

Proceedings of the Sixth 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 Monday, the 27th March, 1939.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Extra heading in the Census Report Form regarding unemployed youths

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*179. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to recommend to the authorities concerned for providing an extra heading in the Census Report form for finding the numbers of unemployed educated youths in the Province during the next Census ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

179.—The suggestion will be considered by Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May we know whether Government have come to any definite conclusion by this time ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : The last Census of 1931 was not found accurate, and Government are considering the question of taking steps to get correct figures again.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL : Is there any reason why there should not be a census of general unemployment as well as that indicated by the Hon'ble Minister ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : We are now considering the question of unemployment of educated youths only.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL : I did not hear the answer, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister may please repeat the answer.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : The census will be taken only of the educated unemployed youths.

Electricity License at Karimganj

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

*180 Will Government be pleased to state to whom Electricity license at Karimganj has been granted and the names of the persons or firms who applied for the same ?

*181. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state if he received any letter from Karimganj Subdivisional Congress Committee signed by Babu Suresh Chandra Dev, sometime in the middle of February, 1939 in which the aforesaid gentleman urged that the license should be granted to Dr. Triguna Charan Sen and also stated that unless this was done it would be difficult to carry on Congress work and maintain Congress organisation in Karimganj ?

*182. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state what action was taken by him on this letter and on what date was the license granted ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

180.—The license has not yet been granted. The following persons have applied for a license :—

- (a) Dr. Triguna Sen, Sylhet.
Mr. Binoy Bhusan Gupta, Sylhet.
Mr. Sarat Chandra Bora, Shillong.
- (b) Mr. Sumatha Nath Das, Karimganj.
Mr. Hirendra Datta, Sylhet.
- (c) Mr. B. M. Dev, Nilambazar.
- (d) Mr. Bonwari Lal Das, Sylhet.
Mr. Probir Kumar Chakravarty, Sylhet.
Mr. Birendra Lal Das, Sylhet.
Maulavi Serajul Haque Chowdhury, Bhanga Bazar.
Khan Sahib Abdus Salam Chowdhury, Karimganj.
Mr. Sashi Bhusan Roy, Sylhet.
- (e) Mr. B. K. Das, Silchar.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know how many of them were Congressmen ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: I do not know, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

181.—The Hon'ble Prime Minister did not receive any letter to this import.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: The question is directed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir. Does he deny it ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I did not receive a letter to the import indicated by this question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Would he deny if I suggest that he did really receive that ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I definitely say, Sir, that I did not receive a letter to the import mentioned in this question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know what influence any such letter had in the granting of the license to the present holder of the license ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: None, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I take it that the suggestions and recommendations from the Congress Committees will have greater weight with the Government than the personal merit of the candidates ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I do not know, Sir, how the question arises at all.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

182.—Does not arise.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker Sir, before we pass on to the next question, may I submit that second part of question No. 182 has not been answered by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to say what action was taken by him on this letter ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member has not followed the trend of the answer. The reply to question No. 181 was that the Hon'ble Prime Minister did not receive any letter to this import. So the reply to question No. 182 was that ' it does not arise '.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister mean to say that he did not receive any letter ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, any letter of the import alleged in the question.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : The second part of the question No. 182 has not been answered, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The second part of the question refers to a letter mentioned in question No. 181.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Is the Hon'ble Prime Minister prepared to deny his own signature on the letter in question ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That question does not arise when he says that no such letter has been received by him. I don't know how the hon. member can put any supplementary question when he says that he has not received any such letter.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I want to know, Sir, whether he has received any such letter from the Congress Committee of Karimganj.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I may tell the hon. member that it is a very irregular procedure.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : I bow down to your ruling Sir. But I crave your indulgence and I want to know whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister would be pleased to answer whether he has received that letter.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As I said, Sir, I have nothing more to add beyond what I have already stated.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is regarding a certain document and when Government say that they have not received that document then supplementary questions of any sort regarding that document are undoubtedly irregular. When the answer is " No " all further questions round and round that document are indeed what are called fishing questions.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Then the only thing remains to be done by me, Sir, is to read out the letter just now to the House and ask him to deny it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There cannot be any exhibition of any document in the House in regard to a question, the answers to which do not require the production of the document.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : By reading it over, I would put to him whether the Hon'ble Premier received any such letter and dated, signed and passed orders over it ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Prime Minister has repeatedly said that he cannot say anything more than what he has said.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Sir, that I have not received any letter to this import. I have already said,

Civil Disobedience Movements

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

*183. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of money spent by the Assam Government from the year 1930 onwards for counter-propaganda against the Indian National Congress ?
- (b) Whether the Police are still employed in watching the movements of the Congress workers and released political workers ?
- (c) If so, will Government be pleased to give the names of the Congress workers who are still being watched in the district of Cachar ?

*184. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of persons who are dismissed from Government service in this province for participating in political activities in connection with the Non-co-operation and Civil Disobedience Movements ?
- (b) The names of persons whose pensions were cancelled in that connection ?
- (c) The names of persons whose guns were confiscated ?
- (d) The names of persons whose properties were confiscated in that connection ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

183 (a)—Information is not in the possession of Government but enquiries will be made from District Officers.

(b) & (c)—The temporary establishment in the Criminal Investigation Department was abolished with effect from the 1st October, 1937. The movements of no one are watched simply because of his being a Congress or political worker.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister take it from me that the police are still pursuing and harassing Congress workers and political workers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I should be obliged to have particular instances brought to my notice so that action may be taken.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister notify the subordinate Police officials that no vigilance in the matter of watching the movements of political workers is now necessary in the changed order of affairs ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter will be considered.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May I know, Sir, whether the police are employed to watch the movements of anti-Congress leaders and workers in the province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I can say, Sir, nothing more than what is contained in the reply already given.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister kindly repeat the reply?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have said already, the movement of no one is watched simply because he is an anti-Congress man.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister take it from me that a Police Inspector entered a students' meeting at Saraduttal, Sylhet, while some Muslim League Leaders were addressing the subjects committee meeting?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I have said, I shall be glad to enquire into individual cases brought to my notice.

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that a League leader of All-India fame was hounded from place to place?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of that, Sir. On the other hand my information is that the League leader was given every opportunity of addressing meetings as any other political leader.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Was he not surrounded by Police Officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I don't know that, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

- 184.(a)—1. Head Constable Sital Singh.
2. Constable Surendra Nath Deb.

- (b)—1. Dr. H. K. Das, a retired Civil Surgeon.
2. Srijut Krishna Kumar Bhattacharya, a retired Peshkar.
Their pensions have since been restored.

- (c)—1. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
2. Babu Hirendra Narayan Chaudhury.
3. Srijut Sashidhar Phukan.
4. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.

Report from Darrang is not yet available.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government considering the question of returning the guns which were confiscated?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I suppose the guns were confiscated in 1930 and I think, Government are not in a position to return the guns now.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Have Government considered the desirability of compensating these gentlemen?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter may be taken into consideration. Of course, there may not be any difficulty in granting fresh licences to them if they apply for it.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Will Government issue instructions to the District Officers concerned to grant licences to those people?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter will be considered.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government aware that the scholarships of certain students were also forfeited on account of their participation in political activities?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government are not aware of that, Sir. There may be some cases but it is very difficult to distinguish whether these forfeitures were made due to their participation in politics. As far as I remember, there is only one case. In any case, if Government can find that such forfeitures were made due to their participation in politics, then this will be considered by Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

(d)—A tenant of Rangirpool Vidyasram, Kulaura, from whose house a cyclostyle machine together with some unauthorised news-sheets were seized. Some torn national flags, torn caps, Congress sign-boards, bulletins and placards were confiscated in various places.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Have Government got any information about the names of the persons whose properties were confiscated?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir. All that I can say, is contained in the reply to question No. 184(d) where it is stated that a tenant of Rangirpool Vidyasram, Kulaura, from whose house a cyclostyle machine together with some unauthorised news sheets were seized. Some torn national flags, torn caps, congress sign-boards, bulletins and placards were confiscated in various places.

Srijut SARVESWAR BARUA: Are Government aware that certain timbers belonging to Srijut Sashidhar Phukan were confiscated and sold?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government are not aware of that, Sir.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Are Government prepared to reinstate those Officers who lost their services during the Non-co-operation movement?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government are taking action in this connection but oftentimes it may not be found possible to do so on account of the exigencies of public service.

Schedule of fees for private bacteriological Examination in the Berry-White Medical School

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked:

*185. (a) With reference to answer to starred question No. 277(b) asked at the last session of the Assembly, will Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision regarding the Schedule of fees for private bacteriological Examination at the Berry-White Medical School?

(b) If so, what is that decision?

*186. (a) Are Government servants liable to pay any fees for X-Ray examination at the Berry-White Medical School?

(b) If not, why not?

*187. Do Government propose to fix a flat rate of fees for all, irrespective of income of any person for various examinations at the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh?

*188. (a) Are the in-door patients occupying paying wards in the Dibrugarh Civil Hospital liable to pay fees for the attendance, medicines supplied and Surgical operations undergone in the Hospital?

(b) If so, what is the schedule rate of fees in such cases ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

185. (a) & (b)—Not yet. The correspondence with the Government of India is not yet complete.

186. (a)—No, if certified by the authorised medical attendant to be necessary.

(b)—It has been the policy of Government to provide free treatment including such X-Ray examinations as are necessary to ensure proper treatment, in order to preserve the health of their officers.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN : May we know whether X-Ray examination is available in any other hospital of the province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : It is only in Dibrugarh, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

187.—The question is not clear, for it might be taken to mean either a flat rate in all cases irrespective of the work done, or flat rates, irrespective of the circumstances of the patient, for each kind of examination. In any case Government are unable to perceive the justice of treating the rich and the alike and are not therefore prepared to fix flat rates.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Are these X-Ray examinations meant for the poor people also ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Yes, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Are not the fees for X-Ray examinations exorbitant and not within the easy reach of the poor people ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : The fees for the poor people are not so high as for the rich.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Are Government prepared to consider the question of reducing the fees ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, the fees for the poor people is only Rs. 5 for all kinds of examinations but for the rich people the fees are high. Government therefore do not think that the fees fixed for the poor people are very high.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Are there any minimum and maximum rates of fees fixed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : The minimum is Rs. 5.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Does not the Hon'ble Minister think that Rs. 5 is too much for the poor people ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sometimes, I think the discretion is given to the Medical Superintendent to reduce the fees.

Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Have Government any information as to whether the Medical Superintendent reduced the fees in case of any particular poor man ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I have no information about that.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Will it not be much better not to leave the discretion with the Officers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Sir, when the discretion is given I think that will meet the case of the poor people. When the discretion is given to the officer he will exercise the discretion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make enquiries whether the discretion is exercised at all ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Yes, Sir.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know the maximum rate of fees ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I cannot say that now but I may refer him to the figures given in the last session.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

188. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A copy of the rules, which were issued under Notification No.338-L.S.-G. of the 1st February, 1937 as amended by Notification No. 2043-L.S.-G. of the 2nd April, 1938 has been placed on the Library Table, being somewhat lengthy for repetition in the proceedings.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Training of Co-operative officers

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI asked :

150. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the Co-operative officers who were sent to the Punjab for training ?
- (b) Whether any report was received about these officers from the Institution in which they were trained ?
- (c) Whose was the best report ?
- (d) Whether he was employed in any special work there ?
- (e) What was the period of his training ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

150. (a)—1. Maulavi Jorgis Quader.

2. Late Dimbeswar Mahanta.

3. Maulavi Abdus Zahir.

4. Srijut Ram Prasad Bezbarua (in place of No. 2 who died shortly after joining at Gurdaspur, Punjab).

5. Babu Subodh Chandra Roy (in place of No. 3 who was called back for unsatisfactory progress).

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The report of Maulavi Jorgis Quader was the best.

(d)—No.

(e)—4 months.

Teaching of Hindusthani in the High Schools of the Province

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

151. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education Department be pleased to state whether Government contemplate to introduce the teaching of Hindusthani in the High Schools of the Province ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take early steps in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

151. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Arrangements are now being made for Government High Schools.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether the introduction of Hindusthani in Government High Schools has been approved by all sections of the people of this Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I cannot say anything more than what I said in reply to a cut motion.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : In which script is Hindusthani going to be taught ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : In Hindi script to those who will take Hindi script, and in Urdu script to those who will take Urdu script.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : That is, arrangements will be made for those who want to be taught in Urdu ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Yes, Sir.

Unemployment in Assam

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

152. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are maintaining a Register for enlisting the names of the middle class unemployed educated youths of the Province ?

(b) If so, since when ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have adopted for the information of the public about the maintenance of a Register for the purpose mentioned in (a) above ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many names have since been enlisted (to be shown month by month, district by district) ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what action or actions they have taken to solve the unemployment problem in general and of the enlisted members in particular ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI replied :

152. (a)—No. The register will be opened soon.

(b) to (d)—Do not arise.

(e)—As regards the first part, the hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions (Starred question No.142) asked by Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, M.L.A., at this session of the Assembly. As regards the second part, the question does not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that Government promised to open such a register during both 1937 and 1938 Sessions?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As the answer is in the affirmative, may I know what stood in the way of Government for not opening such a register, even in course of two years?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, the Central Legislature has been requested to take up the matter in right earnest. It is only they who can take up the matter properly.

Appointments in the offices of the Darrang district

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked:

153. (a) Will Government be pleased to state separately the number of the existing ministerial officers taken from outside the district of Darrang in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, the Superintendent of Police, the Executive Engineer at Tezpur and in the office of the Subdivisional Officer at Mangaldai?

(b) Do Government propose to transfer these officers to their respective native districts when vacancies will occur in those places?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied:

153. (a)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of clerks taken from outside the district in the offices of the Darrang district

Name of office	Number of clerks
1. Deputy Commissioner	9
2. Subdivisional Officer, Mangaldai	3
3. Civil Surgeon	2
4. Superintendent of Police	5
5. Executive Engineer	11*
6. Subdivisional Officer (P. W. D.), Tezpur	2†

(b)—The answer is in the negative. The present rule 307(4) in the Assam Executive Manual provides that if qualified local candidates are available, appointments to a district staff should be limited to residents of the district and it is presumed that at the time of the appointment of persons from outside the district to the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, the Executive Engineer and the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, local candidates were not available. In the offices of the Civil Surgeon and the Superintendent of Police—appointments are made on a Provincial basis for efficiency of work.

* Including one Divisional Accountant and one Accounts clerk.
† Including one Accounts clerk.

These appointments are made by the Comptroller, Assam.

Agreement with the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

154. Is it a fact that the tender for the running of passenger and goods services on the Gauhati-Shillong Road of a particular local party was rejected by Government on the ground that it was a speculative tender in as much as it increased the annual royalty by nearly half a lakh and also substantially reduced the fares and freight rates ?

155. (a) Is it a fact that some of the local tenderers, who were *bona fide* natives of the province, quoted maximum rates for fares of passengers and freight of goods lower than the existing rates and also agreed to pay annual royalty higher than the amount now paid by the present contractors ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Government did not accept the tenders of these local parties ?

156. Is it a fact that a particular local party was rejected on the ground that they did not command adequate finances and another local party was disqualified as being too rich while another local party was rejected as they were suspected to be sympathisers of the Congress movement ?

157. Are Government aware that the rejection of the tenders of all the local parties and the acceptance of the tender of the present Contractors who are not natives of the province have aroused strong and wide-spread discontent throughout the province ?

158. Are Government aware that the explanation given by the *Ex-Chief Minister* on the floor of the House during the September Session of the Assembly has totally failed to satisfy the public of Assam and that ugly rumours, that seriously impugn the honesty of particular members of the late Ministry, are afloat ?

159. Are Government aware that Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali, M.L.A., is a share-holder and Resident-Director of the Commercial Carrying Company, drawing a substantial monthly salary from the Company ?

160. Is it a fact that shares worth Rs.10,000 were transferred to his name some months ago ?

161. (a) Is it a fact that a near relative of the *Ex-Chief Minister* is employed in the traffic department of the Commercial Carrying Company at Gauhati ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether he was taken into employment of the Company a few months before the tender of the Company was accepted ?

162. (a) Is it a fact that the right to run a motor-transport Service on the Gauhati Shillong road, since the introduction of motor-vehicles and prior to that a pony-tonga-Service was invariably granted to parties who were not indigenous natives of the province ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether this was the first occasion when indigenous natives of the province, with financial backing, came forward to undertake the business ?

163. Is it a fact that the indigenous natives of the province submitted as many as eight separate tenders depositing as earnest money a total sum of Rs. 80,000 ?

164. Is it a fact that on the Sylhet-Shillong road as well as on the Trunk roads of the two Valleys, indigenous people have been successfully running motor-transport business for several years past ?

165. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the sealed tenders which were opened on the 8th July, 1938 were immediately afterwards published on the notice-board or produced for inspection by the various tenderers as requested by them?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) Whether Government can give a guarantee that none of the contending parties had access to the tenders, through corrupt means, in order to insert unauthorised alterations?

166. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Contract which was entered into with the Commercial Carrying Company for ten years from 1st January 1939?

167. Is it a fact that according to the terms of the existing contract either party can determine the contract on good and sufficient grounds giving to the other six months' previous notice in writing and that if there be any dispute as to whether the grounds stated are good and sufficient the decision of His Excellency the Governor is to be final and conclusive?

168. Is it a fact that according to the new contract such dispute is to be referred to an independent arbitrator to be appointed by the Court on application?

169. Will Government be pleased to state whether this important variation from the existing contract was agreed to by Government on the insistence of the Commercial Carrying Company?

170. Will Government be pleased to state whether it was expressly stated by Government in condition 2 contained in the notice inviting tenders and published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 8th June, 1938 that the extra lorries to be allowed on the road will be 18 or such other number as Government may from time to time consider necessary for the traffic on the road?

171. Is it a fact that under the terms of the new contract Government have abrogated their own right and discretion in the matter and have stipulated that they will not be able to increase the number of such lorries on the road beyond 18 without the consent of the Commercial Carrying Company even if considerations of traffic and public interest and convenience may demand such increase?

172. (a) Is it a fact that the new contract assures to the Commercial Carrying Company the exclusive right to carry all fare-paying passengers and freight-paying parcels on the Gauhati-Shillong Road?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Government gave a clear undertaking to the public in conditions 13 and 14 published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 8th June, 1938 to the effect that the new contract will not prevent both goods and passengers being carried on the road by bullock-carts and pony-carts plying for hire subject only to timing restrictions and that nothing in the new contract will prevent the outside permit-holders of the nine extra lorries from carrying luggages and parcels subject only to the condition that the maxima rates to be charged by them shall be those as fixed for the successful tenderer?

173. Is it a fact that the decision of the Council of Ministers held on the 23rd August, 1938 was that the tender of the Commercial Carrying Company might be accepted on condition that they agree to issue up to two-fifths of their share capital to the indigenous public of Assam?

174. Is it a fact that notwithstanding such decision the new contract requires the Company to reserve two-fifths of their share capital for *bona fide* natives of Assam or persons domiciled in Assam?

175. Will Government be pleased to state whether the new contract has been made between His Excellency the Governor and the Commercial Carrying Company as required by section 175(3) of the Government of India Act ?

176. Is it a fact that His Excellency the Governor has not entered into the agreement in exercise of his discretion or individual judgment to discharge any special responsibility imposed on him by the Act ?

177. Is it a fact that His Excellency the Governor has entered into the agreement on behalf of the Provincial Government, *i.e.*, the Ministry ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

154.—If the reference is to the tender of the Sree-Lakshmi Company, the answer is in the affirmative.

155. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The reasons were best known by the last Ministry but they were fully explained to the House on the 6th September, 1938 in connection with the adjournment motion over this contract.

156.—Yes: the hon. member is referred to the Speech of the *ex-Hon'ble* Chief Minister in connection with the adjournment motion.

157.—Yes. It cannot be denied that great discontent had been caused.

158.—Government have that unpleasant information.

159 and 160.—It has been ascertained from the Company that the Khan Bahadur is a registered holder of 100 shares worth Rs.100 each from the 8th November 1937. He is also an honorary Director of the Company.

161. (a) and (b)—Government have ascertained that the Company is not aware of the relationship of any of their employees with the *Ex-Chief* Minister, nor was any employee appointed on the recommendation of or by the influence of the *Ex-Chief* Minister.

162. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

163.—Yes.

164.—Indigenous people have been engaged in motor-transport on the roads in question for some years past.

165. (a) and (b)—As any tenderers who wished were allowed to be present at the time of opening the tenders, it was not thought necessary to publish tenders in the manner indicated, nor is it the practice to do so.

