

Proceedings of the fourth session of the First 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 Thursday, the 24th February 1938

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Starting of an Industrial Chemistry Research Section in the Science Department of the Cotton and Murarichand Colleges

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

*68. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state—

(a) Whether there is any Industrial Chemistry Research Section in the Science Department of the Cotton College or the Murarichand College of the Province ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to start such a section in the said colleges ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI replied :

68. (a)—No.

(b)—Not at the present moment.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Do not Government consider it necessary ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : This is an important matter which has not yet been considered at any length. In most other colleges in India no such section has been provided.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Will Government consider the suggestion made in the question ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : In the absence of post-graduate training in our Province, Government do not consider it advisable to act up to this suggestion at the present moment.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Do Government consider it necessary at all ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : It is certainly necessary, but not advisable at present.

Abolition of the practice of conferring titles and decorations

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*69. Are Government aware that the United Provinces Government has passed a resolution recommending to authorities concerned for the abolition of the practice of conferring titles and decorations ?

*70. Will Government please state—

- (a) If it is the intention of the Assam Cabinet to have this practice abolished?
- (b) If so, will Government convey to His Majesty the King that they do not propose to recommend any names for titles and decorations in future?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

69.—Government have no information.

70. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Do not Government go into papers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Which paper, please?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Did they not see in the newspapers that the United Provinces Government passed a resolution like that?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that, Sir. So far as I have seen in the press Bombay Government passing that resolution.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Will Government please enquire into it and then answer the question?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: We need not enquire because we do not follow their policy.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Will Government follow their old policy and confer titles?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir.

Condition of Ajit Kumar Chakravarty, a political prisoner in Nowgong Jail

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI asked:

*71. (a) Will the Hon'ble Jail Minister be pleased to state—

Whether Ajit Kumar Chakravarty, a political convict, in the Nowgong Jail, is suffering from serious illness?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the same prisoner was subjected to cruel treatment as alleged in an adjournment motion in the last session of the Assembly?

(c) Whether it is a fact that he is suffering from intestinal ulcer and that he was profusely bleeding, and that there is not much hope for his life?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Government is proposing his transfer to Gauhati Civil Hospital?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the father of the prisoner is also an invalid, and that the parents have prayed his release?

*72. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what difficulty is there in releasing the prisoner?

*73. Will Government be prepared to release him, on some responsible person undertaking on his behalf to see that he does not join in any activity with any kind of violence for its objective or method?

*74. Are Government aware that the detention of this prisoner in this dying condition has been interpreted as vindictively cruel?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

71. (a) (c) and (d)—Yes the prisoner is suffering from serious illness—gastric ulcer. The first intimation was received by the Government from the Inspector General of Prisons on 11th January 1938, forwarding a telegram from the Civil Surgeon, Nowgong, stating that the prisoner was “suddenly passing tar coloured motions” and asking for the arranging of another consultant, if necessary. Government at once ordered the Civil Surgeon, Kamrup, Major Neal, to examine the prisoner. He did so on 12th January and commenced treatment. On 14th January the Civil Surgeon, Nowgong, wired that the prisoner's condition was “slightly improving”. Another telegram was received by the Hon'ble Minister, Jails, from the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, on 18th January to the following effect: “Prisoner Ajit Kumar Chakravarty slowly improving till noon today; pulse normal. No temperature yesterday evening.....” On 26th January Major Neal made a further report on the condition of the prisoner after visiting him a second time, viz., “His condition has shown an improvement but he is not in a fit state to be transferred as yet. If there should be no relapse and improvement continues he should be in a fit state to travel in about 3 weeks. I should recommend that if further treatment is necessary, it should be undertaken in a hospital equipped with X-ray; Dibrugarh for example”. Government then asked Major Neal for his considered opinion on the medical aspect of the case. His latest report dated 8th February, is to this effect: “A disease of this nature is always serious and unless great care is taken a further haemorrhage may prove fatal. I am of opinion that when he is in a fit condition to be moved, he should be treated in a Civil Hospital where careful nursing and dieting can be afforded”.

(b)—The treatment of the prisoner has been the subject of enquiry by a Committee; the report is in the Press.

(e)—Government are not aware whether the father of the prisoner is an invalid. It is true that he submitted an application to Government for the release of his son.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: May we know what difficulties are there to release the prisoner unconditionally?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That question is receiving the attention of Government.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: When did the prisoner get the disease—gastric ulcer?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The first information came on 11th January 1938.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: How long after the Jail Enquiry Committee sat in Nowgong?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That I cannot say off-hand. If you deduct the dates, you will find it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

72 and 73.—Orders were passed by Government on the 14th February 1938, for suspension of the sentence for six months and next day a wire was sent to prisoner's father to proceed to Nowgong and take charge of his son.

74.—What Government did for the prisoner was in his best interest. They deny that the prisoner is in a “dying condition” and that Government detained him with a vindictive purpose.

Condition of Ajit Kumar Chakravarty, a political prisoner of the Nowgong Jail

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked :

*75. Are Government aware that Babu Ajit Kumar Chakravarty, son of Babu Aswini Kumar Chakravarty of Habiganj, and a political prisoner in the Nowgong Jail, is lying seriously ill ?

*76. Is it a fact that Government is contemplating to remove him to the Gauhati Jail Hospital for better treatment ?

*77. Do Government propose to release him forthwith in consideration of the changed political atmosphere of the country, and particularly in view of the fact that the leaders of the terrorist activities have openly declared to have lost all faith on violence ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

75, 76 and 77.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi on a similar set of questions.

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS : Will the Hon'ble Minister please reply to question No. 77 ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : I have replied to a supplementary question put by Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi that the matter is receiving the attention of Government.

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS : Are they considering the release of all other political prisoners as well or this individual prisoner only ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : That question does not arise, Sir.

Establishment of a University in Assam

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*78. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Assam made a statement in January last before the Assamese Students of Calcutta that he would establish a University in Assam in no distant time.

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken for the early establishment of a University in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

78. (a)—The Hon'ble Chief Minister actually stated at a reception by the Assamese Students' Literary Club that a purely Examining University could be established in Assam without difficulty, i.e., if post-graduate teaching were postponed.

(b)—Government are considering the whole question.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this type of University, I mean the Examining University, as envisaged by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in his budget speech has already received a chorus of condemnation from the Assamese Press.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Of that we are not aware.

Re Hoisting of Indian National Flag

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*79.(a) Are Government aware that Governments of several Provinces in India have passed orders allowing freedom to Local Boards and Municipalities to hoist the Indian National Flag on their offices and buildings ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to issue similar orders to the Local Boards and Municipalities in this Province ?

(c) If not, why not ?

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

79. (a)—Government have no information.

(b) and (c)—Do not arise.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Has the present Government any objection to the hoisting of national flags in such buildings ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : We have no objection (cries of *Hear, hear* and *applause* from the Congress Bench).

Fees realised by Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons for examination

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*80. Are Government aware of the fact that Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons realise Rs.4 as fees for examination of the injured, in criminal cases ?

*81. (a) Is it a fact that the stipendiary Doctors receive in those cases fees at a prescribed rate for deposing before courts ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of prohibiting the Surgeons to receive any fees from the injured persons examined by them by the direction of courts ?

*82. Is it a fact that Assistant Surgeons now-a-days do more clerical works than medical works ?

*83. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of reducing the fees of Civil Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons by 50 per cent, whenever they attend private cases ?

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

80.—Whether a fee is realisable in a particular case depends upon whether the examination is made in the course of official duty. If a specific case is cited, Government can examine the propriety of the fee.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that in criminal cases when an injured person is sent to the doctor by the Magistrate, even then he has to pay Rs. 4 as fee for medical examination?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That depends on the circumstances. I have already stated in my reply that if a specific case is cited, Government can examine whether the fee has been properly realised or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes. If a specific case is cited, then Government can look into the matter.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that previously there was no such practice of the doctors realising Rs. 4 per case for examining cases of injury?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We are not aware of that, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do not Government consider that in those cases where persons are injured they should be examined free of charge?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: If they are brought to the Civil Hospital in the regular duty hours of the medical officer they are examined free of charge.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Are not Government aware that in these cases a report is never given by the doctor unless a payment is made?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is a general question. If a specific case is cited we can make an enquiry, but unless a specific case is mentioned it is impossible to give an answer.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Do Government mean to say that in each case an enquiry will be made?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: We can only make an enquiry if a report is made citing a particular instance.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are Government aware that whenever a case is sent to the hospital they charge a fee?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already replied regarding that. All these questions are met in the replies that I have already given.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: What is the fee generally charged?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is another matter. Assistant Surgeons charge Rs. 8 and Sub-Assistant Surgeons Rs. 4.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government take it from me that it is the general practice for Civil Assistant Surgeons to charge fees in these cases?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already stated that when these cases are taken to the hospital during the working hours such fees are not charged, but if it is outside their ordinary duties they have a right to realise fees. Take for instance the case of a patient which is sent to the house of a medical officer. In this case the medical officer has a right to realise fees.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Supposing an injured man is sent to the hospital will any fee be charged in that case?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: No, not in that case.

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

81. (a)—Yes, there is a prescribed maximum of fee that may be received by a medical officer of Government.

(b)—Medical officers of Government have certain rights of private practice, which are stipulated in the rules. It is not clear what kind of direction of a court the hon. member intends in his question, but Government are not prepared to direct that in all circumstances a person who obtains a direction of a court that he should be medically examined should be examined free of charge by a Government officer.

82.—No.

83.—No. No suggestion has ever been made that the right of private practice should be restricted in this drastic manner.

Sylhet Mission Hostel

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

*84. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government give any grant to the Sylhet Mission Hostel?

(b) If so, what are the terms for giving such grants?

(c) Do Government propose to make early arrangement for the students who have been driven out on the ground of inter-dining and living in the Harijan mess at Sylhet?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

84. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No boys were driven out of the hostel.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: The Hon'ble Minister says in regard to (c) that no students were driven out, but my personal information is that many of the students were driven out and they are being maintained by donations of the public, and they are living in a hostel and are also getting help from the public at Delhi.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Will the hon. member state the date when students are alleged to have been driven out approximately?

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Last year, after the examination in 1937.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: If the hon. member desires I shall make an enquiry into the matter.

Re use of the word "Native" by foreigners

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*85. Are Government aware about the depth of Indian feeling regarding the use of the word "Native" by foreigners?

*86. Has the attention of Government been drawn to that word occurring in paragraph 2 of page 12 of the Progress Report of the Forest Administration in the province of Assam for the year 1936-37?

*87. Do Government propose to countenance the use of a word with such an odium in official reports and publications?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

85.—Government are aware that exception is sometimes taken to the use of the word in a particular context.

86.—Yes.

87.—When the use of the expression is unavoidable and where no reasonable objection can be taken to the term it may have to be used.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Why has it to be considered unavoidable ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Under exceptional circumstances it may have to be used, that is, it may be used when there can be no objection to its use.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Do Government consider that another word could not have been used in the present case ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I agree that another word could very well have been used, and I have already drawn the attention of the officer not to use such words in the future.

Opening of Botany Classes in the Cotton and Murarichand Colleges

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*88.(a) Do Government propose to open Botany Classes in the Cotton College at Gauhati and Murarichand College at Sylhet from the next academic session ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

88. (a)—No.

(b)—The construction of buildings and the affiliation by the University must precede the actual opening of the classes and these take time.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Could not a temporary structure be constructed to house the classes ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The question has not yet been examined by Government. If the hon. member is eager about it I will undertake an examination of the question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that the Government promised during the last budget session to start a Botany class in the Murarichand College from the next session ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: So far as my memory goes my predecessor wanted to initiate an examination into the matter, and I can assure the hon. member that as soon as possible after the session I shall initiate an enquiry.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government aware that the Murarichand College was held in temporary sheds for 25 years ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, I saw it.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: What will be the cost of the proposed buildings ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: I cannot say.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: When can we expect to have Botany classes in the Cotton College ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The whole thing will have to be considered in connection with the finances that will be available, and if finances permit I shall be able to open classes in the next session.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are Government aware that some money was sanctioned for opening Botany classes in the Cotton College some time ago ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are not Government aware that students of the Murarichand College are handicapped in competing for scholarships because Botany classes have not been opened ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I am painfully aware of the fact.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Has Government applied to the Calcutta University for this ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is not a period of seven months enough for the Government to apply to the University ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Yes, certainly. It is a question of opinion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the opinion of Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: That is a question of opinion and I do not think it arises as a supplementary question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I quite follow that it is a question of opinion. But I want to know the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: If the Hon'ble Speaker has allowed the question, then I should consider that period to be a long one, indeed.

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Will it be recognised, that so far as the Cotton College is concerned, there is already a building for the purpose of opening a Botany class for B. A. also ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I am informed that there is scarcely any room available for it. If there is, I shall look into it.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If I say that there is extra room in the Murarichand College where the Botany classes can be held, shall I be wrong ? I can help the Hon'ble Minister if he is at all eager.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I shall be only too glad to take any help that the hon. member will give.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Can I take it for certain that if room is available there will be Botany class opened in the Murarichand College from the next (1938-39) academic year ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I shall make my best endeavours.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My hearty thanks to the Hon'ble Minister.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the appointment of a lecturer will help the department to open a Botany Section for the B.Sc. class in the Cotton College ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I have already explained that the whole question would be examined in the light of the spirit in which it has been brought to my notice.

Grievances of the employees of the Assam Government Press

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

*89. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the employees of the Assam Government Press are made to work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ?

*90. Is it a fact that some employees have to attend office from a distance of about 5 miles ?

*91. Have Government received any representation from the Press employees to remove their present hardships ?

*92. Are Government aware that there is a very widespread resentment against the conduct of the present Press Superintendent ?

*93. Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister received numerous complaints against the Superintendent since he took charge ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

89.—The regular hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ; but recently they have been reduced as an experimental measure for the winter season by one hour and are now from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

90.—Government believe that out of 195 employees only 5 come from Upper Shillong which is about 5 miles by the motor road.

91.—Several representations were received in the past for removing individual grievances and also for reduction of office hours and for appointment of distributors in the Press.

92.—Government are not aware of any such widespread resentment.

93.—No.

Srijut JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH : Is it a fact that the predecessor in office of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Press, called for and received a deputation from the employees ? If so, may I know whether the Minister was convinced of the grievances of the deputationists ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My Hon'ble Colleague Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri was in charge of Press before the reconstitution of the Cabinet. Certain press employees wanted to wait on a deputation upon him and he received the deputation. The deputationists submitted that they were suffering great hardships on account of the long hours in the Press and the Hon'ble Minister passed orders as a temporary experiment for winter season, reducing the number of hours of work in the Press by one hour as the hon. members have already been told in the reply given. Then they further said that the appointment of a few distributors will ease the arrear situation in the Press. The matter has come to the Finance Department and the file is now pending with me. The Superintendent has pointed out that the addition of a few more distributors will not help and he has asked for improvements in all other branches. It is for this reason that I mentioned in my introductory budget speech that it may be necessary later on to come before the House with a supplementary demand to increase the equipment and number of employees in the Press. The whole matter is now engaging my attention as Finance Minister.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Is Government convinced of the fact that the employees are very hard-worked and under-paid ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am very glad that the hon. member has put that supplementary question. I forgot to mention one thing. When the hours of work were increased by one hour they were given an increase in payment and, therefore, if the hours are now to be reduced, it will mean that they will be earning less.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Tea garden labourers are in better condition than the Press employees here.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : How many hours do they work now ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : As has been already answered the regular hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. But recently orders have been issued as an experimental measure reducing the hours by one hour and the hours under this order are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Are not the working hours sufficiently long for those who are having their homes far away and who are not supplied, as in Simla and other places, with free quarters ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not aware that they have free quarters anywhere else.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Are Government aware that they have to work till very late after dusk very often ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have explained, Sir, that as piece workers if they work longer they get more.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : But have they got the option to come away early if they want to ? Can they avoid this over-work if they are prepared to sacrifice this extra payment ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If they do not want to earn more, they can say that and leave early.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Do I understand, Sir, that they can leave early even though the job is not finished if they choose to deprive themselves of the additional payment ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir. If the piece workers cannot finish their work and represent about it to the Superintendent, their work will be distributed to other willing hands.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : What is the difference between a piece worker and other employees, Sir, I do not know that ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The piece workers are paid by the amount of work they do. They are not permanent employees and their services are not pensionable, just as the services of the permanent Government servants.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : How many piece workers and how many permanent hands are there, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : For that I will require notice.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has been inside Government for about 15 years and he can tell us the figures approximately.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Even so, Sir, my tiny little brain cannot carry all these details.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Next question.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I not ask one question. Sir. The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that these employees have been given increment. May I know, Sir, whether that increment was an increment on their scale or the increment what was due ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I never said, Sir, that it was an increment of their scale. Some of the Press employees came to me and told me that there was no increment in the scale, but two advance increments were given to them.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Does it make any difference?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Very much.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I know whether there were as many as 186 complaints against the Superintendent?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It appears that my hon. friend is better supplied with information from the Secretariat than myself.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: As regards this matter may we have the advantage of having certain facts from the Hon'ble Minister who was previously in charge of this department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already replied, Sir, that we have not got the number.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May we know, Sir, whether the previous Minister had opined that proceedings should be drawn up against this officer?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Hon'ble Colleague is here and he can reply.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question was 'is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister received numerous complaints against the Superintendent since he took charge', and the reply is 'no'. The hon. member may ask whether there were any complaints.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I know, Sir, whether there were as many as 186 complaints?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: 'Whether there were complaints', that should be the question.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes Sir, there were complaints.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Do not Government remember the number of complaints?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not remember, Sir.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Were some people arbitrarily dismissed by the Superintendent and then reinstated by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There were some cases. The reinstatements were due to irregularities in some of the proceedings.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: What steps were taken against this officer for arbitrarily discharging people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There were no arbitrary dismissals, but in the proceedings there were some illegalities or irregularities.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I know why the Hon'ble Minister interfered if they were not discharged arbitrarily?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already said that there were some irregularities in the proceedings for dismissal.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Applicants for the post of Jail Teacher in Nowgong district

Srijut RAMNATH DAS asked:

127. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of—

- (a) The applicants for the post of the Jail Teacher which was lying vacant in December last in the district of Nowgong?
- (b) The applicants asked to appear before the Board of Selection?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

127.(a)—Eighteen.

(b)—Eighteen.

Dibrugarh Municipal Board

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked:

128. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the gentlemen nominated to the last Municipal Board of Dibrugarh?
- (b) On what basis the nominations were made?
- (c) Which of the unrepresented community do the nominated members represent?
- (d) If one of the nominated members is not even a resident of the Municipality?
- (e) The names suggested by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner?
- (f) Whether there was any departure from the recommendations?
- (g) If so, why?

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

128.(a)—The names are—

1. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, M.A., B.L., M.L.A.
2. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta, M.L.A.
3. Srijut Devendra Nath Das.
4. Babu Bansh Lochan Singh.

(b)—To secure the representation of under-represented communities and interests.

(c)—They will be able to represent the Moslems, the Assamese Hindus, the Scheduled castes and the Hindusthani communities respectively.

(d)—Government have no reason to think so, and do not even know to which member the question alludes.

(e), (f) and (g)—The recommendations received from the officers concerned were confidential and Government are not prepared to disclose the particulars of such correspondence or matters relating to the correspondence as such.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: As regards (b) and (c) may we know how many Muslims and Assamese Hindus have found their way into the Municipality by the front door of election?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I suppose the reply is already there. The hon. member can know how many Hindus and how many Muhammadans have been nominated.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: I want to know how many of the Assamese Hindus and Muslims have found their way into the Municipality by election?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I could not hear the hon. member before. That is found, Sir, in the Gazette. The hon. member can find that from the Gazette.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Shall I be correct if I say that only 5 Muhammadans have been elected to the Dibrugarh Municipality?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The hon. member may be correct. I would like to direct his attention to reply to unstarred question No. 190 of the current session. We have given there the percentage of the Hindus and Muhammadans and other communities in the Dibrugarh Municipality.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMAH: What were the considerations of the Government in giving nomination to Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman and Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: There are many considerations, Sir, (laughter from Congress benches).

If the hon. member wants to know, I will give them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Next question. The question has not been put in a proper way.

Reduction of Land Revenue

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA asked:

129. Will Government be pleased to state the effect of the current year's land revenue reductions on the land revenue demands of the different districts of the province—separately for each rate of reduction namely 50 per cent., 33 per cent. and 25 per cent.?

130. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of relief given as a gratuitous relief?
- (b) Remission of land revenue for 1936-37?
- (c) In the shape of distribution of seeds, and
- (d) As agricultural loans to the ryots affected by the current year's floods respectively in each of the following subdivisions—
1. North Lakhimpur, 2. Sibsagar, 3. Jorhat, 4. Golaghat and 5. Silchar?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

129.—The information is not available. The Commissioners have already been asked for a report on the total loss of revenue after the dauls are complete.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May I expect to get the information when it is available?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

130.(a) & (d)—A statement showing the amount of gratuitous relief spent up to 31st January 1938 and the amount of agricultural loan sanctioned is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF GRATUITOUS RELIEF, ETC., REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO QUESTION 130(a) AND (d) ASKED BY SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA, M.L.A., AT THE BUDGET SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1938

Subdivision	Gratuitous Relief			Agricultural loan
	Rs.	a.	p.	
1. North Lakhimpur	594	8	0	(spent upto 31st Jan. 1938) Rupees 2,500.
2. Sibsagar	1,000	0	0	(Ditto) } Rupees 400 was allotted for agricultural loan for the district of Sibsagar.
3. Jorhat	2,004	9	0	(Ditto) } Separate figures for subdivisions are not available.
4. Golaghat	2,278	8	0	(Ditto) }
5. Silchar	14,775	0	0	(Ditto) } Nothing was allotted for agricultural loan.
	in the district of Cachar. Separate figure for Silchar is not available.			

(b)—As the subdivisional figures are not available in the Secretariat the district figures are given below—

	Rs.
Lakhimpur	4,400
Sibsagar	66,016
Cachar	2,730
(c)—(1) North Lakhimpur	323
(2) Sibsagar	96
(3) Jorhat	344
(4) Golaghat	311
(5) Silchar	1,450

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May I know the extent of the flood-affected areas in the different subdivisions?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I shall try to give him the information if it is available so far as his subdivision is concerned.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: I want to have the relative figures for each subdivision.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: It is very difficult to get them, Sir, because subdivisional figures are not taken. But I shall try if I can supply.

Kowerpur Mouza in the Sibsagar subdivision

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked:

131. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of revenue be pleased to state the following particulars about the Kowerpur Mouza in the Sibsagar subdivision—

- (a) The area of cultivable land in the occupation of raiyots in 1926-27, 1929-30 and 1935-36?

- (b) The total area and the number of *pattas* annulled between the years 1925-26 and 1936-37 ?
- (c) The number of estates put up for sale for arrears of revenue in 1925-26, 1927-28, 1930-31 and 1935-36 ?
- (d) The loss of revenue to Government due to annulment of estates and other causes during the last 10 years ?
- (e) The cause or causes to which the loss referred to above may be attributed ?
- (f) If Government held any enquiry into them ?
- (g) The measures, if any, Government adopted to mitigate their sufferings ?

132. Will Government be pleased to state—

The actions that have been taken in the shape of remission of land revenue in the flood-affected areas of the Kacharihat Athgaon, Ghilladhary and Bokakhat mauzas for the year 1937 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

131(a)—

Years	Area in bighas
1925-26*	376,211
1929-30	393,586
1935-36	390,111

*Figures for 1926-27 are not available. The figure for 1925-26 were obtained from the district with reference to the hon. member's question which remained unreplied in the December Session.

(b)—The total area and the number of *pattas* annulled during 1925-26 and 1936-37 are given below—

Years	Pattas	Area
1925-26	Nil	Nil
1936-37	149	993 bighas

NOTE.—Figures for the years between 1925-26 and 1936-37 are not available as the Deputy Commissioner only supplied the figures for these two years with reference to the similar question of the hon. member which remained unanswered last time.

(c)—

Year	Number of estates
1925-26	20
1927-28	21
1930-31	54
1935-36	2,872

(d)—Rs.2 065.

(e)—This was partly due to economic depression, and effects of floods, and partly due to the negligence of some capable *ryots* who were in the habit of evading payments, or unwillingness of capable co-sharers always to pay, while the other co-sharers persistently refused to pay their shares.

(f)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(g)—The measures taken were manifold, viz., remission of land revenue on account of floods, issue of agricultural loans for purchase of cattle and seedlings and the general reduction on the unit rate of assessment of land revenue. In addition to the above the *ryots* are enjoying the general reduction of land revenue granted by the Government since 1932-33 on account of the widespread economic depression.

132.—No information is available yet in the Secretariat. The local officers are competent to deal with such cases under the rules. Government presume that deserving cases will be considered and necessary relief will be given in due course.

Revenue demands of land, etc.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

133. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the ordinary revenue demands of land for 1936-37—

- (a) for the old grants in the—
- Assam Valley ?
 - Surma Valley ?
- (b) for the permanently-settled estates in the—
- Assam Valley ?
 - Surma Valley ?
- (c) for the temporarily-settled estates in the—
- Assam Valley ?
 - Surma Valley ?

134. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please state—

- (a) The total number of—
- periodic leases and
 - annual leases of agricultural land at the end of the year 1936-37 in the Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (b) The total number of relinquishments year by year for the last three years there ?

135.(a) Is it a fact that land disputes and incidental occurrences leading to litigation are more frequent in cases of annual patta lands in the neighbourhood of the lines in the lined and closed villages than in cases of periodic patta lands in the subdivision ?

(b) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to prevent such land disputes and other incidental occurrences ?

136. Are Government aware that agricultural lands in the northern part of the Barpeta Subdivision comprising the Sariha, Uttar Bajali, Pub Bajali, Manikpur, Kaklabari Chapaguri, Hastinapur, Bijni, Gobardhana, Bhabanipur, Howli, Kharija Bijni and Lamka Chakabousi mauzas are mostly high lands and cultivation of paddy there becomes possible only when there are timely rains or where there are arrangements for irrigation by means of 'dongs' cut out by the cultivators ?

137. Is it a fact that Government have never helped the villagers in those mauzas to cut out 'dongs' ?

138. (a) Is it a fact that lands served by 'dongs' cut out by the villager at their own cost or with their own labour are assessed as high class land for revenue, at high rates ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to help the villagers with funds to maintain the old 'dongs' or to cut out new ones to make paddy cultivation possible in times of drought ?

139. Are Government aware that there has been no rains this year in the subdivision and *asra*, *kharma* and *sali* paddy cultivation in the afore-said mauzas have failed ?

140. Is it a fact that the people of those places have raised hue and cry for remission of land revenue falling due in this year and made representations to Government to that effect ?

141. Do Government propose to remit the revenue for this year at least for the lands where there has been failure of paddy crops for want of water?

142. Is it a fact that a severe hailstorm overtook some 9 or 10 villages in the Gobardhana mauza of the BARPETA subdivision in December 1936, causing great havoc to *sali* paddy and mustard crop which are the main stay of the poor agriculturists of the localities?

143. Is it a fact that the people of the storm-affected areas made several representations to the authorities praying for remission and suspension of land revenue of those villages for the year 1343 B.S.?

144. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state—

- (a) If any enquiry was made into the matter?
- (b) If so, when, by whom, and with what results?
- (c) If any relief was granted?
- (d) If so, when and to what extent?

145. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state subdivision by subdivision of the province for the last 4 years up to 1936-37—

- (a) The number of sale statement cases started, of sales effected and of cases proved abortive owing to insufficient or no bid?
- (b) The amount of land revenue demand and the amount collected?
- (c) The amount of fishery revenue demand and the amount collected?

146. Will Government please state the amount of (I) land revenue and (II) fishery revenue, of the province, remaining outstanding at the end of the years 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37?

147. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there have been cries all over Assam for not granting 33 per cent. reduction of revenue as passed by the Assembly?

(b) If so, will he please state what action Government are taking to meet this demand of the people?

148. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state—

- (a) The total area of agricultural land settled with (i) the immigrants and (ii) the indigenous inhabitants in each of the subdivisions of Assam Valley during the last ten years from 1927-28 to 1936-37?
- (b) The total area of arable agricultural land remaining available for settlement at the end of 1936-37 in each of the above subdivisions?
- (c) If Government are considering to find out ways and means to restrict further settlement with new-coming immigrants with a view to retain sufficient land for expansion of the present population of the province?

149. Is it a fact that the portion of the Chaulkhoa river lying in BARPETA subdivision is a very big and important fishery bringing in thousands of rupees to Government as fishery revenue every year?

150. Is it a fact that portions of the said river between the Chaulkhoa bridge and Medhirtari village and near Chiknimukh were silted up by earthquake and for other reasons, blocking the free flow of water in the dry season and deteriorating the fishery?

151. (a) Do Government propose to consider the possibility of draining out the aforesaid silted up portions to improve the fishery, the sanitation and agriculture of its neighbourhood both up and down?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to make early provision for cutting out the said portions to allow free flow of water possible throughout the year as before?

152. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state, year by year for three years from 1934-35 to 1936-37 for the Assam Valley Division, the number of leases, land revenue each of which calculated at the current *bigha* rates is 8 annas or less but is assessed at Re. 1 per lease?

153. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state what amount of land revenue has accrued to Government for the 3 years from 1934-35 to 1936-37 on account of the application of section 48, Chapter 1, Part II of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation, 1886, in excess of what would have actually accrued on the current *bigha* rates as mentioned in question 152 above?

154. (a) Are Government aware that continuous and exhaustive fishing from year to year, of the small fisheries of the province, specially of BARPETA subdivision has made them deteriorate?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lease out the fisheries by turn in rotation, specially the small ones with a view to improve them?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

133.(a), (b) & (c)—The hon. member is referred to Appendix I of the report on the Land Revenue Administration for the year 1936-37.

134.(a)(i)—The number of periodic leases in the BARPETA Subdivision at the end of the year 1936-37 was 44,114 and

(ii)—the number of annual leases in that subdivision at the end of the year 1936-37 was 74,303.

(b)—The total number of relinquishments were as follows:—

In 1341 B. S.	...	...	...	...	553
In 1342 B. S.	...	...	...	...	349
In 1343 B. S.	...	...	...	...	208

135.(a)—Yes, specially where there are immigrants.

(b)—Orders will be passed when the Report of the Line Committee which deals with this subject, has been considered by Government.

136.—There are some high lands in these mauzas but the proportion of low land is greater. Irrigation by 'dongs' in high lands is necessary for crops.

137.—No help was ever sought.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: The reply given is "No help was sought". Am I to understand that Government is prepared to come forward with help when it is sought for?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Government will try to help as far as possible in such matters.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

138.(a)—Yes, they were assessed at a higher rate in the settlement before the last one.

(b)—Owing to the present financial condition due to the remission of land revenue and heavy arrears due, Government cannot give any help in cash, but if applications are made, and the villagers are prepared to cut 'dongs' themselves, as usual, they will be given all other possible assistance by the Land Revenue staff.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: It is said "if applications are made, and the villagers are prepared to cut 'dongs' themselves, as usual, they will be given all other possible assistance by the Land Revenue staff". May I know what is meant by "all other possible assistance" in such cases?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That is to say—any other assistance that may be wanted or that may be given.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: The reply is not clear. If the villagers are to cut down the 'dongs' then what other assistance remains to be given to them?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I can foresee what other assistance may be required. For instance, sometimes it may be necessary to have a particular plot of *Sarkari* land for cutting 'dongs' or it may be necessary to acquire a private plot of land for that purpose.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Is Government prepared to come with monetary help?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I cannot commit Government either way, but they will be helping those people who help themselves.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

139.—The Deputy Commissioner reports that there was a partial failure of the *Asra* and *Kharma* crops. The *Sali* crop has not failed.

140.—The Deputy Commissioner reports that there were applications for remission on account of the partial failure of the *Asra* and *Kharma* crops.

141.—The Deputy Commissioner reports that the remission enquiries are going on and the question of remission will be considered in due course.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: It is said that the question of remission will be considered in due course. May I know the approximate time?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As soon as the enquiry is complete.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: May I have an idea of the approximate time of completion of the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: That will take a little time and I cannot precisely say when the enquiries will be completed. As soon as the enquiries are completed and the report is received, Government will pass orders. But I have mentioned it several times that the Commissioner has the authority to grant remission to the extent of Rs.10,000 in a particular district and the matter may not come up to Government at all.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: When the enquiry is likely to be completed?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have got no precise information.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

142, 143 & 144.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to his unstarred question No. 1701 at the Budget Session of 1937. It is not understood why questions which have already been answered are repeated in identical language.

145 & 146.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to his unstarred question No. 1702(a) and (b) at the Budget Session of 1937.

147. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

148.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 1706 at the Budget Session of 1937. Since then, the Line System Committee have gone into question (c). The Committee's report is

being awaited by the Government for their consideration. The hon. member, as a member of that Committee, is in possession of the statistics compiled for the purpose.

149-153.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to his unstarred questions Nos. 1707 and 1708 at the Budget Session of 1937. It is again not understood why these questions are repeated.

154. (a)—The source of fish supply in the fisheries of Barpeta subdivision is mainly by the river Brahmaputra from where they come during the floods. There has been a decrease in the supply. The letting out of all fisheries may be a factor for the diminution of certain classes of fishes.

(b)—This is being considered by the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta.

Establishment of a Government subsidised Bank

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked:

155. (a) Is it a fact that there is at present no bank in Assam which has been subsidised by Government and whose primary object is to stimulate industrial development of the province?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to encourage the establishment of a Government subsidised bank for the purpose?

(c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied:

155. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The points raised will be examined by Government.

(c)—Does not arise.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: It is said in reply to question 155(b) that the point raised will be examined by Government. May I have any idea about the approximate time as to when this question will be considered?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Immediately after the budget session.

Total income and expenditure of the Partially Excluded Areas

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked:

156. Will Government please state for the partially excluded areas of the province—

(a) The main sources of income together with the total estimated yearly income for 1938-39?

(b) The main sources of expenditure together with the total estimated yearly expenditure for 1938-39?

157. (a) Do Government propose to move the Government of India for a special grant to meet the difference, if any, between the total estimated yearly income and the total estimated yearly cost of these areas?

(b) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

156.—The information is not available but figures worked out in 1930 showed that the partially excluded areas were profitable to Government as the following figures of that year show—

Trs.

Receipts— 13,69—mainly from Land Revenue, Forest and Excise.
Expenditure 12,28.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : In reply to question 156 it is said that the information is not available. Will Government please enquire and let the House know the result ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The figure for 1930 which was collected by Mr. Mullan, the then Reforms Officer has already been given.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : My question is about the present position.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I think the present position is better. The forest revenue is going up from 1930.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

157.—In view of the answer given above, this question does not arise.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Is it a fact that the expenditure incurred for excluded areas exceeds the income ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Does that question arise ? The present question refers to partially excluded areas but my hon. friend is putting the supplementary question about wholly excluded areas.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The question No. 157 runs as follows :—

In case the expenditure exceeds the receipt from the partially excluded areas, whether Government propose to move the Government of India for a special grant to meet the difference. So I would like to know, as this is a very important matter, what is the excess expenditure incurred by this Government for the excluded areas in order to put a relevant supplementary question. If the Hon'ble Minister cannot give exact figures, he may, at least, give approximate figures.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The original question relates to partially excluded areas.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : From our point of view the question of excluded areas and partially excluded areas are the same.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Questions arising in respect of partially excluded areas are permitted.

Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This is a very important matter Sir, and I think it should not be disallowed on this technical ground.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If the hon. member is allowed to put the question I am prepared to answer.

Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI : I rise on a point of order. If we have to supplement the expenditure of excluded areas from our revenue, will not questions on those expenditure be permissible ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The expenditure can be discussed.

Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI : The reply to his question may lead to that.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My point of order has been missed by the leader of the opposition. The present question is as regards partially excluded areas whereas my hon. friend wants information about the totally excluded areas. The point of order I raised you have been pleased to concede and the supplementary

question does not arise. But in order to help my friend I may point out that my attention to this question was attracted and I have already discussed the matter with the Central authorities that they should help us with regard to the deficit in the excluded areas. The deficit which was calculated by Mr. Mullan the then Reforms Officer was about 8 lakhs of rupees.

Qualifications of the staff of the Local Boards of Assam

Srijut KRISHNA NATA SARMAH asked :

158. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of employees of the Local Boards of Assam who have passed any of the examinations under rule 323 of the Local Self-Government Manual, Assam ?
- (b) Whether the Local Board employees who have passed in the said examinations and qualified themselves for the posts of Head Clerk and Accountant of a Board, have been given chances in the open field ?

159. Is Government aware that the Head Clerks of Dhubri, North Lakhimpur and Golaghat Boards have been appointed and retained in the posts although the latter two could not succeed in the examination for the third time under rule 323 of the Local Self-Government Manual ?

160. Do Government propose to take proper steps on the Boards, where the rule is not followed in the spirit, so that qualified men are justly recruited for the interest of the Boards ?

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

158. (a)—Ten.

(b)—Seven qualified men are working as Head Clerk and Accountant.

There are also three men serving under the boards who are qualified under rule 323 but have not yet secured appointments. An enquiry has been made as to whether they were ever considered for a vacancy.

159.—Yes.

160.—Government carefully scrutinize any application for exemption from the examination under the rule.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : May I know why the Government considers the question of exemption of candidates from examination when there are qualified candidates available ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The initiative is not taken by Government. It is the Boards who apply to exempt certain officers who may not be qualified, and as far as our information goes the Boards have not taken the initiative on that line and the matter is being enquired into by Government.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : Will Government insist upon having passed and qualified men in the office ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : This is a question of the Local Board. When the Local Board want to employ a man who is not qualified they have to come up to Government and ask Government to exempt him from the operation of the rule.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge insist upon the Local Boards in future to employ qualified men instead of keeping those unqualified men on the posts ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The rule is already there as quoted by the hon. member, and it is for the Local Boards to see that they follow the rules. But there are exceptional cases when they find that an officer may be exceptionally good, though he may not have passed the examination. In such cases Government cannot but give exemption. It is for the Local Board to come up to Government.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Will it be applicable to all?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Each case is carefully examined by Government.

Grants paid to Sylhet, Shillong, Gauhati and Dibrugarh Sadar Dispensaries

Maulavi DEWAN ALI RAJA asked :

161. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state—

(a) The respective population of the towns of Sylhet, Shillong, Gauhati and Dibrugarh and the grants paid to each of the said sadar dipensaries?

(b) What is the population of Baniyachong?

(c) The amount of the grant paid to the Baniyachong Charitable Dispensary?

(d) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to allot a sum of money at least double the present amount considering the population of the place?

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

161.(a)—Population in 1931—

Sylhet	...	...	...	...	21,435
Shillong	...	...	...	...	21,300
Gauhati	...	...	...	...	21,797
Dibrugarh	...	...	...	...	18,734

At all these places there are Government Hospitals, so the question of grants does not arise.

(b)—If the hon. member means Baniyachong village, then the number depends upon the outlying hamlets included. The population of the area over which the village authority has jurisdiction, viz., Baniyachong Kasba, Hazrapara and Majlishpur, is about 37,000.

(c)—The following grants are given by Government:—

For European medicines	...	...	...	Rs.
Compensation for the withdrawal of the free services of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon.	150	per annum.	1,836	" "

(d)—Government regret that though they would much like to do so, they cannot at present provide funds for additional grants to local board dispensaries. The present grants, which are of long standing, do not bear a relation to the size of the village in which they are situated.

Additional amount budgeted for Primary Education

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

162. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If the additional amount of Rs.50,000 budgeted for primary education last year, has been spent?

(b) If so, how?

163. If the answer to the above question is in the negative, will Government be pleased to give the reason for not utilising the amount?

164.(a) Is it a fact that Raghurashi Lower Primary School (venture school) in Karimganj, has been recognised by the Education Department?

(b) If so, do Government propose to give financial aid to the school?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI replied :

162.(a)—The amount has been allotted for expenditure.

(b)—The amount has been distributed as follows:—

Name of Local Board	Amount
Rs.	
1. North Lakhimpur	1,152
2. Dibrugarh	2,880
3. Sibsagar	1,872
4. Jorhat	2,304
5. Golaghat	1,584
6. Nowgong	3,456
7. Tezpur	1,872
8. Mangaldai	1,440
9. Gauhati	4,464
10. Barpeta	2,448
11. Dhubri	3,600
12. Goalpara	2,304
13. Silchar	2,448
14. Hailakandi	1,152
15. North Sylhet	4,032
16. South Sylhet	2,880
17. Karimganj	3,168
18. Habiganj	3,744
19. Sunamganj	3,168

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: May I know on what principle the grant for primary education was distributed to the different local boards?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: There are three principles: first, the population; secondly, the number of venture schools already existing; and thirdly, the number of scheduled and tribal people in each subdivision.

