

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 Tuesday,
the 19th March, 1946

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Education for the children of Process-servers

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

*6. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any provision for imparting tuition to the children of the Process-servers in Government and Government Aided High English and Middle English Schools ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to make provisions for this purpose ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

6. (a)—The children of Process-servers are entitled to the ordinary facilities available.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, I wanted to know whether there is any provision for imparting *free* tuition.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The reply has been given to the Question as it is. The Question is "Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any provision for imparting tuition to the children of the process-servers, etc.," ? The reply is "the children of Process-servers are entitled to the ordinary facilities available". My hon. Friend now wants to change his Question to one for imparting *free* tuition. Government will certainly require notice to answer this Question, as they cannot commit themselves to anything without looking into all facts.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Do not Government consider that the number of such students would be very few and it will not entail too much Government expenditure.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not enter into argument.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government will try to collect the necessary information.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will they do it within a short time ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is too early to commit Government to the hon. Member's suggestions. But I can assure him that we will look into the matter.

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Supply of Standard Cloth to Tea Garden labourers

Mr. R. A. PALMER asked :

*7. (a) Are Government aware that the issue of Standard Cloth to the Tea Garden labourers during the year 1945 amounted in some Districts to only two yards per head of population ?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that in 1946 an issue is made sufficient to allow each member of the Tea Garden population to purchase at least one Sari or Dhoti ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

7. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—Orders have long been issued to distribute cloth both Standard and non-Standard on a population basis and to consider Tea Garden population exactly on the same footing as any other inhabitants of Assam. Every effort is being made to ensure a sufficient supply to every one subject to the limited quota allotted to the Province.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Will Government take it from me that in the South Sylhet Subdivision only 290 pairs of Sarees have so far been allotted for a tea garden population of over 33,000 this year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have no objection to accept this statement, Sir.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Do Government propose to remedy this state of affairs ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It has already been said that Government are trying and will try to ensure regular supply on *per capita* basis. If there was any deficiency in a particular subdivision, it was certainly due to non-arrival of Standard Cloth in sufficient quantity in time to meet the demand of that subdivision.

Maulavi NASIR-UD-DIN AHMED: Is it a fact that Government are not getting any more Standard Cloth ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, the indent of Standard Cloth after allotment No.8 is received will be stopped, and for the sake of giving information to the House I may mention here that in place of Standard Cloth we will give non-Standard Cloth and nothing will be lost for not getting Standard Cloth.

Arrangement for the supply of Yarn

Srijut BIMALAPRASAD CHALIHA asked :

*8. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government of Madras informed the last Government of Assam that Messrs. Haseem Kaseem Dada were a black listed Firm ?

(b) Is it a fact that the last Government entrusted that Firm to handle certain supply arrangements ?

(c) If so, was it done after the information referred to at (a) reached the said Government ?

(d) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

8. (a)—Yes. The Yarn licence of Messrs. H. K. Dada was cancelled in the Madras Presidency as communicated by the Madras Government on 3rd June, 1944.

(b)—Yes, procurement of $\frac{2}{3}$ rd quota of non-Standard Cloth allotted to Assam.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The matter was referred to the Government of India which ruled that the Provincial Government may use their discretions in taking action in their respective Provinces in such cases. The Government did not think it advisable to cancel the firm's licence but decided not to give the firm any agency to procure Yarn.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Did the Government of Assam enquire from the Government of Madras why Messrs. H. K. Dada were black-listed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I ask the hon. Member to see the reply to Question No.8 (a) ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Rules framed under the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When were the Rules framed under the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act finally approved by Government ?

(b) Whether any prisoner has been released under the said Act ?

(c) If the answer to Question No.38 (b) above be in the affirmative,

(i) The name of the first prisoner released (with date of release) ?

(ii) The number of prisoners released up to the end of December, 1945 (figures to be given, year by year) ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

38. (a)—On 29th March, 1943.

(b)—Yes.

(c) (i)—Roushon Ali (15th July, 1939). It may be observed that prisoners released before the Rules came into force were released by special orders in accordance with section 5 of the Act.

(ii)—1939	...	...	...	...	1
1940	...	...	...	...	1
1941	...	...	...	...	1
1944	...	...	...	...	1
1945	...	...	...	...	1

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, may I know when was the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act, passed ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In 1938, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government please give the reasons why such a long time was taken for framing the Rules ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This Government is not in a position to give reasons for the delay in framing the Rules which took place about eight or nine years back. But just for the sake of satisfying the hon. Member I may add that though the Rules were framed after a long time, action was taken according to section 5 of the Act, which is quite clear from the answer that I have given that three persons were released before the Rules were framed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: My question was why was this delay of so many years?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There was the answer that this Government were not in a position to give reasons for the delay which took place eight or nine years ago.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: The Hon'ble Minister's subsequent explanation was, I think, not very appropriate or pertinent.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, probably I could not explain properly. It is quite evident from the answer that Rules were framed in 1943, but from the list of released persons it will be found that three persons were released before 1943. So, though the Rules were framed late, that did not hamper the working of the Act as action was taken under the provisions of section 5 of the Act in spite of the fact that rules were framed very late.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Was not the intention of framing the Rules to provide better facilities to prisoners for their releases under the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: With regard to reply to Question No.38 (c)(ii), will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the meagre number of releases, viz., one person annually?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it all depends on the merits of the cases.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is it a fact that the people interested in the release of prisoners are not aware of the existence of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know what is the suggestion of the hon. Member? In that case Government will try to see whether the difficulty experienced by the hon. Member can be removed.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I may suggest that the services of the Publicity Department may be utilised in this matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Next Question, please.

Offices of the Assam Sanskrit Board and the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Sanskrit Education, Sylhet

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

39. (a) Are Government aware that much inconvenience is felt for the offices of the Assam Sanskrit Board and the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Sanskrit Education being located in the town of Sylhet?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Assam Sanskrit Samiti (Assam Sanskrit Association) in their 12th Conference held at the Kamakhya Dham on the 16th December 1945, urging upon Government to remove these offices to Shillong?

(c) Do Government propose to shift the said offices to Shillong as requested by the Association?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

39. (a)—Government are not aware.

(b)—The resolution has not yet been received.

(c)—When inconvenience will be felt for the efficient discharge of duties owing to the location of offices at Sylhet the question of transfer of the same will engage consideration of Government.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, as regards Question No. (b), will Government be pleased to take it from me that a resolution to this effect was actually passed by the Assam Sanskrit Association demanding the transfer of the offices?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of the resolution referred to. It has not yet reached me.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government fulfil the wishes of the said Association when the resolution will reach them?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The question about the transfer of the offices will engage the consideration of Government.

Establishment of a Government Sanskrit College at Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

40. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a Resolution unanimously passed by the Sanskrit Samiti (Assam Sanskrit Association) in their 12th Conference held at the Kamakhya Dham on the 16th December 1945 requesting the Government to establish a Government Sanskrit College at Gauhati similar in type as that established at Sylhet?

(b) Do Government propose to establish a Sanskrit College at Gauhati for the benefit of the poor students of Sanskrit of the Assam Valley?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

40. (a)—The copy of the Resolution in question has not as yet been received here.

(b)—This question may receive consideration in due course. In view of the existence of a Sanskrit College at Nalbari the establishment of a Government Sanskrit College at Gauhati cannot be considered as of imperative necessity in the present condition of the Province.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: If no Government Sanskrit College happens to be established at Gauhati, will Government be pleased either to provincialise the Sanskrit College at Nalbari or to help that institution with adequate Government grant?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I cannot give any assurance off hand, Sir, at the present moment.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Will Government be pleased to take the matter into their serious consideration?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I shall bear the suggestion of the hon. Member in my mind.

Special Officer for Tribal Areas in the Assam Valley

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY asked :

41. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What are the duties allotted to the Special Officer, Tribal Areas, Assam Valley Division?

(b) What procedure they have adopted to ascertain the number of landless Tribal population and the progress made so far in that regard?

42. Does the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge propose to survey the landless indigenous population of Assam and find out lands for them before available waste lands are settled with the immigrants?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied:

41. (a)—A copy of Government's instructions to the Commissioner on the duties of the Special Officer, Tribal Areas is shown below :—

Copy of letter No. RS.23/44/14, dated the 13th August 1945, from the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department to the Commissioner of Divisions, Assam

Subject:—Special Officer for Tribal Areas in the Assam Valley.

1. With reference to Government Notification No. AAA.132/45/8(a), dated the 13th July 1945, appointing Srijut Herambanath Barah, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Special Officer for Tribal Areas, I am directed to say that his headquarters will be at Gauhati and his duties will be as follows :—

2. He will first advise Government on the area or areas to be constituted into Tribal Belt or Belts on a consideration of the maps and statistics to be prepared by District Officers showing the villages in which more than 50 per cent. of the villagers are of the Tribal Class. In preparing his report he will have to consider the area occupied by Tribals and non-Tribals, the area promised as reservation for them in accordance with Resolution No. RD.68/44, dated the 13th July, 1945 and whether this can be found within the proposed Belt or Belts. He will also report on what area of cultivable waste will be left over after allowing reservations for these and make suggestions for its allocation. He should take directions from you before he starts off on this work, which he cannot however begin until the maps and statistics are submitted by the Deputy Commissioners.

3. The Special Officer should in the course of his tours try to find out the number of landless Tribal people and their present requirements of land. In the course of enquiries on this subject he should ascertain the reasons why these Tribal people are without land, especially in mauzas where surplus land is available, since there is no bar at present to their taking up land wherever they require it.

4. When allotment is taken up under the scheme of planned settlement, the Special Officer should assist in the selection of allottees from Tribal Classes, whether the area under Settlement is within or outside the Tribal Belt.

5. He should submit diaries monthly through the Deputy Commissioner of the District where he is working, to be forwarded to Government by you with your remarks thereon, if any.

6. For the present, however, the Special Officer will, be allocated to Barpeta subdivision where his services should be employed on enquiries regarding the Professional Grazing Reserves or on eviction work as this is hardly the time for touring in the Tribal areas and the statistics required for his proper duties are not yet ready.

7. I am also to say that the duration of the Special Officer's appointment will be further re-considered on the 1st May 1946 when it is seen what work he has been able to accomplish during the cold weather.

(b)—The Special Tribal Officer has been instructed to endeavour to ascertain the numbers of landless Tribals in the course of his tours and why they are landless, as there is no instruction on their taking up available waste land for cultivation, most of which is to be found in the tribal areas. When figures of this available waste have been collected a planned settlement will be undertaken, during which the requirements of all landless persons will be taken into consideration.

42.—The matter is under the consideration of Government and the financial implication and practicability will also be considered after the Budget Session.

Presentation of the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1945-46

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, I beg to present the *Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1945-46.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I may inform the hon. Members that His Excellency the Governor has fixed 28th March 1946, as the date on which voting of Supplementary Demands will take place. I have got a time table and copies of this have been circulated to the Leaders of all Parties and I request them to examine the same and send their suggestions to the Secretary before 2 P.M., to-morrow, the 20th March, 1946.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No. 10.

25.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Sir, I beg to move that on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, a sum not exceeding Rs 34,39,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,39,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head 25.—General Administration".

There are many Cut Motions in this connection. Now we have got 45 minutes out of the Question hour and one and a half hour has been allotted for the head "General Administration". The majority of the Cut Motions come from the Muslim League Party. To be precise, we have got 29 Cut Motions from that Group and 5 from the European Group. Regarding the 45 minutes, may I know from the hon. Leader of the Opposition as to how that time which is available from the Question hour should be allotted, and secondly what is his proposal in respect of moving Cut Motions tabled by his Party Members? Might I suggest that Cut Motion No. 26 or 27 be moved first on the general grant and then all hon. Members tabling Cut Motions in their names will take part under the omnibus Motion?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Party desire to move Cut Motions Nos. 3, 8, 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21, each for a specific purpose.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I raise one point? The Cut Motions to be moved by us desire to reduce the grant by rupee 1, and Motions of this group are 5 in number whereas my Friends in the Opposition want to reduce the grant by Rs. 100 and this group of Motions are 27 in number. Now, may I know which of these two groups will get precedence? Is there any means whereby time can be allotted by ballot? Is there any reason why Cut Motions of Rs. 100 group should take precedence over the Cut Motions of rupee 1 group?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As a rule Cut Motions for reduction of the grant by the highest amount under a particular head of the Budget are taken up first. I find that my predecessor gave the latitude to move Cut Motions for Rs. 100 under censure Motion. But he also says that as a rule the censure Cut Motions should be of rupee 1.

This I find from the Assam Legislative Assembly, Selection from the Decisions of the Chair, illustrative of the procedure of the House drawn from the Session of 1937.

In this connection I must point out that in tabling Cut Motions instead of putting the figure according to his own sweet will, I would urge upon the hon. Members that when the intention is to censure Government, the reduction should be by Re.1 only: Generally, this will be accepted as a proper cut. I think the hon. Members of the European Group should not suffer for doing the proper thing. Therefore I propose to give them their due share. Now there are 5 Cut Motions in the names of the hon. Members of that Group. Will the hon. Leader of the European Group say which of the Cut Motions will be moved by his Group?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Nos. 28, 31 and 32.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So altogether ten Cut Motions are proposed to be moved. We have got 105 minutes for the General Administration and there are 10 Cut Motions. So I make $10\frac{1}{2}$ minutes for each Cut Motion, say 10 minutes — 5 minutes for the hon. Mover and 5 minutes for the Hon'ble Minister concerned to reply. I think that is the best I can do under the circumstances.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS: I would like to suggest, Sir, 3 minutes to the hon. Mover, 3 minutes to the Hon'ble Minister and 4 minutes to other hon. Members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot do that. The hon. Members will please try to appreciate the position. The time is definitely fixed up and I have no hand in it. We have to finish all the Cut Motions in the specified time. I cannot help. My hands are tied.

Now, I call upon hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury to move Cut Motin No. 3.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 6,000 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25,— General Administration, Minor head—H.— Ministers, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Private Secretary, at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the position and status of the Commissioner of Divisions in the present administrative machinery of the Government. Sir, the hon. Members of this House are aware that during the year 1937, quite early in the life of the Assembly, a Cut Motion was moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman who was then a Member of this House and that Motion was carried. After that, some questions arose as to the legality of the position and the services of the Advocate General of Bengal were requisitioned. There was a full dress debate, and the matter was thrashed out on the floor of the House. Finally, perhaps a compromise was arrived at and the post of one Commissioner was abolished and the other Commissioner was made the Commissioner of both the Divisions and retained. But, as the matter stands at present we do not find sufficient reasons for maintaining this remaining post also. Assam is too poor a Province to maintain a white elephant in the shape of a Commissioner. Moreover, the present position and status of the Commissioner are too undefined. We do not know what responsibilities are entrusted to the Commissioner nor do we know what important functions are carried out by him. We have heard the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister and he has already hinted that all unnecessary posts should be cut down so that sufficient money may be found out for more useful purposes. Sir, my suggestion is that the first axe should fall on the Commissioner and he should go. If there is any legal difficulty I would request the Assam Government to take up the matter with the Government of India.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion please explain how it is relevant? The "Commissioner" comes under Minor head—H— at page 51 of the Budget.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, during the last Session of the Assembly the Hon'ble the Speaker was kind enough to give us this latitude and Cut Motions like this could be tabled under any head of the grant and similar Cut Motions in the past had been tabled under such heads.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: My point is that when there is a proper head, why should it come under any other head?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: It had been the practice in the past, Sir.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I put just one word, Sir? The difficulty about this Cut Motion is that it cannot be tabled under proper head; this Assembly has got no voice over the Commissioner's salary because the salary of the Commissioner is charged. We cannot reduce it by the Cut Motion. We do not want to touch the expenditure of his staff as long as we can. It had been ruled by my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, who was in the Chair to give us this latitude. We can draw attention of the present Government as regards this subject, and we have taken the first opportunity of tabling the Motion under the supply for the Ministry.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As it has been said by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion as well as the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that such has been the practice, I allow this Cut Motion to be moved, but I hope all Cut Motions in future will be tabled under proper heads.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 6,000 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Private Secretary, at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I make a suggestion in this connection? Instead of reading out the Cut Motion if it is simply said, I move Cut Motion No. so and so, it will save much time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That will be irregular.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That was the previous practice, Sir.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: In order to economise time that was the practice.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have no objection. It can be done. I think the Hon'ble Minister will reply.

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: The Hon'ble Premier will reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I find that no other hon. Members of the House are going to take part in the debate. I am indeed obliged to my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury for having brought this Motion before this House. As a matter of fact this Government is now giving serious consideration as to the desirability or otherwise about the abolition of this post. I thank him because he gave us the opportunity of placing both sides of the question so that the Government might be benefited by whatever advice the House is capable of giving over this important subject. My hon. Friend rightly said that the question under the present Reform arose in 1937 on a Motion of the

*Speech not corrected.

then hon. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. The Motion, as I understand, was carried and the Government had taken certain actions about which I shall presently refer ; but the question was older even than this time, and if I remember aright, this question was considered by the Retrenchment Committee in 1932 in which the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I suppose no less a person like Rai Bahadur P.C. Dutt, were chairman and member. Even then it was decided that these posts were not quite as necessary as they were made to be by certain people. After the passing of the Cut Motion in 1937, the then Government of the hon. Leader of the Opposition had taken up the subject ; but before it could be adequately dealt with, the Congress Coalition Ministry stepped in, and certain measures were then adopted by which the Cut Motion of this House could be given effect to. The question was very critically examined at that time, and a Bill was presented before the House according to which not only the post of one Commissioner could be abolished forthwith, but provision was also made by which the abolition of the second post of Commissioner could be taken into consideration. According to that Act the revenue powers of the Commissioner were taken away from his hands and was vested in the Revenue Tribunal. But certain powers yet remain with him ; the Commissioner yet enjoys certain statutory powers with reference to the Local Self-Government Act. The idea of the then Coalition Government was that they would be soon bringing in an amendment to that Act by which these powers may also be taken out from the hands of the Commissioner and other arrangements might be made instead. Even now the Commissioner has certain administrative capacities, particularly, in reference to Hill Areas. He acts also as the Adviser to Government in matters of transfers of officers. He maintains a sort of liaison between the Government and the district officers.

Now, two suggestions naturally arise in our minds. First, whether it should be maintained and if it should be maintained, under what condition it should be maintained ? Suggestions from some quarters are that it could be maintained to be an effective help to Government, if his headquarters is transferred to Shillong, and if he is allowed to act as a sort of liaison between the Government, particularly, the Ministers and the district officers. That is one suggestion in favour of his being maintained. It will be of some interest for the hon. Members of the House to know that a recommendation of this nature had been made by the Rowland Committee when they examined the question of the desirability of abolition of the post of Commissioner. So far as Bengal is concerned, they unequivocally said that they should be abolished in Bengal ; but that those very officers might be kept in the Secretariat for the performance of other duties, the sort of which I have just now placed before the House. On the other hand, we considered the question from the standpoint of the general principle that the cost of the administration has got to be reduced, particularly on the highly paid officers and whether accordingly, the maintenance of the Commissionership is at all necessary. Even here, Sir, there are certain points which the House should consider. We did abolish the last Commissioner and we also moved the Secretary of State to dereserve this post from the cadre of the Indian Civil Service. The matter was pursued by the last Government and if I am not mistaken the matter was sought to be taken up before the Federal Court. But the Viceroy exercising his responsibility on behalf of the Secretary of State, I understand, did not allow the matter to go to the Federal Court, with the result that the post of Commissioner is still in the reservation of the Indian Civil Service cadre. Working out what gain there has been to administration on account of this, we find that it has hardly been satisfactory ; because the whole lot of officers beginning from the person next below the Commissioner up to a certain period, have got to be compensated. Therefore,

the removal of the Commissioner is linked with the most important question, namely, the desirability of maintaining a particular cadre for the Indian Civil Service and secondly also whether there should be any reservation for any set of service.

*Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May we know, Sir, whether the post of the Chairman of the Revenue Tribunal has been dereserved?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI: That is even a sad story and my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition knows that this post was not at all a reserved post. The popular Ministries, run both by the Leader of the Opposition as well as ourselves tried to see that this post of Revenue Tribunal was not reserved, as there was no reservation from before; but the post of the Revenue Tribunal was in spite of efforts by Provincial Governments in the meanwhile made into reserved post. A new reservation of the said post was thus made in 1938. So, Sir, these evils will continue so long as the Provincial Government do not obtain all the powers that are necessary to deal satisfactorily in all these matters in a manner they think best. In the other words, the whole subject is connected with the big question of independence.

As the matter stands we could very well do without the post of Commissioner provided we intend alteration and modification in the existing Local Self-Government Act, and other changes elsewhere and transfer the powers to others. I am putting the whole aspect of the question before the House for their information. We are giving our best consideration to the subject and I feel that this Government will be able to take whatever would be the most economical course to pursue taking all factors and sides of the question into consideration.

With these words, I request the hon. Mover to withdraw his Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion?

*Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: After hearing what the Hon'ble the Prime Minister has said, I beg to withdraw the Cut Motion which stands in my name.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Mover has the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH: I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.6,000 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Private Secretary, at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about wide-spread corruption in the District and Subdivisional establishments and to devise ways and means to check it.

In the first place, Sir, I believe and I do sincerely believe that every hon. Member of this House will echo the sense of my Cut Motion and share the idea of mine, when I say that corruption is widespread all throughout the Province. I find, corruption is, first of all, lying with the appointing authority. I think, it is not unknown to the hon. Members that some time it so happens that some officers are reported for misappropriation of some Government property, but when the report goes to the higher authority, the authority instead of taking action punish them by giving promotion. I know certain instances of that. I know that there are relations, such as sons-in-law, brothers-in-law and such others are appointed by the appointing authorities. I can cite one case where one gentleman, who was in-charge of the Dhubri Match Factory was detected by an Auditor for misap-

propriation of money and the report was submitted to Government, and for this misappropriation he got the appointment of an Inspector of Textile and was placed on some special duty, in-charge of transport with Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company. I am not going to bother with giving more instances, as I shall have to finish my speech within the time allotted to me. I know, Sir, that there are orders for sanctioning prosecution of allegations about such officers, but to my utter surprise, I find that those cases are lying with Government without any action. I think, -Sir, these reports are either killed or sabotaged on the way.

In the last part of January 1945, I came to know when I was here in Shillong that one big shopkeeper has been detected for profiteering and a report was submitted to Government by a junior Textile Officer and it was learnt that after a period of long six months he obtained an order for sale of the cloth. It is surprising, how he could influence the big officers of the Province in its Capital.

*Srijut BELIRAM DAS: What is the name of the shopkeeper ?

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH: I think this sort of corruption is not only in the district and subdivision establishments but this is also to be found in big officers here which can be safely termed to be the head.

Then I like to come to another side regarding the controlled commodities. Sir, I know that distribution is not all along all right. Regarding the distribution of the cloth in the Province, Sir, I can say that every subdivisional quota passes through the Provincial Textile Co-operative Society to the Subdivisional Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Societies. This comes from Bombay *via* Calcutta through the agency of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company and there, Sir, one thing occurs very often and I had seen myself that in Calcutta one Inspector of Textile on special duty, on some plea or other submits a report to the Textile office here, that there are some bales with some illegal marks and they are detained. I do not know how he can influence high-ranking officials here who detain some bales which are seized and some subdivisions are deprived of their due share on the plea of a report that marking is not well and the high-ranking officer detains them. They have expectation of some sort of bargain. Is it the way of Government not to take immediate and drastic measures to root out all this sort of evil ? Sir, this sort of officers are to be treated worse than the war criminals. Regarding our district and subdivisional officers, I shall be dealing with controlled commodities. I do not know whether it will be the old way to report all the untold miseries of the people. Cards for cloth are distributed to every house-holder but I think it may not be unknown to the hon. Members of this House that although cards were distributed months and months ago no-body has got a single piece of cloth. I have seen in the last month in my own constituency some 360 people came to me with their cards and they complained to me that they were not getting cloth for the last few months. Such is the grim picture, such are the activities of the Government officials who are making the Provincial Exchequer poorer. I am afraid, the poor toilers of rural areas will be forced to take to nudist cult, if things go like this.

Then I wish to deal with the multiplicity of posts in various departments and these things should be reduced. The more the officers are being engaged, the more is becoming the ways of Government of doing good to the people cumbersome day by day. May I suggest, Sir, that some sort of enforcement branch or some special officials who will be reliable and honest and of high integrity should be appointed to detect all these cases. The Government should be alert to take immediate steps so that they may stamp out corruption.

(A voice: there is a dearth of honest people.)

I do not know whether it will be impossible to find out honest people. We should not only provide our brothers-in-law and sons-in-law; we should also see that we find honest men of high integrity. I do not subscribe to the idea that it will be difficult on the part of Government to find out honest men.

With these few words I beg to resume my seat.

* Srijut BELIRAM DAS: Sir, on a point of information, Sir, may I know from the hon. Mover whether the instances referred to relate to the last Ministry.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This Cut Motion strictly speaking is not in order. Those not coming under proper head will not be allowed in future.

Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 6,000 under grant No. 10, Major Head—25.—General Administration—Minor head—H.—Ministers, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Private Secretary, at page 51 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Member for the speech he has delivered in moving this Motion. He has spoken eloquently and with an amount of earnestness and feeling on a matter, which is of deep concern not only to Government but also to those who are interested in public affairs. I thank him very much for the informations which he has placed at our disposal. Of course, these informations are not so very definite. He has given certain instances of corruption rampant in some of the Government departments, which, it seems, are within his own personal knowledge, and I hope, when we shall be taking steps against prevention of corruptions and to see to the detection of corrupt practices, we shall get his co-operation and help in an abundant measure.

Now, Sir, he tabled his Motion with a view to discuss corruption in the district and subdivisional establishments and to devise ways and means to check it, but from his speech it would appear that he has brought before this House not only the grievance of the people about corruption in the departments mentioned in the note appended to his Cut Motion, but also that of corruption prevalent in other departments of Government. Now how to check corruption has been a big problem not only to this Government but also it was so to the late Government and some of the hon. Members of the House will recollect that in the last Budget Session of the last Assembly my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee, now Supply Minister, put a question to the Government whether the Government would appoint a Committee to devise ways and means for the prevention of corruption in the Government departments.

Although the late Government gave a reply to the effect that Government were not going to appoint a committee it appears, however, that the late Government also considered the question as to whether a committee could be appointed. They arrived at a certain conclusion; but owing to the dissolution of the Assembly they could not give effect to that. After assumption of office, Sir, the present Government have been considering this question very seriously and with regard to the appointment of a committee for this purpose, Government feel that appointment of a committee may not be the most useful and convenient way of dealing with corruption. A committee appointed to devise ways and means as to how corruption should be prevented and detected can at best indicate certain lines of action; but if the committee be entrusted to enquire into instances of corruption then there will be some difficulties in their way of carrying on their labours for submitting a satisfactory report for Government to act upon in the matter of detecting corruption and preventing

*Speech not corrected.

corruption. Now a committee at the outset will labour under the handicap that they will not be able to compel attendance of witnesses and also production of documents on account of the absence of any legal provision in that behalf. So we are thinking of other means as to how to proceed with the matter and my hon. Friend and Colleague, the Supply Minister has devised a plan formulating certain steps to be taken for prevention of corruption and as to how the allegations of corruption or the instances of corruption that are brought to the notice of Government are to be dealt with. I am not permitted to disclose to the House what this plan is: I may however assure the House that Government shall be trying to give effect to the plan as best as they can. The hon. Members will agree with me that corruption flourishes in secrecy and the illegal gains that are made are made by subtle means. So the plan has been so devised as will enable Government to unreveal those secrets and those subtle ways. It is not, therefore, to the best interest of the public to disclose this plan before the House.

Now, my hon. Friend has suggested that we can appoint a Special Officer. A Special Officer can be appointed; but he will also labour under the same handicaps as a committee appointed for the purpose will labour under. Of course in giving effect to our plan the appointment of a Special Officer may be necessary to look after the execution of the plan and we shall consider this question in connection with the plan that we want to put in action.

Now, Sir, the honesty and morale of every department now-a-days are under a cloud no doubt, and it will be the earnest efforts of Government to take such steps as will tend to improve the honesty and morale of the Departments and bring about a state of things in which these numerous allegations that we are daily getting of corruption against different Government servants—whether high or low—will no longer be heard. This hon. House will realise that it is a very difficult task to tackle and the problems that are involved in it are so difficult that they admit of no facile solution. I however give this assurance to my hon. Friend that we shall try our best and we are doing our best to deal with the question effectively.

With these words, Sir, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Motion

*Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH: After hearing the sympathetic reply of the Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.34,39,900 under Grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the object of my Cut Motion is to draw attention to the need for a Statistical Department available to all departments under the Government of Assam. I think, it is Samuel Johnson who said that knowledge is of two kinds—we know our subject or we know where we can get information on that subject. There are so many problems particularly confronting the Supply Department on which time after time any one who wants information is handicapped by a complete absence of reliable statistics. I would refer to one particular instance. The allotment of sugar for the Province of Assam is determined by the volume of imports into the Province of Assam in pre-war years. The fact that our quota of sugar is so low is due to the fact that the pre-war Government had no reliable information about the volume of sugar coming into this Province. We knew what came in by steamer, we knew what came in by rail but we had no information at all what came in by country boat. Almost a parallel case is that of mustard seed and

mustard oil. On such questions as these it is extremely difficult for this Government to argue its case with the Central Government because we do not know exactly how much of the mustard seed grown in this Province was exported from this Province.

Another branch in which quite clearly this Province is going to be handicapped is the absence of any cost of living index. Over one million people gain their living on tea gardens. The policy of the Tea Industry has been broadly speaking to maintain at least pre-war wages and endeavour to deal with the rise in the cost of living by the issue of food-stuffs at pre-war prices. Obviously, Sir, in a time of advancing ideas about standard of living that particular process can only continue so long as supplies are difficult. Sooner or later wages will have to be geared to a cost of living index which has been compiled absolutely impartially by statistical experts. Now, Sir, no industry can hope to function and to have a reliable wage policy if there is no statistical information to guide the employers and to guide the employees. Statistics, Sir, are a part of the stock in trade of any civilised Government and I listened in this Assembly only recently, to my Friend Mr. Omeo Kumar Das offering statistics right and left. I have no means of checking them: they may be right, they may be wrong. Whoever uses statistics in the Assembly should have access to an impartial expert and to impartial compilations. To borrow the phrase of Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri the 'Government of Assam is fighting a war blind-folded.' They do not know their statistical case; they cannot know their case and we, the Members of the Assembly who have to assess the strength of Government's war on the economic front are entitled to have sources of information set out clearly and impartially by people whose profession it is to use the statistics and present them to the public.

I hope, Sir, this is a plea which will have support from all sides of the House. During the war years I had occasion to appear on behalf of the Government of Assam in several committees outside this Province, and I was repeatedly handicapped by the complete absence of statistics. I know personally that the late Prime Minister on many occasions was equally handicapped in trying to argue his case in Delhi for release of foodstuffs and for release of consumer goods. I therefore hope that from all quarters of this House, for the difficult days that are coming, this Government will accept the need for a statistical office which will be available to all departments, but particularly to those departments charged with the welfare of labour and the maintenance of the health of the population of this Province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.34,39,900 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re.1."

*Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS: May I know from the hon. Mover whether there is any statistical department in any other Province in India?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Yes, Sir, there is an extremely competent Statistical Department maintained by the Government of Bombay; there is the beginning of a Statistical Department in Bengal. The Central Government maintains an Economic Adviser who also works with a Statistical Department. But like everything else Assam is at the end of a long line of communication and none of these facilities trickle down to a terminal Province. I do not think we shall make any progress unless in this respect we imitate the more progressive Provinces.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must express my gratefulness to Mr. Whittaker for the Motion that he has brought before the House, and I may tell him that he is not a bit late in doing so. Only a fortnight ago a proposal came to me about the desirability of sending abroad one

* Speech not corrected.

officer belonging to the Public Health Department for the purpose of acquainting himself with the latest procedure about vital statistics. And when dealing with the file I thought that that in itself could never solve the problem of statistics which are so very important to any Province or to any society which desires to be on its way to progress. I can quite see the feeling with which Mr. Whittaker has moved the Motion, and I am entirely at one with him when he says that without a Statistical Department no modern Government can function efficiently. This is entirely true, and therefore we have already begun to consider whether we should not have a Statistical Department of our own. Now, Sir, when that suggestion was sent to me I thought that instead of restricting ourselves to only one kind of statistics, *viz.*, vital statistics, alone, we would do well to send a man from here who would be able to tackle all phases of statistics necessary for the Province. Mr. Whittaker has pointed out some of the necessities in which statistics can function, *viz.*, those in reference to food. But I feel that scientific statistics are necessary for all departments of Government.

Now, Sir, let us take the case of vital statistics. Will Mr. Whittaker be surprised to learn, Sir, that the recent report that has come to Government is that the birth-rate of Assam has dwindled down to such an extent that Government shall have to think of increasing the population of this Province? I am absolutely certain that the machinery from which this information has been obtained has been so faulty that the facts stated cannot be anything but false. Then, secondly, in regard to agricultural statistics, Friends here and outside questioned the validity of the figures of our exportable surplus and other information of that kind. My hon. Colleague, sitting by me, says that he himself cannot rely on the figures to the extent he would like to rely on them. In other words, we completely lack statistics for departments in which without them you do not know where you stand and where you are proceeding to. The Government therefore think that the necessity has arisen for establishing an independent Department for this purpose. It is very difficult just at the present moment to commit ourselves to what we may be able to do in this respect, but I can assure the hon. Mover of this Motion that we have taken up this matter in hand. I have already suggested that the scholarship which is proposed to be given for this purpose should be given to a man duly qualified in Physics and Mathematics so that he might come back with some experience of training abroad to be able to help in the formation of a Department like this. Meanwhile we will not be sitting idle and with the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House and my hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, we may be able to take up some scheme for immediate action.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: May I know what is the birth-rate given in that report?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is a report which we received recently. In the census figures, I suppose, we saw an increase of population by 17 per cent. On the face of this, the report I received cannot be anything but false.

With this assurance, Sir, I hope the hon. Mover will agree to withdraw his Motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, having heard the Hon'ble Prime Minister I am very glad indeed to beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member has the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,74,600 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Legislative Bodies—1.—Provincial Legislative Assembly, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Members, at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My intention is to raise a discussion about the desirability of providing extra accommodation for the Members of this Assembly in the Assembly Hostels.

Sir, at the outset I want to make my position clear. By moving this Cut Motion I do not like to press for any luxurious building for the Members of this House. What I want is to stress the urgent necessity of providing extra accommodation. The number of Members who are accommodated in the Members' Hostels are I think, Sir, double the actual capacity. So I want to suggest to provide extra accommodation for at least 30 more Members by constructing a new building by the side of the new Hostel with single-seated rooms so that all Members can accommodate themselves a bit comfortably.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.1,74,600 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Legislative Bodies—1.—Provincial Legislative Assembly, Sub-head—I.—Pay of officers, Detailed head—Members, at page 51 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.”

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government feel sincerely very sorry that the hon. Members do not get adequate accommodation in the Members' Hostels for their stay in Shillong in connection with the business of the Assembly. Government stand committed to the duty of providing adequate accommodation for the hon. Members when they come to Shillong in connection with a session of the Assembly and are required to spend some long days at a stretch here.

Before the present Constitution had come into operation, the then Government fore saw the necessity of having some houses built for the accommodation of the Members of the Legislature under the new Constitution and in pursuance of a decision they arrived at in that behalf they undertook to build some houses to be used as Members' hostels. And, Sir, what was the position would appear from what the Leader of the Opposition, when he was the Chief Minister in 1937, said in connection with a Cut Motion of similar nature moved then. It reads as: “In this matter, we will be guided entirely by the decision of this House. The paternity of the scheme cannot be laid down on the present Ministry; it was the previous Government who decided that so many as 108 Members of the Lower House and 21 Members of the Upper House will find difficulty in getting suitable accommodation, three different blocks shall have to be built and a comprehensive scheme was drawn up. When we assumed charge, one block of that scheme was nearing completion, and that block was for caste Hindus. The two other blocks were meant for the Muhammadans and the Scheduled Castes. The A's soon as my Hon'ble Colleague, the Revenue Minister, came to know of it, he at once stopped the building of the other two blocks (the building of which are complained about); he thought that so long as Members used to remain in the Earle Sanitarium, they had no difficulty in living together—Hindus both caste and Scheduled and Moslems—but messing separately, so why should we segregate them here, and so he at once stopped the construction of the other two blocks. One item of the schemes for building these three blocks was to demolish the old Inglesby Bungalow. As we had only completed seats for 15 Members in the New Hostel, we did not allow the Inglesby Bungalow to be demolished, but converted it at a little cost into another block. At present we have got 15 seats in the New Hostel and 12 seats in the Inglesby Bungalow, altogether 27 seats.”

Now, it was by the decision of the then Assembly that the demolition of the Ingles by Bungalow was abandoned. It was, however, renovated making certain alterations in the structure and was made suitable for use as a part of the Members' Hostels. So the hon. Members will realise that the original plan of having three blocks has not been implemented and even if the Inglesby Bungalow be considered to be a block another block remains to be built.

Now, I may tell the hon. Members that there were also demands made by the Members of the last Assembly for making certain alterations in certain rooms of the new hostel building in order to provide more single-seated rooms and to raise another building ; but for various reasons the work could not be undertaken. On the pressing demand made by some of the hon. Members the 26 seats in the new Building then existing, had to be increased to 45 seats by converting some single-seated rooms into double-seated rooms and by converting the common room into bed rooms. This has also proved to be inadequate. I quite realise that the accommodation that is provided to the hon. Members in the hostels with 45 seats is not comfortable and so hon. Members undergo much inconveniences. I give assurance therefore to the hon. Members that it will be certainly Government's duty to see that arrangements are made for the Members to get comfortable accommodation as early as possible by having more buildings constructed. In Shillong now-a-days it is very difficult to get houses on hire for making even temporary hostels for our Members. Any way, Sir, Government quite sympathise with them for their difficulties in getting facilities for comfortable accommodation and Government will make earnest endeavour to see that Members get adequate accommodation for their stay in Shillong when the Assembly would be in session. In view of this assurance, Sir, I hope the hon. Mover will please withdraw his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : For the information of the hon. Members I can say that regarding the shortage of accommodation for the hon. Members besides the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion, some other hon. colleagues also saw me as to what could be done without much delay. We thought that the two wings of the present new hostel might be extended towards north ; thereby we may have about 28 single-seated rooms and this can be achieved, I suppose, within six months.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Sir, whatever decision will be arrived at by the House Committee will certainly be welcomed by Government and Government shall take action to give effect to the decision as soon as possible.

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH : On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. G. KYDD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 34,39,900 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, the object of this Motion is to draw Government's attention to the extensive and serious damage that has been done to the paddy and other crops of the villagers and garden labourers by wild elephants in Assam—damage that has been increasing in extent for several years. In normal times this damage would be serious enough but it is particularly so now when there is a serious scarcity of food in the country. In one district in the Surma Valley I have personally seen the damage caused by these wild elephants and without a word of exaggeration they leave nothing standing in the areas they visit.