(c)—So far as Government can ascertain, none of the contending parties had access to the tenders before they were opened. The sealed tenders were with the Inspector-General of Police and were opened by the Chief Secretary in presence of several tenderers.

**166.—A copy of the agreement is laid on the table.

167.—Yes.

168.—Yes.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: May I know why this important variation was made by the Local Government ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It is difficult for me to say. It refers to a matter which was decided by the last Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

169.—The present Government have no information.

170.—Yes.

171.—To some extent this is true, but clause 13 states that the consent of the Commercial Carrying Company shall not be unreasonably withheld.

172. (a)—Yes. See clause 13 of agreement.

(b)—The exclusive right referred to in reply to the previous question only concerns motor transport. The right of bullock-carts or pony-carts to carry passengers or goods of any description remains intact. As regards the carriage of goods, luggage and parcels by outside permit holders, as stated in condition 13 this does appear at first sight to conflict with the reservation to the Commercial Carrying Company of the exclusive right of carrying all fare-paying, (i.e., freight-paying) parcels on the Gauhati-Shillong Road (Clause 13 of the agreement). Condition 13 of the notice for tenders seems to have been loosely worded. The intention was to lay stress on the maxima rate that could be charged though from the wording it might be permissible to infer that luggage and parcels could be carried. Clause 13 of the contract followed the practice hitherto observed. It escaped notice that the advertisement calling for tenders appeared to suggest that outside permit holders could carry this description of freight. It is clearly open to Government as has been the practice to grant the permits subject to certain conditions and it has been made clear to the outside permit holders that under Clause 13 of the new agreement as the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited has the exclusive right to carry all fare-paying passengers and parcels on the road, they are not allowed to carry any such passengers and parcels. All of them have accepted this condition.

Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state whether this Company did possess such exclusive rights before?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: It did, subject to the right of nine other lorries.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Are Government aware that the Commercial Carrying Company charges 1 anna per mile from the road side passengers?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: That is the report which was brought to our notice, but in such cases also the total amount realised, does not exceed the rate fixed by Government for the whole journey.

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: It does exceed. Government can take it from me that they charge about anna 1 from road side poor passengers, and it cannot but exceed the rate fixed by Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Government may be prepared to accept that statement.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

173.—Yes.

174.—Yes.

175.—Yes. The agreement has been made between the Governor of Assam, under section 175(3) of the Government of India Act and the Company.

176.—Yes.

177.—Yes.

Manager of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ward's Estate

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

178. (a) Is it a fact that the Local authorities have recommended the dismissed Manager of the Saidiya Ward's Estate for appointment as Manager of the Kumar Gopika Raman Ward's Estate ?

(b) Is it a fact that during the term of the gentleman as Manager of the Saidiya Ward's Estate Rs.34,000 was found barred by limitation for latches in realisation ?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that before the Estate was taken charge of by Government, this Estate of Kumar Gopika Raman Roy was in the management of Babu Dharani Ranjan Pal, B.L., as Receiver appointed by the Subordinate Judge of Sylhet and Cachar ?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that Babu Dharani Ranjan Pal is an experienced Lawyer of some 20 years standing at Sylhet Bar ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided to engage a Junior member of the Sylhet Bar ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

178. (a)—If the reference is to Babu Upendra Krishna Chakravarti, whose services were discharged ; the reply is that he is one of those, recommended by local Officers.

(b)—Information at the disposal of Government shows that collections markedly improved during the said gentleman's tenure of office.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have no knowledge.

(e)—No decision has yet been come to by Government.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one of the candidates recommended, is a son of one of the members of this House ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am not aware of that.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Has the Hon'ble Minister got with him the names of candidates recommended by the local Officers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I have not yet gone through the names, which have been recommended by local Officers.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : Then how does the Hon'ble Minister say that Babu Upendra Krishna Chakravarti has been recommended by the local Officers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It is only with regard to this particular gentleman that the information was sought, and the reply accordingly has been given.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : With regard to (b), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the tenure of office of this gentleman when he was in charge of the Mazumdari Ward's Estate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am not sure, but I think he was in charge of that Estate for two or three years.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : May I know whether the reply that has been given is based not on the administration reports of the Court of Ward's Estate ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I know

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It is based on the figures available with the Government and also on the report of the Court of Ward's administration.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to take trouble to see the administration reports of the years 1936-37, 1937-38, and find that far from any improvement there was deterioration in the collection?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The affairs of the Estate were much improved at the time the gentleman was in charge of the Estate. The hon. member will find, by going through the report, that during his tenure of office both the collection made and also the amount paid towards the debts of this Estate were more satisfactory. If in the later years there was any deterioration in collection it was due to the fact that in the first two years of his management most of the arrears were realised by him.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister see the Administration Report and correct the answer that so far as the latter part of his tenure is concerned the collection is rather bad?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already explained the reason for which the collection was less in that year than that during the first two years of his tenure.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Sir, the second part of the question is not answered—whether Rs.34,000 was found barred by limitation. Is it a fact?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Not in his time, but also during the time before he was appointed as Manager.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Whether Rs.34,000 was barred by limitation?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This particular officer was not responsible.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: When this amount was barred by limitation whether this particular gentleman was in charge?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, this is so. In answer to this I am prepared to make a statement. All these allegations which are now being brought against this particular officer were also brought against him.....

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I do not want any statement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let the Hon'ble Minister make his statement. It is in answer to the question.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The particular allegations which are now being made against this officer, were also made by the same hon. member sometime last year, and on these allegations the then Revenue Minister dismissed this officer without even giving him the opportunity of defending his case. It is not proper to ask questions about which no investigation was made and the truth of which was not ascertained.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: I want to make the point clear. The question was: "Is it a fact that during the term of the gentleman as Manager of the Saidiya Ward's Estate, Rs.34,000 was found barred by limitation for laches in realisation?" The answer is 'yes'. Where was this false allegation then?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The answer is that this gentleman was dismissed from service by the last Government without giving him the opportunity of defending his case.

Condition of the tenants of Assam

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

179. (a) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue recently went on tour, to both the valleys to find out personally the real economic condition of the tenants ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay before the House a comparative statement of the condition of the peasants of the different valleys in general and that of the districts in each valley in particular ?

180. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to effect a legislation during the next Session of the Assembly providing for equitable distribution of land among the peasants ?

181. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take up all the lands from the hands of the Zemindars after paying them proper and equitable compensation and to abolish thereby the Zemindari system of the permanently-settled areas in the province ?

182. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to issue a general circular to the proper authorities in the districts to realise Local Rate on (a) actual area and on (b) cultivated area excluding the waste lands ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

179. (a)—It is a fact that I made a rapid tour recently in parts of both the valleys. Amongst the objects of the tour was the desire to see and hear at first hand about the general condition of cultivators.

(b)—I am afraid Government are not in a position to make any comparative statement as asked for on the basis of the mere impressions gathered by me in the course of the tour.

180 & 181.—Government have no such idea.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will Government be pleased to state whether they consider that such a measure is necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : What measure, Sir ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : My question was : " Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to effect a legislation during the next session of the Assembly providing for equitable distribution of land among the peasants " . The reply is : " Government have no such idea. May I know whether they consider it proper and a duty on their part that there should be some such legislation in future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : As the matter has not been considered by Government, I am not in a position to reply to this question.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

182.—Government see no reason to add to the provisions of section 2(5) (c) and (d) of the Assam Local Rate Regulation, read with the note (1) thereunder on page 136 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that Government will soon consider this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, Sir, the matter will be considered by Government.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: With regard to question No.181, will Government be pleased to state whether they consider that there will be some such measures in near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As Zemindaris are concerned, I am not in a position to reply.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: In the interests of the raiyats, will the Hon'ble Minister consider that this suggestion would be to their interests?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As far as the question of permanently-settled areas is concerned, Government are not prepared to commit itself without knowing what will actually happen in Bengal where a Committee of enquiry has been appointed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that there is a great agitation against the Zemindars?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government consider that the agitation is baseless?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is the Government opinion on this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Government have not yet decided anything. They have kept an open mind as far as these matters are concerned.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Are Government prepared to recommend to proper authorities for the confiscation of Zemindaris and distribution of land among landless people?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: When Government will take up this matter, the suggestions both of Mr. Chaudhury and Mr. Mookerjee will be taken into consideration.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Simultaneously or one after another?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: At the same time.

Special Constables

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

183. (a) Are Government aware that respectable gentlemen who are made special constables by Government, do object to this designation?
 (b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to change the designation of "special constable" and substitute it by some suitable term?

The Hon'ble Srijiut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

183. (a)—Government have no information.
 (b)—Government do not admit that the designation "special constable" is derogatory and see no necessity for a change. The term is in use in many civilised countries, the citizens of which regard it

as a matter of some pride, when they are asked to volunteer to assist the forces of law and order in times of emergency and are so designated. Recently during the troubles in Cawnpore, both Indians and Europeans, volunteered as Special Constables.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The question was: "Are Government aware that respectable gentlemen who are made special constables by Government do object to this designation?" The reply is: Government have no information. Will Government be pleased to do away with this designation if there is any move against it? The attitude of the Government is not quite clear from the answer to (b). Because the word 'volunteer' is standing in my way to understand the real meaning of the answer. In (b) it is replied: "Government do not admit that the designation 'special constable' is derogatory and see no necessity for a change. The term is in use in many civilised countries, the citizens of which regard it as a matter of some pride when they are asked to volunteer to assist the forces of law and order in times of emergency and are so designated. Recently during the troubles in Cawnpur both Indians and Europeans volunteered as Special Constables". So far as the question of some body else volunteering is concerned, I have nothing to say. They may accept any designation they like". So far as our Government are concerned am I to understand that all the Special Constables volunteered to serve as such?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware that they do not want to serve as such.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Was there any compulsion on the part of Government or they volunteered? My question is quite clear and plain, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware that any compulsion was there.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that they wanted to be put as Special Constables?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware. **Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI:** Is it a fact that some persons are punished for their unruly conduct and made Special Constables?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I am not aware of it.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we expect that in future Government will only enlist those persons who volunteer for such work?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that such persons are appointed on the report of the Police Officers?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, that is so.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that there is a provision in the Police Act for these appointments, and that provision cannot be changed by the Local Government?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir.

Communal representation in Ministerial posts

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS asked :

184. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total strength of Ministerial posts (excluding menials) in the Assam Civil Secretariat, Assam Public Works Department Secretariat, and each of the offices of the Heads of Departments, separately ?
- (b) The total number of Assamese Muhammedans, Surma Valley Muhammedans, Assamese Hindus, Surma Valley Hindus, and others in each of the above offices, separately ?
- (c) The number which each of the above classes mentioned in (b) are entitled according to communal representation ?

185. Will Government be pleased to state the number of clerks (both higher and lower divisions) in each of the Subdivisions of Kamrup, and how many of them are from the Barpeta Subdivision ?

186. Do Government propose to give due consideration to those Subdivisions from which representations in the district Ministerial offices do not bear a fair proportion to the respective district population ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied:

184. (a), (b) & (c)—A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS, ETC., IN THE SECRETARIAT AND OFFICES OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

Names of offices	Total number of posts	Number of posts which each community holds and is entitled to:—						
		Assamese Muhammadans	Surma Valley Muhammadans	Number entitled to	Assamese Hindus	Number entitled to	Surma Valley Hindus	Number entitled to
1. Assam Civil Secretariat and Public Works Department Secretariat.	118 } = 151 33 }	4 5	22 } 5 }	*46.81	27 } 1 }	39.26	31 } 9 }	13.59
2. Inspector-General of Police...	23	1	3	7.13	9	5.98	4	2.07
3. Secretary, Legislative Council, etc.	8	1	1	2.48	1	2.08	2	.72
4. Director of Industries, etc. ...	20	4	2	6.2	8	5.2	4	1.8
5. Director of Agriculture ..	16	4	2	4.96	4	4.16	2	1.44
6. Conservator of Forests ..	15	2	2+1+	5	2	4	5	1
7. Director of Public Instruction	26+6+	3+2+	5	9.92	7+2+	8.32	5+1+	2.88
8. Director of Land Records, etc.	12	1	2	3.72	2	3.12		1.08
9. Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.	25	2	4	7.75	4	6.50	11	2.25
10. Director of Public Health ..	14	1	4	3.34	1	3.64	4	1.26
11. Excise Commissioner, etc. ...	13 (Excise) **4 (Joint Stock)	1	5	5.27	5	4.42	3	1.53

For references to asterisks, etc., please see remarks column on the following page.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTS, ETC., IN THE SECRETARIAT AND OFFICES OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS—*concl'd.*

Names of offices	Total number of posts	Number of posts which each community holds and is entitled to :-							Remarks	
		Scheduled Castes	Number entitled to	Domiciled Hindus	Number entitled to	Tribal people	Number entitled to	Others		
1. Assam Civil Secretariat and Public Works Department Secretariat.	118 } = 151 33 }	2 } 1 }	9.06	2 } 1 }	8	14 } 4 }	24.16	4 } 5 }	16.12	* There is no separate representation for Assam and Surma Valley Muhammadans. \$ Less than 1 per cent. { 8 posts vacant— 6 Civil. { 2 Public Works Department. }
2. Inspector-General of Police..	23 ..	..	1.38	1	.23	4	3.68	1	2.76	
3. Secretary, Legislative Council, etc.	8 ..	..	.48	1	?	1	1.3	Bengali (Indian Christian).	.96	? Less than 1 per cent.
4. Director of Industries, etc.	20	1	1.2	..	..	1	2	..	2.40	
5. Director of Agriculture ..	16	1	.96	..	..	2	2.56	* 1	1.92	* Bengali. † Officiating
6. Conservator of Forests ..	15	..	1	..	..	2	2	* 1	2	* Manipuri. + Temporary.
7. Director of Public Instruction	26+6†	2	1.92	..	..	4+1‡	4.94	..	3.84	
8. Director of Land Records, etc.	12	..	0.72	1	..	1	1.92	..	1.44	
9. Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.	25	..	1.50	1	..	2	4.00	(Nepali).	3.00	
10. Director of Public Health ..	14	3	.84	..	£	1	1.88	..	1.68	£ Less than 1 per cent.
11. Excise Commissioner, etc. ..	13 (Excise) **4 (Joint Stock).	..	1.02	..	..	2	2.72	..	2.04	** One post still vacant.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : In the Assam Civil Secretariat and the Public Works Department Secretariat, Surma Valley Muhammadans are entitled to 46·81 and Assamese Hindus are entitled to 39·26 posts. Are these posts on a percentage basis ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Yes, Sir, on a percentage basis.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister, how this percentage has been arrived at ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is the percentage fixed by the Government for this community.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Yes, Sir, whatever that may be, the percentage fixed for them in the Assam Civil Secretariat and the Public Works Department Secretariat is 46·81, but in the office of the Inspector General of Police it is only 7·13. May I know how this variation comes in ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The percentage is on the number of appointments.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : No, Sir, this is a question of percentage per 100.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The percentage is on the number of posts.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. member should first look at the first column—total number of appointments.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Yes, Sir. I have seen the total number of appointments and the percentage of posts the community is entitled to, but I want to know how this variation comes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, it is fully explained in the answer.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Is it not clear from the statement that the Muhammadans are under-represented in the Civil Secretariat and the Public Works Department Secretariat ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It is evident from the figures.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Are Government aware that 4 Muhammadan temporary clerks are going to be removed as a result of the abolition of the Office of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Government are not aware of that, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Will Government be pleased to make an enquiry as to whether those 4 Muhammadan clerks who have been serving for about 3 years are going to be thrown out ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Government will take this fact into consideration.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it not a fact that these posts were filled up on a communal basis ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This is a fact and Government are giving a proper share to every community.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

185.—At present, there are 82 permanent and 5 temporary clerks (both higher and lower divisions) in the amalgamated posts of district

establishment. 21 permanent and 2 temporary clerks are allotted to the Barpeta subdivision. 22 of these posts are held by men of the Barpeta subdivision.

Srijut GHANSYAM DAS : May I know why is this inequality in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The reply is there that 21 permanent and 2 temporary posts were allotted to Barpeta Subdivision, out of which 22 are held by men from Barpeta Subdivision.

Srijut GHANSYAM DAS : Out of the 86 permanent and 5 temporary posts only, 22 are filled by men of Barpeta. May I know why this inequality ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : There is no inequality because the Subdivision of Barpeta is entitled to 21 permanent and 2 temporary posts and 22 of those posts are already held by men from Barpeta.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Are we to understand that the distribution of posts should be subdivision by subdivision or village by village ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : No, Sir.

Srijut GHANSYAM DAS : There are sufficient qualified men in the subdivision and it is not known why they have not been taken in ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The position has been clearly explained in the reply that out of 23 posts to which the subdivision is entitled, 22 are already held by the people of the subdivision.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS : Will Government consider the desirability of making the subdivision as the unit for the purposes of such calculations in future ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I think the present arrangement is quite satisfactory, and Government do not see any reason to alter it.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : The answer is that the subdivision is not taken as the unit but the whole district, but sometime ago we heard from the Hon'ble Premier that the province as a whole is taken as the basis. May I know why this discrepancy ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The matter to which the Hon'ble Premier referred, was not about those appointments but about superior appointments.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : No, I asked about Police Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Those appointments refer to the appointments of clerks and other ministerial officers. The question previously asked by the hon. member and replied by the Hon'ble Premier, referred to superior appointments, even the posts of Sub-Inspectors are considered to be superior posts for this purpose.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED replied :

186.—A subdivision is not taken as a unit for the purpose of calculation of communal representation but the District as a whole.

Re Lathi charges by Police on some people at Dibrugarh

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Before the other business of the House is taken up, may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Premier to a report in the press that as a result of the *Lathi* charges by the Police some 100 people were assaulted at Dibrugarh? May I request the Hon'ble Premier to make a statement, if possible, on this matter?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The information so far received by this Government is that there was some kind of difference going on between a certain contractor named Bashlochan and the labourers that worked under him. This matter was settled sometime ago in December by me when I visited that place and the settlement arrived at was that those people who had been discharged should be taken back to their service. Accordingly this was done. But it appears that in the meanwhile there was again some difference which cropped up between the contractor and the labourers. We do not know what is the reason, but we know that some difference has cropped up between the contractor Bashlochan and the labourers, as a result of which these people have refused to work under him; and not only that, they have also prevented other people from working under him. The matter went so far that a kind of what has been said to be a *satyagraha* was started; and the labourers who had evidently gone on a strike prevented other people from having access to the Steamer Ghat and created other obstacles which it is difficult to say from here how far they are legal. As soon as this matter was brought to our notice, we tried through some people who were supposed to have some influence with this labour movement to stop it, but that did not prove successful. On Saturday last the information was received that on Friday these picketers had been there. I forgot to mention that in the meanwhile Bashlochan brought a case against some of these picketers charging them under sections 143, 342, I.P.C., as a result of which 6 of these picketers were arrested including Srijut Kedarnath Goswami who is supposed to be a worker of the Congress also.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Is he not the President of the Congress Committee?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Of course it has been said that he is, but I am not in a position to say who is the President of the Congress Committee of Dibrugarh (*Opposition laughter*).

Then, Sir, as I said, on Friday they similarly went there. The Police, fearing apprehension of the breach of peace, sent a certain number of policemen to that place in order to maintain the peace. It is reported from the side of the Police that stones were pelted at them and there was evidently a clash between the Police and these picketers. The report is not of 100 lying in the hospital but that of 10 or 12 persons being injured been brought to the hospital. The report further states that the Police also received minor injuries. On the other hand, it is also reported from the side of the labourers that police charged innocent *satyagrahis* with *lathis*. I have immediately called for more details about what has happened and expect that I may be getting the same to-day.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection may I be permitted to say a few words? In view of the fact that at present there are about 40,000 maunds of general cargo at Dibrugarh, much of which is food-stuff for Tinsukia, being held up because of this trouble, may I request the Hon'ble Premier that he would request his people at Dibrugarh, who have considerable influence to permit the Dibru-Sadiya Railway's or the

Steamer Company's labourers to get these cargoes on to the railway so that they may be available for the people, and thereby remove considerable inconvenience.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Attempt was made to bring a compromise between these two parties, but it evidently failed. As to the complaint of my hon friend Mr. Faull, I will give the matter my due attention.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: May I also be permitted to bring to the notice of the Government the state of affairs now prevailing at Borakhai Tea Estate in Cachar? The labour unrest in that garden has reached an acute stage and it is reported that the management have called in the aid of the Armed Police to deal with the situation. If immediate steps are not taken to solve this problem, it is apprehended that the unrest may spread throughout the district where the labour is already restive.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: In regard to this matter, I have not been informed of anything else beyond receiving a telegram that there is unrest. The matter will receive our consideration.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.18

(39.—Public Health)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.7,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head 39.—Public Health."

