

Proceedings of the Ninth 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 Tuesday, the 11th March, 1941.

Present

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES (BUDGET SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY HELD IN MARCH, 1941)

Correction Slip No. 2 of 1941.

For the words "The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali replied", wherever they occur below Unstarred questions, put and answered during the 1941 March Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, substitute the words "The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia replied".

[File No.As.-17-L.A. of 1941.]

SHILLONG :

The 15th July 1941.

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

A. G. P. (L.A.) No.85—500—16-7-1941.

stipulating with the Government as well as the Court of Wards for supply of necessary fish for local consumption?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

19. (a)—No.
(b)—With a view to the preservation of the fish supply Government are considering the question of framing rules under the Fishery Act. At present certain restrictive clauses are provided in the lease, but from reports received, from the Surma Valley in particular, Government have reason to apprehend that more stringent measures may be needed to prevent the supply being exhausted, chiefly by the use of large nets with very fine meshes.

(c)—No.

Kheda and Mela operations in the Assam Forests

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*20. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The usual practice that has been followed with or without limit in Kheda and Mela operations in the Assam Forests for the last 15 years?

- (b) Whence and on what principle the limit to such operations has been fixed ?
- (c) The total number of catches with catch limit and without catch limit in each year during the last 15 years and also the royalty received by Government in each year during this period without or with catch limit as the case may be ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

20. (a)—The practice was for elephant Shikar mahals to be without any limit in either Kheda or Mela operations until the current year, i.e., 1940-41.

(b)—Limitation of catches in Kheda mahals only has been introduced for the first time during the season 1940-41 as an experimental measure. The limit of catches is intended to safeguard the stock from extermination and to ensure reasonable prices for captured elephants.

(c)—A statement showing the number of elephants captured and the amount of royalty realised during the last 15 years is laid on the table. There was no limit on catches during these years. The figures for 1940-41 in which a limit has been imposed are not yet available.

Statement showing the number of elephants captured and the amount of royalty realised during 1925-26 to 1939-40

Year				Number of elephants captured	Amount of royalty realised
					Rs.
1925-26	...	...	...	210	90,418
1926-27	...	...	...	107	84,097
1927-28	...	...	...	365	1,95,700
1928-29	...	...	...	337	1,82,550
1929-30	...	...	...	218	1,18,000
1930-31	...	...	...	374	77,301
1931-32	...	...	...	146	24,600
1932-33	...	...	..	136	26,900
1933-34	...	...	...	324	44,050
1934-35	...	...	...	208	32,560
1935-36	...	...	...	392	62,086
1936-37	...	...	...	571	58,283
1937-38	...	...	...	199	40,195
1938-39	...	...	...	395	63,165
1939-40	...	...	...	334	57,535

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister tell me when it will be possible for him to supply us with the figures for 1940-41 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: After the end of the present operation which extends up to 15th March.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I give notice now that I shall be very much obliged if the Hon'ble Minister would put me in possession of those figures as soon as he has got them.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Yes, Sir, that may be done if it is desired by the hon. member.

Certificate cases filed under the Public Demands Recovery Act by the Bijni and Mechpara Court of Wards' Estates

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*21. Will Government be pleased to state year by year from 1930-31 to 1940-41, the number of certificate cases filed under the Public Demands Recovery Act by the Mechpara and Bijni Court of Wards' Estates ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

21.—The hon. member is referred to figures given in column 4 of Appendix VI to the Report on the Administration of Wards' Estates in the Assam Valley which is published annually by Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister give me the dates ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The hon. member has asked for figures from 1930-31 to 1940-41, and I may refer him to all those reports.

(Starred question No. 22 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Separation of the Executive from the Judiciary

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*23. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any officer was ever appointed to draw up a scheme for separation of the executive and the judiciary ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the name and designation of such officer ?
- (c) Whether any scheme was submitted by him ?
- (d) If so, the date on which it was submitted ?
- (e) Where the said Officer was posted after he had completed his duties in connection with the said scheme and in what capacity ?
- (f) Where is he posted now ?
- (g) What are his present duties ?
- (h) Since when he is holding his present post ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

23. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Mr. Radha Ranjan Dhar, Extra Assistant Commissioner

(c)—Yes.

(d)—On 3rd October 1940, but he took back his report for some alteration later on and returned it about a fortnight afterwards.

(e)—He remained at Shillong till 15th February, explaining any points in his report on which Government required further information, calculating the requirements of service posts in relation to the scheme, and trying a criminal case.

(f)—Sylhet Sadr.

(g)—Assisting the Collector in connection with Estates under the Court of Wards.

(h)—Since the date mentioned in the reply to question (e).

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire to whom the said officer explained the necessary points that were required by Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I did not require his help, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: For how many months he was here for this work of explanation, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The hon. member can make his own calculation from the data given.

Counting of Seamen serving abroad in the coming census

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

*24. (a) Are Government aware that about thirty thousand people of the district of Sylhet are employed as seamen in the ports of Calcutta, Chittagong and Bombay?

(b) Is it a fact that these persons will not be counted by the local enumerators for the purposes of Census?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state, what action they propose to take for enumerating these people as *bona fide* inhabitants of the district of Sylhet?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

24.(a)—Government are aware that numerous seamen hail from Sylhet. They will be found not only in the ports named, but on the high seas and in other ports of the world.

(b)—They will not be enumerated in Sylhet. Many have not visited their homes in Sylhet for many years, but a note will be made in the village notes to indicate the number of families which have sent seamen.

(c)—It will not be practicable to enumerate all such persons as inhabitants of Sylhet. They will be enumerated wherever they may be at the time of a census, but some have settled abroad.

Conferences attended by Hon'ble Ministers outside the Province

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

*25. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of Conferences attended by the Hon'ble Ministers outside the Province from 1st December 1940 to 31st January 1941 ?
- (b) The names of the Hon'ble Ministers who attended these Conferences ?
- (c) The amount drawn as expenses incurred for attending these Conferences by each of the Hon'ble Ministers on each occasion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

25. (a)—(i) The 13th Industrial Conference, Lucknow. (ii) Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at Lucknow. (iii) The Petrol Rationing and Labour Ministers' Conference held at Delhi.

(b)—The Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Minister, Industries and the Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department.

(c)—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Hon'ble Prime Minister	414	12	0
Hon'ble Minister, Industries	414	12	0
Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department.	589	4	0

Settlement of Jhars in Habraghat

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED asked :

*26. Will Government be pleased to state how many Jhars in Habraghat under the Bijni Raj Court of Wards were settled with Kamala Kanta Das of Nagarbera from 1937 to 1940 ?

*27. Is it a fact that the said Kamala Kanta was allowed by the Chief Forest Officer, Bijni Raj Estate, to dispose of timbers by giving sale marks without payment of royalty ?

*28. (a) Is it a fact that a huge sum is outstanding on account of royalty from the said contractor ?

(b) If so, how does the Estate propose to realise the same from him ?

*29. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of outstanding royalty from the said contractor ?
- (b) Whether any security was ever taken from this contractor ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

*30. (a) Is it a fact that under the present working system of the Estate, timbers are the only security against any contractor?

(b) If so, why this contractor was allowed to dispose of the timbers without payment of royalty?

*31. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of trees granted to this contractor by the Chief Forest Officer of Bijni Raj Estate, on permit system, during the years 1937-40?

(b) If this contractor was allowed trees at concessional rates?

(c) If so, what is the reason for this?

(d) What is the usual rate of each tree from time to time and at what rates they were granted to this contractor?

*32. (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Forest Officer of Bijni Raj Estate is now trying to get a bond from the said Kamala Kanta for the outstanding royalty without the sanction of Government?

(b) If so, whether any enquiry was made regarding this matter by the Manager, Bijni Raj Court of Wards?

*33. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that one Kailash Chandra Chaudhury felled some green al trees in Chaurabdhakra Jhar under Roka Khata Dihi within the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate in the year 1939-40?

(b) If so, how and who brought this fact to the notice of the Chief Forest Officer of the Estate and on which date?

(c) Whether the Chief Forest Officer of the Estate made enquiries about this fact?

(d) If so, for how many times and after how many months, the enquiries were made?

(e) What was the result of the first and second enquiries made by the said Chief Forest Officer?

(f) Whether the matter had to be enquired afresh by the Manager and the Assistant Manager?

(g) If so, why?

(h) Who was the Ranger under whom this Jhar was placed at that time?

*34. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there were cases of illegal felling of timbers by some tenants in Sukanjhar Forest within the Fakiragram Dihi of the Bijni Raj Ward's Estate?

(b) If so, when did this occur?

(c) Who brought this fact to the notice of the Chief Forest Officer of the Estate and on what date?

(d) What action did he take against the illegal fellers?

(e) Whether any enquiry was made or any offence report drawn up by him?

(f) If so, after how many months or years the enquiry was made, and what was the result of such enquiry?

(g) Who was the Ranger in charge of this Jhar at that time?

*35. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one Sabda Ram Shinga of Salkocha was a permit holder in coupe No.3 of Bangaldoba Jhar under the Bijni Raj Court of Wards in the year 1344 B.S.?
- (b) If so, who was the Range Officer in charge of Bangaldoba Jhar at that time?
- (c) Whether the said Sabda Ram Shinga felled any timber more than what was allowed by the permit?
- (d) If so, how many timbers were felled by him?
- (e) When and by whom it was detected?
- (f) Whether this fact was reported to the Chief Forest Officer of the Estate?
- (g) If so, what action was taken by him?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

26.—Three Jhars in Habraghat pargannah.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : May I know the names of the Jhars, Sir?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : On a point of order, Sir. May I enquire from the questioner, as it is reported that he has been appointed as a Parliamentary Secretary, whether he is entitled to put such a question?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : I have not joined as yet, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have no information as yet whether hon. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed has been appointed as a Parliamentary Secretary. I take no notice of it.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : I have not yet accepted that, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : With regard to the question of Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed, Sir, I require notice of that question. He wants to know the names of the Jhars.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

27.—No

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know the date of payment of the royalty and the date of the disposal of the timbers, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I require notice of this question, Sir.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge please enquire about the dates of the payment of the royalty and of the disposal of the timbers, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that he requires notice of the question. My question is that when the question was put, was not that treated as a notice?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He requires notice of the supplementary question.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

28. (a)—The total amount outstanding against him at the end of September 1940 stood at Rs. 2,269-10-9. It must have since been reduced considerably.

(b)—The Contractor is paying up the arrears gradually along with the sales of his timber in stock. But if he fails to pay up the entire amount within a reasonable time, such legal steps as may be advised will be taken.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know whether such facilities were given to the other contractors ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I am not aware of that.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire about this ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Do the Court of Wards rules allow the procedure of realisation of royalty by instalments ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I shall enquire about the procedure.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Were any new Jhars settled with this man after he was found defaulting ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Probably not. I am not aware of that either.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : May I infer that the Hon'ble Minister is not at all aware of the working of, and procedure with regard to, the forest mahals of the Court of Wards estates ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : These are matters of detail.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Should he not know these things as a matter of policy ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I do not think, Sir, that a Minister is expected to know all the details of procedure.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : May I know for which year this sum of Rs. 2,269-10-9 was due from the contractor ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : For several years, I think. It was at the end of September 1940 that the figure stood at Rs. 2,269-10-9.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : May I know whether the same contractor was given any other coupes after he defaulted ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is also not known to me.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire into the matter ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, if I get specific allegation against this contractor I shall be very glad to make a detailed enquiry regarding the whole matter.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Our information is that the same contractor was given some other coupes.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The matter will be enquired into.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

29. (a)—As stated in the reply to question 28(a).

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : With regard to (b), may I know what is the nature of the security ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Cash security.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Our information is that it was not a cash security, but only a written document.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : When the Hon'ble Minister says that it was a cash security, the hon. member should accept the statement.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I may inform the hon. member that a cash security of Rs. 100 was taken from this contractor.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

30. (a)—It used to be so, but in the current year a cash security of Rs.50 per coupe is being taken.

(b)—Does not arise.

31. (a)—Two hundred *sal* trees.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The concessional rate was allowed on certain special considerations, chief of which was difficulty of extraction from the place of operation.

