grow more food by the immigrants who are the best cultivators, to save themselves and thousands of others from impending famine. Assam in these days of modernity should by no means be allowed to go back to the primitive stage by keeping lands reserved for future generations and for cattle of no economic value. Rapid industrialisation is a prime national necessity. No country is developed until and unless it is developed economically and industrially. Our Government should find out ways and means for economic and industrial development of Assam by launching campaign against illiteracy, dogmatism and pessimism instead of driving away the Muslim landless immigrants barbarously and mercilessly. Sir, the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister regarding the landless immigrants being imported by the middle class immigrant landlords is tinged with vindictiveness. Natural conditions have compelled them to leave their sweet mother land to find out a place in the jungles of Assam to keep their body and soul together upon the produce of it. I appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers and hon. Members not to be so unkind, on the humanitarian point of view, to make provision for a morsel to our landless immigrant brothers. They have come to live in Assam and die in Assam and if necessary for Assam. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rightly remarked "Immigration is bound to take place because of the economic urge for it. No amount of sentiments and not even laws will ultimately stop it. Indeed even from the point of view of developing Assam and making it a wealthier Province immigration is desirable." State is originated by the people for the people and not for animals. Assam has passed the upheavals of war in peace but disaster and disorder will be the result if the Congress Government misuse their powers and persist in their dog in the manger policy. Legally and morally the so-called Line System can never exist. I challenge the legality of the barrier between man and man.

I went to the village Champapathar in Pukuripar area in Chaygaon circle of Gauhati Subdivision to see with my own eyes how immigrants have been evicted. The houses of 54 families had been demolished by the Government officers and the police force and their crops had been destroyed by the local Nepalees and Assamese people who accompanied the local officers at the indication of local Congress leaders. It pains me much to describe how the whole village was rendered desolate and about 200 souls homeless. Any one having a bit of sympathy for the immigrants cannot but be moved at the pitiable condition in which they had been left. Poor as they are, they have none in the world to feel for them. A mosque where the villagers used to perform their prayers had also been demolished. I am very sorry, the Hon'ble Prime Minister does not believe the hon. Members. The children were loitering about with tears in their eyes, females were taking shelter by the side of heaps of thatches of the demolished houses and their paddy was strewn away. Is it not a ruthless and barbarous act? Most of them had come to Assam 20 years before and settled in the Goalpara District and Barpeta Subdivision. Being eroded and finding no place there, they had come over to this place with their families and settled 9 to 10 years before. How nicely they have cultivated land near about their houses. Had any of the hon. Members been there, he certainly would have said it was quite inhuman to render them homeless. Law administers justice but in this case we find that the intricacies of law are doing injustice. If they are encroachers in the eye of the so-called man-made law, they are not to be banished but the law should be

amended forthwith. It is the *mandal* who is responsible for all this. The *mandal* allocated land for each of the families, surveyed the land and realised money from them but these poor immigrants are always the victims. I did not find any cattle nor any buffalo grazing there. To the south of the village there is a vast waste land sparsely cultivated by the local Assamese people only to maintain their possession. The foundations of the houses of the evicted immigrants will prove themselves how long they had been in the occupation of the land.

Sir, in the modern world of to-day, a country to be great must pay its deepest and serious attention for the spread of education amongst its children. Democracy is a mockery until and unless the voters are sufficiently educated to understand what civic right is. In the Province of ours, which is the most backward in India, education must be given first consideration and sufficient money must be kept apart in the Budget for the primary and secondary education. Compulsory primary education is the cry of the day. Money allotted in the Budget for primary and secondary education is quite inadequate. Under the present system primary and secondary education in the Aided schools is being imparted at the cost of ill-treated and ill-fated school masters. This sort of indiscriminating treatment should at once be stopped and justice should be done to them. There should not be differential treatment to the same class of people doing the same work. I think, Sir, deprovincialisation of secondary schools and more grants to the primary schools will surely solve the problem.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place before the Government the grievances of the Muslims regarding Islamic education. To spread Islamic education the establishment of Islamic Colleges and Madrassas must be encouraged by sufficient financial aid. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, President, Assam Provincial Muslim League, started an Islamic Intermediate College at Hamidabad, Dhubri. The Government is requested to encourage the founder of Islamic College education by sufficient financial aid and arrange for its affiliation.

I draw the serious attention of Government to my Subdivision — Goalpara — which is one of the most educationally backward areas in the whole of Assam. I urge upon the Government that sufficient money should be made available for increasing the grant of the Local Board for taking up at least twenty maktabas and ten primary schools in the different localities of the Subdivision of Goalpara and Government aid should be granted to (1) Chakla High English School in North Salmara Police Station, (2) Rakhaldubi High English School, (3) Gendauri High English School and (4) Autatali Junior Madrassa in Lakhipur Police Station in the Subdivision of Goalpara. Increased grants should also be given to (1) Goalpara Middle English Madrassa, (2) Jaleswar High Madrassa and (3) Rakhaldubi Madrassa.

Sir, Post-War Reconstruction Schemes have so long remained a paper scheme only. I am afraid, this time they may not vanish in their modifications. A sufficient amount should be kept apart, for the construction of roads in the District of Goalpara and particularly in the Lakhipur Thana in my constituency. The Government is requested to take up the Kharmuja Road under Public Works Department and extend it to Lakhipur *via* Chunari. The necessity of a motorable road to Lakhipur *via* Chunari has been very greatly felt by the people of Lakhipur Thana.

Lakhipur Thana is the victim of terrible flood almost every year. Three embankments preventing the onrush of river water will stop the recurrence of flood. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government to set apart a considerable sum in the Budget for the work.

Then, Sir, turning to cloth scarcity and supply of food commodity, I like to ventilate the local grievances of the public of my District, Goalpara. The present burning cry of the people is the want of cloths. Sir, I fail to understand why the

Government have introduced the controlled system and are spending the people's money for nothing. The policy is good no doubt but the operation is very bad and ruinous. The Government, it is said, have fixed the monthly quota of cloth for every subdivision or district. I am sure, the Government did not supply the monthly quota fixed by them and could not check black-marketing which is an open secret to the officers concerned. The public are in darkness as to how much cloths are being distributed monthly and how.

Sir, my humble suggestion is that as the war has ended and Indian Mills have been at work, the controlled system of cloth distribution should be abolished forthwith. If the indigenous cloths prove insufficient, let foreign cloths be imported to meet the demand of the people. In the meantime, Government should appoint a Cloth Committee consisting of officials and non-officials in every subdivision for the distribution of cloth and in regard to the mufasil area, zones should at once be fixed for the retailers. In every zone, there should be a Cloth Distributing Committee of the leading public which will be solely responsible for the distribution of cloth within that zone. The retailers must strictly be ordered to keep registers and proper accounts which should be monthly checked by the officer concerned on the spot in the presence of the Committee.

Sugar is scarce to the villagers and so also kerosene. The popular Government, as it is called people's Government, to be true to its meaning, should try to remove all these difficulties of the peasants.

Sir, I now come to the most ancient grievances of the people of the Goalpara District regarding the provision of a steam vessel or motor launch for the Goalpara-Pachania-Jogighopa Ferry Service. The travelling public are subjected to great disadvantages and hardships for want of such a conveyance. The Government have been moved times without number but nothing tangible has resulted. I urge upon the Government to provide a steam vessel in time without fail. The most dangerous season for us is on and already those who have to pass the river both up and down are being subjected to terrible hardship not unoften at the risk of their lives.

Lastly, Sir, I fail to understand why step-motherly treatment has all along been done by the Government to the people of the District of Goalpara regarding Government services. I should say it is the most neglected corner of the Province and for which Government have no sympathy. We are now, Sir, compelled to demand the reservation of our quota of service in the Government Departments including senior and junior civil services on the strength of the population of the District of Goalpara.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Professor NIBARAN CHANDRA LASKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the lucidness and candidness with which he has presented the Budget. He has himself given out that it is the previous Care-taker Ministry who prepared this Budget and naturally enough, it is hardly possible for anybody within such a short time to change the frame-work of that Budget without letting the whole structure fall. So when I do not feel very comfortable over this Budget I cannot help thinking that the care and earnestness devoted by the present Cabinet could not be harnessed by the last Ministry to the task of preparing a Budget to the best benefit of the masses. The last Government has not handed over to the present Government any real surplus with which to open.