There are as many as 14 cut motions and from the list which has been supplied by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I understand that only two will be moved, *i.e.*, Nos. 13 and 14. No.13 stands in the name of Colonel Beddow.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.20,000 under Grant No.18, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria—4.—Grants-in-aid, etc., Detailed head—Grant to the Assam Medical Research Society for the promotion and co-ordination of Research work on Malaria, at page 141 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,76,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my object in bringing this motion is to censure Government for their action in threatening to withhold the annual allotment of the grant of Rs.20,000 to the Assam Medical Research Society unless a Research Officer on lesser pay can be obtained, without previously consulting the Governing Body of the Society in this matter.

I should like to make two points clear to the House. Firstly that Government had no right whatsoever to take the action they did take and secondly I should point out to the House the disastrous results that may accrue from this action.

This Society has been in existence since the year 1931 and has been supported by voluntary contributions or grants from the Provincial Government, from the Indian Research Fund Association, the Indian Tea Association and other Commercial concerns and Local Bodies for the purpose of conducting medical research, particularly in regard to Malaria.

The affairs of the Society are conducted by a Governing Body consisting of representatives of Government and the various subscribing elements.

No individual contributory body has any more right than any other to dictate a policy or interfere with the organisation of the society. And the action of Government, therefore, was entirely wrong when taking direct action in connection with the remuneration of the Research Officer, which action has unhappily resulted in the sudden termination of the services of a most valuable officer.

The history of the Society has in the past been most happy and this has proved that Government and Industry are capable of working constructively together for the common welfare of the inhabitants of the province and that this concord should now be broken by the high handed action of Government is nothing less than deplorable. It would seem that no principle of economy is involved since no suggestion is made of any reduction of the Government grant. This I would like the House particularly to note. If Government has come to the Governing Body of the Society and states that they were no longer able to contribute so large a sum, the Governing Body could then have considered the matter and see if economies could be effected. But no such action was taken and it would appear, therefore, that Government was of the opinion that the late Research Officer was not giving value for money. This would be difficult to substantiate since the *Assam Gazette* of December 9th, 1938, referred to the Research Officer in eulogistic terms. I would read a few extracts from this issue in support of my statement, as for instance, "I believe that the recent grant of Rs.1 lac to the Society by the Government of India, through the Indian Research Fund Association, was in no small measure due to the work and researches carried out under Dr. Rice's direction and to the fact that in this officer, the Society possesses a Research Officer of outstanding ability and energy".

Again, Sir, "It is most desirable that there should be no solution of continuity in the work, which would be inevitable should Dr. Rice's services and experience be no longer at the Society's disposal. This work, should it prove as successful as the results up to date indicate, may well be of incalculable value in helping to solve the malaria problem in this Province". And in the face of this report this solution of continuity has been brought about by Government itself and this work of incalculable value terminated. Sir, I submit that there is no justification whatsoever for the action taken by Government. But apart from this I would call the attention of the House to the grave risk that is being run of losing the attention and support of the Indian Research Fund Association without which the financial difficulties for the society to continue. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Indian Research Society would require Dr. Rice's successor to be a man of equal calibre before they would consent to continue their contribution. If the call for a research officer on a lesser pay than that of Dr. Rice be prompted solely by an aversion to highly paid officialdom, I must refer the House to a statement made by the Prime Minister when in Opposition. In October 1937, the Hon'ble Mr. Bardoloi said these words when discussing the question of Minister's salaries—"We are disposed to think that in the case of special services where we may be requiring an expert, where

extraordinary application or extraordinary ability may be necessary, we may be prepared to take into service on a contract system such men even at a higher salary than what we are paying to-day".

The Prime Minister has evidently either changed his mind or gone back on his word.

Let us glance for one moment at some of the results achieved by the late Research Officer. In the *Assam Gazette* previously referred to, we find such figures as the reduction of Spleen index in Nowgong from 51·2 per cent. to 8·3 per cent. ; in Gauhati from 21·6 per cent. to 6·1 per cent. ; in Mangaldai from 31·5 per cent. to 7·8 per cent and in Surma Valley villages from 48 per cent to 8·9 per cent. Justification for Government's action there is none and it may indeed be difficult to find a successor competent to pick up the threads where Dr. Rice drop them, and most certainly there must be a considerable gap in time before the machinery of research can be expected even under the happiest conditions to function smoothly which loss of time means dead loss to the province. As I have said before, economy is not the reason for Government's action and one is forced to the conclusion that the party pledged to the spirit of service and alleviation of human suffering will, with equanimity, watch the steady and certain increase in the incidence of malaria in those areas which have shown such splendid results under Dr. Rice's care satisfied in the knowledge that the axe of Congress has deprived the province of a brilliant officer whose only fault was that he did not subscribe to the policy of that Party.

Sir, with these words, I submit my motion to the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.20,000 under Grant No. 18—Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head (a)—Malaria—4.—Grants-in-aid, etc., Detailed head—Grant to the Assam Medical Research Society for the promotion and co-ordination of Research Work on Malaria, at page 141 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole Grant of Rs. 7,76,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the issue raised by my hon. friend Colonel Beddow is very simple. Here we have got a Research Society which draws its funds from various contributors, the principal of which is the Central Government through the Indian Malarial Research Society to the tune of a lakh of rupees, spread over five years. This province, I am happy to say, is also alive to the necessity of carrying on research in malaria and, therefore, contributes Rs. 20,000 annually, for the purpose of augmenting the resources of this Society. I need not inform the hon. members of the House that the loss to the province in man power and the colossal sum that is involved in loss of working hours by the incidence of malaria throughout the province. Every one knows of the great number of deaths in the province from this disease. If by any means we can prevent malaria, every member of this House ought to aim at that result. Now, we have heard from Colonel Beddow that in Dr. Rice we have an officer who was fit for the task and everybody knows that through the activities of this department under Dr. Rice, great results to the benefit of our countryside population has been achieved. I, therefore, Sir, cannot see the reason or the justification of the attitude of Government in this respect. A very humanitarian work is going to be nipped in the bud if what Colonel Beddow says is correct, that is, in case an expert of good experience and knowledge on the subject is not maintained, there is reason to believe that the contribution of one lac that is now forthcoming from the Central Government is likely to be discontinued. I, therefore, request all members of this House as also the Government to look to the consequences of such a dire result from any action which may be hurriedly taken by the Government (*applause*).

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose to take part in the discussion of this motion, because I have been primarily concerned with the economy effected by the abolition of the post of Dr. Rice. Sir, the mover of this motion has brought two issues before this House. In the first case he has raised the question that this Government had no right and power to dictate to a Society, an action which by him is considered to be beyond the scope of the control of this Government. Sir, when this Government is making a contribution of Rs. 20,000 a year to the society, I fail to see what justification is there to say that we have no right to lay down the conditions under which grant is given, particularly when these persons, who are contributing a paltry amount of Rs. 8,000, think they have a bigger voice and a bigger hand in the administration of that society. Sir, what we have done in this case is in consonance with the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, which decided that the amount, which we are contributing towards the society, should, instead of being spent towards the fat salary of a particular individual, be diverted to object transmitting more benefit to the people of the province. Hon. members will realise that this society is being run with an amount of nearly Rs. 48,000 out of which the Government of Assam contribute Rs. 20,000, another sum of Rs. 20,000 is being contributed by the Central Government and only a sum about Rs. 8,000 is being contributed from the Planters' Associations, Railway Companies and other companies. Out of this Rs. 48,000, Rs. 22,000 are being spent on the salary of Dr. Rice excluding the expenditure on his travelling allowance, etc., and it was for this reason that I came to the conclusion that our people were getting little benefit, if any, from such contribution. Sir, considering the purpose for which this contribution is intended to be made by Government to this Society, I think the course of action I have taken is proper, and I hope will therefore, be supported by each and every section of the House. We do not for a moment think that the amount which was being spent towards the salary of Dr. Rice was on any ground justified. I would put it to hon. members that if for some other reason Dr. Rice had decided or had been compelled to leave our service, would not the usual work have been carried on (*Hear, hear*)? An equally efficient or perhaps a better qualified man can be had for a smaller salary and the saving so made, we will be able to transmit on the direct benefit to the people of the province. Whether in these circumstances we are justified in our action or not, is for the hon. members to judge.

Sir, what we have proposed is that we have refused to pay our contribution so long as the society insisted on having an officer on such a high salary, when services, we think, can be easily dispensed with and substituted by an equally qualified doctor at a lower salary. If those societies who contribute Rs. 8,000 a year feel that we are not justified in our action, or that we are not doing anything by way of help in the way of research, I feel not be sorry if such contributions are withdrawn by them and the research work left to us. We are prepared to carry on this research work and also to make an extra contribution if found necessary but not in the way suggested by the hon. mover. I am sure that with this assurance, the Government will also be coming forward with an equal if not greater contribution for helping us to carry on the work of the Society. Our purpose is not that we want to stop the work which has been done by the Society, but we want to regulate it in such a way that more benefit from such research may be transmitted to the people of the province and to the public at large. I can assure hon. members that in India we have got men with better

degrees and with more experience who will be available for a lesser salary to carry on this work. The amount that we shall be so saving will be debited for the benefit of the people for whom this Society has been set up.

Mr. R. A. PALMER : May I ask, Sir, in what manner the Hon'ble Minister proposes that the money saved should go to the people ?

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The money spent should be devoted not only to research work but also for transmitting the results of such work to the villages in the province.

Mr. R. A. PALMER : Has not the result of this work been taken to the villages now ? I may say, Sir, that this Society is doing splendid work and there is every chance of its being entirely upset by the present decision of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : If the expenditure on research work is lowered, we shall have more money to spend for taking the result and research to the villages.

Mr. F. W. HOCKENHULL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one point which has not been brought out in the discussion ; for while no one contends that Government have not full right to make its own conditions, it is expected that they should do it in the right way. The Government by their regular subscription have authorised the formation of a Research Society, and if any action is to be taken, it should be taken through the Governing Body of such Society. No one can take exception to Government saying — we are a subscriber and therefore we feel that this or that should or should not be done and leave it to the Governing Body to take such action as may be necessary.

There is one other point, that up to the present, the society has done magnificent work. From our information and from the enquiries we have made there is not the slightest chance of getting another officer of the calibre required for proceeding with such work and achieving results similar to those which have been attained in the past at a much lower salary. If you want to get a man on a much reduced salary or if you rule that no officer should get more than, say, Rs 1,000 a month, I may say that it is quite certain that no first class Malariologist will be obtainable on that figure.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are quite in sympathy with the Government when they say that, as a measure of economy, they want to remove officers drawing fat salaries. But, every one knows what part Dr. Rice played in doing the useful work of the Anti-malarial Society. He was in fact the life and soul of the movement, and to think of carrying on the work of the Society without him will be like having the play of Hamlet without Hamlet's part. So, I think, it would not be quite wise to do away with the services of such an able man. In this view of the matter, I support this motion.

The Hon'ble Srijiit RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir. As I am in charge of this portfolio, I will reply and try to meet three points — one raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the other is raised by Mr. Hockenhull and the third is raised by Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman. The hon. Leader of the Opposition says that in view of our present action the Central Government may withdraw their grant. But from the papers we have seen Sir, that they have given that grant of Rs. 20,000 annually to the tune of one lakh for five years not for the services of Dr. Rice but for a similar grant of Rs. 20,000 from this Government annually to the Society.

Colonel A. B. BEDDOW : On a point of information Sir. The Central Government very clearly and definitely said that they granted this amount only as a result of the service of Dr. Rice. (*Hear, hear*).

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: So far as I know, the condition is that the Central Government will contribute Rs.20,000 annually provided our Government contribute Rs. 20,000 also. That is the only condition of their grant. Then Sir, Mr. Hockenhull has said that the Society has a Governing Body, and the Government has taken action directly without making any reference to the Governing Body. But to make reference to the Governing Body, Government have communicated the matter to the Secretary of the Society. Therefore, Sir, we have communicated our condition of contribution through the Secretary to the Governing Body.

The third point of my friend Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman is that the Society has been functioning so long due to the services of Dr. Rice and when Dr. Rice is going away, with him the Society will also cease to function. But, I may inform him that the Society is here since 1931 and that Dr. Rice was first appointed only in 1933 merely as Cholera Research Officer. He was appointed as a Malaria Research Officer only in the year 1934 when his predecessor retired. When the Society has been functioning here since 1931 even without the service of Dr. Rice for a long period from its inception, I cannot see how my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman can say Sir, that without Dr. Rice the Society will cease to function.

Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On a point of information, Sir. Who was the Malariologist before Dr. Rice?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Dr. Savage was the Research Officer. I don't know whether he was a Malariologist, but he was functioning as the Malaria Research Officer in this very Society.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.20,000 under grant No.18, Major head.—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(a) Malaria—4.—Grants-in-aid, etc., Detailed head—Grant to the Medical Research Society for the promotion and co-ordination of research work on malaria at page 141 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,76,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1." The Assembly divided.

Ayes—32:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal. | 17. Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. |
| 2. Maulavi Abdul Aziz. | 18. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. |
| 3. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. | 19. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed. |
| 4. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury. | 20. Col. A. B. Beddow. |
| 5. Maulavi Abdur Rahman. | 21. Mr. A. H. Ball. |
| 6. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury. | 22. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 7. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. | 23. Mr. J. R. Clayton. |
| 8. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury. | 24. Mr. W. R. Faull. |
| 9. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed. | 25. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull. |
| 10. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed. | 26. Mr. W. J. Gray. |
| 11. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Choudhury. | 27. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| 12. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia. | 28. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 13. Maulavi Mabarak Ali. | 29. Miss Mavis Dunn. |
| 14. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Choudhuri. | 30. Srijut Binode Kumar. |
| 15. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed. | 31. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| 16. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar. | 32. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |

J.

Noes—54

1. The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
3. The Hon'ble Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut Ram Nath Das.
5. The Hon'ble Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
6. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
7. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma.
8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
9. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
10. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
11. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
12. Srijut Beliram Das.
13. Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi.
14. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
15. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
16. Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi.
17. Babu Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
18. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
19. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
20. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar.
21. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
22. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
23. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha.
24. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
25. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
26. Srijut Kameswar Das.
27. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
28. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
29. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.
30. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
31. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
32. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
33. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
34. Srijut Paramananda Das.
35. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt.
36. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
37. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
38. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
39. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
40. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
41. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
42. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
43. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
44. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
45. Maulavi Muhammad Amir-uddin.
46. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
47. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
48. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
49. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
50. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
51. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
52. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
53. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
54. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

The motion was negatived. ✓

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.7,76,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—Public Health, at page 137 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,76,300, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

This motion has been tabled to criticise the policy of Government regarding Public Health.

Every body in this House knows that this Public Health Department spends a lot of money, but the question is, whether it has been able to be of any benefit to the rural population.

My first criticism is that the Department is top-heavy. Times without number criticisms have been levelled against this Department on account of its top-heaviness. The Director of Public Health is drawing a fat salary and this has always been the subject of attack both inside and outside this Legislature. There was a proposal in the last Retrenchment Committee that this post should be amalgamated with the post of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals ; but I am surprised to find that no effect had been given

to this proposal. Sir, from the Budget figures, you will find that out of a total amount of 7 lakhs nearly 3 lakhs are spent on Superintendence alone. So, if this Department is to be made useful to the people for whom it is meant, I think it should be reorganised in such a manner that the officers at the top should be done away with. And there should be an increase in the number of officers at the bottom. The desirability of keeping so many Assistant Surgeons has also been questioned by many. I think, the usefulness of the Department can be increased by having a large number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

There is another proposal which can be taken advantage of, namely, that the posts of Vaccination Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors may be converted into the posts of Rural Sanitary Inspectors. If this were done, then this class of officers would be able to serve in rural areas.

I am very sorry to find that in the present Budget there is no scheme ready at hand for the improvement of rural sanitation. The amount that had been granted for water-supply is extremely inadequate. In this connection, I beg to refer the House to the allotment that was made last year for water-supply. A sum of 1 lakh 41 thousand rupees was allotted in the last Budget, but in the revised Budget only 1 lakh 30 thousand is put down to be spent. I think, the reason for this is not far to seek. This money comes from the Rural Development Fund, and there is a condition attached to this grant that people have to contribute half the money in order to avail of this grant (*Voices*—one-third). Very well. This is a condition which, it is difficult for many people to fulfil. This is the reason I think why there was a shortage of expenditure under this head. Government ought to do something to dispense with the condition, so that the money under this head might be utilised to the fullest extent.

Sir, the Assam Pure Food Act is a dead letter now. You will be surprised to see that in the *hats* and *bazars* of rural areas adulterated food-stuffs are being sold with impunity causing great damage to the health of the public. But the Government is not taking any step to check the sale of adulterated food-stuffs in the *bazars* and *hats* in the rural areas.

We have lately been talking about Malaria, but there is a new scourge of *Kala-azar* raising its head and taking a toll of human lives. I am sorry to find that beyond a word of co-operation, there is nothing—there is no provision—in the Budget for combating this scourge. Sir, the Public Health Budget is very disappointing in that there is no scheme for rural uplift in the matter of Public Health and sanitation.

So, with these words Sir, I move my motion and commend it to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.7,76,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—Public Health, at page 137 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion, as I tabled an almost identical motion for the purpose of discussing about the scanty provision which the Department has made in the Budget. As has been observed by the hon. mover, this Government is maintaining certain luxurious posts with fat salaries. I also endorse his remarks. The House may not forget that in the last Budget session, I moved a motion regarding the abolition of the post of Assistant Director of Public Health and the arguments I had on that occasion advanced in this connection were that the post seemed quite unnecessary. By abolishing such posts, I urged upon the Government, that some Sub-Assistant Surgeons

could be well utilised in rural areas where Cholera breaks out. This time I also find that a motion has been tabled that the post of Assistant Surgeons now being maintained in the Public Health Department should be abolished. I also thought over the point and I am convinced that these posts are quite unnecessary. If by abolishing these posts of Assistant Surgeons some more Sub-Assistant Surgeons could be appointed, the people in rural areas could have been much more benefited, and the duties which are now entrusted to the Assistant Surgeons can easily be placed under the supervision of the Subdivisional Medical Officer.

Coming to the other provisions about the epidemic Department, we are taken to despair. The scanty provision which Government has made this time in the Budget reminds us of the horrible cholera outbreak which swept away almost the whole of Habiganj subdivision, and I also noticed in the papers the horrible condition which prevailed in the Goalpara district owing to the flood during the last rains. That epidemics were serious cannot be denied by Government themselves—this can quite easily be realised from the supplementary demands by Government which are now before the House for consideration. The Government by placing these supplementary demands have admitted that they require another Rs.84,350 for the purpose of combating these epidemics which broke out in Sylhet, Goalpara and Kamrup districts after the preparation of the Budget now before us. My point is that when it is necessary for them to deal with epidemics of all sorts why should they not make provision for it in the Budget instead of coming forward with a supplementary demand.

Then, coming to the Sanitary Department, as has been observed by the hon. mover, the provision which the Government has made for rural water-supply is so scanty and we cannot expect any better work in the coming year. The grants which the Government has proposed to make to the Local Bodies for rural public health are also very disappointing.

With these few words, I support the motion.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: (Wanted to speak but was not allowed by the Hon'ble Speaker.)

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of order, Sir. Some 15 minutes' time was taken up by the Hon'ble Premier to make his statement.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He concluded his statement and he took only 2 minutes more than the time allotted to him.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I wish to say a few words, Sir. I will finish in two minutes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If I allow the hon. member to speak, I shall have to allow Maulavi Matior Rahman also to speak. The motion is to be put at 1 p.m. and I must give the Hon'ble Minister time to reply.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to see that this cut motion is mainly directed over the so-called top-heavy administration of the Department by the hon. members of the House, who were a few minutes ago voting against a certain action of the Government which tried to reduce the expenditure in the pay of an officer. But at the same time, I must thank, the hon. mover for the well-merited criticisms he has made against the Department as it now stands, because the reorganization of the whole Department is now under the consideration of the Government. Therefore, Sir, I can assure the hon. member that the Government will try to give attention to his proper criticisms.

Again, Sir, I am to point out to him—when he has said that *kala-azar* is creating a havoc in this province and that Government is doing nothing in combating it—that all Public Health Dispensaries are mainly opened for *kala-azar*.