(d) The usual rate of royalty per *Sal* tree is Rs. 12 but he was allowed 100 trees at Rs.9 each with proper sanction.

32. (a) and (b)—Yes. The matter is under consideration.

33. (a) —It is believed that this was so ; but a final finding has not yet been arrived at.

(b)—The fact was brought to the notice of the Assistant Manager in charge of Forests on 17th December 1939 (while the Chief Forest Officer was on leave) by an anonymous petition. The exact date when this came to the notice of the Chief Forest Officer is not known.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Range Officer concerned made inquiries into the case in December 1939 under the direction of the Assistant Manager and from January 1940 till 1st April 1940, under the direction of the Chief Forest Officer. The Chief Forest Officer made inquiries into the case twice—once on the 28th January 1940 and again on the 1st April 1940.

(e) and (f)—During his first inquiry the Chief Forest Officer was led to believe that there was no evidence in support of the allegation that Kailash Chandra Chaudhury had felled some green *sal* trees in the Charuabhakra Jhar. The second inquiry held by him jointly with the Assistant Manager at the instance of the Manager, who personally looked into the matter, resulted in a compromise, the necessary compensation and royalty being realized.

(g)—Because the Manager had reasons to believe that the allegation was not without foundation.

(h)—Babu Rakesh Ranjan Dutta.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know why four months were taken for making the second enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I think the Manager took some time to consider the report of the first enquiry. The time taken was not four months, but a little over three months.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: What part did the Ranger take in this matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not aware of that, Sir.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Did he inform the Estate that Kailash Chandra Chaudhury had felled some green sal trees in the Charua-bhakra Jhar?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: He might have done so.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is there any allegation that the Ranger went out of his way in this matter?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: No, Sir, there is no such allegation.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether this information was given by the public in an anonymous petition or by the Ranger?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Government are informed that it was the anonymous petition which brought this matter to their notice.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: So, the Ranger did not give any information.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: The hon. member may make his own inference.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

34. (a)—No.

(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g)—Do not arise.

35. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Maulavi Md. Moktal Hussain, Forester, Bahalpur Beat was in charge of Bangaldoba Jhar. Babu Rakesh Ranjan Dutta was the Range Officer.

(c)—No.

(d)—(g)—Do not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Centres of "Model Villages"

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

37. Will Government be pleased to state, subdivision by subdivision, the number and names of centres of "Model Villages" which have been opened in the Surma Valley districts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

37.—The information is furnished below :—

I.—SYLHET DISTRICT

(1) Sylhet Subdivision	...	1. Tazpur, 2. Bhadeswar and 3. Jaintiapur.
(2) Maulvibazar	..	1. Kulaura and 2. Kamalganj.
(3) Karimganj	..	1. Beanibazar and 2. Gangarjal.
(4) Habiganj	..	1. Shaistaganj and 2. Nabiganj.
(5) Sunamganj	..	1. Sachna-Jamalganj, 2. Jagan-nathpur and 3. Pagla.

II.—CACHAR DISTRICT

(1) Silchar Subdivision	...	1. Buribail and 2. Narsingpur.
(2) Hailakandi	..	1. Chandrapur.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know on what basis the sites for model villages were selected ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : Many factors were taken into consideration, viz., public enthusiasm, local conditions, etc.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know, Sir, whether this matter was decided by the departmental officer or after consulting the public ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : The recommendation of the departmental officer was obtained.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Was the public consulted in the matter of selecting the sites ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : It was not considered necessary.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : May I know, Sir, if it is the Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali who is speaking ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : (laughter). replying to these questions was given to me as unfortunately he is laid up with a fracture of his arm.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : May I know why the questions cannot be answered by the Parliamentary Secretary of Mr. Munawwar Ali ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Does the hon. member know that one Parliamentary Secretary is attached to each Minister ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But in such a case if another Minister undertakes to answer the questions it is all the better.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Has any special work been done by the starting of the model villages ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : This is a new question, Sir.

Contribution of one lakh of rupees to the British War Fund

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the question of contribution of a lakh of rupees to the British War Fund, involving a correct interpretation of

Section 150 of the Government of India Act, that was raised and discussed during the last session of the Assembly, has been referred to the Federal Court for opinion?

- (b) If not, do Government propose to make such a reference?
(c) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

38. (a)—(c)—The question was referred to the Government of India and their reply has just been received. The matter will be discussed and the result of the reference given at the time of presenting the supplementary demand at this session of the Assembly.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Is it not a fact that the Federal Court is the proper authority to settle legal matters?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I need not reply to that question, Sir, because the answer is contained in the Constitution Act itself.

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS: The answer given is that the matter was referred to the Government of India. I want to know why it was not referred to the Federal Court.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I can only repeat the reply, Sir. I refer him to the Constitution Act.

Children of immigrants or tea garden labourers

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

39. Will Government be pleased to state whether the children of immigrant people or tea garden labourers born in the province will be counted as immigrants or tea garden labourers or they will be treated as Surma Valley or Assam Valley Hindus or Muslims according to their place of birth?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

39.—The question does not indicate the purpose for which the classification mentioned is desired. If it refers to the Census of this year, it has not been decided to what extent results will be tabulated. If it refers to representation in the services, the whole question is still under examination, and no final decision has been reached.

Representation of various communities in public services

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

40. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) In a tabular form the percentage of
(i) Surma Valley Caste Hindus,
(ii) Assam Valley Caste Hindus,
(iii) Surma Valley Scheduled Caste Hindus,
(iv) Assam Valley Scheduled Caste Hindus,
(v) Surma Valley Muslims,
(vi) Assam Valley Muslims,
(vii) Tribal Castes, and
(viii) Immigrants,

in each Department of Government in Government service on the basis of the figures as they stood on 31st December 1940 ?

- (b) The rule fixing the percentage to be observed in making appointments ?
- (c) The time when the said rule fixing the percentage was promulgated ?
- (d) Whether the leaders or the representatives of Parties in the House were consulted before fixing such percentage, as promised by the Hon'ble the Premier during the last Budget Session ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

40. (a) (i)-(iii).—The particulars asked for are not available and could not be obtained in time for reply at the present session. Government are however engaged in a full examination for the purpose of revising the communal tables as laid down in 1935, and are awaiting the Census figures in order to complete the business of review. They will be receiving a return for the actual state of the cadres in May 1941.

(b) & (c).—The present instructions are laid down in a circular letter of 1935, a copy of which is given below :—

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

CIRCULAR No. 1A.P.

FROM

J. A. DAWSON, Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S.,
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM,

To

ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS (INCLUDING THE
SUPERINTENDENT, CIVIL VETERINARY DEPART-
MENT), EXCEPT THE DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS.

SUBJECT:—REPRESENTATION OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN PUBLIC
SERVICE.

SIR,

Shillong, the 2nd December 1935.

I AM directed to invite a reference to Circular No. 2A.P., dated the 9th December 1933, prescribing two statements to show the employment of the different sections of the communities in Government Service.

The question of revision of the form of these statements, particularly with a view to show separately the appointments due to members of the

Scheduled Castes and the Backward Tribes, has been under consideration for some time past. Revised forms showing revised units of communities together with population and percentage according to the last Census figures are appended. These forms should be used in place of the forms prescribed in the Circular mentioned above.

A consolidated statement showing the employment of all communities in non-gazetted non-ministerial appointments in your charge should be submitted to Government as now by the 1st of May in each year for the next preceding official year in the revised form B mentioned above. Temporary appointments held by members of different communities should be shown in the remarks column of the return.

2. As directed in paragraph 2 of the Hon'ble Mr. Reid's Circular No. 4A., dated the 13th March 1914, statements showing separately the ministerial and non-gazetted non-ministerial appointments subordinate to each officer should be compiled in form A attached hereto and should be kept up to date and consulted when new appointments are made.

3. I am also to invite a reference to Circular No. 3A P., dated the 13th May 1932, according to which the annual statement showing the representation of the several communities in ministerial appointments need no longer be submitted to Government.

4. I am also to point out that menial appointments need not be included in the non-gazetted non-ministerial statement as the orders about representation of various communities in public service do not apply in the case of menial servants—*vide* correction slip No. 58 at page 109 of the Assam Executive Manual.

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DAWSON.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

FORM A

PROVINCE (EXCLUDING MANIPUR)

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES
OF THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM

Department

Communities	Population	Percentage of each community on the total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength	Number of posts actually held by each community	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	..	..	
2. Muslims	2,757,650	31			
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	2,276,231	26			
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	755,973	9			
5. Scheduled Castes (a) ..	572,805	6			
6. Domiciled Hindus (other than ex-coolies).	..	*			
7. Tribal people (Hills and Plains) (b).	1,376,861	16			
8. Others (c)	1,062,731	12			

(a) *Assam Valley*—Namasudra, Kaibartta, Bania (Brittial Bania) and Hira.

Surma Valley—Mali (Indigenous), Dhupi (Dhobi), Dugla or Dholi, Jhalo and Malo, Mahara, Sutradhar, Muchi, Patni, Namasudra and Kaibartta (Jaliya).

Plus the following castes in both valleys, viz., Lalbegi, Mehtar (Bhanghi) and Bansphor.

* Less than 1 per cent.

(b) Abor, Aka, Dafla, Garo, Hajong, Kachari, Khamti, Khasi, Kuki, Lakher, Lalung, Lushai, Mikir, Miri, Mishmi, Naga and Synteng.

(c) The particular communities to which "others" belong should be specified in a footnote.

FORM B
STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF THE POSTS HELD BY MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM
 Department _____

Communities		• Non-gazetted non-ministerial appointments during the year ending the 31st March 19 • Ministerial appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 25 or over							Remarks
Population	Percentage of each community on the total population.	On the 31st March of the preceding year			On the 31st March of the year under report		Total appointments under report		
		Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the whole strength was their own	Total strength	Number of appointments held by each community	Total appointments under report				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians ..	2,757,650	..	31						
2. Muslims ..	2,276,731	26							
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6)	755,973	9							
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	572,805	6							
5. Scheduled Castes (a) ..	..	..					
6. Domiciled Hindus (other than ex-coolies).	..	..					
7. Tribal people (Hills and Plains) (b)	1,376,861	16							
8. Other (c) ..	1,062,731	12							

* Strike out the heading which is not applicable.

(a) Assam Valley—Namasudra, Kaibartta, Ban'ia (Brittial Bania) and Hira.

Surma Valley—Mali (Indigenous), Dhupi (Dhobi), Dugla or Dholi, Jhalo and Malo, Mahara, Sutradhar, Mucher, Paten, Namasudra and Namasudra (Jaliya).

Plus the following castes in the both valleys, viz., Lalbegi, Mehtar (Bhang) and Baraspor.

** Less than 1 per cent.

(b) Abor, Aka, Dafia, Garo, Hajong, Kachari, Khamti, Khasi, Kuki, Lakher, Lalung, Lushai, Mikir, Miri, Mahmi, Naga and Synteng.

(c) The particular communities to which "others" belong should be specified in a foot-note.

40, (d)—Government have not yet revised the table as already explained. They will consider consulting representatives of communities and parties when they are in possession of all the facts required.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: The answer to question No. 40(a) says that "Government are engaged in a full examination for the purpose of revising the communal tables as laid down in 1935 and are awaiting the census figures in order to complete the business of review". May I enquire since when they began reviewing the whole thing?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: About four months back.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I take it that the reviewing is almost finished?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The answer is that it has been completed. The policy has already been accepted. Only we want to fix the percentage after the census figures are obtained.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Was it not the duty of the Government to take up the matter since their assumption of office in 1937?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is that question relevant, Sir?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: That is a matter of opinion, Sir?

Government grants to High Madrassas

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

41. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of High Madrassas in the Surma Valley and in the Assam Valley and Government grant given to each of them? (The names of Madrassas and aids given to each of them, in the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley to be shown separately).

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of sanctioning grants liberally to the High Madrassas started in the Assam Valley?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

41. (a)—The information is furnished below:—

	Total No.	Names	Recurring grant per month
Surma Valley ...	2	1. Jhingabari Senior and High Madrassa, Sylhet.	Rs. 315 a month
		2. Karimganj High Madrassa, Karimganj.	195 a month.
Assam Valley ...	3	1. Rangiya High Madrassa, Gauhati.	70+150* a month.
		2. Sibsagar High Madrassa, Sibsagar.	80 a month.
		3. Gauripur High Madrassa, Dhubri.	95 a month.