I share the anxiety of the Hon'ble Finance Minister when he says that the estimated surplus of Trs. 10.27 does not seem real, and what is more alarming, the Budget may turn to be a deficit one to the extent of Rs.30 lakhs. While therefore we are anxious to see that some new schemes as will really benefit the masses and, as contemplated in the Congress programme, are taken up as early as possible, we cannot help beware of facing and meeting the deficit without

affecting the poorer sections of the people. Some of my hon. Friends on the Opposition have in spite of hearing from the Hon'ble Finance Minister, grumbled against the non-inclusion of any new schemes. Had they been so minded as to offer constructive criticisms they would have surely realised that the omission of new schemes until the financial position of the Province is properly gone into has been an act of prudence. New schemes should have no fascination for their newness, but should be so framed as will serve the greatest benefit of the greatest number. That can only be possible when we can adopt the schemes envisaged in the Congress policy and programme, designed to benefit the people of all castes and creeds. It has been mentioned by some prejudiced critics that the Congress goal of Swaraj will be the Swaraj for the caste Hindus only. I hope such critics are not in a better position than myself to pronounce on this matter, as I am both a Congressman and a member of the scheduled castes. I would only refer those critics to the Congress Election Manifesto which safeguards the rights and privileges of not only the scheduled castes but of all minorities of all communities. And I may say, and say definitely, that the Party to which I have the honour to belong is determined to implement the Congress Election Manifesto in all possible ways.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has drawn the attention of the House to a number of important matters in the various Departments, the first and the foremost of which is the Supply Department. We are face to face with a threatened crisis and the need of the hour is to ensure maximum of supply with the minimum of cost. That needs rooting out of the sources and scope of corruption and elimination of middlemen's profits. To cite an example, the Rice Mills are to sell rice to Steel Brothers; Steel Brothers are to sell to the wholesalers; the wholesalers to the retailers and then at last the retailers are to sell to the consumers. Why so many agencies: Why not from Steel Brothers direct to the retailers or alternatively, why not from the Mills to the wholesalers. Either of these two courses would economise incidence of ultimate cost to the consumers. So far as Surma Valley is concerned, I believe there will be trouble for both consumers and producers so long as Government continue to purchase through agencies, without making purchase of rice and paddy direct from the growers. In my own District of Cachar the problem of the poor agriculturists is the difficulty of selling at a fair price their saleable stock of paddy. They cannot get a fair price or at all sell their stock, so long as the purchasing agencies rule the roost. It is therefore imperative for Government to control properly, preferably to eliminate altogether these purchasing agencies.

Coming to textiles, I would point out that the difficulty of proper supply is due to the wrongful selection of selling agencies and a defective system of distribution. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Supply will soon remedy the defects which are causing serious trouble in the countryside.

As regards Education, the new Government has obviously treated the Department with the importance it deserves when we find that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has himself taken up this portfolio. The defects, drawbacks and difficulties of this Department are too numerous to be catalogued here. The primary education is suffering mainly because of the fact that the primary school teachers are doled out such a poor pittance as does not make it possible for them to put in their best to their job. I hope everybody will sympathise with their lot and agree that the improvement of their prospects with necessary increase of supervision of their work will mean improvement of the standard of tuition. In the secondary and higher education, need is equally great for improving their salaries. Why should not they get the same salaries as those serving in Government institutions? To look to the Managing Committees of these Aided schools and Colleges we find that they are now bereft of their representative character. So long as the Managing Committees and Governing Bodies are not properly

constituted the progress of the institutions will be greatly hindered. I would appeal to my Leader, the Hon'ble Leader of the House, to see that the relevant rules are soon amended in the interest of the institutions and democratic principles. My only other appeal in respect of this Department is the grant of more liberal facilities and greater concessions to the students of the scheduled castes.

Turning to communications, need I point out the deplorable conditions of the roads of the Local Bodies? For want of adequate funds the Local Bodies and Municipalities have not been able to take up the proper improvement of their roads. It is incumbent on Government to sanction them necessary grants for the purpose from the motor tax receipts and the Road Fund under the Public Works Department.

In the sphere of medical aid and public health, the need for increased staff is very keenly felt in the outlying areas. The status, salaries and quarters of the compounders need improvement and I hope due attention will be given to ameliorate the distress of such an important class of public servants.

Turning to the Department of Publicity, I am afraid it does not deserve existence if it is to exist in the manner it does now. I am convinced that there is ample room for economy in this Department. What is needed is not a few Notifications and vague Press Notes, bearing the seal of this Department which neither reach nor interest the general mass of the people, but a proper reassurance to the people indicating the wholesome schemes and activities of the Government. This can best be done by the existing newspapers. The Government is now national and almost all the papers are national in outlook. If the needed co-operation between the Press and Government is ensured, the activities of the Government can be reached at every door in every village through these local newspapers.

As regards Co-operative Department, it could have discharged a real important role in the Supply, Textile and Industries Departments, if the rules and system of management are suitably amended and adequate financial aid from Government is ensured through the Provincial and Central Co-operative Banks.

In the Departments of Industries and Agriculture, urgent steps for taking up as many items of cottage industries as possible for improvement of poultry and fisheries should be taken up and the services of real experts should be employed without any delay.

On the knotty question of Land Settlement Policy, I would not spend any time, but would only state that I fully share the views expressed on the matter by my hon. Friend Srijut Beliram Das.

In conclusion, I on behalf of the scheduled castes thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister and through him the new Government for the promised new schemes in which I have no doubt they will include schemes safeguarding the interests of the scheduled castes.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the Budget that has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. This Budget is unreal in character in the sense that a surplus has been shown in papers without mentioning the liabilities and commitments of different departments whereby a deficit has been shown as surplus, as such it is a very unjudicious Budget. Then, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has disclaimed the authorship of the Budget by laying all blames at the door of the Care-taker Government, but according to his own proposition the Hon'ble Finance Minister's policy and programme and his experience, tact and skill play a great part in the preparation of the Budget. Then, we are to ascertain who was the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the previous Government. Is it not a fact that one of the Hon'ble Members of the present Cabinet was the Finance Minister of the previous Government and is it not a fact that the said hon. Member took office in

the previous Coalition Ministry—the predecessor of the Care-taker Government with the blessings and support of the Congress Party ?

So, Sir, the discredit naturally comes upon the then Hon'ble Finance Minister who was at the helm of affairs. Till the last date of the previous regime he was at the helm of finance affairs. It is known to the hon. Members of the House that the present Hon'ble Finance Minister was a man of the Party to which the then Finance Minister belonged. Does it now lie in the mouth of the present Finance Minister to say that the Congress Party had no connection whatsoever in preparing the Budget ? Sir, we are not concerned with the then Government nor who is the Government now ? Anyone whoever is in the Government is expected to see that something should be done towards the moral, spiritual and economic uplift of the people. It does not look well on the part of the Government to shirk the responsibility on the pretext that the Budget was prepared by the previous Government. When the new Ministry took office, they took the full responsibility and cannot escape from it. I therefore suggest that without taking much time the present Government should see their way to bring forward good measures for the whole country.

Now, Sir, the present Hon'ble Finance Minister has deplored the fact in the words of Sir Archibald Rowland that the people of the country have been exploited. Sir, it is known to us all and we have felt it, but what have we done ? Are not we the people of India quarrelling and giving opportunity to the other party to exploit us ? It is quite natural for human beings to take advantage of other's foolishness. It is our own fault and it is up to us to get rid of the cause.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned about their Party's success in the election. But it will not bring good result to the country. We should be bold to call a spade a spade. Is it not a fact that the Muslim League also gained unique victory in the election ? (*Hear, hear.*) In the Central Assembly election cent. per cent. Muslims were found behind the banner of the Muslim League. (*A voice.*—What about Provincial election ?) Is it not a fact that in the Provincial election also particularly in the Assam Valley, cent. per cent. seats were captured by the Muslim League candidates ? (*Hear, hear.*) Does this not show that the entire Muslim community is in favour of the issue on which the Muslim League fought the election ? It is up to the hon. Members of the House to decide. It is, of course, true, Sir, that only three seats in the Surma Valley have been captured by other Muslims. But in the Assam Valley excepting only two candidates set up by the Jamiat-ul-Ulama all have been not only defeated but their money was forfeited. So, Sir, except in two constituencies in the Assam Valley the rival Muslim candidates have forfeited their deposit money. Now, count the percentage. (*Hear, hear.*) I don't like to take much time on this point. What I want to say is this. What should we do to produce good result to our country ?

Sir, in the Supply Department there are lots of mismanagement. My humble suggestion is that as in Bengal where they are proposing to have an Advisory Board to advise as regards the matter of supply, so also we should do here in Assam. Also we should at the same time set up an Advisory Committee to take up the Post-War Reconstruction Schemes for the development of the Province. Now, as regards Education, I want to point out about the Madrassa education. There is a High Madrassa in our Valley at Rangiya along with a High School and those two institutions are running parallelly, but, Sir, the management of the High Madrassa should be left with a man who has got the qualifications of Islamic education.

As regards the new adventures that have been encouraged by Government by giving small grants, I want to say that Rs. 36 per month to one Girls' Junior



Madrasa at Gauhati having three classes is quite insufficient. If you want to make it self-sufficient you should increase the grant to an extent at least to pay the salaries of the three teachers.

Now, as regards the only Islamic Intermediate College at Hamidabad, I find that this College has been left at its own fate, because Government held them hope to give a grant on condition that it gets affiliation from the Dacca Madrasa Board.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. There are many hon. Members to take part, I am afraid, I am unable to extend the time of the hon. Member.

### Adjournment

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

*After lunch.*

(The Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair)

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: I could not finish my speech before going to recess. May I finish my speech now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I call upon hon. Mr. Mahendramohan Choudhury to speak.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Deputy Speaker, Madam, I would not have occasion, perhaps, to take part in this debate, provided some of the Members opposite would not have provoked it. I shall be very brief in my observations, and, I believe, I shall not take even a minute more of our hon. Members' time unnecessarily.