A voice :—What about malaria ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Malaria is also treated in Public Health Dispensaries. As regards the abolition of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and increasing the Assistant Surgeons.....

Voices :—It is the other way about— we want a reduction in the number of Assistant Surgeons and an increase in the number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : One hon. member, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, has said that the Assistant Surgeons should be abolished and the number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons should be increased.

I do not agree with the hon. member to reduce the number of Assistant Surgeons and by reducing the number of Assistant Surgeons to increase the number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons, because if we increase the number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons with nobody to supervise their work will go unchecked.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Can this work not be entrusted to Civil Assistant Surgeons ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That cannot be done. I can inform the House that every province and every State in India are going to have a fully developed Public Health Department quite independent of the Medical Department.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : On a point of information. Do the present Assistant Surgeons possess diplomas in public health ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Not all of them.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : How many of them possess such diploma ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Only two of them, Sir.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Who are they ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : They are Hindus.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May we know their names ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I cannot tell their names now. Also Sir, the hon. member has criticised the Government policy in not abolishing the post of the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Director of Public Health.

A voice :—Is it not the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I may inform the House that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are under the consideration of Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Will the Hon'ble Minister also consider to give them effect ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : I cannot say anything definite about it at present.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : What is the difficulty ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : So long as a matter remains under consideration, Government cannot make a statement without coming to a final decision.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : On a point of information, Sir. The question of reviving the post of the Public Health Sub-Assistant Surgeon formerly attached to the Nowgong Sadar Dispensary to cope with the increased number of *kala-azar* patients, has been brought to the notice of the

Hon'ble Minister. This post was abolished when the number of *kala-azar* cases became less. I want to know whether the Hon'ble Minister is going to revive that post again as number of *kala-azar* cases has again increased?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: That cannot be said now. A public health Sub-Assistant Surgeon was attached to the Nowgong Dispensary in the year 1921 when the number of *kala-azar* cases was very great and for that a ward was opened in the same year but when the number decreased, the ward was abolished and the doctor was removed from that place. Now, as the figures stand—as we get the reports of the Civil Surgeon—Government do not think that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon should be placed there again.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: My question is, not taking into consideration the number of cases but taking into consideration the amount of inconvenience caused to the patients due to want of a separate Doctor, whether Government should not revive the post again?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: There can be no question of inconvenience because we have in Nowgong one Public Health Assistant Surgeon, and when there is too much work in the hospital, the Civil Surgeon can utilise the services of the Public Health Assistant Surgeon.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that the *kala-azar* patients have to wait sometimes up to 12 o'clock or so for want of a separate doctor for *kala-azar* treatment. The other doctors after managing the work of the Medical side of the dispensary, cannot generally come earlier to give injections to the *kala-azar* patients. The Public Health Assistant Surgeon is an inspecting officer and is not meant for giving injections.

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: As the figures now stand, Government do not think that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon should be placed there again.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs.7,76,300 under Grant No.18, Major head—Public Health, at page 137 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The motion was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall now put the original motion.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.7,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1940 for the administration of the head, 39.—Public Health".

The motion was adopted.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

GRANT No. 17

(38.—Medical)

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,60,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,60,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head 38.—Medical".

Only two motions are to be moved, Nos. 9 and 11.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 80,631 under Grant No.17, Major head—Medical, Minor head—Medical Schools and Colleges at page 135 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,60,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I wish to make it clear to the House at the outset that this is not a censure motion and it is only a motion to raise a discussion about the raising of the status of the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh to that of a college ; or if this is not possible, to raise it to the standard of an up-to-date Medical School. Sir, I want to make this motion also without any prejudice to the claims of my friends of the Surma Valley for any Medical School at Sylhet. You are all aware that this Berry-White Medical School is the only institution of its kind in Assam, that it was founded as far back as in the year 1900 on the benevolence of a large hearted Englishman, Dr. Berry-White who was a Brigade Surgeon in that place. Since then, many students have passed out of that school and it is well known to the House that Medical Practitioners passing out from that School belonging to either valley are now employed in every nook and corner of the province. Sir, the age of this institution justifies that it should be raised to the status of a College. Apart from its age, you will realise that there is a change in the modern outlook of Medical Education in India. The lead was taken by the Hon'ble Medical Minister of the Government of Madras, Dr. Rajan who called a conference of all the Health Ministers. In pursuance of the decision arrived at in that conference, Madras has already abolished all its Medical Schools and the Province of Bombay is also going to abolish Medical Schools from this session. Then there was a Medical Education Conference at Delhi which was held in November last and, there also it was decided that there should be one uniform standard of Medical Education in India. The All-India Medical Licentiate Association which held its sittings at Gauhati only the other day in pursuance of that decision has adopted a resolution asking for the raising of the status of the Berry-White Medical School. So, if you consider the question on its merits, I think you will have to admit that under the present regime there is no room for a school of this nature. Either the School must be made up-to-date so that the licentiate may receive recognition from the Indian Medical School ; or the school must be raised to the status of a College to be affiliated either to the University of Calcutta or to the future University of Assam.

Now, the other day the Hon'ble Medical Minister was asked about the possibility of raising the school to that of a College ; and his chief objection was that there was dearth of clinical materials available for raising the status. I may inform him that there is no dearth of clinical material at Dibrugarh. The All-India Licentiate Association had appreciated an Assam Medical College Committee and they have submitted a programme for consideration. There will be no time here to give the full details of that scheme ; but I may read a portion from that just to show that there is no dearth of clinical material at Dibrugarh.

"The dearth of clinical material at the Dibrugarh Hospital at the present moment is not due to the fact that the people of this district do not suffer from any illness or they are immune to diseases. People in this part of the country suffer as much and there are as many diseases as could be found in any other parts of India. The hospital, if properly staffed by best Surgeons, Gynæcologists and specialists, etc., and if proper nursing arrangements are made, will attract patients from all parts of Assam. After the opening of the Surajmal Jalan Maternity Block attached to the Berry-White Medical School Hospital, the number of Maternity and Gynæcological cases have considerably increased even though it is not in charge of a Lady specialist. The St. Luke's Hospital at Chabua was opened only a few years back, but it is attracting patients not only from different parts of the Lakhimpur district but also from other districts as the hospital is managed by lady specialists."

The figures are also given for the St. Luke's Hospital. The number of beds is 47, the number of in-patients 707 and the number of out-patients, 6002.

In this connection, I would also remind the House that when the Medical College at Calcutta was founded, there was dearth of material. There also all the city dispensaries were utilised for getting clinical material. So, I think, the difficulty which is apprehended by Government does not exist.

Then as regards the finances, the Hon'ble Minister gives only a modest figure. He says that the additional capital cost of the school buildings alone will be at least one lakh and that the additional recurring cost will be one and a quarter lakh per annum. But, if our proposal is for a college of 250 students with an annual admission of 50, then the capital cost will be about 4 lakhs and the recurring cost, about 2 lakhs. As regards the recurring cost, I think that can be met by the present expenditure which is incurred in the education of students in the medical line, viz.,

	Rs.
Total amount of annual expenditure for the Berry-White Medical School.	80,000
Total amount of annual expenditure for Assam students in Calcutta Medical College.	60,000
Total amount of annual expenditure for Assam Girl students in Campbell Medical School.	9,500
Total amount of annual fees from 250 students of the proposed college at the rate of Rs. 12 per month.	36,000
That gives a total of Rs. 1,85,500.	

Sir, my proposal is this. I do not want that the school should be at once raised to a college and I do not suggest that this expenditure will be required all at once. A full-fledged college will take five years from to-day. So the whole of this expenditure need not be incurred now. Only a beginning should be made from the next session. If a beginning be made, I think the cost may be spread over the coming five years. If Government cannot undertake to raise the school into a college at once, then I hope at least it would be possible for them to take some preliminary steps so that in due course, it may be raised to the status of a college. What I mean is this. First of all these things can be done at once, namely:—

(i) The raising of the standard of the general qualification to Intermediate Science for admission into the Berry-White Medical School. This involves no expenditure to Government.

(ii) Extending the course to five years and making the curriculum exactly on the model of the Calcutta University Medical curriculum. This will involve an immediate capital expenditure of one lakh of rupees by way of buildings and equipment and a recurring extra expenditure of Rs.5,000 per annum.

(iii) With this extended course and curriculum changing the name of the school to college, abolishing the L. M. P. diploma and instituting and L. M. S. (Assam) diploma in its place. At the same time it is highly essential that the Government should declare the M. B. degree and this new L. M. S. diploma are on a par for purposes of public appointment. Otherwise this new L. M. S. diploma will not be any better than the old L. M. P. diploma.

(iv) Stopping of sending of boys to Calcutta Medical College, thereby saving Rs.60,000 per annum to spend for the improvement of the Berry-White Medical School.

(v) By the time these arrangements are finished, which will take about 5 years for full completion, we may have our own University in Assam or Government may invite the Calcutta University and the Indian Medical Council to inspect the standard of examination and training at the Berry-White Medical College. And if they are satisfied, our whole problem is solved and the college can be affiliated to the Calcutta University and the interval diploma L. M. S. will automatically drop out to be replaced by the M. B. Degree.

So, Sir, my submission is that Government will take this proposal seriously, and if necessary they will appoint a committee to go into this matter, because the question of medical education cannot wait any longer.

The Hon'ble SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.80,631 under Grant No. 17, Major head—Medical, Minor head—Medical Schools and Colleges at page 135 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,60,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already explained this in answers to questions put by my hon. friends Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman and Srijut Lakshesvar Barooah. The difficulties of raising the status of the school have also been stated there, but I do not say that these difficulties cannot be removed. Apart from the question of finance, there are other problems. We have recently received the question of the Medical Education Conference which was held at Delhi, the report is under the consideration of Government; for all these, Sir, and this thinking to appoint a small committee of persons having interest in medical education to consider thoroughly the possibility of evolving a comprehensive policy which will meet the requirements of the report of the conference and also the medical needs of the province. After that, Government will consider the whole question and give due consideration for raising the status of the school when possible. So, Sir, I request my hon. friend to withdraw his motion.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I would like to withdraw my motion.

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

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: *Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg, to move that the total provision of Rs. 10,60,700 under Grant No.17, Major head 38.—Medical, at page 129 of the Budget, be reduced by

Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,60,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

The object of my moving this motion is to censure Government for not starting the Medical School of Sylhet.

Sir, as to the justness and rightness of the claims so far as this demand is concerned, it is needless for me to repeat in this House what has been so eloquently advocated by my hon. friends now sitting on the other side of the House. It is known that this province now extends practically over an area of 14,000 square miles having a population excluding the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of about 27 lakhs, but we have got only one Medical School in the whole of the province, and that even is situated in the extreme corner of the province. A student from the border of the district of Sylhet will have to travel a distance of about 450 miles to go and seek his admission in that school. Sir, apart from the unemployment problem, we find that so far as Sylhet and Cachar are concerned, it has practically become the abode of epidemic diseases and therefore, we must have number of medical schools so that our young people may have education not only for their own sake but also for the sake of saving people from those epidemic diseases. Sir, we find from the report of the Dibrugarh Medical School that the number of students reading in that school is as follows:

Assam Valley Hindus:—78 ; Surma Valley Hindu.—50 ; Muslims of the whole province:—12 ; and the scheduled caste of the province.—1. Then Sir, we find from another reply to unstarred question No.133 that the number of the Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the whole province is 29 and out of these 29 posts, we find that only 7 posts are held up by the Muhammadans of the Surma Valley. So far these posts are concerned, I am not raising this question. What I want to impress upon is this, that the Muhammadan population of the Surma Valley are far greater in number than that of the Assam Valley Muhammadans, but they cannot afford to go and spend so much money in a costly and distant place like Dibrugarh. At the same time, I want to place before the House that the number of scheduled caste people is not negligible, but we find that there is only one scheduled caste student in the roll of 174. I also find from another gazette notification dated the 23rd December, 1938 that there was an advertisement for the recruitment of some Sub-Assistant Surgeons, but it was stated that the scheduled caste candidates would be given the first preference and the Muhammadans second preference. This shows that the scheduled caste people and the Mussalmans are very backward so far as their education in medical line is concerned. This, as I have already said, is due to their not being able to go to such a distant and costly place. If a School is started at Sylhet then the students will get free boarding and lodging and consequently their number will be increased. This was, perhaps the foremost factor as to why every section of this House decided as far back as the year 1926 that Government should start a Medical School at Sylhet, and in view of this, a sum of eight lakhs of rupees was spent by Government. Now we have got a number of buildings which are standing at the disgrace of Government. It is also a disgrace for my hon. friends who had so long been championing its cause. Apart from this, Sir, it will be rather alarming to look to the figure of the mortality of the Surma Valley people. We know, Sir, that so far as the town areas are concerned, the medical practitioners, both private and Government, are available but in villages it is very difficult to get help from a doctor. In the town area of the Cachar district we find that there are 16,000 people, whereas in the rural area there are about five lakhs of people. In Sylhet urban area there are about 45,000 people but in rural areas it is

about three lakhs. Now Sir, if we take the survey of the possibility of getting medical help from the Medical practitioners, then I think, I will have to quote the words of Rai Bahadur P. C. Dutt that there is a doctor within a radius of six or seven miles and so it is very difficult to get any help from them. Even it is not possible to get help of compounders. So far as the rates of death are concerned, we find that the number of the deaths of Hindus is 89,338 and that of the Muhammadans is 51,670 per year.

Of course, this is due to the want of education and the fact that the Muhammadans do not get proper help, as there is no possibility of securing help of any doctor. So, I say, Sir, it is useless to impress upon Government the necessity of starting a school like this for which over 8 lakhs of rupees have already been spent. Sir, everybody wants a return of the money spent, and I want to say that these 8 lakhs of tax-payers' money should be profitably utilised to fetch return. I am sorry to say, Sir, that Government is not at all serious, some thing can be done, at least a small beginning can be made. The Ministers have made a number of visits within the last few months, and I understand that a petition from the private practitioners of Sylhet is lying with Government. A number of medical practitioners with high education and experience are ready to offer their services, but I do not think any sincere attempt was taken by our Ministry to implement the scheme. If our Ministry were sincere, the response from the public would have been magnificent; the Sylhet public had never been indifferent to a cause like this. The Ministry is absolutely indifferent to the needs of the poor people of our Valley. Apart from providing employment to certain youngmen, a medical school at Sylhet will be a boon to us because our people are dying without any medical aid. If the students after getting training in the medical school settled in the villages, the whole outlook of the villages would have changed, they would have better outlook of the town and other things. For other professions, the people are required to flock to the towns, but for medical professions they can settle down in villages without troubling the Government or anybody else for employment. They could have maintained themselves with the help and resources, either in cash or in kind, of the villagers.

Again, Sir, if a medical school is started at Sylhet it will not only be a benefit to the people of that district, but it will also be a benefit so far as the district of Cachar is concerned. I find that a motion has already been tabled by Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty, who comes from Cachar, for the starting of Sylhet Medical School. It is not only disadvantageous to the people of Sylhet, but is also disadvantageous to the people of Cachar, for the to Dibrugarh for medical study. Sir, we find from the last year's figures that out of 200 seats, only 80 seats were kept for the Surma Valley students in the Dibrugarh Medical School. I may say, without any fear of contradiction, that more than 100 students of Sylhet are now getting medical education in various other institutions of Bengal. I also say that the people of Khasi and Jaintia Hills would also go to have their training in the Sylhet Medical School, because before Colleges were started the people of people from these hills used to go to the Sylhet College for their education. The poor people can manage free lodge and boarding at Shillong, many can even manage the cost of their education by means of Sylhet, and they whereas it is not possible for them to do so in Dibrugarh, as the language spoken there is different from that spoken in the Sylhet district. So, Sir, we see that the Sylhet Medical School is not only a necessity for the people of Sylhet district, but also for the neighbouring districts.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.10,60,700 under grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 129 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,60,700 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said by the hon. mover of the cut motion against Government for not opening the Sylhet Medical School, but, Sir, the reasons for our failure to do so have been made known to all members of this House by me in replies to questions put by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee and Maulavi Abdur Rahman. There I have said, Sir, that we did not get the amount which was necessary for opening the School, and also added that when funds would be available, Government would give due and proper consideration to this question. In addition to this, Sir, very recently a new movement has cropped up, i.e., to have a uniform minimum standard of medical education throughout India. This has been urged in a resolution passed by the All-India Medical Licentiate Association and also in the resolutions passed by the All-India Medical Conference held at Delhi. All these resolutions are now under the consideration of Government. For this also, Sir, Government now contemplate to appoint a Committee of some persons having interest in medical education to evolve a comprehensive scheme which will meet the requirements of the report of the Medical Conference, as well as the needs of the people of this Province. For these reasons, Sir, and for what I have said, I hope the hon. mover will kindly see his way to withdraw his motion.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY : In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,60,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

The motion was adopted.

GRANT No. 19 (40.—AGRICULTURE)

The Hon'ble Mr. AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,11,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head "40—Agriculture".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,11,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1940, for the administration of the head '40—Agriculture'."

I find that only four motions are going to be moved. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia will move his cut motion No.5.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 7,291 under Grant No.19, Major head—40—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(b) Scheme for

Agricultural Marketing, Sub-head—2—Pay of Establishment (total) at page 151 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

My object is to criticise the policy of the Assistant Marketing Officer for not taking steps to have the practice of realising 'Kalibritti' and 'Iswar-britti' from the vendors by the vendees discontinued at Goalpara.

Sir, কৃষকের কৃষিজাত জিনিষ সহর বা বাজারে বিক্রয় করিতে গেলেই তাহাদের প্রত্যেকের নিকট হইতে মহাজন অর্থাৎ খরিদারগণ শতকরা চারি আনা হইতে এক টাকা পর্যন্ত কালীবৃত্তি বা ঈশ্বরবৃত্তি বলিয়া আদায় করেন। এবং চলতা বাবদ ওজনের সময় প্রতি মণ করা ২১।০ সের করিয়া ভ্রাতা ওজনের অতিরিক্ত আদায় করেন। কয়াল খরচ, গদি খরচ বাবত মহাজনেরা প্রতিমণ করা ১০ বা ১০ আনা অতিরিক্ত পয়সা কাটিয়া নেয়। এই যে সমস্ত খরচা দিতে হয় তাহা মাড়োয়ারী এবং অমুসলমান মহাজনেরা আদায় করিয়া থাকেন এবং এই আদায় তাহাদের কোন কোন মহাজনি খাতায় জমা করা হয়। কৃষকদের নিকট হইতে মণ করা ১০ হইতে ১০ আনা করিয়া অতিরিক্ত কাটিয়া নেওয়ায় তাহারা কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যের মূল্য মধ্যে উহা কম পায়। এই সম্বন্ধে তাহারা বহু আপত্তি বিপত্তি করিয়াও কোন ফল পাইতেছে না। মহাজনেরা কাপড় দিয়া হাত ঢাকিয়া নিজেদের ইচ্ছামত কৃষকদের শয্যের মূল্য ধার্যা করিয়া দেয় কাহাকেও উহা জানিতে বুঝিতে দেয় না, এবং তাহাকেই নমুনা বাজারদর বলে। উপযুক্ত বাজার দর যাহা থাকে তাহা হইতে অনেক কম মূল্যে মহাজনেরা তাহাদের জিনিষের দাম দয়। ঐ সকল মহাজনের নিকট হইতে কৃষকগণ যখন জিনিষ খরিদ করিতে যায় তখন ৮০ তোলা ওজন হিসাবে তাহারা জিনিষের মূল্য আদায় করে। কিন্তু যখন তাহারা জিনিষ বিক্রয় করিতে যায় তখন ৮৪ তোলা ওজনের উপর প্রতিমণ, প্রায় ২১।০ সের হিসাবে চলতা দামে অতিরিক্ত জিনিষ মহাজনদের দিতে হয় এইসব কারণে কৃষকেরা তাহাদের শয্যের মূল্য উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে মহাজনদের নিকট হইতে কখনই পায় না। যাহা মূল্য ধার্যা করা হয় তাহা হইতেও অনেক কম পায়। কৃষি বিভাগ কৃষকদের মর্ক প্রকার উন্নতির জন্তই স্থাপন করা হইয়াছে কিন্তু কৃষকদের জিনিষ খরিদ বিক্রির এই যে অশুবিধা এবং তাহাদের ইচ্ছার বিরুদ্ধে তাহাদের প্রতি এই যে অবৈধ ও অন্যায্য আচরণ হয় এই সম্বন্ধে কৃষি বিভাগে আদৌ দৃষ্টিপাত করিতেছেন না কেন? ইতিপূর্বে বহু প্রবর মাননীয় যোগেন্দ্র চন্দ্র নাথ এই সম্বন্ধে এসেম্বলীতে question দিয়াছিলেন কিন্তু সেটী হিসাবে তাহার কোন প্রতিকার হয় নাই। শুনিয়াছি যে এই ব্যাপারের অনুসন্ধান করিতে Assistant Marketing Officer একবার গিয়াছিলেন এবং তাঁহাকে গোয়ালপাড়া টাউনের কতিপয় মহাজনের খাতা হইতে দেখান হইয়াছে যে কালীবৃত্তি ও ঈশ্বরবৃত্তি আদায় করা হয়। তিনি তৎবিষয়কি করিয়াছেন দেখান পারি নাকি? এই রুল অন্যান্য ভাবে আজ পর্যন্ত বহু সহস্র টাকা আদায় করা হইয়াছে কিন্তু ঐ টাকা দিয়া জনসাধারণের কোন উপকারের ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই বরং মহাজনেরা