In 1945 the damage to crops grown by tea garden labourers alone was estimated at Rs. 1,40,000. This means that approximately 27,024 maunds of paddy was lost to the cultivators as a result of the damage done by these elephants. This quantity of food, Sir, would have fed approximately 4,504 adults for one year. The figures I have just given refer principally to tea garden areas but large *busti* areas are also affected, for which it has been impossible to obtain figures. I can assure the House, however, that they will be considerably in excess of the figures for damage in tea garden areas. In view of what I have just said, I think, the House will agree with me that something must be done about these elephants and quickly.

Not only have crops been destroyed, Sir, but the cultivators have been discouraged from planting out their crops with the result that large acres of land near the Forests have been left uncultivated.

Certain expedients have been tried to scare these elephants away, such as an increased number of seats being given for Mela Shikar and starting Mela Shikar operations early, but with no avail. The elephants have become so bold that they are not frightened away by this. Even large scale Kheddah operations will not help—Kheddah operations will only get rid of the young elephants—the damage I speak of is being done by the older elephants and in some cases by unaccompanied elephants and I suggest that if we are to get relief from the depredations of these animals some of them must be destroyed.

I would suggest, Sir, for this purpose a number of experienced Shikaris be employed by Government—Shikaris with the right kind of weapons and with experience in big game shooting. The Shikaris could be put in charge of proclaimed areas with the right to authorise local Shikaris to help under their directions, even though the latter may not have elephant licenses. I can give the names of a number of Planters and Shikaris who would be willing to assist, but this should not be left to them alone. Government will also have to assist in obtaining ammunition for the Shikaris, as this is at the moment not available. I would also suggest that Government relax the rule that before the tusks of an elephant become the property of the shooter he must also shoot a Mukhna.

To avoid the possibility of a tame elephant in any of the proposed proclaimed areas being shot, the owners should be made to mark them by a chain round the neck and with ear marks. A chain round the neck would help the Shikari to decide whether an elephant was wild or tame and the ear mark would assist the owner to establish a claim if by accident his elephant was shot.

I have heard these wild elephants described by an official as the pets of Government and the opinion expressed by another that elephants are being wiped out. The evidence I have just given, I think, proves otherwise and in any case if Government want to preserve its own property and its pets, it should confine them to proper reserves. I think, Government will agree with me that the owner of a pet must accept some responsibility for its behaviour. In my opinion, Sir, the Assam Government have neglected their responsibilities with regard to elephants.

Sir, I have dealt with this case on the level of the interests and rights of the public as a whole, but I would like the Members of this House to think of it also in the terms of individual suffering. Think of the cultivator and his family who have put their labour and their earnings into their land and who see the fruits of that labour destroyed in a night but are powerless to prevent it—they appeal to Government officials, but in vain. Often not only are their crops destroyed but also their houses and their lives are endangered. They see the property of others destroyed nearby and try to assist with the result that they get no rest night after night.

My intention in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion regarding posting of the officers of the Local Accounts Department. The position as it stands is like this: there are 7 Auditors and 6 Assistant Auditors who are attached to their headquarters. Previously, the headquarters of this Department was at Shillong. Now, I am told, it has been shifted to Nowgong. Throughout the length of their services they are to move about without having any fixed headquarters and for this they are much inconvenienced regarding education of their children; they cannot look to the comfort of their family members. I think, if these officers are put in charge of different circles, the work of the Department will be managed in the same way; moreover these officers will have the satisfaction of looking after the comfort of their family members.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.6,463 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Q—Local Funds Audit Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 56 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is another aspect of the scheme; I think, the hon. Members of the House will take that aspect into consideration. The only aspect that has been placed by my hon. Friend, the Mover, is inconvenience to few Government servants and Auditors, that is those who are travelling Auditors or touring officers. The principal idea is that they may not be familiar with the local people so that there may not be any collusion with the officers and misappropriations and other such things may be detected. I think, in view of these factors, it will not be advisable to fix some Auditors permanently in one circle. Their posting to one circle will give advantage to some people. (*Voice*—Frequent transfers.) All these aspects shall have to be taken into consideration.

Under the circumstances, I request the hon. Mover to withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I make a suggestion, Sir? Whether the Hon'ble Minister will take into consideration the question of shifting the headquarters to Shillong, as Nowgong is a distant place for Surma Valley people. In Shillong, there is no Local Self-Government institution excepting the Municipality.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: The Government may consider the matter, but there is the difficulty of houses for accommodating the Auditors here in Shillong. Many of the houses are under Military occupation. At the same time this will not benefit the officers in view of the cost of living at Shillong being higher than that in the plains district. Any way, I will remember the suggestion of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Maulavi ABDUL HAI: Why the headquarters were removed to Nowgong?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As the office buildings at Gauhati were requisitioned by the Military.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The Hon'ble Minister has said that he 'may' take into consideration. Will he please say that he *will* take into consideration?

Maulavi Dewan ABDUL BASITH: Though I could not get definite assurance from the Hon'ble Minister, I hope he will be pleased to give due consideration to my proposal and make it practicable. I therefore beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. E. S. KAYE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.34,39,900 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

I have tabled this Motion to draw the attention of Government to the lack of the telephonic communications in this Province. I am aware that this is a Central matter, but I also feel that the Provincial Government is responsible to the extent that they have failed to exercise the necessary pressure on the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Tea Industry has expressed its willingness and its desire to have a network of telephonic communications throughout Assam and the Additional Post Master General has agreed to arrange an overall survey in order to determine the extent of the necessary work and its cost. But the value of such a network is greatly decreased unless Government also is prepared to make use of it by ensuring that Subdivisional Officers, Public Works Department officials, Medical and Public Health Officers and so on all have their own telephones. May we rest assured, Sir, that Government will give this matter its early attention and not lag behind the modern world in this vital matter of telephonic communication?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.34,39,900 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re.1."

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: I could not exactly follow the statement, but I think, the grievance that has been raised by this Cut Motion is that all the tea gardens are not provided with telephonic communications.

Mr. E. S. KAYE: The subdivisional towns also.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: As regards these telephones, during the war there was a great demand from the Military and, I think, in the Post-War Schemes of the Government of India the development of telephone system is included. However, I shall bring these matters to the notice of the Central Government and I hope, when the war is over, the Central Government will be in a position to see to the convenience of the public.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May I take it from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he has accepted the suggestion that Government Departments and the Government officers in rural areas will also be equipped with telephones to make the service more efficient? The Hon'ble Finance Minister is quite silent about that point.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: The difficulty is about finance and I am sure, Mr. Whittaker understands that. With the limited resources we are to meet other urgent demands in preference to telephonic communications. I cannot make a definite promise but this will be taken into consideration.

I will request under the circumstances and in view of the financial condition of the Province not to press this Motion.

Mr. E. S. KAYE: In view of the assurance of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I beg leave to withdraw the Motion.

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

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

We have got four Motions from the Muslim League Party and after the distribution of the surplus time we got from the Question hour, the time table is like this:—

General Administration	till 2-10 P.M.
Land Revenue	till 3-25 "
Veterinary	till 4-0 "

Sir, I accuse the Administration on the whole of extreme callousness in this matter and of passing on the responsibility from one Department to another. For this reason I have tabled this Cut Motion under General Administration and I call upon Government to ensure that these losses should cease or that the sufferer of the loss or damage should be compensated. Plans to combat these elephants must be laid well ahead and the people informed so that they may have the confidence to plant grain once more for next season's crop.

The facts have now been laid before Government. Those whom I represent have offered their co-operation. At this time next year we feel that this House will have every right to condemn Government and the Administration if no effective action has been taken. But, Sir, we would much rather urge that this House will be in a position to offer its congratulations and we shall be the first to tender those congratulations if they have been earned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 34,39,900 under Grant No. 10, Major head—25.—General Administration at page 49 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Motion and I think, I shall not be out of the way if I take one minute of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Mover has dealt with the subject at length and I am sorry I cannot give any more time to the hon. Member.

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: One minute's time may be allotted to me from the Hon'ble Minister, Sir. My suggestion is that, Sir, some other means more effective than at present prevailing to save the poor villagers from the havoc caused by wild elephants may be thought out in conjunction with the hon. Mover or his Group. The matter may be examined in the light of the suggestions made by the hon. Mover.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I sympathise with the hon. Mover for the Motion he has moved. We in Assam have to live in forests, full of wild beasts. Personally I am proud of both. When we have to live in a land like this, it is natural to expect that we should be subjected to devastation of wild animals. I have heard with attention the suggestions which have been made by the hon. Member. I hope the hon. Member knows the present way in which the Government are dealing with this evil. The Deputy Commissioners are fully authorised to take such measures as they deem fit to tackle with wild animals. They give appropriate rewards to those who kill wild animals. These rewards sometimes vary from reward of tusks which are indeed very valuable to the grant of *Baksheesh* to the extent of Rs. 150 and more. As I said we shall bear the suggestion which the hon. Mover has put before the House, and according to the circumstances, we shall direct the Deputy Commissioners to take action to meet such cases where it is possible to act according to his suggestion.

I feel, however, that the maintenance of a batch of Shikaris may not be ultimately as economical as it should be. It is well known to everybody that these wild elephants roam within a radius of 100 to 200 miles. It would often-times happen that by the time a batch of Shikaris has been appointed or even after a shot or two are fired at the animal, it has gone beyond the area where the Shikaris are employed. Paying them for any period, in such circumstances, may not be helpful to the object for which the Motion has been moved, but may mean unnecessary loss to Government. As I have already said, Sir, Government will give sympathetic consideration to this matter and shall bear the suggestion made by the hon. Mover of this Motion in mind and shall try to do what is best in the circumstances. I hope, the hon. Mover with this assurance, will withdraw his Motion.

Mr. G. KYDD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing what the Hon'ble Prime Minister has said, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now we come to Cut Motion No.17, standing in the name of Maulavi Md. Abul Kashem.

Maulavi Md. ABUL KASHEM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,57,497 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—M. (a)—Civil Secretariat, etc., Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 53 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, the object of my Cut Motion is, to raise a discussion about the urgent need of increasing the pay and allowances of Ministerial Officers.

Sir, I have already discussed the matter in my Budget discussion and so I do not like to take much time of the House. I feel that the present pay and dearness allowance of the ministerial officers is quite insufficient to have their bare necessities of life and it has become extremely difficult for them to get 2 meals a day. I, therefore, request the Government to increase their scale of pay and dearness allowance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.3,57,497 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment—M. (a)—Civil Secretariat, etc., Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 53 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

*The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : May I enquire from the hon. Member whether he means the civil ministerial officers of the Shillong Secretariat or the ministerial officers of the Province.

Maulavi Md. ABUL KASHEM : All, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is known, we have got all sympathy for the ill-paid officers whose pays are very small ; but at present they are given dearness allowance—war allowance—plus free rations and other concessions and that amounts to about Rupees 80 lakhs and hon. Members also have seen the Budget provisions. Now it is to be seen whether, under these circumstances, besides the concessions already given, it will be possible to give other facilities. The matter, however, will be taken into serious consideration. There is already talks of revision of the scales of pay in lower grade services and all these factors will be taken into sympathetic consideration by the Government and I hope, in view of all these facts, my hon. Friend will withdraw his Motion.

Maulavi Md. ABUL KASHEM : With the assurance given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Maulavi I ewan ABDUL BASITH : I beg to move, Sir, that the provision of Rs.6,463 under Grant No.10, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—Q.—Local Funds Audit Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 56 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Therefore we shall hardly be able to take up more than one Motion. I hope the hon. the Leader of the Opposition will inform us which one he wants to take up.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The first one of the three, *i.e.*, one Motion will be moved.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do we take up Cut Motion No.20 or 21?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: No 21,* Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On a point of order, Sir. I submit, Sir, that a Motion of this kind cannot be covered by the rules of Cut Motion for discussion. The point that I want to make out is that this is not a matter of public importance as it makes the conduct of a Subdivisional Officer the subject matter of discussion. The object of the cut motion should be to raise a discussion on a matter of public importance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which rule the Hon'ble Premier is referring to?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: There is no particular rule, but all Motions are governed by the rules regarding Resolution and rule 77 of the Assembly Rules relating to Resolutions says that "Subject to the restrictions contained in these rules, any Member may move a Resolution relating to a matter of general public interest." What I desire to point out in this connection is this that the conduct of a public servant cannot be allowed in public interest and on ground of public policy to be discussed on the floor of any Assembly. If the particular servant concerned is guilty of any act that may be brought to the notice of the individual Minister or the Head of the Department under whom he works. In case, however Government do not take proper steps to it then one can come with a Motion to censure the Government. To discuss the conduct of any officer and to put it to the vote of the House, to my mind, is a procedure which, I believe, in the interest of public policy, not merely you, Sir, but the whole House should not allow. We had functioned also in the Opposition for a period of seven years and during that period at no time did we raise a question of this kind. We have also certain initial difficulty about this Cut Motion. We have absolutely no information about these allegations. These allegations were never brought to the notice of Government. So we do not even know where we stand.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already in my Budget speech made reference to the conduct of this Subdivisional Officer and now my Friend, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, says that he has no information. I think he ought to have taken information by this time. May I be allowed to proceed with my Cut Motion, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the Hon'ble Premier has raised a pertinent point of order and I have to give my ruling.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May we have our say, Sir, in the matter?

Sir, it is not the practice to discuss the personal conduct of any individual officer in this House but certainly his office conduct can be discussed. Sir, if any urgent matter comes up before the House, the information is obtained by Government by telegram. The hon. Member referred to the matter in his Budget

*21. Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED to move:—

That the provision of Rs.1,28,000 under Grant No.10, Major Head—25.—General Administration, Minor Head—District Administration—S.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Deputy Commissioner, at page 57 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 34,39,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a discussion about the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, for realising one anna per rupee on the price of the Standard and Mill-made cloth sold in the Subdivision without respect on the plea of clearing water-hyacinth from the Municipal area of the Sunamganj town.)

speech, Government could have obtained information by telegram. Whether the Hon'ble Premier has got the information or not, that, Sir, I think, will not in any way influence your decision whether this can be allowed or not. Here the conduct of the officer referred to is that he is realising money for certain purpose—which purpose is perhaps good—but the method adopted is not proper and certainly this House has got the right to discuss this matter. Government have not got information, but the hon. Member moving the Cut Motion comes from the same place and they can take the information from him and if the Government Benches think that this is not proper to raise money like this, they can take steps. But I do not think, Sir, we can accept the proposition that the conduct of an officer cannot be discussed in this House.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Sir, I beg to say a word with regard to this matter. Sir, if this matter is discussed and it goes to vote and the Motion is carried, it amounts to censuring the officer concerned. According to Government Servants Conduct Rules, he cannot be condemned in this way. Before condemning a Government servant proceedings are to be drawn up against him and he should be given a chance to meet the charges that are brought against him. But here without giving him a chance he is condemned.

The note appended to the Cut Motion states that he is realising money and is not granting any receipt and perhaps the insinuation is that he is misappropriating it. If the House now proceeds with the Motion, it may mean condemnation of an officer unheard.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the convention referred to by my Hon'ble Friend, the Prime Minister is a healthy one. But the Cut Motion is limited to the discussion not of the merits and demerits of the officer concerned but that a particular action of his, probably not within his official duties, is sought to be discussed on the floor of the House. We are not going to discuss the merits or demerits of the Subdivisional Officer of Sunamganj. What is proposed is to ventilate that he has adopted, perhaps with a very right motive, a procedure for realisation of money from the people of the subdivision of Sunamganj which is not proper. We want to lay our protest to Government against that. Although the ultimate motive is very good, there is chance of misuse of powers. If my hon. friends on the Government Benches have not got the information and if they say that they would enquire into the matter or at least ask the Subdivisional Officer to report, this side of the House will be satisfied.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, in spite of the hon. Leader of the Opposition's remarks I have got to say that the Cut Motion does amount to.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I am sorry to cut short the discussion. An interesting point of order has been raised and I should give a ruling on it. I thoroughly agree with the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he says that the fact that Government is not in possession of facts should not influence the decision of the Chair as to whether a Cut Motion is or is not in order. When a Cut Motion has been tabled within time a Member is perfectly within his rights to move it irrespective of the fact whether the Government Members have got facts or not. On the other hand I hold that the conduct of a Government officer should not be discussed on the floor of the House when it relates to his administration of matters in course of his duties. The officer sought to be condemned cannot be present on the floor of the House and he has absolutely no chance of explaining the allegations against him. If the particular acts of individual officers of the Government are sought and allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House, there will be no end to such discussion even if the House elects to sit all through the year. That is absurd. The ordinary remedy is there. The ordinary procedure is

that when one takes exception to the conduct of a certain Government officer he is to report to the higher authorities, and if the authorities do not take action, only then Government may be censured.

Our time is up, and I have to put the original Demand.

The question is:—

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,39,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head 25.—General Administration”.

The question was adopted

GRANT No.2.

(7.—LAND REVENUE)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We now take up Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:—On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,16,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head “7.—Land Revenue”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,16,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1947 for the administration of the head 7.—Land Revenue”.

I find there are as many as 27 Cut Motions, of which No 23 is an omnibus one Will the hon. Leader of the Opposition tell me which of the Motions are to be taken up?

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also come to the conclusion that this Group will move only cut motion No. 23, and the individual Members who have tabled Motions may speak on it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I wish to allot 5 minutes to each hon. Member and 12 minutes to the Government for reply.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MAHAMMAD SAADULLA: I would suggest, Sir, you allot 15 minutes to the Government Member and one hour for the Members of this Group.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All right.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.22,16,700 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 27 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 22,16,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, by this Motion I want to raise a discussion again on the land settlement policy of the Government of Assam. I admit, Sir, that during the last few days, we had it discussed on more than one occasion, and by this time it has become a hackneyed subject. But we also realise that truth is always hackneyed, and we are not shy of repeating once more what has so often been repeated on the floor of this House. Sir, in Assam the policy of land settlement is dismal; it is dismal, peculiar and unheard of in any other part of India. Here the common good of the people and the country at large was never recognised as the cardinal principle of expanding the wealth and resources of the Province. Here, petty jealousy and hatred have been the guiding force in our land settlement policy. This short-sighted policy had its repercussion on the general life of the Province; it has also had its effect on our finances.

First of all, I would refer to the vulnerable Line System which is still in tact in spite of repeated assaults from various quarters. By this artificial

barrier British-Indian subjects have been denied the right of settlement on British-Indian territory. By this ingenuous device thousands of acres of fertile and cultivable waste lands have been kept reserved and uncultivated within the lines.

The second outstanding feature of the land settlement policy of the Government of Assam is the creation of innumerable Reserves. Vast tracts of land have been marked out as Forest Reserves without any expectation of an early yield of timber. We have our Professional Grazing Reserves comprising thousands of acres of land without a corresponding gain. By keeping sanctuary reserves we have shown enough consideration for the rhinoceroses and wild beasts but we lamentably lack in showing the same compunction to our human beings. The result has been that Assam with her immense undeveloped potentialities is one of the poorest Provinces of India.

Sir, while pleading for the landless immigrants we do not for a moment think that the expansion should be made at the expense of the indigenous population. But it is a matter of deep regret that even a modest demand made from this side of the House has never been taken into consideration by the Party in power. Sufficient land may be kept reserved for them and the Tribal people on the basis of the percentage of their increase during the last thirty years.

As regards the policy of Government regarding the Reserves, I submit, Sir, that unprofitable Forest Reserves should be thrown open for cultivation. But unfortunately the present Government is trying to tighten the situation by a new Bill. The area under the Game Reserve should be drastically curtailed. There is hardly any sense in setting apart hundred square miles of land for 10 rhinoceroses to roam about. But I suggest, Sir, that this vast area of land should be drastically curtailed. Lastly, Sir, every available Bigha of land in the Professional Grazing Reserves which are not actually used for grazing purpose, should be thrown open for cultivation.