The Members opposite have made capital over a stray sentence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech that he had hardly any time to formulate any new scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the people of the villages; but they have altogether forgotten the fact that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented the Budget as prepared by the previous Care-taker Government of Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla, now the Leader of the Opposition. The mention of want of new schemes is only an explanation to the Congress Members and the people in the villages for whose welfare and amelioration, irrespective of creed, caste or community this Government stands and not for those sitting behind Sir Muhammad. Misrule, corruption, bribery, jobbery, favouritism, nepotism that swayed over the Province for the last six years will naturally take some time to be righted, and, therefore, I console my Friends opposite to wait and see with patience what the Congress Government do in the near future and rest content with their own for the present.

Several hon. Members from that side, in their long oration have tried their best to please and placate our hon. Friends of the European Group, accusing the Government on the charge of releasing the saboteurs and on the proposal of refunding the collective fines realised during 1942 upheaval instead of using them for the collective good of the people. I do not know whether they are doing it on the instruction of Quaide Azam. But whatever may it be party bickerings should not be dragged to the length of such narrowness.

In the speech of my hon. Friend Mr. Rouf I wanted to hear something more relevant—something more useful—to our most neglected Subdivision which we both have the honour to represent; for the last 119 years of British rule in Assam—its people groping in the darkness of illiteracy, people dying in thousands without any medical aid whatsoever and of starvation, being victimised by flood and pestilence every year and its Local Board and Municipality receiving step-motherly treatment all throughout from the Government, but there was nothing of the kind excepting a mountain of blatant lies based on no fact, or some time on mis-statement of facts. He has styled the Budget as most inimical to the immigrants and has charged the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his 'Kamala'

and 'Dewaniya' theory. But is it not the truth that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has given out? It is the Dewaniyas by taking advantage of the ignorance of the poor peasantry imported Kamalas who have created this problem of the so-called landless. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is only citing a fact when he says that most of the immigrants are imported from Bengal to serve them in order to build up small zemindaries of their own here. The average land per family of an immigrant is higher than that of the average indigenous Assamese family and yet the Friends on the opposite will argue that the immigrants are landless and the Assamese are landful. I can cite here, Madam, if I be allowed to do so, that many of the Dewaniyas possess more than two thousand bighas of land and if my Friends are anxious to solve the problem of the landless why do they not pounce upon them and share these lands equally and solve the problem? The Dewaniyas do not rest there alone; they also sell lands in the Professional Grazing Reserves to the other immigrants coming to Assam in search of land and such cases of fraud and cheating in good number are pending before the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta, since the days of the last Ministry and yet my hon. Friends will argue that the problem is not the creation of the Dewaniyas and Matabbars.

The acts of encroachments and trespasses in Professional Grazing Reserves are done on a line of planned invasion. Mr. Rouf, as my hon. Friend Shri Beliram Das has rightly stated on the floor of this House yesterday, in his address as the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Barpeta Session of the Assam Muslim League did most emphatically declare in presence of Sir Muhammad, the then Premier of Assam, that the Mussalmans in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries conquered Assam with guns and cannons and in this twentieth century they will conquer Assam with ploughs and lathis—I am only quoting him). What does then this mean except a planned invasion on the part of the Muslim League under the garb of 'solution of landless problem' and 'grow-more-food', etc.?

It was the rule with the last Government to settle lands with the immigrants rejecting the applications for settlement of lands from the children of the soil as land speculators. Sir, with the extinction of small trades due to control of supply and procurement by the Government the overwhelming majority of the population of Barpeta who were small traders have been thrown out of their means of livelihood, and if they now want to go to cultivation and apply for lands, they are refused as speculators, and all available waste lands are settled under the pretext of Colonisation Scheme, Development Scheme, etc., with the immigrants.

Encroachments and trespasses are directly encouraged by the hon. Members on the other side under the bogey of Grow-More-Food Campaign, if not of Pakistan. But does 'Grow-More-Food' only mean 'Grow More Grains'? Are not milk, ghee, butter, etc. essential food for human beings and should we not try to increase their production? We dream of a new Assam, not of the starved, semi-starved and naked and illiterates. We want to build up a standard of life better and higher than it is to-day and want to clothe our people and we want to see that after the day's toil and labour they get a full meal at night—meal that nourishes life. In this connection some of the hon. Members opposite have quoted Mahatma Gandhi also, but to me, they sound like Satan quoting the Scriptures. I need not go into the merits of those utterances as they are self-explanatory. I mention it only by the by.

My Friend Mr. Rouf has stated in the House that whenever and wherever evictions of encroachers and trespassers are carried out the Congress people are set up to loot the evicted persons' properties. Can he go to such an extent? I challenge this statement of Mr. Rouf and demand of him to prove whether there has been any single instance of this kind and failing, as a gentleman with sufficient amount of chivalry in him, to withdraw this remark.

He and many other Friends including Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhuri have warned the Government with dire consequences if the all party agreed Resolution on the Land Settlement is carried on now. The Government will surely reply to that challenge and threat and I believe that they are quite competent to see their way for maintenance of law and preservation of peace in the country. But I say on behalf of the children of the soil that they are not a race of cowards. Assamese people have a rich heritage, they in the past most successfully withstood the mighty onslaughts of the Great Moghuls for no less than eighteen times. Even now if there be any necessity they are quite strong and fit enough to protect their hearth and home from the invasion of any power that may be, not to speak of a handful of immigrants.

A few words, Madam, and I finish. I have been with rapt attention following the peroration regarding Pakistan from every hon. Member opposite and have tried my best to find out whether there is any argument or logic in favour of inclusion of Assam in the so-called Pakistan but have failed to find any. In the 1940 Lahore Resolution of the Muslim League, it has been emphasised there that the predominantly Muslim areas will form the Pakistan Zone. But does Assam fall within that category? Assam has only 33 per cent. of Muslim population, the rest 67 per cent. are non-Muslims. Even assuming Pakistan for granted how the advocates of Pakistan dare to demand inclusion of Assam in Pakistan with 67 per cent. of non-Muslim population? It is only a fond hope cherished by its exponents to exploit the mass mind of the God-fearing Muslims and nothing else.

Let Friends opposite go to the Punjab, to the North-West Frontier Province and perform the burial ceremony of the Pakistan corpse, and if possible, make a last minute attempt to save it in Sind without crying any more about it in the wilderness of Assam.

With these words, Madam, I finish.

\*Mr. MANIRAM MARAK: Madam, since the creation of this Assembly, that is during the past nine years, we the poor Garos had no improvements in our Garo Hills District. Therefore, we the Garo people do hope that our present Government will please take interest in our affairs.

1. *Communications.*—Madam, we the poor backward people of Garo Hills District are suffering much for want of communications. We have not got a single permanent road. The roads which run from Fakirganj to Tura and Tura to Baghmara are temporary. They can run in winter season only and not in the rainy season. Therefore, we demand for making them permanent and we demand also for more roads in the Garo Hills. So far as the Budget has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, there is no indication of making them permanent. I hope, however, necessary roads will be constructed in the Garo Hills District from the Post-War Reconstruction Fund without any delay.

2. *Industry.*—Madam, we have no industry of any sort at all. We need at least two industrial institutions at this time; namely, a weaving school and a technical school to absorb thousands of our people who have been just disbanded from war services and going up and down in search of jobs for their maintenance. We expect something for them immediately otherwise their condition will be deplorable.

3. *Medical.*—Madam, we have only six dispensaries in our two constituencies which are quite insufficient for us. We demand more dispensaries to be opened. There are three *Kala-azar* dispensaries at Kalaichar, Pulbari and Bojengdoba; where more than 100 patients are attending monthly in each of these three hospitals.

Government do neither provide them accommodations nor hospital buildings. The patients are arranging accommodations for themselves. The hospital buildings are annually provided by the local people, and this is a heavy burden for the localities concerned.

4. *Education*.—Madam, there are very few primary schools in the Garo Hills and not a single Government Middle English School. We have six Government Aided Middle English Schools; we demand more attention to education. The Baghmara and Resu Government Aided Middle English Schools should be converted into Government Middle English Schools as feeder schools to the Tura Government High English School. We are making very modest demands and expect that the present popular Government will meet these.

5. *Cloths*.—Madam, I learnt from Government officers from Tura Deputy Commissioner's Office that 50 bales of standard cloth were sanctioned for Garo Hills alone, but actually 12 bales of cloth were received. Will Government be pleased to enquire where the remaining bales have gone? The distribution of cloth in the Garo area is most unsatisfactory.

6. *Sugar and salt*.—Madam, the sugar and salt supplied by the Government are quite insufficient. It does not come even to the normal requirements. Will Government be pleased to supply more quantities and arrange for proper distribution under the supervision of Local People's Committee?

With these few demands and with a hope that these demands would receive the kind and sympathetic consideration of Government, I beg to resume my seat.

