

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 11 a.m., on **Saturday, the 30th March 1945.**

P R E S E N T :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, six Hon'ble Ministers and 80 Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Establishment of Ayurvedic College in the Manikul Ashram, Gauhati

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

*26. Are Government aware—

- (a) That the Advisory Board formed for establishment of the Ayurvedic College in the Manikul Ashram, Gauhati (i) prepared a syllabus for the first year class of the Ayurvedic College, (ii) prescribed subjects for examination and (iii) directed the inclusion of one or two practising medical graduates in the Advisory Board ?
- (b) That the Board in its meeting held at Shillong on 20th July 1945 requested the Government to depute two responsible persons— one an experienced Kaviraj and the other, a Government servant with administrative experience to study the conditions and nature of instructions imparted in some advanced Ayurvedic Institutions of India and to report to the Advisory Board ?
- (c) That the said Board recommended to the Government to make provisions for starting (i) Herbarium, (ii) a Hospital and (iii) allotment of necessary sums for the opening of the second year class of the College in the Budget for 1946-47 ?
- (d) That the first year class of the Ayurvedic College has been opened on 1st October 1945 at the said Gauhati Manikul Ashram and teaching is being carried on ?

*27. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any medical graduates have been included in the Advisory Board as referred to in question No. 26 (a) above ?
- (b) If so, who are they ?
- (c) Whether the personnel of the deputation mentioned in question No. 26 (b) above, has been selected ?
- (d) If so, who are they and whether they have submitted any report ?
- (e) If not, whether Government propose to select the persons for the purpose ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to direct the second year class of the College to be opened in the meantime in the said Manikul Ashram and to instruct the Advisory Board to prepare the necessary syllabus ?
- (g) Whether provisions have been made in the Budget for 1946-47 for starting the Herbarium and the Hospital as requested by the Advisory Board ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

26. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—Yes.
27. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Dr. Bhubaneswar Barua, M.B., Gauhati, Dr. Rabindra Nath Chaudhury, M.B., Sylhet.
 (c)—No.
 (d)—Does not arise.
 (e)—The matter will receive consideration of Government in due course.
 (f)—Government will consider.
 (g)—No.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard to reply to Question No.27(c), will Government be pleased to state why the personnel has not yet been selected ?

†The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : It requires time to make a selection. That is the reason, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government propose to recognise the usefulness of a deputation of this nature ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government propose to send the proposed deputation for studying the nature and condition of instructions in other advanced Ayurvedic colleges in India within a short time ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir, Government will consider this very seriously.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard to reply to Question No.27(f), have Government given instructions to the Advisory Board to start the second year class of the College ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Not yet, I think, but it will be given in due course.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : With regard to reply to Question No.27(d) do not Government see the necessity of starting a Herbarium and a hospital for such a College ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Yes, Sir, there is the utility of starting such things but the Government will consider whether that can be done immediately or sometimes after.

Further supplementary Questions on Unstarred Questions Nos.89 & 90*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : We now take Unstarred Questions from Nos.89 to 91 which stood over yesterday for further supplementary questions.

*PURCHASERS OF CLOTHS (BOTH TEXTILE AND STANDARD) FOR THE ASSAM PROVINCE

Khan Bahadur Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

89. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Who are the purchasers of cloths (both Textile and Standard) for the Assam Province ?
 (b) Whether those purchasers have purchased the Assam quota for (i) November 1945, (ii) December 1945, (iii) January 1946 and (iv) for February 1946 ?
 (c) If the answer for any of the months specified in question (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for such failure ?
 (d) How much profit per cent. for these purchasers has been fixed ?
 (e) Who are the district purchasers from these provincial purchasers, giving the names for every district ?
 (f) The profit per cent. every district purchaser is making for his purchase, giving the figure for every district ?
 (g) The profit per cent. each wholesaler is making from these district purchasers ?
 (h) The profit the retailer is making from these wholesalers ?

†Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das replied in absence of the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : Is it a fact that Government allow a margin of 20 per cent. over the price for the consumers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : No, Sir, for the plains Districts upto 23 per cent. and for the hill Districts upto 25 per cent.

(i) Whether it is fact that for the District of Goalpara and for Dhubri headquarter station the District purchasers have not got their quota of cloths for (i) November 1945, (ii) December 1945, (iii) January 1946 and (iv) February 1946 ?

(j) If the answer for any of the months specified in question (i) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefore ?

(k) What steps Government propose to take for non-supply and non-purchasing of cloth as stated in questions (b) and (i) above ?

90. (a) Are Government aware of the instance of black marketing now going on in Assam with regard to cloths ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government is contemplating introduction of rationing of cloths in Assam ?

(c) If so, when rationing of cloth will be introduced ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

89. (a)—The Textile Supply Company, and the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society in respect of non-Standard Cloth and the Government in respect of Standard Cloth.

(b)—Yes. Except a portion of November and some bales in December.

(c)—There is no question of complete failure. A part of our quota of non-Standard Cloth for November and December lapsed partly as the goods offered are found unsaleable and partly due to lack of funds of the Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society. Quota of Standard Cloth did not lapse and most of the December quota not purchased by the Provincial Society was revived and purchased by the Textile Supply Company.

(d)— $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in respect of non-Standard Cloth.

(e)—Subdivisional Co-operative Wholesale Societies in Subdivisions and nominees of local officers where no such society exists (A list of such nominees is shown below.)

(f)—Previously it was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in case of unopened bales and 1 per cent. in case of opened bales. It was subsequently raised to a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Subject to issue to retailers at $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the ex-mill price.

(g)—Subdivisional Societies are usually the only wholesalers and the so-called wholesalers are treated as retailers. Where wholesalers are functioning, they are allowed 1 to 2 per cent. profits, the rate varies according to local needs.

(h)—Generally up to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

(i)—No. Dhubri got 357 bales in November, 158 bales in December, and 162 in January. Goalpara got 98 bales in November, 40 in December and 44 in January. Information regarding February has not yet been received.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—Procuring agents have been instructed to purchase the full quota excepting the unsaleable and unwanted varieties.

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes in respect of urban areas.

(c)—Already introduced in some parts and arrangements are being made to extend to the rest.

NAMES OF NOMINEES FOR DISTRICT PURCHASERS

1. N. Cachar (Haflong)	..	Kalooram & Bros.	..	Haflong.
2. Kohima & Mokochang	..	Messrs. P. B. Das & Co.	..	Manipur Road.
3. Aijal	..	Messrs. Chottalai Seth	..	Silchar.
4. Lungleh	..	J. R. Chakravarty	..	Chittagong.
5. Digboi	..	General Manager, A. O.	..	Digboi.
6. Tirap	..	C. Ltd.	..	Margherita.
7. Garo Hills	..	Political Officer	..	Rowmarighat.
8. Sadiya	..	Rai Meghraj Bahadur.	..	Saikhowa Ghat.
9. Balipara	..	Political Officer	..	Lokra.
10. Imphal	..	Messrs. Dhanraj Chaturseen Jain.	..	Manipur Road Stn.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: My point is that the ex-mill price and the retail price of the cloth are printed on the body of the cloth and it is calculated to be 20 per cent.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, it is due to the distance that this Government has been compelled, of course, with the concurrence of the India Government, to raise so far as the plains districts are concerned upto 3 per cent. and so far as the hill districts are concerned upto 5 per cent.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Are Government sure that this 23 per cent. is due to freight only or due to demurrage and of extra interests that are being charged?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Everything is included in it, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: How much due to the freight and how much due to extra interest and demurrage charges?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it has been made clear that 14½ per cent. should not be exceeded on any account up to the delivery to the retailers and that 8½ per cent. has been fixed by the India Government for the retailers.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is what portion of that enhancement of 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. constitute the interest on demurrage and what portion is for the distance?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is entirely for the distance, Sir, because it will be found that formerly for the unopened bales, the percentage was fixed at 1 per cent. and ultimately the total was calculated and it was fixed at 2½ per cent. Though the quota was fixed low the dealers used to take much more than the total of 2½ per cent. which is being given at present in the shape of demurrage and other charges so that charges may not exceed 2½ per cent. Therefore, this extra is for the transit charges.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: My question is how much is paid due to normal transit charges and how much is paid to the railway companies due to demurrage?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So far as excess of these 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. for the plains and hills Districts are concerned, it is entirely for the transit charges, Sir.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: But, Sir, I could not elicit what is due to demurrage for the non-delivery of the goods from the railway stations.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is within 20 per cent. This excess is due to the peculiar situation of this Province which is situated at one end of the country and naturally it takes more for transit charges. Therefore this point was considered and this increase of 3 per cent. for the plains districts and 5 per cent. for the hills districts was fixed.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: From the reply to Question No. 89(a) we find that standard cloth was being purchased by Government direct and from 89(c) we find that a part of the quota of non-standard cloth for November and December lapsed partly as the goods offered were found to be unsaleable and partly due to lack of funds of the Provincial Co-operative Textile Supply Society. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister why this quota of standard cloth was not purchased by Government and why the Provincial Textile Society or the Supply Company was allowed to purchase the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, one of the importers pleaded his inability, I think during the month of September, and then the Government entrusted the whole work of procurement to the Society and the Society also failed to manage finance. There was another difficulty, Sir, that the

cloth offered was not suitable for this Province and therefore they had to refuse a certain portion of the quota.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, the question is regarding the purchase of standard cloth. The Hon'ble Minister says that standard cloth was being directly indented by Government. Then why in this particular case the Society or the Textile Supply Company was allowed to purchase the stock? This has not been answered, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The quota of standard cloth did not lapse, Sir. It is still coming.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Hon'ble Minister has not understood my question. My question is when the quota of non-standard cloth is supplied by this Society and the standard cloth is purchased direct by Government why in this particular case Government do not purchase this quota of standard cloth and allow this Society to purchase it?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the quota is fixed separately for standard cloth and for non-standard cloth. Therefore, how does that question arise? This standard cloth quota has been fixed and Government is importing that quota and there is no question of lapsing up till now. So far as non-standard cloth quota is concerned it was given to two parties one of whom pleaded inability and the then Government without selecting another dealer entrusted the whole work to the Society.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the Hon'ble Minister seen the last sentence of the answer to question No. 89 (c)? The quota of standard cloth did not lapse and most of the December quota not purchased by the Provincial Society was revived and purchased by the Textile Supply Company.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is concerning non-standard cloth, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know why the quota of standard cloth was purchased by the Textile Company.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: This is exactly my question.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Are Government aware of the fact that a large quantity of handloom cloth is lying unsaleable?

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

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: May we know why this handloom cloth is lying unsaleable? Is it on account of the exorbitant price or bad quality?

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: Who is responsible for fixing the exorbitant price for handloom cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The exorbitant price was fixed by the sellers.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: Who is responsible for the purchase of these unsaleable cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Those who purchased it, they are responsible.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May we know what is the reason for this exorbitant price of the handloom cloth when the weavers get yarn at controlled price?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The price was fixed at a time when the price was very high. Afterwards it came down and when there was scarcity in this Province most probably the purchasers thought that the Province was about to be out of stock and they thought that those who can afford, at least, will purchase this cloth at high price.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are we to understand that yarn was sold at a higher price at that time?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It was not purchased in the black market, and therefore, I can say that the price of yarn also was higher at that time, otherwise, how higher prices could have been realised by the sellers.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is it a fact that cloth is generally purchased at the advice of the Government Officers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Is it not a fact that there are some Textile Officers at Bombay to advise the Society to purchase cloth ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: They can give advice to purchase certain class of cloth but it is up to the purchaser to purchase it. There is nobody who can compel him to purchase cloth which is not saleable in the market.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are Government aware that in every part of the Province the price of handloom cloth is disproportionally high though yarn is given to those weavers at controlled rates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government are not aware of this fact. If there is any suggestion, Government will consider it.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Will Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and take steps ?

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

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: Is it a fact that one proprietor of a Store in Bombay offered to give 40 per cent. reduction in the prices of handloom goods ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When it was brought here, Sir, the prices were high and subsequently the price came down, and it is a fact that the proprietor referred to, offered 40 per cent. reduction.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: Will Government take it from me that the Provincial Textile Commissioner compels the Assam Co-operative Society to purchase those cloths at an exorbitant price ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not ready to accept that position, Sir. I cannot understand how one can be compelled to purchase certain kind of cloth which he himself does not like to purchase.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire about this fact ?

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

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Do Government suspect any conspiracy between the purchasers for Assam and the sellers at Bombay so far as the exorbitant price goes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, I am not ready to accept that.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Textile Commissioner indented handloom cloth worth 3 lacs of rupees from Bombay ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot reply, Sir, The Provincial Textile Commissioner purchased direct.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the Textile Commissioner indented this cloth personally from Bombay ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, Government did not pay anything from their coffers for this purpose.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that even after allowing 25 per cent. rebate Government has not been able to clear the stock ?

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

***Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA:** Do Government consider that there were mishandling and profiteering somewhere when a person who had received money was coming forward to give a reduction of 40 per cent. ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As the price came

down the party was approached and they were willing, just to save this Society, to reduce the price, but in spite of that it is unsaleable and Government is taking steps that it may be exported somewhere else.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the functions of the Officer deputed by the Assam Government for the purchase of cloth at Bombay?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the permit holders or license holders from this Province go to Bombay, they arrange with the mills as advised by the Provincial Textile Commissioner and he also helps them in securing all the wagons. This is his function. If any particular difficulty arises he approaches the local officers who are in charge of all these and thereby helps the indenters of this Province.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: Has he anything to do with the prices of cloth of the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He has nothing to do with the prices of cloth. But so far as the quality is concerned if it is brought to his notice that a particular quality of cloth will not be saleable in this Province he naturally approaches higher authorities and requests them to make exchanges.

*Babu SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Are Government aware of the fact that a large quantity of a mill made cloth has been transported from one place to another?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Recently it has been reported to me and Government is taking necessary steps.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

I will invite the attention of the hon. Members to Rule No. 40 of the Legislative Assembly Rules, which reads—

“No discussion shall be permitted in respect of any question or of any answer given to a question.

Provided that on notice given to the Speaker at question time, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow half an hour after 4 p.m. or after the conclusion of the business of the day, whichever is earlier, to enable a member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent importance which has been the subject of a question on that day. No division shall be taken on such a debate, and such time shall not be available for the transaction of any business”.

Therefore, I am sorry, I cannot permit any discussion on the question and if any hon. Member gives me notice for such discussion then I may allow half an hour after the close of the day.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: There is a Motion in today's agenda, which runs to the effect, “That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government policy regarding supply and distribution of foodstuffs, coal, fuel, kerosene oil and cloth be taken into consideration,” I think, there is no necessity of having a separate discussion under Rule 40 of the Assembly Rules.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know what is the total percentage of commission charged on the cloth to the consumers?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already stated that, Sir, 23 per cent so far as plains districts are concerned and 25 per cent to the hills districts.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: On *ex-mill* price?

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

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: My supplementary Question yesterday was—what will be the quota per capita for each rationing area?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It has not been decided and it is under the consideration of Government and when distribution policy is finally arrived at and machinery is set up to work to see that equitably distribution is done, I hope the difficulty will be removed to a great extent.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: What is the rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At present 11 yards. So far as the distribution is concerned, a direction has already been issued and if properly worked this will also minimise the present scarcity.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Both standard and non-standard cloth?

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

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Do Government propose to introduce this rationing system in rural areas also?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is difficult to say off-hand, but, Sir, so far as I have been able to gather it is not a practical proposition.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what the Government is going to do where there is no rationing?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already stated about it. It has been already decided that Committees will be appointed and these committees will take over the charge of distribution and they will consider how best distribution can be done so that everybody gets his quota of cloth under the supervision of those Committees.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: Are Government aware that at present there is no provision for fine cloth in the rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, because the quota of fine cloth is so small that it is hardly possible to supply them to the rural areas.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY: Do Government consider that village people are not fit to use fine cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly not.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Do Government realise the dearth of cloth in all the rural areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Naturally, Sir, according to the present arrangements there must be scarcity but if we can distribute properly the quota allotted to us there will be less scarcity.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: It seems this system will take a long time to supply cloth to the affected areas.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The present system will continue and glaring defects will be removed.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether considering the immediate necessity of the people, Government would take immediate steps to meet the needs of the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: By a single stroke of pen the immediate necessity of the people cannot be met. Therefore, an organisation is necessary and when this organisation is formed it will, I hope, successfully discharge its work and there will be less clamour.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Whether Government will expedite this?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Surely, Sir, Government is very anxious.

* Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Does it include supply of cloth in the Habiganj and other needy Subdivisions ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Though this question does not arise but the answer has already been given about Sunamganj.

* Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The Hon'ble Minister stated that glaring defects will be removed. Will he instance those glaring defects ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The defects which are going on in the present system and whatever defects there are will be removed. We find that the people who are entrusted with the work are not behaving properly.

* Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Are those people official or non-official ?
(No answer.)

* Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Who are the persons going to be dealt with ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I cannot mention immediately. I have no magic wand in my hand to be able to do everything at a time.

Further Supplementary Question on Question No. 91†

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: Whether Government are willing to allow some time for the hon. Members to submit their schemes before the Government for consideration ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Government being a popular Government it is always ready to consider any suggestion of the hon. Members of this House so long it is in the same line with the policy of this Government.