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED: What is the number of acentue schools ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: That is more than I can say.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Was not this amount budgeted by this Government last year only ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: It was put into the Budget in August last. There is no bar to its taking effect from 1st April 1938.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Is not extent of the area taken into consideration ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I am not aware ; I think this was not.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Does not Government think that area is relevant factor in the distribution of this grant ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: This has never been the policy of Government.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Does it not occur to Government that in a sparsely populated subdivision where people are scattered over wide areas more schools are necessary ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Area without reference to population ?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Area should be considered along with the population.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: That view Government is not prepared to accept.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: From whom was the report got ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Report on what ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Report on the number of venture schools ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: From different Local Boards and from the Deputy Inspector of Schools.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I say that the Local Board has not been consulted in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: In what matter ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: In the matter of getting funds the Board was not consulted in the matter.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: For aught I know of this question the principle is identical with that of the Deputy Inspector.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are not Government aware that complaints are received against the Deputy Inspector that he does not consult Local Board's authority ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Such complaints have not yet reached my ears.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister of Education aware that the Habiganj Local Board adopted a resolution on the matter that the Board should be consulted and that the Deputy Inspector's views should not be taken as final ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I am not aware of that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not a fact that the Deputy Inspector of Habiganj is a member of the Habiganj Local Board ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: He is an *ex officio* member ?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: On what principle the money has been distributed in the subdivisions ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: I have already answered that question. First population, secondly, number of venture schools already existing and thirdly, the number of scheduled caste and tribal people in each subdivision.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Has any money out of this fund been given for *ex-tea* garden labourers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: If they can come within the categories already mentioned—tribal and scheduled.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: May I know what is the share of the scheduled castes here ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: The general policy has been to allocate one-tenth of the amount.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Is it sufficient ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: It is a question of opinion which cannot arise in a supplementary question. However, I should consider that the answer is in the affirmative.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Does Government think that the sum allotted to scheduled castes is reasonable and adequate ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Government consider the amount to be sufficient.

Srijut GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: Does the percentage include also backward and tribal areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Yes, backward community.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Do not Government believe that 10 thousand people settled in one square mile will require less provision than 10 thousand people settled in 10 square miles ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: This is a hypothetical question.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: In the matter of calculation what is the basis ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Population, from the Census Report of 1931.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are not Government aware that even there has been considerable increase of population during these seven years?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI: Government are not prepared to take note of that fact.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWARALI replied:

163.—Does not arise.

164.(a)—Government have no information.

(b)—This falls to be considered by the Local Board concerned in consultation with the Deputy Inspector.

Representation of communities in the Provincial and Subordinate Services

Srijut BELI RAM DAS asked:

165. Will Government be pleased to state the percentages of the Hindu, Muslim and Scheduled caste and backward communities in the Provincial and subordinate services in the Province, showing figures separately for both the valleys?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

165.—The question is not clear. It is not understood what is meant by "backward communities" and if "subordinate services" include ministerial services also. It would take a long time to collect the information and so, even if the question was free from ambiguity, it would not have been possible to give a proper reply within the short space of this session.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(GRANT No. 1)

(7—LAND REVENUE)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs 15,21,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.15,21,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1939, for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue".

The cut motion of Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya comes first. It appears that his cut motion is intended to criticise the Government but he has valued the cut motion at Rs.1,000 which I think is not in proper form.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: It is to impress upon the Government the importance of the subject. (Laughter).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Such cut motions should be generally valued at Rs.100 or below.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.2,20,000 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The object is to criticise Government for not throwing open for settlement the reserves in Hakaluki and Langai in the Karimganj subdivision which admit of being brought under cultivation.

Sir, the other day the Hon'ble Chief Minister said 'give me funds, I will give you schemes'. I like to point out in reply that give me a scheme and I shall put you in funds (Hear! hear!). All that is necessary is a bold move on the part of the Government. That is what we want. Our Government have already adopted a 'penny wise' policy. We find that losses to this Government by way of remission in agricultural loans and gratuitous relief is enormous, and still they are not ready to spend money for the improvement of land. We all know that if Government can spend something for the land, they can get a good return ultimately, but our Government will not spend any money on the ground that there are no funds available. Huge areas of land in the Karimganj subdivision under Government Reserves and also in other subdivisions can be easily brought under cultivation but Government are withholding this land from settlement to those people who need them. These lands are rich in the possibility of cultivation and they are also virgin soil. They can be of economic utility to both Government and our peasantry but still they are withholding these lands. Sir, is it the function of the State to withhold the land from settlement while people are dying of hunger and starvation? (A voice:—For future generation.) I think that these lands ought to have been given settlement of, long ago. I can tell the House that many applications have been already submitted by the needy people for settlement of these lands. I know that in village, touts and lesser limbs of revenue administration are fleecing the poor people of their money by giving them false assurances of obtaining the settlement of these lands for them. Now, if these lands are thrown open to settlement, it will add to the revenue of the Government. These lands are really arable and they are not yielding any revenue to Government nor they have any value from the "forest" point of view. If settlement of these lands are given to the people, Government revenue will be augmented and also the people will be benefited. I hope, Sir, Government will adopt a liberal policy in this matter and throw open these lands to the needy people of the Karimganj subdivision who are subjected to repeated failure of crops due to floods and defective drainage. If these lands are thrown open for settlement, it will give a great relief to these people. Sir, in this connection I may also point out that these lands may be settled not in a hap-hazard way but in a planned system so that Government may also experiment collective farming in these areas. I am sure all the members of the Karimganj Subdivision are quite aware of the keenness of the demand for settlement of these lands. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the provision of Rs.2,20,000 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. It is really a happy phenomenon when we find an awakening of consciousness in the mentality of my friends there for the necessity of extending and settling lands to people who are experiencing a series of great hardship for want of cultivable lands. If this is done, it will add to the revenue of this deficit province. Vast areas of lands are lying uncultivated and a large number of people specially near Hakaluki areas are dying of starvation. I hope Government will also look to this and would rather sympathetically accept the proposal that has been advanced by my hon. friend and thereby add to the revenue of the province. With these few words I support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I rise, Sir, to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya. In the former House, I brought forward many resolutions and motions on several times and as far as I remember, Government replied that they would consider this proposal and do something, but nothing has yet been done. Sir, in course of last 12 years, i.e., from 1926 to 1938, many resolutions and motions have been brought forward before this House but Government have done nothing. One fact I wish to mention before the House that many people from Surma Valley are going to Tippera for want of cultivable lands. Some people are also going to Assam Valley. Do the Government consider it necessary to change their policy or 'dog in the manger' is the proper form? Sir, Government think that there should not be people from Surma Valley who disturb them in the House. People are greatly in need of cultivable lands. Many lands near Balirbond, Ratnabari Thana and Patharkandi Thana and other places are lying uncultivated. I do not like to speak much about this. I think the people have universally felt the need of these waste lands and they should be settled with them for their food and morsel. With these words I support the motion.

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি, কারণ হাকালুকি হাওরের চতুঃপার্শ্বস্থ বহুস্থান হইতে অনেকলোক কৃষি জমীর অভাবে দেশ ছাড়িয়া ত্রিপুরায় চলিয়া যাইতেছে। কুলাউবা সিলেট রেলওয়ে লাইনও করিমগঞ্জ হস্তভূমি রেলওয়ে লাইনের দ্বারা ক্ষেতের জমীর অনেক অনিষ্ট হইতেছে। বহু লোক কৃষি করিয়া অনর্থক ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়। এইসব জায়গায় কৃষকদের এই কষ্ট বৎসরে অনেক ক্ষতি হইয়াছে। এই সম্বন্ধে আমি অনেক question ও দিয়াছি। পূর্বের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী আলি হাইদর খান যখন Inspection এ গিয়াছিলেন তখন আমি তাঁহাকে অনেক স্থান দেখাইয়াছি। আমি বর্তমান হুতন মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি যে এই হাকালুকি হাওরের চতুঃপার্শ্বস্থ যে যে স্থানে এবং করিমগঞ্জের যে যে স্থানে কৃষি জমীর অনিষ্ট হইতেছে সেই সমস্ত বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিবেন এবং জমীর অভাবে যাহারা দেশ হইতে চলিয়া যাইতেছে তাহাদের যেন থাকিবার ব্যবস্থা করেন। এই সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত করিয়া তাহার ব্যবস্থা করা নিতান্ত দরকার।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. mover of this motion and the other hon. members who have spoken on this motion want to bring this particular matter to the pointed notice of Government. It is really quite natural that every one should like to have a plot of land—cultivable land—near his house and no one desires to be compelled to leave his home and find out land either in the districts of Nowgong or Tipperah. It is only natural also to wish that the land which is available goes to the indigenous people of the soil.

Now, Sir, so far as the particular area is concerned, we know that there is some land lying waste in Hakaluki and Langai, but there are fisheries in the former place and so far Government have been very unwilling to settle those waste lands because there may be friction between the lessees of the fisheries and the settlers. These fisheries bring in an income of Rs.40,000 per year. But as the hon. members coming from Karimganj say that there are available lands in Hakaluki and Langai, I shall have an enquiry made again and if such lands can be settled without detriment to the interests of the fisheries, they may be settled. So far as the present Government is concerned, I think this is the first time when the matter has been mooted in this House. My hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali said that he brought this matter before the Council nearly for a Yuga or 12 years, but the Yuga has changed now and we hope for better things. (Yes, Yes.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question before the House is—that the provision of Rs.2,20,000 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—Charges of Administration—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The motion was then pressed and a division taken with the following result—

AYES—48

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Srijut Beli Ram Das.
5. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
6. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
7. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
8. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
9. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
10. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.
11. Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi.
12. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
13. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
14. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
15. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
16. Srijut Jogesha Chandra Gohain.
17. Srijut Kameswar Das.
18. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
19. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
20. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.
21. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.

NOES—52

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar ali.
3. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
5. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.
6. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
7. Babu Balaram Sircar.
8. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
9. Babu Kalachand Roy.
10. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
11. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
12. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
13. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
14. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
15. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri.

AYES—(concluded)

22. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah.
23. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
24. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
25. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
26. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
27. Srijut Paramananda Das.
28. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.
29. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
30. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
31. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
32. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
33. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
34. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
35. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
36. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
37. Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
38. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
39. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
40. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
41. Khan Bahadur Dewan Ekli-mur Roza Chaudhury.
42. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
43. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
44. Maulavi Mabararak Ali.
45. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri.
46. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
47. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
48. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

NOES—(concluded)

16. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
17. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
18. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
19. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
20. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
21. Maulavi Ashraf Uddin Md. Chaudhury.
22. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
23. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
24. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
26. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.
27. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
28. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
29. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
30. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
31. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
32. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
33. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
34. Col. A. B. Beddow.
35. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
36. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
37. Mr. W. R. Faull.
38. Mr. W. Fleming.
39. Mr. B. I. Barry.
40. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
41. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
42. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
43. Miss Mavis Dunn.
44. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
45. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
46. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
47. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
48. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
49. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
50. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
51. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
52. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

The Ayes being 48 and the Noes 52 the motion was lost.
Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA : (On rising to move his motion* No. 3.)

*That the provision of Rs.2,20,000 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue Minor head—Charges of Administration—A—General Establishment, Sub-head—1 Pay of Officers (total), at page 29 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion for altering the dates of payment of Land Revenue kists.)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, this motion was not tabled in time and it was received an hour late. I must object to this being moved, Sir. May I point out the difficulty on the part of the Government. If these motions are tabled late it becomes very inconvenient for Government to prepare for their discussions. Unless we know beforehand that so many more motions are coming, it is very difficult for the office to collect the materials for discussion. Here there are as many as 19 motions which have been received late and it is not possible for Government to do justice to all those.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When did the Government get notice of these ? Were they not sent together ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Still the idea is that if motions are received late generally those motions will not be taken into consideration.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD. AMJAD ALI : What was then the necessity for fixing a certain time for the receipt of motions, Sir, if they are not going to be adhered to ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There was a difference of only one hour. The time given was 3 p.m. and they have actually been received at 4 p.m. I think the motions received in time that is before 3 p.m. and these motions that were received after the time till 4 p.m. were sent to the Government at the same time. Is that not so ?

Maulavi Muhammad MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Still, Sir, the motion was not submitted in time ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : A rule has been fixed that the motions should be tabled within a specified time and Members should have taken good care to send in their motions in time. If inconvenience has been caused to Government, then of course, I am afraid I cannot allow these motions.

Then motions Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, should go. We come now to motion No. 7 standing in the name of Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : On a point of information, Sir, who receives these motions ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Assembly Secretariat receive the notices of cut motions and from the Assembly Secretariat the copies of cut motions are sent on to the Government Departments concerned.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Does he write down the time when he receives it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : And then the original copies are sent to Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Not the originals, only the typed copies with notes that these motions were received at such and such hour.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : When all these motions were received together by the Government at one time I do not find any reason why Government should raise any objection at all. Why should they be frightened of motions ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But the position of the Government is that they proceeded on the assumption that these motions received later would be disallowed and, therefore, they did not prepare for them. At the same time the Government should also have considered the fact that there is

the discretion either to allow or disallow a motion left with the Chair. As, however, this is the first time such a thing has happened, I have disallowed these motions. In future when there is such a case of a motion being tabled out of time the Government should think that there is a discretion in the Chair and the Chair may in its discretion allow it.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is it not a duty on the part of the members to abide by the time limit?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Members in future should also be careful not to send the motions beyond time.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I make one submission, Sir? I am very sorry that Government has been compelled to take this attitude. Because there are as many as 19 motions, sent after the time fixed by you. If it had been only one motion or even two we would not have raised this objection. These were received by the Secretary at 4 p.m. on the 21st. Your office must have taken some time in typing and bringing out the copies which were sent to Government. In the departments of Government they took some little time to collect the facts and previous papers and when finally the advance copies reached us there was not much time for us to prepare. As I said if it was only a question of one or two motions, there would have not been much difficulty. But here we have got 19 motions received late and we have been taken by surprise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, when these motions were sent from your office, I think your consent was given. Can we not think so?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No. As we receive the motions we type them and send them to Government. Whether a particular motion is admissible or not is decided on the floor of the House when a question is raised. Before that the question of its admissibility is not considered. Now I have given my ruling on the point raised. But I should insist on hon. members that for the future they should be very careful to observe the rules laid down in regard to such matters. Otherwise it leads to inconvenience.

Last year I remember I gave a ruling on this point. I insisted on the hon. members to be very careful to observe the rules. Laxity in such matters always leads to inconvenience and I hope hon. members will realise that aspect of the question.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA: Sir, out of 19 motions only a few were late. So I think Government may consider the question of allowing at least some important motions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There are already many motions submitted in time and those motions should be discussed. I now call upon Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhury to move the motion standing in his name.

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move—

That the provision of Rs.41,844 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—C.—Management of Government Estates, Sub-head—(b)—Colonisation Schemes (total), at page 31 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.5, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.5.

The object of my tabling this motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the absence of any scheme of colonization. Sir, since the last budget session, we from this side of the House have always repeated to the Government to have a plan and a programme in this respect. But, Sir, the reply which we got always is want of funds. If we have the scheme Sir, it will be easy to put it into execution when the money comes. But

here, Sir, we find the directly opposite thing. We find that we must think of getting money before we get a plan, it is like putting the cart before the horse. This is the general argument of the Government in regard to all schemes. The same policy of absence of scheme is present in Government's policy of colonisation. Here, Sir, people are allowed to immigrate, but there are no settled principles enunciated by Government how this immigration should take place and how this over population should be accommodated. Then how can there be collective farming or anything of that sort on a planned system? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, ex-President of the Congress, when he came to this province suggested various schemes under which colonisation should take place in the waste lands of this province. I would ask the Government to take note of those schemes and establish collective farming and also the introduction of new and scientific methods of colonisation on socialistic lines.

As regards the Line System, Sir, some reference to it has been made, but we do not know what the position of Government is with regard to that. There was a committee which considered the question, but the report of that committee is not before the House yet. I therefore suggest that the issue about the Line System has been due to the absence of a correct policy of colonisation. I would, therefore, ask the Hon'ble Minister to have a scientific system of colonisation and henceforth, granting that they have one, I do think that the question about the line system will cease to trouble the minds of members of this House. With these words, Sir, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the provision of Rs.41,844 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—C.—Management of Government Estates, Sub-head—(b)—Colonisation Schemes (total), at page 31 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.5, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.5.

While on this motion I should like to point out one thing. The star marks against certain motions indicate that they were received at 4 p.m. on the 21st. If those motions are not disposed of to day, then they will be taken up to-morrow, because the question of short notice will not be there to-morrow in respect of them.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, এই কলনিজেশ্যন ছিছটেম সম্পর্কে মই কেই আবার মান কথা কব খোজো। বর্তমান ছিছটেম অদনত কেতিয়াৰ বা চলতি হয়? যেতিয়া ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বিনাক হোবাহোৰে নগাঁও আৰু অসমৰ অন্তৰ্ভূত ঠাইলৈ আহিবলৈ ধৰিলে, আৰু সেউদৰে ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট আহিবলৈ দিলে দেশৰ মাটি খুলাল বুলি গোটেই দেশত আৰু সেই সময়ৰ কাউঞ্চিলতো আন্দোলন আৰু আলোচনা হবলৈ ধৰিলে। সেই আন্দোলনৰ ফলত কিছুমান মাটি অসমীয়া অৰ্থাৎ স্থায়ীবাসিন্দা সকলৰ নিমিত্তে বিভাজ্য কৰি ৰাখিলে কিন্তু ইয়াৰ পাছতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে আন এটা ফন্দী উলিয়ালে। সেইটো হৈছে এই কলনিজেশ্যন system. এই system অত মানুহে মাটি ললে প্ৰিমিয়াম দিব লাগে আৰু অসমীয়া মানুহেও প্ৰিমিয়াম দিব লাগে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে গোটেই দেশত আন্দোলন হোৱাৰ ফলত, Public opinion flout নকৰি অৰ্থাৎ ৰাইজৰ দত দলিয়াই নেপেলাই natural expansion অৰ্থাৎ ভবিষ্যত বংশধৰ সকলৰ নিমিত্তে বিংলা মাটি বিভাজ্য কৰি ৰাখিছিল, সেই বিভাজ্যিক বহুতো এই colonization

system অৰ বলেৰে সন্মাই লয়, আৰু নগৰত দেখা গৈছে এই system অৰ বলেৰে ডিপুটি কমিশনাৰ সকলে যেতিয়াই গন যায় তেতিয়াই এই বিজ্ঞানবিলাক খুলি ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বিলাকক দি indigenous people অসমীয়াৰ অনেক ক্ষতি সাধন কৰি আহিছে। আনকি এতিয়া অসমীয়া মানুহৰ নিমিত্তে colonization খুলিছে আৰু অসমীয়া মানুহৰ পৰা প্ৰিমিয়াম লোৱাৰ ফন্দী কৰিছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে ক'ব পাৰি জৰায়াবী আৰু চহৰী মৌজাৰ কথা। এই মৌজা দুটা কপিলিৰ দক্ষিণপাৰেও পৰিছে। আগেয়ে কপিলিৰ দক্ষিণপাৰে কোনো ইমিগ্ৰেণ্টক বহিবলৈ দিয়া নাছিল। কিন্তু এই কলনিজেশ্বন ছিষ্টেমৰ ফলত ইয়াতো বহুত ভাল ঠাই কলনিৰ ভিতৰত কৰি অসমীয়াৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বহুৱাই দিয়া হয়। ১৯৩২ চনৰ জৰায়বী মৌজাৰ পমিলা জাৰনি বুলি এড থৰ ঠাইত নমোশূদ্ৰ কিছুমানক বহুৱাই দিয়া হৈছিল কিন্তু ১৯৩৪ চনৰ ভাৰণ বাণপানীৰ উপদ্রৱত সেই মানুহবিলাক তাৰ পৰা ভাগি যায়। এতিয়া জানিব পৰা গৈছে পমিলা জাৰনি আৰু গৰুৱা কিচামত পূৰ্বৰ কলনিৰ ভিতৰত সন্মাই পুণৰ ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বহুৱাবৰ কাৰৱাৰ কৰা গৈছে। ইয়াতে স্থানীয় লোকৰ আতঙ্ক হৈ ইয়ালৈ টেলিগ্ৰাম কৰিছে। আৰু অনাৰেবল মন্ত্ৰীমহাশয়ৰ ওচৰত দৰ্খাস্তও দিয়া হৈছে।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: টেলিগ্ৰাম পোৱা নাই, দৰ্খাস্ত পাইছে।

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: এই Colonization Scheme অৰ ভিতৰলৈ বৰভগীয়া মৌজাৰ লক্ষণাবদ্ধা কিচামওটোকো সন্মাইছে বুলি জানিবলৈ পোৱা গৈছে। এই কলনি বোলে কেবল অসমীয়াৰ নিমিত্তে। আপোনালোকে জানে যে কলনিজেশ্বনৰ ভিতৰত মাটি ললে লোকে প্ৰিমিয়াম দিব লাগে।

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will the hon. member please read the contents of the petition?