\*Mumtazul Muhaddisin Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN:  
Madam, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has frankly confessed in his Budget speech his lack of experience and skill in matters relating to the preparation of the Budget. He also assured us that the Cabinet will formulate schemes for the moral, intellectual and economic uplift of the people. This is why I am not going to criticise the Budget. I will only make some necessary suggestions for taking into consideration when the proposed schemes will be formulated in near future. Let me hope for the best.

I would have been more glad if the Hon'ble Finance Minister had not made the bitter remarks on the Pakistan scheme of the Muslim League. I think, the whole of the Province of Assam will be included in Pakistan even with its present figures of Muslim population. So I request that the Government will be pleased to give up the idea of evicting the immigrants, as by this, the situation, I think, will be made a complex one. Some of the hon. Members of the Government Party remarked yesterday that the Muslim League Members were challenging the Government about the policy of the Government to evict the immigrants. I think, this is not the fact. I can safely say that the Muslim League Members expressed the attitude of the Mussalmans to face the challenge thrown out by the Government in their Land Settlement Policy.

Now coming to my proposed suggestions, I request the Government to make arrangements so that the primary education be made compulsory which is the backbone of the nation-building schemes. All Aided High Schools should also be provincialised.

As regards the education of Muslims, I may say that Madrassa education should be spread widely. I am sure that everyone will be of the same opinion with me that though there is no scope of earning money after having Madrassa education, yet the number of students in Madrassas are increasing day by day. Besides the Government Madrassas and the Aided Madrassas there is a great number of private Madrassas which have not yet been

\* Speech not corrected.

taken over by the Government. I suggest that Government should earnestly take up the spread of Madrassa education. I also suggest that some posts in the grade of Sub-Inspector of Schools should be created for the purpose.

As regards the Sylhet Government Madrassa, I may point out one thing that from a long time the post of the Head Maulana in the Title Class is vacant. I heard, Government is willing to bring in an up-country man of All-India reputation for the post but none is forthcoming. Let me say in this connection that while the Title Classes in the Calcutta Madrassa were introduced, the idea was that students passing that course may not be inferior to those of up-country Madrassas in any respect. I respectfully inform the Government that some of the Title passed Maulanas, who have had the chance, proved themselves so. I request Government that the post be filled up soon by a local Title passed and experienced Maulana.

Coming to the conclusion let me refer to the constituency from which I have been elected a Member to this Assembly. This is one of the most neglected areas in the Province. There is to be found a locality spreading over more than twenty miles with thick population, having almost no lower primary schools to give education to their children, no dispensaries for their treatment while ailing, no road at all for their communication. As for instance I mention the Shon-bil area of the Ratabari Thana. The area under Ratabari Thana spreads up to ten miles towards north on both the sides of Shon bil where even telegrams are received once a week on the beat day. Moreover in the Shon bil area the buffaloes and cows from the Hailakandi and the Longai Valley areas also graze and thus a great number assemble there, but as there is no veterinary dispensary in this area, hundreds of cattle die every year without any kind of treatment. Madam, in a locality of this nature one can easily imagine how the people are suffering, specially in these days of scarcity when they are not getting the necessaries of their livelihood.

Madam, in my constituency there are three Local Board roads which are not being repaired from long since for which the people of the locality are suffering a great deal, *viz.*, the Bhang-Marjatkandi Road, the Karimganj-Kaliganj Road and the Patharkandi-Ratabari Road *via* Betubari. These should be taken care of. In the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme, if the Bhang-Marjatkandi road is spread up to the Hailakandi-Ratabari road, *via* the eastern side of the Shon bil, the vast locality may have a chance of upliftment.

Lastly, Madam, I take my seat with a request to the Government that my suggestions and grievances be taken into consideration while the proposed schemes are formulated.

Moulana IBRAHIM ALI: (Spoke in Urdu. An English translation of the speech as handed over by the hon. Member is given below:)

Deputy Speaker, Madam, Before this I have never had any opportunity of taking part in the deliberations of this Assembly and for this reason I had a mind to only hear the discussion of experienced Members of this hon. House. But as in course of their Budget criticism some of the hon. Members have made mention of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, I as Secretary of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema think it necessary to speak a word or two. The hon. Members who have mentioned about the Jamiat-ul-Ulema attempted to impress upon the hon. House that the present Government in connection with the enforcement of the Line System have used all sorts of oppressions upon the immigrants and we the Jamiat Members have been supporting this. It will be a little more than a month that the present Government took the charge of administration and before this it was the League Government who carried on the administration.

If in fact the League Government were the well-wishers of the immigrants why was not the Line System totally abolished during their long régime of about eight years, especially, as all the Congress Members of the then Assembly were in Jail? On the other hand, we found Mr. Abdul Hamid Bhasani, President of the Assam Muslim League, publicly denouncing the League Ministry for its atrocious activities on the immigrants, such as eviction by shooting, etc., to the extent of totally demolishing their homesteads and mosques and defilement of the holy Quran. Pray, where were then the League critics of the present Government? Is it not a fact that in the year 1945 Saadulla-Bordolai-Rohini Pact League Ministry closed the door of colonisation in the Assam Valley for good? Who is responsible for the same, Jamiat-ul-Ulama or the Muslim League? Was not the Pact made to save the then dying League Ministry in Assam? Did the Muslim League take any step to bring the then League Ministers to book? On the contrary, what we find is that those very League Ministers were put in the helm of affairs of the League Parliamentary Board and were rewarded and encouraged with League nominations. Is this the proper method for the Muslim League to show their sympathy for the immigrant Muslims? How splendid indeed! In reply to the Adjournment Motion on account of the so-called ruthless eviction of the immigrants brought by hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury it has been asserted on behalf of the present Government that the allegations are totally baseless and concocted. Further, the Colonisation Officer of the alleged scenes of actions and the District Officer of the area are both Muslims. These circumstances leave no room for a doubt as to the nature of the accusations. Are we to take it that these Muslim officers have been metamorphosed into Jamiat Wallas overnight so that they are also heedless of the so-called inhumanities. What a wonder of wonders! The Hon'ble Finance Minister has declared, "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 uneconomic holdings are settled in better and more economic holdings. The figures of available arable waste land are being collected and on receipt of all these figures we propose to consider how best we can solve the problem of land settlement. We have full sympathy for those immigrants who have been brought under various pretext for the interest of Dewaniyas or Matabbars.....I appeal to those who have recently encroached on the Professional Grazing Reserves to go out of the reserves peacefully so that their case may also be considered after providing land to the indigenous landless people".

Jamiat-ul-Ulama-i-Hind will not be behind any other organisation as regards the interest of the immigrants. The question of Line System was thoroughly discussed in the Annual General Conference of the Jamiat-ul-Ulama-Hind held at Sharanpur and policy to be adopted in this regard is under consideration.

Was not hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, the Mover of the Adjournment Motion, a Member of the Cabinet that passed orders for eviction which permanently closed the doors against fresh migration to the arable waste land of Assam Valley from 1938 and thereafter? Did not these very orders create a legal bar against new intrusion of the immigrants into the Grazing Reserves? Is it not clear from this, that if hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury had any real sympathy for these helpless immigrants, he would have forthwith resigned his seat in the Cabinet and started an agitation against such orders? Is it not sheer shedding of crocodile tears to put up an Adjournment Motion with regard to the eviction of immigrants on the floor of the hon. House to-day? But hon. Mr. Chaudhury cannot help speechifying at

some length on this question, as his entry for a second time in this Assembly has been possible only on account of these immigrants.

Some hon. Members waxed eloquence over the so-called Muslim League victory in the last election, conveniently forgetting that it was the first attempt of the Jamiat to enter the Legislature and that it had to confront innumerable odds due to the unscrupulous conduct of the officials high and low of the powers-that-be. The bitter experience of fighting the League in the guise of Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers and Additional District Magistrates, Presiding Officers and so on is only known to the unfortunate Jamiat candidates. But even then in the Surma Valley out of a total of 1,84,154 polled votes 73,401 votes were cast against the Muslim League. (*Bravo Pakistan*)! Had the election being run freely, as it ought to have been, the result would have been the reverse. The much vaunted claim of the hon. Member can be easily judged from the trans-Brahmaputra flight of hon. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Prominent Member of the All-India Muslim League Working Committee) from his native Constituency where a Jamiat candidate scored an easy victory over an upper class veteran of the Muslim League with all the support of the League Ministry at his back. Some of the hon. Muslim League Members of Sylhet overflowing with sympathy for the immigrants have been moving and having their beings in an atmosphere where even to-day free born human beings are subjected to enforce 'Nankhari' and 'Etmandari' (customary serfdom) and all other inhuman treatment depriving them of their right to franchise, exacting from them compulsory Kadambusi (touching the feet) in the place of usual Islamic greeting (*Salam*). Some of those suspected refractories have been served with notices of ejection in certain areas. Does not this absence of sympathy in the case of fallen humanity at home bespeak selfishness in the overzealous patronage in the distant Assam Valley? What a travesty of religion for political game! Some hon. League Member was vociferous in declaring that no Muslim of Assam has any confidence in this Ministry. We also join the chorus and say that no self-seeker can have any reliance on a set of people who are out to see things in their true perspective.