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: Will Government allow some time for submitting these schemes by the hon. Members before finally accepted ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What time the Government will require we cannot say because we cannot delay the matters as you know, Sir, that there are charges against this Government that we are delaying matters. We are delaying for good reasons as it was stated already that the schemes which were prepared by the previous Government is under the consideration of this Government and it requires some time to scrutinise them. This Government is considering and re-examining all these questions. Suggestions are welcome and if the hon. Member can give some idea about the time in that case I can say whether it is possible for Government to wait a fortnight or so.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister if the reconstruction scheme cannot be made a non-party matter so that they need not be changed and delayed with the changes of Government ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I can say this much that the matter will not be delayed. But so far as the request is concerned, it is very difficult for me to say how it can be a non-party matter. The policy and programme must be there ; otherwise when this Government is responsible for the scheme, if it is not their scheme, if it is according to the suggestion of A, B, C, or D how can it be, as a matter of course, contemplated to be according to the policy of the present Government ? It does not mean that

* Speech not corrected.

† POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEMES

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked:

91. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Post-War Reconstruction be pleased to state whether he proposes to review the schemes of Post-War Reconstruction previously made and make necessary modifications where necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied:
91.—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the statement made on this subject by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech.

the suggestions given by the hon. Members of other parties will not be considered. It is always the aim of the present Government that any constructive suggestion will be always welcome.

†Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Does the Hon'ble Minister mean to say that these schemes have been prepared by permanent officials without any suggestions from the previous Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is the saddest part of the whole thing. This Government is not going to accept the suggestions or the schemes prepared by the Secretaries and the Heads of Departments without examining them. The difference lies here. I am thankful to the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition for having brought it to the notice of the House.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the schemes are being delayed on account of valley question.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly not, Sir.

†Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Will Government please circulate the schemes that were formulated by the previous Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When we are scrutinising the schemes and when that will be finished, the hon. Members will know about our decision.

†Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: How can the suggestions be made to Government without knowing the schemes?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case it is not suggestion but criticism. Am I right, Sir? (*laughter*).

†Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Without knowing the schemes how are they to give suggestions?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The questioner wanted to elicit how he can give suggestions without knowing the schemes, and the reply is: after considering the schemes the decision will be announced. How then the hon. Members get an opportunity to give suggestions?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If suggestions are made, Government will take these into consideration. If we leave this matter to be discussed, and Government consider all the suggestions made in that case it will take a whole year. If we invite the hon. Members to give their suggestions for discussion, it will take a whole year.

†Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: My question is whether the scheme that was prepared by the Government will be placed before the Members for consideration, so that after considering the scheme they may give valuable suggestions to the Government. Do Government think that they can do without it and that there is no need to invite advice from the Members?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have understood the question and I have given the reply. We welcome suggestions.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Agricultural Irrigation Projects

Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA asked:

97. Will Government be pleased to state what agricultural irrigation projects they have taken up in different thanas of the Subdivision of Sunamganj?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

97.—Government has no thanawari record but the list of all the projects taken up in 1944-45 and in 1945-46 is supplied below :—

Number of small irrigation projects sanctioned in the Sunamganj Subdivision during the year 1944-45

1. Solap Bund.
2. Haskuri Bund.
3. Rausi Bund.
4. Gastola Bund.
5. Kashia Kandi Bund.
6. Bashakhai Bund.
7. Narayanpur Bund.
8. Tarapur Bund.
9. Chowlia Bund.
10. Birgoan Bund.
11. Brahmangoan Bund.
12. Chellaia Khal.
13. Ras Chimor Khal.
14. Rusan Khal.
15. Nelua Haor.
16. Reconstruction of Dhasor Bund.
17. Re-excavation of Dhasor Bund.
18. Samadnagar Bund.
19. Reconstruction of Jaisiddi and Basai Kauri Bund.
20. Jagannath Ganor Bund.
21. Langaljura.
22. Namshapur Bund.
23. Amria Kitta Bund.
24. Ghuma Kitta Bund.
25. Gaharia Kitta Bund.
26. Haruor Kitta Bund.
27. Lamar Gojaria Kitta Bund.
28. Bhatara Bund.
29. Darakhai Bund.
30. Sunar Bichain Kitta Bund.
31. Maurakandi Bund.
32. Koia and Hugaluni Bund.
33. Khilai Bund.
34. Tarar Bund D.
35. Karimpur B.
36. Chaudipur B.
37. Bhugarpur Bund.
38. Kachariya Kitta Bund.
39. Bijoy Ramar Dhubi Bund.
40. Birkalor Bund.
41. Ultarbon Bund.
42. Dhupakhali Bund.
43. Changkhali Kitta Bund.
44. Boshkara Khal.
45. Chaudukhali Bund.
46. Bhutir Khal Bund.
47. Kasuril Biler Bund.
48. Tinbitter Bund.

1945-46

1. Rupnagar Bunds Nos.1, 2.
2. Sundarpur Baithakhali Storage Bund.
3. Haluaghat Khal Flood Protection Bund.
4. Satariya Khal Flood Protection Bund.
5. Kalikawar Flood Protection Bund.
6. Borkhal Storage Bund.
7. South Bund Flood Protection.
8. Jhigli Bund (Repair).
9. Rurba Bund Dhalla Bund (Repair).
10. Humhamiya Bund.
11. Ghorna Flood Protection Bund.
12. Dumria Storage Bund.
13. Chatal Kitta Bund.
14. Kachamura Kuchi Bhangra Bund.
15. Sardabaj Flood Protection Bund.
16. Kalipur Dhala Flood Protection Bund.
17. Hernakitta Storage Bund.
18. Ghonir Flood Protection Bund.
19. Satbaria Storage Bund.
20. Koria Storage Bund.
21. Nalmuri Kitta Storage Flood Protection Bund.
22. Sanchatal Boro Water Retention Bund.
23. Bogdishpur Kitta Amon Protection Bund.
24. Harnor Bund Boro Water Retention Bund.
25. Nazir Amon Protection Bund.
26. Chira Khai Boro Water Retention Bund.
27. Karimpur Bund's Amon Protection Bund.
28. Salipur Boro Water Retention Bund.
29. Moirpur Falchari Dhalas Amon Protection Bund.
30. Burunpur Boro Water Retention Bund.
31. Goyashpur Kitta Amon Protection Bund.
32. Charihate Dhalapur Amon Protection Bund.
33. Ganamtala Amon Protection Bund.
34. Howail Dhola Amon and Boro Protection Bund.
35. Chinakara Drainage.
36. Shahapur.
37. Ghirijan Storage.
38. Babonjan Storage.
39. Ghurnikhal Flood Protection Bund.
40. Machimpur Storage Bund.
41. Kumergati Storage Bund.
42. Sonai Storage and Flood Protection Bund.
43. Sambadkara Flood Protection Bund.
44. Nayadhhal Flood Protection Bund.
45. Patamara Kitta Storage Bund.

N. B.—In the year 1943-44, the number of projects taken up by the Agriculture Department was, 51.

†Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA: Have Government any information that these bunds have been beneficial to the people everywhere?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The scheme will

† Speech not corrected.

concern the Sunamganj subdivision. The irrigation projects given in the answer only refer to the Sunamganj Subdivision and to no other place in the Province.

†Babu JATINDRA NATH BHADRA: I asked: have Government any information that these bunds have been beneficial to the people everywhere. Are these bunds doing good to the people everywhere?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government have no information to the contrary?

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: How many of these different projects were completed in 1944-45 and how many in 1945-46?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I want notice of that question.

†Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: May I draw attention to the question and the answer. The question was about what agricultural irrigation projects Government have taken up in different thanas of the Subdivision of Sunamganj. The answer has been given without giving an opportunity to see how many have been sanctioned in each thana. Thanas have been lumped together.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There is the answer in reply to question No 97.

†Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Can the Hon'ble Minister say how many of the projects have been completed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I want notice, Sir.

†Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: It seems that Sunamganj monopolises all the attention of the Department. Will the Hon'ble Minister give an idea about the expenditure in these projects?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I want notice, Sir.

†Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will he supply us the information afterwards?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That will be supplied, Sir.

†Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Whether any of the bunds were completed during the year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The answer is already given.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: May I know who was the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of this Department in the last Cabinet?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that Mr. Naba Kumar Datta was in-charge of the Agriculture Department during the regime of the last Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May be one generation ago!

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the words "taken up" also include "completed"?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: "Taken up" and "completed" are not same.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: In the answer we find "number of small irrigation projects sanctioned, etc." May we know whether there are bigger irrigation projects as well for the Sunamganj Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: When a project exceeds Rs.4,000 it is taken up by the Public Works Department.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Does not the word "small" indicate that there are bigger projects as well?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, but the bigger projects are taken up by the Public Works Department and not by the Agriculture Department.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that all these projects were only on paper?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I have already stated in the answer that these projects have been taken up.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: May we take it that none of the bunds shown in the list has been finished up till now?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Some may be finished and some not. If the hon. Member wants definite information he should give notice.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Is it a fact that many of these bunds were not necessary and therefore they were not finished?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: No enquiry has been made as regards that.

Boiler Inspectorate Staff

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD asked:

98. (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the Boiler Inspectorate Staff have been unable to carry out the usual routine inspections of tea garden boilers in the Surma Valley during the past cold weather seasons?

(b) Is Government aware that the new plucking season is about to commence and that on many tea estates in the Surma Valley the Boilers are still opened out for inspection by the Government Boiler Inspector?

(c) Do Government propose to issue an order sanctioning the steaming of boilers on tea gardens provisionally in order to avoid any loss of crop and other inconveniences?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied:

98. (a)—This is mainly due to shortage of staff and partly to transport difficulties.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The Chief Inspector of Boilers has already notified owners that they can steam the boilers under section 10 pending inspection. Every effort will be made to avoid inconveniencing them.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: With regard to reply to Question No. 98(a), may I know from the Hon'ble Minister why it was necessary for the Chief Inspector of Boilers to take leave during the cold weather as that is the only suitable time in the year for inspection of tea garden boilers? Also in reply to the same question, I would like to know what is meant by "transport difficulty"?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Conveyance difficulty, Sir.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Conveyance difficulty for whom, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: For the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Sir.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: He could not get conveyance? (Laughter).

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: For how long there is shortage of inspection staff in the Department?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I think, it is for more than 8 months, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I know what step was taken by Government to recruit a suitable officer?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: As far as the present Government are concerned, we are trying to appoint officers as early as possible.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it not a fact that all boilers must be examined at least every 12 months, and if that is so, may I know how the work could accumulate?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It is a fact, Sir, that these steam boilers should be examined within 12 months, but there is a provision under which they can be run pending inspection.

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA: But is it safe to allow boilers to function without proper examination?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: It is not safe; so we are taking steps to appoint the necessary staff as early as possible.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May we know when was this shortage of staff first brought to the notice of the Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The present Government?

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Of the "Government", I said. There is no such thing as present or past Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: This was brought to my notice when I got notice of these Questions, Sir.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: The Hon'ble Minister has not answered my first question, *viz.*, why it was necessary for the Chief Inspector of Boilers to take leave during the cold weather when that is the only suitable time in the year for inspection of tea garden boilers?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: He was granted leave by the previous Government.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Do we understand that besides appointing more staff Government are also purchasing some more motor cars for this staff?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Government are considering to remove this difficulty as far as practicable.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May we know if there are other inspecting officers in the Departments under his charge who experienced any transport difficulty?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: The Chief Inspector of Boilers has got no additional hand to discharge the duties of the department and as such he needed transport facility for quick movement which could not be given, Sir. The question of other inspecting officer does not arise.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I explain the position, Sir, as I know something about this?

By transport difficulty it is meant that if a man takes the service car, train or steamer, in that case he is bound by the timings of those companies. But if an officer can have a car entirely at his disposal, in that case, he can certainly do more work. The difficulty was that there was a shortage of transport vehicles in the Province, and the Government had very few vehicles under their control to be spared to this Department. Another difficulty was that some of the officers of this Department were deputed to other Departments. Therefore this shortage of staff arose. In fairness, it should be said that the previous Government tried to get men, but they failed. The posts were advertised but properly qualified men were not available.

Another point was raised, Sir, whether Government can allow boilers to function after the period of 12 months from the last examination. The

question is very pertinent, but I think there is some provision for giving temporary licenses. Nevertheless I hope in course of three months the whole thing will be over. I do understand that it is really difficult for tea planters if boilers are not inspected during the off-season. Now, the season is on and if inspection is carried out now the machinery will not work at least for 3 or 4 days. This is really regrettable, but this Government cannot be blamed for that. But, Sir, I can assure the House that all possible steps will be taken so that inspection of boilers may be finished at the earliest possible time. Pending this, Sir, temporary licenses have been issued to run the steam boilers.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that the post of a Boiler Inspector was advertised but no suitable person was found for the poor pay provided?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Exactly so, Sir, I did not mention that this is the position for not getting suitable person. Because during the war period the scale of salary which was given in some temporary departments was so high that it was very difficult for Government to get men for their permanent departments at the existing scale of pay. Now this point is under the consideration of Government.

Assam's contribution to the Calcutta University

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

99. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount of money, if any, the Government of Assam pays per annum as its contribution to the Calcutta University?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any Assamese employed in the administrative or clerical staff of the said University?

(c) If the answer to question (b) above be in the negative, do Government propose to move the authorities of the University to make room for a few Assamese in its staff?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

99. (a)—The following amounts are paid annually as contribution to the Calcutta University:—

	Rs.
(i) Travelling Allowance of Fellows who attend meetings of the University.	2,000
(ii) Contribution for attending meeting of the Finance Committee.	,000
(iii) Contribution for a Lecturer in Assamese	1,200

(b) & (c)—The particulars asked for are not available. Steps are being taken to obtain the information from the Registrar, Calcutta University, and will be supplied to the hon. Member when received.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: May I know, Sir, whether the contributions that are made by Government are fixed ones or they vary from year to year?

† The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS: They are fixed ones, as they appear.

† The Question was replied by Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Das as the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi was absent.

Damages by flood in Telahi, Kamalabaria, Nakari and Dhakuakhana Mauzas

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

100. (a) Are Government aware of the damages caused by Ranganadi, Kakoi and Dhakuakhania river floods to the people of Telahi, Kamalabaria, Nakari and Dhakuakhana Mauzas ?

(b) If so, what measure, if any, Government propose to take for the prevention of the recurrence of flood in these Mauzas ?

(c) Do Government propose to grant relief to the flood-affected people of the said Mauzas by way of remission of entire land revenue ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

100. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Public Works Department have been asked to depute an Officer to investigate, but floods are a natural feature of all hill streams.

(c)—Yes, when it is justified under the rules. Government has directed the Subdivisional Officer to hold enquiry and submit report and give relief in case of distress.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: Sir, in the answer to Question No. 100 (c) it is stated "Government has directed the Subdivisional Officer to hold enquiry and submit report and give relief in case of distress". After the receipt of the report, may I know whether remission is given according to rules or according to the extent of damage to the field of cultivation? Why is not total remission given to the persons affected by floods when they find it difficult to maintain their families even owing to such damage, irrespective of the rules?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I may say, the whole matter has been misconceived by my hon. Friend. In case of repeated floods the matter stands on a different footing. In such case affected people are entitled to get some remission. But in case of damage to only growing crop $\frac{1}{4}$ th remission is allowed. I have issued instructions for total suspension of revenue in case of repeated floods, till I inspect myself the areas concerned.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: Is it not a fact that areas under those mauzas are annually affected by floods and the local officer sends reports for relief accordingly.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: My hon. Friend has not been able to bring out in his Questions that there are repeated floods in those areas. I have information that those areas are affected by floods annually and so I have instructed the P. W. D. to see if those floods can be prevented by any measure like irrigation or construction of bund, etc.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: Is it not a fact that all the streams in Assam are hill streams?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Every river or stream has its source in the hills.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA: In view of the fact that floods have become a natural feature, will Government propose to take up irrigation projects so that these floods which cause so much damage to the Province, can be prevented?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: A broad plan is necessary to meet the situation as far as Assam is concerned. However, as soon as experts are available, this Government will take necessary steps to prevent floods.

Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA : May I know whether such project will be taken up in preference to other projects of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Government will have to consider the urgent needs of the people, and according to urgency preferential treatment will be given.

Cattle epidemic diseases in North Lakhimpur Subdivision

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

101. (a) Are Government aware of the last cattle epidemic diseases which prevailed in the whole Subdivision of North Lakhimpur ?

(b) Do Government propose to sanction any pecuniary help to the needy persons of the flood-affected areas for purchase of plough cattle ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

101. (a)—Government have no specific information.

(b)—Instructions have been issued to give agricultural loans where they are needed.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA : Sir, in the answer to Question No. 101 (a) it is stated "Government have no specific information. May I understand what happened to the resolutions and petitions sent to the local Subdivisional Officer ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : If any resolutions or petitions were filed to the Subdivisional Officer, this fact was never brought to my notice. If there were any cases of grievances the matter ought to have been brought to my notice. But it has not been done.

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA : May I understand that petitions submitted to the last Government go without any consideration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : If those petitions were disposed of by last Government they would not come up to me, nor is my attention drawn that last Government has not taken any steps on certain petitions.

Present Deputy Secretary in charge of Agriculture

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA asked :

102. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge aware that the present Deputy Secretary in charge of Agriculture has been superseded for being promoted in the listed posts by many of his junior officers ?

(b) Do Government propose to send him back to the Districts as Extra Assistant Commissioner ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

102. (a)—No officer junior to the present Deputy Secretary has been appointed to a listed post. Five officers junior to him have been appointed to temporary posts on the time-scale sanctioned for holders of listed posts.

(b)—Government have various postings and transfers under consideration, but are not prepared to anticipate their conclusions.