তাহাদের নিজেদের কাজের জন্ত খরচ করিতেছেন। আমি কৃষি বিভাগের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের নিকট দ্বিভাষা করিতে চাই যে, এ বাৎসরিক কৃষকদের নিকট হইতে অবৈধ ও অত্যাচার ভাবে যে সমস্ত টাকা আদায় করা হইয়াছে সেই সমস্ত টাকার পরিমাণ কত এবং উহা কাহার নিকট আছে বা কি হইল? এবং উহা দ্বারা কি হইবে? এবং কৃষকদের নিকট হইতে এই যে অবৈধ ভাবে অসংখ্য টাকা আদায় করা হইয়াছে বা হইতেছে তাহা আদায় বন্ধ এবং প্রতিকার মূলক ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছু করিবেন কি না? ঈশ্বরবৃত্তি বা কালীবৃত্তি অমুসলমানেরা দিতে পারে; কিন্তু মুসলমানেরা এইসব দিতে পারে না। ঈশ্বর বা কালী বলিয়া মুসলমানদের সৃষ্টি কর্তার কোন প্রকার নাম নাই। কাজেই ঐ ঈশ্বরবৃত্তি বা কালীবৃত্তি হিসাবে মুসলমানেরা কোন মহাজনকে বা কাহাকেও কিছুই দিতে ইচ্ছুক না এবং যদি মুসলমানদের ঈশ্বরবৃত্তি বা কালীবৃত্তি হিসাবে কোন টাকা দিতে হয় তাহা হইলে মুসলমানের ধর্মের বিরুদ্ধে কার্য্য করা হয় বলিয়া তাহারা মনে করে। বাহাতে এইরূপ অবৈধ টাকা আদায় সর্বত্র বন্ধ হয় এবং কৃষকদের উপর অত্যাচার, অবিচার ও অত্যাচার করা না হয় এবং বাহাতে উপযুক্ত মূল্যে কৃষকেরা তাহাদের শস্যাদি বণা তথা ইচ্ছামত খরিদ বিক্রয় করিতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেন্টের অর্গোণে করা অবশ্য অবশ্য উচিত। এই জন্তই আমি এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনিয়ন করিয়াছি। আশা-করি নিরাপত্তিতে সকলেই এই অত্যাচারের প্রতিকার সমর্থন করিবেন এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রজার উপকারার্থে ইহার আও প্রতিকারের অনুরোধ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.7,291 under Grant No. 19, Major head—40.—Agriculture. Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(b) Scheme for Agricultural Marketing, sub-head—2—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 151 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tabled a similar motion, and so instead of moving my motion, I like to speak in support of this motion.

Sir, it is really very sad on the part of this Ministry who talk very high that they are the friends of the poor. Sir, it is really very hard on the part of poor tenants.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is the hon. member going to say anything new?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I like to say in my own way.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Any new argument?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: The new argument is that though this Ministry claims to be the friends of the poor, it has not taken any steps as to why some local exactions from poor cultivators are not done away with. (A voice—that has been, in a way, stated by Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia). I like also to say in my own way. My argument may be similar; but even then I want to say. Sir, when these things are going on, Government should have taken steps to make some fixed standard so that these poor people might have been relieved. Sir, in a supplementary question asked

by me, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Judicial replied that they would consider the matter after the Central Legislature had passed a Bill to that effect. We are really sorry to say that when the public at large are suffering much, the Government is not taking any action in the matter. Why should not Government introduce a Bill so that our poor people in the villages may be relieved. Sir, it is really very painful that the Muham-madans at least who do not worship Ishwar or Kali should be made to pay something for the worship of these idols by force. I would like to impress upon the House that it is really by force that these Mahajans are realising these exactions from these people who do not believe in idolatry. This also affects, in an indirect way, the feelings of the Musalmans. So, from this point of view it is really very urgent that Government should take immediate steps so that these illegal exactions are not made in various parts of the province.

With these few words, I support the motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my esteemed friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Akshay Kumar Das, Minister in charge of Agriculture, gave out, as he crossed over to the Congress fold, that he was feeling a new thrill when he got into that group. I would ask him in his new zeal to study also the things entrusted to his care. I doubt very much whether he has cared to learn and got any opportunity of knowing what these two illegal exactions *Ishwarbritti* and *Kalibritti* mean. It is a thing which was once mooted out by my hon. friend Sriyut Jogendra Chandra Nath during interpellations. I do not know why he is quiet to-day. Sometime ago, it was represented to Government that the Marketing Officer should visit our place and see for himself that these illegal exactions do not continue. All that can be said is that the middlemen do not suffer, the big *mahajans* do not suffer, it is the poor agriculturists who bring their produce to the town who suffer. In the course of selling their produce, these *Kalibritti* and *Ishwarbritti* are realised by the local *mahajans*. Reference in this motion has been made of weights and measures. But, Sir, we have got nothing in this motion to do with the weights and measures, we have simply got to see that these illegal exactions are discontinued. I would simply ask my hon. Congress friends to study this question and see for themselves whether these illegal exactions can be effectively checked.

With these words, I support the motion.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয় ও সদস্যগণ, কালীবৃত্তি ও ঈশ্বর বৃত্তি নিয়ে আমাদের পরিবর্দের গোয়ালপাড়ার সদস্যবৃন্দ একটা ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন এবং মাননীয় প্রস্তাবকারক ইহাতে কতকটা ধর্মের ধোঁয়া আনিয়াছেন। আমি মাননীয় প্রস্তাবকারকের ইহাতে জানিতে পারি কি যে মসজিদবৃত্তি বলিয়া কোন চাঁদা আদায় করা হয় কি না? (Cries of "No" "No" and "না" "না" from Opposition benches.) (Cries ভেলীতে মসজিদবৃত্তি বলিয়া চাঁদা আদায় করিবার কথা বর্তমান আছে। (interrup-tions from the Opposition).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir, is it relevant?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have said that when a point has been raised that these exactions are objected to, the Hon'ble Minister is entitled to say that similar exactions are not objected to.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: We have got nothing to do with that.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, আমাদের দেশে ব্যবসায়ী মুসলমানগণ মসজিদবৃত্তি বলিয়া গ্রাহকদের নিকট হইতে একটা চাঁদা আদায় করিয়া থাকেন।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When the Hon'ble Minister has practically admitted that these exactions are made he should not labour that point so much. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Very well, Sir, তারপর আমরা ইহাও দেখিতে পাই যে মাননীয় মতিয়র রহমান সাহেব এবং মাননীয় আমজাদ আলি সাহেব যে চাঁদা আদায় করা বেআইনী বলিয়া বলিয়াছেন—আমি অনেক উকিল—মাক্তারের মোহরের মামলার ফর্দে দেখিয়াছি যে প্রথমেই লেখা থাকে “চাঁদা” যাহারা আইনের ব্যবসা করিয়া থাকেন তাহারাও চাঁদা বলিয়া একটা জিনিষ আদায় করিয়া থাকেন।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister is travelling too far, and is possibly looking to his legal profession.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Have I not asked him not to labour on the point? What is the necessity of reminding me of it?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, এইটা গভর্ণমেন্ট স্বীকার করেন যে এইভাবে চাঁদা আদায় করা গ্রাহ্যসঙ্গত নহে কিন্তু এইটা ক্রেতা এবং বিক্রেতার মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ। ইহা বন্ধ করিতে হইলে গভর্ণমেন্টকে একটা নতুন আইন কবিত্তে হইবে। যতদিন সেই আইন না হয় ততদিন গভর্ণমেন্ট এই প্রথা বন্ধ করিবার কোন উপায় নির্দ্ধারণ করিতে পারিতেছেন না।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that it is not by agreement but by force that it is realised?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: If it is realised by force, why the vendors do not bring it to the notice of Government? The Police are there,

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : By this cut motion, we are bringing to the notice of Government that these things are going on there.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : It is not by force but it is a voluntary transaction.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Are Government aware that sometime ago an enquiry was held by the Marketing Officer at Goalpara and he found that these illegal exactions are really in vogue there ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : An enquiry was made by the Assistant Marketing Officer and his report is that there are cases of such illegal transactions which are very difficult to tackle without legislation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Whether it is actually done by force ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Not by force, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the report of the Marketing Officer ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : The report is that that illegal transactions are made by the voluntary agreement between the vendor and the vendee.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : May I tell the Hon'ble Minister in charge that the seller is in a much more inferior position and he has got to submit to the will of the *mahajan* and that Government has a duty in that respect ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : It is a matter of opinion, whether the seller is in an inferior position or not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Do not Government consider that they have a duty to interfere in this matter ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Yes, they have said that they have a duty to interfere but a legislation is required.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that if the sellers do not pay this 'Kalibritti' and 'Iswarbritti', their things are not bought by the *mahajan* ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : The hon. member said that the Marwaris take these illegal exactions. Are there not Muhammadan merchants to whom these sellers can go ?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : That is indeed a very good advice. But rather than preach this gospel to us, may I ask him, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Minister has got it in his contemplation to bring a legislation to stop this mal-practice ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : Yes, Government is considering that.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is expecting to bring in a legislation in the next session ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS : The matter is under consideration and if the hon. mover and the other members support, we shall have a legislation passed in the future.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : মুসলমানদের স্বষ্টিকর্তার কালী বা দ্বৈতের বলিয়া কোন নাম নাই ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is the hon. member delivering a speech ?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : না, আমি বলিতেছি মুসলমানেরা ইচ্ছা করিয়া কান্দুবৃত্তি বা দৈশ্বরবৃত্তি দেয় না এবং দিতে রাজী না। আমি মসজিদহোদয় এবং এই হাউসকে জ্ঞানাইতেছি যে এই সমস্ত মুসলমানেরা দিতে রাজী না ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : তিনি বলেছেন যে এই সম্বন্ধে আইন আনবেন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : কত দিনেরাভিতরে আনবেন ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : তিনি ত এই সম্বন্ধে এতকন বললেন আপনি কি বলেন নি ?

The question is :

"That the provision of Rs.7,291 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(b)—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 151 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The motion was negatived.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.15,000 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(g)—Agricultural Survey (total), at page 152 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আমার আমার মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য এই যে ইতিপূর্বের আভিজাত তন্ত্র গভর্ণমেন্ট বা আমলাতন্ত্র গভর্ণমেন্টের স্থানে বর্তমান দায়ীত্বশীল গভর্ণমেন্ট গরিব প্রজাবর্গের হিতার্থে কি পরিমাণে দায়ীত্ব প্রদর্শন করিতেছেন তাহার সংক্ষিপ্ত পরিচয় প্রদান করিবার ইচ্ছা। গোয়ালপাড়া জেলার ব্রহ্মপুত্রের South Bank এ শালমারা মান-কাচার ধুবড়ী থানার অধিনে প্রায় ২ লক্ষ কৃষক বাস করে। তাহা ছাড়াও গারো হিল জিলার নীচেও অনেক কৃষক আছে। গত ৭৮ বৎসর যাবৎ অতিরিক্ত বর্ষা হওয়ার দরুন এবং ভৈষ্ঠ মাসের প্রারম্ভে হঠাৎ বর্ষা হওয়ার কৃষকদের সমুদয় শস্য ধ্বংস হইয়াছে। ইহা গভর্ণমেন্ট বিশেষভাবে অবগত আছেন। কেবল সাউথ শালমারা থানার অধিনে ৮২৫ বর্গমাইল স্থানে কৃষকদের বাড়ীঘর এবং সমস্ত কৃষিজাত ফসল সম্পূর্ণ ধ্বংস হইয়াছে। ইহা মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী স্বচক্ষে দেখিয়া আসিয়াছেন। এই সমস্ত বিপদাপন্ন কৃষকদের রক্ষা করিবার জন্ত লক্ষীপুর হইতে ফকিরাগঞ্জ পর্যন্ত ১৫ মাইল স্থানব্যাপী একটা বাঁধ দিবার জন্ত পুনঃ পুনঃ গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা সত্ত্বেও গভর্ণমেন্ট আজ পর্যন্তও কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। এই ১৫ মাইল রাস্তার ভিতর ৫ মাইল পরিমাণ Public Works Department রাস্তা বর্তমান আছে তাহাতে সামান্য মাটি দিলেই ভাঙ্গা গাড়া পরিপূর্ণ হইতে পারে। অবশিষ্ট ১০।১১ মাইল রাস্তা বাধিবার ক্ষমতা যদি এই গভর্ণমেন্টের না থাকে তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেন্টের ধ্বংস কামনা করাই বাঞ্ছনীয়। এবং আমি মনে করিব যে ইহা দায়ীত্বশীল

গভর্ণমেন্ট নহে ইহা দায়ীত্বশূন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট। বর্ষার জল যখন প্রথম অবস্থাতে আসে তখন যদি মাত্র ১৫২০ দিন বাঁধ দিয়া নৌচু জমিতে ঐ জল বাঁধবার পথ বোধ করা যায় তাহা হইলে কৃষকরা তাহাদের জমির ফসল অনেক কাটিতে পারে। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেন্টের কতিপয় অফিসার এবং জনৈক মন্ত্রী মহোদয় (আমি জানিনা আমার অনাক্ষাতে) নাকি স্থানীয় লোকের নিকট মত প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন যে এইরূপ একটা বিরাট বাঁধ দেওয়া গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষে অসম্ভব। হুই লক্ষ লোকের বাড়ীঘর এবং প্রাণ রক্ষা করিতে গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি ১০১২ মাইল রাস্তা করিতে অক্ষম হন তাহা হইলে যে গভর্ণমেন্ট দেশের স্বাধীনতা লাভের জন্ত আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করিতেছেন এবং যে বলে বলীয়ান হইয়া দেশকে স্বাধীন করিবার চেষ্টা করিতেছেন তাহা যুক্তিসঙ্গত হইতে পারে না (Laughter) গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি অক্ষমতার দরুণ এবং funds এর অভাব এই বলিয়া গরীব কৃষকদের ফাঁকি দিতে চায় তাহা হইলে কৃষকদের বলিবার কিছুই নাই। (Laughter) আমি আশা করি যে বর্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট কৃষকদের হিতার্থি বলিয়া প্রপাগেণ্ডা করিয়া আসিতেছেন তাহারা গোয়ালপাড়ার গরীব কৃষকদের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করিবেন। বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে এই বাঁধের জন্ত শত শত দরখাস্ত পেশ করা সত্ত্বেও এই বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেন্টের চৈতন্য উদয় হয় নাই। আমি এই মরনাপন্ন কৃষকদের রক্ষা করিবার জন্তই গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছি। আশা করি প্রত্যেক সদস্যই এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করিয়া এই হুই লক্ষ কৃষকের প্রাণ রক্ষা করিবার চেষ্টা করিবেন—এই আমার অনুরোধ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.15,000 under Grant No.19, Major head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research—(g)—Agricultural Survey (total), at page 152 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.2, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.2.”

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Sir, মাননীয় মোলানা অবজল হামিদ খান সাহেব যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন তাহা আমি সমর্থন করি। গোয়ালপাড়া জিলায় লক্ষীপুও হইতে মানকাটার পর্যন্ত ইতিপূর্বে ব্রহ্মপুত্রের তীর উচু থাকার জন্ত বর্ষার প্রারম্ভে জল গিয়া কৃষকদের অভ্যন্তরিন ফসল সহসা নষ্ট করিতে পারে নাই কিন্তু গত কয়েক বৎসর পূর্ব্বেই ভূমিকম্পে এবং উপর্যুপরি বর্ষায় নদীর তীর-বর্ত্তি যে সমস্ত স্থান উচু ছিল তাহা ভাঙ্গিয়া নদীগর্ভে পতিত হইয়াছে এবং বহু স্থান দিয়া নদী হয় তখনই ঐ ভাঙ্গা ও খাল দিয়া জল ঢুকিয়া কৃষকদের সম্পূর্ণ অপকা শস্ত ধ্বংস করিতেছে। মাননীয় মোলানা সাহেব ঐ অঞ্চলের কৃষকদের শস্যাদি রক্ষা করিবার জন্য অন্ততঃ ১৫ মাইলের একটা বাঁধ গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে বাঁধিতে এই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন। এই ১৫ মাইল বাঁধের কথা শুনিলেই হয়ত আপনারা আশ্চর্য্য হইবেন এবং বলিতে পারেন যে, ১৫ মাইলের একটা বাঁধ হওয়া বড় কঠিন কথা। কিন্তু আশ্চর্য্য হবার কিছু নাই। যে সমস্ত সমতল জায়গায় উক্ত খাল নালা দিয়া নদীর ঢালার জলে ২৪ দিনের

মধ্যে ডুবিয়া যায়, সেই সমস্ত ব্যয়গাতে লক্ষ লক্ষ কুবকের বহু লক্ষ একর জমিতে নিজ নিজ আবাদী শস্যাদি থাকে। বাঁধ দিলে এসব শস্যাদি রক্ষা হইতে পারে। কাজেই লক্ষীপুরের উত্তর দিক হইতে ক্রমাগত দক্ষিণ অঞ্চলে যে সমস্ত স্থান নীচু হইয়া গিয়াছে সেই স্থানে খাল হইয়া গিয়াছে; সেই সমস্ত স্থান অগোণে বাঁধ দিয়া বন্ধ করা একান্ত দরকার। অন্য আয় প্রতি বৎসর ব্রহ্মপুত্রের জল গিয়া ঐ সমস্ত জায়গার জমির সাকুলা কসল ধ্বংস করিতেই থাকিবে। এইরূপ প্রতি বৎসর কুবকগণ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতে থাকিলে—তাহাদের রিলিফের জন্য প্রতি বৎসর গভর্ণমেন্টকে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করিতেই হইবে। বৎসর বৎসর লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করার চাইতে যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট ঐ অঞ্চলে একটা বাঁধ বাধিয়া তাহাদের শস্যাদি রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করেন তাহা হইলে গভর্ণমেন্টের এত টাকা খরচ করিতে হইবে না। যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট এই বাঁধ বাঁধিতে অস্বীকার করেন তাহা হইলে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে বলিতেছি যে, এই আদাম প্রদেশের প্রজা বাহারা গোয়ালপাড়ার ঐ অঞ্চলে বসবাস করিতেছে তাহাদের ঐ স্থান হইতে অগোণে অন্য জায়গায় যথা :—নওগাও বা দরং জিলায় বসবাসের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া তাহাদের জীবন রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করুন। যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট ইহা না করেন তাহা হইলে বৃষ্টিব বর্ধমান গভর্ণমেন্ট শুধু নিজেদের স্বার্থের জন্য এবং নিজেদের পক্ষের কতিপয় লোকের সুবিধার জন্য উহা করিতেছেন না, তাহা হইলে বৃষ্টিব গভর্ণমেন্ট গরীব কুবক এবং দরিদ্র নিরন্ন প্রজার উপকারের জন্য নয়। যদি গভর্ণমেন্ট প্রকৃতই দরিদ্র প্রজার স্বার্থ দেখেন তাহা হইলে অতি সস্তর এই বাঁধ বাঁধিবার ব্যবস্থাক্রমে ২ লক্ষ লোকের জীবন রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। হাজার হাজার টাকা খরচ করিয়া কয়েকজন অফিসার রাখিয়া গরীব প্রজার উপকারের নামে অথবা টাকা খরচ করা গভর্ণমেন্টের উচিত নয়। গরীব প্রজার জন্যই ঐ টাকা খরচ করা উচিত। এবং উহাই আমি করিতে অনুরোধ করি।

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, the motion is quite unreasonable and impossible. Sir, the distance between Lakhipur and Fakirganj is not less than 20 miles but more than 20 miles. And the distance from Fakirganj to Mankachar is about 35 miles. All these are flooded areas. If the people or the *projas* of Lakhipur side want this bund to be built, then other people will also want similar *bunds* in their places. So, the construction of such a *bund* is altogether impossible and so I think such a motion should not have been brought before the House at all (*Laughter*) without consulting the expert engineers (*Hear, hear*) and also consulting the probable cost. The cost may come to millions of dollars and it may cost more than crores of rupees and even then will not be sufficient to meet this. So, I think this question is out of order (*loud laughter*). At least we should not support this motion.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I had no intention to speak on this motion. But after hearing the remarks of my hon. friend Mr. Jobang D. Marak, I feel that I should speak in this connection. It has been said by the hon. member that it is about 20 miles from Lakhipur to Fakirganj and from Fakirganj to Mankachar some 30 miles (Mr. Jobang D. Marak: 35 miles). Very well, Sir, 35 miles. The hon. member most probably

knows fully well that a Public Works Department road is already existing there above the flood level. Only some portion of it has been washed away and if the washed portion is measured, it will be found that not more than 10 miles from Lakhipur.....