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: The hon. member take the petition from me and go through it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. member wants to use this petition for the purpose of influencing this debate, I think, he should read out the petition.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: I want a ruling from the Chair. When the hon. member can speak out his mind in English why should we be deprived of following his speech and member be allowed to speak in language other than English?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It may be that his proficiency in delivering his speech in English will not be quite adequate so far as the subject matter of this motion is concerned.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সেই নিমিত্তে Colonization System অৰ দ্বাৰাই গৰুৱাৰ সন্মাই অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ওপৰত প্ৰিমিয়াম লগোৱাত এটা ফন্দী উলিয়াইছে। সেই নিমিত্তে মিনাৰাম ভূঞা নামেৰে কলিয়াবৰৰ এজন মানুহ ইয়ালৈ আহিছিল। তেওঁ দৰ্খাস্ত লৈ আহিছিল Minister-ক দিবলৈ। মই কলো যে সেইটো নিয়ম নহয় দৰ্খাস্ত

দিলে প্ৰথমতে ডিপুটি কমিশনাৰক দিব লাগে। আৰু যদি ডিপুটি কমিশনাৰে বেয়া হুকুম দিয়ে তেনেহলে আপিল কৰিব লাগে। দৰ্খাস্তত যি লিখা আছে তাৰ অলপ পঢ়ি শুনাওঁ।

“গতিকে হজুৰে অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি উক্ত কিচামতৰ মাটিৰ ওপৰত কলনি স্থিৰ উঠাই দি বিদেশীৰ বাহিৰে আন সকলো জাতীয়ে পাবলৈ হুকুম দিবৰ প্ৰাৰ্থনা।”

“সেই কাৰণে চৰ্কাৰ বাহাজুৰে তেওঁলোকক বিল বাট ইত্যাদি দিছে। তাৰ বাহিৰে যদি হজুৰে আমালোকক দখল মাটি বাৰীও তেওঁলোকক দিয়ে তেন্তে আমালোকৰ ভিতৰত দুখীয়া তৰফৰ মানুহ নবা পৰিম।”

এতিয়া এই Colonization System-ত সেই মাটি খুলি দিয়াৰ আন বকম এটা ফন্দী। সেই নিমিত্তে মই এই প্ৰস্তাবটো সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ আৰু যাতে জৰায়বী মৌজাৰ পমিলা জাৰনি আৰু গৰুৱা কিচামত স্থানীয় লোকৰ নিমিত্তে কলনিৰ পৰা বাদ দি ৰাখে সেইটো মই দাবী কৰোঁ। মই আৰু দাবী কৰোঁ যে উক্ত লক্ষণাবদ্ধা কিচামতৰ যি মাটি কেৱল কৈবৰ্ত্ত সকলক দিয়া হৈছে বুলি আপত্তি শুনা গৈছে তাৰ যিখিনি মাটি স্থানীয় মানুহৰ দখলত আছে তেওঁলোকক সেই মাটি দিয়া হওক।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of order, I do not think the hon. member.....(Not heeded to).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: (Rising on a point of order, but not heeded to).

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: When a point of order is raised there is no question of giving way. It is only on a point of information that the hon. member speaking may refuse the information. But when a point of order is raised he must resume his seat.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: The point of order I wanted to raise is this—whether the hon. member is right in not obeying your ruling. He has not as yet read the petition.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It was for me to decide whether he was not obeying my ruling. He has not as yet finished his speech. He has the right to choose the proper time when he should read out the petition. I cannot yet say that he has disobeyed my ruling.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: এই Colonization Scheme সৰ্ব্ব্ব্ব লাইন কমিটিৰ আগত সাক্ষী দিওঁতে প্ৰমান হৈছে যে ইমিগ্ৰেণ্ট বিলাকৰ যি বিলাকে পতিত মাটি আন আন ঠাইত পাইছিল সেইবিলাক লোকে সেইবিলাক মাটি মোকোলাই বহু বহু দামত আন ইমিগ্ৰেণ্টক বিক্ৰি কৰি কলনিত মাটি লয়গৈ। কলনিত মাটি পায় যাৰ টকা আছে সি। মাটি নোহোৱা দুখীয়াৰ নিমিত্তে কলনি system হোৱা নাই।

“ধৰ্ম্মবাজ।

দৰ্খাস্তকাৰি বাহাজগৰ বিনিত নিবেদন এইযে বৰভগীয়া মৌজাৰ লক্ষণাবদ্ধ কিচামত কিছুমান ঠৈবৰ্ত্ত, নাথ, ভ্ৰাকগ ইত্যাদি মানুহে বিদেশী মানুহৰ হতুৱাই খেতি পথাৰ কৰোৱাৰ কাৰণে সেই বিলাক মানুহৰ একছনা মাটি চৰ্কাৰ বাহাজুৰে পটাকেশ্বল

কৰি বৰ্তমান মাটি চৰ্কাৰী কৰি ৰাখিছে। কিন্তু আমালোকৰ ভিতৰৰ কিছুমান মাটি নাইকিয়া গৰীব মানুহে সেই মাটি চৰ্কাৰী হৈ থকা দেখি ঘৰ ছৰাব বান্ধি অনেক মাটি চাহ আৰণ কৰি চাৰিওফালে নলা আদি দি দখল কৰি পট্টা হ'ব কাৰণে শ্ৰীযুত ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰ চাহাব বাহাদুৰত দৰ্খাস্ত কৰাত ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰ বাহাদুৰে সেই দৰ্খাস্ত চামণ্ডৰি চাৰ্কেলৰ Sub-Deputy Collector হাকিমলৈ পঠাই দিয়ে। এই বন্ধমেই মাটি দখল কৰা সকলো মানুহে দৰ্খাস্ত কৰে।

দৰ্খাস্ত দিয়াৰ পাচত আমালোকে মাটি বৰ্তমানেও দখল কৰি আছোঁক। যোৱা বছৰৰ প্ৰায় জুন মাহৰ পৰা অনেক দৰ্খাস্ত ও বিকাৰম দিয়া আছে। কিন্তু বিকাৰম ও দৰ্খাস্ত আমালোকে দিয়া স্বত্তেও বৰ দুঃখৰ কথা তাৰ ভিতৰত ৫০ বিঘা মাটি থুব থৰি মৌজাৰ নামে পট্টা হয়। মৌজাদাৰৰ নামে পট্টা হোৱাত আমালোকৰ কোনো আপত্তি নাই বানকৰোও। মৌজাদাৰে মাটি পোৱাৰ পাচতো আমালোকে অনেক দৰ্খাস্ত কৰোঁক। আমালোকৰ দৰ্খাস্তৰ কোনো ফলাফল হোৱা নাই।

বৰ্তমানে শুনিবলৈ পাইছোঁক উক্ত চাৰ্কেলৰ মাটিৰ ওপৰত কলনি কৰিছে ও কৈবৰ্ত সন্মদায়ক সেই মাটি দখলৈ হুকুম কৰিছে। কৈবৰ্ত মানুহে যে সেই মাটি কোনো দিনা দখল নকৰাকৈয়ে পাব লাগে আমালোকে ইমান শাৰিবৌক, মানসিক, অৰ্থ ব্যয় কৰি পাব নোৱাৰোঁ। এনেকৈ হ'লে আমালোক মৰা পৰিম। কৈবৰ্ত মানুহক হজুৰ বিল ঘাট ইত্যাদি অনেক দিছে। কৈবৰ্ত মানুহৰ মাজৰ কাৰবাবৰ বাহিৰে অইন কাৰবাব নাই বুলিলেও হয়। সেই কাৰনে চৰ্কাৰ বাহাদুৰে তেওঁলোকক বিল ঘাট ইত্যাদি দিছে। তাৰ বাহিৰে যদি হজুৰ আমালোকৰ দখলৰ মাটি বাৰোও তেওঁলোকক দিয়ে তেন্তে আমালোকৰ ভিতৰত দুখীয়া তৰফৰ মানুহ মৰা পৰিম।

গতিকে হজুৰে অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি উক্ত কিছুমানৰ মাটিৰ ওপৰত কলনি স্কিম উঠাই দি বিদেশীৰ বাহিৰে আন সকলো জাতীয়ে পাবলৈ হুকুম দিয়াৰ প্ৰাৰ্থনা।

এই দৰ্খাস্তৰ পৰা দেখা হৈছে যে colony system লক্ষ্যাবদ্ধত প্ৰবৰ্তন কৰা হৈছে আৰু এই কলনি ছিছতেম মতে premium দিব লাগে বুলি সকলোৱেই জানে। এতেকে এই colony system কাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে premium ল'ৱাৰ এটা ফন্দো বুলি প্ৰনামিত হয়। সেই কাৰণে মই এই colony system ৰ নিন্দা কৰোঁ। অৰু এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

(A voice :—সি বিলাক অসমীয়া মানুহ নহয়নে?)

সি বিলাকৰ দৰ্খাস্তৰ পৰা দেখা গৈছে যে সিহঁত অসমীয়া মানুহ। আৰু মই কব খোজোঁ যে অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ভিতৰত ফাল ফাল কৰি আইফালি দুৰ্জল কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰাটো অৰ্থাৎ Divide and Rule পলিচি খটোৱাটো আৰু নিন্দনীয়।

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.

After adjournment

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 P.M. with the Deputy Speaker on the Chair

Khan Sahib Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this motion has been tabled to criticise the Government policy of colonisation. I listened very carefully to the speech delivered by the hon. mover, but I failed to catch anything from his speech as regards the defects of the present policy of colonisation. He only referred to the views expressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about planned immigration. I think it would be a surprise to the House that the Congress men in the Assam Valley do not share the views expressed by the Pandit. In the course of our last enquiry in the Line Committee Mr. Kumud Ram Bora, a prominent Congress man, in the course of his evidence had the hardihood to say that the views expressed by the Pandit were in his individual capacity and not as the President of the Congress. I have no reason to dispute what he had said. I think the Congress men in the Assam Valley are as a whole opposed to immigration. So there is no point in asking for a plan of colonisation scheme when their attitude is against immigration itself. We on our side realise that there is no law to stop immigration and immigration will continue. Apart from the question whether immigration should continue or stop, the fact remains that there are people here already in the province who are without any land whatsoever. Some scheme must be adumbrated for the accommodation of those people who are generally called landless. I think the hon. mover is not conversant with the present colonisation scheme. So far as I am aware only the areas suitable for colonisation are selected with utmost care. Those areas only are selected where indigenous people have never gone before or where there is no likelihood of their going. As far as our enquiries were carried on in Nowgong and Darrang district, we found that there were abundant evidence before us to show that the present colonisation system in those areas is working very well indeed. Colonisation Officers generally call for applications from intending colonists. They generally make enquiries (A voice from the Congress Bench—From the colonists themselves). Yes, from the colonists themselves. Colonists are not united; there are parties amongst them, and if one party misrepresents, then there is another party to contradict them. So the enquiries carried on by colonisation officers, I do not think can be questioned. Settlement of land is made after due enquiry. There are difficulties in the way. Hindus of one caste do not like to live with Hindus of another caste. Similarly Muhammadans—some of them—do not like to live with their neighbours. There are blocks within the colonisation areas for separate castes and communities. That is to the advantage of all concerned. Of course amongst indigenous people there is no bar to their going to the colonisation areas if they like. They may also apply and occupy land within colonisation areas; only they are to pay premium. This premium is only realised with a view to develop the area—to provide for them roads, schools and dispensaries. That is the object of the realisation of premium.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister say how many ponds, roads, etc., have been there?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I do not say that full facilities have been given, but there is every hope for getting it. (Laughter.)

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Hoax for hopes. (A voice from the Congress bench: You are speaking from memory rather than facts.)

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the colonisation scheme has not yet developed. It is still in an undeveloped state (*Hear! hear!*). There is no apprehension that people will not have full facilities in due course. In fact, if I am not guilty of giving out any secret of the Line Committee I can say that we have recommended that major portion of the premium realised by Government should be utilised for the development of the colonisation area. So in the present circumstances, we cannot have free squatting. The squatting system has to be stopped. We must have settlement of the land on the present colonisation system. I beg to submit, therefore, that there is nothing wrong in the policy that is being pursued by Government in the matter of colonisation. With these few words I oppose the motion.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this motion of my hon. friend Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri has some bearing with the colonisation scheme obtaining in different parts of the province. This colonisation scheme was introduced in some parts of the province with a view to exercise and regulate control over the settlement of waste lands due to influx of immigrants into this province. I admit that there is no barrier or bar in the rules of that scheme to settle the waste lands with the indigenous people. There are practically no suitable arable lands outside the colonisation areas and almost all the cultivable lands have been occupied by the immigrants and it is high time that Government should cry a halt to such a system. Sir, no one is allowed to occupy lands reserved by the present colonisation scheme except on payment of premium and this system of imposition of premium is nothing but an exploitation of the masses in order to augment the land revenue of Government.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I know whether the hon. member approves of the present colonisation scheme of Government or not?

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: No, I am not approving of the colonisation system as it now stands in the district of Nowgong.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: On a point of information Sir. Does the hon. member mean to say that he disapproves of the policy of levying the premium from the settlers from Mymensingh?

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I am not disapproving of the present policy though I am opposed to it on principle. My emphatic opinion is that the imposition of premium on the children of the soil is highly obnoxious and detrimental to their interests. The children of the soil have undoubtedly some superior right and preferential claim so far as the settlement of waste lands is concerned but this right seems to have been denied to them by Government by reserving vast areas of lands within the colonisation areas. I am glad that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has realised that the *Juga* has changed and is changing very fast and the Assamese indigenous people have come out now in numbers for settlement of waste lands with them but this system of imposition of premium on them is objectionable. All the arable waste lands have practically been reserved for and occupied by settlers. The result is that the children of the soil have now no ample opportunity to get any suitable land without payment of premium. (*Hear! hear!*) My submission before the House is that these indigenous people must be allowed to have lands free from any monetary obligations in the shape of premium. Imposition of premium on the indigenous population is sure to stand as a monumental barrier in the acquisition of land in future. I hope Government will be reluctant to create any precedent in the matter and will not complicate the already complicated matter any further. With these observations Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: সভাপতি মহোদয় মই বর্তমান Colonisationৰ বিপক্ষে। আপমত যি মাটি খুলি দিয়া হৈছে সেইটো অসমীয়া বাইজৰ পক্ষে বৰ অনিষ্টকৰ হৈছে। বিশেষকৈ অসমীয়া বাইজৰ interest নথি কৰা হৈছে। এই Colonization ৰ মানে হৈছে 'বদেশীক কিছুমান মাটি খুলি দিয়া। কাৰেই ভবিষ্যতত অসমীয়াৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে যে মাটি বন্ধা কৰিব তাক ধৰি লব নোৱাৰিব। আমাৰ খান-বাগিচাৰে কৈছে যে আমাৰ গছপলি জাতিৰ মানুহে তাত যাব ইচ্ছা নকৰে কিন্তু আজি যাবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰিব পাৰে কিন্তু কাৰেই তেওঁ লাহে যাব লাগিব আৰু যাবলৈ বাধ্য কৰিব লাগিব। আগৰ মানুহৰ আগেয়ে যথেষ্ট মাটি আছিল কিন্তু এতিয়া শাহে লাহে মাটি কম হৈ আহিছে। কাৰেই ভবিষ্যতত অসমীয়াৰ নিমিত্তে কিছু মাটি বন্ধা আবশ্যক। বৰ্তমানে Colonization scheme যি ভাবে কাজ কৰিছে সেইৰূপে চলিলে ভবিষ্যতত অসমীয়া বাইজৰ নিমিত্তে কোনো মাটি নেথোৱা বগনিকৈ বৰভনিউমত্ৰ মহোদয়ক মই অনুৰোধ কৰা যে তেখেতে এই বিষয়ে ছ'ট চিন্তি যেন কাম কৰে আৰু বিশেষকৈ Colonization scheme ত অসমীয়া মানুহৰ interest বাত বন্ধা হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে যেন চেষ্টা কৰে।

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, I would have liked very much to support the motion brought forward by my hon. friend but I see that neither he nor his supporters have got any clear idea about the colonisation area (*Hear! hear!*). Apart from this Sir, what my hon. friend the mover has said is this, that he wants a different colonisation scheme but in going to support that motion my friend Mr. Bhuyan has rather said that he does not want colonisation scheme. This Government has been criticised many a times for not having any scheme before them. This colonisation scheme is one of the best of schemes that any Government can place before the House.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Even the immigrants are complaining against this system.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Some of the immigrants are of course complaining, but they do not complain against the system itself, but against working of the system in its details. Sir, the colonisation scheme was brought into existence in the year 1928-29 after the last re-settlement operations. The object of the scheme was not to throw open land to the immigrants alone but to have a systematic and orderly settlement for all people. Sir, it was found in the year 1930 in the Barpeta subdivision that within the colonisation area some people who were not immigrants in the truest sense of the term secured land. Therefore, it is more than clear that the colonization scheme was not meant for the immigrants alone. It was not meant to curtail the rights of the indigenous people. It was not meant to deprive any one of the inhabitants of this province to have settlement of land. There is nothing in the colonization scheme—and I challenge my hon. friends who supported this motion if they can point out anything—which restricts any body to secure land within the colonization area.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Can the hon. member cite an instance of an Assamese occupying land within the colonization area up till now?

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Why should he when he gets land free in any one part of the country? (*Laughter*).

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, first of all we must see whether it is not time and high time to abolish the squatting system by which land is settled with the actual occupant. This system of settlement of land is in a very chaotic condition. If I go to reclaim a portion of jungle and some mightier friend of mine pounces upon that, he gets settlement of the land. It is necessary for Government to bring out a colonization system in regard to the waste land of the province.

It was decided that a man, who wants to get land within the colonisation area, shall have to pay a premium. At the beginning, the Government decided that the premium would be Rs. 25 per *bigha*, but later on when the economic condition of the country become worse, they reduced the premium and brought it down to Rs. 10 per *bigha*. I do not see any objection why the Government should not be allowed to realise the premium from the indigenous people. So far as the permanently settled districts of Assam are concerned, if any indigenous people approaches the Zemindar for a plot of land, will he give settlement without any premium, without any *salami*? In the permanently settled districts even the Assamese Zemindars do not make any discrimination between the Assamese and the immigrants. Therefore, I see no reason why the Government of Assam should make discrimination between the immigrants who have come here to live permanently and the indigenous people who have been residing here permanently. Sir, the Congress principle is that every Indian should get equal rights as Indians irrespective of his caste, creed and colour. But, Sir, my hon. friends of the opposition bench do not like to follow that principle.

(A voice from the Congress group: Will you accept the other principles of the Congress?)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: No, because you do not follow any. Lastly, in the Line Enquiry Committee we had the opportunity of seeing many districts and the Committee as a whole including the two hon. members from the Congress bench found and had to admit that everywhere the colonization scheme had been working very satisfactorily.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: No, certainly not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member will have ample time to add anything he likes afterwards.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Can the hon member refer to the report of the Line Committee which has not yet been published?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is only relating those aspects which came to his notice in the Line Committee, because he was a member of that Committee. Therefore, any question on those points is not relevant.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: That he was a member of the Committee was not questioned. (Laughter)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Facts are facts. We found in Nowgong, Darrang and other places that the colonization scheme had been working satisfactorily. The only complaint against the colonization scheme is that the premia realised were not being utilised for the people who had paid the premia. Some of the immigrants pointed out that within the colonization area they had been growing jute and Government had been deriving a very considerable amount as jute tax and yet no money was being earmarked for utilisation in the jute growing area.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member should be concise. The hon. member has reached the time-limit.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Was the colonization scheme enquired into by the Line System Committee?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as I know, the colonization scheme was carefully enquired into by the Line System Committee.

The hon. member should proceed, but he should be concise as he is about to exceed the time-limit.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: I bow down to the Chair, because the Chair has ordered me to be concise. Therefore, I like to add only one word more. Sir, I appeal to the House not to make any discrimination between the immigrants who have come to Assam to live here permanently and the indigenous people.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: That is not the question here.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: These immigrants who get land in the colonization area had no land anywhere in Assam and I throw an open challenge to my hon. friend Mr. Bhuyan if he can show that these people have sold away their land in other place and been given settlement of land in the colonization area. I am sure he cannot place before the House a single instance of such settlement, Sir. If the poor immigrants are able to pay the premium and get settlement of land, I don't find any reason why others who want to get settlement of land should not pay the premium, specially when it is almost decided that the money realised as premium should be utilised for communications, sanitation and education of the people who pay it. With these few words I would ask the hon. members of the House to think over the matter before casting their votes. We are here not as immigrants; we are as good Assamese as you are (*Hear! hear!*) and therefore I do not find any reason, any justification why we should be differently treated.