I submit that the greatest service that Assam can render towards the Grow-More-Food Campaign and in alleviating the world-wide famine conditions is by throwing open all the available cultivable waste land to landless people, irrespective of caste, creed or colour.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs. 22,16,700 under Grant No. 2, Major head —7.—Land Revenue, at page 27 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 22,16,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Sir, we have discussed this subject already and so I do not like to take much time today

Land is necessary for the indigenous Assamese people, but I submit that the land in the Professional Grazing Ground near the Brahmaputra which is annually inundated are not and never will be suitable for the indigenous population. I may also inform the House that these lands which are inundated in the Surma Valley where local population is not afraid of flood, are being given to the Mymensinghians to settle and cultivate because flood level is high. The people who use the riverine Professional Grazing Grounds are *Khutti-wallas*, i.e., Nepalese, and not the indigenous people. I have already submitted that the method of rearing cattle by the system of *Khutti* is a primitive method. Certain Member opposite in a way protested when I made mention of the Punjab and Bihar in my Budget discussion. Sir, the Punjab is very important as for supply of cattle, particularly buffaloes. Even in Calcutta the buffaloes come from the Punjab. Bihar is also supplying us with cattle in considerable number. Therefore, Sir, when those people can have a large number of buffaloes or cattle

without *Khuttis* or extensive grazing grounds we can also do the same. So, I submit that unless we give up this primitive method of reserving thousands of Bighas of land for *Khuttis* for buffaloes we shall never solve the problem of supplying adequate milk and plough cattle. Sir, no one from the opposite has controverted the point that wherever Mymensinghians have settled they have removed the dearth of milk. Not only they have done this they also removed the dearth of vegetables. I therefore strongly urge that the riverine Professional Grazing Grounds should be thrown open and settled with immigrants who are able to settle in low-lying areas. Sir, I do not think the Government is agreeable to allow that and instead they are going to forge fresh weapon to legalise eviction of those people from the Professional Grazing Grounds. The Forest (Amendment) Bill which they have brought before this House has no other motive behind it than to give power to Government for summary eviction of immigrants. I have already referred to the fact that during the last 15 years they were making eviction without any sanction of law. This is a thing we should not approve. As regards the other Reserves, Sir, can any one deny that population is increasing and all must have holdings? They have growing families and so they must have land to settle. Some of them have encroached in a Forest Reserve in Jorhat subdivision—indigenous people I mean. Should we evict them by pulling down their houses or by burning them and thus leave them without hearth and home? They are after all human beings like us. We must find some other place to settle them. For eviction you can take the help of law courts which are likely to be more considerate even in the matter of eviction. I think Government should not be guilty of making them homeless and hearthless.

The spectre of scarcity of famine is hovering over us I do suggest that Government should consider very dispassionately all these suggestions even if they get summary powers. Land should be found for them before they are asked to vacate. It will be criminal to destroy their crop at the present juncture. I have heard statements that for these things the previous Government is responsible. I submit, Sir, the previous Government was not a Government of a single Party. It was a Coalition Government and Congress had representatives there. Certainly the Coalition cannot represent the true opinion of the League. Sir, I could, but I do not like to use strong words. I want to appeal to the humanitarian sense of the Members. I would ask hon. Members, who have not seen eviction of immigrants, to go and see once how their hearths and homes are being burnt down. Before one sees the whole thing one cannot say whether such acts can be called acts of barbarity or not. I call it barbarity deliberately for the further reason that people have been evicted without sanction of law. So, Sir, I submit that the method the Government is following as regards summary eviction from Professional Grazing Reserves is not at all fair and the Government have no right to legally evict these people under the summary powers of the Land Revenue Regulations. I am not going to say more though I have a mind to go into further details about these innocent people, victims of oppression. But I would only appeal to the humanity of this House and ask them not to be party to this sort of eviction.

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

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a similar Motion* (Cut Motion No.27) in my name. Sir, the question of land policy of this Government whether scientific or unscientific whether economic

* 27. Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS to move:—

That the total provision of Rs.22,16,700 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue at page 27 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.3, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.22,16,700 do stand reduced by Rs.3.

To censure the Government for their failure to explore all the possible means to bring money to the coffers of the Government by generously throwing open the available waste land and the unsettled culturable land for settlement to all whoever they may be.)

or uneconomic, whether it is short-sighted or a generous policy, these questions are essentially bound up with the question whether there is enough land for settlement. That is one point. Now, Sir, in order to ascertain the first fact whether there is enough land for settlement or not we have not got up-to-date statistics, *i.e.*, a survey of the arable land still to be settled. But, then, Sir, we have got some figures from the Revenue Administration Report of the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45. Sir, I shall give a total quantity of land which each of the upper few districts of Assam have got. In Kamrup the total quantity of land is 24,60,000 and odd and the land so far settled up to 1944-45 is 12,88,000 and odd. All my figures are in acres. In Darrang, we have got 17,95,000 and odd and the land settled up to 1944-45 is 9,05,000 and odd. In Nowgong, the total quantity of land is 24,93,000 and odd and land settled up to 1944-45 is 6,91,000 and odd. In Sibsagar, the total quantity of land is 32,88,000 and odd and the land settled is 11,75,000 and odd and in Lakhimpur, the total quantity of land is 25,88,000 and odd and the land settled is 9,33,000 and odd. Land actually cultivated in 1944-45 is about 10,84,000 and odd. That shows that more than a lakh of acres have not been cultivated, although there is a great demand for land by others. In Darrang District, land cultivated is about 6,20,000 acres ; that shows that about more than 3 lakhs of acres have not been cultivated. In the District of Nowgong, in 1944-45 land cultivated is 5,91,000 acres and odd, that means that about a lakh of acres have not been cultivated all. In Sibsagar District, land cultivated in 1944-45 is 7,79,000 acres and odd. That shows that about 4 lakhs of acres have not been cultivated at all. In Lakhimpur, the land cultivated up to 1944-45 is 5,99,000 acres and odd, that means that about 3 lakhs of acres have not been cultivated there.

These figures show that many lakhs of acres of lands which are arable could have yielded more food if cultivated and thereby Assam would have been instrumental in feeding some hungry people—millions perhaps—of other parts of India. These lands have not been utilised at all. Now an enquiry should be instituted by this Government whether people have been given more lands than they can possibly cultivate, and if it is found so then those lands should be taken away from them and re-settled with needy persons who are willing to cultivate and grow food there. This is one point.

Secondly, Sir, from the figures which I have given, it will be clear that there is a gulf of difference between the land settled and the land which has remained unsettled. My figures, which I have stated giving the total acreage of various districts, surely contain hills, the river Brahmaputra, and the low-lying places on which perhaps no crop can be grown. But still, Sir, that shows that there must be some lands at least which remain to be settled. So far as I know, Sir, a survey is being made to find out the total quantity of arable lands. The survey is not yet complete: But then, all efforts should be made to complete the survey as early as possible.

Now, Sir, as I have already stated, this huge quantity of land comprising more than 25 lakhs of *bighas* have remained fallow and uncultivated. So it was a bad policy on the part of Government, on the part of the authorities who settle these lands without enquiry whether they are properly cultivated or not. So, I appeal to the present Government to take away lands from them and re-settle them with persons who are needy. Regarding this settlement, Sir, I submit that no difference should be made between a person and a person—be given the first preference. The most deserving and the most needy should be given land so that lands can be better utilised.

Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA: Are the Surma Valley people also among the indigenous people ?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS: Yes, they are indigenous people. It has been stated that we, on this side of the House, have been harping on the question of land settlement which is, I submit, a short sighted policy of the Government all along, but if it is realised that on the Land Settlement Policy of the Government depends the steadiness of the revenues of the Province,

then of course, we won't be found fault with. This is a question, Sir, on the proper solution of which depends the prosperity of Assam to a very great extent. It was stated the other day by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he would come up within 3 or 4 months with a scheme for the uplift of the people so far as education and other improvements are concerned. But where is the money to come from, unless we adopt a broadminded policy to throw open our lands to the needy people so that money may come to the Government.

Then, Sir, if eviction goes on, as it has been going on then most of the Reserves which have been occupied and perhaps on which crops have been grown, will remain unutilised and Government will lose much money thereby. Not only from humanitarian point of view but from the point of view of economy to the Government, I think, this sort of eviction should not go on.

Much has been stated about the agreement which was entered into on the 13th July, 1945.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No agreement was entered into on the 13th July.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS: The Government Resolution was published in the *Assam Gazette* on the 13th July, Sir. There was an agreement among all the Ministers that eviction would go on but consideration of hardship also would come up for consideration in evicting a person. Now, if a person has occupied a land for a year if a person has built his house, if a person has got his hearth and home on a certain land, will not there be hardship if that person is evicted?

So, Sir, not only from humanitarian point of view but also from the point of view of economy, these immigrants who have occupied lands should be allowed to remain there, as they will pay Government a good amount of revenue which will come to the aid of the Government. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই আলোচনাত দেখা গৈছে যে মুছলিম লীগৰ ফালৰ পৰা মাটি খোলাৰ সন্দন্ধে কোৱা হৈছে আৰু কংগ্ৰেছ দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা মাটি খুলিব নালগে বুলি কোৱা হৈছে। ইয়াত বাস্তৱিকতে কিবা বহস্য আছে। কিন্তু সি যি কি নহওক, এই বিষয়ে মই জানিবলৈ ইচছা নকৰোঁ। মই Independent হিচাপে আছোঁ আৰু সেই হিচাপেই কব লগাত পৰিছোঁ। মাটি খোলাৰ সন্দন্ধে, সি থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ডেই হওক বা ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্ডেই হওক, মই কেতিয়াও তাৰ পক্ষপাতী হব নোৱাৰোঁ। কাৰণ, এতিয়াও আমাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহৰ কাৰণে—মুছলমানেই বোলক বা ট্ৰাইবেলেই বোলক বা উচচহিন্দুয়েই বোলক বা বনুৱাই বোলক, সকলোৰে নিমিত্তে যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে মাটি আছে। এতিয়া থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড বা ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্ড খুলিবৰ দৰ্কাৰ নকৰে থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড বা ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্ড খুলি বিদেশীক মাটি দিয়াৰ পক্ষপাতী মই কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰো, লাগিলে তেওঁবিলাক হিন্দুয়েই হওক বা মুছলমানেই হওক বা ট্ৰাইবেলেই হওক বা মাৰোৱাৰীয়েই হওক। কোনো কোনোৱে কৈছে যে ইয়াৰ পৰা famine দেখা দিব। কিন্তু, এই famineৰ বাবে অসমীয়া বা আসাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট দায়ী হব নোৱাৰে। এইবিলাক মানুহ যি দেশৰ পৰা আহিছে সেই দেশৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টেহে তাৰ দায়িত্ব লব লাগিব। আসাম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বা অসমীয়া মানুহে এইবিলাক মানুহক মাটি অনা নাই। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে তাৰ দায়িত্ব লব নোৱাৰে। (Hear, hear) আৰু যিবিলাক বিদেশী আহিছে সিহতে আসামত বসতি কৰি বা আসামৰ মাটি লৈ আসামৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা solve কৰাবো কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই। আমি অসমীয়া জাতিয়ে আসামৰ অৱস্থা ভালকৈ বুজো আৰু আসামৰ অৱস্থা বুজি আমি আমাৰ আৰ্থিক সমস্যা ঠিক কৰি লম।

কিছুমানে evictionৰ সন্দন্ধে কৈছে। কালি বহুতে evictionৰ সন্দন্ধে কওঁতে মিৰিবিলাকৰ লগত তুলনা কৰি কৈছিল যে immigrant বিলাকক যে evict কৰে মিৰিবিলাকক কিয় evict নকৰে। তাৰ উত্তৰত মই কব খোজো যে হয়তো আইনমতে মিৰিবিলাককো evict কৰিব লাগিব, কিন্তু মিৰিবিলাকৰ সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে মাটি লবৰ ক্ষমতা আছে। কাজেই, evict কৰাৰ আগতে মিৰিবিলাকে মাটি পাব লাগেনে নালগে সেইটো ভাবিচিন্তি চাবলৈ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ। কিন্তু যিবিলাকে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিনা অনুমতিত কোনো ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্ড বা থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড occupy কৰিছে সেইবিলাকক evict কৰা বোধকৰোঁ। আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেলবিলাকে আপত্তি নকৰে। ভবিষ্যতৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ অসমীয়াৰ

নিমন্তে যথেষ্ট মাটিৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব। সেই কাৰণে ফৰেষ্ট বা গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড থকাতো নিতান্ত উচিত হ'ব। এতিয়াও বহুট ট্ৰাইবেল বা মিৰিবিলাকে মাটি ল'ব লাগেনে নানাগে সেইটো ভালকৈ বুজা নাই। কিন্তু ভবিষ্যতলৈ যদি মাটি বিজাৰ্ড কৰি বখা নহয় তেন্তে আমাৰ মানুহ বিপদত পৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই ক'ব খোজোঁ যে মই এই, 'Cut Motion' কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ।

(The hon. Member spoke about the settlement of land in the Forest Reserves and the Grasing Reserves to the indigenous people of the Province only no question whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Tribals.)

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I crave your indulgence to speak only on some cardinal points on this so-called tangled question. A point has been raised from the side opposite that there is no land in Assam for settlement, while I agree that there is no land if lands were meant to be kept un-utilised or unused like the wedding cake not to eat but to dream upon. Lands there are and superfluity of lands I say 'Superfluity' emphatically and I shall show how it is exactly so. Comparison has been made with Bengal irrespective of any reference to the rise of populations in the two Provinces. With a population of $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores, and with an area of 85 thousand square miles, the problem of Bengal is there. Here in Assam our population in the British portion of Assam is hardly one crore and the area of British portion of our Province is 70,000 square miles, excluding the rivers, the mountains and deltas, and the area is surveyed according to the provisional survey and village maps. The area according to the provisional survey is $4\frac{1}{4}$ crore acres and according to the village map the net area is $3\frac{1}{2}$ crore acres. Now, with only one-sixth of population we want to absorb about five times the area and we meet with requests from the side opposite to ask the Bengal Government to withdraw their population from Assam. Now, Sir, if there is a collusion between the two Governments, the preceding Government to the present one and the Bengal Government, it has been amply proved on the floor of this House by the Leader of the Opposition that that was nothing but a myth and he has amply disproved the statement.

Now, Sir, what is our current fallow, and I think, the term current fallow, with its implication is not unfamiliar to the hon. Members of this House. It is about 21 lakhs of acres, and the land normally cultivated, under actual cultivation—is about 70 lakhs of acres. Then the area available is about the same figure. Let any hon. Gentleman contradict this on the floor of this House.

Now, there is the question of Professional Grazing Reserves. What is the area and by what law actually those Reserves are governed? They are Unclassed State Forests and they are governed by the Forest Regulations. And what is the area? The area according to Government papers is 9 lakh bighas. What is the number of buffaloes, I mean the buffaloes that graze there—about 72,000. Mr. Desai's Report has been copiously quoted and read out to this House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister yesterday. He was hugely misleading the House.

He read from page 7 of Mr. Desai's Report which contains a reference to Mangaldai. I admit that according to the criterion adopted by M. Desai in contradistinction of the criterion laid down by the expert of the Government there is a deficit and that deficit was being quoted yesterday in order to mislead the House, as if the whole of the Province in respect of Grazing Reserves was a deficit, suppressing these facts—72,000 cattle and 9,00,000 bighas of Professional Grazing Reserves reserved for them. Well, Sir, according to the criterion laid down by the expert— $72,000 \times 5$ —you will get more than half the area released. Then again I raised the question yesterday and the Hon'ble Forest Minister had not the courtesy to reply. I asked him whether these include State Forests or Cadastral or non-Cadastral areas. As a matter of fact these areas are non-Cadastral areas.

They are areas taken by *.anda* There is no survey. From my experience of these Reserves, these Professional Grazing Reserves contain three times the area recorded on papers and as Forest Minister and also holding the charge of Revenue, I wanted to carry out a survey to see where we stood about these Professional Grazing Reserves. Even if you give five lakhs of bighas, you release four lakhs of bighas therefrom. Again, according to my impression, three times this, *i.e.*, 27 lakhs of bighas are there under the garb of Professional Grazing Reserves. You see, Sir, what an enormous amount is there! If you do not want to release these superfluous lands, tell this plainly and frankly. Why do you hide under cover of this, your real purpose? Your real intention is not to release these lands. You want to create economic holding. What do you mean by economic holding? You want every citizen of Assam to take land without reference to his inclination. In these things you generalise and you wait and wait. You think every one is a cultivator. What a logic? You thrust land on persons who are not willing to take it.

Various charges have been levelled against me as Revenue Minister, as well as Forest Minister. Well, if I wanted to make hard and fast rules regarding eviction of persons interfering in various Reserves, that was not in reference to Unclassed State Forests. That was with reference to the preservation of the Timber Wealth coming within the Forest Reserves proper. That is the answer. If I did not get an opportunity here to vindicate my position, I do not know what impression the hon. Members of the House would have about the administration of my subject.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will have only one minute more.

Maulvi MUNAWWAR ALI: I say, Sir, be frank. The very attitude of certain Hon'ble Ministers, morning before yesterday, to disclose certain facts regarding certain questions of their Party and the attitude displayed last afternoon have abundantly proved beyond a shadow of doubt that these people are not going to release land because those who will take land are not indigenous Assamese and because they are not Hindus. It is the cultivators—Muslim cultivators—who will take up lands and produce profusion of food crops. This they cannot tolerate. They are the votaries of non-violence and they are prepared to correct their blunders they vaunt. Their Leader, Mahatma Gandhi, has himself corrected Himalayan blunders and admitted those and apologised. I hope and trust that in this dire and gloomy augury of an All-India Famine, the Party wedded to the policy of non-violence and humanity will relax a bit and do real humanitarian work by allowing those persons who really want lands to take lands to cultivate and produce more food crops.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri be able to finish his speech within three minutes?

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, I shall finish in five minutes.

I rise only to draw the attention to the case of some people in Mangaldai Subdivision who have been affected by the policy of Land Settlement of this Government. I mean the people of the villages—Kharpuri, Baghpuri and Hatipuri in Mangaldai Subdivision. Hundreds of people belonging to these villages are under notice of eviction because these villages are supposed to be within the Professional Grazing Reserves. The plea of Professional Grazing Reserves is a convenient cover for a multiplicity of sins. You call any piece of land a Professional Grazing Reserve and you have the licence to play havoc with the lives and properties of thousands of people. These villages cover an area of about 8,000 bighas—there are about 1,200 families living in these villages. In the outskirts of that area, there are a few graziers—with not more than 50 heads of cattle and because of this, hundreds of families are

under order of eviction. Sir, when my hon. Friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman was the Revenue Minister, he passed orders allowing them to settle in these villages. In 1937, when we visited Mangaldai as members of the Line System Enquiry Committee, we found people living in those villages and when Maulavi Munawwar Ali was the Revenue Minister, he himself allowed them to remain there but with the Congress coming into power, notices have been issued to evict these people. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister said that he had been following the policy of the last Ministry in the matter of land settlement. As I said, Sir, on a previous occasion, the policy of the last Ministry was what was decided in the Cabinet Meeting of the 2nd February, 1946.

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The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee who was present in the Meeting, Sir, says that there was no decision like that.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the relevancy of this?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It has been referred to by Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Can you take notice of that?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There was a statement from the other side of the House to this effect, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There was no Resolution at all.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue will please give the reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I already dealt with all these matters that have been raised to-day in detail yesterday and I do not like to repeat those arguments now in this House again. So, I will be very brief and I will like to say that as far as the 2nd of February was concerned as referred to by Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri there was no Cabinet decision as it appears from the statement of the Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee. There might have been some informal discussion among the Members of the Cabinet.....