*The grant is meant for both Rangiya High English and High Madrassa Sections.

(b)—The cases will be considered on their merits and with reference to the funds available for the purpose.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that for the last two years, the Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education is recommending to the Government for an increase in the grant given to the Gauripur High Madrasa ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Government has already increased the grant to this Madrasa by Rs. 10 in the year 1940-41.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : Will the Hon'ble Minister please increase the amount to Rs. 195 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I am afraid, I cannot make any such promise. But I shall look into the matter again and see what I can do to increase the grant next year.

Scholarships to scheduled castes students in the Agriculture Department

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

42. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of scholarships granted in 1940 to the scheduled castes students in the Agriculture Department ?
- (b) The number of scholarships reserved for the scheduled castes students in that Department ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

42. (a)—None, there being no scholarship granted to any.

(b)—There is no reservation of agricultural scholarships by communities but the claims of suitable candidates from backward classes are duly considered.

Procedure re recruitment to higher services

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked :

43. (a) Is it a fact that Government have passed an order debarring Government officers not within the limit of age prescribed for entry into Government service from competing with outsiders in connection with recruitment for higher services ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Do Government propose to withdraw the said order ?

(d) If not, why not ?

44. (a) Do Government propose with a view to provide an incentive for efficiency in lower services to reserve certain percentages of Gazetted posts in the various Departments of the Government for being filled up by promotion ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make merit the only basis for such promotion ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) If the answer to question No. 44(a) above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

43. (a)—Government's orders were to the effect that in competition for higher services candidates already in Government employment would be permitted to compete, provided they are within the age limit, but condonation would not be granted for this purpose.

(b)—Owing to the severe competition for service under Government, and the fact that for some time there had been a comparatively small number of vacancies in certain services, Government have been fairly generous in allowing condonation of overage recently. It was not always possible to grant the condonation only for the purpose of competing for a specific post. But it would be going too far to extend the benefit of condonation so as to enable those who have been already so fortunate as to secure employment, and have already gained besides an assured prospect the chance also of obtaining promotion or transfer on the ground of good work, the privilege of competing after the maximum age is reached.

(c)—No.

(d)—There are several reasons : it is unfair upon the students of one period to require them to compete with seniors who have gained some experience in employ, it would also unduly swell the numbers among whom appointing authorities have to select, which are in any case very large, and it would tend to dislocate administration if candidates who have secured employment to their choice could freely absent themselves from duty to attend examinations and interviews for other posts with higher emoluments.

44. (a)—It is the case in most services and the rules provide for promotion. The point will be considered, particularly in regard to fixing definite percentages, in framing the new service rules, which are under preparation.

(b)—Merit, including qualifications and experience are the basis of promotion except where candidates of similar age and merit are forthcoming, in which case attention may be paid to inequalities in the cadre of the service concerned.

(c)—In many instances experience is itself a desideratum, and long service of approved character deserves its reward. Whether promotion should depend in any case upon qualifications and comparative merit, irrespective of age and experience, is a matter depending on the requirements of the particular service concerned, and will be dealt with in framing the service rules.

(d)—Does not arise.

Legislative Assembly General Election

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

45. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether recommendations have been sent to His Majesty's Government for the postponement of the Assembly General Election, which is due in next winter ?

(b) If not, whether the date for the next election has been fixed ?

- (c) Whether directions have been sent for compiling a complete electoral roll for the General, Muhammedan and Depressed Class Constituencies?
- (d) Whether all qualified voters as detailed below, who have not been enfranchised during the last election, will be enlisted in the electoral rolls?—
- (i) Co-shafer members of each family which pays Chawki-dari tax of Re. 1 or more.
 - (ii) The wife of the person who pays Re. 1 as Chawkidari Tax.
 - (iii) All women who know to read and write.
 - (iv) All students of age (above 21 years), who have passed Middle English, Matriculation and more higher examinations and also Madrasa and Tols examinations.
- (e) Whether Government propose to abolish the formal method of a voter's applying to and appearing before the returning officer for enfranchisement?
- (f) Whether Government propose to depute instead, one special officer in each of the Subdivisions to compile the new electoral rolls to include all qualified voters?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

45. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d), (e) & (f)—These will be dealt with in accordance with the prescribed rules.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : With regard to question 45(c), may I know when direction will be sent for compiling a complete electoral roll?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I cannot say about it definitely. The probable date has not been fixed yet.

Pay of Police constables, Peons in Courts, etc.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

46. Is it a fact that the police constables, peons in courts, chaprasis in the Secretariats and offices of the Heads of Departments and in Districts and Subdivisional Offices, are given responsible duties to perform and that they get insufficient remunerations in proportion to the task they have to perform?

47. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the aforesaid menial staff are given any war bonus or dearness allowance?

(b) Whether war bonus or dearness allowance is given to highly paid officials?

- (c) If the answer to question 47 (a) above is in the negative, and that of the question No. 47 (b) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps for the increase of pay of the aforesaid menial staff?
- (d) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

46.—No. Government do not admit that the scales of pay of the police constables, peons, etc., are not commensurate with the duties they are to perform.

47. (a)—The hon. member's attention is drawn to Government Resolution No. 5652-F.(a), dated the 4th October 1940. The necessity for the grant of the allowance has not yet arisen.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—Does not arise.

Income from fishery

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

48. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the fishery of the Province is in a moribund condition?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that fishery yields a decent income to the provincial revenue?
- (c) The annual income of Government from fishery? (To be shown district by district.)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

48. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes, and it has been increasing for the last three years.

(c)—The revenue for 1939-40, the latest year for which figures are available is given below:—

					Rs.
1. Goalpara	...	...	...	...	2,010
2. Kamrup	...	...	...	...	75,349
3. Darrang	...	...	...	...	25,514
4. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	29,031
5. Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	48,580

	Rs.
6. Lakhimpur	26,810
7. Garo Hills	3,834
8. Cachar	23,560
9. Sylhet	1,15,334
10. Khasi and Jaintia Hills	5,365
11. Lushai Hills	400
12. Sadiya and Balipara Frontier Tracts.	3,634

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : With reference to question No.48(b), may I know from the Government what steps, if any, have been taken for the increase of the revenue of the province from fisheries?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Government have appointed a Fishery Officer who is now making enquiries in the district of Sylhet as to how to improve the fisheries.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact that the Fishery Officer submitted several schemes to Government?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know whether Government have given any consideration to his schemes?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The schemes are being considered now.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know if it is a fact that several fisheries have dried up in Sylhet?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : What action are Government taking?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The matter is being considered.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : What indications are there to show that the appointment of a Fishery Officer is mainly responsible for the increase in the fishery revenue of the province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is not a fact. The appointment has been made to improve the fisheries. I do not accept the statement that the increase in the fishery revenue is due to the Fishery Officer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : May I know what other steps the Hon'ble Minister is taking for the improvement of the fishery revenue?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I have already replied, Sir, with reference to a starred question that Government is considering the question of framing rules under the Fisheries Act with a view to the preservation and culture of fish.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Does the Hon'ble Minister consider that the framing of rules is sufficient to increase the fishes in the fisheries?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, that will have the effect of improving the fishery supplies.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know whether it is the duty of the Fishery Officer to see to the increase in the quantity of fish or to the increase in the revenue from fisheries? The Hon'ble Minister said that the Fishery Officer is appointed to see that the income is improved.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Improvement of the fisheries means improvement in income from fisheries.

Announcement of the results of elections to the Assam-Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committees

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Order, order. As a result of the elections held for electing representatives of this House on the Assam-Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee and also on the Eastern Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee, I declare that Maulavi Abdur Rahman has been elected for the Local Advisory Committee of the Assam-Bengal Railway and Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal has been elected for the Eastern Bengal Railway Local Advisory Committee.

The Assam University Bill, 1941

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

I beg to move that the Assam University Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members :—

1. Mr. A. Whittaker,
2. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn,
3. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri,
4. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya,
5. Srijut Sarveswar Barua,
6. Srijut Ghanasyam Das,
7. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education,
8. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuya,
9. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Muhammad Waheed,
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury,
11. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
12. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali,
13. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali,
14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf,
15. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,
16. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal, and
17. Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain.

All these hon. members have expressed their willingness to serve on the committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister will please mention the number to form a quorum.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Seven members will form a quorum. I would like to add that the report of the Select Committee may be submitted by the 1st May, 1941.

Sir, while introducing the Bill, the other day, I spoke at length about the persistent demand in this province for the establishment of a separate University. I also read out certain reports and correspondence from the Government of Assam to the Government of India which also clearly stated that it is imperative that Assam should separate itself from the Calcutta University and have a University of its own.

This Bill has been conceived with the idea that the province of Assam as a whole demands that a University should be established here. I think, Sir, I would do well to quote one or two more opinions to convince this House that my presumption about the desire of this province in the matter of the establishment of a University is quite correct.

In the year 1935, a resolution was put forward, and actually moved, by my hon. friend Mr. Nichols-Roy urging that a scheme should be prepared as early as possible for the establishment of a University in this province. While speaking on another resolution Mr. Roffey, the Leader of the Planting Group at the time, said:—"I can say quite definitely that we are in favour of a University for the province", that is to say, the Planting Group is definitely in favour of a University for this province. I also have in my possession a letter from Sir C. V. Raman, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., etc., one of the most prominent educationists in India, who said among other things, "the natural desire of the Assamese people to have a University of their own, will I am sure, receive universal support." Then, Sir, I would also like to quote from a speech delivered at the University Convocation Ceremony. The speech was delivered by Sir Deva Prasad Adikari, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. He says: "Assam wanted a University of its own for it has its own problems and requirements and traditions, which a huge Institution like the Calcutta University could not serve." I consider, Sir, that the gentlemen whose opinions I have just quoted are in a position to take a detached view of the whole problem, and their opinion naturally carries great weight.

I owe a word of explanation why instead of coming to this House with a motion for circulation of this Bill, I have come straightaway with a motion for reference to a Select Committee. There is absolutely no doubt that this is a momentous piece of legislation, and I should have taken the formal procedure of eliciting public opinion before I came to invite this House to commit themselves to the principles of this Bill. As I have recounted the other day, there has been a demand for the establishment of a University since the year 1917. In the year 1921, the late Khan Bahadur Maulavi Muhammad Bakht Majumdar of Sylhet moved a resolution recommending the establishment of a University in this province. Then, there was another resolution which came from my Hon'ble friend Maulavi Munawwar Ali in 1931, recommending the establishment of a University. It was in the year 1934 that a Bill was actually prepared, but for want of a definite scheme and want of an assurance for funds, sanction to move that Bill was not accorded. On the eve of the present Reforms, there was a general expectation everywhere that the autonomous province will soon have a University in the province. In the year 1937, Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed said that the proposal was engaging their serious attention. In 1938, in presenting the Budget for the Government, the then Chief Minister, the present Prime Minister, said that they were actually taking steps to bring forward a Bill for the purpose. In 1938, the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Maulavi Munawwar Ali actually drafted a Bill in consultation with the Education Officers, but for certain domestic differences, I mean a difference of opinion with the members of the Legislature, the then Government had to resign. In 1939, in presenting the Budget, the then Finance Minister Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said:

"The questions of a University or Universities for this province, of overhauling the whole secondary system with a view to give it a more practical and morally wholesome basis and of the spread of primary education, are, however, engaging their earnest attention."

In 1939, towards the end of that year, the Congress-Coalition Party came to the conclusion that the question of a University might be shelved for

the present. But the Budget for the succeeding year—1940-41—was presented by the Hon'ble Prime Minister (I refer to Sir Muhammad Saadulla), and he said in clearest terms that the question of establishing a University for this province was engaging serious attention, and that he expected to come forward with a practical proposal. These utterances made by different Education Ministers and the Hon'ble Prime Minister have received absolutely no contradiction from the hon. members of the House. It shows, therefore, that the desire which was expressed by the people of the province on the eve of the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy that a University should be established as early as possible, has been kept alive by the representatives of the people in this House. There will be, I am sure, no contradiction of the statement which I make that in this House there has not been expressed so long any opposition to the idea of establishment of a University. Taking note of the attitude of this House and of being alive to the duty of the Government to implement the assurances and hopes they have held out, we have hastily rather expeditiously taken all possible steps to try to implement the wishes expressed in this House of Legislature in the matter of the establishment of a University.