Payment of Collective Fines for burning down Mithapukhuri Camp in 1942

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA asked :

103. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The names of Mauzas and villages that were selected to pay collective fines for burning down Mithapukhuri Camp in 1942 in the Silakuti Mauza in Sibsagar Subdivision ?

- (b) The authority or local officers who were responsible for selecting those villages for paying collective fines ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the villages selected for paying collective fines were located beyond five miles from the place of occurrence ?
- (d) The reasons for excluding the neighbouring villages situated around the place of occurrence, namely—Borkola, Gargaon, Khanikargaon, Deodhaigaon and Ramgaon from paying collective fines ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that these villages, which were exempted from paying collective fines were supporters of a certain Political Party, namely—the Ahom Association ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that it was on the reports given by the Sub-Deputy Collector of Nazira Circle in conjunction with the officer in-charge of Bortola Police Station that the imposition of or exemption from such fines was decided by Government in the case of the villages in Sibsagar Subdivision ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to hold an enquiry in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

103. (a)—The villages of Dhandhuli, Tipamia-Gariapathar, and Bhakat Bhajani under Mauza Silakuti, Sibsagar Subdivision.

The villages of Mohangaon, Beggmoria Kowargaon under Dhobabar Mauza, Sibsagar Subdivision.

The village of Bailung Chetiagaon under Hahchara Mauza, Sibsagar Subdivision.

(b)—According to the Collective Fines Ordinance, 1942 only the District Magistrates were authorised to make recommendations, giving rough indications of damages done and villagers involved, for imposition of fines, the final orders being passed by the Provincial Government.

(c), (e) & (g)—Government have not the necessary particulars to reply to these Questions, but will enquire.

(d)—According to the provisions of the Collective Fines Ordinance, 1942 the Governor was empowered to exempt all communities, classes or sections of the inhabitants from the liability to pay any portion of the collective fines if the District Magistrates concerned declared that such community, class or section of inhabitants has taken no part in the actions for which such fines were imposed and has opposed these actions and the political movement which prompted these actions.

(f)—No reports were received from any other officer than the Deputy Commissioner for the imposition of the fines under reference of exemption therefrom.

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA : What were the specific provisions or rules laid down in the Collective Fine Ordinance for imposition of collective fines for a particular offence in a particular place ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS : Sir, the District Officers were asked to make recommendations on the basis of the circumstances of each individual case.

Srijut PURNANANDA CHETIA : Is it a fact that only on those villages in which there were Congressmen or people having sympathy for Congress that imposition of collective fines were usually recommended to the Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BASANTA KUMAR DAS : I cannot say whether that was so, Sir. I have answered already that Government will enquire into those matters.

*Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: Are Government aware that in realising collective fines people were harassed by police officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It might have been so.

*Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: Do Government propose to take action for such harassment?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Government are proposing to take necessary action for returning all the collective fines to those on whom they were imposed.

Adjournment motion re: serious situation caused by hailstorm in the Sunamganj Subdivision

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. We come to the next item of business.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got an Adjournment Motion to move regarding the serious situation prevailing in the Sunamganj Subdivision due to hailstorm and tornado.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. House and the Hon'ble Ministers to the serious situation prevailing in the Sunamganj Subdivision? I have received a large number of telegrams on the subject.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Sir, we have not been supplied with copies of Adjournment Motion to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There was no time to do it.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence to wit—the serious situation that prevails in the Dharampassa, Jamalganj and Derai Thanas in the Sunamganj Subdivision owing to damage to the Boro crop and destruction of thousands of houses by hailstorm and tornado and the indifference of the local authorities in giving gratuitous relief to the persons in distress.

Sir, I have received a telegram and I believe, many hon. Members in this House have also received similar telegrams on this subject. I will read out the telegram—“Abdul Khaleque Assembly—Portion Dharampassa Jamalganj Derai thanas seriously affected by tornado hailstorm thousand houses entire crops destroyed please arrange forthwith gratuitous paddy relief guaranteeing at least fortnights subsistence Subdivisional officer pleads inability Chandrabinoddas, Secretary Kisan Sova, Rabindra Das, Secretary, Communist Party”. Sir, it is very urgent and very important because it relates to the livelihood of thousands of people of Dharampassa, Tahirpur, Jamalganj and Derai Thanas. These people live only on Boro crop and their entire crop has been destroyed. They are now so many beggars. If this Boro crop which is the main crop is lost, they will have to go to other places for food. The matter is urgent as it relates to destruction of thousands of houses by tornado, and also for the inability of the Subdivisional Officer to give relief when the people approached him.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When did the tornado take place?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: On the 23rd instant, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Mover mean by “indifference of the local authorities”?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: I mean that the Subdivisional Officer whom the people approached pleaded inability to give relief to the people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it inability for want of money?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: I don't know, Sir. This matter relates to the subsistence and food problem of the people of these thanas and the local authorities, that is, the Subdivisional Officer and others ought to have taken steps to give some sort of relief to the people.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards this Motion, we received a telegram on the 26th March, 1946, and immediately on receipt of the telegram we sent a wire to the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj and the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet asking them to give gratuitous relief, where necessary, and to submit a report on the situation immediately. Since then we have not received any further report from the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer. So, Government is more alert than the hon. Members themselves. We have again sent a wire to-day to the officers concerned asking them to give every facility and relief to the people in distress and to report on the matter. As for myself, I generally pass orders immediately on receipt of a telegram on points that are to be dealt with. So the hon. Members need not be anxious for the distressed people. We are more anxious than they are to give necessary relief.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The information was received on the 26th and to-day is the 30th. During these days if Government could not do anything for the relief of the distressed people, I think, they deserve to be censured on that account for idleness and indifference.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The Deputy Commissioner and the Subdivisional Officer will have to go to the affected places personally or to depute some other officers to enquire into the matter and then only they can submit their reports to Government. They cannot submit their reports without enquiry.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know who sent the first telegram, Sir?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Babu Jatindra Bhadra sent the first telegram.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: So, he was a non-official member.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have heard arguments advanced in seeking leave of the House for this Adjournment Motion and the explanation that the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue has given in reply. The occurrence is alleged to have taken place on the 23rd of this month and to-day is the 30th. We have it before us that the news of this mishap reached Government on the 26th and that all that could be done was done on the matter, that is, the Subdivisional Officer concerned was peremptorily instructed to give necessary relief to the distressed people and to report about the matter.

An Adjournment Motion really deals with a very urgent matter, and, as I have stated on a previous occasion, that it is an encroachment on the regular business of the House. The occurrence took place on the 23rd and reached the hon. Member moving this Adjournment Motion only last evening and hence the matter cannot be of very recent occurrence.

Secondly, the occurrence is an act of God and men can only give such relief as are in their power and Government have already instructed their officers to give the necessary relief. Moreover, I have heard from the hon. Member seeking leave of the House to move this Adjournment Motion that Buro crop was destroyed and people of these thanas had to go to a distance of several miles in search of food. The crops in the field were destroyed and surely not those in the granary. It is not understandable why immediately after the occurrence, the people had to go miles in search of food. A cyclone damage as is described now is different from flood damage overflowing and ruining homesteads and granaries. The Motion is also vague in respect of the indifference of the local authorities. The hon. Member could not supply any fact, any data, as to how the local officials are indifferent to the sufferings of the people. Probably he has no detailed information, as his

information is restricted to a telegram. From all these, I think, there is hardly any urgency for moving this Adjournment Motion, particularly in view of the fact that Government have already instructed their officers to render the necessary relief, that is to say, they have done all that lie in their power to do.

I then come to the next item of business. This day is allotted for Private Members' business, and I would call upon hon. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury to move his Motion.

Motion re : supply and distribution of foodstuffs, coal, fuel, etc.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government policy regarding supply and distribution of foodstuffs, coal, fuel, kerosene oil and cloth be taken into consideration.

I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister in-charge for giving me this opportunity for raising a discussion on the most vital matter over which the country at large is looking forward with an expectant eye. I admit, Sir, that a Private Member's Motion has got its limitations. He has to proceed with the meagre materials at his disposal. Therefore, a convention has been well established throughout India, that whenever a crisis stares the country in the face, Government come forward with a Motion of their own. They initiate the debate, place facts and figures on the floor of the House so that the Members may apply their mind and come forward with constructive suggestions. In the absence of appropriate data, I am afraid, the debate is bound to deteriorate into an academic discussion.

Sir, discussion of this type has become an annual feature of our Assembly. Every year, we have a lengthy discourse on the economic plight of the country. Government policy is put under fire, mutual recrimination ensue, unkind words are hurled at the Government and also helpful suggestions are put forth. But everything evaporates into thin air as soon as we leave Shillong. Nothing can shake off the bureaucratic arrogance of our officials. We have met to-day under the shadow of an impending world crisis. According to experts, the whole of India is within the verge of a second devastating famine. The acute food shortage of the immediate future is engaging the minds of all right thinking persons. Our representatives are deliberating about the possible import from outside at the Combined Food Conference at Washington. Virtually we are on the fringe of a *total war on hunger*. At this critical juncture, we cannot view with any amount of equanimity our position in Assam. In the light of these unhappy circumstances, we must examine the state of affairs prevailing in this Province. It is time that we prepare our balance sheet, so that we may know in time where we stand.

Sir, I have no mind to make any political capital out of this debate. The matters that we are discussing today are far too serious to form the subject of party politics. I believe and believe sincerely that the Opposition as well as the Members sitting in serried ranks behind the Treasury Benches are all wedded to the welfare of the masses. The dumb millions are groaning under the shackles of our omissions and commissions, and they are crying for redress. Is it too much to hope that we will all combine to come to a happy solution of our grim problem?

Sir, a new Ministry has been ushered in. There are many who entertain high hopes of them. Let them live up to the expectation. I do hope that this all important question will be examined from a new angle of vision and a new orientation of policy would be evolved. In the past the present Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Supply had been the bitterest critic of the Supply Policy of

the Government of Assam. He shall earn our blessings if he can tackle the problem with courage and foresight.

At the present moment, the food situation in the Province is becoming graver day by day. During the last financial year, our crop production had not been far too satisfactory. The carry over of the past boom period did not allow us to feel the deficit. In the current year, the Amon cultivation yielded a lean harvest. The low lying areas were resting their hopes on the Buro crop but Nature, which had proved so bounteous in the previous years, has wrought havoc upon the ripe Buro crop. In the Sunamganj Subdivision, which is considered to be the granary of the deficit areas, tornado and hailstorm have destroyed the whole crop. The position in the Assam Valley is no better. This has landed the Province into a really very critical situation. Sir, for the last few years we are having our food debates. Every time we indulge in a controversy whether Assam is surplus or deficit. But we have not as yet cared to procure the correct statistics regarding our total annual out-put. Even now we have to base our calculations on the conjectural forecast of the Agricultural Department. If we have *bonafide* desire to exercise an effective control over our commodities, a regular survey shall have to be made and necessary statistics prepared. In the past the Supply Department did not acquit themselves with credit. Their handling of the situation was far from satisfactory. The policy pursued ruined the entire agricultural economy of the Province. What is more, it entailed enormous loss to the Provincial Exchequer. Thousands of maunds of decomposed paddy at different Government godowns bear testimony to their inefficiency and inaptitude. The various Control Orders stifled the normal flow of ordinary trade channels but these could not control export of food-grains from within our borders. These could not control the greed and avarice of so many controlling officers. The entire machinery that was employed as brake snapped and the whole system went out of gear. I have no mind to dilate at length over the matter. Suffice it to say that it was a sorry tale of mis-management—a sordid story of bureaucratic bungling and cross-headed incompetence. I only allude to the past so that we may profit by our sad experiences. Let us not repeat our old blunders. Let us face the impending crisis rationally and with good conscience.

The hon. Members might have seen the recent Paddy and Rice Control Order promulgated by the Government of Assam on the 1st of March, 1946. This has placed an additional embargo on the movement of paddy and rice in Assam. As soon as the report of an impending famine was circulated, the price index soared high. The Control Order no doubt will restore it to its normal level. But what are we going to do about the stocks in the surplus areas? In the face of the rigorous ban the cultivator is apt to find himself an easy prey to the hoarders and black-marketeers. He must sell his paddy and with the sale proceeds buy the daily necessities of life. There are persons who out of a sense of desperation favour the idea of de-control. But in the face of an all-India crisis, I don't think we can do away with control without bringing a major calamity on the Province. So, it is evident that Government must buy. But how, this is the crux of the whole question. According to the Gregory Plan, Government can procure direct through their own officers, or through the agency system or partially through Government officers and partially through recognised agents so as to ensure a limited competition in the market. The monopoly agency system was tried in Assam with disastrous results. I think Government will not dare to repeat it again. I venture to suggest that if Government appoint limited number of *bonafide* dealers in each procurement zone and exercise proper supervision on their activities, a comparative, fair result might be achieved.

But before we launch upon a Procurement Scheme, we must thoroughly overhaul the Procurement Department which is ordinarily manned by inexperienced amateurs without any knowledge of commercial transactions. We are going to indulge in an operation entailing crores of rupees. Is it impossible to stamp out corruption and root out incompetence from this Department? Is it impossible to recruit an expert from outside? Lastly peoples' co-operation must be sought if we want to ensure any amount of success to our plan. I don't know whether the Government of India will require of the Government of Assam to buy any quantity under the basic plan. But the cardinal principle should always be to buy in surplus areas and to distribute the same in the deficit zones. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, bribery which is going on as never before must be stopped and straight dealing must begin to pervade the Government ranks.

Grow-More-Food Campaign has almost failed in the Province of Assam. We could not avail of the huge Government grant from India. Why could we not throw open a portion of our vast cultivable wastes to whomsoever who was ready to bring it under the plough? At the present moment dire distress and scarcity is being reported from various parts of the districts. In this connection I will take the liberty of reading out a telegram to the House that I have received within the last couple of days. May we not hope that Government will take timely measures to ease down the situation? Sir, the telegram that I referred to runs as follows—'Hailstorms worked havoc in Buro fields belonging to villages Rajanagar, Kalinagar, Haranazar, Dhapkai Ranarchar, Haranpur, Chaniarchar, Hajaripur, Noayoanchitlia, Jalia Kailahani, Mahatalpur, Hashimpur, under Darai Thana, district Sylhet. Area effected 4,000 acres harvest time Baisak only. Annual consumption damages irreparable people already in distress. Soliciting timely measures to avert food crisis.—Sudhir Kumer Choudhury, Zemindar, Rajanagar, Derai (Chandpur).'

It is really surprising that the Government of India, in this critical period has thought it fit to curtail our quota of cereals. This will no doubt aggravate the situation and put in an extra weight on rice consumption. Our procurement of wheat, atta and flour has not been at any time upto our demand. The distribution has always been inequitable and faulty. The storage arrangement has been most defective. As a result though the people could not get their requisite supply, thousands of maunds had to be destroyed being rotten and decomposed. The Government of Assam has never been able to indent any pure variety of Mustard oil. We are being spoon-fed by Messrs. Shaw Wallace, and Company, the king of blackmarketees in the matter of our supply.

Sir, along with food comes the problem of clothing. Verily we are in the midst of a cloth famine. I do not exaggerate when I say that the whole country side is going naked. Here also we are confronted with the same astounding muddle. Here also we find the same blunders and amazing mishandling of peoples' money. With an increasing Textile Department, we have a diminishing stock of cloth supply. Time at my disposal will not permit to enter into a detailed history of the Assam Provincial Co-operative Textile Society which has been made mainly responsible for our cloth supply. Suffice it to say that it has been turned into another Food-Grains Syndicate which was so roundly condemned on the floor of this House. Perhaps it will be news to most of the hon. Members when I say, that this Society handled stocks of cloth amounting to over 11 crores of rupees within the current year. May I know what check the Government of Assam has exercised on this huge transaction? Sir, I pause for an answer. Why the Government did not insist for the appointment of the Co-operative Textile Officer to look after their day-to-day transaction? The Society is supposed to have their head office at Shillong. May I know where it is situated? About a year ago the

Co-operative Textile Conference held at Shillong made some modest recommendations for proper control and equitable distribution of cloth. But unfortunately none of their recommendations have been worked upon by the Government of Assam. Only a few months back, our Commissioner of Textile obliged the poor Province of Assam with a consignment of unsaleable handloom cloth worth lacs of rupees. In spite of a rebate of 20 per cent. the stock could not be cleared. The retailers could not persuade the consumers to buy it at Rs. 4 per yard; who is going to compensate this huge loss! This is one of the many instances of our wreckless handling. I am rather surprised that the supply of standard cloth has been stopped before an adequate stock of mill-made cloth could be arranged. This has no doubt contributed to the acute scarcity that prevails at present. The control over the procurement and distribution of Textile goods has always been found to be slack and inefficient. So often corruption, profiteering and black-marketing have thrived under official patronage. There are persons who were allowed to make fortunes out of the misfortunes of others. Sir, the cloth situation is far too critical to brook any delay. I would appeal to the Government to take all possible steps to meet the situation and immediate measures should be taken for adequate supply. As regards distribution we want efficient control, effective control and honest control.

A great scarcity of fuel and coal is being experienced in the urban areas. The prohibitive prices have made the lot of ordinary people very miserable. As the emergency period is over, the Coal Control Order should be relaxed. It will afford a much needed relief.

As regards the supply of Kerosene our miserable condition remains the same. The installations in Burma have long been completed. Is it not time to raise control over this article? This will remove a long felt grievance of the rural areas.