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I may say Sir, for the information of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that that was a definite Cabinet Meeting and it was decided in that Meeting.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, will the Hon'ble Premier please tell us whether Cabinet decisions are secret or they can be discussed here?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: On grounds of public policy, I venture to submit, Sir, that no Cabinet decision unless they are translated in the shape of a Resolution should be discussed on the floor of the House and I am surprised how my hon. Friends in the Opposition could have brought that question before the House. If the policy had undergone any change that ought to have appeared in public in the shape of a Resolution. If that was not done, it should be taken that the matter stands with the Resolution of 13th July, 1945.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was any Resolution published on or after 2nd February, 1946?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: No, Sir, no Resolution was published.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, would you be good enough to frown upon all references to Cabinet decisions by a majority vote. It is entirely unconstitutional for a Minister or ex-Minister to refer to any Cabinet decision as a majority decision.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was just enquiring of the fact and I will give a ruling on that point.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, there was no Government decision. The latest that was published by notification appeared on the 13th of July, 1945. Now that Resolution was accepted unanimously by all the Parties of that Cabinet including Maulavi Munawwar Ali, Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.....

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I repeated twice that I was in Simla then.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will not refer to that.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, I am referring to the Resolution of the 13th July that was published. That, Sir, was unanimously adopted by that Government. There was no dissension and that decision was taken after Mr. Desai's Report was perused, read and digested. Mr. Desai said that there was not sufficient land available even for the indigenous people and those immigrants who had come to Assam before 1938. I think, it is known to Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri that those immigrants who came before 1938 and settled in Mangaldai Subdivision would not like that any Grazing Reserve should be settled with any outsider. Sir, I have read all these reports yesterday and so I do not propose to take up those again to-day.

As regards the figures given by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Abdul Majid Ziaosh Shams, he forgets for the time being that the uncultivable lands including hills form 2/3rd the area. It will be seen from the Agricultural Statistics of Assam prepared by the Department of Agriculture that enormous area has been shown as land not cultivated. There are hills, fallows as shown in the Agricultural Statistics amounting to 177 lakhs acres of which 130 lakhs acres fall in hills, dales, swamps, etc., where there is no cultivation at all except *jhumming*. So the statement that there is enough land for cultivation will remain in imagination. From all these facts it will be abundantly clear that there is no sufficient land available to provide the indigenous Hindus, Muslims and also the immigrants who had come before 1938.

It has been alleged that this Government is not going to consider any question of hardship as laid down in the Resolution. If there is any case of hardship, that will surely be considered by Government. Then much propaganda is going on and what has been the result. I have received telegrams to the effect that about 300 immigrants from outside have gone to *Khutis* in Theka and wanted to drive out buffaloes from that place. Telegrams are pouring in and we had to caution the Subdivisional Officer to preserve peace. Another fact that I have mentioned yesterday is that if there be available waste land why do the immigrants go to the Reserves (*oices*—because of the Line System). Is there any Line System in Barpeta?

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: Will you declare that it does not exist in Barpeta?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: That require no declaration at all. For the protection of the tribal population the Line System is necessary there. The last Government wanted to create a tribal belt for the protection of the tribal population.

Sir, my Friends were saying that the immigrants have cleared the jungles, they have incurred expenditure for that, but why they are encroaching on the Reserves? The buffaloes had already cleared the jungles; they are not required to incur any expenditure for clearing the jungles; they found clear and fertile land with sufficient manure of buffalo dung; they pounced upon it and wanted to drive the graziers out. Well, Sir, will any hon. gentleman tolerate such highhandedness?

Sir, my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury suggested that Forest Reserves should be opened (Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaulhury:—I did not say "Forest Reserves"). These Forest Reserves are a source of wealth to the country, and I would have appreciated if he said that the Forest Reserves should be expanded on a planned basis to make them yield good revenue to the Provincial Exchequer. Instead of that he suggests that these should be opened so that the income from that source dwindles to nothing.

Then, as regards the other facts, I submit, Sir, that we are not going to move an iota from the instructions that were laid down by the past Government in their Resolution of 13th July. One of my hon. Friends mentioned about people living in the Grazing Reserves for the last ten years. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can categorically assert that no protected immigrants, *i. e.*, those who came before 1938, were evicted, and in all cases no eviction took place without a full and fair enquiry. Sir, it is no good misleading the House. I am sure, Sir, the House will not be misled by such statements, but there is some danger that the innocent people will only be misled by such statement.

In view of all these facts, I submit, Sir, that this Cut Motion should be thrown out by the hon. Members of this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Should I put it to the vote of the House?

(After a pause)

The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs. 22,16,700 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 27 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 22,16,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

The Assembly divided

AYES—28

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|---|--|
| 1. Maulavi Md. Abdullah. | 17. Maulavi Md. Mafiz Chowdhury. |
| 2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Abul
Majid Ziaosh Shams. | 18. Maulavi Makabbir Ali Mozumdar. |
| 3. Maulavi Muhammad Abul
Kashem. | 19. Maulavi Md. Moksed Ali. |
| 4. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. | 20. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir
Hussain Chaudhuri. |
| 5. Maulavi Dewan Abdul Basith. | 21. Mumtazul Muhaddisin Moulana
Md. Mufazzal Hussain. |
| 6. Maulavi Abdul Hai. | 22. Maulavi Munawwar Ali. |
| 7. Maulavi Abul Hamid, | 23. Maulavi Nasir-ud-Din Ahmed. |
| 8. Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed. | 24. Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque. |
| 9. Maulavi Md. Abdul Latif. | 25. Khan Sahib Maulavi Nurul Hos-
sain Khan. |
| 10. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 26. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad
Saadulla. |
| 11. Maulavi Dewan Abdur Rob
Choudhry. | 27. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur
Rahman. |
| 12. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf. | 28. Maulavi Dewan Taimur Raza
Chaudhury. |
| 13. Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed. | |
| 14. Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan. | |
| 15. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. | |
| 16. Maulavi Md. Idris Ali. | |

NOES—59

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|---|--|
| 1. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath
Bardoloi. | 6. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul
Matlib Mazumdar. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath
Mookerjee. | 7. The Hon'ble Rev. J.J.M. Nichols-
Roy. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar
Das. | 8. Shri Abala Kanta Gupta. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Bishnu Ram
Medhi. | 9. Babu Akshay Kumar Das. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Srijut Ram Nath
Das. | 10. Srijut Beliram Das. |
| | 11. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi. |
| | 12. Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi. |
| | 13. Babu Bidyapati Singha. |

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| 14. Srijut Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati. | 38. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. |
| 15. Srijut Bejoy Chandra Saikia. | 39. Srijut Purnananda Chetia. |
| 16. Srijut Bimalaprosad Chaliha. | 40. Babu Purendu Kishore Sen Gupta. |
| 17. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika. | 41. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. |
| 18. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar | 42. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 19. Babu Gopesh Chandra Pal. | 43. Babu Ramesh Chandra Das Chowdhury. |
| 20. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. | 44. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua. |
| 21. Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma. | 45. Srijut Sarat Chandra Sinha. |
| 22. Srijut Hareswar Das. | 46. Shi Satindra Mohan Dev. |
| 23. Srijut Harinarayan Baruah. | 47. Babu Suresh Chandra Biswas. |
| 24. Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika. | 48. Maulavi Abdur Rasheed. |
| 25. Babu Jagat Bandhu Sircar. | 49. Moulana Ibrahim Ali. |
| 26. Babu Jatindranath Bhadra. | 50. Mrs. Bonily Khongmen. |
| 27. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen. | 51. Srijut Chanoo Kheria. |
| 28. Babu Khagendra Nath Samaddar. | 52. Srijut Dalbir Singh Lohar. |
| 29. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooh. | 53. Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari. |
| 30. Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah. | 54. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri. |
| 31. Srijut Manisankar Basumatari. | 55. Srijut Jiban Santal. |
| 32. Srijut Motiram Bora. | 56. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri. |
| 33. Prof. Nibaran Chandra Laskar. | 57. Mr. Larsingh Khyriem. |
| 34. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. | 58. Mr. Maniram Marak. |
| 35. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. | |
| 36. Mr. Prabhudayal Hmatsingka. | |
| 37. Srijut Purandar Sarma. | 59. Mr. P. M. Sarwan. |

The question was lost.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now I am putting the main grant.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,16,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head '7.—Land Revenue'."

The question was carried.

Grant No. 21

(41.—Veterinary)

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head '41.—Veterinary'."

Now I find that the Cut Motion No. 8 is an omnibus one. So, we will take up that.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 2,85,400 under Grant No. 21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, at page 121 of the Budget be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,85,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, my intention is to raise a general discussion, on the policy of the Government in their administration of the Department of Veterinary. Sir, this is a most neglected subject and no considerable attention has ever been assigned to it in the Province of Assam. With all respect to the present incumbent, I might be allowed to say, that this has always been considered as a minor portfolio and

entrusted to a junior Member of the Council of Ministers. We so often profess that the cattle is the only wealth of the cultivators but a shabby treatment has always been meted out to the Veterinary Department.

The present lay-out of the Veterinary Administration would appear to a casual observer to be disjointed and unsystematic. The Department should be re-organised as early as possible. All efforts should be concentrated to improve the Veterinary service. I may be allowed to point out that in the training of the Veterinarians of the future, great emphasis should be laid on preventive medicine—comprising pathology, bacteriology and hygiene than in pure medicine and surgery. For such re-organisation, a beginning might be made with the mechanisation of the Provincial Service in so far as it is concerned with the contagious diseases. Such mechanised service should consist of (1) a research and diagnostic branch for combating the outbreaks of obscure contagious diseases and (2) a vaccination and inoculation branch for the control and suppression of all outbreaks of diseases. To enable the Veterinary Department to attract the right type of men with aptitude and enthusiasm for veterinary work, the pay and prospect of subordinate veterinary staff should be improved.

In recent years rinderpest has proved to be the worst fell disease and it has been responsible for the high percentage of cattle mortality in Assam. It can be eradicated by vaccination. With the development of practical and comparatively cheap methods of immunisation, the time has come when measures can be devised, which, if prosecuted vigorously, would ensure success. The Department should consider the various technical methods of immunisation and the wider aspects of the application of such methods to the cattle population as a whole.

Sir, rinderpest in Assam is of sufficient gravity and it warrants special consideration from all other diseases.

For the last few years we are crying for the urgent need of making suitable arrangements for cold storage of the vaccine and serum. Unless this is done, mass inoculation will lose much of its value, and it will mean a sheer waste of public money.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs. 2,85,400 under Grant No. 21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,85,400 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.”

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the administration of the Veterinary Department appears to be very defective. There are only a few Veterinary hospitals here and there. I come from Habiganj which is the biggest Subdivision in the Province of Assam. It contains a population of about 7 lakhs of people and as good a number of cattle. But there are only two Veterinary dispensaries, one at Habiganj and the other at Shaistaganj. It is not possible for people to come to the dispensaries with their cattle from long distances of 20 miles or so. Practically these two dispensaries do not serve the purpose of the huge population. There is a very large number of cattle in the villages, but they cannot be attended to when cattle mortality breaks out. It is necessary that Veterinary dispensaries should be established at Baniyachong, Nabiganj and Chunaghat.

A few days back I had a talk with a Veterinary Assistant who said that there were three or four Veterinary dispensaries in the Province of Assam where there were no Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. That shows that we have not got sufficient number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. It is therefore necessary in the interest of agriculture and also in the interest of the cattle that Government should grant stipends to suitable persons and send them for training to the Veterinary Colleges.

With these words, Sir, I beg to support the Motion and commend it to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPFAKER: Would Dr. Terrell like to move his *Motion separately or would he like to speak on this? We have got only nine minutes and he will have to finish within three minutes.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Motion is to draw the attention of Government to certain remedial defects in the administration of the Veterinary Department of Assam, which are responsible for an unnecessary loss of cattle every year.

At the outset I want to make it clear that my object is not one of destructive criticism, but one of, what I hope will be accepted as, helpful suggestion. Furthermore, I only propose to deal with one aspect of the Department's numerous activities — namely, preventive measures for control of infection relating to certain of the more acute diseases such as anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia and rinderpest. These are very serious and infectious diseases which have usually fatal consequences and are associated with a rapid spread of infection, if immediate steps are not taken to treat infected animals and to protect the contacts. Unless this is done these diseases are capable of destroying whole herds of cattle and unfortunate owners have the grave misfortune of seeing their whole capital and life earnings wiped out in a very short space of time. Anthrax has an additional importance in that it is communicable to human beings.

It is the painfully slow and unsatisfactory procedure which exists for dealing with these outbreaks, at any rate in the Surma Valley, that has prompted my Motion, and also because I have on many occasions been a helpless witness of these tragedies and their ample evidence in the cattle cemeteries which abound.

It will be understood that for successful prophylactic inoculation to be carried out, it is essential for a correct diagnosis to be made, and this is achieved by microscopic examination of blood slides from suspected cases. The usual procedure when an outbreak is reported to a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in an outlying district is as follows:—He visits the place concerned, and after making his blood slides, forwards them by post to the Department's laboratory at Gauhati, usually with a request that if found positive, serum may be supplied. Owing to the considerable distance involved, which is partly responsible for the delay, not less than a week elapses before the Assistant Surgeon is in possession of the material essential for dealing with the outbreak and which by this time has probably developed into an epidemic. Moreover, there appears to be a further obstacle to rapid inoculation as a preventive measure in that, I understand, indent for serum is only permitted for actual immediate contact cases.

Although this may be extended to possibly as many as fifty to a hundred doses, its actual interpretation means that only a comparatively small number of animals can be given protection; at any rate, until such time as the disease has made further devastating inroads into the herd and after considerable delay. As presumably all village herds graze on the same usually very limited grazing grounds available, it stands to reason that the cattle must all be exposed to infection and ought to be protected by inoculation as quickly as possible.

*Dr. C. G. TERRELL to move.—

That the total provision of Rs. 2,85,400 under Grant No. 21, Major head—41.—Veterinary, at page 121 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,85,400 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To draw the attention of Government to the urgent need for establishing a first class veterinary laboratory and arrangements for cold storage of vaccines and serums in the Surma Valley.)

It will be argued that there is a Veterinary Hospital in the Surma Valley at Silchar with an Inspector attached and microscope available, and therefore why should specimens be sent all the way to Gauhati for diagnosis? The explanation of this is that the Veterinary Inspector and Staff Assistant Surgeon at Silchar are both touring officers, and that they may very probably be out of the station. For this reason District Veterinary officers quite rightly prefer to send the specimens to Gauhati, from where they know that eventually a report will reach them.

I understand that limited stocks of serum and vaccines are kept in Silchar, but these are liable to rapid deterioration except under cold storage conditions, which are not available, and therefore here again District Officers prefer to accept the extra delay involved and obtain fresh stocks from Gauhati for their requirements.

For reasons that it is difficult to understand, the Veterinary Department has for the last five years discontinued its practice of issuing Annual Reports containing details and statistics of the various cattle diseases and mortality rates. However, a study of the figures available in the older reports confirms very fully the great value of prophylactic inoculation as a life saving measure. In place of the useful reports which were available up to the year 1940-41 we have only a comparatively valueless pamphlet issued by the Director of the Civil Veterinary Department of Assam. It is, however, gratifying to note that in the general remarks contained in his Report for the last year he says:—

“Of the many problems which confront us at present and consequently require immediate solution, the most important is the control and suppression of contagious and infectious diseases.”

He suggests as remedial measures the appointment of propaganda officers and legislation for the control of movement of cattle. Although sound in principle, these suggestions lose their value unless preventive and remedial facilities are easily available, and I would like to urge that a valuable contribution towards increased efficiency for dealing promptly and efficiently with outbreaks of infectious diseases would be for a permanently staffed and properly equipped laboratory with cold storage facilities for serums to be established without delay in the Surma Valley, and this would automatically assist the Gauhati centre by relieving it of much extra work. The expense involved would not be great and it would supply a real and overdue need and in particular would benefit those least able to bear the crippling financial loss they are always subjected to from these epidemics of cattle disease.

I sincerely hope, Sir, that this proposal, which I have repeatedly put forward in this House, may receive the support of our new Government, which I feel in the public interest it deserves.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not quite appreciate the remark of my hon. Friend, on the Opposition, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, when he says that this Department has been entrusted to a Member of the Cabinet who is a junior one. Having had to deal with Local Board and Municipal affairs for the last 20 years, I think, I cannot be called too junior as I have passed that stage long ago.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I did not say that the Hon'ble Minister is too junior. I said that the Department is always entrusted to a new Minister, who is a junior Member in the Cabinet.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : My hon. Friend may consider himself to be too junior (*laughter*) for such a task and he may have inferiority complex. I am confident that I am quite equal to the task and I will try my utmost to acquit myself creditably as far as opportunities and circumstances allow me.

Sir, that this Department has been so long neglected is not the fault of this Government. The blame lies at the door of the previous Governments. (*Voice*—No question of blame.) I am fully in agreement with my Friends that this Department of Veterinary needs all-round improvement and for that purpose arrangements are being made for developing the Department. There are many factors to be considered to deal with this problem. At present, the urgent need is for more staff in order to combat with diseases like rinderpest and other contagious diseases that are creating havoc in the country. The present staff that we have in our control is very very inadequate.

Sir, I come from a District of which 95 per cent. of the population are cultivators and I know how terribly the cultivators are suffering from cattle diseases. In the District of Cachar the cultivators use buffaloes also as plough cattle and the buffaloes more frequently contract these diseases.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister cut short his speech?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR: So far as the Department is concerned, Sir, I hope, there will be no difficulty as it neither relates to any particular blocks, nor it involves any land settlement or questions like that, but it is a question in which we are all equally interested. (*Laughter*).

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister to be good enough to answer the points I raised?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He said he will remember the suggestion and will try to do his best.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR: Sir, that has been included in the Post-War Reconstruction Plan.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHOUDHURY: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the hon. Member has the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion. The Motion was, by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,85,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1947 for the administration of the head '41.—Veterinary.'"

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition speak what he wanted to say?

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I just wanted to bring to your notice certain statements which were made by Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee and also from this side. I am not sure whether mention of what any Member stated in the Government Meeting will offend against the Oath of Secrecy or not. I suggest, Sir, that you will look into the matter. If you agree with me, I am sure, the House will readily allow to expunge the statements from the proceedings.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: May I make a submission, Sir? I do not think there is anything in the proceedings of the House today that requires to be expunged because it offends against the Oath of Secrecy. The fact is that the decision given by the Cabinet was of vital public importance. I disclosed no secret in announcing it to the House and not only that, Sir I charge the Congress Government of suppressing those decisions. The Congress Government seeks to

proclaim to the world that they are following the policy of the old Ministry but the policy of the old Ministry was recorded on the 2nd February in the Cabinet Meeting.

* * * *

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Sir, it appears that the Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri does not want that anything should be expunged from the proceedings and I also agree, Sir, that nothing need be expunged from the proceedings, because it would not cure the sin, if I may say so, involved in the breach of the Oaths of Allegiance that has been committed.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: I only like to say, Sir, that what I stated is correct. Cabinet decision is Cabinet decision, but what has transpired in the Cabinet is secret and no hon. Member has any right to disclose it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Premier enlighten the House whether the Cabinet decisions are secret and when precisely at what point of time, it can become public property?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Cabinet decisions are all confidential but if the Government desires that those decisions are to be published then only it becomes public property—otherwise not. The absurdity in this particular case can very well be judged by this fact alone. On the 1st February, I was called to form a Government by His Excellency the Governor, whereas this reported decision is said to have taken place on the 2nd. In other words, the last Government which practically ceased to function as a Government were able to enunciate policies. A decision to be a decision must be by a competent authority. How can these so-called decisions, if any, be binding on the people? I repeat, Sir, that it would be very unfair for any Government to disclose or for any of its Members to disclose, what decision was taken by them or what discussion was held in any Cabinet Meeting, before they were published.

Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: He suppressed it, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the view of the Leader of the European Group?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: My point is somewhat different. I would like to endorse what Maulavi. Abdul Hamid has said. It seems that it undermines completely the doctrine of joint responsibility if any Member of the present Government or the previous Government can declare that a Cabinet decision was passed by a majority. This is the procedure in the United Kingdom.

In fact, in any democratic Government where there is the theory of undivided Cabinet responsibility, I think, it is an abdication of responsibility for any Member, present Member or *ex*-Member, to say I was not a party to a particular decision; whether the Cabinet decision was passed by a majority of 6 to 4, or 7 to 3, we, the Members of the Legislature, must regard it as shuffling of responsibility for any Minister, past or present, to say "I was not a party to the decision, I was in the minority". No Minister should be allowed by the Chair to say that he was in a minority or dissentient in a particular decision. My point really follows Maulavi Abdul Hamid's point. I regard any reference to minority or majority as breach of the Oath of Secrecy made on taking office. If a Minister disagrees with a Cabinet decision he has his own remedy—to resign.

*Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA: Nor should a Member be allowed to say that he was absent from a meeting, at Simla.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Discussions and decisions of the Cabinet, unless these are published by the Government, should not be made subjects of discussion on the floor of this House. Should those offending portions be expunged?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: First it should be decided what are the portions to be expunged. You may decide it yourself, Sir.

*Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We leave that to you Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Thursday, the 21st March, 1946.

SHILLONG:
The 2nd May, 1946.

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

*Speech not corrected.

APPENDIX D

List of Supplementary demands for grants for 1945-46
(To be discussed and voted by the Assembly on the 28th March 1946)

No.1

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 13,760 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation tax".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 44,000
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	Rs.
Collection of taxes on Agricultural Income	13,760

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The excess is due to the following reasons:—

(1) Due to the creation of a post of Special Officer from 19th November 1945 to 17th January 1946 when Mr. N. N. Chakravarty was on training before he took over charge as Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Income-tax, and to the fact that Mr. Saleh, the late Assistant Commissioner who was in the scale of Rs. 850—1,100 was allowed to draw pay in the senior scale of the Indian Civil Service in view of his seniority.

(2) Due to the entertainment of 1 Upper Division and 1 Sub-Grade Assistants from 1st April 1945 owing to increase in work in the office of the Assistant Commissioner.

(3) Due to the increased rate of dearness allowance and introduction of war allowance and also due to travelling allowance of officers and establishment in connection with taxation measures.

(4) Increase in law charges due to two pending cases before the High Court and 2 cases before the Privy Council for which the balance available will be insufficient to cover the pending bill of the Advocates in Calcutta.

(5) Contract contingencies due to large increase of 2,193 new assessment cases entailing greater expenditure in service stamps, etc., during the last four months of 1944-45.

No.2

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.24,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue."

I. —Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 22,25,100
II.—Sub-heads under which this Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

Charges of Administration—**A. General Establishment—**

(i) Pay of officers— <i>Deduct</i> recoveries from the Defence Department	Rs. — 35,000
(ii) Allowances and Honoraria	38,800
Total	3,800

F.—Survey, Settlement and Record operations—**(a) Assam Surveys—**

	Rs.
(I)—General and Controlling Section	2,030
(II)—Traverse Section	12,720
(III)—Survey Schools	5,530
Total ...	20,280
Grand Total ...	24,080

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A. (i)—Represents additional recoveries from the Defence Department on account of services rendered by Assam officers in connection with the requisitioning of land on behalf of the Central Government.

A. (ii)—Due to grant of increased rate of dearness and war allowances.

F. (a) (I)—The excess is due to the leave salary of the establishment going on leave on reversion from the Civil Porter Corps and due to grant of extra dearness and war allowance.

(II)—Excess due to full compliment of the Survey programme, entertainment of temporary staff and grant of dearness allowance at increased rates as well as purchase of tents.

(III)—The excess is due to entertainment of a large number of temporary Khalasis beyond anticipation in connection with the Officers' Survey and Settlement training class, enhanced rate of dearness allowance and war allowance as well as to the purchase of tents, etc.

No.3**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS to move—**

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.23,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "8.—**Provincial Excise**".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 4,44,500
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	

B.—District Executive Establishment—

Allowances and Honoraria	Rs. 7,000
C.—Distilleries—	
Contingencies (Non-contract)	16,000
Total	23,000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The excess under B.—District Executive Establishment—Allowances and Honoraria is mainly due to payment of rewards to Government servants necessitated by detection of a large number of important opium smuggling cases.

The excess under "C.—Distilleries—Contingencies—Non-contract" is due to the imposition by the Government of Bihar of Export fees on country spirit from that Province into Assam.

No.4

The Hon'ble Rev. Mr. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 4,56,475 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for administration of the head "10.—Forests"

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	25,13,400
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

"B.—Establishment—

	Rs.
B.5.—Grant-in-aid, Contribution, etc.	4,56,475

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sum demanded represents the net result after adjustment of the value of stone removed by military formations for war purposes. There is of course a correspondingly increased revenue on the other side of the account; the cost of stone so removed and paid for being shown only in order to bring out the true results of the year's work.

No.5

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 4,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "11.—Registration".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	1,96,900
II.—Sub-heads under which this Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A.—District charges—	
3. Allowances and Honoraria	3,800
4. Contingencies	601
B.—Works—	
1. Repairs	99
Total	4,500

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—3—Due to (1) deputation of officers to election works, (2) due to revision the rates of dearness and war allowances and (3) to meet the bills of section writers.

A.—4—Due to (1) higher rents paid to some Sub-Registry Office buildings, (2) due to purchase of boats for two Sub-Registry Offices for which there was no budget provision and (3) due to opening of two Sub-Registry Offices and increase in correspondence.

B.—Due to repairs made to the Katigora and Dhubri Sub-Registry Officers' buildings.

No. 6

The Hon'ble Srijut BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.91,540 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "12—Charges on account of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Act".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	2,97,200
II.—Sub-heads under which this Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
	Rs.
(1) A—Charges for collection	7,430
(2) B—Inspection of motor vehicles	1,074
(3) C—Compensation to local bodies, etc.	83,036
Total	91,540

EXPLANATORY NOTE

An additional appropriation of Rs.91,540 is required during the current financial year for the following reasons:—

(1) An excess of Rs.3,430 under 'Allowances' is due to the grant of dearness allowance at the enhanced rate sanctioned during the year and increase of tours by Inspectors of Motor Vehicles.

An excess of Rs.4,000 under 'Contingencies' is due to the rise in prices of contingency articles.

(2) The excess of Rs.1,074 under the sub-head 'Inspection of motor vehicles' is due to the grant of war allowance and increased touring by Motor Vehicles Inspectors.

(3) **Compensation to local bodies, etc.—**

(a) It was decided after protracted negotiations between the Province and the Crown Representative that compensation of Rs.7,500 must be paid to the Khyrim State during the current financial year on account of a fall in State revenues in the shape of *bazar* tolls, etc., due to the construction of the Sylhet-Shillong Motor Road through the Khyrim State whereas the control of motor traffic on the Road and resultant revenues were appropriated by the Province. No provision had been made for the purpose in the current year's budget.

(b) The Sree Lakshmi Motor Transport Company, Limited, the Shillong Transport and Trading Company, Limited, and The Carriers, Limited obtained a decree against Government for Rs.25,000 as damages in M.S. No. $\frac{19 \text{ of } 1940}{1 \text{ of } 1942}$ in the Court of the 2nd Sub-Judge, Sylhet with costs amounting to Rs.536-3-9. The plaintiffs appealed to the High Court and Government filed a cross-appeal. Meanwhile, the Companies filed another suit before the 2nd Sub-Judge, Sylhet, against Government claiming Rs. 1 lakh for loss of mesne profits. While the appeals were pending before the High Court and the Companies' suit was pending before the 2nd Sub-Judge, Sylhet, a compromise was achieved on the following terms:—

(i) That the appeal by the Companies and the cross-appeal by Government in the High Court be both withdrawn, the Sub-Judge's decree for Rs.25,000 and proportionate costs amounting to Rs.536-3-9 thereby remaining in force ;

(ii) that the pending suit before the Sub-Judge be decreed, on compromise for Rs.50,000, both parties bearing their own costs.

The High Court has allowed the withdrawal of the appeals and dismissed them on the petition of compromise.

The Sub-Judge has also decreed the sum of Rs.50,000 in M.S. No.1 of 1944.

Thus a total sum of Rs.75,536-3-9 has to be paid to the Companies for which no provision exists in the current year's budget.

No. 7

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.3,486 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "13—Other Taxes and duties".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs.
			9,500
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
A.—Charges for collection—			Rs.
(1) Pay of Officers	...	...	1,960
(2) Pay of Establishment	...	...	83
(3) Allowances and honoraria	...	...	1,443
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	3,486

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A. (1), (2) and (3)—The additional amounts are required to meet the requirements of the Special Officer in connection with new Taxation measures in Assam and his office staff. This post has been newly created and is held by Mr. Saleh who has been engaged in the preparation of the various Taxation measures with effect from 18th January 1946. This was in pursuance of Government's decision to explore possible sources of revenue.

No. 8

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rupee 1 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head "18-B.—Navigation Embankment and Drainage Works".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Rs.
			8,09,900
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
A.—Works	...	...	Re.
			1
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	1

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The work "Construction of an embankment near Dhaipur on the left bank of the Kushiya" was undertaken in order to keep the river Kushiya which was silting up navigable, and also to improve the drainage in the adjacent area. The

work was first estimated to cost Rs. 1,00,760 of which the Government of India agreed to contribute 50 per cent. While the work was in progress the bund under construction was damaged by floods and it was found that certain extra items of work were necessary to the bund being safeguarded against future floods. As a result of the addition of these items the estimate had to be revised for Rs. 1,48,659 of which the Government of India have agreed to pay Rs. 66,935 and a sum of Rs. 1,17,000 is required for expenditure during the year. Of this a sum of Rs. 1,16,999 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore asked to vote a supplementary grant of Re. 1 to meet the balance.

The net liability of the Provincial Government will therefore be only Rs.81,724 but in the first instance the entire expenditure becomes a provincial charge.

No. 9

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 9,98,127 be granted to the Minister in charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration."

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	29,35,000
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
L.—Elections for Legislatures	3,51,427
M(a).—Civil Secretariat—	
(i) Pay of officers	24,900
(ii) Pay of Establishment	49,000
(iii) Allowances and honoraria... ..	58,100
Total	1,32,000
(b)—Publicity Department	73,400
Q.—Examiner of Local Accounts—	
(i) Allowances and honoraria	5,946
(ii) Contingencies	828
Total	6,774
S. 1. General Establishment—	
(i) Pay of officers	1,27,600
(ii) Pay of Establishment	40,800
(iii) Allowances and honoraria	1,17,300
(iv) Contingencies	1,41,600
Total	4,27,300
Y.—Charges in England—High Commissioner for India	7,226
Grand Total	9,98,127

Motor Transport Department has proved to be a paying one. But my opinion is that if this Department could be managed more efficiently, larger sums of money could be earned.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 29,08,100 under Grant No. 34, Major head—85 A.— Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading, at page 154 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 29,08,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complaint against the Supply Department has become universal and its administration appears to be very unsystematic and unsatisfactory from top to bottom. People do not get kerosene, cloth and consumers' goods regularly. The difficulty is that the Subdivisional Officers do not like to take the public into their confidence. They think that they can manage the business quite well with the help of the subordinate officers. But when we look to the actual state of affairs, we find that it is altogether a failure. It appears that people do not get even a small portion of cloth and other consumer goods meant for them. The difficulty lies in the fact that the dealers with the connivance of the subordinate officers somehow manage to dispose of the major portion of the stock in the black-market. People living in towns somehow manage to get their supply but the poor people living in villages do not get cloth and consumer goods regularly. Instances are not rare that villagers in many mauzas are not getting cloth for the last 6 months. These things will have to be looked into by the Government. When people come with complaints before the Subdivisional Officers to say that they are not getting cloth and that they are charged higher prices, they are told that the matter will be enquired into. I can cite one instance when a man bought a piece of cloth for Rs.22 though its actual price was Rs.7. That man brought a case before the Court. It was sent for an enquiry to the Sub-Inspector of Textile. He took about 4 months in submitting his report, and when the report came it was found that it was against the petitioner. He filed a Naraji against the report and the Subdivisional Officer asked an Extra Assistant Commissioner to hold an enquiry into the matter. The enquiry was held and the case was reported to be true and the Sub-Inspector was asked to institute a case. The Sub-Inspector took about 3 months in lodging the complaint. It was sent to the Government for necessary sanction. The poor man came again and again to the Subdivisional Officer's Court and made enquiries, but he could not find out what had happened to his complaint. It is about six or seven months past; the poor man has not yet been able to have his trial by a Court.

It is absolutely necessary for the Subdivisional Officers to take the public into their confidence and set up Advisory Boards consisting of officials and non-official leading men, so that the public may know when the supply will come and how much they will get. Sometimes the dealers do not even let the people know when supplies are due. But when the major portion of the stock is disposed of in the black-market the villagers come to know of it, and they cannot get any supply. So, I will urge upon the Government to look into the matter and insist on the Subdivisional Officers to set up Advisory Boards consisting of officials and non-official leading men so that there may not be any jobbery in the distribution of cloth and other consumer goods. If this is done, the result will be that the public will be in a position to know when supplies are coming and how much will they get, otherwise it will be altogether impossible for them to get their supplies.

Now there is another difficulty, Sir. It appears that people are to get their supplies of cloth from distances of about 15 or 10 miles or so. When they go to shopkeepers to get cloth, the shopkeepers say that they will not distribute cloth

work was first estimated to cost Rs. 1,00,760 of which the Government of India agreed to contribute 50 per cent. While the work was in progress the bund under construction was damaged by floods and it was found that certain extra items of work were necessary to the bund being safeguarded against future floods. As a result of the addition of these items the estimate had to be revised for Rs. 1,48,659 of which the Government of India have agreed to pay Rs. 66,935 and a sum of Rs. 1,17,000 is required for expenditure during the year. Of this a sum of Rs. 1,16,999 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant, The Assembly is, therefore asked to vote a supplementary grant of Re. 1 to meet the balance.

The net liability of the Provincial Government will therefore be only Rs.81,724 but in the first instance the entire expenditure becomes a provincial charge.

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No. 9

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 9,98,127 be granted to the Minister in charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head '25.—General Administration."

	Rs.
Grant originally voted by the Assembly	29,35,000
II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
L.—Elections for Legislatures	3,51,427
M(a).—Civil Secretariat—	
(i) Pay of officers	24,900
(ii) Pay of Establishment	49,000
(iii) Allowances and honoraria... ..	58,100
Total	1,32,000
(b)—Publicity Department	73,400
Q.—Examiner of Local Accounts—	
(i) Allowances and honoraria	5,946
(ii) Contingencies	828
Total	6,774
S. 1. General Establishment—	
(i) Pay of officers	1,27,600
(ii) Pay of Establishment	40,800
(iii) Allowances and honoraria	1,17,300
(iv) Contingencies	1,41,600
Total	4,27,300
Y.—Charges in England—High Commissioner for India	7,226
Grand Total	9,98,127

EXPLANATORY NOTE

L.—The excess of Rs. 3,51,427 includes (1) Rs. 5,075 under 'pay' of officers (2) Rs. 14,943 under 'pay of Establishment (3) Rs. 41,651 under allowances and honoraria and (4) Rs. 2,89,758 under 'Contingencies'. This huge expenditure of Rs. 3,51,427 was incurred in connection with the General Elections to the provincial and Central Legislatures. A claim for the recovery of Rs. 14,026 from the Central Government has already been made on account of expenditure incurred in connection with the election to the Central Legislature. In the original Budget for 1945-46 a provision of Rs.2,000 only was made for this purpose and hence a large supplementary grant is necessary.

M. (a) (i)—Due to the appointment of Special Officers, an Assistant Secretary and inclusion of the post of Under-Secretary, Supply Department in the Secretariat for 9 months during the year.

(ii)—Due to additional temporary staff to cope with the increased work.

(iii)—Mainly due to increased rate of dearness allowance and war allowance.

M. (b)—Hon'ble Members will have received a printed report on the Publicity and Rural Development Department, which describes how the whole scope of the Department was changed with effect from the 1st June 1945 by the acceptance of the Government of India's Field Publicity Scheme. This scheme has been fully explained in Chapter 2 of the printed report. The position at present is that the capital equipment of publicity vans, projectors, generators, etc., is in the process of being supplied by the Government of India. Most of it has either arrived already or is in transit, but the full cost incurred by the Government of India, a portion of which will be borne by the Government of Assam, and to be paid for in the current financial year cannot be known accurately yet. A sum of Rs.73,400 is demanded on the best estimate that can be made of Assam's share of the costs.

Q. (i)—The excess is due to grant of daily allowance at enhanced rate and to meet the actual requirements of dearness and war allowance.

(ii)—Due to higher incidental charges of carrying office trunks by outside Audit Staff on tour and to supply of liveries to peons.

S. (i)—Due to appointment of temporary officers and continuance of the posts of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors to cope with increase of work specially supply work and appointment of a Provincial Service Officer to officiate in a listed post.

(ii)—Due to additional temporary staff entertained to cope with the increase in work and promotion to higher posts.

(iii)—The excess is due to grant of increased rate of dearness allowance and war allowance and higher expenditure on travelling allowance owing to increased touring in connection with election work.

(iv)—The excess is due to higher outlay on postage and telegram charges as a result of increased correspondence, grant of a higher rate of dearness allowance and the expenses in connection with "Pooled Transport". As touring of District Officers were adversely affected during the war on account of the difficulty in obtaining spare parts and the high cost of maintenance of vehicles, Government allotted 20 15 cwt. Trucks to the District Officers for touring purposes and asked the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to supply the Trucks directly to the officers in the early part of 1944; owing to transport difficulties, however, the vehicles could not be provided in that year. The vehicles have, however, been supplied during the current financial year and, as there is no budget provision, the supplementary grant under this head includes Rs.75,000 approximately for the purpose.

Y.—Excess due to increase in leave salary and share cost for the maintenance of the High Commissioner's establishment.

No.10

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,62,975 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "27—Administration of Justice".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	10,10,800
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
B. Law officers—	
(b) <i>Legal Remembrancer—</i>	
	Rs.
(i) Contingencies	250
(c) <i>Muffassil establishment—</i>	
(i) Allowances and honoraria	4,600
(ii) Contingencies	7,325
Total ...	11,925
	Rs.
D. District and Sessions Judges—	
(i) Allowances and Honoraria	41,900
I. Criminal Courts—	
(i) Allowances and Honoraria	31,900
(ii) Contingencies	77,000
Total ...	1,08,900
Grand Total ...	1,62,975

EXPLANATORY NOTE

B. (b) (i)—Due to purchase of copies of Butterworths Emergency Legislations.

(c) (i) and (ii)—Due to increase in the number of cases in many districts for which fees were paid to Government pleaders and other pleaders.

D. (i)—The excess is due to the grant of increased rate of "Dearness Allowances" and "War Allowances".

I. (i)—Due to longer expenditure on "Remuneration to Copysts" owing to higher demand for copies and grant of increased rate of "Dearness Allowances".

(ii) Due to higher expenditure under "Diet and Road money to Witnesses", "Hospital expenses of wounded persons" and "Other Non-contract contingencies" owing to the increase in the number of criminal cases.

No. 11

The Hon'ble Srijit BASANTA KUMAR DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 12,72,094 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head—"29.—Police".

I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... Rs. 38,53,900

II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—
Rs.