I appeal to all Mussalmans who have any sincere desire to see the Mussalmans united on the basis of Islamic "Shariat" to rally in no time under the banner of the Jamiat-ul-Ulama-i-Hind and in co-operation with other communities achieve on Islamic polity, Free India and whole India just in a state in which their forefathers left it and in which it was snatched from them, remembering that on Free India depends the freedom of the Muslim World. The idea of a non-Muslim majority subduing a Muslim minority is most unhistorical as well as un-Islamic.

In conclusion, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to compulsory Primary Education and its improvement which admittedly raises the question of finance, but I beg to point out that the huge sums that are wasted in the name of higher education in the Province may well be diverted to this more important problem of Primary Education.

In the whole of the Sylhet District, Jaintia is admittedly the most backward in education, communication and medical facilities. Though it yields a pretty good sum of revenue to the Government it has always remained neglected. I hope the present Government will do its best to attend to our grievances.

\*Mr. MODY MARAK: Madam, I take this opportunity to put before this House some of our most important grievances and needs which I hope will receive the best attention and immediate action of Government.

(1) *Forest produce*.—(a) Madam, as regards forest produce, I desire to bring to the notice of this House the fact that we, the Garo people, are house-tax paying Garos, and as such, we have been privileged to cut any reserved or

unreserved trees for our own use free of any royalty and without any permission ; but since a few years back we have not been able to get this privilege till now. I would like to know if for some reasons or other the former order giving this same privilege to the house-tax paying Garos was cancelled, and if not, why the former order is not being carried out and why the present house-tax paying Garos are not being allowed to cut either reserved or unreserved trees for their own use without any permission and without paying any royalty, though not for sale ?

(b) If I remember aright, the former order allows only to cut trees that a man can carry on his shoulder. This means, one can cut only very small trees which are useless for permanent buildings and merely a waste of great number of trees for erecting a house even. Instead, will it not be more proper and preservative to allow to cut or saw fairly big trees for their own houses thus allowing smaller trees to grow up and become more serviceable later.

(2) Madam, the rate of house-tax levied on the Garo people of the Garo Hills varies at present. There is no reason why the rate should vary. One section of the Hills pays only Rs. 2-8-0 while the other pays Rs. 3-8-0. Considering the present economic depression of the people of the Garo Hills, will it not be proper to lower the rate of house tax of the other side to Rs. 2-8-0, thus bringing the rate of House-tax to uniformity in the whole of Garo Hills ?

(3) *High School.*—(a) Madam, there is a High School at Tura both for Garo boys and girls. The boys are staying mostly in the American Baptist Mission boys' hostels and there is no boarding house of any kind for girls studying there. There are about 30 to 50 girl students. A good boarding house with a good matron is urgently required for that school.

(b) The present High School building is too small to accommodate about 250 pupils. Temporary class rooms were being added annually to the school which is expensive. It would be less expensive if the school building could be extended permanently at a very early date.

(c) The present class IV of that school is over-crowded now numbering about 50 pupils on the roll. An additional section for that class is to be made and an additional teacher appointed immediately.

(d) There is a neighbouring High School at Mankachar at a distance of about 32 miles from Tura where some of our Garo boys of that section are reading. It is learnt that the school is getting an inadequate grant from Government. I would like to support if more grants could be granted to that school.

(4) *Primary Schools.*—Madam, there are only about 200 Government Lower Primary Schools in the whole district. In Mauza III of the Hills there is scarcely a Primary School of any kind and the people are so illiterate that a letter addressed to them should travel a day or two to be read out to them. It is of urgent need to establish at least 100 more Lower Primary Schools in the Garo Hills specially in Mauza III, and this House be pleased to grant immediate sanction for the same.

(5) *Communications.*—Madam, primitive and backward people as we are, the condition of roads in Garo Hills is primitive. We are living in the 18th century as far as our roads are concerned. We are in Assam, but we solemnly say that we have no outlet to other parts of Assam. The best outlet to Assam would be from Tura *via* Bajengdova Hat and join the Assam Trunk Road somewhere near Agia. There had been a proposal to connect Tura with the Assam Trunk Road by that way we hear, and to connect Tura with Mymensingh (Eastern Bengal Railway). But why it has been postponed, we do not know ? An immediate step may kindly be taken to open this road at least from Tura to Agia *via* Bajengdoba making it motorable throughout the year.

The present existing most temporary road from Tura *via* Mankachar to Fakirganj remains flooded for about 6 months and no buses can ever run through



that road for over 8 months on account of flood and unsuitable bridges, etc. Permanent road with permanent bridges is the cry from every Turaite.

The present communication from Tura to Bagmara *via* Dalu Road is also a most temporary one. It should also be made a permanent one to allow buses and cars to run through that road all the year round.

The present existing temporary road from Tura to Phulabari is overcrowded with shrubs and small plants throughout the rainy season and bridges are swept away by streams. It is only being maintained at present by the District Fund. It would be a boon if that road could be taken up by the Provincial Government and make the road an up-to-date motorable road throughout the year, thus enabling our District Fund to improve some other roads in the district.

Sir, with these few but important demands, I beg to resume my seat.

\*Maulavi DEWAN ABDUR ROB CHOUDHURY: Deputy Speaker Madam, the other day when we heard the Hon'ble the Finance Minister delivering his Budget Speech we wondered whether it was not a political sermon imposed on us by a propagandist of a particular school of thought. Even a superficial review of the speech will convince everybody that the main burden of the speech was to defend the Congress for their past errors and misdeeds. (*Hear, hear*).

When along with some other parts of the world our Province was threatened with the Japanese aggression, the Congress leadership came up with the "Quit India Resolution" followed by the sabotage movement of the devotees of Non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi. Madam, it is not unknown to the Members of this House, what was the implications of the sabotage movement. The saboteur danced to the tune of Tokio in order to paralyse the Civil Government of the country. (*Hear, hear*). Lines of communications which are so vital to the life of a country were cut off, innocent people were attacked and murdered and in many cases their houses were burnt and destroyed. Besides, public buildings and rest houses were not spared. The Civil Government under the circumstances had no other alternative but to put a stop to these nefarious and destructive actions of the saboteurs and their helpers by imposition of fines. But those fines now, Madam, are sought to be made good of as a premium to those acts of violence and destruction. (*Hear, hear*). It is a well-known fact that the Congress at that time disowned these activities. But now the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is not tired of singing laurels, paying "loyal homage to those martyrs\*\*\* who sacrificed their lives in vindicating the nations inalienable right to freedom and independence". From the speech, it appeared, Madam, that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister wanted the House to understand that the fight for complete independence of India is the monopoly of the Congress. In his eagerness he went so far as to say that the Congress contested the elections on the issue of complete independence and the "Quit India Resolution" and that "the followers of all faiths living in Hills and Plains had given a clear verdict that they are behind the Congress". What else could be a travesty of truth than this? Is this the way in which the votaries of truth and non-violence show their respect for truth? I make bold, Madam, to declare on the floor of this House that the elections have proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the Muslim Nation is entirely against the Congress. (*Hear, hear*). The few Muslim seats which have been lost to the Muslim League have not been fought and won on Congress ticket. If they did, there could be some justification for the claim of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. The Congress might have fought the election on the issue of complete independence but the Muslim League also fought and won on the issue of Pakistan which means complete independence for all—Muslims, Hindus and other nationalities alike. (*Hear, hear*.) Fight for independence is no monopoly of the Congress. The

\*Speech not corrected

Muslims have fought in the past, they are fighting to-day and they will continue to fight till they achieve their cherished goal. If the Congress will join them they are welcome ; if they do not, Muslims will go on alone—even if they be obliged to fight both the Congress and the British alike.

Madam, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not join voice in the chorus of protest that has been raised in this House against the Government move to evict the immigrant Muslims from this Province. I will urge upon the Council of Ministers to reconsider the stand taken by them and to abandon this policy of reckless and inhuman eviction. "Truth itself is God", declared Mahatma Gandhi speaking after the prayer-meeting at Rungta House, Bombay, on the 13th of this month, "and non-violence is just a synonym for truth". Let us now wait and see how the lieutenants of Mahatma Gandhi act here in Assam in the matter of eviction. *(Cheers.)*

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA—Deputy Speaker Madam, I desire to say a few words with regard to certain observations and criticisms made by some hon. Members of the Opposition during the course of their discussion on the Budget as presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I have heard the hon. Members' speeches with due attention, carefully noted down some of their points, and grounds of arguments raised in the course of the debate and levelled against the policy of the Government. Indeed, I must candidly confess that in all those speeches of the hon. Members of the Opposition, I have found only one dominating factor, one theme and one word, *i.e.*, a tirade against Congress and a cry for more lands for immigrants from Bengal. They have criticised the Government as complete failure, bankrupt and vacant because the Government could not implement the needs and welfare of the people of this Province by formulating new schemes in the Budget consistent with the Congress ideal, principle and policy and to the demands of the Muslim League Party on the question of the land settlement policy as envisaged by the hon. Members of the Opposition.