With these few words, I oppose the motion.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that the present motion before the House is following the unusual spectacle of criticising the Line Committee's Report before the Line Committee's Report has seen the light of the day (*Hear! hear!*). And if I may intervene for just a few moments I would like to point out one or two things from an entirely neutral point of view.

It is well known that this is one of the most controversial issues before Assam politics to-day. It is further well-known that on the 3rd of October, 1936, this question was raised in this House in the last session of the old Council. In the light of that discussion it became evident that the present Government was bound to take action. The action it has taken was to appoint a Line Committee to investigate the problem. That investigation has been undertaken and a mass of evidence has been heard, and that together with the report, is expected to be published within the next few days. Surely, Sir, this House is not going to form a judgment on that in the light of this cut motion, before it has the data on which to form an opinion (*Hear! hear!*). Whatever the recommendations of that Committee I do appeal to the House to withhold judgment until they have had an opportunity of having the whole problem before them.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: When is the report going to be published?

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: I am not in charge of the publication of the report (*laughter*). I will tell the House just one or two things for their immediate information. In the first place the Colonization Scheme

in Barpathar, the Colonization Officer of which was good enough to come down to Nowgong to be interviewed, shows that it has been a magnificent success. There are no immigrants at all, and that scheme is a monument of what a colonization scheme ought to be. On the strength of the evidence we heard then I feel confident that when it is known to the rest of the House they will be most warmly enthusiastic about further schemes of that kind being started. The question of premium is outside the purview of the present debate. In the colonization scheme we saw in Nowgong it is true that the area is almost—I think I am safe in saying absolutely—exclusively occupied by the Assamese. That of course is in the nature of things for two reasons. In the first place it seems to be utterly unwise for anyone to go to that area and pay a premium when there are isolated areas in other parts of that very district where they can obtain land without premium. And, again, Sir, that is no real issue at all between the indigenous and the immigrant population, because from our experience we find that the kind of land which is favoured by the immigrants is just the kind of land which the indigenous people do not like and have not taken up, and so far as our judgment is concerned, are not likely to take up. They like riverain areas where the land is liable to flooding.....

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I question that statement.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: I am not giving ground, Sir.

The Deputy SPEAKER: The hon. member should not be disturbed when he is speaking.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I raised a point of order, Sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. (*Laughter.*)

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: When any member makes a misstatement cannot anyone raise a point of order, Sir?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Therefore, I say that so far as the present motion is concerned the House is really not in a position to review the whole subject. We hope before long, when the report is published, the Government may take advantage of our experience. I do think that in the light of that report we shall be able to criticise Government if they are not in a position to take some action on it, because it is written on the broadest of lines with a view to helping all sides of the population and with a view also to expand in a natural way the revenues of this province which are so badly needed. (*Applause.*)

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cut motion that we are now discussing is meant to criticise the action of the Government in settling lands indiscriminately without any system and plan under the so-called colonization system. My hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rouf has raised objection to this motion for anticipating the Line Committee's report. And a pertinent question has been put to the hon. member Mr. Rouf by Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali whether the colonisation scheme was a subject of enquiry of the Line System Committee. As a matter of fact, I beg to submit that the Line System Committee had not the system of colonisation as a term of reference to it. The colonisation system stands apart and it was not a part of the terms of reference of the Line System Committee (*Hear! hear!*). The Line System Committee was formed to go into the question of the retention or the abolition of the Line system as it obtains now. The colonisation system may be a part of the broad question of restrictions on immigrants in settlement but it has to be differentiated from the line system. The colonisation system, as it obtains in Assam, has been very much eulogised by the hon. member Mr. Rouf and

also by Mr. Hockenhull. They have said, at least Mr. Rouf has said, that the Line Committee has come to the conclusion that this system has succeeded beyond measure and it is working splendidly well. Sir, I beg to differ from him and say that it is not so. Even Mr. Rouf and the Hon'ble Mr. Matin Chaudhury have had many points to criticise the colonisation scheme. This system as it obtains now is not a very perfect system. It has got many defects in it and the very fact that we have not the same system in different parts of the province now will go to prove my contention. The system obtaining in Nowgong is not the same as that obtaining in Mangaldoi and North Lakhimpur. In some places there is the system of colonisation going on, on the basis of the payment of a premium. In other places it is not so. In Nowgong itself in the colonisation area thrown open for the Eastern Bengal immigrants there is an imposition of premia whereas in the colonisation areas for Sylheti immigrants no such premium is levied. The immigrants settled in the block thrown open to them in North Lakhimpur have not to pay any premium. Sir, the system which was thought suitable for Nowgong and North Lakhimpur was also tried for Barpeta and it was found to have totally failed there. Because the people did not like to pay premium and Government officers could not make them pay premium and the system was withdrawn from Barpeta.

We are not bringing up this motion here for pleading for advantages for the Assamese people or in order to place more restrictions in the way of immigrants. As far as this particular motion goes, it does not plead for preference for any section of the community as against another. (*Hear! hear!*) All that the mover of the motion wants is that there should be a system which can be carried out efficiently and which would be ultimately to the advantage of the settlers themselves. That is what they think is behind the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May we know whether any mention has been made by the Committee?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: As regards the colonisation scheme itself?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Yes.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: No. Now, simply it has been suggested that there will be a colonisation scheme under a planned system of economy and there should be a well defined programme for the settlement of waste lands in the province. As a matter of fact Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's suggestion in that connection has been invoked by the mover himself. All that we can say is that we all stand for settlement of waste lands under planned economy and under a regular programme of country planning. That is all that we stand for in this motion. Of course, if the Government think it wise and if they are so advised they can make distinctions between indigenous people and immigrants who come from outside. That is another matter altogether. All that we want is a system and a perfect system which can be worked out efficiently. ✓

With these words, I support the motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I beg to oppose the motion. Sir, I am not going to repeat the arguments put forward by my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman and Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf. What I like to say is that Government policy of colonisation should be more liberal than what it is now. Sir, Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora has raised the question of the children of the soil. I emphatically say that I do not dispute it. But my contention is that when the indigenous people do not come forward for settling down on the lands, in order to make them

fit for yielding income for Government, what is the harm in settling the lands with others who have come to Assam to live and die as children of the soil, for the interest of the public treasury? With these few words, I beg to oppose the motion.

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: Sir, I should have thought there was no necessity to bring this motion here to-day. Because it is a part and parcel of the Line Committee. But in my opinion I am compelled to say that the present colonisation scheme is perfectly defective as we find from our experience (*Hear! hear!*). Because within the scheme some interests of the indigenous people of Assam have been curtailed. Most of the people in Nowgong, even Assamese people, have been finding it difficult. On the other hand by imposing premia the indigenous people are getting more disadvantage in getting settlement of waste land within the colonisation area. Because within the colonisation area there are many good and suitable lands for settlement and cultivation. And, therefore, in my opinion as the report of the Line Committee is coming out soon and showing different schemes we should wait till then. But as the colonisation scheme is defective it is becoming quite unworkable specially in Barpeta subdivision. With these words, therefore, I think I should support the motion.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, I was a member of the Line System Enquiry Committee. Now the motion before the House is to criticise the colonisation policy of the Government, and colonisation is a part of the problem of immigration. We had before us certain information as regards the colonisation areas as well as on the Line System. When the Report of the Line System Committee which is still in Press will be coming before the House, there will be ample opportunities for every member to discuss the matter, and so I think it is premature now to discuss it.

Now, Sir, when this colonisation scheme is criticised, what does it mean? It means that it is criticised for setting certain matters right as regards colonisation and in that will come also the question of throwing open other areas for colonisation—if this colonisation scheme is to be continued any further. But among the members of the Line System Committee there were different views based on different reports. And there were different views also about the availability of further land for immigration. When this whole question is coming up before the House I think the mover of this motion will get more details on the question. Therefore, Sir, in my opinion it is better that we should wait till the report of the Line System Committee comes before the House.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, there is much controversy about this question and we do not know what utility there will be of deferring this matter to some other time, when it has been definitely stated by some members of the Committee that it is not within the purview of the Line System Committee to enquire into the merits and demerits of colonisation.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Has not the President of that Committee said that this matter also was enquired into?

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: But then, Sir, it was not within the terms of reference of the Line System Committee.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: There were no terms of reference, Sir.

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Then I should say that the questionnaire issued by the committee contained no reference to the question of the merits or demerits of colonisation.

Now, Sir, we have opposed the present system of colonisation on three or four definite grounds; firstly, that it is not homogeneous, the system in vogue in different places varying. Secondly, in the system itself we find that there

has been discrimination made between the Sylhetis and immigrants, between the Sylhetis and the Assamese people and between the Assamese people themselves belonging to different castes. For instance, Sir, I know about a case of the Kaibartas of the Nowgong district on whom a premium has been imposed on certain people in Lokhonabandha colonisation area, whereas such a premium is not imposed on other people of the same district. Sir, the Sylhetis are exempted from this premium system, whereas such a premium is enforced amongst the Mymensighis.

Thirdly, Sir, there are tribal people in Nowgong who have been always complaining for want of land and there has been no consideration to those people because they are not immigrants and cannot afford to pay any premium.

Sir, there have been reserves in the immigrant area itself, where areas have been opened for colonisation, the lands of which originally belonged to the Laloongs and Cacharis of Nowgong. Now, Sir, on these principles we propose that the present system should not continue any longer and that is why we have brought this motion to-day. Therefore, I submit, Sir, without deferring the question to a future date, scheme should be revised and new plans should be made out on a planned economic basis for the advantage of all concerned.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: It seems, Sir, that the House is confused as to the issue. Some members have said that it falls within the purview of the Line System Committee's work and some have said it does not. Some have said that the scheme is bad and that the present Government did not prepare a scheme. If the present system is bad, let the House discuss it fully and then pass judgment on it. Some members have said that the question of immigrants has come under the Line System question and actually it also has come under discussion here. But some members of the Line System Committee itself have said that the report is coming and the matter can be discussed when the report is discussed. They recommend that the discussion should be postponed for the present and discussed at the time their report is placed before the House. Therefore, I hope that the hon. mover will withdraw his motion and thus give the House a full opportunity of discussing the whole thing with its bearing on the whole issue.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the motion has been sufficiently discussed. (Voices of 'no' from the Congress benches) I think now the Hon'ble Revenue Member should have his turn to reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই নন্দাশ্রমক প্রস্তাবটো যোৰ মাননীয় বন্ধু দাক্ষিণ্য বাবুৰে উপস্থিত কৰিছে।

Several voices: Why not in English—we can't follow.

Babu DAKSHINARANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Sir, if a member is proficient in English and can express himself, he should speak in English.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is trying to make his reply more intelligible to those hon. members who are not proficient in English. Therefore, I should like to allow him to speak in Assamese as he so likes, and I ask the Hon'ble Minister to go on.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, May I rise on a point of order? I would draw your attention to rule 9, Chapter II of the Assembly Rules. It is this:—

“If any member is unacquainted or not sufficiently acquainted with the English language he may address the Assembly in any recognised language of the province”.

It is admitted on all hands that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is neither unacquainted nor insufficiently acquainted with the English language. So I think that under the rule the Hon'ble Revenue Minister cannot speak in any other language than in English.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, in this House it is very difficult for me to please one section of the hon. members to the exclusion of the other and the language question seems to be all the more complicated. There are certain hon. members who do not know Assamese and others who do not know Bengali. But it is very difficult for me to bring about a reconciliation between the two languages. A curious Providence has brought these Bengali speaking and also the Assamese speaking members together in the same House and I on my part find it all the more difficult to reconcile myself as to which language to be allowed and which not. Therefore, under the circumstances my best discretion is to allow either Bengali or Assamese or English whichever the hon. members would like. (*Applause*) I am sorry the hon. members of the European group would understand neither Assamese nor Bengali (*loud laughter*). But I hope that the hon. members of this House would gradually try to be acquainted with the languages that are prevailing in the entire province as far as possible (*applause*). My hon. friend Mr. Sen has drawn my attention to the Assembly rule 9 nevertheless I feel inclined to exercise my discretion in allowing the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to resume the reply as he likes.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: তেখেত এজন কংগ্ৰেছ মহাসভাৰ গণ্য মান্য সভ্য। আজি সদৌ অসম বাইজে বিচুৰি হব এই প্ৰস্তাবটো কংগ্ৰেছৰ এজন সভ্যৰ অনা দেখি। ততোধিক ক্ষুব্ধ আৰু বৰ্ম্মাহি হব অসমীয়া বাইজে যেতিয়া শুনিব যে নগাঁও জিলাৰ প্ৰমুখ্য নেতা সকল আৰু লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাৰ প্ৰমুখ্য নেতা শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বেশ্বৰ বৰুৱা প্ৰভৃতিয়ে এই প্ৰস্তাবত দক্ষিণা বাবু সমৰ্থন কৰা শুনিব। বৰ্ত্তমানে যি নীতি মতে অসাম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট চলিছে সেই নীতি প্ৰবৰ্ত্তিত হৈছে ১৯২৮ চনত আৰু গোৰ বিশ্বাস আজি উপস্থিত কংগ্ৰেছ সভ্য সকলে বৰ বেজাৰ পাব শুনি যেতিয়া শুনিব যে এই নীতি অনুমোদন কৰিছিল মাননীয় স্বৰ্গীয় কৰ্ম্মবীৰ নবীন চক্ৰ বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়া (Here there was a great uproar and frequent interruptions)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, তেখেত সকলে আপোনাক মিছাকৈ আমনি কৰিছে গতিকে মই আপোচ কৰাৰ মতলবে ইংৰাজীত ক'ম।

Sir, I do not like that you should be troubled so frequently. So let me speak in English.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it would not look well if you now speak in English.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: মই এতিয়া যি এখন Conference বহিছিল সেই Conference ৰ proceeding পঢ়ি শুনাৰ খোজোঁ।

Let me quote from the minutes of a committee which consisted of—
The Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham, C.S.I., C.I.E., Member, Finance and Revenue—Chairman,

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla, Minister, Education,

Mr. W. L. Scott, Director of Land Records,
Mr. H. M. Prichard, Secretary, Revenue and Finance,
Mr. C. Gimson, Settlement Officer, Nowgong,
Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi, M.L.C.,
Srijut Kameswar Das, M.L.C.,
Srijut Bishnu Charan Bora, M.L.C.,
Maulavi Keramat Ali, M.L.C.,

“The general policy of the colonization scheme was first discussed.

Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi said that every colonization area should be compact and that fresh immigrants should not be allowed to settle outside the colonization area. The first point was agreed to and it was pointed out that the proposed colonization area in Nowgong was as compact as was possible under the circumstances. The second point is dealt with later.

He also urged that it was essential to leave enough land for the future expansion of the Assamese. It was pointed out that the present proposals did in fact leave ample room for the expansion of the indigenous population. The time would come when further settlements with immigrants would leave no room for the expansion of the Assamese; but that time had not yet come and the decision would have to be left to the Government of the time. It was not necessary to consider this in connection with the present scheme.

Srijut Kameswar Das asked ‘what would happen if new immigrants purchased a periodic *patta* in a settled area outside the colonization scheme’. Mr. Botham explained that without legislation it was impossible to prevent this but that such an immigrant would not be allowed to extend his holding by squatting in areas where settlement with immigrants was prohibited.

Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi expressed the fear that the proposal to take *salami* was the thin end of the wedge and might be followed by an attempt to demand payment from Assamese occupying Government waste lands. It was pointed out that under the present proposals the immigrant got a considerable return for the money which he was called on to pay and that in place of the present scramble he was definitely allotted land. A special staff was employed to settle the area on scientific lines; also that a substantial amount would be returned to the locality for communications, sanitation and other needs. It was suggested, therefore, that the word “*salami*” should be dropped and some other term such as “colonisation premium” adopted to indicate that the money was paid in return for special privileges.

The Committee then turn to consider the details of Mr. Gimson's scheme. As to the amount of the premium the Hon'ble Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla suggested that Rs.20 per *bigha* would be adequate, payable in three *kists*, viz., Rs.5, Rs.5 and Rs.10. Srijut Kameswar Das and Maulavi Keramat Ali agreed with him. Srijut Nabin Chandra Bardaloi thought that the total premium should not exceed Rs.25. Mr. Gimson said that the amount of the premium was not an essential part of the scheme but expressed the opinion that the immigrants would willingly pay Rs.30 per *bigha* for the eventual privilege of a periodic *patta*. Srijut Bishnu Charan Bora agreed with him.

With regard to the method of settlement Mr. Gimson explained that as it was impossible to demarcate or survey the land while it was still under jungle the Settlement Officer would take a group of, say, 20 families, allot them 600 *bighas* and tell them to divide it up among themselves. Each family would, before this was done, be required to pay the first portion of the premium Rs 5 for each *bigha* which he proposed to take up.

The point was then discussed whether other areas should be closed to immigrants. Mr. Gimson thought that for the first year at any rate immigrants would not come to the colonization area and pay a premium if they could get land elsewhere. After some time when the advantages of a systematic settlement were realised, he thought that the colonization scheme could stand against competition, but it would be unfortunate if it was set down as a failure because it was slow in starting on this account. The general opinion, however, was that it would not be practicable to refuse settlement altogether in districts where there was ample waste land but there was no colonization scheme working. It was thought therefore that similar schemes should be started for Barpeta, Mangallai and North Lakhimpur. The Hon'ble Mr. Botham stated that the principal difficulty in doing this at present was the lack of officers who could be placed in charge.

The scheme of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, for protecting Kacharis was then discussed. The Committee was clearly of opinion that the Kacharis and kindred races needed protection. Reference was made to certain legal difficulties which might arise, but it was thought that the experiment was worth trying. As regards the special form of *patta* it was thought that the consideration for this restriction viz., the specially low rates of revenue should be entered and that the class of persons to whom transfer was permissible, viz., Kacharis and other allied tribes should be very carefully defined.

Srijut Kameswar Das asked what would be the position of any Assamese who already held land in the villages included in the scheme and it was explained that the restrictive provisions would only apply to persons who accepted the new form of *patta*.

So, Sir, this Committee was practically unanimous in their decision, and the present policy of Government is the policy which was laid down by this Committee.

১৬ এতিয়া কথা হৈছে যে যি policy টো এই কমিটিয়ে বান্ধি দিছে সেইটো আমি পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰা উচিত হব নে নহয়? অসমীয়া বাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এই নীতি পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰাৰ নিমিত্ত কোনো প্রকাৰ আন্দোলন হোৱা নাছিল। প্রথম আন্দোলন এক প্রকাৰে নগাঁওৰ

খান বাহাদুৰ মুফদ্দিন আহম্মদে উপস্থিত কৰিছিল। কিন্তু তেখেতেও কৈছিল মই Line System একেবাৰে উঠাই দিব নকওঁ। এই প্রস্তাব এই নতুন সভাত প্রথমেই অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰা একেলগে বহি থকা মোৰ বক্তৃতা আৰু মতামত চৌমুখী আৰু মৌলবী মনৰৰ আগি তেখেত সকলে গ'ল আগষ্ট মাহত এনেদৰে এটা প্রস্তাব কৰা যি যি policy ত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট চলি আহিছে সেইটো ঠিক নহয় এইটো পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিব লাগিব অকল্য লাইন উঠাই দিব লাগিব। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট, তেওঁলোকৰ মতে লাইন উঠাই দিয়াত মান্তি নহ'ল আৰু তদন্ত নকৰাকৈ এই বিষয়ে এমতীয়া কৰিব নোৱাৰে বুলি প্রকাশ কৰে। সেই গতিকে লাইন কমিটি গঠিত হৈছিল আৰু সেই কমিটি আসামৰ ইমুৰাৰ পৰা নিমুৰৈলৈ ফুৰি, নানা প্রকাৰ সাক্ষী বাদি লৈ এখন report তৈয়াৰী কৰিছে। বোধ হয় এই report আজি কালিৰ ভিতৰেই ছপা হৈ সভা সকলক দিব পৰা হ'ব।

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: আমি মটবত উঠাৰ সময়ত পাম।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: এনেদৰে অৱস্থাত বৰ্ত্তানে যি নীতি আমাৰ স্বৰ্গীয় বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই বান্ধি দি গৈছে, সেই নীতি মতে চলিবলৈ মই বাধ্য। এতিয়া যদি কংগ্ৰেচৰ আপোনা সকলে কয় যে বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই বান্ধি থোৱা নীতি উঠি যাওক আমি এতিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক হকচাবলৈ আহিছো যি কোনো প্রকাৰে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক হকচালেই আমাৰ যশস্যা হ'ব, তেনেহলে মোৰ কব লগীয়া একো নাই। আপোনালোকে দহ বুলিলেই দহ, ২৫ বুলিলেই ২৫। (loud laughter) Good কৰিলেও Good, Bad কৰিলেও Bad. (Loud laughter.)