B. D. E. F.—District Police—

(1) Pay of officers	...	...	...	...	1,348
(2) Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	...	85,022
(3) Allowances, etc.	...	...	...	...	2,42,457
(4) Contingencies	...	...	...	...	5,95,294
(5) Hospital charges	...	...	...	...	1,800

River Police—

(1) Allowances	...	...	...	...	2,600
(2) S. L. Establishment	22,950

E.—Special Police—

(1) Additional Police for War functions	22,100*
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F.—Railway Police—

(1) Supervising staff	15,700
(2) Crime and Order Police	44,000

G.—C. I. D.—

(1) Pay of Officers	...	...	...	...	3,660
(2) Pay of establishment	...	...	...	...	90,800
(3) Allowances, etc.	...	...	...	...	62,700
(4) Contingencies	...	...	...	...	3,600

K.—Works—

(1) Petty constructions	...	...	...	...	20,800
(2) Repairs	...	...	...	...	57,700

Deduct—Amount transferred to the deposit accounts of the Khasi States. (—) 3,517

M.—Charges in England—Expenditure of the High Commissioner. 3,080

Total ... 12,72,094

EXPLANATORY NOTE

B. D. E. F.—District Police—

- (1) The excess is due to the arrangement made against the vacancies in the I. P. cadre by posting officers of the Provincial cadre.
- (2) The excess is due to less provision in the budget than was estimated. Inspector General of Police's demand of Trs. 29,24 for pay of establishment was reduced by Government on the progress of 1944-45 actuals but this has proved short.
- (3) The excess is partly due to the grant of dearness allowance at enhanced rates and partly due to the grant of war allowance and increased rates of daily allowances.
- (4) The excess is due to the rise in prices of the articles of clothing and other miscellaneous articles, purchase of articles of clothing in advance, use of more stamps due to increase of correspondence, etc.

(5) The excess is mainly due to the entertainment of whole time Sub-Assistant Surgeons for some police hospitals and increase in prices of medicines and other hospital equipments.

River Police—

(1) The excess is due to grant of war allowance and the increased rates of dearness allowance.

(2) The excess is due to grant of dearness allowance at an enhanced rate and repairs to Steam Launches.

E. Special Police—

(1) The excess is due to less provision in the budget than was estimated. Inspector General of Police's demand of Trs.92 was reduced by Government to Trs.43 but this has proved short to meet the needs. The entire expenditure is, however, recoverable from the Government of India.

F. Railway Police—

(1) The excess is due to grant of war allowance, increased rates of dearness allowance, posting of officers of the Provincial cadre and purchase of a new saloon.

(2) The excess is due to the increase in the rates of dearness allowance and cash allowances and the cost of clothing for four years supplied during this year and due to increase of force.

G.-C. I. D.—

(1) The excess is due to the creation of the post of one Deputy Superintendent of Police for Sylhet District Intelligence Branch.

(2) The excess is due to the increase of staff

(3) The excess is due to the increase of staff, increase of travelling allowance, grant of war allowances and dearness allowances at an enhanced rate.

(4) The excess is due to rise in prices of clothing materials, hiring of houses and purchase of furniture for the increased staff.

K. Works—

(1) The excess is due to the transfer of some Air Raid Precaution buildings to this Department whose costs are debited to Police and constructions of some new buildings urgently required for which no provision was made in the budget.

(2) The excess is due to the repairs of the temporary rail for e buildings, extensive repairs to a large number of Police buildings to make them habitable and increased cost of building materials and labour.

Deduct—Amount transferred to the deposit accounts of the Khasi States—

The excess is due to increase of staff and abnormal increase in the prices of clothing and other contingent material.

M.—Due to larger expenditure on Stores purchased from the United Kingdom.

No. 12

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 9,450 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "37—**Education—European and Anglo-Indian Education**".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs. 62,300
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for :—		
A. Government Secondary Schools—		Rs.
1 Allowances and honoraria	...	1,000
2. Ditto—Contingencies (Non-contract)	...	6,500
3. Ditto—Contingencies (Contract)...	...	1,950
		<hr/>
Total	...	9,450
		<hr/>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The sum of Rs. 1,000 is required to meet the cost of war, extra dearness and cash allowances of officers and clerks.

2. Due to the re-opening of the Boarding establishment of the Pinemount School an additional sum of Rs. 6,500 is required to meet the extra expenditure for the purpose.

3. A sum Rs. 1,950 is required due to entertainment of contingency menials for re-opening the Boarding establishment and granting of dearness and cash allowances to them.

No.13

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 5,74,187 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European)".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	59.60,800
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

SECONDARY EDUCATION—**(a)—Government Secondary Schools for boys—**

Allowances and Honoraria	4,200(i)
G.—Grants to Local Bodies for Secondary Schools.	68,300(ii)
H.—Works (Secondary)—Original Works	14,640(iii)

PRIMARY EDUCATION—**I.—Government Primary Schools—**

2.—Allowances and Honoraria	15,000(iv)
J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education.	3,70,580(v)
K.—Direct grants to Non-Government Primary Schools.	16,000(vi)

SPECIAL EDUCATION—

N.—Direct grants to Non-Government Special Schools.	34,000(vii)
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GENERAL CHARGES—**Q.—Direction—**

1. Pay of officers	4,300(viii)
2. Pay of Establishment... ..	1,000(ix)
3. Allowances and Honoraria	15,000(x)
4. Contingencies	3,000(xi)

R.—Inspection—

2. Pay of Establishment	5,000(xii)
3. Allowances and Honoraria	17,500(xiii)

T.—Miscellaneous—				Rs.
(d) Other Miscellaneous charges—				
Grants for Mass Literacy Campaign	...	...		2,000(xiv)
V.—Charges in England				
	...	...	...	3,667(xv)
		Total ...		5,74,187

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(i) A sum of Rs. 4,200 is needed to meet the cost of war allowance, enhanced rates of dearness and cash allowances granted to Government servants for which there was no budget provision.

(ii) The amount of Rs. 68,300 is required to meet the cost of dearness allowance granted to teachers, clerks and menials of Middle Schools under Local Bodies.

(iii) This sum of Rs. 14,640 is required to meet the cost of the A.R.P. buildings at Dibrugarh taken over for the accommodation of the Girls' High School there.

(iv) An extra sum of Rs. 15,000 is required to meet the cost of dearness and cash allowances granted to Government Primary School teachers as the existing provision has proved inadequate.

(v) An additional amount of Rs. 3,70,580 is required to meet the expenditure in regard to the grant of dearness allowance at increased rates to Primary School teachers under Local Bodies. The budget provision of Rs. 5,50,000 has fallen short of actual requirements.

(vi) An additional sum of Rs. 16,000 is necessary for meeting the expenditure of dearness allowance at increased rates to teachers of Aided Primary Schools and also of those teachers of the new schools taken over this year to the aided list.

(vii) Rupees 34,000 is required to meet the expenditure on account of dearness allowance to teachers of aided special schools for which no budget provision was made in the current year.

(viii) Rupees 4,390 is required partly to meet the cost on account of leave of Mr. A. Lais, Director of Public Instruction, Assam and partly the pay of the Special Officer for Primary Education.

(ix) A sum of Rs. 1,000 is necessary to meet the pay of the staff of the Special Officer for Primary Education.

(x) A sum of Rs. 15,000 is required to meet the cost of war allowance, enhanced rates of dearness and cash allowances granted to Government servants.

(xi) The amount of Rs. 3,000 is needed to meet the cost of new designed tables for the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam.

(xii) An additional sum of Rs. 5,000 is required to meet the cost of pay of establishments as less provision for the purpose was made in the current year's budget.

(xiii) An additional amount of Rs. 17,500 is necessary for war, dearness and cash allowances granted to Government servants as the existing budget provision for the purpose has proved inadequate.

(xiv) A sum of Rs. 2,000 is required to meet the cost of war dearness and cash allowances granted to Mass Literacy staff. The total requirements on this account amounted to Rs. 2,000 of which Rs. 6,000 will be met by re-appropriation. No provision for this purpose was made in the current year's budget.

(xv) To meet the leave salaries of officers of the Education Department sent for training in the United Kingdom for which no provision was made in the original budget.

No.14

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,63,777 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	15,23,000
II.—Sub-heads under which this Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A. Medical Establishment—	
<i>(a) Superintendence—</i>	
1. Pay of officer	3,000
2. Pay of establishment	7,342
3. Allowances and honoraria	3,332
4. Contingencies (Non-contract)	10049
Miscellaneous contract-contingencies	457
<i>(b) District Medical Officers—</i>	
1. Pay of officers	3,112
B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—	
<i>(a) Ordinary Dispensaries—</i>	
3. Allowances and honoraria	22,404
4. Contingencies (Non-contract)	61,609
<i>(f) Travelling dispensaries—Contingencies (Non-contract)</i>	3,728
<i>(i) Grant for Leprosy works</i>	5,000
C.—Grant for Medical purposes—	
Contribution to the Municipal Boards	420
Ditto Tinsukia Hospital	1,836
D.—Medical Colleges and Schools—	
<i>(a) Medical Colleges—</i>	
Contributions and grants-in-aid—Examination fees and maintenance charges of the Calcutta Medical College.	20,519
<i>(b) Medical Schools—</i>	
5. Contingencies (Contract)	10,969
G.—Works—	
Original works	0,000
Total	1,63,777

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. (a) The excess expenditure is required on account of the inclusion of the pay of the Blood Transfusion Officer, entertainment of extra staff, payment of dearness allowance at increased rates to increased staff, inclusion of the allowances

of the Blood Transfusion Officer and his staff, rent of office building and building of the body of Inspector General of Civil Hospitals' truck and repairs to the truck and due to heavy expenditure on postage stamps during the year.

(b) The excess expenditure is required due to grant of leave to Indian Medical Service officers and transfer of Indian Medical Service officers from this province and entertainment in their places of officers whose pay is debitable to the voted head.

B. (a) The excess expenditure involved is due to the grant of dearness allowances at increased rates, and other war allowances to the staff employed in Hospitals and Dispensaries, purchase of quinine dihydrochloride, Penicillin, medical instruments and A. R. P. Stores, increased scale of diet and increased number of patients, and purchase of special drugs which are now available.

(f) The extra expenditure is required due to purchase of a mobile first-aid truck for a travelling dispensary in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

(i) The additional grant required in this connection is required due to a non-recurring grant for the Santipara Leper Colony for the maintenance and up-keep of the said colony.

C. The excess expenditure is required due to the grant to the Dhubri Municipal Board for the Dhubri Leper Ward and also a grant to the Surajmali Jalan Hospital at Tinsukia.

D. (a) This additional grant is required to meet last year's debit raised by the Government of Bengal for the purpose which was adjusted during the current financial year and further debit of Rs.10,863 raised by Bengal Government during this year.

(b) The extra grant involved is required due to the entertainment of more contingency menials and grant of dearness allowances at increased rates to them.

G. This additional grant is required due to taking over of the A. R. P. building at Digboi for the Charali Dispensary.

No. 15

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.5,32,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come up in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	16,69,100
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A.—Public Health Establishment—	
(a) Superintendence and other Establishment—	
Pay of officers	3,600
Allowances and Honoraria	42,000
Contingencies—Non-contract	3,700
C.—Epidemic diseases—	
(a) Malaria—	
Non-contract contingencies	3,98,000
E.—Pasteur Institute—	
Pay of Establishment	4,600
Allowances and Honoraria	9,000
Contingencies	48,600
F.—Works—	
Public Health—Original Works	16,800
Repairs	5,700
Total	5,32,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.—Public Health Establishment.—The extra amount required under "Pay of Officers" is due to the reversion from military duty of one officer drawing higher pay, under "Allowances and honoraria" due to increased rates of travelling, dearness and house rent allowances and grant of house rent allowance to Rural Health Inspectors, and under "Contingencies" due to increased demand of vaccine lymph owing to the prevalence of small-pox and supply to the military authorities, which is made on payment.

C.—Epidemic disease.—The extra amount required under "Non-contract contingencies" is due to the allotment by the Government of India of an additional quantity of ten million mepacrine tablets and increased quantity of quinine for the tea industry and also due to the increased prices of quinine and cinchona. Supply to the tea industry is made on payment.

E.—Pasteur Institute.—The extra amount required under "Pay of Establishment" is to meet the pay of a temporary establishment entertained to cope with the abnormal increase of work in connection with the preparation of vaccine, bacteriophage, etc., in the Pasteur Institute which were in high demand by the military authorities to whom supplies were made on payment; under "Allowances and Honoraria" due to the sanction of war allowance, increased rate of dearness allowance and a larger amount of travelling allowance being necessary for the Director of Pasteur Institute who was deputed to New Delhi to attend the meetings of the Central Advisory Board of Health, and under "Contingencies" due to the abnormal demand of vaccines, bacteriophage, etc., from the military authorities to whom supplies are made on payment and also due to the payment of the previous year's bills which were received too late for payment in that year. Besides prices of equipment, sheep, glass-ware, etc., had not come down.

F.—Works.—The extra amount required under "Original Works" is due to (1) the construction of a Leprosy Dispensary with Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters and a pucca ring well at a cost of Rs.8,000 at Singimari in the Nowgong District, (2) certain items of construction in connection with the sanitary arrangement in the Darrang Mela at a cost of Rs.3,682 and (3) payment of a sum of Rs.5,150 to the Civil Defence Department on account of the cost of an A. R. P. building at Dibrugarh, which has been taken over by the Public Health Department for accommodation of the office of the District Medical Officer of Health, Lakhimpur, and under "Repairs" due mainly to the repair of certain dispensaries damaged by storm and also due to the payment of certain bills for repair work carried out in the previous year, which were received too late for payment in that year.

No. 16

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.6,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "40—Agriculture."

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly—Rs.48,46,800.

II.—Sub-head under which the additional grant will be accounted for—
Expenditure on Post-War Planning and Development—Rs.6,000.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Government of India—Welfare and Resettlement Directorate, General Headquarters have initiated a scheme for pre-release agricultural training of service personnel and have opened a demonstration plot at the Assam Regimental Centre, Shillong, for army personnel belonging to this province. The Government of India have made an initial grant of Rs.2,500 and have undertaken to make a recurring grant of Rs.3,500 per annum to the Demonstration plot. This Government have agreed to make similar grants so that the total cost may be shared equally by the two Governments.

No. 17

The Hon'ble Rev. Mr. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.42,405 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1946, for the administration of the head "**42.—Co-operation**".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs.3,39,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary demand will be accounted for—		
A.—Direction—		Rs.
1. Pay of officers	... ..	1,305
2. Pay of Establishment	... ..	3,150
3. Allowances and Honoraria	... ..	1,600
4. Contingencies	... ..	2,100
B.—Superintendence—		
1. Pay of officers	... ..	2,400
2. Pay of Establishment	... ..	5,300
3. Allowances and Honoraria	... ..	19,600
4. Contingencies	... ..	6,950
Total	... ..	42,405

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A—1. No provision was made in the budget for the leave salary of Srijut G. C. Sarma, Assistant Director of Industries, Assam, as it could not be foreseen that he would go on leave from the 16th December, 1945. Hence the amount of Rs. 1,305 is to be provided by a supplementary grant.

A—2. No provision was included in the budget for temporary establishments sanctioned for the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Industries for increased work in his office. Hence the amount of Rs. 3,150 is to be met by a supplementary grant.

A—3. The provision made in the budget for war and dearness allowances and travelling allowance proved inadequate, due mainly to the enhanced rates sanctioned from time to time. So a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,600 is indispensable.

A—4. The registration of the abbreviated telegraphic addresses, telephone connection to the Director of Industries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies' bungalow, cost of stamps for the increased volume of correspondence, purchase of furniture and certain articles of stationery locally and shifting of records to the new building of the office of Director of Industries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies are mainly responsible for the heavy expenditure under this head. The excess expenditure of Rs. 2,100 thus incurred is to be met by a supplementary grant.

B—1. No provision was made in the budget for the leave salary of Babu K. B. Shome, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies. The excess expenditure incurred on that account is to be met by a supplementary grant. Appointment of a Special Officer for the Co-operative Department in November, 1945, is also partially responsible for the excess.

B—2. Government sanctioned the entertainment of one Chief Auditor, three Auditors, thirty-five Assistant Auditors and their clerks and peons for a period of one year with effect from 1st April, 1945, for the audit of the Co-operative Societies.

An additional staff of 10 Inspectors of Co-operative Societies together with their clerks and peons was also sanctioned temporarily for one year for supervision of Consumers' Co-operative Societies. Besides a clerk and a peon were also sanctioned for the Special Officer sanctioned for the Co-operative Department. No provision exists in the current year's budget for the excess expenditure involved on the establishment mentioned above. A supplementary grant of Rs. 5,300 is therefore necessary.

B—3. No provision was made in the budget for the travelling allowance, fixed travelling allowance, dearness and war allowances of the temporary establishment mentioned against B—2 and provision made for some other temporary establishment proved inadequate. To meet the expenditure for these establishments a supplementary grant of Rs. 19,600 is necessary.

B—4. The existing provision in the budget proved inadequate to meet the requirements of the temporary establishment referred to above as no provision was included for them in the budget. So a supplementary grant of Rs. 6,950 for this purpose is necessary.

No. 18

The Hon'ble Rev. Mr. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 45,267 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "43.—**Industries**".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs. 3,71,900

II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary demand will be accounted for—

A.—Industrial Development—

					Rs.
Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	...	10,700
D.—Works—					
Original works	...	...	...	...	34,567
Total ...					45,267

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.—Government sanctioned the continuance of the appointments made in connection with the war supplies and it is estimated that the expenditure during the current year will amount to Rs. 10,700. No provision was made in the current year's budget for this as the expenditure could not be foreseen.

D.—The amount was provided for in the budget for 1944-45 for construction of buildings for the Sericultural Farm at Senchoa. As however, the works could not be executed during the year the amount was surrendered but sanctioned afresh in the current financial year. No provision was however included in the current year's budget for this expenditure. So a supplementary grant of Rs. 34,567 is indispensable.

No. 19

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 51,401 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "47.—**Miscellaneous Departments**".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs. 1,35,400

II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—

	Rs.
(1) B.—Labour...	4,080
(2) C.—Inspector of Steam Boilers...	5,000
(3) Post-War Reconstruction—Electrical Adviser (Development).	40,100
E.—Provincial Statistics—	
(a) Raingauge charges...	210
H.—Works—	
(a) Original works—	
2. Raingauge and Jute Statistics ...	157
(b) Repairs—	
2. Raingauge and Jute Statistics ...	60
F.—Preservation and Translation of ancient manuscripts.	1,794
Total	51,401

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) **B.**—The increase is due to various causes—enhancement of the special pay granted to the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the dearness allowance at the increased rates of the additional staff sanctioned for the Labour Commissioner's office. Expenditure in connection with advanced travelling allowance, outfit allowance and passage money granted to an officer deputed to United Kingdom for training in Labour subject also contributed to the increase.

(2) **C.**—The increase is due to the purchase of a motor truck for the conveyance of Inspectors of Boilers.

(3) Government decided after the budget was passed, and in view of the end of the War, to take initial measures to investigate prospects of Hydro-electric Development in the province. A temporary post of Electrical Adviser, Development, was therefore created during the year and a new sub-head "Electrical Adviser (Development)" was opened under the head "47.—Miscellaneous Departments" in the accounts for 1945-46. The services of Mr. W. Allsup, who retired from the post of Electrical Adviser in March 1945, and who had made a considerable study of this subject in his spare time during service, were retained in the first instance for a year for the purpose. The expenditure is necessary for defraying the expenses in connection with the pay of the officer, pay of his establishment, allowances, honoraria and contingencies including the purchase of a touring vehicle for the survey of sites.

E. (a) The additional amount is necessary for purchase of 5 raingauges to replace the old ones which became unserviceable.

H. (a) The additional amount is required for fixing the new raingauges.

(b) The additional amount is required for repairing fencings round raingauges. The original grant of Rs.40 is quite inadequate for 130 raingauges.

F.—This amount is required by the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies to enable it to carry on research works.