With regard to the first charge, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has already submitted the most reasonable explanation before the House and I am constrained to think that it would have been a bit graceful on the part of some of the hon. Members of the Opposition to have a little patience in them, to wait and see while the Hon'ble Finance Minister assured the House in his speech that suitable schemes would be duly formulated for the moral, intellectual and material advancement of the people within the course of a couple of months and would be placed before the House. What more assurance the hon. Members of the Opposition do require than the one given by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister? It is indeed a travesty of circumstances that while the progressive and revolutionary element claiming to represent the interests of the humbler and lowlier can afford to wait, the hon. Members of the Opposition belonging to a party noted for its well-known reputation are not in a mood to fall in line with the same position only because of jealousy and envy that the Congress party is in power and the League is not.

With regard to the question of lands to be settled with immigrants, Madam, I should like to say this much that they have been saying times without number that in Assam there are vast tract of uncultivable lands lying waste and that immigrants from Bengal should be settled in these lands. But as a matter of fact, I should like to say that in Assam there are no lands at all (*voice—figures?*). I shall try to quote figures.

With regard to this question of land settlement policy of this Government some Members of the Opposition, notably hon. Khan Bahadur Ziaosh-shams, hon. Abdur Rouf, hon. Abdul Matin Choudhury have dwelt at length criticising the Government policy. These and other hon. Members of the Opposition accused the Government and the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the Government have embarked

on a policy of ruthless eviction of immigrants who have been settling on the grazing lands. In this connection I beg to remind my hon. Friends about the specific conditions which formed the basis of a solemn agreement between the present Premier and the hon. Leader of the Opposition in March, 1945. The hon. Members have declared that vast tracts of uncultivated waste lands are lying in Assam and hence landless immigrants from other Provinces and notably from Bengal should be allowed to come into this Province and these immigrants should be allowed to settle in these tracts of uncultivated waste lands. In the opinion of the hon. Members of the Opposition these landless immigrants if they are allowed to settle in and cultivate these waste lands will be a helpful proposition in the grow-more-food campaign to be launched by the Government. This is nothing but a false pretext advanced by the hon. Members of the Opposition in order to increase the number of Muslim population for including Assam into the contemplated Eastern Pakistan.

Madam, let us dispassionately and impartially examine the policy of the grow more food campaign. Grow-more-food campaign is only a temporary measure designed to increase the production of food-stuffs to meet the increasing demand during the period of shortage of food-stuffs and national and international food crisis consequent on the War. If that crisis is over there might not be any necessity to resort to such a scheme or policy of grow-more-food campaign. But on the other hand, the problem of land settlement with the immigrants is essentially a permanent feature vitally affecting the existence and economic life of the indigenous people both Hindus and Muslims of the Province. Hence, the question of grow-more-food campaign cannot be mixed up with the question of land settlement with immigrants as they are fundamentally two different problems having divergent aims and objectives, and as such, the contention that these two problems should be mixed up together cannot be viewed with equanimity without prejudice and detriment to the vital interests involving life and death question of the Assamese people and others and also of the already settled immigrant population of this Province. There has been a vigorous propaganda carried by the hon. Member—I mean, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, on the floor of this Assembly that sufficient uncultivated lands are available but only this Government, or for the matter of that, the Congress party in Assam is embarking on a denial policy to a just claim. Hon. Mr. Chaudhury quoted at length with some figures of cultivable lands of some Assam Valley Districts and then made a sweeping generalisation that even in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts there are lands available for settlement. He has suggested that as no substantial provision has been made in the Budget for famine that is coming with severe intensity and is going to affect the country, it would be better on the part of the Government to allow these immigrants from Bengal to settle in unoccupied and uncultivated lands in Assam. With regard to this contention, I humbly ask the hon. Member, is there any abundant cultivable waste land so as to accommodate the immigrants from Bengal. From the statistics and figures that are available it appears that the total area of six Assam Valley districts is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  crores of Bighas including Hills, marshes, lakes and rivers of which 50 per cent, *ie.*, 225 lakhs of Bighas are supposed to be cultivable. Let us examine the position of these cultivable lands. According to Government Report—Land Revenue Administration Report, 1940-41, the total settled area of Assam Valley is 206 lakhs of Bighas or about 92 per cent. of the total cultivable area of the above figure. Thus according to the admission of the previous Government less than 20 lakhs of Bighas were available in 1940-41 which were already given to the immigrants by the previous Government. In view of this position there is now no land available for the outsiders whoever they might be—either Hindus or Muslims. The hon. Member Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury's assertion that there are sufficient cultivable waste lands in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts is in my opinion a simple myth intended for

circulation for demanding lands for the immigrants. Madam, in this connection, I desire to place before the House that in these two districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur in comparison with the number of population living in them, there is no land even sufficient for the purpose of the local people residing, in view of the fact that a large number of the people of these districts have no economic holding just sufficient to maintain a family. And there has been already a persistent cry and demand for Government waste lands from the local people. Madam, I come from a village, move about in the villages and hence I am in a position to know the actual condition obtaining in respect of land in my subdivision and in my constituency. I have received during a very short span innumerable applications for land from the people of my constituency and some land-less people even pursued me to this place with applications for lands.

One of the hon. Members of the Opposition remarked that this Government have nothing to boast of the release of the political prisoners and he had characterised these prisoners branding them as saboteurs and unsocial elements. Indeed Madam, it is a pity that the hon. Member was in a disposition to vilify the flowers and patriots of the country in a way he had done. It is a deplorable instance that the hon. Member had thought in that vein. But I should like to remind the hon. Member that such an insinuation against the political prisoners who have sacrificed everything for the cause and interests of the country and the people, betrays on his part, a lamentable lack of understanding and the appreciation of the position of the political sufferers. With these words I resume my seat.

\*Srijut HARESWAR DAS: Madam, there have already been innumerable speeches. At the very outset, I must admit that I am a layman and the intricacies of the Budget do not enter my head. So when I listened to the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I was much impressed. Then I listened to the speeches of the hon. Members of the Opposition not with a view to criticise them but with a view to learn something but my head has got thoroughly puzzled. Various remedies were suggested. I held a ballot here of those remedies, put those remedies to vote and I find that the remedy of unrestricted entry of immigrants got the highest number of votes. So in these days of democracy, the position stands like this. Allow the immigrants to come in numbers and occupy all the reserves of the Province and the Budget defects will be cured. (*Loud laughter.*)

One hon. Member asked us to go to Bihar and to the Punjab to see grazing reserves and cattle rearing. Why should we stop at the Punjab? We should move with the hon. Members to further west—to England, Denmark and Holland where cattle rearing is done more scientifically to—see if they have got any grazing reserves.

Another hon. Member said that the immigrants are experts in clearing jungles and can drive away *Kala-azar*. The Public Health Department should be informed or they may be sent to Australia where there is enough jungle.

Madam, I fully endorse the remarks of my hon. Friend, Khan Bahadur Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams, about the shabby treatment of the Goalpara district during the time of the last Ministry. But possibly being afraid of a very long speech he did not mention a very important grievance of the Goalpara subdivision, *viz.*, the demand of the public for a steam ferry for crossing the Brahmaputra from Goalpara to Jugigopa, which the last Ministry failed to do. But another part of his speech has perplexed me. In supporting unrestricted immigration, he based his argument on Akhand Bharat theory. Bharat is one; the nation is one and so anyone should move anywhere and

\* Speech not corrected.

so immigrants from Bengal should come here. But some other hon. Members of the Opposition have supported immigration on the ground of Akhand Bharat theory which is Pakistan. This has perplexed me thoroughly. But possibly the arrangement is like this, that the hon. Khan Bahadur taking his stand on Akhand Bharat theory will go on bringing in immigrants and when there will be sufficient of them, the others will establish Pakistan. But I draw the notice of my hon. Friends on the opposite to the remarks of Mr. Mullan, the then Census Officer, about the movement of immigrants into Assam. He compared this movement to the mass movement of white ant carrying its own peculiar characteristics and a different language and sweeping away everything before them. I come from Goalpara which is permanently-settled area. There is no reserve system there but we have found that wherever 10 or 20 families of immigrant have settled the indigenous people within the radius of a mile had to go away. Go to the law courts, frequent the law court compound and you will get your answer, and see what sort of people they are.

Madam, I shall mention only one other point. That is the Publicity Department. My Friends have suggested total abolition of this Department and the way in which this Department is at present working really does not justify its existence. But this is due to entrustment of the entire Department in the hands of inefficient persons. The last Ministry had a peculiar knack of picking up inefficient persons and for that reason this Department is not working well but if these persons are chucked out and capable persons are taken in and necessary modifications are done and the Department is connected with Agriculture, Weaving and Public Works Department then much benefit to the people may be done and with it properly organised, black marketing to a great extent may be checked. Black market and corruption always thrive in secrecy. If by organised method we can give publicity then this Department will help a lot in checking corruption and black marketing.