Before I conclude, I will venture to repeat the suggestions that I made during the last session of the Assembly for the consideration of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

1. That a separate Department of food should be set up and placed under the charge of a Minister having no other major portfolio.
2. Government should take measures to secure adequate supply and equitable distribution of food-stuffs and other essential commodities at reasonable prices.
3. Government should take adequate measures to suppress black-markets hoarding, profiteering and other anti-social activities.
4. An Enforcement and Public Relations Department should be set up to eradicate corruption and bribery from public services.
5. Government should co-operate with the principal political parties in the above matters.
6. Last but not the least, a minimum price of paddy and rice should be fixed without further delay with due consideration to the cost of production.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government policy regarding supply and distribution of food-stuffs, coal, fuel, kerosene oil and cloth be taken into consideration."

The time fixed for each hon. Member who wants to take part in the discussion is 15 minutes.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: May I suggest, Sir, that we may be allowed to hear the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge first so that it will be helpful to every hon. Member who will take part in the discussion?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I shall speak after hearing two or three hon. Members.

† Maulavi M. IDRIS ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Having been elected a Member of this House from a rural constituency, I was looking for an opportunity of ventilating the grievances of the public on the food question. I therefore thank my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury for giving an opportunity to this House of a debate of this all embracing burning question of the day. Sir, what is the present position of the Province? If I am allowed to give an answer to this on the basis of actual state of things prevailing in the villages, I will unhesitatingly say that the Supply Department has so far failed to carry any benefit to the poor villagers. Atta, flour, and sugar have become a thing which the villagers seldom see in the present moment. I know of instances when in spite of best efforts, sugar or flour could not be procured even for the sick. The poor supply that is given to the retailers for distribution to different localities, invariably goes to the black-market. There exists no proper machinery for detecting this. From my personal experience, I suggest that supply for the rural areas should without any exception be given through the Co-operative Societies; whatever may be the shortcoming of the Co-operative Societies, the supply given through them, does reach the villagers. This suggestion of mine applies with regard to cloths—both mill-made and standard and kerosene also.

Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to a point which vitally affects the Muslim community, namely provision for 'Kafon' *i. e.*, cloth for covering the dead bodies. I know of instances when people from the villages had to move upto the headquarters of the Subdivision only to be told that there is no cloth available for the purpose and with instruction to go to the local retailer who again pleaded inability to supply. I suggest that provision for this purpose should be made in every circle either through the Co-operative Stores or through the Sarpanches.

Khan Sahib Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the idea of starting the Supply Department was to make adequate provision for the supply of foodstuffs and other consumer goods for the public. But it has met with failure in every direction. Black-marketing, bribery and jobbery have become rampant in every branch of this Department. Government officers also are not immune from it. One thing that strikes us most and makes us hang down our head in shame is that gentlemen, highly educated and holding responsible positions in life, do not think it beneath their dignity to take recourse to questionable and dishonest means at the cost of the public. The credit now-a-days lies in a man's ability to earn money by means fair or foul. An honest and self-respecting man has become more or less a back edition in society now. There is a Bengali saying "দাও নানা" *i. e.*, to earn money by dishonest means and with less labour and our people, it appears, have become fully possessed with it. If Government are really solicitous to help the public, they should be determined to eradicate all foul practices from the Supply Department. I am afraid, Sir, if I have digressed a little.

Now coming to the question of food problem, I find that the prospect is very gloomy. A country-wide famine is knocking at our doors. There is failure or small out-turn of crop in many places in our Province. Alarming reports are pouring in from Sunamganj that people have begun to starve in large numbers for want of rice and paddy. The price of paddy and rice is on the increase. In these circumstances, it is dismaying that thousands of maunds of rice and paddy are being daily exported to Bengal in spite of the big Rice Control Staff. To stop the export of rice and paddy, it is necessary to take the help and co-operation of the leading public. To depend on the Rice Control Staff and the Police will not do. It has proved a failure. Recognised Defence Parties should be formed in villages to check the export of rice and paddy and the Rice

Control Staff and the Police should be directed to co-operate with them. Stopping of export will bring difficulties in the way of the cultivators to dispose of the paddy they can spare. Government should fix a minimum price of these commodities and should purchase the surplus stock and keep it for the future. Otherwise it will not be possible for the cultivators to carry on their cultivation. The Grow-More-Food propaganda has so far failed. The existence of the Agricultural Department is not at all felt by the public. It should give practical help to the cultivators to bring all available lands under cultivation for growing paddy and Rabi crops. They should leave their laboratories and go round the villages and help the cultivators with their suggestions. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the supply of atta, flour, sugar and kerosene—particularly in the rural areas, is as bad as can be conceived. Sugar has become a rarity in the villages. It is not even available for patient's diet. The less is said about the supply of cloth the better. People in the villages are not getting cloth just enough to hide their shame. Varieties of cloth are supplied to the countryside, which are not required by the villagers, such as cloth for frocks, blouses, etc. Government should make a survey and ascertain the quantity of cloth required for a particular locality and then see if it is supplied there. After this the Government should see if the public are really getting the cloth supplied for them or it is going to the black-market. If the quality of cloth intended for the different places actually goes to the people, much of their difficulties will disappear.

The war ended about a year ago and the situation about supply of food-stuffs and other daily necessities of life should have been eased by this time but it has not, and why? It appears that the Government are not exercising proper vigilance over these matters. Though day and night black-marketing and other allied crimes are going on, the number of prosecutions is very small. It appears that the Criminal Investigation Department and the Police are of no use in this matter. If this is so, I think the Government should organise a small Secret Service with tried and reliable officers to detect crimes regarding supply matters only. Unless export is prohibited it is apprehended that the surplus paddy of our countryside will go to Bengal. In view of this I urge upon the Government to take a serious view of the matter so that Government may not have any difficulty when bad days come.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion of my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to add a few words about the cloth crisis. The problem of cloth is a great problem. We have talked much about the scarcity and distribution of cloth. But nothing has come out of it. We find from the answer to the Unstarred Question No.89(i) that Dhubri got 357 bales in November, 158 bales in December and 162 in January. So far as these quantities are concerned, it is quite all right because if these quantities were distributed properly, people would have been very much relieved. But they are not getting cloth as they should have. Why this discrepancy? I have got a report from Dhubri that recently 87 bales of cloth were booked as handloom cloth in the name of Messrs. Hashem Kashem Dada. There was a suspicion, and Mr. J.P. Jarman, Additional Deputy Commissioner was informed. He went to the place and opened the bales. Surprisingly it was found that 13 bales contained handloom cloth and the rest mill-made. These were originally meant for Sylhet Co-operative Stores. I cannot understand how these were made their way from Sylhet Co-operative Stores to Dhubri. Messrs. Hashem Kashem Dada must have cleverly manipulated this diversion from Sylhet to Dhubri. It is surprising that afterwards the Deputy Commissioner ordered the open sale of all these cloths. I do not

understand whether the Deputy Commissioner could do so in the circumstances. We all say that we are not getting cloth but at the same time we do not know where this cloth is going. I can understand that the difficulty lies in the distribution. So far as the present system of distribution is concerned—it is by far the most corrupted system. If the distribution of cloth is done by the Supply officer, there will be black-marketing. In some cases slips are issued by the officers of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Supply at the cost of Re. 1 for a slip for one piece of Dhuti. Things are going on like this. We cannot check this and we cannot have cloth.

The other point regarding corruption, I need not emphasise as we all know what sort of corruption is going on. I do not like to discuss anything more about this. As to the equitable distribution of cloth I want to put in before the House a scheme; if the scheme is accepted it will relieve the people very quickly. The scheme is this: For the purpose of equitable distribution of cloth, each subdivision should be divided conveniently into a certain number of rural centres, each consisting of a number of villages. In each of such centres there will be a Rural Central Committee set up by the people of the rural centre. The distribution of cloth will be entirely at the disposal of the Committee. Now the Subdivisional Committee similarly set up or the Supply staff will allot a proportionate quota of cloth to each of such rural centres. As soon as the allotment is made to the dealers of the centres the Committee will be informed of the quota allotted. The Committee will then proceed to distribute. At first the Committee will ascertain from the quota at its disposal the quantity which may be allotted to a particular village. The villagers will then be informed of their quota. Then the people of the village will themselves ascertain who deserve most and to whom the cloth will be allotted. The Rural Central Committee will issue slips for cloth to the villages in lots, and the village people will themselves distribute them and get cloth. Each village Committee will be responsible for the distribution and accounts for the villages under its control, subject to the supervision of the Rural Central Committee. The detailed working of the Committees may be chalked out as circumstances demand.

The main features of the scheme are—

- (i) The elimination of the supply staff in issuing slips for cloth.
- (ii) Taking the public committee into confidence, leaving the entire distribution at the hands of the committees and
- (iii) As to the stock or quota of cloth full publicity should be given.

I can understand that if officers come in the matter of distribution, corruption cannot be checked. If full publicity is given as to the quota of a particular dealer and if the distribution is entirely left at the hands of the public committees, I think, corruption will be checked. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: *(The hon. Member spoke in Urdu and an English translation of the speech submitted by him is given below):—*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, various matters have been included in the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury but instead of dealing with all the items, I would like to say a few words in support of the Motion, in order to draw the immediate attention of the Government to the acute shortage of food-stuffs prevailing in the Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas in the South Sylhet Subdivision. Sir, due to the untimely flood towards the end of last year and the consequent onrush of water hyacinth, the winter crop of the *haor* areas of the Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas was completely destroyed and as a result a state of famine now exists there. Sir, this is the constituency that I represent and I can tell this

Hon'ble House that during my election campaign I myself saw vast paddy fields on all sides of the Hailhaor, one of the biggest *haors* in the District, without any crop whatsoever and from what I saw, I was satisfied that 4th of the crop of the people living in the bordering villages of that *haors* had been destroyed altogether. My hon. Friend Shri Abala Kanta Gupta will bear me out, as he also represents the said thanas, when I say that a state of food shortage existed in those areas even during the harvesting season:

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will continue his speech after lunch.

Adjournment

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

(After lunch)

Election of Members to the Assam Road Communications Board

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As regards election of eleven representatives to the Assam Road Communications Board, which has been fixed to be held to-day between the hours of 2 P. M. to 4 P. M., I may inform the House that all the four candidates belonging to the Muslim League Party having withdrawn from the contest only ten candidates as named below remain in the field. They are:—

1. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma,
2. Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua,
3. Srijut Harinarayan Barua,
4. Srijut Motiram Bora,
5. Shri Satindra Mohan Dev,
6. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya,
7. Babu Jatindra Nath Bhadra,
8. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das,
9. Mr. B. K. J. Sarwan, and
10. Mr. Mody Marak.

These ten hon. Members are hereby declared elected to the said Board. As there is no further time during the current Session to fill up the remaining seat by holding fresh election, it may remain vacant for the present. Fresh election to fill up the remaining seat may be held during the next Session of the Assembly, if the Department concerned so desires and sends the necessary intimation.

Maulavi Mayeenud-din Ahmed Chowdry may now begin his unfinished speech.

Further discussion on the Motion *re* supply and distribution of foodstuffs, coal, fuel, kerosene oil and cloth.

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY: Sir, there were some godowns of the Syndicate at Shamsheganj and Kagalabala under the Maulvibazar Thana where a huge quantity of rice and paddy were stocked by the Syndicate and in spite of repeated representations by the people of those areas to allow them to purchase those paddy and rice from the Government so that they might save themselves from starvation, the Government, in order to make good their losses incurred due to their failure in disposing of the rice and paddy of the Syndicate in time, have sold those paddy and rice to their Licensees, who in addition to the purchased quantity of rice and paddy of the Syndicate, got permits to export good rice and paddy also. Sir, my information is that in order to encourage the disposal of the rice and paddy of the Syndicate, which were not even fit to be used as fodder for animal and as such nobody wanted to purchase them, the Government went so far as to allow the Licensees to export the same quantity of good rice and paddy with the Syndicate rice and paddy outside Assam, that is to say, if a Licensee purchased one thousand maunds of rotten rice and paddy of the Syndicate, he was allowed to export another one thousand maunds of good paddy and rice in order to make good his losses that he would incur in disposing of

the rotten rice and paddy of the Syndicate. Every hon. Member of this House will agree with me when I say that all such Licensees have taken the fullest advantage of the situation and have exported as much as they could by means fair or foul and as a result of all these, the small quantities of surplus that some of the producers of those localities had, have been sent out of Assam.

Sir, I have got a copy of the representation made to the Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet, as far back as the 28th January 1946, signed by over 200 leading people of the affected parts of the Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas, praying that they should be allowed to purchase the Syndicate rice and paddy, rotten though, either from the Shamsherganj or Kagabala godowns so that they might save themselves. But unfortunately nothing to that effect was done and the result is a famine. Sir, in view of the food shortage that I anticipated in those areas, I gave notice to move a Resolution during this Session of the Assembly which runs thus "In view of the present food crisis in the country, this Assembly is of opinion that immediate steps be taken by Government to fix a minimum economic price for the growers of paddy and rice in different important centres in the District of Sylhet, and arrangements be made from now to provide rice and paddy for such localities in the District where people are suffering for the total or partial failure of the winter crop," but as there is no possibility of the Resolution being discussed on the floor of this House during this Session, I would press upon the Government to be alive to the situation, fix up an economic price for the growers and make immediate arrangements for sufficient reserve stocks of paddy and rice in different parts of the District of Sylhet so that the people of other places may not be made to undergo the hardships and troubles as are being experienced by the affected people of Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas. Sir, considering the gravity of the situation, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide food for the affected people of Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas so that the lives of thousands of poor people of those areas may be saved and in addition distribute sufficient quantities of paddy seeds to the cultivators of those areas free of costs so that they may be able to carry on with this year's cultivation, which is already late, otherwise all the cultivable lands in those areas will remain uncultivated, for which this Congress Government will remain responsible.

Sir, the present Ministry cannot shirk the responsibility in this matter saying that this was all due to the actions of the previous Ministry inasmuch as the bargaining of allowing the Licensees to export the good rice and paddy with the rotten articles of the Syndicate, has been introduced by the present Ministry. So far as my knowledge goes those stocks of the Syndicate have been sold out during the last part of February and first part of this month. Such an act of bargaining with human lives, without proper enquiry whether there was any surplus or not, by a Government, which calls itself "Peoples Government" is highly deplorable, and I sound a note of warning to the Government that unless they rise to the occasion and give adequate relief to the needy and the poor people of those areas, they will have to face serious consequences.

Sir, from the leading article in the *Abhijan*, a weekly paper of Maulvibazar, published on the 20th of this month, it appears that its Editor, Babu Dwijendra Kumar Gupta, who is also a member of the Assam Press Advisory Board, pointed out to the Government about the anticipated food shortage in that Subdivision, at the meeting of the said Board, as far back as September, 1945 and urged upon the Government to take such steps as would be necessary to combat the crisis. But what was the reply he received from the Government? The Under-Secretary to the Department informed him that from the Government report they were satisfied that no damage was done to the winter crop and as such the Government did not anticipate any shortage of foodstuffs or famine. Such are the Government we have unfortunately been made to live under!

Sir, it is not only in the Maulvibazar and Srimangal Thanas that the people are faced with a famine. The whole of India, nay the whole of the world, is now faced with such a crisis. I would therefore urge upon the Government that in view of such an acute food shortage all over the world, they should refrain themselves from adopting the policy of eviction and should allow the people to cultivate as much food crops as possible without any restriction so that such a food crisis may be averted (*hear, hear*).

Sir, in the end I would like to add a few words about the Textile Department of the Government of Assam. The people in the country side are going without cloth. Instances are not few where men and women in various parts in the Province, are going almost naked. Men can go half naked, but it is not possible for a woman to go like that and no civilized Government, much less a "People's Government" can behave like this specially with regard to the needs of our sisters (*hear, hear*). Sir, I put some questions regarding the shortage of cloth supply to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, who was also an important Member in the previous Cabinet and the answers given to me on the floor of this Hon'ble House by the Hon'ble Minister was that the Government had decided to set up Committees in different subdivisions to look to the proper distribution of cloth to the people. But such steps—the steps of setting up Committees, etc.—will surely take time. But the need of the time is immediate action by the Government to provide cloth for the people without any further delay. My information is that in many places in Assam Muslim dead bodies could not be buried in time for want of 'Kafon'. I therefore urge upon the Government that instead of banking on the formation of this Committee or that Committee, they should take up the matter at once and find out cloth for the poor people of Assam and thereby save them from going naked and the dead bodies unburied. The cry is so great that it can brook no delay, not even a moment (*hear, hear*).

Sir, the Textile Department is called by the villagers as "Taskar" Department. The word "Taskar" means a thief. It is not that the villagers mean thief by the word "Taskar". They cannot pronounce the word Textile and so call it as "Taskar". But what I want to impress upon the Government in this connection is this that the Department has become so much corrupt that it has really become a Department of "Taskar". I therefore urge upon the Government that they should take all possible steps to put a stop to the corrupt practices prevailing in this Department and provide cloth for all, irrespective of being in towns or villages.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. Member will remember what I stated on the first day and will please give transliteration in English of his speech delivered in Urdu, because we have unfortunately no reporter in Urdu; otherwise, his valuable speech will be missed.