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: The whole country is below flood level, Sir. (*Laughter*).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Still there is a Public Works Department road there above the flood level and the main portion is still standing. Only some portion has been washed away by the flood and if only these portions are broadened and filled up and if the Rural Development Scheme is taken up so that the villagers are allowed to settle only by the side of this road, then the embankment may be widened.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I want one information, Sir. Does the hon. member know the fact that the Public Works Department is proposing to avoid the portion between Fakirganj and Mankachar because this portion falls under the flood level. So, it will be avoided and this embankment question is quite out of question.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: That is the reason why I am saying. The Public Works Department is avoiding and spending a large sum of money and diverting the road through the border of the Garo Hills. To avoid this flood-affected area, they will spend and they are going to spend some lakhs and most probably.....

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Eight lakhs. Do you know that they will spend 8 lakhs (*loud laughter*). But to construct a *bund* of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile alone will cost more than crores.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: If that 8 lakhs can be utilised in opening a new road, then why not Government take up this old road and also save about 2 lakhs of people from the serious havocs of the floods? With 8 lakhs they can surely make this road or embankment possible and save those people.

It is really very painful to understand from the hon. member who opposed this motion that he does not care for the sufferings of these people.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Most certainly I do care, Sir, but the question is a question of impossibility.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I had the opportunity of travelling with the Hon'ble Premier from Dhubri to Goalpara and I know that he asked some of the people to shift from this area to the North Bank of the river. I say this, because he had no intention to build this embankment and he has most probably thought over it. But what do we find in the North Bank? These flood-affected people came with the idea of settling there. But the Government said to them—'You are not entitled to occupy the land. There is the Line System, even for the indigenous people, because you are Muhammadans'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I do not think they said so. I would appeal to the hon. member not to introduce such sort of arguments.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I am sorry, Sir. I would be forced to say so, because of the suffering of the people who came there to settle and from whom petition fee has been realised by the Government. But I am who were not afterwards allowed to settle there. This is the thing going on at Dolom, Sidli, and Ballamguri and I would ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Court of Wards to take note of it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is going much beyond the scope of the motion,

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: There was a suggestion by the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, in his tour.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Premier has not yet spoken on this motion and the hon. member is introducing things which are irrelevant to the motion. The hon. member might have had the fortune to travel with the Premier, but I have the misfortune of calling the hon. member to order.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: This is relevant, Sir, because it affects the people of that area, because neither Government give land to these flood-affected people nor they are willing to protect them by erecting an embankment.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member's time is up. He will please take his seat.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: With these few words, Sir, I support the motion of the hon. mover.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this motion. If this motion is carried, I think there will be the greatest likelihood of communal tension. (A voice: How?) Because *Lakhi* and *Fakir* are diametrically opposite words; (Laughter), the one is a Hindu word meaning goddess of fortune and the other a Muhammedan word meaning a member of the proletariat. So, if they are connected, it will lead to tension. For God's sake, Sir, please don't connect the two (Laughter).

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মাননীয় ২য় স্তম্ভ মহাশয় যে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিয়াছেন সেইটা আমি কোন মতেই সমর্থন করিতে পারিতেছি না। তারপর এই প্রস্তাবটা দ্বিতীয় আকার ধারণ করিয়াছে। কেন দ্বিতীয় আকার ধারণ করিয়াছে বলিলাম আমি তাহা বুঝাইতেছি। এই প্রস্তাবে কৃষি বিভাগের মন্ত্রীকে প্রস্তাব গণ্য বন্ধের জন্য একটি বাধা দিতে বলা হইয়াছে। তারপর সেখানকার যে রাস্তার কথা বলা হইয়াছে সেইটা P. W. D. র রাজ্য—সেইটাতো আমার হাত নাই। আমার প্রজাকে সরাইয়া দিয়া হিলাস নিতে হইবে, তাহা রাজস্ব মন্ত্রীর কাজ। কাজেই আমি বলিয়াছি যে প্রস্তাবটা দ্বিতীয় আকার ধারণ করিয়াছে।

(Interruptions)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture may take the initiative and move the matter.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: তারপর যে রাজ্য বা বাধটার উল্লেখ করা হইয়াছে সেই বাধটার দৈর্ঘ্য ২১ মাইল বলিয়া আমি গতবছরই রিপোর্টে দেখিয়াছি। আমাদের গারো হিলের মাননীয় ২য় স্তম্ভ বলিয়াছেন যে ঐ রাজ্য বা বাধটা তৈয়ারী করা কৃষিবিভাগের মন্ত্রীর পক্ষে সম্ভব না ইহা সম্পূর্ণ সত্য।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: আমি জানিতে পারি কি এই ২১ মাইলের হিসাব কার রিপোর্টে হইতে পাওয়াছে?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: আমি সরকারি মণ্ডর হইতে জানিতে পারিয়াছি যে এই রাস্তা বা বাধা ২১ মাইল দূর।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Measurement কাহার দ্বারা হইয়াছিল?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: আমি জানি না কিন্তু রিপোর্টে আছে। Measurement এর আভাস এখানেও পাওয়া গিয়াছে। এই যে মৌলবী সাহেব ১১ মাইলের কথা বলিয়াছেন তাহাও তিনি measurement করিয়াই পাইরাছেন। তারপর এই প্রস্তাব সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে ইতিপূর্বে সরকার বাহাদুর প্রত্যেক প্রতিনিধির নিকট চিঠি দিয়াছিলেন তাহাদের এলাকার মধ্যে যে যে স্থানে বাধা ইত্যাদি দিতে হইবে, তাহা সরকার বাহাদুরের নিকট লিখিয়া পাঠাইবার জন্ত। কিন্তু মাননীয় সদস্য মহোদয়ের লিটে এই প্রস্তাব স্থান পায় নাই। আমি মনে করি এই প্রস্তাবটা পুত্র বিভাগে দিলেই ভাল হইত।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: On a point of information, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Minister may proceed.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: সেটা কাগজের এডিটরের কাছে ভাল বাংলা না হইতে পারে কিন্তু এখানে বর্তমান উপস্থিতি উদ্ভূত। সকলেই আমার বক্তব্য ভালভাবেই বুঝিতেছেন। এই অবস্থায় আমি এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করিতে পারি না এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট এই প্রস্তাবের বিরুদ্ধাচরণ করিতেছেন।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: আমি জানিতে পারি কি অনারবল্‌ মন্ত্রী একবার এই রাস্তা দেখিতে যাবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: যখন সুবিধা হইবে তখন যাইতে পারি।

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: বর্ষার আগে গেলেই সুবিধা হয় কেননা বর্ষা হইলে সেই রাস্তা বা-ওরা অসম্ভব।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: আমি জানিতে পারি কি এই যে রাস্তার কথা বলা হইয়াছে তদসম্পর্কে তিনি কি করতে চান?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: আমি জানতে পারি কি সদস্য মহোদয়ের উদ্দেশ্য কি?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member wants an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister whether he will be willing to enquire as to whether this grievance is genuine or not.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: When the hon. members say that there is a grievance, I have nothing to disbelieve.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then what is the duty of the Government?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: The Government will look into the matter.

(Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Proceeded to speak in Bengali.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will speak in English and the Hon'ble Minister will also reply in English.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Our intention is that if the Hon'ble Minister really takes up this matter and have a personal inspection, then I think, he may be able to change his view. If the villagers are allowed to settle on this side of the road, then the width of this road will also have to be extended.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: There is no question of changing or unchanging the view. The hon. members have heard from the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he had been to the locality and so I have nothing more to say beyond what he has stated.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture is ready to inquire into the matter.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: We may inquire about that, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now the hon. members should remain satisfied with the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Agriculture.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, after so much discussion, is it not clear to the Hon'ble Minister that we are very much desirous of the fact that he should personally hold an inquiry into the matter just to see whether these grievances can be removed?

Sriji SARVESWAR BARUA: On a point of order Sir. This motion I think ought to have come under the heading 'Embankments'. Properly speaking, it does not come under the head 'Agriculture'. It will be of little use if the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Agriculture goes there to investigate into the matter. If it requires inspection by an Hon'ble Minister to see whether a *bund* is feasible or not it ought to be inspected by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of the Public Works Department and not by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is rather too late in raising the point of order. The hon. member must have heard that I said that the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture might take an initiative in this matter because the complaint is that on account of the absence of such *bunds*, the agriculturists are suffering and it is the duty of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture to inquire and ascertain whether there is really any suffering on the part of the agriculturists on account of the absence of these *bunds*. In view of this, the motion is quite in order. When there is a necessity for such a *bund*, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture may take up the matter.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: The length of the *bund* will be more than 20 miles.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It matters little whether the length of the *bund* is 20 miles or not.

May I know, what the hon. member is going to do with this motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, I want to know the length of the *bund*, for the length really matters very much?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It has been stated in the motion.

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN : মাননীয় কৃষি জমিদার মহাশয় নানারূপ বাদ'লুবা'দের পর অনিচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও য প্রতিশ্রুতি দিযা'ছেন তাহার জ'য় আমি এই প্রস্তাব উঠাইয়া লইতেছি ।

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,11,000 under grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs 200, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 200.

Sir, my intention of moving the motion is to make a general criticism regarding the policy which has since been adopted by Government. First of all, I shall try to say a few words in connection with the appointment and retention of Marketing Officers which are of very little use to this province. Sir, the Agricultural Department maintains three such highly paid officers who are touring and drawing a big amount of money as their travelling allowance. The work of the Marketing Officers, as I understand, is to collect some figures of export and import of agricultural commodities which I should say is done by guess work. Sir, this province is a deficit one and its import is also not greater than its export with regard to agricultural commodities, and there is no need for finding with regard outside. The marketing section organised the marketing of any market Calcutta last year and one or two cultivators who sent their pineapples incurred loss instead of getting any profit. It shows, Sir, that the organisation of the Marketing Department is defective and it cannot compete with the ordinary fruit merchants of Calcutta. Until and unless the Province produces surplus agricultural commodities, there is absolutely no necessity for maintaining the marketing section. The policy of the Government with regard to this section seems to be putting the cart before the horse.

Then, Sir, I like to refer to the fact that there are two Entomological Assistants for Assam. The post of the Entomological Assistant of Jorhat is a temporary one and it is renewed every year by the vote of the Assembly. Is it not superfluous and waste of public money to have two Entomological Assistants in a poor province like Assam when the province like Bengal has got only one? Is it not a fact that the Entomological Assistant of Jorhat is a relation of a certain Congress Member of the Legislative Assembly? Is it also not a fact that this particular officer has never studied Biology, Geology or Entomology either in the I.Sc. or B.Sc. course? Sir, this gentleman is not duly qualified for this post and as such may I know from the Hon'ble Minister why he is prepared to retain him?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: May I know from name of that Officer?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am speaking of an officer who is now attached to the Jorhat farm. We are forbidden by the Hon'ble Speaker not to mention the name of any officer.

Sir, we have also heard that the Senior Marketing Officer who is to be appointed as Deputy Director of Livestock in place of Mr. Woodford when he will go on leave from April next. Sir, this gentleman has superseded several officers who are serving in the Livestock Department and he has not the requisite qualification in livestock. He was serving in the marketing section and we want to know from the Hon'ble Minister how he can be asked to work in the Livestock Department. Then Sir, let me go over to the other side of the general administration and the policy of the Government in regard to the agricultural matters.

What do we find? The entire provision which has been budgeted this year is meant for the maintenance of the officers and other establishment. For original works very little amount has been set apart, of course there are one or two departures, but the beginning was made by the outgoing Government. I find at page 95 of the Budget Memorandum that a provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made with a view to improve the land in the holdings of the agriculturists, because Government admit that their attention has been engaged both from the public point of view and the improvement point of view of the agricultural land. This, so far as I understand, was taken up by the previous Ministry and a thorough survey was made regarding this matter, and so far as I remember the Hon'ble Finance Minister also mentioned this fact in his Budget speech. Government admit that this scanty amount has been provided only to undertake the preliminary measures regarding survey of the land improvement of the Province. My point is that this amount will wholly be spent without any practical benefit to the people of the Province. In what way the amount will be spent? Certain officers will be appointed and the whole amount will be spent for the maintenance of these officers and for providing their allowance, etc. The previous Government estimated the whole cost at one lakh of rupees, and they were ready to take up the scheme, but the present Government want to take up the project piecemeal as they are not financially well-up. Sir, I am opposed to this idea. It is not at all business like to spend Rs. 15,000 by taking up the project piecemeal.

Then again, there was another provision of Rs. 25,000 which we hear for the last 2 years for the rural reconstruction scheme. Last year in course of Budget discussion we were told by the outgoing Ministry that through mistake that amount could not be spent, that was accounted for under an incorrect head. That amount again has been dragged in this year's Budget. In this connection I would say that this is not a new project at all. I am always opposed to the idea that this poor Government should be luxurious, that there should be ornamentation in almost every department. My idea is that there should be one or two experts on the top of the department, and those experts should be required to give their schemes or policies regarding the economic improvement of our population. Instead of maintaining the Deputy Directors, the Superintendents, our need is to appoint more Demonstrators. The Demonstrators who are now maintained are not sufficiently qualified to demonstrate the improved method of agriculture in the villages. They should be a bit more trained in order to introduce the improved method of agriculture in our villages. My second point is that after a sufficient number of Demonstrators having been appointed, at least one should be placed in charge of one *thana*; if a *thana* is big, of course, there should be two. The Demonstrators must remain with the villagers to give them practical demonstration by working with them. It will not be a surprise to this Hon'ble House to know that in the subdivision of Habiganj there are only two Demonstrators—of course one has been added recently, thus making the number 3—whereas the population of that subdivision is near about 6 lakhs. Now what these people do? They cover an area of 15 to 20 miles, and they sit practically idle. My intention is that certain villages should be placed under the charge of a particular Demonstrator and that he should go to each village and demonstrate practically the improved method of agriculture so that the people may be obliged to accept the improved method. Sir, I do not find any necessity for Superintendents and other officers. I always hold that these are luxurious posts, what we want is practical demonstration. These officers go from place to place with fancy motor cars and do not care to go to the fields lest their shoes should be spoiled. They

generally take shelter in the houses of Rai Sahibs, Rai Bahadurs and Khan Bahadurs, and if ever they go to any village they remain inside their motor cars. So, I urge upon the Government to look into this matter very keenly because it is the agriculturists upon whose improvement the wealth of the country depends.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the Total provision of Rs.6,11,000 under Grant No. 19, Major head 40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.200, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.200."

Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not speak a few words in support of this motion. My predecessor, Maulavi Abdur Rahman has justly remarked that the Agriculture Department has failed hitherto to serve any useful purpose whatsoever. It is just like a show bottle only to delude the people, to give them the impression that something is being done for the improvement of the agriculturists of this province. The Government Resolution on the Report of the Department for the year ending 31st March, 1938 begins by stating "There was no change in the policy or in the line of work pursued by the Department during the year under report. Its activities mainly consisted in experiments, research demonstrations and propaganda, and supply of seeds and manures to the cultivators." Then the Resolution closes with the remark "the question of bridging the gulf between the research station and the cultivators has attracted the attention of the Government."

Now, Sir, despite this, it is very disappointing to find that the Budget prepared by this Government does not indicate any change of policy or programme.

There is no attempt on the part of this Government to remove the top heaviness of this Department. If the Government were really earnest in establishing more intimate contact of the Department with the agricultural masses, I think it was their first duty to chop off at least some of the officers at the top and to increase the number of Demonstrators. What do I find in the Memorandum of the Budget as regards new schemes? I find that Government proposes to increase only three Demonstrators and one Demonstrator for livestock. That is all. Now what will these three Demonstrators do? There is a demand for Demonstrators in every *thana*. So this is only a drop in the ocean. I think if the Government were really in earnest they should have strengthened the staff more than they have done. Then there is another matter, it is improving the livestock in the Province and this is a problem which the Government have failed to tackle in its true perspective. The proposed cattle nutrition scheme may solve the problem of unemployment for some time, but it will do very little to improve the stock of cattle in the countryside. Cattle farms have so far benefited only the people living in the towns like Shillong and Gauhati. People in the countryside have not been able to derive any benefit whatsoever from these cattle breeding farms, because there is no definite scheme for improve-

ment of the stock of cattle in the countryside. A scheme is, I think, essentially necessary to improve the breed of the cattle. I think, the Government should exert their best to increase the usefulness of the Department by extending the scope of the work of this Livestock Department.

Then there is another matter. Mr. Abdur Rahman has referred to the fact that the demonstrators who are now employed are not sufficiently trained. They are not well-equipped with the requisite knowledge. This establishes the need for agricultural education in this province. There is no such scheme before the House. I would respectfully urge upon the Government to consider the necessity of not only imparting education in the rural schools, but also to establish a College—I mean an Agricultural College in the province (*Hear, hear*). My friends of the Surma Valley have been exercising their minds over what is to be done with the incomplete project of the medical school at Sylhet. I would suggest that the buildings which are there may well be utilised for the purpose of an Agricultural College in the Province. I think, the suggestion will receive the best consideration of the Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mover of the motion has complained that high officials of the Department, while visiting mufassils, generally become guests of Rai Sahibs and Khan Sahibs. I think the Director of Agriculture, while visiting Habiganj next, will be his guest. The provision made in the Budget for this Department is mostly spent in maintaining the officers. This does not do any material benefit to the people. This has been elaborately discussed by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Saiyidur Rahman. I think the entire policy of the working of this Department should be changed. In the last December Session I moved a resolution for making adequate provision in order to protect crops. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture opposed the resolution, and said that without a legislation he could not take up the proposal. I am sorry, Sir, up till now we have not heard anything from him about it. Damage to crops is an every year occurrence in the subdivision of Sunamganj which the Hon'ble Minister represents and we have heard from Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan that same is the condition in some parts of Goalpara district also. One of my friends from the Ministerial Benches was saying that these are local grievances. I say that the removal of such local grievances gradually will remove the grievances of the entire province. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will please see whether he can bring a legislation at the next Session.

Sir, I have got a few words to say about Cattle Breeding Farm. More than once I have told the House that about a lakh of rupees are spent uselessly for maintaining these farms. These are mere luxuries and an extreme waste of public money, because by maintaining these farms our cultivators do not really get any real benefit. Then, Sir, the epidemic swept away large number of cattle. The Government could not combat it for want of staff and funds. But for maintaining the two farms in Khanapara and Sylhet, Government are spending about a lakh of rupees. This money could be utilised in ameliorating the condition of the village cattle. The other day while an hon member was moving a resolution about farms in the Upper Chamber, a representative of the Council of Ministers said that these farms were still in infancy, and the result is yet to be achieved. This report I have seen in the papers. If morning does not indicate the day, I

am afraid the Hon'ble Minister shall have to remain in perpetual darkness of an ever-lasting night. My view is that this farm should be abolished and the money that is spent for it, should be spent for improving the quality of village cattle.

With these words, I beg to support the motion whole-heartedly.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : I think, Sir, this motion is intended to criticise the general policy of the Government in the Agriculture Department. Of course, we cannot consider ourselves to be experts. But Government have consulted all the departmental experts in formulating a policy for the administration of the various departments. So, without going through the details carefully we cannot be critics of the Government policy so much. But, Sir with regard to the question about the top-heaviness, I think that this question will affect not only this Department but other departments as well, and it is of course beyond our power. There is no use of our arguing in this connection.....