Sir, as hon. members are aware, in the normal course, the life-time of this House is only up to the end of March 1942, and if we place any value to the utterances which the members of the Government including the Prime Ministers have given from time to time, we should take all possible steps to see that a University is established before the life-time of the present House expires. It is only on that account that I have not come forward with a motion for circulation of this Bill, but have straightaway asked the hon. members of the House to consider a proposal for reference to a Select Committee, because I feel that this Government owes a duty to the members of the Legislature to take all possible steps to implement their promise for the establishment of a University in this province. To meet their objection, however, that the public had not had an opportunity to express their views on the provisions of this Bill, I propose to circulate this Bill and get public opinion in time, so that the opinions may be considered by the Select Committee. I hope hon. members of this House will be satisfied with the assurance that I give of placing before the Select Committee public opinions on the provisions of this Bill.

Sir, in a motion for reference to the Select Committee, it is customary to deal with salient features of the Bill. In this connection, Sir, it will be futile for me to ignore that there is an apprehension in certain quarters that the establishment of a University in this province will interfere with Bengali culture and education in this province. I would challenge any member in this House or outside to point out to me any particular provision in this Bill which may be calculated to give rise to that apprehension. On the other hand, I would point out that the Calcutta University, as at present constituted, does not make any particular provision for vernacular studies. The whole subject of Bengali and other languages are grouped in what is known as Sanskritic education and separate provision has not been made either for Bengali or for any other languages which have been derived from Sanskrit. We have, in this Bill, made definite provision for Bengali education, so that the fear that we are going to encroach upon Bengali education, so that the fear that we are going to encroach upon Bengali culture or interfere with the legitimate desire of the Bengali inhabitants of this province to carry on their education in their own language is absolutely unfounded and based on the most regrettable prejudices. Sir, if there was the least reason for suspicion that a University established in this province is likely to jeopardise the interests of Bengali education, is it possible that a man of eminence like Sir Devaprosad Sarvadikhari, who is himself a Bengali,

would countenance for one moment a proposal for a University in this province? Fortunately, however, that apprehension is comparatively found only in a handful of the people of this province, and I hope that after this explanation which I have given on the floor of the House, men who are interested in the uplift of the province will dispel any prejudice that they may have crept in their mind.

The next question which may occur to any one who has gone through the provisions of this Bill is whether the University should be a residential or an affiliating or a teaching University. (For answer to that we) be found in the Bill itself. Our present proposal is to have only an affiliating University. It is not possible for us now to think of having a teaching and residential University.

I will explain the reasons why we are at present only considering the University of an affiliating type. It will be seen by the members of this House that the Calcutta University Committee had recommended that in India, provisions should be made in every University for teaching in social life of students in centralised residential University. This only is an ideal which Universities should have in view. The students of Assam cannot have anything but an affiliating University because University activities under direct control and management must be concentrated in one particular centre. There are 14 colleges in Assam, 3 at Gauhati, 4 at Shillong, 3 at Sylhet town, 1 at Habiganj, 1 at Silchar, 1 at Barpeta and 1 at Jorhat. So the towns each having more than one college are Gauhati, Sylhet and Shillong. Gauhati has three colleges—Gotton College, Earle Law College and Radha Kanta Handique Women's College—with a total student population of 1,104. Sylhet has similarly three colleges—Murrari-chand College, Modan Mohan College and Women College—with a total student population of 924. Shillong has four colleges with a total enrolment of 410. If a unitary University is established in Assam, it will amount to the whole teaching being conducted at one or other of these towns by teachers appointed by the University. The result will be that other colleges will have to be abolished or made to continue under the Calcutta University. If a teaching University is established, the University teaching even though partial, will have to be conducted at one of these three places to the detriment of the Mufussil colleges which will languish for want of opportunities of development. What is wanted in Assam is the institution of opportunities for development of the different educational centres so that at one time be a small University. It will be inadvisable to launch organisations without creating in the province a University atmosphere and without part in University teaching and University administration. The Auxiliary Committee of the Indian Statutory Commission appointed to review the ttee after its Chairman Sir Phillip Hartog were definitely of opinion that as necessarily be of the affiliating type partly in order to cover the area colleges. It will be found at page 121 of the Report. This opinion has been repeated by the said Committee in another place 'it is clear how Universities and that the affiliating University is likely to remain for many years to come.' In fact, in Assam, with its colleges scattered over several districts with new colleges coming soon to existence to meet the local demands, it will be impossible to have anything but an affiliating University.

A centralised University giving importance only to colleges of a particular town will retard the growth of educational centres and the fate of the Mufussil colleges will be no better than the fate of the Assam Colleges under the Calcutta University. So the first Assam University, Sir, which is proposed to inaugurate will justify itself if it creates several centres of learning, each in time aspiring after becoming an independent University. So, Sir, that is the reason why we have incorporated in this Bill the idea of affiliating University but at the same time we have provided provisions in clause 5 by which any time the affiliating University of Assam can be converted to a teaching University. We have, as I have already said, made special provisions for creating posts for studies in Bengali and Islamic languages. We have provided in clause 20 for military training of the students. I will draw pointed attention of the House to some of the more important provisions of this Bill. In clause 1 will be found provisions that high schools and affiliated colleges of Assam, shall retain their recognition and affiliation and in clause 4, the 'territorial limits' of the Assam University have been laid down. It will comprise the whole province of Assam and Indian States. I have already said that clause 5 provides for empowering the University to teach directly and to become a teaching university. In clause 6, it is laid down that degrees, diplomas, etc., of University will be recognised by Government. In clause 10(2), there is a very important provision which says that the Chancellor will see to the representation of minorities in different branches of the University through his power of nomination and the Governor of Assam shall in his individual capacity be a Chancellor under clause 10(1). Clause 18 lays down that the Assam Legislative Assembly and the Assam Legislative Council will be represented in the Senate and also the Chancellor will nominate 40 fellows. One-third of the fellows shall be Muslims. As I have said, in clause 20, a provision has been made for introducing the system of military training for the students of affiliating colleges with the concurrence of the Central Government. In clause 28, the subjects of study have been laid down such as Assamese, Bengali, Islamic subjects, Archaeology, domestic science, commerce, education and anthropology, etc. The principal, hygiene, languages have also been provided for and there is also a separate provincial Politics and Economics.

Clause 49 lays down that any dispute between the University and the officers of the University will be settled by a Tribunal of Arbitration.

Clause 59 provides that all high schools at present enjoying recognition of the Calcutta University will continue under the Assam University.

Clause 72 provides that soon after the passing of this Assam University Bill, the first Vice-Chancellor, Advisers, the Registrar and the Treasurer will be appointed by the Chancellor on a salary or remuneration to be fixed by him.

Clause 74 lays down that the constituency of Registered Graduates shall be composed, for a period of six years from the commencement of this Act, by the graduates of the Assam University and of any other Indian University or of any foreign University, who are permanent inhabitants of, or are domiciled in Assam.

Sir, these are the main features of the Bill.

We have got in the Schedule the first statutes of the University set forth. These will be found at pages 32-35. The proposal for honorary degrees is laid down in statute 7.

I don't think I need detain the House much longer. I can only again draw the attention of the House to one fact that Calcutta University had at one time catered for a large part of India. The United Provinces, the

provinces of Bihar and Orissa, even Burma and Ceylon were catered by the Calcutta University. But as soon as these provinces realised that the culture of its people could be improved by having a separate University of their own, each of these provinces had their separate University. Sir, I realise that this province with all its difficulties had several obstacles in the way of its desire of having a University. But should we labour under our difficulties any longer? Should we not take practical steps to have our own University when we are conscious that we require one and we have materials for establishing a University of our own? At one time, there was an acute feeling that a district of this province, namely Sylhet, was opposed to the idea of a University in Assam. But I have shown, hon. members of the legislature coming from Sylhet have been, so to speak, the protagonists of the movement for a separate University. Next to our Hon'ble Premier, I think, it is my friend Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali, whose absence to-day from this House must be deplored on account of his incapacity to attend for an unfortunate accident, who had taken the leading part in this matter. It is he who spoke in the most enthusiastic terms as long ago as in the year 1921 on the floor of this House, urging the establishment of a University in the province. It is again he who in 1931 brought forward before this House a resolution for establishing a University. That resolution had to be withdrawn. But in 1935 when my hon. friend Mr. Nichols-Roy moved his resolution on the same subject, my friend Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali spoke in most feeling terms on that question. Sir, I would like to read to this Hon'ble House an extract from his speech:

"It has been stated on the floor of the House that the Surma Valley as a whole does not want a University. That assertion must not go unchallenged. I am prepared to show that Surma Valley as a whole demand a University. The nature of the resolutions that have been forwarded to the Government must have convinced the critical mind what is at the bottom of all these. You will find the same resolution repeated everywhere. Only one resolution is passed under the auspices of a particular association and a circular letter goes to all associations. It is human characteristic to refrain from anything new rather an innovation. I am prepared to think that if a plebiscite were to be taken the plebiscite of Sarr might be repeated in the Surma Valley, after a time".

In the conclusion he said—"Sir, if it were possible I would have two Universities one in each Valley. But even, if Surma Valley can show that they do not want a University, let all the money that may be available for a University from the Subvention Committee go to the Brahmaputra Valley, but let us present a strong case—a united voice of the whole province, so that the Subvention Committee might be compelled to make an award—a deserving and proper award to the province".

It is he who not daunted by any disappointing response from the authorities had taken the pains to draft a non-official Bill. It is he again who on the assumption of office as Minister of Education drew up a fresh Bill in consultation with the education officers and it is he, I must gratefully acknowledge who has made substantial contributions to the drafting of the present Bill which I have produced before the House.

Sir, the hon. members have heard from time to time from the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself how practical effect can be given to this desire on the part of the people of this province by establishing a University at a considerably moderate cost. I think, Sir, I must now close with a sincere appeal to the hon. members of this House to help this Government as well as the people of this province in realising the desire to get a University of its own

as early as possible. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not also take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the trouble and labour which our Special University Officer Dr. S. K. Bhuyan, Ph.D. (London) has taken in preparing this Bill as well as a scheme for the University.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Assam University Bill, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

1. Mr. A. Whittaker,
2. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn,
3. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri,
4. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya,
5. Srijut Sarveswar Barua,
6. Srijut Ghanashyam Das,
7. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education,
8. Maulavi Namwar Ali Bubbhuiya,
9. Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Muhammad Wahced,
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri,
11. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
12. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali,
13. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali,
14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf,
15. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,
16. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal, and
17. Srijut Jageshchandra Gohain.

Seven members to form a quorum and that the Select Committee is to submit their report by the 31st May, 1941".

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the personnel of the Select Committee, that in places of—

1. Srijut Sarveswar Barua,
2. Srijut Ghanashyam Das, and
3. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya

the following be substituted:—

1. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta,
2. Mr. C. Goldsmith, and
3. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.

Sir, we have seen that the Congress members outside jail are not attending this Assembly session. It has been found also that many hon. members from the Congress Group are not attending the several meetings of the Select Committees. They are also not attending this time also while this momentous piece of legislation is going through the House for discussion. Therefore, we think, Sir, we cannot depend upon these uncertainties. So I move this motion.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I understand, Sir, from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education that they have sent their consent to attend the meeting and therefore I do not agree with this amendment.

no money to take up schemes where demand is unanimous, urgent and insistent, will it be desirable for the Government to take up such a costly scheme where the demand is only sectional?