এতিয়া কথা এই যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা—আমাৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা এইটো স্থিৰ হৈছে যে Line Committeeয়ে যি report দিছে, কমিটিয়ে বহু কষ্ট আৰু পৰিশ্ৰম কৰি, বহুহৰ বাটখোজ কাঢ়িও সাক্ষী আদি লৈ এই report খন লিখিছে। বাতে এই report খন সুলভ মূল্যে বিক্ৰি হয় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৰব। ইচ্ছা কৰিলে অকল Assembly ৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলেই নহয়—সকলো বাইছে report পঢ়ি তেখেত সকলৰ মতামত দিব পাৰে আৰু যদি কিব সাল সলনি কৰা উচিত তাকো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক জনাব পাৰে। এনেদৰে মতামত লৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এটা সিদ্ধান্ত উপস্থিত হ'ব। সেই সিদ্ধান্তত উপস্থিত নোহোৱাকৈ বৰ্ত্তমানে যি Line System আছে সেইটো মানি চলিবলৈ আমি বাধ্য। এইটো মই ভাগটক বুজিছো যে দক্ষিণ বাবুৰ হতুৱাই কিবা এটা লৰো-বাইছে কিন্তু দক্ষিণ বাবুৰে একো বুজা নাই। তেখেতক যি মতে প্রস্তাব দিব কৈছে আৰু তেখেতে দিছে মাৰি (loud laughter)।

আপোনালোকে এই বিলাক কথাত ভুল নেযাব। নিজৰ স্বার্থ একেবাৰে নেপাহৰিব।

(Loud laughter and interruptions from members.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: সেইয়া আপোনাক ইমান বেজাব দিবে বুজিছেই মই ইংৰাজীত কব খুজিছিলো।

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: মই একেধাৰ কথা শুনি টেল বুজিছো।
Line Committee ৰ report কেতিয়া ওলাব।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: অধৈৰ্য্য নহব। অধৈৰ্য্য হোৱা কথাটো বেয়া। এই অধৈৰ্য্য কথাটো কেতিয়াও ভাল নহয়। এইটো কথা মনত বখা উচিত যে “ভুক্ত কল নপকে”। ধীৰে ধীৰে বিবেচনা কৰি চাব লাগে। আপোনা সকলক এইখিনি কথা ডাঠি কব পাবো যে সভা সকলে ঘৰলৈ নামি যোৱাৰ পূৰ্বেই Line Committee ৰ report একোখন পাব।

পিছত মই ছফৰমান, দলৈ ডাঙ্গৰীয়াই যি ছটা কথা উত্থাপন কৰিছে, সেই সম্বন্ধে কব খোজো। তেখেতে কৈছে যে Colonisation System মানে, বৰ্ত্তমানে যিমান মাটি আছে গোটেইখিনি colonisation ত সুমুৱাই দিয়া। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ উদ্দেশ্য সেইটো নহয়। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ উদ্দেশ্য নহয় যে গোটেইখিনি মাটি খুলি গৈমনছিজিয়া ক দিয়ে। এতিয়াও বহুত মাটি পৰি আছে বহুত হেজাৰ একৰ মাটি অসমীয়া বাইজৰ নিমিত্তে পৰি আছে। সেই ঠাইত অসমীয়া বাইজে বহিব পাবে আৰু তাৰ নিমিত্তে একো পয়ছা দিব নেলাগে।

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: অসমীয়া মানুহে ওচৰত মাটি বিচাৰে। এতিয়া যদি সেই বিলাক মাটি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে খুলি দিয়ে তেনেহলে অসমীয়া মানুহে পাছত কি কৰিব? আমাৰ ওচৰ চুবুৰিয়াত মাটি নাইকিয়া হলে, পাচত আমি পাহাড়লৈ যাব লাগিব। (*applause from opposition Benches.*)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: কথাটো তেখেতে ভালকৈ বিবেচনা কৰি কৈছে নে নাই কব নোৱাৰো। মই তেখেতক কও এতিয়াও কম অংশ মাটি colonisation ৰ ভিতৰত পৰিছে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও বহু পতিত মাটি আছে।

এতিয়াও সাকৰা মাটি বহুত পৰি আছে ব'ত অসমীয়া বাইজ বহিলে পয়ছা দিব নেলাগে।

মই এইখিনি কথা কব খুজিছিলো—আমাৰ দলৈ ডাঙ্গৰীয়া ক বুজাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছিলো বিশেষকৈ যে এতিয়াও যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে মাটি পৰি আছে যি মাটিত অসমীয়া বাইজে দখল কৰি নিদিয়াকৈ বহিব পাবে আৰু premium এক পয়ছাও দিব নেলাগে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ইচ্ছা এনেকুৱা নহয় যে অসমীয়া বাইজৰ স্বার্থ নষ্ট কৰি কেৱল revenue ৰ নিমিত্তে মাটিখিনি বণি দিব। ✓

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: আমাৰত যিবিলাক অনুন্নত জাতি আছে যেনে; মিলি, কৈবৰ্ত ইত্যাদি তেওঁবিলাকক পাহাড়ত মাটি দিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰে নে কি?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: এই বিষয়ে আশঙ্কা কৰিবৰ কাৰণ এতিয়ালৈকেও হোৱা নাই। মই দলৈ ডাঙ্গৰীয়া ক ধন্যবাদ দিওঁ যে তেখেতে কৈবৰ্ত আৰু মিলি সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। মই তেওঁক এইখিনিৰেই কওঁ—যাতে তেওঁলোকৰ স্বার্থ নষ্ট নহয় তাৰ বাবে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিশেষ ভাবে সতৰ্ক থাকিব।

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: School কেইটা দিছে আৰু নাদ কেইটা দিছে?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত যিবিলাক মাটি আছে সেই মাটি যে অসমীয়া বায়তে দখল কৰিব নোৱাৰে বা পাব নোৱাৰে সেইটো নহয়। অসমীয়া বায়তে ইচ্ছা কৰিলে সেই colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত যাব পাৰে। কিন্তু আমাৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা দেখিছো যে অসমীয়া বাইজে বিনা পয়চাত মাটি সেই ঠাইত লৈ সামান্য দামত গৈমনছিজিয়াৰ ওচৰত বিক্ৰি কৰে। যাতে অসমীয়া বাইজে সেই ভাবে কৰিব নোৱাৰে সেই নিমিত্তেই এই নিয়ম কৰা হৈছে যে যেতিয়াই সি বিলাকে মাটি বিছাবে তেতিয়া গৈমনছিজিয়াৰ দৰা দখল কৰিব লাগিব আৰু premium দিব লাগিব। সেইটো নিয়ম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আছে আৰু সেই নিয়ম মতে চলিব লাগিছে।

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: মই শুধিব খোজোঁ যে লখনাবন্ধা কিয় মতত ব'ত কৈবৰ্ত মানুহ বহিছে তাত premium দিব লাগিব নে নেলাগে?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Colonisation Scheme ৰ ভিতৰত মাটি ললে premium দিব লাগিব কিন্তু তাৰ বাহিৰত মাটি ল'লে দিব নেলাগে।

Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA: সেইটো নিয়ম মনা হয় নে?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: সেই নিয়ম মতেই চলি আহিছে। যদি মাননীয় সভ্য ডাঙ্গৰীয়াই নিয়মৰ কোনো ব্যতিক্ৰম দেখুৱাব পাবে তেনেহলে মই তাৰ প্ৰতিবিধান কৰিম।

Srijut NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া মানুহে মাটি নিছে নে?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: অসমীয়া বায়তে colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত যাব নোখোজে। কিন্তু যদি যায় তেনেহলে premium দিব লাগিব। আৰু অসমীয়া মানুহ colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত কিয় যাব? সি বিলাকে আন ঠাইত বিনা দখলত, premium নিদি যদি ভাগ মাটি পায় তেনেহলে premium দি দখল কৰি colonisation scheme ৰ ভিতৰত গৈমনছিজিয়াৰ লগত থাকিবলৈ কি কাৰণে যাব?

(At this stage the Hon'ble Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: On a point of information Sir, May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Sylhet people can get lands without premium or not?

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: People of Sylhet have to pay premium also.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Within the colonisation area they cannot get lands without premium but outside the colonisation area Sylheti people can get lands free of premium.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: All the available lands have been reserved for the Mymensingi people.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: নগৰীয়া ব্লক হিচাপে block খুলি দিয়া হৈছে তাত ছিগটিয়াৰ পৰা premium বৰধকৰে লাগে নহয়। নাই কিন্তু ম'ত colonisation area খোলা হৈছে তাত ছিগটিয়া হওক, অসমীয়া হওক, বঙ্গালী হওক, মৈমনসিংগীয়া হওক সকলোৰে premium দিব লাগিব।
(Loud laughter).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Minister should be allowed to go on un-interrupted, but I understand he has been speaking for a very long time.

(A voice: Yes.)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: During your absence I had the most unfortunate experience of being interrupted at every moment. (Loud laughter.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think, the Hon'ble Minister should be given some allowance for the loss of his time on account of interruptions.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: মই শুধিব খোজো লক্ষণাবদ্ধা কিচামতত কৈবৰ্ত্ত বায়ত কিছুমান বৰ্গিছে। সেইটো colonisation area নহয়; তাত premium লোৱা হব নেকি?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: যদি colonisation area ৰ ভিতৰত নহয় তেনেহলে premium লোৱা নহব।

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister address that particular member or the Chair?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister should address the Chair.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: মই পূৰ্বেই কৈছো যে কৈবৰ্ত্ত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ স্বার্থ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে নিশ্চয় চাব।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: মই কহিছো যে ফিয়া ছিগটিয়া মাত্ৰহে colonizationৰ ভিতৰত বিনা premium ত জায়গা নেপাব। (Loud laughter.)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: মই কৈছো যে এনেবোৰা অসমীয়া জনমতো শুনা নাই, সেই নিমিত্তে তাৰ উত্তৰ দিবটো অনাৱৰ্ণ। যদি তেখেতে কিবা জানিব খোজে তেনেহলে বাহিৰলৈ গলে তেওঁক সকলো কথা বুজাই দিম।

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: নগৰীয়া কৈবৰ্ত্ত বায়তক লক্ষণাবদ্ধা মোজা ৫ ঘিটা কণনি বহিবলৈ অনুমতি দিয়া হৈছে তাত মেন্টোৰেৰ ওপৰত premium লগাইছে। মই এতিয়া মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্ষীনাৰ পৰা জানিব পৰিছো যে অসমীয়া মাত্ৰহে পৰা premium লাগে নহয়। সেই নিমিত্তে মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্ষীনাৰ অনুৰোধ কৰো তেওঁ যেন এই সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত কৰি premium নগৰাবটো আদেশ দিয়ে।

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: মই দখলত এখন পাইছো। আগৰ গাঁতেই তহু নাই। (Loud laughter) মোৰ কথাখিনি কবলৈ অলপ সময় দিয়ক। সভা সকলে আজি বিবিধাক আন্দোৱাহঁ উপস্থিত কৰিছে সেই বিলাক আন্দোৱাহঁৰ সম্বন্ধে মই লাইন কমিটীৰ report আলোচনাৰ সময়ত কম। সেই বিলাক আন্দোৱাহঁ সম্বন্ধে বিবেচক দৃষ্টি ৰাখিম আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেন্টেও কিবা এটা সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব। যদি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে সেই সিদ্ধান্তত আপোনালোকে বেয়া পায় বা গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে দোষ দেখে বা সন্তোষ নহয় তেনেহলে তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ সভা সকলৰ হাতত বৰ। বৰ্ত্তমানে যি নীতি চলি আহিছে সেই নীতিয়েই চলিব। এতিয়া সেই নীতিৰ ব্যতিক্ৰম কৰিবলৈ বুদ্ধি দিয়া উচিত নহব। লাইন কমিটীৰ report আলোচনাৰ সময়ত গটেই কথা আলোচনা কৰা হব। Development Scheme ৰ সম্বন্ধে হকেনহল চাঙাবে কৈছে। Barpathar ৰ Development Scheme ৰ কাম খুব ভাল ভাৱে চলিছে। সকলো কথাত দোষ দেখা শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বেন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা ডাক্ষীনায়েও তাৰ প্ৰশংসা কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হব। মই সভা সকলক ধন্যবাদ দিছো যে তেখেত সকলে মাক বহু জানিব লগীয়া কথা জানিবলৈ দিলে, আৰু মই তেওঁলোকক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যে তেওঁলোকে যেন অত্যাৱস্থিত সিদ্ধান্তত উদ্বিগ্ন নহয় আৰু পূৰ্বেৰ পৰা চলি অহা policy (নীতি) বৰ্ত্তমানে পৰিৱৰ্ত্তন নকৰে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question before the House is—that the provision of Rs.41,844 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—C.—Management of Government Estate, Sub-head—(b)—Colonisation Schemes (total), at page 31 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.5, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand

Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: I have been listening to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister's speech in Assamese language in which he usually does not speak, and, therefore, I could not exactly follow what he meant. It is usual with people to speak in vernacular not understood

by his adversary when one wants to call his adversary bad name. I was rather gagged. However I like to attempt a reply in Assamese.

মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঃ বীরা, মই এই সভাৰ মাননীয় সভ্য সকলৰ বক্তৃতা শুনি আৰু
ৰাজস্ব সচিবৰ কথা শুনি এই প্ৰস্তাব তুলি নিবৰ অনুমতি বিছাৰিছোঁ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What the hon. member has now said in Assamese takes much of the plea that he could not exactly understand what the Hon'ble Minister was saying in Assamese. The hon. member speaks good Assamese, it seems (*Laughter*).

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now comes motion * No. 8 which stands in the name of Srijut Sarveswar Barua.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: May I be permitted, Sir, to say that this is the same thing as in No. 7? Should we discuss this?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Practically it covers the same grounds.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: It does not, Sir. Though certain hon. members referred to certain questions on the imposition of premium on the Assamese settlers on the previous debate, we have heard nothing from the Hon'ble Revenue Minister. A question was put by Dr. Saikia to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister on this point but he has not yet been fortunate enough to get the reply.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He has got the reply, Sir. If the area is not included in the colonisation area, no one has got to pay any premium.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: It is a hypothetical reply. It was said that if Lakhnabandha falls within the colonisation area, premium will be levied, but if not, it will not be imposed. We want to know if premium is really being imposed on Assamese settlers there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think if the Hon'ble Chief Minister did not give any reply to the point although raised and discussed, the hon. member was quite at liberty to press the motion, as the previous motion was intended to criticise the Government's policy of colonisation and their policy regarding *khas* land and the connected question of premium also came in for discussion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The question of premium was raised and discussed in that motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That question was discussed in the previous motion and I cannot allow a fresh discussion of the present motion. The hon. member may move his motion No. 12.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.23,200 under grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues, at page 32 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.2, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, the object in my tabling this motion is to criticise the policy of Government in cutting down grazing reserves in order to throw open land for settlement of immigrants.

* That the provision of Rs. 41,844 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—C.—Management of Government Estates, Sub-head (b)—Colonisation Schemes (total), at page 31 of the budget be reduced by Rs. 2, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 15,21,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 2. (To criticise the imposition of premium on settlement of waste lands with Assamese settlers in Nowgong.)

Now, Sir, we have found, as a matter of fact, in the course of the enquiries of the Line Committee that in several districts grazing reserves have been ruthlessly cut down in order to provide land for settlement of people coming from outside the province. We think, that the grazing reserves which now exist are not adequate for the purpose for which they were created. These grazing reserves have been created by Government on the recommendation of the district officers after due scrutiny and due enquiry and after publication of notifications in the Gazette. When such notifications are published in the Gazette, it is open to the people there to object to their creation of grazing reserves and their objections are duly enquired into by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. Only when it is found that there are no objections and the district authority is satisfied that there is a real need for such reservation, these grazing reserves are created. Now, after these reserves had been made and they had been utilised by the graziers for a long time, they have been cut down by the district officers—perhaps at the request of the colonisation officers—and the poor graziers had to shift from these places to other districts. It has come to our knowledge in Nowgong that many grazing reserves there had been cut down and the poor graziers had to shift from Nowgong to Darrang and other places. As a result of this the buffalo milk and other dairy products which are formerly supplied by these graziers have become scarce in that district. If the Assamese people have to order for milk and curd for celebration of their festivities any occasions like marriage, then they have to go now to Darrang and other places to place their orders with the graziers there. These graziers do not enjoy the privilege of grazing their cattle in the grazing reserves free. They have to pay a grazing tax of Rs.3 per head of buffalo. The question of milk supply has put the people of Nowgong at a great disadvantage. Now, the immigrants are supplying cow's milk to the people of the Nowgong town. But the people of the *mofussil* made a grievance to us that they do not get the supply of buffalo's milk and curd at the time of their festivals. The same thing has occurred in Mangaldai and Barpeta also. The Subdivisional Officer of Barpeta said that the grazing reserves had been cut down to such an extent that he found it necessary to send a proposal that 25,000 *bighas* or so are to be added to the existing grazing reserves. Here again, the hon. members need not run away with the idea that these graziers are all Nepalis or up-country people. Many of the graziers are Assamese and even when the buffalo herds are really tendered by outsiders, the throwing open of these areas for cultivation the profession of these graziers has been greatly reduced in its scope, and as such one of the sources of their income has been very seriously handicapped. Apart from this, it is also necessary to reserve land in any shape—either in the shape of grazing reserves or forests reserves—for the future needs of the people of the soil, and this is one of the best ways to reserve such land. Therefore, I have brought this motion for the consideration of the House whether these grazing reserves should be cut down in the way in which they have been done and I think the House will agree with me that the policy of the Government in this matter should be censured.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:—The motion moved is that the provision of Rs.23,200 Grant under No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues at page 32 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.2 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard the hon. mover of the cut motion. I find it is stated that grazing reserves have been cut down in order to provide land for the settlement of immigrants. But, Sir, I should like to inform the House that I have got some instances where I found the thing happening in the other way, that is lands which had been settled before even with the indigenous people had been turned into reserves in my district in Bijni mauza. Sir, it is very curious thing that some of the officers in whose hands this settlement lies have manipulated the thing in quite the other way. Sir, the indigenous people want reserves and the line system, but when the line is established you will find it entered in the book that it is described as the Hindu line and the Muhammadan line. I have seen it myself, those books, and I am sure if any hon. member wants it I will be able to show him this.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: In what books, Sir?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: In the Settlement books, in the reservation line, in the map.

Sir, they have been able to cite instances where these reserves have been opened for settlement of immigrants, but I have been able to cite before this House instances where settled land has been made into a reserve. Sir, this is a very serious thing to consider. We must have some land which could be thrown open in course of time when you yourselves are going to increase in number year after year.