*A voice :—*Is the hon. member opposing the motion ?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : No, I am going to criticise the Government (*laughter*).

Then about the general policy, in some places there may be some defect, I admit—everything cannot be perfect. During this session I have been to the Upper Shillong Farm ; (of course, unfortunately, I did not meet the Manager, but the Assistant Manager was there). The total area of the Farm is about 500 acres, and out of that only 200 acres are allotted for potato cultivation, and that also small plots by rotation. Further, I was told that the produce of potatoes was not satisfactory. The Farm is no doubt doing good work though it is very expensive. But on the whole, the Assistant Manager informed me, that the Farm was running at a small profit. But I may say, when Dr. Mitra, visited Tura last time, I pointed out to him that the site selected by the Deputy Commissioner for the Experimental Garden was not suitable—that Garden is not doing well, and I suggested that the site was not suitable and that it was nothing but sheer waste of money spending hundreds and thousands of rupees without any income—the income from it is only a few annas of even a rupee. These things were pointed out to the former Minister Rev. Nichols-Roy, and also to the Hon'ble Premier when they visited Tura.

Sir, regarding the improvement of agriculture, there is some attempt on the part of Government to make some improvement in the Garo Hills in order to improve or facilitate cultivation, and in order to enable some people to get some land for paddy cultivation, recently a drain was being cut at a cost of some Rs.500 or so. But I am sorry to inform the House that at a action of the Deputy Commissioner in this matter is not right; he is not using his power rightly. I can say this, that those people who wish to take settlement in this area and are working there are being paid at the rate of only 3 annas a day whereas the other people who do not propose to take up land there are being paid at the rate of 6 annas a day. This is very disappointing to some, and some people came to me and spoke to me about it just before I left Tura for Shillong. So, I bring this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister concerned to take note of this, and to see that the people may not be discouraged like this simply because they want to take settlement in that area.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has exceeded the time limit.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Only two minutes more, Sir. Regarding the staff of Agricultural Officers in the Garo Hills, I would like to say that it is quite inadequate. There are only two Demonstrators there, and they are quite raw—they were trained here in the Upper Shillong Farm and they have no experience outside the district. So, my proposal to the Director of Agriculture, or to the Assistant Director, and to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to transfer these two men to the plains to get some more experience, and in their place I want three Agricultural experienced Demonstrators for the Garo Hills, because Garo Hills is a very backward district, and our condition as regards agriculture is backward and not forward at all.

I think this motion was quite reasonable and has been brought with a good intention, but I do not think that the Government is to blame, and there is no need to criticise or censure it (laughter).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: I wish to say a few words about local grievances.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Local grievances do not come in at all.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: We may be able to give some hints to the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister should now reply.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: We shall not take much time, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, I may give him 5 minutes.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak only about *boro* cultivation in my district. Sir, the northern part of the Goalpara district mainly depends on paddy cultivation, and there are some *dongs*—irrigation channels which run throughout the year, and if *boro* cultivation is introduced there the Government shall not have to spend anything for pumping cost, and the people of that locality may utilise this sort of cultivation and they may get something out of it. After the summer crop the people of this locality generally have no other cultivation to do, so, if this *boro* cultivation is introduced in that area, I think people will be much benefited and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will try to visit this area in the northern part of the Goalpara district. As the hon. Mr. Jobang D. Marak is requesting him to go to Garo Hills, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will also after his return from Garo Hills cross over to Dhubri and visit this area and do something for the people there.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that the Department of Agriculture has been very severely criticised by some hon. members of the Opposition. It is really very painful to hear that this Department, although it is doing much for the people, is not

doing any service to the people. Sir, all sorts of allegations which are not really worth repeating in this House have been made against this Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I don't think the Hon'ble Minister has a right to speak in such an angry tone.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, so much has been said about the Entomological Assistant. Is it because he happens to be a relation of a Congress man that he should not be given a chance? May I ask who was the appointing authority of this gentleman? The Congress has come to power only a few months back, but this gentleman was appointed long ago by the previous Government. So, if this sort of criticism is made against the Department, what the Minister or the man in charge is to do?

Then again, it has been said that the Marketing Officer is not doing anything. But I say that this officer is doing very good work for the benefit of the people. He is finding out market for the produce of the agriculturists and, as the hon. members know, he is finding a good market for pineapples in Calcutta also. What is the number of officers? Only one or two. The Senior Marketing Officer has been promoted to the post of Live-stock Expert.

Then about the Live-stock Expert, Sir, our Live-stock Expert Mr. Woodford is a very competent officer. He had his training in some farm of England and at Madras and he is really an expert in live-stock.

The hon. mover has also brought to the notice of the House that there is dearth of Demonstrators. Yes, we admit we want more demonstrators, but, Sir, we want more money as well. When Government bring any proposal to find out money the hon. members of the Opposition side oppose it. I would beseech the hon. members to help us to pass the Agricultural Income-tax Bill and then we shall be able to find sufficient money for the Agricultural Department. If the hon. members support this Bill Government will be ready to spend more money for the Agricultural Department. If they support this measure let them ask Government to set apart a portion of that money for this Department. But, Sir, these hon. members who are luxuriously criticising the Government are always opposed to the Government measures (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, there is another charge that this Government has provided only Rs.15,000 for the *dong* and bund system in the province and that it will be useless to spend this Rs.15,000 unless we spend one lakh. Sir, I am quite unable to follow this argument. I think, with this Rs.15,000 we can do something by carrying out the projects which are now in the possession of the Government (Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali: For instance?). Hon. member will see that this Government are translating some of the projects into action (Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali: Like?). Of course, not like Lakhipur-Fakiraganj bund which is impossible to do.

Sir, there is again the cry against the top-heaviness of the Government. Without a top how can a Government run? Without knowing facts and figures of the Department these hon. members are going to criticise the Government. Does the hon. member know that we have abolished one Deputy Director of Agriculture?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I strongly object to what has been said by the Hon'ble Minister that without knowing the facts and figures we are criticising the Government. I can challenge him so far as the Budget figures are concerned. What does he know about figures?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: I know the hon. member knows much about figures because he had so many cut motions which were all thrown out. I think the hon. member was very much encouraged by the cut motions which were carried in the first Budget Session. For instance, he got his motion carried for the abolition of the Commissioners' establishment. But this time all the cut motions which he brought have been totally refused.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The Hon'ble Minister should not make a personal attack.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, no personal attacks should be indulged in.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: It is not a case of personal attack, Sir.

Another accusation is about the rural reconstruction scheme. Sir, we have not dropped this scheme. We have made provision in this year's Budget and we are going to materialise the scheme which is now under careful consideration of the Government.

My learned friend, the editor of *Jugabheri* just now told that as I also come from Sunamganj Subdivision, I have not made any arrangement for the protection of crops there. Sir, we have provided some money for the *dong* and *bund* system. Some of these projects will be taken up by Government during the next year. Government cannot take up all the projects in a day. It will take time to do that. "Rome was not built in a day." (*Hear, hear*).

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: On a point of order, Sir. Unless we the members point out to the Hon'ble Minister the grievances and difficulties of the local people, how is it possible for the Hon'ble Minister to take up.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How is it a point of order? It is rather a point of disorder (*laughter*).

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, we quite welcome a healthy criticism but if the criticism is only for the sake of criticising the Government, we do not welcome such criticisms. Government will carefully take note of all the healthy suggestions that have been put forward by the hon. members.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether the Hon'ble Minister will arrange his tour in the manner I have suggested?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Tour does not come within the scope of this cut motion.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: You, Sir, allowed me to speak on the motion and I made the suggestion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I allowed the hon. member to speak, but the hon. member was not at all relevant to the subject-matter of the motion.

The question is :

"That the total provision of Rs.6,11,000 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget be reduced, by Rs.200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.200."

The motion was negatived.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,11,000 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

I have brought this motion to criticise Government for stopping the appointments of 35 Rural Upliftment Organisers and thereby stopping the Agricultural scheme of the former Government.

Sometime before the resignation of the previous Cabinet, a notification was made in the Gazette calling for applications for the appointment of 35 Rural Upliftment Organisers and we came to learn that over 3,000 applications were received by the former Government. The matter went up to such a stage that the selection of the candidates were made and the appointment orders were being issued. But with the assumption of office by the present Congress Coalition Ministry the entire scheme was dropped and the appointments were not made. But so far as my knowledge goes the nature of work for which these appointments were made was quite different from those under which the present Agriculture Department is working.

It has been well said by the hon. member Khan Bahadur Sayidur Rahman and some other hon. members of the House on the previous cut motions that the Agricultural Department has been of no use to the agriculturists. It has failed to fulfil the purposes for which it was meant. The Agricultural Department is meant for the purpose of improving the economic condition of the agriculturists by helping them with advice and ways of improving their cultivation. But I am sorry to find, and if the hon. members will make a survey of the present condition of the agriculturists, they will find that they are in the same condition as they were a century ago. As regards their economic condition, if you look into their real position you will find that every year thousands of plots are being put to sale by Government for arrears of revenue and—this shows that they are not economically improved even after the Department has been there for so many years. The agriculturists are forcing, and their cause has been well placed by the Congress members for 50 per cent. land revenue reduction. But what do we actually find now? How is this Department working? Except distribution of seeds in some selected centres and perhaps also seedlings, and supplying of seeds in their motor engines for *Buro* cultivation they are practically doing nothing. I have already stated that these posts were meant for different nature of work. Now, unless and until we can infuse the spirit of competition, unless we can infuse the spirit of struggling for existence and unless we can infuse the spirit of enthusiasm in them, there can be no improvement whatsoever. If you keep some Agricultural farms and maintain them at a huge expenditure, you can never expect the people to go out of their own accord to those

farms to learn how agriculture is carried on in these places and under what improved ways. Unless you can devise new measures and come in touch repeatedly by means of propaganda with the people, I think, the condition of the poor agriculturists will remain the same forever as it is now and as it was a century ago.

Now, so far as my knowledge goes these appointments were made for this nature of works. Now, to the utter disappointments of these 3,000 candidates, the appointments were not made altogether. What do the public think? Their impression is that policies after policies are being changed by this Government.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Yes, certainly.

Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: But for what reason? One order is passed by one Government and subsequently this order is changed by the other Government.

Now, Sir, my idea of moving this motion is to enlighten the public on this matter, whether it was for difference of opinion on the merits of the question, or whether under different unfavourable circumstances that this scheme had been stopped by the present Congress Coalition Cabinet or it was out of sheer antagonism between the two Cabinets.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.6,11,000 under grant No. 19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY* : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say that after the appointments have been made by one Government, if the next Government differs from them and cancels those appointments, the latter Government are not only unchivalrous, but also indecent. Really, Sir, it gives me rather a surprise, because in this House during the last two years we have mostly dealt with the grievances of the agriculturists, and probably the bulk of the proceedings of this House relate to their grievances. This Ministry, Sir, do not take any pains or trouble to go through the proceedings, nor do they like to act on the lines left behind by the last Cabinet. I do not think there is anything wrong in following others who have left behind the result of their mature experience.

Everybody should admit, Sir, that much can be done by propaganda by people who can move amongst the peasantry and instruct them. It is no good having experts who cannot or will not go down to the plains and move amongst the peasantry. These officers, had they been deputed with proper training to different places in the province to move in the midst of the agriculturists, then I think they could have given a new outlook to our peasantry. Our present Ministers have been visiting these localities and hundreds of people have come to see them and probably assurances have been given to them. But without people with knowledge actually to instruct them there is no good. In fact a stimulus is to be given to these people and an ideal also is to be set before them to shake off their lethargy and to build up their own fortune. And better than that a vigorous propaganda has to be made so that they may have an elementary knowledge of agriculture.

*Speech not corrected.

I think, Sir, the last Ministry, so far as the appointment of these 35 people are concerned, were imbued with that idea. I do not know if any of the present Cabinet Ministers had a grudge or ill-will with others. I see absolutely no reason why the appointments made should be withheld or those schemes should be left out altogether. If they had followed the previous Ministry in this matter, that rather would have savoured of good breeding and good culture.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I do not think that the hon. member was justified in using the words 'savoured of good breeding and good culture'.

Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: If any hon. gentleman takes objection to the use of those words, I withdraw them.

But what we find, Sir, is that the attention of the Ministry is rather concentrated on the richer people than on the lower strata of the people who go by the name of the peasantry. If we scrutinise the Budget, we will find, Sir, that 12 annas in the rupee or about three-fourths of the money have been kept for people who are not peasants or agriculturists in the true sense of the term.

Recently I understand that an appointment has been given to a gentleman, who was drawing Rs.80 before, carrying a salary of Rs.150, without any advertisement in the Gazette. Is he an agriculturist? What special benefit will the agriculturists derive from him? I understand he has been posted somewhere in Calcutta. A gentleman who was not competent for a service of more than Rs.80 is now given Rs.150. Is this retrenchment? I should say, Sir, that our attention should rather be diverted to the real peasantry than patronising such people.

I will conclude by saying, Sir, that by withdrawing the scheme, Government have done the greatest mischief and harm to the poor peasantry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Agriculture Minister had the privilege of working in the former Cabinet. This scheme of appointing 35 Rural Uplift Organisers was evolved by the previous Ministry. As a matter of fact applications were invited, people were chosen by the previous Ministry, and then after the fall of that Ministry, the appointment letters could not be issued. I for one do not see how my friend the present Agriculture Minister, having had some part in the former Ministry, could at once change his policy and programme. This only shows the man in him. That he can change his policy and programme overnight. (A Voice—What about you? Hold a mirror to your own face). I am simply consistent and say, if he had any hesitation or disinclination to take up that scheme, it was for him to say—'I do not agree to it'. How is it that he agreed to the scheme when he was in the previous Ministry, and as soon as he changed his colour, or for the matter of that, changed his creed and crossed over to the other side he thought it fit to give the go-by to the scheme which the previous Ministry followed, of which he was a part? (Mr. Baidyanath Mookherjee: He saw the light). Now, Sir, as regards his talking of big schemes, new policies and new programmes. I asked for a list but he said that there are many. I for one, have not seen any iota of it in him.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How can the hon. member see in him any iota of those schemes, Sir?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: It was up to him.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should use the words 'Hon'ble Minister'. The hon. member seems to be exhibiting a feeling towards the Hon'ble Minister in the manner in which he is speaking. The hon. member may possess some sort of feeling against the Hon'ble

Minister, but his expressions should not be such as would exhibit the feeling in any objectionable manner. The hon. member is quite at liberty to possess a certain feeling towards a particular Hon'ble Minister, but he should be polite in his expressions.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I shall be the last man, Sir, to get any sort of ill-feeling and bring any sort of jealousy in a debate against any particular Hon'ble Minister. I have training in debate, Sir, and I know how to proceed in my own way.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. member should be polite in his speech delivered on the floor of the House.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I quite follow that, Sir. With these remarks, I support the motion.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, before I touch the cut motion, I must deal with the expressions that were used by my hon. friend Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali. He told that I have changed my creed and policy. May I ask him as to who were instrumental in changing that Government? May I ask the hon. member as to who were the persons who brought about the downfall of the Cabinet headed by Sir Muhammad Saadulla? There are some members in this House whose profession is only to oppose Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister should not make any sort of generalisation.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, what can I do? The hon. members are going to provoke me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. members might have provoked the Hon'ble Minister but the Hon'ble Minister should not give any provocation to any hon. member.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: I quite obey the ruling of the Chair. I am not going to criticise my hon. friend any more who has criticised me in a most unkind manner. Sir, all these criticisms are about the stopping of the appointments of 35 Rural Upliftment Organisers, which was proposed by the last Government. Sir, that scheme is still under the consideration of the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. members want to know as to why the appointments were made and the letters were not issued.

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Sir, I am not going to disclose when and how those appointments were made. Whether they were made during the last Ministry or after the fall of that Ministry. All that I can say is that if the hon. mover of the cut motion cares to go through the Budget then he will find that a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been provided in this year's Budget also, and the whole scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Will there be advertisement again calling for applications from the candidates?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: When these appointments will be made Government will decide whether to advertise it or not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: We have not heard the Hon'ble Minister

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: It depends on the Government whether to advertise it or not.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What does the Hon'ble Minister mean by saying that it depends on the Government. Are we not addressing the Government itself?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It means that it depends on the decision of the Government.

The question is :

" That the total provision of Rs. 6,11,000 under Grant No. 19, Major head.—40.—Agriculture, at page 148 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,11,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 101 ".

The motion was negative.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No other cut motion is going to be moved ?

(After a pause)

" The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,11,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1940 for the administration of the head—40.—Agriculture ".

The motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 28th March, 1939.

Shillong :

The 2nd June 1939.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

APPENDIX G

(With reference to reply to unstarred question No.166)

AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL CARRYING COMPANY, LIMITED

THIS AGREEMENT MADE THE fifth day of September one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL CARRYING COMPANY, LIMITED, a private company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act and having its registered office situated in Calcutta hereinafter called the Carrier (which expression shall where the context so admits or implies include its assigns) of the one part and the Governor of Assam (hereinafter called the Governor, which expression shall include his assigns unless the context shall be repugnant to such construction) of the other part. WHEREAS the Carrier has offered to contract with the Governor to work a motor service for the carriage of passengers and their luggage, of horses and cattle, and of goods to, from, and between Shillong, Gauhati and Pandughat upon the terms and conditions hereinafter appearing and has deposited with the Assam Government as security for the due performance of this agreement rupees ten thousand (Rs.10,000) in cash NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the parties hereto as follows:—

1. This Agreement shall commence on and from the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine and shall remain in force for a period of ten years up to and including the thirty-first day of December one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, PROVIDED ALWAYS that the Agreement may be absolutely determined at any time on good and sufficient grounds by either party (subject as hereinafter provided) giving to the other six months' previous notice in writing, which notice, if given on the part of the Governor, may be signed by a Secretary to the Government of Assam. The grounds shall be stated in the notice and if any dispute or difference shall arise as to whether they are good and sufficient, it shall be referred to arbitration in the manner provided in clause 20 hereof.

Provided that if either party shall terminate the agreement without just and reasonable cause such party shall pay compensation to the other for any loss caused to the latter thereby; and the amount of such compensation shall be determined by the Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Home Department or other officer appointed by the Governor to discharge his duties in regard to this agreement, and the Chief Engineer, Assam.

Provided also that if they differ in the assessment of the compensation, the amount shall be determined by the Governor.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to the provisions of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act VIII of 1914 as amended from time to time and the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act (Act IX of 1936) as amended from time to time and of any rules general and special, that may from time to time be made thereunder (hereinafter referred to as the statutory rules) and to the provisions of such other Acts and Rules relating to motor transport as may come into force in the Province of Assam or become applicable to the roads over which the services of the Carrier shall run from time to time during the currency of the Agreement and to any orders made under the said Acts and Rules provided that no change made in the statutory rules during the period of this Agreement shall affect the maxima rates of fares and freights specified in the Schedule hereto.

The terms "Gauhati-Shillong road," "ordinary permit," and "special permit," occurring in this Agreement shall have the same meanings as in the statutory rules.

3. The Carrier shall at all times have ready on the road in serviceable and running order to the satisfaction of the officer appointed by the Governor or person appointed by him for the purpose of examining vehicles, such number of motor vehicles with competent drivers, attendants and accessories as in the opinion of the said officer are for the time being necessary for the due and efficient working of the various services (hereinafter referred to as the Scheduled services) detailed in the schedule hereto, which said schedule with the conditions therein contained shall be deemed to form part of this Agreement. All vehicles and their fittings including tyres shall be of such make, pattern and design as shall for the time being be approved in writing by the said officer appointed by the Governor.

4. The officer appointed by the Governor in that behalf shall have power in writing under his hand to requisition and employ at any time and from time to time for the use of police and military transport the whole or part of the Carrier's stock of motor vehicles for the time being in use in the services and the Carrier shall permit the employment thereof accordingly. The Carrier shall also keep at all times in stock a reserve of petrol of at least two hundred gallons to meet any emergent call for transport of troops or police from Shillong at short notice. The amount to be paid for the use of motor vehicles thus requisitioned shall be fixed by the officer appointed in this behalf by the Governor.

5. The appointment of the Manager and Assistant Managers of the Carrier both at Shillong and Gauhati shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and any and every such Manager or Assistant Manager shall be discharged if in the opinion of the Governor (which opinion shall in all cases be final and for which no reason in writing need be given) his discharge is considered desirable.