Mr. W. D. RUTHERFURD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of privilege. May I also be permitted to speak in my mother dialect which is, after all, not English, but Scots. (*Laughter.*) I am a Scotsman and we, the Scots, are very proud of our individual dialect and Nationalism.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I fully appreciate the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member and have every sympathy with him. Every hon. Member of this House and, as a matter of fact, every one outside also should have the liberty to express his ideas in his own mother tongue. But the Speaker of this Assembly cannot help in the matter, because he is bound by certain standing rules and cannot permit hon. Members to speak in their own dialects however sweet and entertaining these might be unless these are within the prescribed languages. So, he is not permitted to speak in Scots language. (*Laughter.*)

Srijit BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the war came upon us inspite of our will. The Government of India had no plan to meet the emergency created by the war. So, the people suffered and suffered a lot. In no country in the world people suffered so much. It only proves that the Government working at the Centre is absolutely incapable to do justice to our will and to meet needs of the country. I should say that the Government was guilty of criminal negligence to the people of this country. The war corrupted the Government and the other people also. As a matter of fact, the war is a product of imperialistic corruption. So, when the war was on, some people lost their head. The Government also lost their head. The Government of India as constituted could not or did not try to go to the root of the problem. It did not care to look to the comfort of the people. So, it failed to solve the food and the cloth problems of the land. As I said the war corrupted the Government. The Supply Department of the Government was the worst victim of the corrupting influence of the war. Then again, as there was no scheme the Government was in the wilderness. They did not know what to do. The civilian population suffered the most. Government did something but that was only for the Military. They were the worst hoarders—the ruthless hoarders. They hoarded and exported almost all that was available for the Military at the cost of the civilian and that is why the civilian population suffered. I should say that the Assam Government that time were absolutely incapable of doing what they should have done. They failed to rise to the occasion. As a matter of fact they could not have done better as they were placed. Their Supply Department bungled and bungled very miserably and their officers did not care for the people. They were brought up in the tradition of corruption. They suffered from the bureaucratic mentality and in consequence the people suffered. They could not see things from the angle of vision of the mass people—the villagers. So, in every way they mis-managed things and there was corruption. There was corruption among the officers and there was corruption among the businessmen.

Now, it is time that we should set things right. Hercules cleaned the Augean stable. But he was not asked to do so in one day. I realise that the present Ministry will take some time to clean the rubbish that have accumulated in the Augean stable of this Province during those years of war. I suppose, nay, I am sure that this Ministry will be able to check corruption—to wipe out corruption. This black-marketing, this corruption den must be demolished. Officers must be warned. No officer, however highly placed he may be, will be excused for any latches of duty. This should be a guiding principle of our Government. I would urge upon the Government to ask their subordinates to do their duty properly and do it from the view point of the masses. They must be asked to go to the villages. As I have said before, these officers are brought up in an imperialistic regime and they cannot think of going and mixing with the ordinary people. They behave in such a manner and in such a way that they do not fit in our villages in their present condition. But they must be made to understand that they have got to mix with our village people and they are to work among them. Sir, I think we must revolutionise the whole administration and then and then only we can eradicate and wipe out corruptions. We must

electrify the whole atmosphere with new enthusiasm. The legacy of the past imperialist order must be done away with. That legacy we cannot allow to continue. We must now build up a new State, a new Order and a new angle of vision. We are working under the limitations imposed by the Government of India Act, 1935. I quite realise the limitations and difficulties; but I should like to say that we must break through this Act, and its limitations. We are not here merely to abide by the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935; we must act and behave as a free Government. I should say that we are now functioning as a free Government. We do not like to be fettered by the provisions and limitations of the Government of India Act, 1935. That Act must go and we must begin even from now to create a new atmosphere, a new society and a new administration and in that society our common men, plough men and labourers must rule. If we can see things from that angle of vision, I am sure, we shall be able to set things right. Otherwise, no piecemeal legislation or work will set things right. We want to kill corruptions, eradicate corruptions but if we continue in the old order, we cannot possibly do that. So, we must do away with the past machinery and build up a new one.

Sir, the monopoly business must go. It was very queer, Sir, that the last Government introduced monopoly business. Monopoly business in the capitalistic order can only starve many and overfeed a few. The capitalist order is bad and it must go. But I think, so long it exists, competition is the only check and that check was eliminated by introducing monopoly system. If we introduce socialistic plan then things will be quite easy and the whole atmosphere and the whole order will be changed and the method of business will be different. But it will be wrong to introduce monopoly business in the present framework of society. So, Sir, I urge upon Government to abolish all monopolistic business and see that we can do things collectively and encourage our cultivators to organise Co-operative Societies. And through these Societies we can do our business. Government may finance the Co-operative Societies to do business. I understand, Sir, the last Government gave all money to Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company to do their business. That Company did their business with the Government money without spending a single pie from their pocket. Sir, if that money were given to our people to organise Co-operative Societies then the ordinary people would have been very much benefited and would have reaped the profit which is now going to the middlemen. So, Sir, I urge upon Government to make a comprehensive plan for Co-operative Societies so that this profit which now goes to the middlemen may go to the betterment of the common men. This system of middlemen must be eliminated as far as practicable. Sir, I visualise a day when everything will be nationalised; all industries, all business and commerce will be nationalised; our coal, our oil and our Tea Industry will be nationalised and no individual enterprises will be entertained. I visualise a society like that and in that society common men will collectively own business and industries. But so long we are not having that we must try to go as far as possible towards that goal and so I suggest that co-operative movements of the right type will go a long way to solve food and cloth problems.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to add a few words only. Regarding 'monopoly', 'free trade' and 'free competition' 'protection', 'Laissez-faire',—high sounding doctrine—that have been introduced in this debate—with the utmost effort on my part and with the little knowledge of political economy that I had, I tried to analyse all these questions, particularly, in times of stress and strain and in the days of woes—of the War. But, I got myself entangled in the maze. I like to re-assert that the food question should be kept beyond the pale of party politics. Our 'Quid-e-Azam

has declared this, off and on, going from province to province and from place to place, and that we reiterate, and I assure the present Government that all the co-operation that we are capable of giving shall be forthcoming in this matter (*voices ; hear, hear*). Sir, I think the present Supply Minister has been by this time become a vast repository of knowledge and experience necessary to make the supply and procurement a complete success.

We have heard constructive suggestions as well as destructive ones, constructive plans as well as destructive plans. Sir, all sorts of suggestions and instructions have been forthcoming since the last two years and even this year we have not a small measure of it. What I want to say is that keeping in view the past mistakes and experiences the Government should pass through the straight path to mete out to the suffering public all that they deserve. There have been found many an eddy, many a gorge, which this Government must wisely shun, and stem the tide and lead the vessel right to the port. What has struck me most in this debate is this that we want simply to shift things from one pocket into another, but we have not heard anything like *self-sufficiency*. Well, Sir, I think the 'vigorous' Industries Minister will gird up his loins to raise the Province to the level of an industrialised one so that we may not be dependent on other provinces for our textiles, and as a matter of fact, all amenities that an industrialised province can bestow upon its people.

The present Government—the Congress Government—who are for independence from foreign domination should also spare no pains to making the people of Assam independent of other provinces, so that the Government may not have to hang on other provinces for doles in this, doles in that, to meet our needs. If our cottage industries are revived and invigorated, I think, our day to day needs can be fulfilled through them.

Now, regarding agricultural produce, I think, a vigorous agricultural policy free from bias, free from jealousy and above all, free from short-sighted political consideration, will solve the food problem. Our cultivators are quite up to the mark to produce almost all kinds of cereals, not to speak of mustard and paddy. I should expect that this Government will have a clear cut policy to make the Province self-sufficient. Let this be the central idea before them and they will be able to achieve wonders in this wonderful land of ours which provides us with wonderful possibilities in every sphere. And it is only meet and proper for us to expect that the Congress Government who are known to be the saviours of the masses—at least they have given it out to the world that they are the saviours of the people of India—will co-ordinate their various economic programmes accordingly, and the rest of India will look to them for guidance and for inspiration for all that they will be providing to the people, I mean the people of Assam.

I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to dilate upon these several items of programmes which I have placed before them. Still, with all my earnestness I request them that their guiding principle and central idea should be to make Assam an economically independent unit,—a self-sufficient and self-contained Assam.

With these few words, Sir, I lend my whole-hearted support to the Mover of the Motion.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said by my hon. Friends on the opposite regarding the distribution of food and cloth and regarding the present Government policy of distribution.

Now, Sir, I should like to say a few words in support of my hon. Friend Mr. Bhagavati regarding the policy of Government which was made during the last regime.

Regarding the supply of food-stuffs, there are so many agencies that the supply goes from one agency to the other and ultimately when it comes to the hands of the poor villagers they get very little. There is a Syndicate and there are wholesale dealers. Now, Sir, we have seen from our experience that during the last War licenses were granted to certain shop-keepers and from those shop-keepers, it is known to many hon. Members in this House, during the course of a month the licenses were changed to three or more persons. I do not see any reason for such changes. Now, Sir, we have learned from the Hon'ble Minister of Supply, from his declaration on the floor of the House that they are going to make certain arrangement by constituting certain committees for distribution of food-stuffs and cloth in the districts and in the subdivisions. We do not know, Sir, how far these committees will be successful in properly distributing the food-stuffs and cloth.

Another important matter is the supply of kerosene oil. Now we have seen that the Central Government has reduced the price of kerosene and we hope our Provincial Government will see that kerosene is fairly distributed.

Now, Sir, to put an end to corruption everyone should make an earnest effort that this is stopped, and my learned Friend, Srijut Bhagavati has rightly said that the Government is mainly responsible for this corruption. What have we seen when the personnel of a Government become corrupted? We have seen in history and we hope history will repeat soon that such Government cannot function anywhere.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা আৰু কাপোৰ কানিৰ সমস্যা আজি দেশত এটা প্ৰধান সমস্যা হৈ উঠিছে। যুদ্ধ শেষ হৈ গল। দেশৰ মানুহে ভাবিছিল যে যুদ্ধ শেষ হোৱাৰ লগে লগে মানুহৰ এই অনাটন—কাপোৰকানিৰ অভাৱ আৰু খোৱাবস্তুৰ অভাৱ কমি আহিব আৰু মানুহ এই অনাটনৰ পৰা বন্ধা পৰিব। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে যে মানুহে যুদ্ধ শেষ হোৱাৰ পিচত যিটো আশা কৰিছিল সেই আশা এতিয়াও সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে ফলবতী হোৱা নাই। বহুতে প্ৰশ্ন কৰে ইয়াৰ কাৰণ কি? ইয়াৰ দুটা কাৰণ হব পাৰে এটা কাৰণ, যুদ্ধ শেষ হোৱাৰ পিচতো খাদ্য বস্তুবিলাকৰ যোগান ভালদৰে দিব পৰা নাই আৰু দ্বিতীয় কাৰণ হব পাৰে যে যুদ্ধৰ সময়ত যি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট আছিল আৰু যি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই খাদ্য বস্তু বিতৰণ নীতি প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন কৰিছিল সেই নীতি এনেকুৱা জঘন্য আছিল যে তাক সংশোধন কৰা আজি অসম্ভৱ হৈ পৰিছে। যুদ্ধৰ সময়ৰ এজন মন্ত্ৰী—মাননীয় মনোৱৰ'ব আলী চাহাবে এইমাত্ৰ Self-sufficiency আৰু Cottage Industryৰ কথা কৈ গৈছে। তেখেতে এনে সুন্দৰ পৰামৰ্শ দিছে যাতে আমি দেশখনক self-sufficient কৰি তুলিব পাৰো। সঁচা কথা। ১৯৪২ চনৰ কথা আমাৰ মনত পৰে। ১৯৪২ চনত যেতিয়া ভাৰতীয় গণ আন্দোলন হয় যেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেছে self-sufficiencyৰ programme লৈ গাৱেঁ গাৱেঁ শান্তিসেনা সংগঠিত কৰি সেই শান্তিসেনাৰ জৰিয়তে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান সম্পৰ্কে ভলণ্টিয়াৰ সকলে গাঁৱৰ মানুহক উদ্যোগী কৰি তুলিছিল আৰু Cottage Industry বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে সুতা কটা যতৰ আদি দিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছিল, শুধিব পাৰোনে সেই সময়ত সেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কি কৰিছিল? বন্ধুসকল, শুনিলে আচৰিত হব যে সেই সময়ত দুখীয়া পেতিয়কৰ চুকত পৰি থকা যঁতবেও পুলিচৰ হাতত, গুৰুখা মিলিটাৰীৰ হাতত বন্ধা পোৱা নাছিল। শুনিছিলোঁ, ১৯৪৩ চনত সেই সময়ৰ আমাৰ মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী সাৰ ছাদুল্লা চাহাবে যেতিয়া যোৰহাটৰ কাকজানত National War Frontৰ মিটিঙত বক্তৃতা দিছিল

তেতিয়া এজন পুজাই তেখেতক প্রশ্ন কৰিছিল যে আজি আপুনি আমাক সূতা কাটিবলৈ আৰু কাপোৰ
 ববলৈ কবলৈ আহিছে, কিন্তু আমাৰ পুজাই বা আমাৰ ভলণ্টিয়াৰসকলে কি এনে দোষ কৰিছিল
 যাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ যত্নবিলাকেও মিলিটাৰীৰ বুট জোতাৰ আগত বক্ষা পোৱা নাই। আৰু দলে
 দলে শান্তি সেনাক জেললৈ ধৰিলৈ গৈছে। তাৰ কাৰণ কি, আমি জানিব পাৰোনে? তেতিয়া তেখেতে
 কৈ আহিছিল যে যদি পুলিচে তেনে কোনো অত্যাচাৰ কৰিছিল তাৰ উপযুক্ত report মোক
 দিলে মই তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ প্ৰস্তুত আছোঁ। আমি জনাত তেনেকুৱা হেনো বহুত আবেদন
 আহিছিল কিন্তু আজিলৈকে তাৰ কোনো বিচাৰ নহল আৰু সেই ভঙা যঁতৰবিলাকো আজিলৈকে
 পুলিচ খানাৰ পৰা ঘূৰি নগল। ই অতি পৰিতাপৰ কথা; দেশবাসীয়ে এই বেজাৰ আজিলৈকে
 পহৰিব পৰা নাই। অতীতৰ কথা যদি পাহৰি যাওঁ বা যদি আমি পাহৰিব খোঁজো আৰু
 মাননীয় সদস্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ উপদেশ যদি এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে গ্ৰহণ কৰে, তেন্তে আকৌ যদি ভাৰতত
 এনেকুৱা এই অসম্ভৱ অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি হয়—আকৌ যদি এই সকল গান্ধী ভলণ্টিয়াৰ জেললৈ
 যাবলগীয়া হয়, আশা কৰোঁ তেখেতসকলে আমাৰ যঁতৰ কেইটা বক্ষা কৰিব (hear,
 hear)।

দ্বিতীয় কাৰণ, সেই সময়ৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এনেকুৱা এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিথৈ গৈছিল, যাৰ কাৰণে
 এই corruption আজিও বন্ধ কৰিব পৰা নাই। বন্ধুসকল, carruption সম্পৰ্কে
 বহুত আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে। ১৯৪২ চনত মানুহৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা নিৰাৱৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে
 National War Frontৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল আৰু সেই National War Frontৰ
 জৰিয়তে গাওঁৰ মানুহবিলাকৰ মাজত ধোৱাবস্ত্ৰ বিতৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছিল। আমি ১৯৪৫ চনত
 জেলৰ পৰা ওলাই আহি National War Frontৰ যোগানদাৰ সকলৰ যি অত্যাচাৰৰ কথা
 শুনিলোঁ বোধ কৰোঁ এনেকুৱা অত্যাচাৰ কোনো সভ্য দেশত হোৱা নাই। National War
 Frontৰ জৰিয়তে লোন তেল বিতৰণ কৰাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যিটো দাম বান্ধি দিছিল, কৰ্মচাৰী
 সকলে আৰু National War Frontৰ organiser সকলে তাৰ ডবল দাম লৈ মানুহক বিক্ৰি
 কৰিছিল—আমি এনেকুৱা report পাইছিলোঁ। আমি এনেকুৱা কথাও শুনিছোঁ আৰু সি
 একেবাৰে সত্য কথা যে এসেৰ নিমখৰ দাম ৭ টকা লৈকে উঠিছিল। সেই সময়ও এই ব্যৱস্থা
 বিলাকত যিবিলাক মানুহ লিপ্ত আছিল এতিয়াও সেইসকলৰ সেই ধনৰ হেপাহ একৱাৰ নোৱাৰাত
 আজি দেশত এটা অসম্ভৱ অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে।

আমি শুনিছোঁ যে যোৰহাটত কানি কাপোৰ বিতৰণৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰ
 হৈছে সেই ব্যৱস্থাটো সন্তোষ জনক হোৱা নাই। কাপোৰ নাই—
 কাপোৰ কলৈ গল? গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাপোৰ দিছে, কিন্তু কাপোৰ কলৈ গল? অলপতে
 এইটো কথা ধৰা পৰিছে। আমি শুনিছোঁ যে কাপোৰ আমাৰ দেশৰ পৰা
 মণিপুৰৰ বাস্তাইদি ব্ৰহ্মদেশলৈ গৈছে আৰু ব্ৰহ্মদেশত সেই কাপোৰবোৰ বিক্ৰি হৈছে। Textile
 Department আছে, আমাৰ officer বিলাক আছে, ডেপুটী কমিশ্যনাৰ আছে, পুলিছ আছে,
 পুলিছ চাহাব আছে আৰু পুলিচ ইন্স্পেক্টৰ আছে, তথাপিও এইসকলোৰে চকুত ধুলি মাৰি কাপোৰ
 বিলাক কেনেকৈ ব্ৰহ্মদেশলৈ গৈছে? আপোনাৰসকলে বোধকৰোঁ শুনিছে যে আজি অলপ দিনৰ
 আগতে তিতাবৰৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ৬ মাইল দূৰৈত কাপোৰ কানিৰে সৈতে এখন লৰী পুলিচে ধৰিছে।
 আৰু তাৰেপৰা এইটো কথা প্ৰকাশ হৈছে যে বেপাৰীসকলে চোৰাং কৰি এই মাল বিলাক