With these few words I beg to oppose this motion.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, Grazing tax কথা Grazing Reserve সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা কৰাৰ কথা এই পৰিষদৰ পক্ষে নতুন নহয়। আমি সকলোৱেই জানো যে এই taxটো গ্ৰহাসাধাৰণৰ নিতান্ত অপ্ৰিয়। Grazing tax সম্বন্ধে আপতি উত্থাপন কৰিলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা সিবিলাকৰ সিদ্ধান্ত সমৰ্থন হিচাবে সিবিলাকে আমাক জানিবলৈ দিয়ে—যিহেতু আমি বৰ্ষে পৰিমাণে Grazing Reserve ৰাখিছোঁ। সেই নিমিত্তে Grazing Reserve থাকিলেই Grazing tax দিবলৈ বাধ্য। এই tax দিবলৈ আপত্তি কৰিলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে Grazing Reserve উঠাই দিবলৈ ভয় দেখুৱায়। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এই কথা মানি ললেও এইটো আমি স্পষ্ট ভাবে বুজি আহিছোঁ। যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে আমাক যিটো কথা কয় প্রকৃত পক্ষে কাৰ্য্যত সেইটো নহয়। যি পৰিমাণে Grazing Reserve আমাৰ মাজত দৰ্কাৰ, বৰ্ত্তমানে সেই পৰিমাণে Grazing Reserve নাই। আমি এইটো বিশেষকৈ জানো যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যি বিলাক Grazing Reserve আছে সেই বিলাকক ঠিক ভাবে ৰাখিবলৈ কোনো দৃষ্টি নেৰাখে। যি Reserves বৰ্ত্তমানে আছে তাতো বাঁহ নিতান্ত কমি গৈছে—গক-ম'হে বাঁহ খাবলৈ নেপায় কাৰণে দেশৰ নিতান্ত পুষ্টিৰ যি খাদ্য সেই খাদ্যৰ—গাখীৰ—পৰিমাণ কমি গৈছে। ই অতি দুঃখৰ বিষয়। মুঠতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে tax আদায় কৰিয়েই সন্তুষ্ট। তাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে আন কিবা কাম আছে বুলি সিবিলাকে নেভাবে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই তাহানি কালৰে নীতি এটা আকোৱালী

ধৰি থকাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নিন্দা কৰাৰ বাহিৰে আন উপায় নাই। কম বেছি যিকি নহওক যিবা ২টা ১টা reserve আছেও তাকে এতিয়া ঠায়ে ঠায়ে গাৰ বলেৰে মানুহে দখল কৰি বসতি কৰা কথা জনা গৈছে। মই নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কব পাৰো যে আমাৰ তেজপুৰৰ বিশ্বনাথ গৌজাৰ ভিতৰত থকা ছটা Grazing Reserve ত পমুৱা মানুহে আহি গাৰ বলেৰে বসতি স্থাপন কৰিছে। সেই reserveত থকা graziers সকলে কেইবা বাৰো District Officerৰ ওচৰত আপত্তি কৰিও এতিয়ালৈকে তাৰ একো প্ৰতিবিধান নেপালে। জিলাৰ উচ্চ কৰ্মচাৰী—দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যদি এনে ধৰণৰেই কাম চলায় তেন্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক নিন্দা নকৰি উপায় আছেনে? মই এইটো এটা উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপেহে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক এই সম্পৰ্কে জানিব দিব খুজিছোঁ। বৰ্ত্তমানে বহুত ঠাইত Grazing Reserve ত মানুহৰ বসতি হোৱাত গক-ম'হৰ বাখিৰৰ বৰ অসুবিধা হৈছে আৰু Grazing Reserve ৰ পৰিমাণও খুব কম বুলি আমি ভাবোঁ। তথাপিও গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নীতিৰ কোনো পৰিবৰ্ত্তন আভাস নাপাই এই নিন্দামূলক প্ৰস্তাবকে সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, I would have liked to support the motion brought forward by my hon. friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua but for one word, the word 'censure' in the motion. If the word used would have been 'thanked' I would have certainly supported his motion. (Laughter). Sir, I do not understand why for cutting down grazing reserves the Government should be criticised. What is the position in the Assam Valley districts? The position is this, that villages after villages, mouzas after mouzas, have been kept closed for the immigrants, a term which has never been defined properly. People from Bengal and even from the Surma Valley came and settled in Assam since after the last great earthquake and still they have remained immigrants. Those people came to Assam and they have settled. When they got their land, and they settled here, there has been natural expansion and yet these people have not been allowed to get land within the closed areas within the lines. To provide these people, it was necessary for the Government to give some land. Where from will they give land: from the closed area or from the reserves? My friends have all along opposed Government and said that Government should not give settlement of an inch of land from within the closed area to the immigrants. The Government have no alternative but to throw open some portion of the reserves, for the immigrant population. Then again the fact should not be lost sight of that a buffalo pays only Rs.3. It is therefore expected that a buffalo should not be given more than 10 *bighas* of land. But Assam Valley districts have got such a large extent of area of reserves that nobody can say that such a large area will at all be necessary for the existing number of buffaloes.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: I question that, Sir.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, we must not lose sight of another fact that people here, both Assamese and immigrants are poor. Do you think that people will die of starvation and buffaloes will get some 20 bighas per head?

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: No one is dying.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: No one is dying of course. But everybody with an open eye must have seen that people are going half clad and half fed. Therefore, Sir, I think at least some portion of the land now constituted as reserves should be thrown open both for the immigrants and for the indigenous people if they require land. Instances are not rare where lands have been thrown open not only for the immigrants but also for the indigenous people. In the Barpeta subdivision there was a reserve area a portion of which was thrown open for the indigenous population. This shows...

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: May we know what was the extent of the area?

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: I do not exactly know the area. Sir, it therefore shows that there was some necessity to provide men with some land in preference to the buffaloes. Then again, of course nobody will object to keeping the grazing reserves in tact if the landless proletariat get some land somewhere else and if you can provide these people with lands outside reserves nobody would come and quarrel for the reserves.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to another fact. I ask my hon. friend: why not grow grass and fodder crops. If you do so in the reserves I do not think buffaloes will require more than 5 or 6 bighas of land per head and you can very well settle more than half the area of the grazing reserves now in existence and you can get a handsome revenue. If a moderate rate of premia is charged I think we can get some lakhs to meet our demands. Now in the teeth of opposition from my Assamese friends the Government have not thought it wise as yet to do away with the Line System and to provide the immigrants within the so-called closed areas.

After all the fact remains there that we have come here, that we must eat, sleep and we must also be clad. Therefore, it is imperative on the part of any Government to give us some land. If you do not give us land which you are going to get settlement of, let me get some land from the share of the buffaloes (*laughter*). When you won't part with an inch of land and you won't allow your buffaloes to part with an inch of land, I do not know where we stand.

There is one lakh of landless immigrants in this province and they must be provided with lands somewhere. It may be, you will get a greater share but I must have some place to live. Therefore, it has become an imperative necessity for Government to give us some land and because you are not allowing them to give us lands from the area you have kept as reserves for yourself, Government has no other alternative and you should certainly thank Government because they have not as yet given us any land which you are going to get settlement of. With these few words, I beg to retire.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention whatever of speaking on this motion. But certain observations made by my hon. friend Mr. Rouf has compelled me to stand up and say something by way of refuting those observations.

He has said that there are more lands in the Barpeta subdivision in the reserves than are possibly necessary for grazing purposes or the existing cattle there.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: I have not spoken of the Barpeta subdivision. I say in Assam there are more lands.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: At any rate he made some observations regarding some reserves in the Barpeta subdivision. I wish to deal with the financial aspect of this matter so far as the reserves in the Barpeta subdivision are concerned. Sir, there are 1,09,000 bighas of land in all the professional grazing reserves of that subdivision than are possibly necessary for grazing purposes for the existing cattle there.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, I did not speak of Barpeta. I said in Assam there is more lands.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: At any rate he made observation regarding some reserves in the Barpeta subdivision.

Sir, there are 1 lakh and 9 thousand bighas of land in all the professional grazing reserves of that subdivision, and from the statement of the Subdivisional Officer before the Line System Committee we gathered that more than half of these lands can never be utilised by any human hand for cultivation purposes. So, Sir, this leaves us at a figure of about 54,000 bighas only. Now, what is the professional grazing fees realised in that subdivision? It was Rs.30,000 last year. And for 55,000 bighas of land included in the reserves if the revenue is calculated at 7 annas or at 8 annas a bigha it will come to about Rs.27,000. It appears therefore that the Government is getting more in the grazing fees than it would get in land revenue. So from the financial aspect, the Government is not losing anything by keeping 55,000 bighas in the professional grazing reserves in the Barpeta subdivision together with probably 54,000 bighas of unutilisable land. Mr Rouf has said that about 10 bighas of land is necessary for a buffalo. But that is a matter of opinion, Sir. During the proceedings of the Line System Committee we found that different people estimated this area at different figures. At Barpeta certain people estimated this at 5 bighas per head of cattle. If with that 5 bighas as the necessary area for a head of cattle we calculate the revenue at 8 annas per bigha, that brings us to Rs.2-8, whereas from each head of buffalo the Government is realising Rs.3 a year. This is the case in the Barpeta subdivision, and I think similar is the case in other subdivision also. It is very easy to say that there is more than sufficient land in the professional grazing reserves. But one aspect of the matter is always forgotten, namely that a substantial portion of these professional grazing reserves is not suitable at all for cultivation purposes. If a certain reserve is dis-reserved the whole of the area will not therefore be available for cultivation. So, if we consider this aspect, we should probably come to the conclusion that there is no room to argue to throw open the reserves with a view to gain more land revenue. It appears from the note under the motion, that this motion was probably originally meant to criticise Government for cutting out portions of the grazing reserves for settlement purposes to the immigrants. My hon'ble friend the mover has however made the motion general now, and has in his speech made it clear that no reserves should be cut down in order to provide waste lands for settlement to people generally. As such I quite agree with him and support the motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, we all agree with the hon mover when he says that we require sufficient grazing reserves for our buffaloes. The question of milk supply is a very important one and surely we all wish that sufficient lands should be reserved for the grazing of cattle. But I join issue with the hon. mover when he said that these grazing reserves have been ruthlessly cut down for settlement of land with the immigrants. In the course of our enquiry we have seen that in certain places there are grazing reserves, but they are not utilized.

I will cite one instance. There is a big grazing reserve just by the side of the town of Mangaldai. We got it in evidence that it is lying waste for a number of years. It is not used by a sufficient number of graziers and in the committee we had to consider whether that grazing reserve should not be cut down and given for the settlement of people, whether immigrants or indigenous. There was another instance which came to our notice. A big area in North Lakhimpur subdivision has been reserved for grazing. It has been called the buffalo sanctuary. Some 3,000 bighas of land have been reserved for only 40 or 50 buffaloes. Now I ask the House whether such a big area is necessary. There are also other grazing reserves which are too much for the purpose for which they were reserved many years ago. I think, Sir, in those cases in which after due enquiry a certain portion has been set down for settlement either with the indigenous people or the immigrants, I think, we have no reason to complain. Had the fact been as stated by the hon. mover, I would have no hesitation in supporting the motion. But I controvert the fact and am therefore opposed to the motion.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: What about the graziers from Nowgong to Darrang?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur RAHMAN: They were not turned out, but by force of circumstances they had to leave. They did not like the immigrant neighbours.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, before I proceed with my speech may I draw the attention of the hon. mover of this motion to a motion which has been tabled by another prominent member of his party, namely motion No.20 by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua, by which as far as we can see, he intends to criticise the Government for not throwing open certain grazing reserves for settlement.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: It relates to some people who were affected by the floods. May I reply, Sir, now?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have only drawn his attention.

Sir, I have not been able to gather from the speech which was delivered by the hon. mover whether he intends to lay it down as a part of the Government policy that we should not throw open any grazing reserve for the purpose of settlement to immigrants, that we should only throw open such reserves whenever any Assamese or native of the province wants them.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: That is not the general desire, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: So, if his purpose is that the grazing reserves should by no means be curtailed and that they should not be diminished even if people affected by the floods have no shelter, then, Sir, I am constrained to say that it is a very inhuman policy that he wants to persuade the Government to adopt (*cheers*). Sir, no general rule can be laid down in this matter. Grazing reserves will have to be curtailed when there is no necessity for them. Some constructive suggestions were thrown out by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdul Rouf to-day and the other day in his magnificent budget speech my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull pointed out how the Mymensingh immigrants dispensed with the grazing reserves and how they stall fed their cows. Sir, a hundred years ago there was no scramble for land. People could have as much land as they liked to have for their occupation. People could enter into any forest and get as much forest materials as they liked. And for the check in growth of these population on account of pestilence lay waste vast tracts of land. Then there was no Public Health Department to look after the health of the people. But along with the improvement of their health the population must doubtless increase and we cannot always expect to have the same large

area of land for the grazing of our cattle. The question therefore is whether the hon. members of this House would consider it safe to lay down a strict rule that grazing reserves would under no circumstances be curtailed.

As to the particular question, I only desire to tell the hon. member that according to the information which we have received, the chief grazing reserves which have been curtailed were only in the immigration areas and because the immigrants did not want grazing reserves.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are they village grazing reserves or professional grazing reserves?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Generally they were village grazing reserves. As for professional grazing reserves, no grazing reserves which were needed by professional graziers were curtailed. On the other hand, within the short time I have been in charge of affairs, I have tried to extend grazing reserves wherever there was a real necessity. That, Sir, shortly speaking is the policy which this Government or any other Government have been pursuing. In case of extreme necessity when the question of human habitation is concerned we must necessarily reduce a number of grazing grounds in order to give bread to those who are in need of land. Now for a specific instance I may draw the attention of the House to the Tangani grazing reserve. That grazing reserve is still under occupation by some Miri people. We have not been able to provide them with suitable land elsewhere. This must be done because there is no help for it. I think, I have said enough to persuade the hon. mover to withdraw this motion which, I dare say, was tabled under mistaken notions.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: On a point of information, Sir. Grazing tax in other places is only Rs.3 per head of buffalo, but in the Garo Hills it is Rs.6. Why is it so?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I shall come to that later. Both my hon. friends Mr. Kameswar Das and Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman referred to certain evidence which was before them when they sat in the Line Inquiry Committee. Sir, I have not yet come to any conclusion nor have I seen the evidence. So, I am quite incompetent to draw any conclusion on the comments which have been made by these hon. members.

As regards the big reserve for buffalo sanctuary at North Lakhimpur, I may inform the House that it was on the persistent requests of my hon. friend the mover of the motion that the Government was prevailed upon to make this reserve for buffalo sanctuary and if the number of buffaloes is so few as has been stated by my hon. friend the Khan Bahadur, the matter would require a further inquiry.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: It is difficult to make census of wild buffaloes.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: But my friend is giving certain figure. Any way that does not affect the decision of the Government in this matter and I think there is nothing wrong in the policy and there is nothing to be censured.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: বঙ্গা নব পাবত যি buffalo বিজাত হ'লে তাৰ ভিতৰত কিছুমান মিৰিগাও পৰিছে। তাৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিবা উপায় কৰিছে নে নাই?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: মই লক্ষিমপুৰৰ পৰা মিৰি বস্তি সম্বন্ধে তথ্যমান দখল পাইছোঁ। মই এই সম্বন্ধে দলৈ ডাক্তাৰীয়াৰ লগত আগেয়ে এবাৰ আলোচনা কৰিছোঁ। এইবোৰো আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ চিঠি দিছোঁ—(ৰূপুনি বোধ হয় সেই চিঠি পাইছে)। ময় তেখেতক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন এই Assemblyৰ পাঁচত ২৩ দিন মান থাকি যাব—এই সম্বন্ধে মই আলোচনা কৰিম।

The motion of Srijut Sarveswar Barua—"that the provision of Rs.23,200 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2," was then put and lost.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.23,200 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Sir, in course of the discussion of the previous motion we have seen that grazing dues have to be paid by professional graziers for grazing their cattle in the professional grazing reserves. But apart from these professional graziers there are some Assamese people who have got one or two milch buffaloes, some time it may number even three or four, for their domestic purposes. These people do not generally graze their buffaloes in professional grazing reserves. These people, according to the grazing rules promulgated by various committees constituted for enquiring into this matter, are to be exempted from payment of grazing tax. The rules provide that *bonafide* cultivators whose main profession is not dairy business or trade in livestock are not to be assessed to grazing tax. But as a matter of fact these rules have been now-a-days worked in such a way as to assess all Assamese cultivators who are found to have two or three or four milch buffaloes. When appeals are preferred or objection petitions are filed before the officer concerned, orders are passed to the effect that enquiries, which very often take the form of confidential enquiries, are to be made. And if any man of the village turns up before the enquiring Officer and reports that the particular Assamese cultivator sold him one seer of milk on a particular occasion, in that case that man is assessed to grazing tax.

These rules have been worked in such a way to the detriment of Assamese cultivators. They are not worked in the spirit in which they were promulgated before. I therefore bring it to the notice of this House that this practice of imposing grazing tax on any and every Assamese cultivator possessing 2 or 3 milch buffaloes should be stopped. As a matter of fact large numbers of immigrants who have ousted Assamese and Nepalese graziers from their profession as in Nowgong and Barpeta are free from imposition of this tax. We enquired whether grazing tax had been realised to any extent from these immigrants in Nowgong and Barpeta subdivision and the reply was in the negative because these people provide their families with the milk of cows maintained by themselves, though they also carry on this trade in milk to an enormous extent. Still these people are free from imposition of this tax perhaps because cows do not fetch any appreciable amount by the imposition of this tax, as the rate is very low; it is six annas per head. Therefore, Government do not think it worth while to tax these people on account of the insignificant proceeds that it will yield. On the other hand because the tax on buffaloes bring Rs. 3 per head, Government imposed this tax on the Assamese cultivators who happen to possess buffaloes. I think in this matter Government should instruct District Officers and subdivisional officers to administer that rule in such a manner so as to exempt the *bona fide* Assamese cultivators from this tax.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion moved is—that the provision

of Rs. 23,200 under Grant No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—Charges on account of Land Revenue collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues, at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 2.

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰীয়া অসমীয়া খেতিয়ক সম্বলৰ ওপৰত ঘাঁহ কৰ লগোৱা সম্বন্ধে আপত্তি কৰি মাননীয় সৰ্কেণ্ডৰ বৰুৱা ডাক্তাৰীয়াই যি প্ৰস্তাব উপস্থিত কৰিছে সেইটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ। এই ভাবে সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ যে বৰ্তমান সময়ত যি নিয়মৰ দ্বাৰা এই tax লগোৱা হয় সেই নিয়ম, অলপ দিনৰ আগতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিজৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে পৰিবৰ্তন কৰি লৈছে। ইতিপূৰ্বে ১৯২৪ চনৰ পৰা—পূৰ্বেৰ 'Council' ত থাকোঁতে আমি ঘাঁহ কৰৰ বিষয়ে বিশেষ বকম প্ৰতিবাদ কৰাত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এনে ভাবৰ নিয়ম কৰিছিল বাবে অসমীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলক এই tax ৰ পৰা বাদ দিবলৈ উপায় কৰিব পাৰি। তেতিয়া এইটো হৈছিল যে যদি কোনো অফিচাৰে খেতিয়কক জনে যে তেওঁৰ যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে মাটি আছে আৰু তেওঁ যি গৰু-ম'হ ৰাখিছে সেইবিলাক নিজৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ নিমিত্তে মাথোন ৰাখিছে—আৰু ব্যৱহাৰৰ উপৰি অলপ কিছু বেচি থাকিলেই তেওঁবিলাকক tax দিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰা নহৈছিল। কিন্তু সম্প্ৰতি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে rule টো বা নিয়মৰ ধাৰাটো—সম্ভবতঃ ১৯৩২ চনৰ পৰা—এনেভাৱে পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিছে যে যদি যি কোনো মানুহে 'Grazing Reserve'ত গৰু-ম'হ চৰাই তেনে হলে "He is liable to be taxed"। এই নিয়মৰ যেতিয়াৰ পৰা পৰিবৰ্তন হৈছে, মই তেজপুৰ সভাভিত্তিকৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা ক'ব পাৰোঁ যে কোনো এজন অসমীয়া মানুহো এই tax ৰ পৰা বাদ নোহোৱা হল। অকল নিয়মৰ দ্বাৰা শাসিত হ'ব লগা হোৱাত Grazing Superintendent সকলৰ খামখেয়ালি বা মইনতিয়া মতি গতিৰ মতেই এই tax ধাৰ্য কৰাৰ বিধান হৈছে। গতিকে খেতিয়ক সকলে চৰকাৰি খাজানা আৰু আন আন কৰ কাটল আদায় কৰাৰ উপৰিও এই grazing tax দিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছে। মই ধাৰণা কৰোঁ যে এইটো এটা কঠোৰ নিয়ম বান্ধি দিয়া হৈছে। আমাৰ দেশৰ বাগতৰ অবস্থা বুজি যেতিয়া গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে খাজনা কমাইছে তেতিয়া এই ঘাঁহ কৰ সম্বন্ধে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে খেতিয়কৰ অবস্থা বুজি আৰু দিবিলাকৰ প্ৰতি দৃষ্টি ৰাখে—এইটোও মই আশা কৰোঁ। এটা কি দুটা গৰু-ম'হ grazing reserveত চৰালেই tax দিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰোৱাটো আৰু যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে মাটিৰ চৰকাৰি বাগত দিয়াৰ পিচত নিজৰ সাধাৰণ ব্যৱহাৰৰ কাৰণে ৰখা গৰু-ম'হৰ ওপৰত টেক্স লগোৱাটো এটা বৰ কঠোৰ বিধান কৰা হৈছে। গতিকে এই নিয়মটো পুনৰ এনেভাৱে পৰিবৰ্তন কৰা হওক যাতে খেতিয়ক সকলে আৰু এই টেক্স দিব লগাত নপৰে।

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time when this tax was introduced first in the province the public as well as the hon. members that opposed introduction of this entertained fears that this tax would ultimately affect the interests of the villagers who keep cattle mostly for the purpose of draught cattle and partly for consumption of milk and milk produce. From the working of the grazing rules we find that the fears entertained by the hon. members of this House as well as by the public have come to be true. We very often came across cases where cultivators are assessed to grazing tax simply because they sell small quantities of surplus milk occasionally. I am very pleased to

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should stop now. The House should stand adjourned in order to enable Muhammadan members to say their prayer.