6. The Carrier shall pay the whole of the charge or charges levied by the Telegraph Department in respect of all telegraph and telephone offices which the Carrier shall deem it necessary to establish or maintain for the more efficient working of the said Services PROVIDED that if the telephone line connecting such telephone offices shall be required by the Governor to be used in connection with public call boxes at Shillong and Gauhati and Pandu, one-half of the charges levied by the Telegraph Department in respect of such telephone offices and line shall be borne by the Province of Assam.

7. The vehicles of the Carrier for which ordinary permits are granted shall be exempt from all tolls on the Gauhati-Shillong road levied under the Indian Tolls Act.

8. The officer appointed by the Governor shall have the right to depute a person as Inspector to examine the drivers and servants of the Carrier as to their efficiency and to inspect the motor vehicles, buildings, garages, workshops and other property maintained by the Carrier for the purposes of this Agreement, and the Carrier shall at all times give such Inspector every facility for making such inspection. Such Inspector shall be entitled to require the temporary suspension of any driver or other servant of the Carrier or to prohibit the use of any motor vehicle or other servant opinion be unfit for the efficient performance of the services required hereunder or unsafe, and any motor vehicles so prohibited shall not be used

until it has been rendered fit and safe to his satisfaction. A breach of any such prohibition shall on any and every occasion thereof render the Carrier liable to a penalty of rupees five hundred or such smaller sum as shall be determined by the officer appointed by the Governor.

Provided that the Carrier shall have the right to replace temporarily or permanently any motor vehicle prohibited by the Inspector by another motor vehicle passed by such Inspector as fit for running and suitable for the service in question.

9. The Carrier shall, if required by the officer appointed by the Governor, discharge within such time as may be fixed by the said officer any motor driver or servant whom the Inspector deputed by the said officer under the last preceding clause shall state in writing to be in his opinion unfit for the purpose of employment as such driver or servant as the case may be and he shall not re-employ such discharged driver or servant without the previous permission in writing of the said officer.

10. The Carrier shall keep true and accurate traffic returns in English in the form to be approved by the officer appointed by the Governor of, or relating to, the scheduled services and such returns and the Carrier's books and accounts shall be open at all times at Shillong or such other place as may be agreed upon to the inspection and audit of any officer or officers deputed by the officer appointed by the Governor for the purpose and the cost of such audit shall be paid by the Carrier PROVIDED that if production of such books and accounts at any place other than Shillong is required not less than one week's notice shall be given.

11. The Carrier shall not transfer assign or sublet this Agreement or any part thereof, or his interest therein or any part thereof, without the previous consent in writing of the officer appointed by the Governor nor shall the Carrier permit any Government servant to enjoy or derive directly or indirectly any pecuniary interest or benefit in or from this Agreement except as herein provided.

12. In consideration of the obligations undertaken by the Carrier under this Agreement, the Governor has in accordance with the statutory rules now in force sanctioned the grant to the Carrier of "ordinary permits" valid for a period of ten years synchronising with the term of this Agreement, for all the motor vehicles employed on the scheduled services on a consolidated annual fee of Rs.90,000 (Rupees Ninety thousand) only.

The Carrier shall pay to the credit of the province of Assam the fee for each calendar year into the Imperial Bank of India at Shillong or Calcutta on or before the first day of October of the year preceding as prescribed by the statutory rules.

Provided that if this Agreement be terminated in the middle of any calendar year by the Governor giving six months' notice, as hereinbefore provided, the Governor shall refund to the Carrier a part of that year's fee proportionate to the unexpired portion of the year.

13. Subject to the conditions and fees prescribed by the statutory rules and so far as those rules allow, the Governor shall, in addition to the permits already granted, sanction the grant to the Carrier if he applies in writing, of at least one-half of the total number of "ordinary permits" that may hereafter be issued for the Gauhati-Shillong road and one half of any such permits issued for any section thereof under the aforesaid rules, exclusive of

those mentioned in clause 12 above. Provided that the number of ordinary permits shall not be increased beyond eighteen save with the consent of the Carrier which shall not be unreasonably withheld. This agreement however ensures to the Carrier the exclusive right to 'carry, for the period of the agreement, all fare paying passengers and parcels on the Gauhati-Shillong Road.

The grant of "special permits" under the aforesaid rules shall not form any part of this Agreement.

14. If the Carrier at any time commit any breach of the conditions of this Agreement for which a penalty is not herein otherwise expressly provided he shall be liable to pay a penalty of such amount not exceeding rupees one hundred as shall be determined and notified to him in writing by the said officer appointed by the Governor for each occasion or for each day during which such breach shall continue and such penalty shall be paid by the Carrier on demand, provided that the Carrier shall not be liable under this clause to pay any penalty for any breach of the conditions of this Agreement arising from causes which in the opinion of the Governor were beyond the control of the Carrier.

15. The Carrier agrees to negotiate the disposal of two-fifths of the Carrier's existing paid up capital within two months from the date of signing this Agreement to persons who are either *bonafide* natives of, or domiciled in, Assam and in the event of the Carrier failing to do so, the Carrier undertakes to reconstruct the Company within a further period of six months by converting it into a Public Liability Company and to sell at par by advertisement two-fifths of any shares to be issued as well as two-fifths of any shares issued subsequently to persons who are either *bonafide* natives of, or domiciled in, Assam.

16. All future new appointments in the Carrier's service shall be made in accordance with such instructions, modelled on the rules for the recruitment of servants of the Crown, as the Governor may issue, particularly that save with the sanction of the Governor in the case of any posts requiring special qualifications and for which no qualified applicants of the category described below are available (which sanction shall not be unreasonably withheld) all persons hereafter appointed for the first time to the Carrier's service for work in connection with this contract shall be persons who are *bonafide* natives of, or domiciled in, Assam.

17. If the Carrier commit any breach of or any fraud in relation to any condition of this Agreement or offer any bribe or gratuity to any Government servant as consideration for his doing, or abstaining from, any act in connection with this Agreement or become insolvent or go into liquidation (except for purposes of reconstruction) or fail duly to perform the services required hereunder, the Governor may without prejudice to any other legal right or remedy of the Governor by notice in writing under the hand of a Secretary to the Government of Assam determine this Agreement forthwith, and may also declare forfeited to the Governor the sum of Rs.10,000 (Rupees Ten thousand) only deposited by the Carrier as hereinbefore provided, such part thereof as shall in their opinion be sufficient to cover the loss or damage caused to the province of Assam or to the public by the determination of the Agreement.

In the event of such determination the Governor shall have the right to use and maintain the vehicles, workshops, garages, buildings and all other property provided, maintained or used by the Carrier for the purposes of

this Agreement for such time after such determination, not exceeding six months, as the Governor may deem requisite and upon payment for such use of such compensation as the Governor shall deem reasonable.

18. The maxima rates to be charged by the Carrier for the carriage of passengers, luggage, parcels, goods, horses and cattle shall be those set forth in the schedule hereto and no alteration shall be made in such maxima rates except with the approval of the Governor signified in writing under the hand of a Secretary to the Government of Assam.

19. If at any time during the term of this Agreement a railway to Shillong shall be declared open to traffic the Carrier shall have the right to determine this Agreement forthwith and as soon as may be after such determination the Governor shall take over and purchase from the Carrier such part of the rolling stock for the time being belonging to the Carrier and in actual use for, and in connection with, the said services as shall be serviceable, and the price of such rolling stock shall be paid to the Carrier by the Governor on a valuation to be settled by a representative of the Carrier and an officer appointed by the Governor PROVIDED that if such valuation is not agreed upon by and between the parties hereto it shall be settled by an independent arbitrator to be appointed by the Court. PROVIDED also that in the event of such determination the Governor shall refund to the Carrier so much of the sum of Rs.90,000 (Rupees Ninety thousand) only deposited by the Carrier in the manner hereinbefore provided as shall be proportionate to the unexpired portion of the above mentioned period of one year.

20. If any dispute or difference shall arise touching or concerning the subject matter of this contract or any covenant, clause, article, matter or thing herein contained the determination of which is not hereinbefore otherwise expressly provided for it shall be referred to arbitration in the manner provided in the immediately preceding clause.

21. All fees, fines, penalties and other sums due to the province of Assam under this Agreement shall be paid by the Carrier on demand and may be recovered from the cash security of ten thousand rupees deposited by the Carrier and any amount not so recovered shall be recoverable as a public demand. In the event of the said security deposit being thereby reduced the Carrier shall forthwith on demand make up the said deposit to Rs.10,000 (Rupees Ten thousand) only.

22. The location of the Carrier's offices, terminal stations, workshops, goods sheds and other premises used for the purposes of the contract must be approved by the Governor, and the approaches and roads used by the vehicles of the Carrier must be similarly approved.

23. The Carrier shall also maintain the premises and buildings required for the purposes of the scheduled services in adequate repair to the satisfaction of the Chief Engineer, and if at any time the Agreement is determined shall deliver the premises and buildings up to the Governor or to such person as may be approved by the Governor, subject to reimbursement for any buildings or fixed plant as may have been acquired or constructed by the Carrier at a valuation to be determined by the Governor. He shall not construct or demolish any buildings or works on the said premises without the prior approval of such officer as Government may designate.

AS WITNESS The Commercial Carrying Co. Ltd., has hereunto caused its seal to be affixed this the fifth day of September one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight.

S. BHATTACHARJEE,

Secretary.

B. K. PAUL,

Witness.

S. C. MUKHARJI,

Witness.

P. S. GUHA,

Managing Director.

And the Governor has hereunto and to a counterpart hereof set his hand this the fifth day of September one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight.

R. C. R. CUMMING,

Witness to the signature of
*Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Home Department.*

H. G. DENNEHY,

*Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Home Department, for and on behalf of the
Government of Assam.*

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO IN CLAUSES 3 AND 18 OF THE AGREEMENT

(Terms and conditions of the contract)

1. The Services to be maintained and carried out by the Carrier daily shall be as follows :—

- (I) First class daily accelerated Passenger service both ways.
- (II) Mixed class daily accelerated passenger service both ways.
- (III) Combined daily luggage and passenger service both ways.
- (IV) Daily luggage and third class passenger service both ways.
- (V) Accelerated luggage and goods service both ways.
- (VI) Slow goods service.
- (VII) Horses and cattle service.

Services (I) to (V) shall ply both ways between Pandu, Gauhati and Shillong ; (VI) and (VII) ordinarily between Shillong and Gauhati.

2. *No. (I) Service*—Shall consist of at least six cars of approved design, fitted with pneumatic tyres and capable of carrying six passengers each.

Should the Governor at any time consider that six cars is an insufficient number for dealing with the traffic, he shall have power to raise the minimum number up to ten and this order shall be complied with by the Carrier within two months of the date of its issue.

No. (II) Service—Shall consist of four vehicles of approved design fitted with pneumatic tyres weighing not more than five tons gross each and capable of carrying all classes of passengers except 1st class, with a separate compartment for parcels and luggage.

Only passengers and a limited quantity of personal luggage shall be carried by Services Nos. (I) and (II). No goods shall be so carried.

No. (III) Service—Shall consist of four vehicles weighing gross not more than five tons each of approved design, fitted with pneumatic tyres, and separate compartments for luggage and parcels.

No. (IV) Service—shall consist of four vehicles of approved design fitted with pneumatic tyres and weighing gross not more than five tons each and capable of carrying all classes of passengers except first and second.

No. (V) Service—Shall consist of twelve vehicles of approved design fitted with pneumatic tyres and shall be capable of carrying luggage, goods, potatoes or dogs in separate dog boxes in which case an attendant for each dog will be allowed to travel in this service on payment of the ordinary fare of Rs. 2-4-0.

No. (VI) Slow Goods Service—Shall consist of twenty goods-lorries of approved design fitted with pneumatic tyres.

No. (VII) Service—Horses and Cattle service—Shall consist of two six-wheeler lorries of approved design with pneumatic tyres capable of carrying at least four horses or cattle including sheep as well as one syce for each horse in each lorry. When not required for the conveyance of horses or cattle or not requisitioned by a servant of the Crown at the rates detailed hereafter, they shall be available for the carriage of goods including potatoes.

This Service shall run to such timings as may be prescribed. These vehicles will not be permitted to do the double trip in any one day unless required for the transport of animals. The number of vehicles allowed for this Service may be increased to four if so ordered by Government. A vehicle or vehicles of this Service shall be supplied on two days' notice at an inclusive fee of Rs. 80 (Rupees eighty only) for the conveyance of passengers or goods or both on requisition by any Gazetted Officer in the Civil or Military employ of the Crown, for the carriage of Crown property or the personal effects of such officer on transfer.

After being used for the conveyance of cattle or sheep the vehicle shall be thoroughly disinfected before being used again for any purpose.

3. The speed of the cars used for all Services shall be subject to the orders of a Secretary to the Assam Government or any officer appointed in this behalf by the Governor.

4. If there are no passengers to be carried by any particular service the Carrier shall decide whether the vehicles shall run that day or not, provided that at least one passenger car shall run daily in both directions.

5. Fares and rates for the above mentioned services shall be those fixed and notified for the time being by the Carrier subject to the following maxima :—

By No. (I) Service—

Passengers from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or
vice versa.

Rs. a. p.
17 0 0

On requisition, by 24 hours' notice, on payment of a fare and a half for each of two passengers or less, and one fare for each of three passengers or more, a No. (I) Service Car will be provided for timings other than that of the mails. Similarly a No. (I) Service Car will be provided for the down journey from Shillong.

A consolidated fare of Rs. 50 (Rupees fifty only) shall be paid for reserving the whole car for four passengers from Shillong to Gauhati, or Pandu or *vice versa* under these circumstances.

By No. (II) Service—

Passengers from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or
vice versa, Second Class.

10 0 0

By No. (III) Service—

Passengers from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or
vice versa, Intermediate Class.

5 0 0

By No. (IV) Service—

Passengers from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or
vice versa, Third Class.

2 4 0

By No. (VII) Service—

Single horse or head of cattle from Pandu or
Gauhati to Shillong or *vice versa*.

30 0 0

Any additional horse or head of cattle booked by
the same consignor.

15 0 0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Any syce accompanying a horse	2	4	0
Sheep or other small animals uncrated each ...	2	0	0
Luggage accompanying passengers from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong, or <i>vice versa</i> and to be delivered within 24 hours of booking per ten seers or part thereof.	0	10	0
Advance luggage and parcels from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or <i>vice versa</i> per 10 seers or part thereof.	0	10	0
Goods from Gauhati to Shillong per ten seers or part thereof, to be delivered within six days of booking.	0	4	0
Goods from Shillong to Gauhati per ten seers or part thereof, to be delivered within six days of booking.	0	6	0
Small live animals, birds and poultry in cages, baskets, hampers or crates, between Pandu, Gauhati and Shillong per 6 cubic feet or part thereof.	2	8	0

RETURN FARES

Class	Between	Seven days' return	Fifteen days' return	Monthly return
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
1st Class ..	Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong or <i>vice versa</i> .	23 0	24 0	26 0
2nd Class ..	Ditto ditto	15 0	16 0	17 0
Inter Class ..	Ditto ditto	9 0	9 8	9 12
3rd Class ..	Ditto ditto	4 4	..	..

Packages weighing more than ten maunds shall be carried on special terms to be quoted by the Carrier on forty-eight hours' notice being given. Articles exceeding six cubic feet in bulk may be charged for by measurement for which purpose six cubic feet shall be taken as equivalent to one maund.

6. For intermediate distances the fares by No. II Service shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the full fare "second" or "third" class between Shillong and Burnihat or intermediate stage down, and between Gauhati and Umran or intermediate stage up. Beyond these stages full fares will be charged. By Nos. (III) and (VI) Services the fares shall be anna -1-6 and anna -1-0 per mile respectively subject to a maximum of Rs.5 and Rs 2-4 respectively.

Potatoes from Shillong to Gauhati or Pandu and *vice versa* shall in no circumstances be charged for at more than Re.1-8 (Rupee one and annas eight only) per maund and shall be delivered ordinarily within forty-eight hours of the time of booking.

Any rate charged by the Carrier shall include loading and unloading at the Carrier's godowns both at the starting station and at the destination. The maxima rates specified above shall be for luggage, parcels and goods carried at the owner's risk.

7. In the accelerated and mixed class passenger cars each first and second class passenger shall be entitled to take with him free of charge one attache case and loose cushions, coat and rug. No other luggage shall be carried in the first class accelerated passenger cars. A free allowance of one and a half maunds or sixty seers of luggage in the case of first class, thirty seers in the case of second class, and fifteen seers in the case of intermediate class passengers shall be allowed. Half the quantities shall be allowed for each child's (half) ticket.

8. In Service No.(IV), third class passengers shall be granted a free allowance of fifteen seers.

9. In all cars carrying passengers infants not exceeding three years of age shall be carried free, and children over 3 and under 12 years shall be carried at half rates.

10. Nurses of recognised Associations and teachers of Government, Mission or Aided Schools in Shillong shall be carried between Shillong and Gauhati or Pandu at a concession rate of rupees eight in the second class, and rupees four in the Intermediate class. The luggage of nurses, teachers and pupils whose parents or guardians are not resident in Shillong shall be carried at Re. 1-8 (Rupee one and annas eight) per maund.

The free luggage allowances admissible under clauses 7 and 8 of the Schedule will apply in these cases also.

11. Dogs shall be carried in luggage cars only at the rate of rupees two each for any journey.

12. One invalid car of a design to be approved by the Governor shall be maintained and run when required on twenty-four hours' notice being given.

13. The charge for the invalid car from Pandu or Gauhati to Shillong and *vice versa* shall be rupees sixty. Such charge shall include the fares of two passengers. Any additional passengers shall be charged the ordinary first class fares. The free allowance of luggage on the invalid car shall be the same as on first class passenger cars. Excess luggage shall be carried at rupees two and annas eight only (Rs. 2-8) per maund.

14. The Deputy Commissioner of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills or the Executive Engineer, Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division, or the Deputy Commissioner of the Kamrup district or a Military Officer or Gazetted Police Officer travelling on public duty and requiring to break his journey at any place on the Gauhati-Shillong road shall be carried in any passenger car and charged at the rate of three annas per mile for himself and one anna per mile up to a maximum of rupees 2-4 for his servant, if any, for the actual distance travelled.

15. The Carrier shall carry free of charge to any station between Gauhati and Shillong, and *vice versa*, any Inspector or Sub-Inspector or Sergeant of Police who may be specially deputed for duty by the Deputy Commissioner in charge of Police of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district or the Superintendent of Police, Kamrup district, and holds an order in writing. Such officers may take with him one constable free of charge.

16. The Carrier shall notify in writing the consignees of the arrival of goods or luggage and shall be allowed to charge demurrage at the rate of annas two per package per day if goods are not removed within forty-eight hours after the date of issue of the notice.

17. The Governor shall have power to order one extra vehicle to run at any time for the conveyance of passengers at the ordinary fares.

18. All vehicles shall run in conformity with the time tables and timing regulations which shall be issued from time to time by the Governor who shall have power to fix a maximum speed for any part of the journey.

19. All vehicles shall be numbered and every accident shall be reported to an officer appointed by the Governor within 24 hours of the occurrence giving the name of the driver.

20. In the case of vehicles carrying passengers or luggage fines may be levied by the Governor upon the Carrier for delays in starting from terminal and intermediate stations or for any break-downs causing stoppages exceeding one hour in the whole in any one trip, whether such delays and break-downs are due to causes within the Carrier's control or not, provided that these fines shall not exceed a total of rupees twenty-five per vehicle per trip ; provided also that no fines shall be leviable for delay caused by the late arrival of the train at Pandu or Gauhati or by natural events such as floods, cyclones and landslips.

H. G. DENNEHY,

*Chief Secretary
to the Government of Assam Home Department.*

For the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited.

S. BHATTACHARJEE,

Secretary.

P. S. GUHA,

Managing Director.

Witness—

R. C. R. CUMMING.

Witness—

MANICK CHANDRA SARMA,

Head Assistant, Home Department.

2019-2020

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

His Excellency Mr. H. J. TWYNAM, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI, M.A., B.L., in charge of Home and Education Departments.
2. The Hon'ble Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, Barrister-at-law, in charge of Finance and Revenue Departments.
3. The Hon'ble Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN, B.L., in charge of Local Self-Government, Legislative, Judicial and General Departments.
4. The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS, B.L., in charge of Medical, Public Health, Welfare of Labour, Boilers, Factories and Electricity Departments.
5. The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS, B.L., in charge of Excise and Agriculture Departments.
6. The Hon'ble Maulavi MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN, in charge of Public Works Department.
7. The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA, B.L., in charge of Forest and Registration Departments.
8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI, in charge of Co-operative Societies and Industries Departments.