ব্রহ্মদেশলৈ পঠিয়াইদি তাত বিক্ৰি কৰে আৰু আমাৰ মানুহক কাপোৰ নিদিয়ৱে। এতিয়া বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থাত এই চোৰাং বেপাৰ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ আমি কেনেকুৱা বিলাক ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা উচিত এই বিষয়ে মাননীয় সভা সকলে তেখেতসকলৰ মতামত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। বৰ্ত্তমান সময়ত আমাৰ বিবেচনা মতে এই সমস্যা নিৰাবণ কৰিবলৈ হলে—এই চোৰাং ব্যৱসায় বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ হলে আমাৰ সকলোৰে ঐকান্তিক চেষ্টাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব আৰু যদি আমি সকলোৰে ঐকান্তিক ভাবে চেষ্টা কৰি সংগঠনৰ জৰিয়তে এই corruption বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰোঁ, তেন্তে আমি অনায়াসে কৃতকাৰ্য্য হব পাৰিম আৰু মোৰ বিশ্বাস যে আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বৰ্ত্তমানে যি কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতি হাতত লৈছে আৰু যি বিলাক কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিৰ দ্বাৰা এই corruption বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছে সেই কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিত যদি দেশবাসীয়ে সহযোগ কৰে—নিজৰ দলাদলি ভাৰ পৰিত্যাগ কৰি যদি এই উদ্যোগত সকলোৰে সহযোগ কৰে, তেতিয়াহলে আমি নিশ্চয় corruption বন্ধ কৰিব পাৰিম। আমাৰ সন্মুখত আজি কেইদিন মানৰ আগতে হৈ যোৱা বঙ্গদেশৰ ঘটনাতেই আমি আমাৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য দেখা পোওঁ। আমাৰ ঘৰৰ ওচৰৰে এখন প্ৰদেশত খোৱাৰ অভাৱত যেতিয়া লাখে লাখে মানুহ মৰি গল তেনেকুৱা এটা দৃশ্য দেখিও যদি আমি এই মহা সঙ্কটৰ সময়ত সহযোগ নকৰোঁ—নিজৰ দলাদলি ভাৰ পৰিত্যাগ কৰি আমাৰ দুখীয়া দেশবাসী বিলাকক উদ্ধাৰ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন নকৰোঁ, তেনেহলে আকৌ আমি বঙ্গদেশৰ দৰে এটা অৱস্থা সৃষ্টি কৰিমহঁক। সেই কাৰণে এতিয়া এই corruption বন্ধ কৰাত আৰু খাদ্য বস্তু বিতৰণ কৰাত সকলোৰে দলগত ভাৰ পৰিত্যাগ কৰি সহযোগ কৰোহঁক, যত্ন কৰোহঁক যাতে আমাৰ যত্নৰ দ্বাৰা আমি আমাৰ দেশবাসীক বন্ধা কৰিব পাৰোহঁক।

[The hon. Member spoke in Assamese about the problems of food and clothing and urged upon Government to see that these commodities are equitably distributed among the people of the Province and corruption checked.]

Maulavi Md. ABDULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said and discussed on the floor of the House regarding food stuff. But however we may discuss and deliver speeches and make this cold weather of Shillong hot, unless and until we feel within ourselves that we are the representatives of one crore of the population of Assam, we will not be able to make a proper approach to this question. We should feel within ourselves that we are discussing a matter which concerns more than one crore of population of Assam. This food problem, Sir, is not the problem of one community. It is not the problem either of the Muslims or the Hindus. Let us all rise above party politics. Let us forget for a moment that we belong to the Muslim Party or the Congress Party. Then and then only we can render good services to the Province, we belong to. Now, Sir, I do not like to kill the valuable time of the House. I would urge upon the hon. Members of this House that they are the representatives of respective constituencies and that they are to determine the fate and fortune of the whole population of Assam. We find that as soon as the Congress took the Ministerial "Gaddi" they released the political prisoners. But they failed in their duty to release hundreds of maunds of paddy which are rotting in the godowns and rendered unfit for human consumption. I would urge upon the popular Government to release this paddy. This is my first point regarding rice and paddy and I would like to say that this would give some sort of relief to the people of our Province. I would like to know whether our Province is a surplus one so far as rice and paddy are concerned. We have not as yet got any definite information from the Government on this point. I think, Sir, had the report of the Enquiry Committee been published in time, the people might have known to some extent the real state of affairs.

So far as the procurement policy of the Government is concerned, I think it might have been beneficial to the people of the Province to determine a policy which would lead our country for the good of the populace. Then, Sir, in this connection it would be better on the part of the Government if they are really a bit alert and publish that report as early as possible. Then, Sir, why there is so much cry for food in our Province? I think, the evil of it lies in corruption. What is the need for so many officers who are good for nothing? They are looting the people right and left. I do not know what steps the popular Government is trying to take and I do earnestly hope, as they are making spectacular propaganda and demonstration, they will be alert in stamping out corruption from this Province. If they keep their proposals and decisions within the realm of red-tapism they will be simply repeating the old story of bygone days. I do not like to blame any Government—be it the previous or the present Government. But I would like to urge upon them to take immediate steps so that they may at least prove themselves to be a popular Government and a people's Government. They should not for a moment forget that they are the people's Government and only then they will be in a position to render real services to the people. I would appeal to them "as you have taken the responsibility of serving the Nation you should from every angle of vision try to see that you are doing good to the people". I would emphatically urge upon them not to make it a Government of their own, but a Government of the people.

Sir, as far as my knowledge of the past few years goes, I feel rather ashamed to discuss these things on the floor of the House and I do not like to discuss them here, but I would only appeal and most earnestly appeal, that they should not repeat the history of the past. Sir, I refrain myself from talking anything about the past, as we are to deal only with the present. I wish the past will be buried forever, and the present Government will tackle this matter from a new angle of vision.

Now, Sir, I would like to give a few suggestions (though they may not be very valuable) regarding the distribution of food-stuffs in our subdivision. Sir, I hail from the Habiganj subdivision and I think I am better acquainted with the system of distribution of food-stuffs in my subdivision than anybody else. Sir, though born and brought up in a village I had not the chance to live in villages all through. During the last four months in connection with my electioneering campaign I had to reside in my native village and I had the bad habit of taking tea. There was a control-shop by my house. I once approached the Manager of that shop for a *powa* of sugar. The Manager told me "if you give one rupee you will get a *powa* of sugar". I told him, "Well, I don't know how you are charging me one rupee. So far as I know the controlled price of sugar is 8½ annas for a seer and you may charge me at best 3 annas for a *powa*". He replied that he did not have a single grain of sugar, adding that if I gave him one rupee he can manage one *powa* of sugar for me. Sir, if any complaint is made to the Supply Officer, they turn a deaf ear to them (*A voice*:—Did you make a complaint to the Subdivisional Officer?) No, personally I did not. But many people told me that they did not get any redress from any Officer there. I think Government should take serious notice of these things. If any Officer is found good, he should not be kept in one place for his whole life; he should be allowed to do good to other parts of the Province as well. If any Officer is bad, there is no justification why he should be allowed to do harm to a particular place for all his life. I would urge upon the Government to see if there is any Officer, ministerial or executive, who is staying at Habiganj for more than ten years and if so, he should be immediately transferred. The difficulty with this sort of Officers is that they do not consider themselves to be servants of the people, rather they lord over all. I definitely know that there is one such ministerial

Officer at Habiganj, who is there for more than 10 years and bungling things. He should immediately be transferred.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHON CHAUDHURY: May we know who is this Officer?

Maulavi Md. ABDULLAH: I do not like to mention any name. But I know it to be a fact. Let the Government enquire and find out.

Srijut MAHENDRA MOHON CHAUDHURY: How can Government find out if the hon. Member does not mention the name?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think it is not proper to mention names.

Maulavi Md. ABDULLAH: I have given the name of the place and it will not be very difficult for Government to find out that Officer. At the outset I said that I hail from Habiganj and I am acquainted with the activities of that subdivision. My suggestion is that the Government should enquire of the Subdivisional Office and if they find that there is any such ministerial Officer there he should be immediately transferred.

Now regarding sugar, Sir, I should like to speak a few words. I understand that the quota of sugar of this Province increased by 2,700 tons, but the District and Subdivisional Officers have made no arrangements yet for its equal distribution in the rural areas. So this stuff is standing on the same footing as other rare articles which people in the rural areas are not getting even by a single *chattak*.

Regarding Atta and flour, I find that rationing is made only for the people of the towns and so people of the villages do not get them. I therefore urge upon the Government to introduce rationing system for the villages also so that there can be equal distribution of these stuffs.

As regards cloth, I may say, Sir, the position is almost the same. People have to come from far away villages—from 10 to 15 miles—to take their quota of cloth from the towns and still they do not get it. In this respect also Government should try to do something so that there can be equitable distribution.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulana IBRAHIM ALI: (Spoke in Urdu and an English translation of it as submitted by the hon. Member is given below.)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the critical times through which we are passing are unparalleled in the history of nations. Confusion and corruption have run amuck in the country, the complete dispelling of which is a question of time as a solution is difficult to be arrived at overnight. In spite of this, I beg to submit a few words in this connection. We had the good fortune to live in a country where to be destitute was an unheard of thing but having fallen regular victims to prolonged vicissitudes, for an ordinary man to be upto the standard of living has become an impossibility at the present moment. The whole country has become an of want and poverty. Sir, ordinary living depends on two things—food and clothing. It is beyond imagination to think of famine in a country where 95 per cent. of the population are agriculturists and which Providence has gifted with all sorts of resources. But owing to irony of fate as is evident from the discussions in the House, famine seems to be staring in the face in many parts of the Sylhet district. The report that has reached upto date is sufficiently staggering so much so that it has completely upset the Members of all Groups. The Government should promptly devise means and adopt measures to combat this impending calamity, so that people at large may not fall victims to starvation while we are seated in this Assembly at ease. We must have strong determination that a single being may not fall a prey to death for want of food. If we make sincere attempt and promptly resort to proper safeguards Providence will come to our rescue.

Much has been said about cloth and undoubtedly both living and dead are in need of it. Cloth is unavoidably necessary for preserving our dignity as well as covering our shame. But foreign domination has awfully deprived the country of all

means of dealing with the problem and has landed us to a state of extreme helplessness which can never be overestimated. To the poor cloth has become a rare commodity—although it is within the easy reach of all high Government officials, so called Zamindars and men of position. The poor cannot get it through ration card and to purchase in the black market is beyond their means. In rural areas want of shroud for the dead is still keenly felt and in my presence 3 dead bodies were buried each with single cloth instead of requisite sets religiously enjoined. It is upto the Government to save people from such shameful state of things.

In the scheme of rural uplift there should be arrangements for every locality to be able to make cloth sufficient for itself and also small looms being distributed. How long shall we look to the outsiders for cloth? About two hundred years of foreign domination is not a small matter and the amount of bitter experience that we have had in this long period can no further be multiplied. It is sufficient shame for the living that we are unable to clothe the dead with necessary shrouds. What more will the world of 'control' bring for us?

Generally sugar is not available in the market. But it is always sold in the black market at the rate of Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8 per seer. This problem is as difficult as that of cloth. The poor sick cannot get it not even for his dying babies. The doles should be increased and distributed through the Circle Sarpanch or some other reliable agency and control should continue.

The quantity of kerosene should be increased and arrangement should be made so that the poor may get it according to their needs and not on the basis of the Chowkidari tax paid by them. Let me hope that the present Government will be able to expedite the remedial measures as there is no difference of opinion about these matters. With these words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH SAMADDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Province of Assam is restless for cloth, yarn, sugar, salt, kerosene oil and many other things which are supplied by the Civil Supply Department and also for the shortage of these articles. All are crying high against corruption, black-marketing, profiteering and other demoralisations but the people are suffering seriously and continuously. Non-officials are accusing the officials and the officials are accusing the non-officials and the different branches of Government Departments are blaming each other and some people are blaming the whole staff of Government officials from top to bottom, but there seems to be no remedy. How can corruption, profiteering, black-marketing and hoarding be abolished? So, I place before the House some suggestions for the consideration of Government. I think that in every village, a Village Committee should be organised consisting of the village leaders who should appoint a retailer under them. In every Mauza, a Mauza Committee should be organised with representatives of the Village Committees or the villages. A wholesale dealer should be appointed for the Mauza under that Mauza Committee. In every subdivision and where there is no subdivision, in every such district, there should be a Subdivisional or District Committee consisting of the representatives of the Mauza Committees and the local authorities. Government should supply goods directly to the wholesale dealers under the Mauza Committees and the retailers of the villages should get supply from the wholesale dealers appointed under these Mauza Committees. After getting the due quota from Government the District and Subdivisional Committees should distribute the goods under their supervision to the Mauza Committees on population basis and on special considerations. And the Mauza Committees will distribute their due quotas to the Village Committees who will ultimately distribute the goods to the villagers under their supervision.

Before acceptance of office by the Congress, the major activities of the Intelligence Branch of Government which is said to be the most powerful branch of the Government were limited to search out the political persons and the nationalists who were engaged in the improvement of the country. Now as the Congress has

accepted office, those officers of the Intelligence Department have little work to do. So they should be engaged in searching out black-marketeers, profiteers, hoarders and the corrupt persons both officials and non-officials. I think this will stop corruption and other evils for which the people are suffering. I hope Government will take these suggestions into their consideration and take proper steps as early as possible.

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

Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, Supply বিভাগৰ corruption সম্পৰ্কে বহুত কথা আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে, কিন্তু এইটো কথা সকলোৱে ভাবি চাব লাগিব যে এই corruptionৰ গুৰিত কেবোন কোনটো? এই বিভাগত যি বিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে সেই বিলাক কেনেকুৱা বিধৰ কৰ্মচাৰী লোৱা হৈছে? সেই কৰ্মচাৰী বিলাক কোন বিধৰ আৰু কিমান শিক্ষা পোৱা মানুহ সেইটো আলোচনা কৰি চাবলৈ মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছোঁ। বহুত কৰ্মচাৰী পোৱা যাব যিবিলাক অতি উচ্চ খাপৰ—অতি সন্মানৰ চাকৰীৰ পৰা আহিছে। শিক্ষাবিভাগ বুলিলে কি ভাৰতবৰ্ষ, কি ইংলণ্ড, সকলো ঠাইতে সকলোৱে অতি উচ্চ সন্মানৰ স্থান বুলি ভাবে। সেই বিভাগৰ পৰা কিহৰ পুনোভনত সেই চাকৰী এৰি আহিছে? তেওঁলোকে একালে চাকৰি এৰি আহিছে আৰু আনফালে স্কুল বিলাকৰ কি দুৰ্দশা হৈছে। তেওঁলোকে আহিছে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ ধন ঘটাবলৈ। তেওঁলোকৰ স্থানত অস্থায়ী ভাবে কাম কৰিবলৈ আজি ৩।৪ বছৰ কিছুমান শিক্ষক অস্থায়ী ভাবে ৰাখি থোৱা হৈছে। যি বিলাকে কেতিয়া কলৈ যাবলাগে সেই কথা নাজানে আৰু সেই কাৰণে শিক্ষকতা কাৰ্য্যত নিয়মমতে মনোনিবেশ নকৰে। এইটো মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস যে এই যে অস্থায়ীভাৱে শিক্ষক বিলাকক লৈ থোৱা হৈছে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে একালে শিক্ষাবিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্য নষ্ট হৈছে আৰু সিফালে তেওঁলোকৰ টকাৰ হেপাহৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক corruptionৰ কথা কৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ কৰিব পাৰিছে আৰু তেওঁলোকেও সেই দুৰ্ণামৰ ভাগ লব লগাত পৰিছে।

আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমানে দুখন যুদ্ধ চলাব লগীয়া হৈছে। এখন যুদ্ধ চলাব লগীয়া হৈছে ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ কাৰণে আৰু আন খন যুদ্ধ চলাব লগীয়া হৈছে corruption ধ্বংস কৰাৰ কাৰণে। Corruption ধ্বংস কৰিবলৈ বহুতে suggestion দিছে। সিপক্ষৰ পৰাও corruption বন্ধ কৰাৰ কথা কিমান দিন শুনিছোঁ, কিন্তু এই corruption কৰে কোনে আৰু এই corruption কেনেকৈ ধ্বংস হব তাৰ দিহা ভালমতে এতিয়াও দিয়া হোৱা নাই। যিহেতু এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট কংগ্ৰেছৰ দললৈ আহিছে, সেই হেতু আমাক পৰামৰ্শ দিছে—ইটো কথা সিটো কৰা, আজিৰ ভিতৰতে স্বৰ্গত পৰিণত কৰি দিয়া। কিন্তু মই শুধিব পাৰে নে আমাৰ দেশখনৰ অৱস্থা ডেৰশ বছৰ ইংৰাজৰ শাসনৰ তলত কি হৈছিল? এই আসাম দেশখন ডেৰশ বছৰ এনেভাবে শাসিত হৈ আছে যে আমি এটা পদানত জাতিত পৰিণত হৈছোঁ—আনকি তামোল কটাৰীখন বিচাৰিব লগা হলেও বিদেশীৰ ওচৰলৈ যাব লাগে। এনেকুৱা এটা জাতিৰ একেদিনে সকলো অভাৱ পৰিপূৰ্ণ কৰিবৰ ভাৰ পৰিছে কংগ্ৰেছৰ হাতত। মই এইটো নকও যে কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সকলো অৱহেলা কৰিব। কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ চৰকাৰী ভাৰ চলোৱাৰ ভাৰ যি সকলৰ হাতত পৰিছে তেখেত সকলক মই মিনতি কৰোঁ যাতে আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ আৱশ্যকতা বুজি লাহে লাহে উন্নতি কৰি আহে আৰু যাতে ৰাইজৰ দৈনন্দিন বাবস্তুখিনি নিয়াৰিকৈ পোৱা হয়