Maulavi Muhammad AMJAD ALI: We may retire at 4-45, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There were differences of opinion as regards this matter yesterday.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for 15 minutes.

After adjournment

Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH: As I was going to say, Sir, I am glad to hear from the Hon'ble Revenue Minister this afternoon that the *Juga* has changed and I take it since his assumption of the *Gadi*. I request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to issue instructions to the District authorities that no tax should be imposed on persons, first whose main occupation is cultivation and secondly who sell milk or milk produce occasionally to the villagers. With these words, I beg to support the motion of my hon. friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I rise to support this motion, because it is clearly stated here that grazing tax is imposed on *bona fide* Assamese cultivators whose main occupation is cultivation. It is, Sir, a very reasonable motion. My question before the House is that in other districts the grazing tax is only Rs. 3 per head per annum but in Garo Hills the tax is Rs. 6 per head per annum. I hope the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will kindly inquire into this. Our another grievance is that people from one Aking are not allowed to cultivate or make *jhum* in another Aking; but there is no such restriction for the professional graziers, who do more damage to the soil of the land than the few cultivators. It is the standing order of the Deputy Commissioner. Sir, graziers are allowed to keep buffaloes but these buffaloes make serious damages and it affects the interest of the Nakmas very seriously.

Buffaloes damage the land and also crops to a great extent. So I request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to make an enquiry into the matter. There should be regular grazing field in Garo Hills lest the people should suffer from damages done by buffaloes. In Garo Hills there are no regular grazing fields reserved for the graziers proper. I put this question several times to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to make an inquiry into this matter, but up-till-now I have not received any reply to that effect. My speech is very short and I put these facts before the House and the Hon'ble Revenue Minister for consideration and for making inquiry and relieve us from our grievances. With these few words I support the motion.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I speak in Assamese?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Oh yes, the hon. member can speak in Assamese.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: সভাপতি ডাব্বীয়া, মই অসমীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলৰ ওপৰত পৰা grazing tax অৰ্থাৎ ঘাঁহ কৰ উঠাই দিয়াৰ বিষয়ে প্ৰস্তাব এটা এই সভাৰ আগত ডাব্বীয়া হৈছে এইটো মই সৰ্বসন্মতিক্ৰমে গ্ৰহণ কৰোঁ। এই grazing tax পৰা অসমীয়া বায়তৰ বৰ অসুবিধ হৈছে। অসমীয়া বায়তৰ লোন আৰু কেবাচিন তেল কিনিবলৈ পৰচা নাই, এতিয়া আকৌ grazing tax বহুৱাই লৰা ছোৱালীৰ মূখৰ পৰা গাখীৰকো কাঢ়ি নিয়া হৈছে। প্ৰায় অসমীয়া খেতিয়কৰ ঘৰত দুজনী বা ৩ জনী গাই বা ম'হ থাকে। লোন তেলকন কিনিবলৈ আৰু গৰ্ভপ্ৰসূতৰ খাদ্যনা আদায় কৰিবলৈহে নিছৰ লগা ছোৱালীক বন্ধিত কৰি তাহাতৰ মূখৰ গাখীৰকন বেছা হয়। সি বিলাকে বাবদৰ হিচাবে গাখীৰ নেবেছে। বৰ্ত্তমানে আমাৰ গাওঁ বিলাকৰ পয়ছা ঘটবৰ কোনো উপায় নাইকিয়া হৈছে। এনে অৱস্থাত যদি খেতিয়ক সকলে কেতিয়াবা ২-৪ জনী গাই ৰাখে বা ১২ জনী ম'হ ৰাখে সেই অজুহাতত চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া বিলাকে অধিৰা পই জুলুম কৰে। অসমীয়া খেতিয়ক প্ৰায়ে নিৰক্ষৰ আৰু তেওঁলোক ইমান দুখীয়া যে কছাৰী-টেল আহি পয়ছা খৰছ কৰি আবেদন কৰিবলৈ যি ১২০কা খৰছ হয় সেইটো দিবলৈও তেওঁলোকৰ সমৰ্থ নাই। ঘাঁহ কৰ বিভাগৰ তলতীয়া কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে অত্যাধিক আৰু জুলুম কৰিলে আৰু এনে জুলুম প্ৰায়ে হয়, তেখেত সকলৰ আপত্তি চৰকাৰ বাধাহীন ওচৰত জনাবলৈ যি ধিনি পয়ছা খৰছ লাগে সেইধিনি খৰছ কৰাৰ অবস্থা নাই। সেই নিমিত্তে অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ওপৰত পৰা Government ৰ এই grazing tax উঠাই দিয়া উচিত। বৰ্ত্তমানলৈ ইয়াকে কৈ মই এই প্ৰস্তাবটো ডাঠি সন্মত কৰোঁ।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the object of this motion is to censure Government, I am sorry, I cannot support the motion, but if the object would have been to draw the attention of Government to the defective working of the rules then I would be at one with the hon. mover. The hon. mover admits that there are rules for exemption of *bona fide* cultivators but what he complains of, is that the working of these rules is defective. There are provisions for appeals but the people do not get any remedy from these appeals. If that be so, then I think, it is a genuine subject for inquiry by the Government. I was really surprised to hear from the hon. mover whose object is to get exemption for the cultivators that the immigrant cultivators should be taxed.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: I never wanted that. I simply wanted to know why should the Assamese people be taxed when others are not taxed?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: You mentioned that fact.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Certainly not.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: If that be so, of course, I have nothing to say but it will really be a sad state of things if the people whose main profession is cultivation and who have got subsidiary occupation of supply of milk be taxed as professional graziers. There are people in the towns also who supply cow's milk and they are also not taxed.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: No.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The only question is that these buffalo owners who make use of the grazing reserves are taxed. That is the complaint.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Not even that. Those who do not use the professional grazing reserves are also taxed.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The hon. member has not given a single specific instance. He has been speaking generally.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: There are innumerable instances. Are you not aware of them?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not aware of any specific instance. Of course, there is a general complaint. I think the hon. member should substantiate the charge to censure Government. If the object of the hon. mover is to draw the attention of Government to the state of affairs that is going on, then I join with him and support him.

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: Sir, a sense of duty compels me to take my stand and to oppose the motion. When I found that the object of this motion was to censure the imposition of grazing tax on the *bona fide* Assamese cultivators, I could not fully realise the significance of it. The word *bona fide* is in italics and again I could not understand why the word "Assamese" has been used.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Because we are in Assam now.

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: No body denies that. He could have well said that there should be no taxation on the *bona fide* cultivators.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: আপুনি নিজকে অসমীয়া বুলি কৈছে নহয়।

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: The tax has been imposed on the Assamese people but not on others.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: তেখেতে নিজকে অসমীয়া বুলি কৈছে।

Maulavi SYED ABDUR ROUF: The hon. mover in his speech has referred to that. He said that in Nowgong and Barpeta the immigrants have become so many *goalas* and are carrying on trade in milk. So far as Barpeta is concerned, during the Line Enquiry Committee, I think, no witness said that the immigrants had become so many traders in milk. But if from the new recruit to the Congress bench, from Nowgong—I mean my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin—they have learnt that the immigrants there have become so many *goalas*, I have, of course, nothing to say.

Sir, the immigrants do not require any village grazing grounds. In the immigrant villages they have got settlement of all the *khas* lands and they pay land revenue for them, and they grow fodder crops for their cattle in portions of their holdings. Therefore, for all practical purposes they pay the tax whether it is grazing tax or land revenue, but in other villages where there are village grazing grounds the villagers are exempted from paying any tax or revenue for those village grazing grounds. Therefore, Sir, it cannot be suggested that the Assamese cultivators have been compelled to pay grazing tax, while the immigrants have been exempted. The

case is rather the reverse. So far as the law is concerned, the rule is there and Government cannot certainly be censured, if the rule is not always being interpreted in its truest sense everywhere. There is the provision of appeal in the rules and it is the duty of those cultivators who have been unnecessarily taxed to say that injustice is being done to them. But for that, I don't understand why Government should be censured. In the criminal case, Sir, if there is a miscarriage of justice owing to the failure of the defence side, then should the Government be criticised for that? (*Hear! Hear!*) I don't think so. Well, if I cannot defend my case, I must suffer and certainly cannot blame the Government. With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion and I am extremely sorry that my hon. friends in the opposition bench have all along been uncharitable towards us—the immigrants.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, মাননীয় সৰ্ব্বোচ্চ বক্তা ডাক্তাৰীয়াই বি প্ৰত্যাহাৰিহ সেইটো মই support কৰি কওঁ যে নামাৰ বে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ ওপৰত grazing tax লগোৱা মানে হৈছে অসমীয়া মাগুহৰ লৰা হোৱাৰ খাৰ্য্যক ওপৰত tax লগোৱা। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অকল টকালৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে নহ'ব। লৰা হোৱাৰ খাৰ্য্যক আশাৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভা কৰে। গাখীৰেই হৈছে অসমীয়া মাগুহৰ খাৰ্য্যক। এই grazing tax ৰ দ্বাৰা অসমীয়া মাগুহক গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বৰ বিপদত পেলাইছে। সি বিলাকক গৰু, ম'হ বিক্ৰি কৰিলে বাধ্য কৰিছে আৰু তাৰ ফলত গাখীৰ খাবলৈ নোপোৱা হৈছে। মই interior place ৰ পৰা আহিছোঁ। আৰু মই প্ৰতিয়ক লৰা। মই এই বিষয় ভালকৈ জানোঁ। সি বিলাক মাগুহে town ত থাকে তেওঁ বিলাক এই বিষয়ে ভালকৈ নাজানিব পাৰে। Grazing Manual ৰ rule ত আছে যে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ ওপৰত tax লগোৱা নহ'ব কিন্তু সেই আইনখন এনেকুৱা বেবেবিবাং আৰু গঙুলীয়া যে কোন বিলাক খেতিয়ক আৰু কোনবিলাক ব্যৱসায়ী তাৰ কোনো প্ৰভেদ নাই। সেই নিমিত্তে খেতিয়ক হওক আৰু আনহেই হওক সকলোৰে ওপৰত grazing tax বহুৱা হৈছে। যোৱা বছৰ বাজেট speech ত মই এই বিষয় কেইবাৰ মান কৈছিলোঁ। কিন্তু আজিলৈ এই grazing tax সম্বন্ধে আপাম গৰ্ভমেণ্টে বায়তৰ উপকাৰৰ অৰ্থ একো বিধান কৰা নাই। সি বিলাকে গাখীৰৰ কাৰৱাৰ কৰে সি বিলাকৰ ওপৰত grazing tax বহুৱা হৈছে বুলি report ত লিখা হৈছে কিন্তু আমি দেখা পাওঁ যে সি বিলাকে town ৰ ওচৰত থাকি গাখীৰৰ কাৰৱাৰ কৰিছে সিবিলাকৰ ওপৰত ২ টকা tax বহুৱা হৈছে আৰু সি বিলাক খেতিয়ক তেওঁ বিলাকৰ ওপৰত ৩ টকা হিচাবে বহুৱাইছে। য'ত গাখীৰ বেছি দামত বিক্ৰি কৰিব পাৰি তাত grazing tax কম আৰু গৰু য'ত গাখীৰৰ দাম কম তাত grazing tax বেছি। বাস্তবিকতেই বৰ্ত্তমানে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ ওপৰত grazing tax লগোৱাটো

গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পক্ষে বৰ অজ্ঞান হৈছে আৰু অতি সোনকালে এইটোৱে প্ৰতিষ্ঠাপন কৰা উচিত। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাপালে যে হওঁলোকে চেষ্টা বা বনবাগৰ বিক্ৰি নকৰেন? মই কওঁ বিক্ৰি কৰে, কিন্তু বিক্ৰি নকৰিব। তামোল পাৰ্কিন খাবলৈ বা অন্যান্য বকৰা বস্ত্ৰ কিনিবলৈ বিক্ৰি কৰিবই লাগিব। সেইটোক গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বাৰংবাৰ কৰা তাত একা justification থাকিব নোৱাৰে। মই কব খোজো যে Government এ এই grazing tax অতি সোনকালে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ পৰা তুল দিব লাগে আৰু বাদ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বুজিব নোৱাৰে যে কোন খেতিয়ক বা কোন ব্যক্তিগত হৈছে এইখন বস্তু। কাৰি কৰে সেইটো দিব কৰা উচিত। মই এইবুৰেই এই প্ৰস্তাব সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to find that this motion has been moved by my hon. friend Srijut Sarveswar Barua. I have the greatest respect for his sobriety and reasonableness and I did never have expected that he would have moved a motion like this. (*Hear! hear!*) If he had read the rules on the subject properly he would have at once found that the very object of the motion that he has moved is in the rules. The rules read like this:—

“(ii) The following persons are exempted from the payment of grazing fees for buffaloes or cattle provided they are domiciled in the neighbourhood:—

- (a) cultivators who are not interested in a dairy business, or in a cattle breeding or trading business, or in a buffalo-breeding or trading business, and who do not keep their cattle in areas reserved for professional graziers;
- (b) Residents other than cultivators, who keep their cattle for their private milk supply, and do not trade in dairy produce or cattle or buffaloes, and who do not keep their cattle in areas reserved for professional graziers.”

These two classes of persons are exempted from paying tax. A person who deals in dairy produce, etc., is not exempted under this rule because he happens to have land under cultivation; nor does an owner of cattle, etc., become liable to assessment merely because he occasionally sells his surplus stock of dairy produce or cattle, etc. Then whether any person is or is not a trader or interested in a business is a question of fact to be decided by the officer in charge of grazing. When there is any doubt the assessee should get the benefit of the doubt. And therefore, I say that the rules are there for my friend to read. If however there is an officer who has been wrongly assessing these cultivators, or if there be any officer who is not doing his duty in the way that he should, and the matter is brought to the notice of Government, the Government will surely take that officer to task (*laughter*.) Government may be asked to punish such officers. If my hon. friend the mover will be kind enough to give the Government the name of such an officer who has been wrongly assessing the people, the Government will, I am sure, take necessary steps. I oppose the motion in its present form.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I wish to answer some points raised by my hon. friend Mr. Jobang D. Marak. He is complaining that the tax is being assessed on sheep in Tura Town, and I would inform him that my Hon'ble Colleague the Minister in charge of Local-Self Government to whom a reference was made tells me that he has already issued orders that they should be exempted from assessment.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: On a point of information, Sir. Do the rules read out by the Khan Bahadur apply to all parts of the province?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, they apply to the whole of the province.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Then why are they not applied in the Garo Hills? (*Laughter*.)

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: As regards his second point, that a higher rate of grazing tax, at Rs.6 per buffalo, is being realised in the Garo Hills, I would point out that he is not correct in saying that the rate is Rs.6. It is only Rs.5 per buffalo, but even if that be the case, I fail to understand why there should be this difference, and I promise to make an enquiry and to see what can be done to have the grievance redressed.

As regards buffaloes damaging the lands of the Nokmas, that is also a matter which should be enquired into. I think that the fact that these buffaloes do considerable damage was responsible for the higher tax that was imposed on them.

Now, coming to the points raised by my hon. friend Srijut Karka Dalay Miri, I am in entire sympathy with him. So far as the working of the grazing rules is concerned Government has been trying to do its best for several years. From time to time the rules have been amended according to the advice and observations on the floor of this House, and it will be in the recollection of the hon. members that at one time a Committee of Enquiry was appointed to enquire into the whole question of grazing, and the rules were changed according to the recommendations made by it. In 1935 the rules were again published for criticism. So it will be seen that the Government has been doing its best in this respect and revising the rules from time to time. Mr. Barua has been a member of this House for about 13 years and he has never raised a protest before against the rules, but I am surprised to see him criticising the rules now although when the rules were published for criticism in 1935, he did not say anything by way of protest.

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE: You were also a member at that time.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Yes, I was there but I found that in this matter Government was unable to do anything better than what was provided for under the rules. The rules are clear. All *bona fide* agriculturists are exempted from the payment of the tax if they do not engage in direct business in dairy produce, etc. It is further laid down in the rules in the foot-note that the sale of excess milk or cattle occasionally will not make the *bona fide* cultivators liable to the payment of this tax. What further can the Government do? Then, what is more, the rules lay down that the owners of cattle will submit a return, just as in the case of income-tax, and unless there is very great doubt as to the accuracy of the return it will be accepted as correct, but when there is a doubt an enquiry is to be made by the officer making the assessment. If the grazing officer after enquiry makes a report against that return the assessee has a right of appeal to the officer-in-charge of grazing. When the Deputy Commissioner himself conducts the enquiry an appeal shall lie to the Commissioner. Again I ask what more can Government do? Does anyone think that all these officers who are entrusted with the trial of judicial cases and all these high officials will so far forget their sense of justice and will summarily dismiss the appeals without good grounds. Furthermore, if the House so desires, Government are prepared to go a step further and consider whether there should be provision for

an appeal from the decision of the Commissioner, but in that case the matter will go to the Revenue Tribunal and the Government. will have no responsibility so far as the decisions of the Revenue Tribunal are concerned. Now it is known to the House that I have been taking a good deal of interest in this question, and I can assure this House that this Government will not allow any officer to misuse these rules against the interests of the *bona fide raiyats*, and if any specific instance of this kind is brought to the notice of Government it will be very carefully enquired into, and if the officer on enquiry is found to have wilfully misapplied the rules and has arbitrarily imposed the tax with a corrupt motive, action will be taken against such officer (*Hear! hear!*) I am not quite unmindful of the complaints regarding corruption, etc.

And it will be within the recollection of several members of this House that in some cases the *mohsirdars* have been very severely dealt with. I can inform this House that on a recent occasion my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das brought a specific complaint to my notice and I asked the Commissioner to enquire into it. The Commissioner has reported that enquiry was held and the mouzadars, the gaonburas, said that these people were actually engaged in dairy business. What can I do in such cases when the report from responsible officers is to that effect?

Khan Bahadur SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to issue a circular to the effect that there has been such a complaint?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: We can issue circulars to all our officers that in spite of all the rules there are frequent complaints received and that they should endeavour and see that no cause is given for a repetition of such complaints.

Then the motion of Srijut Sarveswar Barua "that the provision of Rs.23,200 under grant No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—D.—charges on account of Land Revenue Collections, Sub-head—3.—Contingencies, Detailed head—Commission on grazing dues, at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,21,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2 was put to vote and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—45.

NOES—50.

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Srijut Beliram Das.
5. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
6. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
7. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
8. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
9. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
10. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.
11. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.

1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
2. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
3. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
5. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri.
6. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
7. Babu Balaram Sircar.

AYES—(concl'd.)

NOES—(cont'd.)

12. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
13. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
14. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
15. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
16. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
17. Srijut Kameswar Das.
18. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
19. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
20. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.
21. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
22. Srijut Laksheswar Borooah.
23. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
24. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
25. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
26. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
27. Srijut Paramananda Das.
28. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.
29. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
30. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
31. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
32. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
33. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
34. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
35. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
36. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
37. Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
38. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
39. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
40. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhuri.
41. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
42. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
43. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
44. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chowdhuri.
45. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

8. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
9. Babu Kalachand Roy.
10. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
11. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
12. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
13. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury.
14. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhuri.
15. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
16. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Choudhury.
17. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
18. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
19. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhuri.
20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
21. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
22. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
23. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
24. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chawdhury.
25. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
26. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
27. Maulavi Muzarraf Ali Laskar.
28. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
29. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
30. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
31. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
32. Col. A. B. Beddow.
33. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
34. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
35. Mr. W. R. Faull.
36. Mr. W. Fleming.
37. Mr. B. I. Barry.
38. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
39. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
40. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
41. Miss Mavis Dunn.
42. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.

(Sanskrit) — 32077

NOES — (concl'd.) — 5077

43. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
44. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
45. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
46. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
47. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
48. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
49. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
50. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

(While the division was going on two of the members belonging to opposite groups began to drag a member to their respective lobbies.)

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: That is rather bad. Those hon. members who have voted would please go to their seats.

(After this quiet prevailed and members loitering on the floor of the House went to their respective seats).

In view of what happened just now when the voting in the lobbies was going on, I am thinking of changing the division rules and how I shall alter those rules I shall announce to-morrow. (*applause.*)

The ayes being 45 and the noes 50 the motion was lost.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Friday, the 25th February 1938.

Shillong,

8th April 1938.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.