Then, Sir, it has been urged in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill that Assam is now an autonomous province, and as such it cannot afford to do without a University. By this autonomy, I do not think it is intended that every province is to be independent of others. In this connection, Sir, I cannot do better than to quote an extract from an opinion published by the revered public man of Sylhet, Shriji Brojenlal Narayan Choudhury, on this University Bill. I agree with every word of what he has said in this connection. This is what he says:

"The first plea is 'Provincial autonomy'. This recently imported article covers a multitude of sins. Provinces are to be autonomous with regard to a list of subjects called Provincial subjects. Subjects such as Police, Medicine, Agriculture and Education are put in the Provincial list because it is more convenient for the Provincial Governments than for the Central Government to look after them. But Provincial autonomy does not mean that two or more provinces cannot combine and pull their resources together when it is calculated to give better results or when the scheme is such that the weaker partner cannot alone bear the burden easily. If the Hon'ble Education Minister, the sponsor of this University Bill has to be consistent he will, on the ground of self-sufficiency please refuse assistance from the Central Research Committee and forbid his brother ministers to join the Jute Restriction scheme, or the Megna Brahmaputra River Commission scheme in Bengal otherwise Assam may lose its caste and be called a Provincial Pariah."

Sir, when we have to depend on other provinces for many other matters, I do not think, only in order to satisfy the vanity of so-called provincial autonomy, we should embark upon schemes which we cannot afford to take up at present. Even in these days of provincial autonomy, Sir, there are other provinces which are doing without a University. I may mention the cases of Orissa, Sind and North-West Frontier Provinces. They are as good autonomous provinces as Assam is and if they have not lost their autonomy without such an institution, I do not think Assam has any reason to be paricky over that.

Thirdly, Sir, it has been argued by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, and this is his main contention for separation from the Calcutta University, that Assam has got very meagre representation in the Senate, and absolutely no representation in the Syndicate. I agree, Sir, that Assam's representation is not what it ought to be. But I do not think that the University Senate or Syndicate is an institution where things are decided merely by votes. If Assam's representatives can convince their Colleagues on the Senate by force of their argument that a particular policy will better serve the purpose of Assam I cannot believe that the Senate would refuse to accept the suggestions only because these suggestions come from the representatives of Assam but even, assuming for the sake of argument, that the Assam's representatives cannot carry conviction with either the Senate or the Syndicate, I do not think it can be ever contended that the Calcutta University is doing anything which is detrimental to the interests of Assam. It can safely be presumed that the Calcutta University is regulating its policy according to its own interests, and I do not see any material difference between the interests of Bengal and Assam with regard to the present-day University system of education. If that is so, I do not see how Assam can make any grievance. No definite allegation also has been made on this point. It also cannot be contended, Sir, that the Calcutta University has

ever made any discrimination with regard to Assam. I do not think it is ever maintained that they prescribe different rules or regulations for Assam Schools or Colleges or they set different sets of questions for the students of Assam. On the other hand, from the results of the examinations, we find that every year quite a number of students from Assam make brilliant results in the Matriculation, Intermediate and even in the Degree examination. Even last year, a girl from Sylhet stood first in the Matriculation examination. Ever since the start of the University in 1857, no girl student had the honour of heading the list of successful students in the Matriculation examination and it was left to this girl from an Assam school to secure such a distinction. Therefore, I think, that it is correct to say that the Calcutta University makes no discrimination with regard to Assam students. So, Sir, if we are getting no discriminatory treatment from the Calcutta University and if that University cannot also be accused of doing anything which is definitely injurious to our interests, I do not see any reason which should compel us to seek a separation from the Calcutta University. At any rate, it can safely be said that we are at present suffering no material injury, which can justify an immediate separation and that we can go on as before at least for sometime to come without much harm to our own interest. Moreover, merely for the sake of having a dominant control or the sole control in the affairs of the University, I do not think, Sir, we should sever our connection with Calcutta, where so many brilliant educationists are working. Even if we start a University of our own, nobody can deny that, at least for some years to come, we cannot afford to have so many educational experts at the helm of affairs of our University as Calcutta has now got.

Then, Sir, barring a few Arts colleges, have we got the materials to start a University? The Hon'ble Minister has said that the University that is proposed by the Bill would be merely an affiliating University. As things stand now, it will be an affiliating University only with regard to some High schools and some Arts colleges. Have we got other necessary feeder institutions to start a University? Have we got a medical college, an Engineering or Veterinary college or any Science college? Can we do without all these colleges? The Sylhet Medical School was proposed to be started about 10 years ago, but what has become of it? We could not go forward for want of funds. Can we expect to have these feeder institutions in the near future, if we take up the scheme of a University for Assam? I definitely think, Sir, that in case we take up this project, there will be absolutely no chance of taking up any of these institutions in the near future. Can we do without them? We boast of provincial autonomy and on this account we are trying to non-co-operate with Bengal. But can we be independent of other provinces? At present, there are a few seats reserved for Assam in the Sibpur Engineering College and the Calcutta Medical College, while with regard to other colleges mentioned before, we are entirely at the mercy of Bengal. If we non-co-operate, can not Bengal retaliate? I think, we should naturally expect to get a similar treatment from Bengal. Then what will be our position? If Bengal refuses to admit our students in its Medical, Veterinary, Engineering or Science Colleges, I am afraid, our boys will have absolutely no chance of being educated in these technical branches for a pretty long time. So either we shall have to be absolutely at the mercy of other provinces like Bengal or United Provinces or have no education in these lines, in case we embark upon a costly scheme like University.

Now, Sir, Government has already taken up the question of unemployment. It is an admitted fact that unemployment among our educated youths are on the increase and it is more due to the fact that we are having

more than enough I. As. and B.A.s than we can afford to provide. Every parent now-a-days is reluctant to send his ward for general education. That kind of education encourages the service mentality, but we have no sufficient number of posts to provide for all the graduates and under-graduates who pass out of these Universities. What we require is education in other technical branches. But we have no facilities for that and by taking up this scheme we are only closing all avenues for starting such institutions in the near future. Even supposing Bengal did not retaliate, if for want of room due to their own growing demands they say that they cannot accommodate our students, what will be our position? So, Sir, in these days when Assam must have more facilities for technical education, we are taking up a scheme which will mean deprivation of the facilities of technical education at least for some years.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Education said much about the public demand, but he has said nothing about the position. Sylhet has taken on this matter from the very beginning. In 1874 when Sylhet was tacked on to Assam, there was intense agitation for the retransfer of Sylhet to Bengal. At that time, a solemn promise was given by the Government of India to the people of Sylhet to the effect that they would never be deprived of the services of the Calcutta University and the Calcutta High Court against their will. That solemn promise was later reaffirmed by Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell as Chief Commissioner of Assam.

"After the passing of the Government of India Act, 1919, and on the eve of the reforms introduced by that Act there was a movement from the district of Sylhet for return to Bengal. At that time, Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell, then Chief Commissioner, issued the following communique:—

"The attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam has been drawn to a printed notice which is being circulated in the district of Sylhet alleging among other things that, unless the district is immediately transferred to Bengal, it is in danger of losing its permanent settlement, its connection with the Calcutta High Court and its privileges in respect of University education. Sir Nicholas Beatson Bell has authority from the Government of India to give an unqualified denial to all these allegations. The permanent settlement in Sylhet will remain for ever inviolate; so also the connection of Sylhet with the Calcutta High Court and the Calcutta University, unless and until the people of the Surma Valley through their elected representatives express a clear desire for a High Court or a University of their own."

Sir, can it be said that the Surma Valley people have shown such a clear desire through their representatives in the Assembly? I definitely say that they have not? It is admitted, Sir, that Assam is eager to have a University only to protect its own culture and language. But, Sir, it should not be forgotten that the Surma Valley has got a distinct culture and a distinct language, and if our friends in the Assam Valley are eager to protect their own culture, I think they will not fail to give the same credit to their brethren in the Surma Valley if they are also eager to protect their own culture or if they apprehend that their culture will suffer if they are separated from the Calcutta University. Sir, in this connection, I would like to refer to a few extracts from the report of the Saddler Commission. The position was very aptly described therein and the present position is also exactly the same. This is what the Saddler Commission says:—"There has been much talk of the need for establishing a University in Assam; and although the proposal has not yet reached the

stage of being seriously considered by Government, it was strongly advocated by several of the witnesses whom we interviewed during our visit to the province, and as strongly deprecated by others. The assumption which seems to be in the minds of both of those who advocate, and of those who oppose, this step appears to be that a University of Assam must necessarily be of the affiliating type, and must bring together under a single academic control the various colleges of the province. At the same time, the argument most often adduced in favour of the change was that Assam is a distinct province, with languages peculiar to itself, and with a distinctive set of economic, social, and ethnological problems; and, although this consideration was not very clearly put before us by most of the witnesses, it seemed to be implied that a University was necessary in order that these problems might be scientifically investigated and in order that the curricula pursued by the students might be in some degree adopted to the special needs of the country.

We have great sympathy with this point of view. But it seems to us to be inconsistent with the project of organizing an affiliating University in Assam. For one of the two Assamese colleges, that of Sylhet, serves a district which is only in an administrative sense part of Assam, being connected racially, linguistically, and economically with Eastern Bengal. The other college that of Gauhati, serves the true Assamese region, the Valley of the Brahmaputra, with almost every part of which the great river brings it into easy communication. Between the two colleges lies the wide barrier of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, inhabited by tribes who are quite distinct from the Assamese of the Brahmaputra Valley on the one hand, and from the Bengalis of Sylhet on the other. There are practically no interests in common between these regions, and a University founded at Gauhati for the purpose of serving the specific interests of Assam would in fact be out of touch with the needs and interests of Sylhet."

So it will be seen from the above quotation that the position of Sylhet is peculiar, and a University established for the purpose of maintaining or improving Assamese language and culture would serve no useful purpose to the people of Sylhet. Besides that, I do not think, it can be denied that this province contains various other languages and cultures, and each of them is quite different and distinct from each other, and as such our problems are more difficult than any other province. At any rate, in an important matter of this kind we cannot afford to ignore the views and sentiments of the Surma Valley. If we are to have a University, we cannot afford to quarrel among ourselves. The position of the Surma Valley has been very correctly stated in the Saddler Commission's Report and I hope, the House will consider their objection favourably before deciding to start a University. In face of the solemn promises I have referred to, I am sure, the House will agree with me that it would be a breach of faith to thrust an University upon them against their will and it would be unwise to hurry through a legislation without ascertaining or without judging the opinion and sentiments of the Surma Valley people.

Then, Sir, now I come to the question of finance. We expected that the Hon'ble Education Minister at the time of moving this motion will give us at least some idea of the cost that will have to be incurred to establish a University. But Sir, we have not heard a single word about it. He has not told us what is the estimate of expenditure — recurring or non-recurring. This delicate question on which the whole scheme might fail has not been touched at all by the Hon'ble Education Minister when introducing this Bill. But we cannot ignore this factor when it is the most vital and difficult point. Only, the other day, we have been presented with a budget which

shows a deficit of no less than 12 lakhs. It has also been said in the course of his Budget speech by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that during the course of the last 13 years, Assam had the misfortune of having as many as 12 deficit budgets. It should further be remembered that although our income shows a tendency towards a fall our expenditure on the other hand is mounting up year after year and is likely to go higher if we are to take up such costly schemes. Besides that, we are told by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that over and above the deficit, Assam has got a loan of fifty lakhs, and a further liability of one crore and ten lakhs in the shape of State Provident Fund. This is our present financial position and in a time like this, I do not know how the Government dares to initiate a big scheme like this. Unless there is financial equilibrium he must be a very bold financier who attempts to take up a scheme like this, at this time.

Sir, it has been stated that the scheme for a University was mooted since 1917. The question was taken up several times within the course of these few years, but had to be abandoned for want of funds. Sir, may I ask—has our financial position improved since? Has our financial position become better since the year 1917? I say, Sir, that far from improving, it has become definitely worse. Our financial position at the moment is more gloomy than it was in 1917. So, I think, it is most unwise to take up this scheme at the present time.

We should not forget that Assam has been rightly called as a philologists' paradise and a cockpit of different nationalities and if we establish a University we have to provide for the teaching of many different languages and as such the cost of its maintenance will surely be prohibitive. Then, Sir, I am afraid we have not got requisite intellectual capital to run a University. Sir, it is no use ignoring this fact that we have not yet been able to provide sufficient number of experts in educational matters who will be able to run a University efficiently or who may be able to give us guidance for a better standard of education than we are having now from the Calcutta University.