Madam, with these words, I resume my seat.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Deputy Speaker, Madam, it is extremely regrettable that the Budget discussion this year should have degenerated into a mere discussion of the land settlement policy of the Assam Government. Speaker after speaker from the Opposition benches are rising up to harp on the same old string of more lands for the immigrants. We had enough discussions in the previous Assembly over this vexed problem and even this year, the Opposition might have very well arranged with the Government to have a discussion over this particular matter by a separate Motion, as was the custom in the previous Assembly, instead of taking away so much time allotted for Budget discussion.

I feel, Madam, after the Hon'ble Finance Minister had given a definite assurance in his Budget speech that this Government stands for a planned settlement of the arable waste land and further that the figures of available arable waste land are being collected, and on receipt of all these figures the Government proposes to consider how best they can solve the problem of land settlement—after this definite assurance from the Government, Madam, I feel that the protagonists of the cause of landless immigrants ought to have the patience to wait and let the Government fulfil its own promise. But it is extremely regrettable, Madam, that some people think that they can best serve their cause by holding out threats to the Government. Many an hon. Member in the Opposition benches know from their personal experience that no Government worth its name can agree to tolerate such threats from any quarter, however important that quarter may be. I am sure, Madam, these threats will not deter the present Government from the line of work that it has chalked out for itself. Hooliganism will be dealt with in the way in which it deserves to be dealt. Madam, I can well understand the politics of the

hon. Member Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury. It has been his profession to bank upon the worst sentiments and passions very cleverly roused in the illiterate masses of our country. But I expected a much higher standard of Budget criticism from the Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Maulvi Abdul Hamid. A veteran Parliamentarian that he is, we expected to hear from him how he thinks the province's financial resources could be best augmented in order to save it from the bankruptcy towards which the Province is fast drifting. Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury was pleased to characterise the Congress Party as bankrupt of all ideas. With all the overflow of intelligence in our hon. Friend, the Province had to incur a dead loss of more than a crore and a half of rupees by its supply transactions during the last few years and Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury was one of the pillars of the Government that was responsible for all this criminal waste of the Province's finances. My hon. Friend Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury is very much eloquent about growing more food in the Province; he was pleased to issue a Press statement on the matter recently and he cited scriptures from Mahatma Gandhi before this Hon'ble House in support of his theory, but will you believe, Madam, the revised estimates for the current year 1945-46 show that the last Government of which the hon. Member was a stalwart had not the brain or the power of initiative to spend at least Rs. 18,46,000 out of the total amount sanctioned by the House for the grow-more-food campaign (I refer to pages 10 and 41 of the Budget Memorandum)? With all the overflow of intelligence in our hon. Friend, he and his friends who were at the helm of the affairs of this Province for all these years could not have saved it from the bankruptcy towards which the Province is fast drifting because of the wasteful extravagance of the past Cabinet, because of the total lack of any foresight in the past Cabinet, because of absolute bankruptcy of any constructive ideas in the Members of the past Cabinet. For these past few years, Madam, Government in this Province fattened on the uncertain war incomes. The Government increased its expenditure beyond all proportions, the Government totally failed to chalk out any plan to increase the paying capacity of the people. Madam, I know, there is no use kicking a dead horse, but when a responsible Member like Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury chooses to accuse the present Government of bankruptcy of ideas he has got to be paid in his own coins.

Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury deploras the absence of any new schemes. He says without new schemes the present Budget is a shell without kernel. He says that the previous Government had budgeted new schemes for 10 lakhs. Madam, some hon. Members may have good reasons to lament that the new schemes which provided for the provincialisation of an hon. Member's village school are not coming up for discussion, but I fail to see, Madam, how a Budget which has provided for an expenditure of five crores and is supposed to be a mere shell becomes full of kernel the moment an expenditure of another ten lakhs is added to it. Many other hon. Members of the Opposition also deplored the fact that no new schemes have been provided for. Madam, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured the Hon'ble House that the Government is going to place its new schemes in the Summer Session of the Assembly. But even then we must recognise that the days are long gone by when some tinkering here or some tinkering there can really solve our problem. It is not schemes by lakhs that can really improve the conditions of the people. The Congress is out for a radical change in the whole atmosphere. The Congress is determined to change the face of the whole countryside as best as it can, and for that the Congress has its own well-thought-out plans and schemes. Madam, we were told by our esteemed Colleague, Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman, that the past Cabinet proposed to impose the Sales Tax which might fetch a quarter of a crore

annually. We know, Madam, that our hon. Friends in the Opposition cannot move except in the beaten tracks. Before any new taxation is levied, Congress will see that all wasteful extravagance of the past days are ruthlessly curtailed and then the Congress will see that before the people are asked to pay more their paying capacity is increased and above all, Madam, the Congress can afford only to tax the richer sections of the people before it asks all and sundry to pay.

Just at the present moment the country is at a very critical juncture. Let us hope a settlement of the political issue is soon coming for us and when that main issue is settled we are sure the Congress will give the country a lead towards prosperity, a lead towards development, intellectually, morally and spiritually, a lead towards acquiring by India of its well-deserved foremost position in the comity of Nations. Long live the Indian National Congress! Long live the Indian Federation soon to be brought into being!

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Madam, I would not like to speak, but should be very glad to spare my time in favour of the juniors in this House.

Srijit MATIRAM BORA: Madam, at the outset I take the opportunity of congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the very lucid and nice speech with which he has presented the Budget before the House. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has made it clear in his speech that the present Budget as presented before the House was not his handiwork; it was prepared by the outgoing Ministry. That Ministry had also prepared a new scheme; for want of time the present Government could not re-examine the scheme in all its bearing and therefore the Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured the House that when the examination of the new scheme by Government will be complete he will come forward before the House with the new scheme and place the same for discussion. In view of such categorical assurance and explanation given by the Hon'ble Minister, all the criticisms that have been advanced on the score of non-inclusion of new schemes in the Budget are meaningless and uncharitable and they disclose the want of a spirit of generosity and patience on the part of the hon. Members who have advanced criticism on that score. Madam, in the Opposition benches there are several prominent Members, Members who are prominent in public life and have got enough of parliamentary experience. As such, I expected from them helpful criticisms and practical suggestion for the consideration of Government. But I must frankly confess, Madam, that I have been sorely disappointed. The speeches of several hon. Members appear to have been prepared, as it were, with an eye to the public gallery and with another to the Press. These Budget speeches appear to me as a piece of propaganda literature. It is a matter of great disappointment, Madam, that hon. Members with so much parliamentary experience should have prepared their Budget speeches with such an attitude of mind. Some of the hon. Members of the Opposition have taken pleasure in finding fault with the Congress Party for accepting office. Some of them with a spirit of bravado, stated that the Muslim League Party have contested the election not with a view to secure office but with the object of wrecking the Constitution of 1935. But what have we seen in the provinces of Sind and the Punjab? It is a news to us that Sir Golam Hussain Hidaytulla has formed the Ministry in Sind to wreck the Constitution and that too, with the help of the European members? Did not the Nawab of Mamdut, the leader of the Muslim League party in the Punjab, make frantic efforts to get co-operation of other parties in forming the Ministry in the Punjab? Was it for wrecking the Constitution, as suggested by some Muslim Members in the Opposition? Madam, facts stated inside the floor of the House must have some correspondence with realities outside.

Madam, I have been sorely pained—rather I have been rudely shocked at the expression of ill-will and hostility on the part of some hon. Muslim Members towards the Assamese people. What is the fault of the Assamese people? What

crime have they committed to deserve such kind of ill-will and hostility from the Muslim Members? If the Assamese people have committed any crime, it was their generous assistance given to the immigrant people. If you look into the history of the immigrants entering Assam, you will find that they came to Assam destitute and forlorn. At that time who helped them? It is the Assamese people who helped them, rendered them all kinds of assistance to get them settled in their new surroundings. But for this help, the position of the immigrants would not have been what it is now. Madam, I am painfully surprised that instead of showing appreciation and gratitude to the Assamese people, some hon. Muslim Members have taken pleasure in throwing mud at them, expressing ill-will and hostility towards them. Do the Assamese people deserve such treatment? Do these hon. Members think that they advance the cause of the immigrants by antagonising the Assamese people? Instead of antagonising the Assamese people they should have thanked them and expressed gratitude to them.