No. 20

The Hon'ble Rev. Mr. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.58,72,904 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges)".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly Rs.46,70,700
 II.—Sub-heads under which this Supplementary grant will be accounted for—

A.—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—				Rs.
1. General Administration	...	...	...	19,224
2. Jails and Convict Settlements	...	...	...	384
3. Police other than Assam Rifles	...	...	...	50
4. Education other than European	...	...	...	62
5. Civil Works	...	...	...	220
				19,940

(b) Communications—

1. Ordinary Roads	...	...	...	1,00,300
2. Tea Rates Works	...	...	...	83,500
3. Boat, Bridges and Ferries...	...	...	...	16,050
4. Petrol Tax Projects Ordinary	...	...	...	70,000
				2,69,850

B.—Repairs—

1. Buildings	...	...	...	1,57,370
2. Communications	...	...	...	53,11,642
3. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	457
4. Tea Rates Works	...	...	...	1,12,520

55,81,989

D.—Grants-in-aid for communication 1,125

Grand total 58,72,904

EXPLANATORY NOTES

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(a) The accommodation in the Deputy Commissioner's Court building at Shillong was inadequate due to expansion of office staff. It has become necessary in the interest of public service to extend the court building at a cost of Rs.9,224 which is required for expenditure during the current year.

(b) Due to opening of new offices and expansion of the various existing Departments it became urgently necessary to provide accommodation by constructing new office buildings at Shillong at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,78,236. As the work could not be completed during the last year and as no specific provision could be made in the current year's budget a sum of Rs 48,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 38,000 will be met from the savings within the budget grant. The Assembly is therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 10,000 to meet the balance.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENT

Certain departmental buildings in the Jorhat Jail were severely damaged by earthquake. As the Jail Department were unable to carry out the repairs to these pucca buildings departmentally, Public Works Department have been requested to take over the buildings on to their books. The work is estimated to cost Rs.8,384 which is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs.8,000 will be met from the savings within the budget grant. The Assembly is therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.384 to meet the balance.

POLICE OTHER THAN ASSAM RIFLES

Due to the revision of estimate which was originally prepared at a time when prices of materials and labour were low the work "Construction of quarters for an Assistant Sub-Inspector and the extension to the existing constables' barracks at Ajmiriganj Police Station" has become a major work in the course of execution. The work is now estimated to cost Rs.10,295 and a sum of Rs.7,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs.6,950 will be met from savings within the budget grant. The Assembly is therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 50 to meet the balance.

EDUCATION OTHER THAN EUROPEANS

(1) The tiled roof of the Moslem Hostel attached to the Government High School at Habiganj was severely damaged by storm and was beyond repairs. So it has become essentially necessary to replace the tiled roof of the building by asbestos roof at a cost of Rs.5,112 which is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs.5,100 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.12 to meet the balance.

(2) The permanent buildings of the Cotton College, Gauhati were occupied by the Military. As no accommodation was available elsewhere it became essentially necessary to construct temporary new buildings for the College. The project, estimated to cost Rs. 46,407 was sanctioned at the end of last year but no expenditure was incurred and no specific provision could be made for it in the budget for the current year. In view, however, of the recent release of the permanent College buildings by the Military such items of work as are not considered necessary for present needs are not being executed. A sum of Rs. 20,500 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 20,450 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote for a supplementary grant of Rs. 50 to meet the balance.

CIVIL WORKS

(1) Due to increased activities in the Public Works Department there has been an increase in the number of tools and machinery with a corresponding increase in the demand for manufacturing parts of machinery of the Department. It has become therefore essentially necessary to extend the Mechanical Engineer's Workshop at Jorhat to make accommodation for increased manufacturing works of the Department.

The project estimated to cost Rs. 13,450 has been sanctioned and taken up. A sum of Rs. 1,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 950 will be met from the savings within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.50 to meet the balance.

(2) There is no suitable accommodation to house the large number of highly valuable plant and machinery which were ordered for road maintenance and construction. As these machines are arriving at Gauhati, it has become essentially necessary to construct a machine shed and tools godown at Gauhati at an estimated cost of Rs.35,342 and a sum of Rs. 32,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 31,950 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 50 to meet the balance.

(3) Due to increased number of officers and staff in the Public Works Department Secretariat to cope with the increased work in the Department, the existing accommodation in the Public Works Department Secretariat Buildings proved quite insufficient and certain additions and alterations to the existing buildings were sanctioned last year at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,000. Subsequently in preparing the detailed estimates it became necessary to make further extension to accommodate the Reinforced Concrete Specialist and Officers and staff connected with Post-War Planning and to shift Moslem prayer hall to a new site and

therefore a revised estimate had to be framed at a cost of Rs. 30,549. As the work could not be finished last year a sum of Rs. 25,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 24,980 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 20 to meet the balance.

(4) With a large number of machines now in hand to be further augmented by other machines now on order from abroad, it is experienced that the Workshop at Jorhat cannot meet the demands for repairs to and manufacturing parts for machines and hence it has become imperatively necessary to open a Workshop at Sylhet. An estimate for Rs. 62,458 has been framed and sanctioned for the construction of buildings for Public Works Department Workshop at Sylhet and a sum of Rs. 50,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs. 49,900 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs. 100 to meet the balance.

(b) COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ordinary Road—(i) The original proposal was to construct the bridge over the river Daipang at Galendi in the Dalgaon Colonisation areas by this Department charging the cost to the head "7.—Land Revenue". But as it was found later that this procedure will lead to complication in respect of levy of departmental charges, it has been decided to carry out the works by this Department charging the cost to "50.—Civil Works—Provincial." The work is estimated to cost Rs.15,740 and a sum of Rs.8,000 is required for expenditure during the year. Of this a sum of Rs.7,900 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.100 to meet the balance.

(ii) The Chhatak-Govindganj Road was taken over by the Public Works Department for improvement. The work is estimated to cost Rs.13,182 and a sum of Rs.5,200 is required for expenditure during the current financial year. Of this, a sum of Rs.5,000 will be met by reappropriation within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of the Rs. 200 to meet the balance.

(iii) The Shari bridge was damaged by flood and it is to be remodelled. A sum of Rs. 1,20,000 is required for expenditure during the current year. Of this, a sum of Rs.20,000 will be met from savings within the budget grant. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a supplementary grant of Rs.1,00,000 to meet the balance.

2. Tea Rates Works—

The bridges on the Tea Rates Road Fund Roads are to be maintained to 6 ton standard. The provision of Rs.10,000 proved inadequate and a sum of Rs.83,500 is required for expenditure during the current year.

3. Boat, Bridges and Ferries—

Three single boats, three mar boats and two engines at Colderghat in the Central Assam Division were acquired from the Supply of Civil Movements (Population) Departments, Assam at a cost of Rs.16,050 for use of this Department. Therefore, a sum of Rs. 16,050 is required to make the necessary payment during the year.

4. Petrol-Tax Projects—Ordinary—

Due to resumption of works held in abeyance during the War time, the budget provision of Trs.1,45 under the head proved inadequate. An additional sum of Trs. 70 is therefore required for expenditure during the year on the following works—

	Rs.
(i) Improving Hojai-Doboka Road in the Nowgong Division ...	10,000
(ii) Improvement of the North Trunk Road West from mile 76 to Garubhassa Section 11-A.	60,000
Total ...	70,000

B.—Repairs—

1. Buildings.
2. Communications.
3. Miscellaneous.
4. Tea Rates Works.

An additional sum of Rs.55,81,989 is required to meet demands for repairs as the original budget provision has proved inadequate.

With the increase in the cost of wages and the prices of materials the maintenance expenditure on communications also increased. At the same time as prices increased, the wear on the roads become abnormal due to heavy Military traffic. During the first years of the war, with no sufficient increase in funds for repairs, the road crusts were subjected to greater wear than could be made good, and this too at a time when the traffic became heavier than hitherto experienced. As the war progressed the Military constructed roads which were handed to the Public Works Department for maintenance, and a considerable mileage of other roads some belonging to the Local Board and some improved out of the Tea Rates Road Fund were handed over to the Public Works Department.

A statement placed below shows the mileages under different categories maintained during the years 1938-39, 1944-45 and 1945-46.

1938-39 Figures—

The expenditure, approximately 20 lakhs represents the normal pre-war cost of maintenance, on approximately 2,000 miles. This gives an average figure of Rs.1,000 per mile. All the road surfaces at that time were 10 feet wide whether tarred, metalled or gravelled.

1944-45 Figures—

Assuming no change in the pre-war mileage, the maintenance charges alone due to increased prices would amount to Rs.50 lakhs as a minimum. The expenditure on maintenance was however only just over 34 lakhs which meant that the roads did not receive the attention requisite to keep them in good order.

For 1945-46 the budget grant amounted to some 28 lakhs, which was quite insufficient for roads where the mileage was increasing and road surfaces steadily deteriorating.

From the 1st April 1945 the maintenance of all roads improved out of "Defence" became a provincial responsibility. This resulted in some 419 miles of 20 feet wide Surfaced road, equivalent to some 800 miles of single width surfaced road coming on to the Public Works Department books for maintenance. At the same time some 75 miles of double width Shingled road equivalent to 150 miles of single width shingled road were also taken over for maintenance. These were heavy responsibilities particularly when materials were difficult to get and prices soaring.

The Government of India became alive to the high cost of maintenance and had become aware of the delays that occurred due to shortage of supply, lack of funds, and delay in commencement of work because of the time taken in reaching a settlement between the Government of India and Provincial Governments.

The Government of India addressed all Provincial Governments in November 1944 stating the Policy governing Construction and Maintenance of Strategic Roads.

The cost of Construction of Strategic Roads is not for consideration here. The Maintenance of Strategic Roads in a suitable condition for Military Traffic was however of the utmost importance and it was expressly stated in their letter that "a different basis of apportionment of costs is required to ensure that there should be no such delays as have occurred in the past."

For Maintenance the Government of India pointed out that the Provincial Government should bear expenditure up to twice the average maintenance cost during the last three pre-war years, *viz.*, 1938-39, 1937-38, 1936-37, the balance being provided by the Government of India.

In these circumstances the Public Works Department incurred expenditure on maintenance throughout the year. As the result of the wet season of the year 1945 and on account of the heavy military traffic during the wet season there was further steady deterioration of the road surfaces. Urgent repairs were called for as soon as the rains were over. Whilst these repairs were being put in hand Public Works Department prepared a supplementary demand to meet the cost as the Provincial Repair Grant had already been depleted.

The deterioration of the roads generally, due to insufficient repairs and lack of materials throughout the war years had become so great that if further deterioration was not checked there would have been a general breakup of all the surfaces, with a consequent breakdown of communications, which result the Government of India desired to avoid.

In Assam practically all the roads in the charge of the Public Works Department were strategic roads as they were used by heavy military traffic. The Government of India have not yet given a complete list of "Strategic Roads". We have in the execution of repairs to roads included all District or Major Roads where heavy Military Traffic was run. It was for the adequate maintenance of these roads that the Supplementary Demand is made.

The execution of the repairs was not delayed until the Supplementary Demand was furnished. It was necessary in view of the Government of India Orders and in view of the necessity to avoid delay to anticipate the grant.

Recovery from Government of India—

The total expenditure on Maintenance for 1945-46 amounts to approximately 81 lakhs. Pre-war expenditure approximates 19 lakhs (average of 3 years). By deducting twice the pre-war expenditure or some 38 lakhs, the recovery from the Government of India amounts to some 43 lakhs.

The sum of 38 lakhs or twice the pre-war expenditure assumed as the Provincial responsibility for 1945-46 is only 4 lakhs in excess of the expenditure incurred in the year 1944-45.

Repairs 1945-46.—

The 81 lakhs expended in 1945-46 were spent throughout the year. Use was first made of the provincial grant of 28 lakhs and maintenance carried on in anticipation of additional funds being forthcoming. This procedure was essential for continuity and to ensure the supply of materials for use during the working season. Tar for surfacing during the dry weather amounting to some 3,000 tons had to be arranged well in advance on account of permits and transport difficulties. Materials for use with this tar had also to be obtained in great quantities and broken by hand. Collection of shingle for road surfaces had to be carried out throughout the year. In the Surma Valley collection has to be made during the wet season for use during the cold weather and during the ensuing wet season. Without full and comprehensive forward arrangements road work cannot be carried out timely.

The additional sum of Rs. 55,81,989 required for expenditure during the current year is made up of the following:—

Repairs—				Rs.
Buildings	...	...	...	1,57,370
Communications...	...	...	...	53,11,642
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	457
Tea Rates Works	...	...	...	1,12,520
			Total	55,81,989

D. The additional amount is required for grant to the Garo Hills District Fund Committee for repairing Mahendraganj-Bahadurkata Public Works Department Road transferred to the above committee which was badly damaged during the high flood of August 1945. The excess expenditure is due to the high cost of repair charges in these days.

No. 21

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.69,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1946 for the administration of the head

50.— Civil Works (Establishment and Tools and Plant charges)".

I—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs.	13,76,200
II—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			

A—Direction charges—**(a) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department—**

(i) Pay of Officers	...	...	...	2,300
(ii) Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	8,000
(iii) Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	..	7,500
(iv) Contingencies	...	...	...	1,500
(b) Superintending Engineers—				Rs.
(v)—Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	100

B—Charges on construction—

(vi) Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	21,900
(vii) Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	19,500
(viii) Contingencies	...	...	...	9,000
Total				69,800

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) Due to the re-employment of a retired I.S.E. Officer as an additional Chief Engineer and as a "Voted" Officer.

(ii) Due mainly to the entertainment of a Special Officer with non-gazetted rank for the revision of service rules and other special works in the Public Works Department Secretariat.

(iii) Due to extension of the grant of war allowance to higher-paid officers and increase in the rates of dearness allowance.

(iv) Due to repair and purchase of extra furniture. The budget grant proved insufficient to meet the actual requirements.

(v) Due to increase in the rates of dearness allowance.

(vi) Due to entertainment of extra staff to cope with increased works.

(vii) As in (iii) above.

(viii) Due mainly to purchase of new type-writers, rent of office buildings and consumption of more stationery due to increase in staff.

No. 22

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,57,080 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "55.—Superannuation allowances and pensions" and "83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions, etc."

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	18,50,000
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
	Rs.
A. Superannuation and retired allowance... ..	1,50,000
C. Compassionate allowance	4,500
D. Gratuities—	
(1) Ordinary Gratuity	2,000
G. Donations to Provident Fund	500
H. Charges in England	80
Total	1,57,080

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A. The excess is due to grant of temporary increase in small pensions and due to more retirements.

C. This represents family pensions granted to the families of deceased Government servants who died in the execution of their duties. The increase is due to greater expenditure than could be anticipated.

D. (1) Due to grant of gratuities to discharged temporary personnel.

G. Due to more people joining the Contributory Provident Fund.

H. Due to grant of Compassionate Allowance.

No. 23

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 74,291 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous."

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	30,98,900
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for:—	
F.—Irrecoverable temporary loans written off	6,000
I.—Contributions—	
(b) Grant to Local Bodies for general purposes	3,500
K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—	
(a) Compensation for loss due to political disturbances.	3,000
(b) Expenditure in connection with purchase and distribution of photographic films.	4,400
(c) Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn.	46,210
P.—Expenditure on Post-War Planning	8,931
Deduct—Recoveries from the Central Government	—3,750
H.—Charges in England	6,000
Total	74,291

EXPLANATORY NOTE

F. It has been found necessary to remit some old agricultural loans in different districts. The total estimated expenditure comes to Rs. 17,660 against the budget grant of Rs. 10,000 resulting in a net excess of Rs. 7,660. Supplementary grant for Rs. 6,000 is only asked for as the balance can be met by reappropriation.

I.(b) The excess is due to (a) grant of Rs. 1,500 to the Nalbari Town Committee (b) grant of Rs. 1,000 each to the Palasbari and Gauripur Town Committees for general purposes.

K.(a) Due to grant of compensation to the Madhab Choudhury College at Barpeta for loss of property.

(b) Due to purchase of photographic films for distribution among dealers for sale to the public at controlled rates.

(c) The Director of Industries, Assam took an advance of Rs. 1,37,000 for purchase of yarn through the Government Emporium, Karimganj. The decision to take the advance was made too late to make any provision in the current years budget. It was, however, stipulated that the advance would be repaid within six months. The advance was drawn in July last and upto 10th January 1946 a sum of Rs. 90,790 has been repaid leaving a balance of Rs. 46,210 only and hence the additional appropriation is necessary.

P. The expenditure is due to payment of passage fare and miscellaneous charges paid to Government stipendiaries sent abroad for advanced studies. The total amount comes to Rs. 8,931 of which Rs. 3,750 will be paid by the Central Government and adjusted later in the course of the year, thus bringing down the share of the Provincial Government to Rs. 5,181.

H. To meet the requirements of the Government stipendiaries sent abroad.

No.24

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 10,288 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head, "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

	Rs.
I.— Grant originally voted by the Assembly	2,000
II.— Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

A— Charges in India—

Paper Control Order	10,288
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been decided to debit this expenditure under this head and as there was no provision in the original Budget for this purpose a supplementary grant of Rs. 10,288 is required to meet the actual requirements in pay, allowances and contingencies.

The staff of the Paper Control Order consisting of 1 Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 2 clerks and 3 peons were entertained in 1945 to control the allotment and distribution of paper to different dealers and sub-dealers in Assam during the emergent period. A small expenditure was incurred during 1944-45 and was debited to the head "57— Miscellaneous",

No. 25

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI to move—

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.35,00,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1946 for the administration of the head "64A.—Transfer to Revenue Reserve Fund".

Rs.

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	...	Nil.
II.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—			
64A.—Transfer to Revenue Reserve Fund	...	...	35,00,000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the original budget for the current year no provision was made for a transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund for Post-War Reconstruction.

In view of a larger revenue surplus anticipated in the current year's revised it is proposed to transfer a sum of Rs. 35,00,000 to the Fund during this year and the Assembly is asked to vote the amount. The amount in the fund is being invested and will be available when the need arises.

Statement showing by major heads the amounts of supplementary grants which the Assembly are asked to vote in the present Session

Heads	Grant originally voted by the assembly and authenticated by His Excellency	Grant asked for in the present Session	Grant as it will finally stand	Number of Supplementary demand
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.	44,000	13,760	57,760	1
7.—Land Revenue	22,25,100	24,080	22,49,180	2
8.—Provincial Excise	4,44,500	23,000	4,67,500	3
10.—Forests	25,13,400	4,56,475	29,69,875	4
11.—Registration	1,96,900	4,500	2,01,400	5
12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	2,97,200	91,540	3,88,740	6
13.—Other Taxes and duties ..	9,500	3,486	12,986	7
18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	8,09,900	1	8,09,901	8
25.—General Administration ..	29,35,000	9,98,127	39,33,127	9
27.—Administration of Justice ..	10,10,800	1,62,975	11,73,775	10
29.—Police	38,53,900	12,72,094	51,25,994	11
37.—Education (European) ..	62,300	9,450	71,750	12
37.—Education (Non-European) ..	59,60,800	5,74,187	65,34,987	13
38.—Medical	15,23,000	1,63,777	16,86,777	14
39.—Public Health	16,69,100	5,32,000	22,01,100	15
40.—Agriculture	48,46,800	6,000	48,52,800	16
42.—Co-operation	3,39,200	42,405	3,81,605	17
43.—Industries	3,71,900	45,267	4,17,167	18
47.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	1,35,400	51,401	1,86,801	19
50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant).	46,70,700	58,72,904	1,05,43,604	20
Ditto (Tools and Plant)	13,76,200	69,800	14,46,000	21
55.—Superannuation and 83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions.	18,50,000	1,57,080	20,07,080	22
57.—Miscellaneous	30,98,900	74,291	31,73,191	23
63.—Extraordinary charges ..	2,000	10,288	12,288	24
64A.—Transfer to Revenue Reserve Fund.	..	35,00,000	35,00,000	25
Grand total	4,02,46,500	1,41,58,888	5,44,05,388	