Lastly, Sir, I come to the vexed question of location. We have not heard a word from the Hon'ble Education Minister about this point too. If there has been a controversy over this University Bill, the sharpest point of difference has been on the question of location. But it is most strange that no provision has been made in the Bill about the location of the University. I cannot contemplate of a corporation like the University without location. I do not see any reason why the Cabinet has avoided this question. I do not think, it is unknown to them that there is a gulf of difference between the two valleys on the point of location. But the Hon'ble Minister of Education has not said anything on this, nor has he given us any idea as to when and how he is going to make any provision for location. There is absolutely no clause in the Bill for this. I do not know how he is going to provide for this. I do not think the University is intended to be a travelling University. We have heard of a travelling library or a travelling museum. But we have never heard of a travelling University. A University must have a head-quarter and it is no use avoiding the issue. So, I would urge upon Government to make a final decision on this point and lay this before the House. Before sending the Bill for eliciting public opinion, Government should give us an idea as to where the University is going to be located. If unfortunately in spite of opposition from Sylhet, there is to be a University, I would suggest Sylhet as the fittest place for its location. I do not know what is the idea behind the mind of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education. Whatever that may be, I would suggest that he should come forward with a motion for determining the location before the Bill goes for circulation.

Unless the general public gets an idea about the location of the University they cannot reasonably give any opinion on the matter.

Sir, in view of the facts and the circumstances I have mentioned, I have grave doubts whether we have any necessity for a University at present, or at any rate whether it is expedient for us to have a University unless and until the two valleys come to a compromise and our financial position improve. So, Sir, I would prefer that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion and for that purpose I have tabled this motion. The Hon'ble Education Minister has given some reasons for not circulating the Bill. But Sir, I am afraid he has not been able to show any justification for that course. He has quoted some extracts from some hon. members' speech in this House. From the extracts, we do not find any definite mention in those speeches that Assam is going to have a University or that a scheme is ready for the University. I do not think the public or the legislators can be expected to express their views before any definite proposal is ready. So there is absolutely no good reason for not circulating this Bill. The Hon'ble Education Minister himself admits that it involves a momentous issue. So, it is not fair on our part to rush through a legislation in a matter like this. In Sylhet, the Bill was received on the 1st of March and the public had no opportunity to express their views. So, considering all the facts, I think, it is wise on our part to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Amendment moved: "That the Assam University Bill 1941, be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st August 1941."

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken down two quotations from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister for Education. These two quotations are 'a momentous issue' and the second is that 'we have hastily taken all possible steps'. I think, these two quotations are sufficient to show the need for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. (Hear, hear.)

The members from these benches are grateful for the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister that before this Bill goes to the Select Committee it will be circulated for public opinion. But the important point is the date which the Hon'ble Minister has fixed. He has fixed the date 31st May, not only for eliciting public opinion, but also for the report of the Select Committee. Only yesterday on one Bill which referred exclusively to one district, the date for eliciting public opinion was 30th of June. I cannot see how it is possible to receive any public opinion or for the Select Committee to report by the 31st May. I think the right of the public to receive this Bill and consider it should be more fully conceded. I would therefore suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to amplify his assurance by extending the date by at least two months. This Bill after all is the product of a Government which has been in office for 15 months. I do not see any reason why the Assembly, the Select Committee or the public should telescope the whole of their consideration into a period of two months. We know perfectly well that during this part of the year business in the Secretariat runs abnormally slowly and during April there will be the Easter holidays. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will concede that the date may be extended beyond 31st May. I would, therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to extend the date by a reasonable time. Personally I should say it would be reasonable that the public should be asked to give their opinion by the 31st May and the Select Committee may meet thereafter.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

আসানে ইউনিভার্সিটি হওয়া দরকার এবং ইহা আমি আন্তৰিকতাৰে সমর্থন কৰি। কিন্তু মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্রী কি উদ্দেশ্য লইয়া এই ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি বিল উপস্থিত কৰি গৈছেন, তাহা আমি বুঝিতে অক্ষম। কাৰণ, তিনি কৰিকায় ইউনিভাৰ্চিটিৰ তিনি খণ্ড হইয়া বৰ্ত্তমানে মন্ত্ৰীপদ গ্ৰহণে যে বকম ভোগবিলাসেৰ অধিকাৰী হইয়াছেন, তাহাৰ মন্ত্ৰী অন্যান্য ভিগ্ৰিধাৰী গ্ৰেজুয়েটেৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্তি তিনি বিবেচনা কৰিছা দেখিবৰ অৱসৰ পান না। বৰ্ত্তমানে দেশেৰ শিক্ষিত গ্ৰেজুয়েটেৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্তি অত্যন্ত চৰ্চ্ছাৰে সিদ্ধি হৈছে বা মেধাৱদেৰ বাঢ়ী বাঢ়ী গিয়া ২০, ২৫, চাকৰ চাকৰীৰ জন্য ধন্য দিয়া বাক্য মনোৰ্থ হইয়া তৎপৰ অনেকে আত্ম হতা পৰ্য্যন্ত কৰিতে বাধ্য হৈ গৈছে। তাই যদি আগামী ইলেক্‌শনেৰ জন্য প্ৰপেগেণ্ডা কৰিবৰ উদ্দেশ্যে এই বিল আনিবলৈ কৰা হইয়া থাকে, তাহা হইলে আমাৰ মোটেই সমৰ্পন নাই। প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে যদি আমাৰেৰে বাঙালী, অসমীয়া, হিন্দু, মুসলমান, জাতি ধৰ্ম্ম নিৰ্বিশেষে সমস্ত প্ৰজাবৰ্গেৰে চিত্তাৰে এই বিল পাৰ হও, তাহা হইলে আমি আন্তৰিক ভাবে সমৰ্পন কৰিব এবং কৰিতেছি।

ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি বিলেৰ ভূমিকায় ইহাৰ স্থান কোথাও হইবে তাহাৰ নিৰ্দ্ধেশ না দেওৱাৰ অস্বাভাৱী এবং আসামভেতীৰ মেধাৱদেৰ মৰ্য্যো বিশেষভাবে চাকৰা উপস্থিত হইয়াছে। আমি প্ৰস্তাব কৰি উভয় পক্ষৰ এই চাকৰা অতি সহজে বীৰাংগা হইতে পাৰে যদি আমাৰ আবেদনক্ৰমে ইউনিভাৰ্চিটিৰ স্থান আমাৰেৰে বিপাক স্থান হুৱাই দাউনে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰা হয় (*laughter*)।

তৎপৰ বৰ্ত্তমান যুগে Residential University যদি না হয়, কেবল শুধু পৰীক্ষা গ্ৰহণেৰ কোন universityৰ আবশ্যকতা আছে কি না, আমি বুঝি না। শিক্ষিত যুবকদেৰ জীৱিকা নিৰ্ব্বাহাৰ্থ অৰ্থকৰী বিদ্যা শিক্ষা না দিয়া শুধু ভিগ্ৰি দিয়া বিপ্লৱী সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ কোন অৰ্থ হইবে না। তাই যিনি বিল ৰচনা কৰিয়াছেন তিনি বোধ হয় সময় পান নাই, বা ইচ্ছাকৃতই হউক বা অনিচ্ছাকৃতই হউক, মোটেই দৃষ্টিপাত কৰেন নাই যে এই বিলে অন্ততঃপক্ষে কৃষি কলেজ বা কৃষি স্কুল, মেডিকেল কলেজ বা মেডিকেল স্কুল, ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ বা স্কুল, অথবা অন্যান্য অৰ্থকৰী বিদ্যা শিক্ষা দিবৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা একান্ত প্ৰয়োজন ছিল। আমাৰ মনে হয় এই বিল ৰচয়িতা অন্যান্য কয়েকটি ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি একে হইতে একটু একটু নিয়া একটা বিল ৰচনা কৰিয়াছেন; কিন্তু মুসলমান সমাজেৰ ইউনিভাৰ্চিটিতে স্বৰ্ণ আছে কিনা তাহা হয়ত তাহাৰ অজ্ঞতাৰ দৰুণই হউক অথবা ইচ্ছাকৃতই হউক, অতি সতৰ্কৰে সহিত তিনি উপেক্ষা কৰিয়াছেন। পৰ্ভৰ্ণমেন্টেৰ উচিত ছিল বিল ৰচনা কৰিবৰ সময় অন্ততঃপক্ষে একজন মুসলমান অফিচাৰকে নিযুক্ত কৰা। দুঃখ ও পৰিতাপেৰ বিষয় এই যে বৰ্ত্তমানে পাঁচজন মুসলমান মন্ত্ৰী এই cabinetএ থাকা স্বত্বেও মুসলমানদেৰ এই ন্যায্যসম্মত দাবী সৰ্ববতোভাবে উপেক্ষা কৰা হইয়াছে। বিলখানা একটু মনোযোগ সহকাৰে পড়িলেই দেখা যায় যে তাহাতে অনেক defect আছে এবং ইহাৰ আমূল পৰিবৰ্ত্তন হওয়া দরকার। বিলেৰ ভূমিকায় এই ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি কিৰূপ হইবে তাহা বিস্তাৰিতৰূপে কিছ্ বলা হয় নাই। বিলে যে ব্যবস্থা কৰা হইয়াছে যে সিনেটে অন্ততঃ এক তৃতীয়াংশ ভাগ মুসলমান মেম্বাৰ ৰাখা হইবে তাহাতে

আমরা বিশেষভাবে সন্দিগ্ধ। কারণ, ইলেক্‌শনে মুসলমান একজনও আসিতে পারিবে কি না সন্দেহ। Nomination দিয়া মুসলমানদের আনিব ব্যবস্থা করা হয়, তাহার ফলে ইহাই হইবে যে গভৰ্ণমেন্টের দ্বারা ধার্মাধারী—গভৰ্ণমেন্টের দ্বারা পোষাপুত্র, তাহারাই ইউনিভার্সিটিতে স্থান গ্রহণ করিবেন। তাহাতে যে মুসলমানদের বিশেষভাবে স্বার্থ রক্ষা হইবে, তাহার কোন সম্ভাবনা নাই। তৎপৰ বৰ্ত্তমানে ইউনিভার্সিটিতে শুধু হাই স্কুল এবং কলেজ দিয়া চিন্তা করা হইয়াছে—সমস্ত আসামে যে সমস্ত মাদ্রাসা আছে তৎপুৰ্তি মোটেই দৃষ্টিপাত করা হয় নাই। বৰ্ত্তমানে ঢাকা বোর্ডের অধীনে মাদ্রাসা থাকার ফলে আমরা কি অসুবিধা ভোগ করিতেছি তাহা সকলেই অবগত আছেন। ইহা স্বত্বেও যিনি বিল বচনা করিয়াছেন তিনি ইউনিভার্সিটিতে মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে সংযুক্ত করিবার জন্য মোটেই মনযোগ দেন নাই।

তৎপৰ হাইস্‌চান্সেলারকে বেতনধারী কর্মচারীরূপে নিযুক্ত করিবার যে ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন আমি তাহা মোটেই সমর্থন করি না। কারণ বৰ্ত্তমানে এসেম্বলিতে আমাদের এক শত টাকা বেতন হওয়ার ফলে আমাদের স্বাধীন মত বা বিবেক বৃদ্ধি কি ভাবে নবরূপ ধারণ করিয়াছে, তাহা ভুক্তভোগী মাত্রেই উপলব্ধি করিতেছেন। তাই আমি আশা করি আমাদের আদর্শ গ্রহণ না করিয়া একটা ইউনিভার্সিটির যিনি হাইস্‌চান্সেলার হইবেন তিনি বেতনভোগী কর্মচারী না হইয়া স্বাধীন ভাবে যাহাতে তিনি নিজের মত ব্যক্ত করিতে পারেন সে জন্য তাহার post অনারেরি হওয়া দরকার এবং কার্যকাল ৫ বৎসর না হইয়া ৩ বৎসর হওয়া উচিত। এবং রেজিষ্ট্রারের কার্যকালও ৩ বৎসরের অধিক হওয়া উচিত নহে।