Madam, the Hon'ble Finance Minister towards the end of his Budget speech made an appeal to all sections of the House for their help and co-operation to restore an atmosphere of peace and good will and to allay the bitterness and communal tension that prevail in the Province. His suggestion is for an atmosphere of peace and good will so that the most complicated problem of land settlement can be taken up properly and solved to the satisfaction of all. But, Madam, we find that instead of giving any heed to that appeal, an hon. Member, who was for some time a responsible Member in the out-going Ministry,—I mean Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury—has shown an attitude of hostility and fight—fight for what and with whom? What the Government and the Assamese people have done to have a declaration of war against them by the hon. Member? Is this the way to advance the cause of the immigrants—by antagonising the Assamese people and by alienating the sympathy of the whole country? I submit, Madam, he does not do any service to the community. He has allowed the appeal of Hon'ble Finance Minister to go unheeded. He has thrown all considerations of fairness to the four winds. Does he think that this Government who have taken the responsibility of administration of the country are so weak and poor that they can be intimidated or coerced by the hon. Members? If the hon. Members think like that, they will be sadly disappointed. He should know that the present Government are not of the same staff as the previous one. They want co operation from all quarters for restoration of peace and good will, as true Congressmen. That is why the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made his appeal. By letting the appeal go unheeded, he will not advance the cause of the immigrants. I am told, of course, I speak subject to correction, that the hon. Member—Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury—was not given a seat at his birth place but had to be accommodated by the poor immigrants of Mangaldai subdivision. Is it to repay that debt that he has taken up such an attitude? If it is so, he will spoil the case of the immigrants and cannot advance their cause by the attitude he has taken. I therefore appeal to the hon. Members of the Opposition to reconsider the whole position and reconsider the suggestion offered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and give up their fighting attitude. With whom and for what do they want to fight? Are not the Assamese people their brothers and do they not inhabit the same country? The Hon'ble Finance Minister has appealed for help of partnership. Instead of accepting his offer, why do they throw down the gauntlet over him? Madam, if anything untoward happens for this, the fault will not lie with the Government but it will be theirs. With these observations, Madam, I leave my Muslim Friends here and digress to some other subjects which appear to be very important.



Before closing my speech, Madam, I would like to make two other observations. First of all, I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance regarding the almost whole sale and indiscriminate exploitation of the forest wealth of the Province of Assam. During the last 3 years it was depleted to a very considerable extent at the instance of the Central Government. Assam has suffered such a loss that it will take years for Assam to recoup those losses. Is it not the duty of the Central Government to make good the losses? I submit that the present Government will put some pressure on the Central Government and get sufficient compensation from them. I further submit that the present Government will inaugurate a planned policy to replenish the forest wealth of Assam.

There is another suggestion I have to make to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, *i.e.*, regarding the condition of the roads in the Province of Assam. Due to heavy Military concentration during the last 3 years, the roads of the Local Boards and the Municipalities in the Province have been damaged to such an extent that it is beyond the capacity of the Local Bodies to repair them. (*Hear, hear.*) The damage was done in the interest of the Central Government and the Central Government should make good the losses and should come forward to help the Government of Assam with some amount at least for assisting the poor Municipalities and Local Boards. I hope the Government of India will be moved in this matter as early as possible.

With these observations, Madam, I beg to resume my seat.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN—Deputy Speaker Madam, as was in the past, I find almost the same Budget provisions in the present Budget. I expected that free compulsory education would be introduced as was decided in the House.

The Congress principle is for uplifting the masses. But can there be uplifting of the masses without giving them education? Everyone knows what a negligible percentage of the people in Assam are literate. It is true that the Assamese people are not so illiterate, but the backward tribal people of Assam as well as the tea garden tribes and castes of Assam are terribly backward in education. The present Government should spare no money in order to educate them. Madam, among other things necessary for the people's Swaraj or independence is the proper education of the masses. So the Congress Government has to get the people more and more educated which hitherto has not been done. It will be only then that the people will realise the Swaraj or independence.

The next thing which I would like to say is about Assam's waste lands and forest reserve lands which are of no use to the Forest Department. Like the dog in the manger the Government should not reserve so much of waste lands and reserve forest lands but should let the landless people of Assam to cultivate those lands. (*Hear, Hear.*) By cultivation the people can get food for themselves and for others as well. There are so much of waste lands and reserve forest lands which should be thrown open for cultivation immediately. If there is more cultivation the people will be saved from famine. Every one knows what a dreadful thing famine is.

There are so many poor Assamese people who have no land to cultivate and so also there are thousands of landless *ex-tea* garden labourers who have settled down permanently in Assam. They need land for cultivation for their livelihood. The Government should immediately throw open waste lands and

reserve forest lands which are of no use to the Forest Department. By doing this the economic condition of this Province will be improved and the people will be happy and prosperous.

The last thing which I wish to speak is to remind the Hon'ble Minister concerned about the village people suffering from diseases for want of proper drinking wells and ponds and also for want of hospitals in the interior villages. There are also no proper village paths for them which I urge the Public Works Department and the Local Boards to take up immediately.

The Veterinary Department also should not be neglected. There are much cattle diseases in the Province. I wish the present Government would not forget these grievances of the people. Many other hon. Members have spoken about the other grievances and so I need not repeat them. Madam, with these few words, I close my speech.

Babu SURESH CHANDRA BISWAS : Madam, Deputy Speaker, I stand to speak a few words on the Budget discussions.

It seems that black mailing in the name of criticism has become the fashion with the Opposition. It reminds me of the Greek demagogues who tried to sway the sentiments of the mob by the violence of their gestures and the strength of their recriminations. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the Budget has adequately and clearly explained the reasons why it was not possible for him to present a new and concrete scheme in this Session of the Assembly; he has also promised to come forward with new schemes in the July Session. This should have convinced any reasonable and sensible man. Yet the Hon'ble Minister has been accused of not even laying the broad outlines of his policy. Pity to the critics! Probably the whole world know the policy for which the Congress stands. Congress does not stand for the Knights, Nawabzadas and the vested interests, but for the poor. Not in words but in deed Congress has proved it during the last sixty years.

Congress has been accused of talking big. Oh! my man of words, custodians of Muslim interests! Do they think that public memory is so short as to forget those days when the Members of the Party to which the Opposition belongs were making themselves fat at the cost of the poor peasants (the majority of whom were Muslims) through the notorious Rice Syndicate? Have the public forgotten of the Bengal famine during the Muslim League regime there? God help the poor Muslim peasants of such patrons talking big! Is not the Opposition belong to the party, the permanent President of which bragged to be the first to face the bullet for the independence of the country, when the hour comes? Pity to the martyrs, both Hindus and Muslims, who shed their blood in the recent firings. God help the President, let the appointed hour never come to him. Let the hon. Members of the Opposition look to the history of the Congress for the last sixty years and know whether the Congress talks or works—that would help them not to make themselves ludicrous by unreasonable attacks.

Madam, the question of the amelioration of the condition of the people is closely bound up with the question of independence. Hundred and fifty years

of ruthless foreign exploitation has deteriorated every aspect of our national life in such a way that no patch work here and there, no palliative from time to time will help us much. A complete overhauling of our national life in all its aspects is the need of the hour and that is impossible within the present frame work. Hence is the Congress fight for independence. I appeal to the Opposition in the name of the dumb and poor millions of the country and in the name of the victims of the Bengal famine and in the name of the martyrs of British atrocities in India (whom they also profess to represent) to pause and ponder for a moment, in the midst of their professional black-mailing of the Congress, to judge how far they have contributed to that fundamental goal, or for petty self-interest they are playing in the hands of the British imperialists.

Madam, the Congress has accepted the office only as a good gesture to create a favourable atmosphere to give the British the last opportunity for a peaceful settlement of the Indian problem. In the meantime the Congress will try to do its best for the people within the limitations. I assure the hon. Members of the Opposition that the Congress Cabinet will not follow the suit of the last Cabinet of whose works probably they are proud—the Premier going with his female Colleague to enjoy boat race at Ajmiriganj when the people of Baniyachong nearby were dying in thousands of malaria and starvation. It was these helpless victims who paid for the enjoyments of the Premier, but there was none to pay for their medicine and food. The Premier, lest probably his female companion might be shocked by the scene, lest the charms of their boat adventure might be lost, did not come to visit the dying people but was content to remark—who can help them whom Allah takes away!

Madam, it is amusing to hear Congress being accused of eagerness to accept office. I would request the hon. Members of the Opposition to have a little patience. God favouring, at any moment Congress might have to go into direct conflict with the rulers allowing the Opposition again to step into its shoes.

Madam, the Opposition is most eloquent on the question of eviction. Sentiment-mongers do not go by reasons. Who would remember that the Resolution on the question of eviction was passed by the last Cabinet and who would think of the importance of the cattle in the village economy of India? Peasants cannot live without agriculture and agriculture without cattle. It is a clever propaganda that Assam has more land than she can cultivate. Please take the statistics of the holdings of the indigenous people. It is Bengal rather, with her millions' sacrificed to the famine, requires at present man-power for the development of her agriculture. The immigration question is the result of a systematic and planned campaign for Pakistanising the Province. It is truly an invasion as described by hon. Mr. Rouf in his speech in 1944.

Madam, the present situation is the creation of the last Cabinet who in the name of "Grow-more-food" campaign imported these people against law and probably also against their own self-interest. Any Government pledged for the maintenance of law and order cannot tolerate such forceful encroachment. Still the Congress Government is for love and sympathy towards all. Apart from the justice of the case the Government is ready to do the best under the situation to help these poor people—the victims of propaganda and party motives. Instead of irresponsible propaganda and recrimination let the Opposition come out with constructive and reasonable suggestions and the Congress Cabinet, I am sure, will give every consideration to them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER—Is there any hon. Member who wants to speak on the Budget? There is still 15 minutes time.

(After a pause.)

I see that no hon. Member will speak.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday the 18th March, 1946.

SHILLONG:  
The 25th April 1946.

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