তাৰ দিহা করা হয়। এদলে কৈছে যে ৰাজহুৱা কমিটি কৰি দিয়া হওক, ৰাজহুৱা কমিটি কৰি দিলে কিজানি ভাল হয়। কিন্তু ৰাজহুৱা কমিটি যেতিয়া কৰি দিয়া হয় তেতিয়া মনত ৰাখিব লাগে যাতে নিস্বার্থ ভাবে ৰাইজৰ কামত লাগিবলৈ অহা স্বার্থতাগী মানুহে সেই বিলাকত ভাগ লব পাৰে। এনেকুৱা উদাহৰণো পাইছোঁ যে সমবায় সমিতি গঠন কৰি দিছে, সমবায় সমিতি চলোৱা বিলাকে মালামাল লৈ গৈছে, কিন্তু গাঁৱৰ যি বিলাক নিঃকিন মানুহে এককালীন ৫০ টকা দি সমবায় সমিতিৰ মেম্বাৰ হব নোৱাৰে, তেনে মানুহে নিমখ অকনো নাপায়, তেল অকনো নাপায়। আকৌ জিলালৈ গৈ আমাক উকীল ৰাৰি গাঁৱৰ ৰাইজে দৰখাস্ত দিয়াৰ উদাহৰণো বিবল নহয়। সেই কাৰণে এই কমিটি বিলাক গঠন কৰি নিস্বার্থ ভাবে সঁচাকৈয়ে যি বিলাকে ৰাইজৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বুজে যি বিলাকে ৰাইজৰ দুখ দৃগতি বুজে তেনে বিলাক মানুহ যাতে কমিটিত থাকি ৰাইজৰ সেৱা কৰিবলৈ পায় আৰু যাতে তেনে মানুহক সেই সমিতিত লৈ কাম চলোৱা হয় তাৰ বাবে যেন চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা লক্ষ্য ৰখা হয়।

তাৰ পিচত সিপক্ষৰ ফালৰ পৰা suggest কৰিছে যে কংগ্ৰেছে মানুহক self independent কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। কংগ্ৰেছৰ নীতিতো এইটো আছে। কংগ্ৰেছ কেলেই যি কোনো চৰকাৰৰ এইটো সদায় উদ্দেশ্য হব লাগিব যে তেওঁলোকে যিটো জাতি শাসন কৰিছে সেইটো জাতিৰ বৰ্তমান যেনেকৈ অবনতি হৈছে তেনে অবনতি নহৈ যাতে আত্মনির্ভৰশীল জাতি হয়। সেইটো প্ৰত্যেক গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নীতি হোৱা উচিত। মই শুনিব পাৰোঁ যে ১৯৪২ চনৰ পৰা Grow More Food Campaign চলাই ঘৰে ঘৰে বঙা বঙা গৰুৰ ছবি, বঙা বঙা হালৰ ছবি যে ঘৰৰ বেৰত আৰি থোৱা হৈছে তাৰ ফলতেই নেকি এতিয়া চিন্তা কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে যে ভাৰতবৰ্ষত দুভিক্ষই আকৌ দেখা দিব? ইয়াৰ কেৰোণ ক'ত, তাক সকলোদলৰ প্ৰত্যেক চৰকাৰেই চাব লাগিব আৰু প্ৰত্যেক চৰকাৰেই এইটো নীতি হব লাগিব যে মানুহৰ অহা বছৰৰ খাদ্য সামগ্ৰী যাতে এই বছৰেই যোগাৰ হয়। চৰকাৰে সদায় এইটো চাব লাগিব। তাকে নকৰাৰ কাৰণেই এতিয়া হাবাখুৰি খাবলগীয়া হৈছে। ভাৰত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এতিয়া হাবাখুৰি খাইছে যে ভাৰতত দুভিক্ষই দেখা দিছেই আৰু তাৰকাৰণে হুলস্থূল কৰিছে। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ নীতি হব লাগিব যাতে এই বছৰেই অহা বছৰৰ নিমিত্তে যি কোন লাগতীয়াল বস্তু যোগাৰ হৈ থাকে আৰু তাৰবাবে সকলো চৰকাৰে চেষ্টা কৰা কৰ্তব্য।

চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা মই ইয়াকে আশা কৰোঁ। যাতে যোৱা অভিজ্ঞতা পুনৰ লাভ কৰিবলৈ নাপায়। বিশেষকৈ এই গাঁৱলীয়া প্ৰজাৰ দুঃখদৈন্যৰ কথা জেলৰ পৰা আহি যি শুনিছোঁ, যি দেখিছোঁ সি অতি আচৰিত কথা। বসন্ত ওলালে আমাৰ গাওঁত গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজে লৰাছোৱালীক কেতিয়াবা কিবা জলপান খুৱাবৰ নিমিত্তে চেনি অকন দৰকাৰ হলেও হাহাকাৰ কৰিব লগীয়া হয়। জিলালৈ গৈ আনক কাবোঁ কোকালি কৰি দৰখাস্ত লেখাই চেনি অকনমানৰ কাৰণে কাকতি মিনতি কৰিব লগীয়া হয়। ইফালে নগৰবাসী সকলৰ Rationৰ কাৰ্ডলৈ নজৰ কৰিবনে! নগৰবাসী সকলৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ কাৰণে যেনেকৈ নিমখ, তেল, চেনি দৰকাৰ, সেইদৰে আমাৰ গাঁৱলীয়া সৰ্বসাধাৰণ প্ৰজাৰো নিমখ, চেনি আৰু তেলৰ আৱশ্যক নোহোৱা নহয়। হবপাৰে নগৰবাসী সকলৰ নানাতৰহৰ ব্যঞ্জনাদি খাবৰ, নানাতৰহৰ মিঠাই তৈয়াৰ কৰি খাবৰ প্ৰয়োজন। তাৰবাবে তেওঁলোকৰ দৈনিক Ration বেচি কৰি দিব পাৰে, কিন্তু আমাৰ গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ

বসন্ত ওলালেও অকনমান চেনিব কাৰণে হাহাকাৰ কৰি ফুৰিব লগীয়া হয়। আপোনালোকে এবাৰ ভাবিচাওকচোন এইটো কেনেকুৱা দুখলগা ছবি।

কেৰাচিন তেলৰো ঠিক সেই একে অৱস্থা। নগৰবাসী সকলৰ Ration কাৰ্ডবোৰ যদি চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা চায় তেনেহলে এই কথা প্ৰতিপন্ন হব যে কিমান গাৱঁলীয়া বাইজে স্তুবিধা পাইছে আৰু কিমান চহৰীয়া বাইজে স্তুবিধা পাইছে। সেইকাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক সানুনয়ে নিবেদন কৰোঁ। যাতে প্ৰজাই খাবলগীয়া অতি আৱশ্যকীয় জিনিচ্ বিলাক বিতৰণ কৰোতে যাতে সৰ্বসামান্য বাইজেও তেওঁলোকৰ অতি আৱশ্যকীয় বস্তুখিনি পায় তাৰ নিমিত্তে দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

সূতা আৰু কাপোৰৰ ফালে যদি চোৱা যায়, তাতো দেখা যায় যে কাপোৰ আৰু সূতাৰ অভাৱ। যিবিলাক গাৱঁলীয়া মানুহে এডোখৰ কাপোৰৰ কাৰণে হাহাকাৰ কৰি থাকে সেই গাৱঁলীয়া বাইজবিলাকে কাপোৰ নাপায়; কিন্তু কিছুমান বেপাৰীয়ে কলৈ লৈ গৈ কত কেনেকৈ যে সেই কাপোৰ আৰু সূতা বিক্ৰি কৰেগৈ তাক কোনেও নাজানে। মই দেখা পাইছোঁ গাৱঁলীয়া তিবোতা মানুহে এসেৰ বা আধাসেৰ সূতাৰ কাৰণে ৫।৬ মাইল বাট বাটকৰি বাই আহিব আৰু স্তদা মুখে উভতি যবলৈ গৈ কয়গৈ “সূতা নাপালোঁ, Textile বাবনে কি বুলি কয়, সূতা নাই বুলি কলে আৰু টিকটো নিদিলে”। এনেকুৱা বিলাক কথা সদায় আমি গাৱঁত ফুৰা মানুহে গাৱঁলীয়া বিলাকৰ পৰা শুনে। মোৰ এই কথাই বিশ্বাস উৎপন্ন কৰিবও পাৰে, নকৰিবও পাৰে। নকৰিলে, মই নিজে দায়ী বুলি ক'ম। কিন্তু এইটো সত্য যে কাপোৰ আৰু সূতাৰ কাৰণে মানুহে সদায় হাতখুৰি খাই ফুৰিছে।

ইয়াৰ লগতে এইটোও কওঁ যে সূতা কাটিবৰ নিমিত্তে যেতিয়া আন্দোলন চলে, সেই সময়ত তাক unlawful বুলি declare কৰা হৈছিল। এনেহে unlawful declarationৰ আইনখন যে আমাৰ গাঁৱৰ সূতাৰ কাটা যঁতৰ দেখা পালেই যোঁৱা চাকৰ পৰাও উলিয়াই লৈ গৈছিল—এনেকুৱা শোক লগা অভিজ্ঞতাও আমাৰ আছে। সিফালৰ সকলোৱে স্বীকাৰ কৰিব যে সেই সময়ত Spinners Association কোে unlawful বুলি declare কৰি সকলো বস্তু জব্দ কৰি Spinningৰ নিমিত্তে স্তুবিধা দিছিল! (hear, hear). এই বিলাকেই হৈছে আমাৰ self sufficiencyৰ নমুনা। মই আশা কৰো বৰ্ত্তমান চৰকাৰে লাহে লাহে এই কাপোৰ আৰু গাৱঁলীয়া সৰ্বসামান্য বাইজৰ অন্যান্য অভাৱবোৰ দূৰ কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰিব। এই দুটা কথা কেয়েই মোৰ কথা আজিৰ নিমিত্তে শেষ কৰিলোঁ।

[Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese. In his speech he gave a picture how the villagers are being deprived of the essential commodities such as sugar, kerosene, thread for spinning, etc. He stressed upon Government to remove these grievances gradually.]

Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, food problem is the most important question of the day. The report of an impending famine from all quarters has made the public mind very uneasy. Unfortunately the outturn of the last Aman crop has been very unsatisfactory on account of drought, the prospect of the Boro crop is also not good. Naturally the poor people are at a loss how to protect themselves and their families from the coming famine. In the circumstances it is urgently necessary that the Government should take timely measures to combat the famine.

It is reported that inspite of a large number of Rice Control Officers, thousands of maunds of paddy are being daily exported to Bengal from this Province. This should be checked with an iron hand. There cannot be any doubt that the subordinate rice control staff are in league with the paddy dealers and they allow enormous quantities of paddy to be carried to Bengal on receipt of illegal remuneration from the dealers. It is reliably learnt that they get a fixed amount

for every maund of paddy or rice carried to Bengal. The Government should take the help of the leading public living in the bordering places instead of relying on the Checkers and Rice Control Sub-Inspectors alone who are not free from malpractices. Besides this, it is also necessary that Government should purchase all surplus stock of the cultivators at a fair and reasonable price. With the stopping of export, the price of paddy will naturally fall and the cultivators will not be able to export their surplus stock which will entail hardship on them. It is therefore necessary that Government should fix the minimum and maximum price of paddy and rice at an early date.

Next to food-grains comes the question of cloth, the supply of which also is far from satisfactory. People in many places are not getting cloth. The female folk cannot come out of their houses for want of necessary clothings. In the villages people are required to come from great distances to get their supply of cloth. The dealers do not sell these cloths at a fair price and that also after refusing several times. The illiterate masses do not know how to make their grievances known to the authorities. It is the duty of the Government to see that the poor villagers get their due quota of cloth from the dealers regularly.

There is sufficient stock of Atta, flour, sugar and salt, etc, in the country, and though thousand of maunds of these commodities are rotting in Government godowns, they are not being supplied to the people. Now that the war is over, there is no justification for withholding these articles from the public.

The question of kerosene is more acute than anything else. The supply is quite inadequate and insufficient. More increase in supply of kerosene is essentially necessary. The present Government is full of promises and professions for doing good to the public, particularly to the poor masses. Let them rise to the occasion and remove the difficulties of the poor. And in that case alone they will be able to earn the confidence and the blessings of the public.

With these few words, I support the Motion.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in lending my whole hearted support to the Motion I shall only be repeating what has already been stated on the floor of the House by a number of speakers. It is a well known fact that there is an acute shortage of the commodities under discussion.

As regards food-stuffs, although the supply does not appear to be scarce, yet the steady rise in the prices of rice and paddy in many parts of Assam, will convince any observer that hard times are ahead. There is already scarcity of food in some parts of India and an outbreak of famine in any other part of India will have its immediate repercussion on Assam. Sir, on account of the uncertainties under which people had to labour during the duration of the war, lasting as it did nearly for 6 years, the domestic economy of almost every family has been upset. In spite of the Grow-More-Food Campaign there was shortage—I should say a serious food shortage—in almost every country of the world, belligerent or non-belligerent. The pity is that the agricultural countries of the world seem to have suffered more than the industrial countries. There was the famine in Honan in China where a population of 5 million starved for years. Coming to India, Heaven alone knows the exact number of victims in one of the worst tragedies recorded in history. The number of deaths ranged from the official figure of one and a half million to half a million, the unofficial figure is about 5 millions inclusive of those who died from the after effects of famine. It is horrible to imagine the plight of the people of the famine stricken areas. Sir, it is surprising to see that the famine appeared in India in spite of the fact that there were no earthly reasons such as failure of rains, hailstorms, floods and earthquake which usually cause famines. If famine means want of food. India can never be said to be free from it. From figures to hand it appears that 80 to 90 million tons of food-grains are required to maintain the population of this country. India produces annually as

much as 60 to 70 million tons of food-grains; making allowance for what little is exported, what is used as seeds and what for feeding cattle, all that is left is some 50 million tons of food-grains.

In the course of his speech in the Central Assembly on the discussion of the famine in Bengal in 1943, Sir Azizul Haque put the figure at 51 million tons. He further added that 51 million tons of food-grains was necessary to maintain the adult population of the country. What about the rest, Sir? In a country deemed to be predominantly agricultural there is an annual shortage of 40 million tons of food-grains. There are thus millions of people who have to go hungry and it is said that 60 per cent. of the population are well fed and 40 per cent. are ill fed in view of the annual shortage of food in the country. In view also of the fact that half the population of the world is going sooner or later to be threatened by a famine and unless at least 2 million tons of food-grains according to expert, is imported into India in the course of the next 1½ months, I am afraid another calamity of a much worse type and far greater in intensity is likely to overtake us.

If there is a famine in any part of India, as I have already stated and as it is known to the hon. Members, it will have its immediate reaction on other parts of the country. That will as well at once raise prices of food-stuffs sky-high and since producers are there to produce for no other reason except to make profit, no step or steps however strong taken by Government will stop the export of commodity to places of scarcity where higher prices are expected. Speculators must be already busy calculating ways and means whereby they may make fortunes. Sir, we know what the profiteers did in Bengal during the terrible famine. The speculators are already busy calculating ways and means by which they can amass money. We also know from the Report of the Famine Commission of Bengal that per victim of the famine the hoarders and profiteers made a profit of Rs. 1,000. In view of this, Sir, I think we should now warn the Government of Assam to take all possible steps so that should, God forbid, any famine break out in any part of India we may not have to suffer again as we did in 1943.

As regards other commodities, *viz.*, coal, fuel, kerosene and cloth, much has been already said by a number of speakers on the floor of this House. I, myself, am in receipt of a number of letters from people of many villages of my constituency complaining of the serious shortage of cloth and kerosene and the great difficulties to which they are being put for want of these. I, therefore, request Government to take urgent and necessary steps for the supply of these commodities to the people of villages and those of the towns as well. Sir, mere transfer of one officer from one place to another will not help to combat corruption which is so rampant in our Province. I congratulate the Government upon seeking and obtaining the co-operation of the people of different communities in the drive against corruption. We will be watching with the greatest interest the steps that are being taken by Government to combat corruption.

With these few words I lend my whole hearted support to the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury and commend it to the serious consideration of the hon. Members of the House.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: Sir, much has been said on the subject and I do not like to add anything more. I want just to give a picture and idea of the situation prevailing in Dharmapassa, Derai and Jamalganj.