বিলের অন্যান্য বিষয়ের সঙ্গে আরও একটা বিষয় আমি উল্লেখ করিতে চাই যে ঢাকা ইউনিভার্সিটি এক্টে যেরূপ ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে সেরূপ ভাবে মুসলমানদের জন্য পৃথক নিব্বাচনের ব্যবস্থা রাখা উচিত। অন্যথায় এই province হইতে এক জন মুসলমানও elected হইয়া সিনেটে আসিতে পারিবেন না। সমস্ত provinceএর ভিতরে দুই এক জনের বেশী মুসলমান হেড্‌ মাস্টার পাওয়া যায় না এবং মুসলমান হেড্‌ মিস্ট্রেস্‌ এক জনও নাই। ভবিষ্যতে Prime Minister কে হইবেন বলা যায় না—একজন হিন্দুই হইবার বেশী সম্ভব। এডুকেশন্‌ মিনিষ্টার যে মুসলমান হইবেন তাহারও আশা নাই। এইসকল বিষয় পর্যালোচনা করিয়া দেখিলে দেখা যায় যে একজন মুসলমানও electionএ আসিতে পারিবেন না। শুধু nominationধারী মেম্বারদের দ্বারা মুসলমানদের স্বার্থ রক্ষা হইবে—ইহা কিছুতেই হইতে পারে না। তাই আমি আশা করি যদি প্রকৃত পক্ষে দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য এই বিল আনা হইয়া থাকে তাহা হইলে কার্যকরী পন্থা অবলম্বন করা উচিত হইবে। আমার ইচ্ছা Residential University করা হউক এবং তাহার জন্য যত টাকা লাগে, খরচের ব্যবস্থা করা হউক।

আমার বন্ধু বাবু কামিনী সেন বলিয়াছেন যে আমাদের প্রদেশের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত খারাপ এবং টাকা নাই। আমি বলি যে টাকার মোটেই অভাব নাই। যদি সরল অন্তঃকরণে—সরল ভাবে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীবর্গ একটু চেষ্টা করেন, তাহা হইলে সমস্ত টাকা আদায় হইতে পারে। তাই আমি প্রস্তাব করি যে আসাম প্রদেশে যে সমস্ত অরণ্য বা জঙ্গল পড়িয়া

আছে সে সমস্ত landless লোকসমূহকে দক্ষাৰ্হিত সেৱা হটুক। ইয়া কৰিলে এক কোটিৰ বতন টাকা পাওৱা ঘাইবে এৰা হোৱাৰ দাবী দেশৰ ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি এৰা অন্যান্য অৰ্হকৰী বিদ্যাৰ্শিকৰ জমা কৰেজ স্থাপন কৰিহা দেশৰ অৰ্হাৰ পুৰণ কৰা হটুক। টাকা শুধু কাগজে কলমে লিখিলেই আৱিলে না। হোৱাৰ হোৱাৰ বিদ্যা জাতি বৰ্হিহা আছে—এসৰ জাতি পতন দিলেই ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি, ইন্সটিটিউট কলিজ বা স্কুল এৰা অন্যান্য অৰ্হকৰী বিদ্যাৰ্শিকৰ বাবদা কৰা হটুক পাওৱা। কিন্তু হোৱা না কৰিহা শুধু ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি, ইন্সটিটিউট বৰ্হিহা চিফকাৰ কৰিলে কিছুই হটুক না। অৱশ্যে, বন, জলৰ কৰণও ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি আৱিহা দিলে পাওৱা না। এসময়ৰ জাতি বৰ্হিহাৰ বাবদা কৰণ এৰা মানুহ তৈয়াৰ কৰিহা ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি কৰিহাৰ বাবদা কৰণ। ইয়াই অৰ্হাৰ অৰ্হিহা।

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the question before the House is whether Assam wants a University of its own. But in this connection I do not see any reason why the question of location comes in. My hon. friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen says that the Calcutta University is a full-fledged University and it is why we should remain under the Calcutta University. May I put him one question in this connection? If he is leaving in a beautiful house of his friend, will he not like to build such a house for himself to dwell in? Assam in order to protect the culture of the Assamese people and also from the point of civilization wants a separate University, and along with other factors of the University, the question of location may be considered later on. If the seat of the University of Assam be at Gauhati which is known as Pragjyotishpur, i.e., the ancient seat of learning, what will be the harm to Mr. Sen? Sir, he wants the University, if it is located at Sylhet; what earthly reason can there be for such an attitude? For myself, I do not see any reason. With these few words I support the motion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity of speaking a few words, welcoming the endeavour to embark upon a scheme of establishing a University for this province, which has become almost overdue. I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education for his determination to establish a University in this province and also, Sir, I appreciate the services rendered by the Special University Officer who spent so much labour on the scheme embodied in this Bill.

Sir, this is not the time for us to find out whether the scheme fulfils all our ideas and aspirations. The scheme undoubtedly gives us some material for the legal constitution of a University and we will have enough time afterwards to make additions and alterations when the Bill will be coming before this House at a later stage for consideration.

I think, Sir, there is none in this House who is not aware of the strong feeling of the people of this province for a University of their own. Already a donor has expressed his willingness to open his purse generously for a separate University in this province and I am sure many more donors will be coming forward to contribute to this great cause. These donations simply prove the eagerness of the people of this province to have a University of their own. Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen says that we should not have a University because we have been well-served by the Calcutta University. Sir, it will be highly illogical if under provincial autonomy Assam does not enjoy autonomy in her educational sphere. Assam has her own needs which must be looked after by our own University. Moreover, the party politics and controversies in Bengal are vitiating the educational sphere

there and it will be highly deplorable if Assam is dragged into them. Mr. Sen says that the tradition and culture of Sylhet people will be affected if they remain under the Assam University. I think, there is no fear for that as they will have proper representation in the Senate and Syndicate of the Assam University.

Now as regards the site of the University, Sir, Mr. Sen says that it should be established at Sylhet and Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan says that it should be at Dhubri. But, Sir, I think this matter may be left to the Select Committee who can select the site of the University, or this matter can be decided by this House at a later stage. With these few words, I support the motion moved by the Hon'ble Education Minister.

***Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, কানি European Group আৰু গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট party, সকলো পাৰ্টি গোটেখাই decide কৰা হৈছিল যে এই ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি বিলখন Select Committeeত দিব লাগে। এতিয়া European groupএ opinion দিছে যে এই বিষয়ে বাইজৰ opinion লব লাগে। এইটো শুনি আচৰিত হৈছে।

বাবু কামিনী সেনে কৈছে যে অকলৈ আসাম ভেলীক হে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় লাগে, কিন্তু চুগ্ৰা ভেলীক নালাগে। এই কথাটো সঁচা হব পাৰে। চুগ্ৰা ভেলীয়ে কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ তলত থাকি সুবিধা পাইছে। কিয়নো তেওঁবিলাকৰ একেটা language আৰু একেটা culture আৰু সকলো পিনে তেওঁলোকৰ মিল আছে। কিন্তু তেওঁবিলাকক নালাগিলেও যে আসাম ভেলীকো বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় নালাগে সেইটো নহয়। সদিয়াৰ পৰা ধুবুৰীলৈকে প্ৰত্যেক অসমীয়াই—কি লৰা, কি ছোৱালী, কি বুঢ়া, কি বুঢ়ী সকলোৱেই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় লাগে বুলি মত দিব আৰু দিছেও। তেওঁবিলাকে ইয়াৰ লগতে কব খোজে আৰু কয় যে কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে সকলো বিষয়তে অসমীয়াক সুবিধা দিছে। বনৰ চৰাই এটা ধৰি আনি গঁজাত সুমুৱাই থৈ ভালকৈ খাবলৈ দিলেও সেই চৰাইটোৱে কেতিয়াও গঁজাত সোমাই থাকিবলৈ সুবিধা নাপায়—সি মুকলি মনেৰে উৰি ফুৰিবলৈহে ভাল পায়। ঠিক সেই দৰে অসমীয়া জাতীৰো নিজৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সেই কাৰণে আসামত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হোৱা সুবিধা নহব। কিন্তু আমি তাত একো অসুবিধা দেখা নাই। আসামত ইমান dialect থকা স্বত্বেও যদি কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চলাব পাৰে, তেনেহলে আসামত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পাতি সেই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অসমীয়াই কিয় চলাব নোৱাৰিব? (*Hear, hear.*) এতেকে মই তেখেতৰ মতত মত দিব নোৱাৰো আৰু মই Select Committeeলৈ এই বিলখন পঠিৱাবলৈ মত দিওঁ।

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we heartily congratulate the Government for this University Bill introduced in this House. But, Sir, from the Bill I find that a list of Board of Studies have been created but Hindi is left out of the list. It may be due to mistake or it may be intentional. Sir, if I read clause 31, I find that the duty of the Board is to recommend the course of studies for the various examinations and for the guidance of teachers and students and to recommend text books; and for that be so, and if a separate Board for Study for Hindi is not created, then

* Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

the Hindi High Schools at Dibrugarh and Tinsukia will have to be affiliated to the Calcutta University as there will be no Hindi subject included in our curriculum. Then how can these schools be under the proposed Assam University? Sir, there are as many as 5 Hindi-speaking members here in this House, but not a single member has been selected to become a member of the proposed Select Committee. I do not know what is the reason behind it. At least one of them might have been taken by the Government to the Select Committee so that he could have made it for that. Sir, Government on the one hand is giving about Rs 2,400 for Hindi Prachar but on the other hand they have not included Hindi in the act and unless this is done we are not going to support this.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not speak on this Bill. Perhaps I was one of those few members here at Sylhet who supported the question of establishing a university in Assam, in the teeth of opposition in the district; it was I who wrote series of articles in the paper supporting the question of establishing a university. My friend Mr. Akbar Rahman who wrote a letter to me at that time said that those writings were nothing but cravings of a mad man. But to day I am glad that he is ready to serve on the Select Committee of the Assam University Bill. That madness has come to be a reality to-day.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, is the hon. member maintaining that it is a...

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I am not giving way, Sir. You before last, when this question was raised in this House in the shape of a cut motion, I made the position of the Surma Valley perfectly clear. I said that Surma Valley was not against the establishment of the proposed University in Assam. The question that was to be considered by the members of this House was whether that was the proper time for the Assam Government to proceed with the establishment of a university in this province when almost 95 per cent of the population were uneducated and when for want of funds we could not bring the primary education at the door of all the children, when we could not bring into operation the Compulsory Primary Education Act, when we could not educate the masses as we desired, when we could not start a Medical College, an Engineering College and an Agricultural College for want of funds. Now, Sir, Assam is an autonomous province and it is quite reasonable that we should have a separate university of our own. If Government only desire, they can find out money for giving a start to a university now. I have heard some of my hon. friends speaking just previous to me that this university should be located here or there to promote particular culture, but I do not hold this view. My view is that this university should be a university for all the people of Assam (*cheers*). Some more than 50 nationalities are living in this province; about 42 per cent. of the population speak Bengali; about 21 or 22 per cent. Assamese and the rest different languages. The proposed University of Assam should be a university that can be claimed by all to be their own university. I do not want that a sectarian university should be established in this province.

My friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen raised the question of location. It is certainly an omission in the Bill that cannot be left without mentioning in this House. I said while discussing the budget that much depended upon the decision on the question of location. That is the main point. Had that point been clear in the Bill itself, perhaps much of our labours and troubles would have been minimised. Sir, there is an impression in Sylhet, I do not like to make a secret of it, that there should be no university in

the province of Assam. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot subscribe to that view. I want that a university be established and it should be established as early as possible and through that university the gulf of difference between the two valleys should be bridged up (*cheers*). We are moving resolutions in this Assembly, we are holding unity conferences here and there but I am sorry, the question of differences between the inhabitants of the two valleys could not be bridged up by these conferences. I think, Sir, the university established on a liberal line only can remove the valley bickerings through its teachings, culture and education (*hear, hear*). I hope the Select Committee will remove all the defects of the Bill.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion of the Hon'ble Minister for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the question of necessity of having a university goes without saying. Nobody does dispute at a university is necessary for Assam. But we need many things—not only university. The question of possibility of funds stands in our way as Mr. Sen has pointed out. The position of finance in Assam and also about the time—whether it is an opportune time for the establishment of a university because of our present financial position is to be considered. And in addition, the present war condition is a more serious question to be thought of than the question of university at the present juncture.