I want to read out one telegram and two letters which have been received by me very recently. The telegram runs:—

“Abdulkhaleque, Assembly Member, Shillong. Hailstorm totally damaged Buro crop, Circle No.22 Dharampassa thana. Immediate gratuitous relief and loan prayed.

Chintaharan Chakravarty, Pirijpur. Abdulhekim, Hulaskheli. P. O. Dharampassa.” A letter received yesterday written on the 26th March reported as follows:—

“শুনিয়া দুঃখিত হইবেন গত ৯ই চৈত্র শনিবার অপরাহ্ন ৪ ঘটিকার সময় আমাদের অত্রাঞ্জে ভয়ানক শিলাবৃষ্টি হয়। অনুমান এক ঘণ্টা শিলাবৃষ্টি হইতে থাকে। যে সকল হাওরের বুকের উপর দিয়া শিলাবৃষ্টি বহিয়া গিয়াছে সেই সকল হাওর হইতে একমুষ্টি ধান্য পাওয়া যাইবার আশা নাই। গত ফসল অনাবৃষ্টিতে অর্ধেক নষ্ট হওয়ায় জনসাধারণ অতিকষ্টে দিন কাটাইতেছিল। বৎসরে একটি মাত্র ফসল। কিন্তু ফসলটির যে অবস্থা হইয়া দাড়াইয়াছে তাহাতে জনসাধারণের বাঁচিয়া থাকিবার আশা নাই। এ পর্য্যন্ত যে সকল হাওরের খবর পাওয়া গিয়াছে নিম্নে পদন্ত হইল।”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How can the hon. Member give these messages in this discussion?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: This Motion is in connect on with the scarcity of food and I want to draw the attention of the hon. House about the scarcity of food in my Constituency.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: On account of hailstorm?

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED: On account of hailstorm and other reasons as well, Sir. The remaining portion of the letter is as follows:—

“আশাকরি এই বুভুক্ষা পীড়িত জনসাধারণের সাহায্য প্রাপ্তির জন্য যথাসাধ্য চেষ্টা করিতে মর্জি করমাইবেন।”

হাওর গুলির নাম:—ডুপ্যার হাওর, মান্যা হাওর, ধাবামের হাওর, দুবাইলের হাওর, কানাইজা হাওর, ডাক্‌রা হাওর, খাজুইরা হাওর, হাতগুড় হাওর, ডুলিজারা হাওর, জালধরা হাওর, ভদ্রি হাওর, গজাইরা হাওর, জাবু হাওর এবং নয়াবন্দ হাওর।”

“আব্দুর গফুর—”

There is another letter, Sir, “বিগত কল্য বৈকাল ৪টায় শিলাবৃষ্টিতে (১৪, ১৫, ১৬, ১৭, ১৮, ১৯ নং সার্কেল, হয়ত আর ও পূর্বদিকে কতদূর অগ্রসর হইয়াছে এখন ও সংবাদ পাই নাই) বোর ফসল একদম শেষ করিয়া ফেলিয়াছে। ইহাতে ধান কাটার কোন আবশ্যক নাই। অবস্থাধীনে এখনই কোন গৃহস্থের ঘরে ভাত নাই। দুভিক আরম্ভ হইল। দেশের লোকে হাহাকার করিতেছে। অবিলম্বে ধান loan দেওয়া আবশ্যক হইয়াছে। এতদ অঞ্জে আউস ধানের বীজ নাই। অবিলম্বে আউস ধানের বীজ দেওয়ার বন্দোবস্ত করিবেন। লোকের এখন যে পরিমাণ ধানের আবশ্যক হইয়াছে তাহা যদি গভর্ণ-মেন্ট নগদ টাকায় দিতে চান, তাহাই হইলে লোকে খরিদ করিতে পারিবে না। কারণ মান্‌ঘের হাতে টাকা নাই। গতিকে টাকার জন্য এখন লোকে গরু, বাছর, ঘর কিম্বা জমি বিক্রয় করিতে চাহিলে ও টাকা পাইবে না। সুতরাং ভাল ধান loan দিতে হইবে বলিয়া মনে করি।”

‘মহিউদ্দিন।’

On hearing these things, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to give proper relief to the people of these affected areas.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will hon. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar speak today or day after tomorrow ?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : I may be allowed to speak on Monday, Sir.

Election of Members to the Assam Text Book Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is a Motion in the name of the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi. I think, Hon'ble Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee will move.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect five Members to the Assam Text Book Committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That this Assembly do elect five Members to the Assam Text Book Committee.”

There is one Amendment in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that after the word ‘Committee’ the following words be substituted—‘by single transferable vote’.

Sir, by moving this Amendment I want to repeat what I said the other day. My intention is that the minority Parties should also be represented in this important Committee. The single transferable vote will ensure representation to the minority Parties. This is why I have tabled this Amendment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Amendment moved :

“That after the word ‘Committee’ the following words be substituted—‘by single transferable vote’.”

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : On a point of information, Sir. I understand that there will be election only of five Members and that there are only five candidates for the five seats so far as the Text Book Committee is concerned and that there is no more time for any application for such candidature. In view of what the hon. Mover of the Amendment has said, does he mean that this Rule should be adopted for future, or for this Session only ?

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : The time fixed for submitting applications for this Text Book Committee is over and so there is no scope for further names for election.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : May I be permitted, Sir, to point out that there is no strict time limit ? It can be done even on the previous day of the election.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I understand, the time limit fixed for receiving applications was till 3 p. m. on the 28th March. The hon. Members know that some time is required for printing voting papers and making some other arrangements. Of course, if it is the sense of the House and the Amendment accepted, I have got no objection.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : There is no hard and fast rule, Sir, for fixing time. It is only for the convenience of the hon. Members that the time is fixed, so you can relax the time.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Only this morning ten Members were elected to the Road Communication Board. As only nine candidates applied, one vacancy remained, so I do not see any reason why this rule should be relaxed in a particular case.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The fact of the matter is this that I had to announce the names because there was no other Motion before me. At the present moment I do not know what attitude the Hon'ble Minister would take up. Let us hear him.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am sorry I cannot agree.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the Hon'ble Minister want time? We can put it off for Monday. I can only accommodate Government to that extent.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: There is no question of relaxation of this rule. I may mention that the hon. Members from the Opposition withdrew their candidature only yesterday. If they have withdrawn, there cannot be any question of relaxation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is one view of the matter. There is yet another. The Hon'ble Premier is not here nor is Hon'ble Mr. Das, who is in-charge of the Legislative Department, in the House. There is some difference of opinion. May I take it that it is the sense of the House that the matter may be kept pending till Monday next? (*Voices: Yes*)

The matter stands over till Monday.

(Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury rising to speak)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is the practice in all Legislatures and it is found in May's Parliamentary procedure also that after a final reply is given by the person who is entitled to have his final say, no discussion should be raised. It is for future guidance. I would request the hon. Members in their own interests to observe this convention.

Government Motion *re* extension of the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which will expire on the 31st March, 1946 be extended till the end of the year 1946-47.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which will expire on the 31st March, 1946 be extended till the end of the year 1946-47."

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: The Hon'ble Minister must first explain why he wants this extension.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: If the hon. Member wants I may explain the reasons.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we find that this Marketing Scheme was started a pretty long time ago on the urge of the Government of India which contributed a handsome amount for the purpose and the Government of Assam also contributed a good amount and the scheme was started. We find that this scheme has received extension of life year after year. Its existence was continued by the previous Government. From this we can very well presume that unless it proved useful to the Department of Agriculture, unless it gave a good account of itself and unless it was shown that the money spent on it was well laid out, one cannot suppose that the Government would have given it a lease of life year after year till to-day.

I find, Sir, that it was supported by no less mature heads than the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, the then Prime Minister and hon. Maulavi Munawwar Ali, the then Minister in-charge in 1942-43 sponsored this very Motion on the floor of the House.

Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, I was not in-charge. I was the Revenue Minister.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It is on record that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and Maulavi Munawwar Ali were very very enthusiastic in order to have it passed in this House. It is clear on the record that there was no opposition from the Opposition side. So we can very well take it that this scheme has been extended so long with the unanimous support of the whole House. From the Report of the Marketing Officer for 1945 we can find that this scheme has been rendering valuable service to the people in general of this Province and in particular to the agriculturists.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: They report in their own favour.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it admissible?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It may be tested by cross examination, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: May I enquire what proportion is contributed by the Local Government and what proportion by the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: In 1944-45 the money spent was Rs. 31,316 and the Government of India's contribution was Rs. 5,500 only. At the beginning the Government of India gave us a larger amount, but as years went on it was their policy to gradually reduce the amount and to throw it on the Provincial Government. So we find from the speech of hon. Maulavi Munawwar Ali which he delivered on the floor of this House on the 23rd February, 1940 as the then Minister-in-charge of Agriculture: "So far as the expenditure for the period from the 1st February to the 31st March is concerned" *i.e.*, for the year 1940-41, "this can be met by reappropriation from the Budget of the Director of Agriculture and there is no difficulty about it. As regards the scheme for development of marketing in the Province is concerned it is essential and it is a truism that needs no reiteration from me, and we should be thankful for the generosity of the Government of India for the proposed contribution of Rs. 1,500 next year".

So, Sir, we find that in the year 1941-42 the contribution was Rs. 1,500, but the amount has decreased gradually and we do not know what amount they will contribute this year. But anyhow, Sir, we have seen that the hon. Members, both on the Opposition side as well as this side, were all very enthusiastic about advancing the cause of agriculture by bringing in improved method of marketing. Unless a scheme like this is retained the improvement of this Department will be much hampered.

Then, Sir, from the Report of the working of this Section we find that the Section proved very useful to the Department and we have also seen the testimony of the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the other hon. Members about its usefulness in promoting the cause of agriculture. My recommendation will be that this scheme be adopted and steps be taken for its implementation so that the improvement in agriculture, which we all visualise, may be achieved in the near future.

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

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enlighten us what was our contribution in 1942 when the Government of India's contribution was Rs. 1,500?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That will take some time to find out. We spent in 1945-46 Rs. 35,398 and the current year's estimate is for Rs. 38,623, and we do not know whether the Government of India will contribute anything this year.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that for the words and figures " till the end of the year 1946-47 ", the words and figures " till the 30th June 1946 " be substituted.

At the very outset I may be allowed to say that this scheme has found scant favour on the floor of this House. The Hon'ble Minister in-charge was quite wrong when he said that all sections of the House were enthusiastic over the scheme in the previous years. From the report itself I will show that the European Group as well as the Independent Group, which was in Opposition during the regime of the last Ministry, opposed this scheme roundly. Sir, the hon. Members are aware that according to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture the Government of India sanctioned a sum of two lakhs of rupees for a five-year scheme to be adopted by the Provincial Governments. The Government of Assam received a sum of Rs.50,000 for this period as their quota. After these five years, this scheme was extended at the first instance for two years, and from that time it is being extended from year to year.

Sir, from what I understood from the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge, I presume that he could not find time to study the scheme. His idea is that this scheme aims at improvement of agriculture, but in fact this scheme aims at finding out reasonable market for our agricultural produces. The main intention with which the scheme was started was for furnishing information on marketing to the interested officers and private parties, and also securing facilities from the transport agencies for movement of agricultural commodities at concessional rates. It was also the intention to improve the packing of perishable commodities, particularly fruits. Sir, I beg to submit that all these intentions have not been fulfilled. The marketing scheme has not been conducted on proper lines and no appreciable result was derived. Sir, in the year 1944, a similar Motion was moved on the floor of the House.

Maulavi ABDUL KHALEQUE AHMED : May we know, Sir, how long shall we sit ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : May I know the sense of the House whether we should rise now, or should finish this subject ?

(A Voice : We may sit up to half past four.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But will this be finished by half past four ? I understand hon. Members may not like to sit beyond half past four.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Could you not apply guillotine at 25 minutes past four to Mr. Abdul Bari's Amendment, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is no rule by which I could do so. Moreover this is an important item, as a good amount of money is going to be spent on this scheme. The Hon'ble Minister did not state what are the agricultural commodities which need marketing outside the Province to-day and what are the agricultural produces which require to be moved out of this Province for sale for which a market is to be sought and found in these times. I should therefore think that the hon. Members should have time for debate, but I shall act according to the sense of the House.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : I was submitting that in the year 1944 when a similar Motion was moved on the floor of this House, my hon. Friend, Mr. Mookerjee, remarked : " Now, Sir, badly conceived, badly matured, badly manned and badly run does this marketing organisation deserve a fresh lease of life? I leave it to the hon. Members of this House; let me see whether they can with their conscience wide awake support the Motion. Sir, I again appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw his Motion and to utilise the money that has been provided under this head for some other purpose which will really be beneficial to the cultivators for whom he is trying to push through this Motion." This is what Mr. Mookerjee said. There is another remark made by hon. Mr. Blennerhassett which is as follows : " I do not wish Government to take what

I have said as in any form of censure but rather as helpful suggestion: but I do urge the vital necessity of stopping this Department in its present form and deviating the money to some other beneficial employment." The Minister-in-charge will realise from what I have quoted, that this scheme did not find any favour from the hon. Members. The argument that as this scheme has been renewed year after year and it should again be extended, is untenable. Sir, originally the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was bearing a good portion of the cost, but from the last year they have totally stopped this contribution. We are spending in the current year as much as Rs.35,000. According to the Hon'ble Minister, a still bigger sum of Rs.38,000 has been provided for the next year. Sir, my submission is that this big sum of money is not bringing any corresponding gain to the Province. Excepting undertaking grading of oranges and pineapples this Department has done no plausible work in the past. Under the circumstances there is no justification to continue it for another year. So I have put an Amendment to extend the scheme up to the 30th June only. My intention is that by this time Government will find enough scope to absorb those who are employed under the Marketing Scheme.

Sir, with these words, I press my Amendment for acceptance by the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved:

"That for the words and figures 'till the end of the year 1946-47', the words and figures 'till the 30th June 1946' be substituted".

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless it is supposed that change of seat causes a change of mind, mentality and policy I must take it that some of the hon. Members of the Opposition support the scheme very enthusiastically. Sir, so far as the Report on the scheme goes, this Department is improving year after year. In this respect it is necessary for me to read out a portion of the speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition which he made while he was the Prime Minister, in order to clear the doubts of the hon. Mover of the Amendment. These remarks were made in connection with the continuation of the scheme for the year 1940-41. He said: "Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak from my personal experience of Calcutta markets for, as hon. Members know, I generally repair to Calcutta when I am shorn of political duties here. At one time, Calcutta used a big amount of Assam oranges which were mistakenly known as Sylhet oranges although the oranges really come from the Khasi Hills. But on account of better trade facilities from the Central Provinces where the people, with the help of Government had started orange cultivation, Calcutta markets for the Assam-grown oranges became practically non-existent. Similarly in Assam we grow a variety of pineapple which goes by the name of Joldhup pineapple—very good colour, perfectly golden, very well flavoured, but very small in size. This kind of pineapple used to be sent to Calcutta, but it could not capture the attention of the consumers. Through the efforts of the Agriculture Department in Assam the other variety which is known as 'Giant Kew' and another variety the technical name I have forgotten, but which is brought from Manilla, has been grown throughout the Province, specially at a place known as Akbarpur in Maulvibazar subdivision, and in our new colony at Barpathar. In order to push the sale of these pineapples, the Government of 1937—rather 1938, deputed one of our Marketing Officers to open a stall in the New Market in Calcutta better known as Sir Stuart Hogg Market. I can say from my personal experience that some of these 'Giant Kew' were selling there at the rate of one rupee each and there was on account of the facility that was provided, a regular supply and better packing of these Assam-grown pineapples and they have had a ready market in Calcutta. Hon. Members will be glad to hear that the pineapples grown in our newly-opened

Barpathar colony obtained the highest gold medal in the Lucknow exhibition. Our Marketing Staff has introduced two methods amongst our exporters—the first one is of grading and the second one of packing. It may be news to many that our growers generally do not get the same price for the produce simply for want of proper grading, they put the whole stock in a lump,—the smallest, the biggest and the medium sized all in one bunch so to say and they get a low price. If the same consignment is graded according to its size then they get a better price. Similarly our exporters do not know how to export these luscious fruits like pineapples and oranges. Some fruits were sent to me, not as my capacity as the Premier, but as ordinary citizen of Calcutta from Assam and I was surprised at the difference that had been made in the way of packing. It will again be news to many of our Friends that pineapples and other fruits even though stocked in crates, thanks to the efforts of the transport coolies, if they do not handle them cautiously they get rotten and smashed”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think that will do. I am then putting the Amendment as a question.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Is it not a fact that we have got no Marketing Officer in Calcutta for the last two years ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I may point out that the circumstances have changed now. During the last few years the fruits were consumed in Assam due to the war but now the war having ended fruits will have to be sent to Calcutta.

Maulavi MUDABBIR-HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Owners of fruit gardens will invariably support it.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : In view of what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, I am not going to press my Amendment and beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

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

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, I am putting the Motion as a question.

The question is :

“ That this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which will expire on the 31st March, 1946 be extended till the end of the year 1946-47.”

The question was adopted.

House Committee Meeting

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : As regards the business of the House Committee, I would request hon. Members of the House Committee to be pleased to come up to the Speaker's Chamber for a couple of minutes for adjustment of certain matters. We propose to take up the Motion regarding extension of hostel accommodation on Monday next.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday, the 1st April 1946.

SHILLONG :

The 28th May 1, 1946.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.