Another point, Sir. Mr. Sen has said that Mr. Cunningham, who was our previous Director of Public Instruction and who was a great diplomat and efficient administrator in the Education Department had written in his Report that Assam was not unanimous in her demand for a university. Of course, we must attach importance to Mr. Cunningham's remark. But may I know, Sir, from the Hon'ble Minister what is the view of Rai Bahadur Dr. Bhuyan who was deputed to look into the matter in details? Anyhow, Sir, I am prepared to support this motion provided the question of location is made known. We cannot finally pass our opinion unless the site is known (*A voice: Is it Garo Hills?*) I would prefer to have a university at Tura (*laughter*). There is nothing to laugh. I say seriously that we can welcome a number of universities in the Garo Hills. There is enough land available for accommodating a number of universities there. If the university is located in the Garo Hills you will see what benefits it will give to the people living there. At present the communications are bad in the Garo Hills, but if the seat of the University be there, they are bound to improve. I said this, Sir, simply to throw a little life in this House, because it has been dull so far.

Anyway, Sir, before we come to a conclusion we should also consider the motions made by Messrs. Whittaker and Sen. They have brought in amendments to the original motion. On the whole, Sir, we want a University for Assam and I support the motion of the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we think of a University, the people whom we represent think of schools, and as representing a minority and backward community we shall naturally ask what provision has been made by Government for the development of mass education. Venture schools, if taken up, will be a prelude to the establishment of compulsory primary education in Assam. Mass literacy goes to a great extent in dealing with education amongst the masses, but it does not go to that extent as taking over more than 900 venture schools that are awaiting

Government help at present, because these schools really cater for the growing generation, the hope of our future.

In spite of this I have to admit that we should not stand in the way of the province trying to attain a sound and high standard of efficiency in all departments of higher studies suitable to Assam as a whole. I lay stress on the words "suitable to Assam as a whole."

For the province's own prestige and the gradual development of its immense resources, we have to lend support to the proposal for the establishment of a university, which alone can help to inaugurate, organise and execute thorough researches for the development of this province. We also should lend support to the proposal with the hope that those who receive real education and culture will not forget the unfortunate people who are illiterate and uncultured. On the other hand, we hope, they will remember that to keep a section of the people ignorant, illiterate and uncultured is never an asset but an unbearable liability hanging on their necks like a millstone. When we consider this and admit the necessity of a university, the seat of the university, though important, should not and need not come into our present controversy. As there is a great difference of opinion and tense feeling with regard to the venue of the university, we have decided to keep that question open, giving the various sections of the people of Assam a fair chance to put forth their respective claims in favour either of Sylhet, Shillong or Gauhati and come to a compromise after careful deliberation at a more convenient time.

Now, I would like to refer to Mr. Sen's speech and certain remarks and suggestions that he has made. He began by saying that this is not the time for establishment of a university. By the arguments he has advanced he wants to prove that Assam does not need a University. To support his argument he says that the Calcutta University shows no discrimination to anybody. Then he gives other arguments. He says that two or three provinces can get together for running a university which should cater for their needs. He also says that a certain girl student headed the list and others also have done well. By all these he wants to say that a separate university for Assam is not necessary. He also asks where are the materials and the funds for running a separate university for Assam? When a person like Mr. Sen takes this as his premise that a separate university for Assam is not necessary then all his subsequent arguments showing the disadvantages and lack of funds fall to the ground because he does not want a separate university for Assam.

He also mentions that the sentiment of Sylhet should not be ignored. I really sympathise and agree with him. He has also mentioned about the Sadler Commission Report in which three distinct cultures were recognised in Assam, *viz.*, those of Surma Valley, the Hill Districts and the Assam Valley, while in the discussions and in the Press we find that only Surma Valley and Assam Valley are at controversy. Sometimes we leave out the Hill Districts and the great body of backward people. When these three divisions are mentioned, I am heart and soul with those who want that the cultures and languages which prevail in these three divisions should be catered for and looked after by the people who will be the responsible authorities in this university. As regards the Hill Districts, some people may have the idea that since the Khasi Hills happen to be the headquarters of Government, it is the most important of the hill areas and that it would suffice if they look after these hills. But it must be remembered that in Assam there are very many hill tribes, who, if they get the same facilities and environments as the Khasi people, will do just as well if not better. Therefore, their languages and their cultures should not be ignored, and as

such, I for one cannot support any scheme of a university which does not take into account these three distinct cultures and divisions in Assam.

As regards location, the hon. Mr. Sen says that it is a condition to the establishment of a university. I do not like to say much on this. I shall read only one sentence: "Those who believe that location is a condition to the establishment of a university have not understood the value and function of a university." If we really want a university, we will not clamour for its location. I am not minimising its importance, but as it is important let it be open for all concerned to deliberate calmly. With these words, Sir, I support the motion of the Hon'ble Minister.

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN: Sir, the question of a university in Assam is a very important one and it is with the members of the Assam Valley a life and death question. We have mandates from our constituencies and the whole valley is staring at us what we do here. I am one who does not usually take part in discussions, but on account of the importance of the issue I am compelled to take part in it. If, Sir, due to my inability to express myself correctly and properly, I fail to take part in this discussion, instead of doing good to the cause, I will be injuring it. So, Sir, I with your permission would like to speak in Assamese.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member may do so.

Srijut JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN: আমাৰ আগামত যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আছে এই কথা আমাৰ কাগজে পত্ৰে আৰু আগৰ যিবিলাক আমাৰ আগাম দেশ সম্পৰ্কে ভালকৈ জনা শুনা শিক্ষিত মানুহ আছিল সেই বিলাকে সকলোৱেই কৈ গৈছে। আজি মেহৰ সকলৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা যিমানদূৰ জানিব পাৰিছোঁ, সকলোৱেই স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে যে আগাম দেশত এখন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ দৰকাৰ আছে আৰু কোনেও অস্বীকাৰ কৰা নাই। কিন্তু কথা হৈছে যে বৰ্তমান অবস্থাত আমাক ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি লাগেনে নালাগে। মই অৱশ্যে চুৰ্ঘাভেলীৰ সম্পৰ্কে বিশেষকৈ কব নোৱাৰোঁ; কিন্তু আসামভেলী সম্পৰ্কে মই এইটো ডাঠ কব পাৰোঁ যে ধুবুৰীৰ সভাসমিতি পাতি এই বিষয়ে বোধ কৰোঁ। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক জনাইছেও। চুৰ্ঘাভেলীৰ অধিবাসী সকলে আমাৰ ইয়াত ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি নালাগে বোলাৰ কাৰণ এয়ে হবপাবে যে তেখেত সকলৰ ভাষাকৃষ্টি কলিকাতা ইউনিভাৰ্চিটিৰ ভাষা আৰু কৃষ্টিৰ লগত একে হোৱাত তেখেত সকল সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰাপদ। ভাষা আৰু কৃষ্টিৰ বিষয়ে কলিকাতা ইউনিভাৰ্চিটিৰ লগত থাকিলে তেখেত সকলৰ ভয়ৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। কিন্তু আসাম ভেলীৰ কথা সুকীয়া। আসাম ভেলীৰ অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ নিমিত্তে যদিও কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অলপ ঠাই দিছে তথাপি আমাৰ provincial কিছমান বেলেগ বেলেগ জাতীয় ভাষা আছে, যিবিলাক ভাষাৰ বিষয়ে এই Billত উল্লেখ কৰা হৈছে যেনে :—গাৰো, মিকিৰ, খাচীয়া ইত্যাদি ভাষা; এই বিলাক ভাষাৰ নিমিত্তে কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত কোনো ঠাই নাই। তাৰ বাহিৰেও আমাৰ আৰু অইন বহুতো ভাষা আছে যি বিলাক এতিয়া আনকি আমাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহেও নজনাতে পৰিছেহি। যেনে—আহোম ভাষা। যি আহোমে আসাম দেশত প্ৰায় ৬০০ বছৰৰ অধিক কাল বাজত্ব কৰি গৈছে আৰু যিবিলাকৰ কাৰেংঘৰ, তলাতলি ঘৰ আদি এতিয়াও আছে আৰু তেওঁ বিলাকৰ অতীত গৌৰৱৰ চিন দিছে, সেই আহোম জাতিৰ ভাষাৰ বিষয়ে আজি কালি অসমীয়া মানুহৰ বহুতে নাজানে। বুৰঞ্জী বিষয়ে আহোম বিলাকৰ খ্যাতি আছে আৰু আহোম ভাষাত পুৰণি

কলীয়া বহুত কিতাপ, পুথি আদিও আছে। কিন্তু সেই বিলাক অলপীয়া মছী ভাঙেীয়া সকলেও হয়তো ভালকৈ নাজানে। এই বিলাক বিষয় কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ বিষয়ে কি কৰিব পাৰে? কাৰণ তেওঁবিলাকে একোকে নাজানেই। গতিকে আমাৰ এখন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ নিত্য দৰকাৰ হৈছে আৰু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হ'লে বেলেগ বেলেগ বি বিলাক provincial ভাষা আছে, সেই বিলাকৰ কিবা এটা সুবিধা ক'বৰ আশাৰ বুনি আমি আশা কৰিব পাৰোঁ।

তাৰ পিচত কিছুমানে কৈছে যে আমাৰ ইয়াত ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ নাই, মেডিকেল কলেজ নাই, এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল কলেজ নাই, ইত্যাদি। এই বিলাক মোছোৱাৰ নিমিত্তে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৰা যুক্তিসঙ্গত নহ'ব পাৰে, কিন্তু মই ক'ব পাৰোঁ যে বহুত ঠাইত ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ বা মেডিকেল কলেজ মোছোৱাৰিকৈ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ বা মেডিকেল কলেজ নহলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হ'ব মোছোৱাৰ কোনো মানে নাই। আন কি কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়তো এগ্ৰিকালচাৰেল বিষয়ে কোনো কলেজ নাই। সেই দৰে অন্যান্য বহুতো ইউনিভাৰ্চিটি আছে। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰত শ্ৰেষ্ঠ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। অৰ্থাৎ, তাহো কিছুমান বিষয় নাই। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ ইয়াত ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং কলেজ নাই বা মেডিকেল কলেজ নাই বুনিযেই যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হ'ব নালাগে, এই ধাৰণাৰ কোনো মূল্য আছে বুনি নাজাৰোঁ। আমি অৱশ্যে কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ লগত কাজিয়া কৰি বা তেওঁলোকৰ লগত বেয়া হৈ যে বেলেগ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৰিব খুজিছোঁ, সেইটো নহয়। কাৰণ, তেখেত সকলৰ যি আছে আছেই। তাৰ লগতে আমাৰ কিছুমান বিষয় হোৱা নাই বুনিহে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছোঁ। গতিকে কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে আগামত এখন বেলেগ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হোৱাত বেয়া পাবৰ বা আমি বেলেগ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পতাৰ নিমিত্তে তেওঁবিলাকে বৰ্ত্তমানে আমাক নিবিলাক সুবিধা দিছে সেইবিলাক নিদিবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই আৰু আমি সেই দৰে ভাবিবই নোৱাৰো।

তাৰ পিচত চুৰ্গাভেলীৰ অধিবাসী সকলৰ নিমিত্তে আমি ইয়াকে ক'ব পাৰোঁ যে তেখেত সকলৰ ভাষা, কৃষ্টি আদি সকলো যেতিয়া কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ লগত একে আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ যদি কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ লগত থকাই ইচ্ছা, তেনেহলে তেখেত সকলক কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা আঁতৰি আহিবলৈ জোৰকৈ নকওঁ। তেখেত সকলৰ ভাষা কৃষ্টি কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ দ্বাৰা বক্ষা হৈছে যেতিয়া তেখেত সকল তাতে থাওক। কিন্তু তেখেত সকলে আমাৰ ভাষা কৃষ্টি আদিৰ সুবিধা কৰা নাই বুলি জানি শুনিও আমাক কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা আঁতৰি আহিবলৈ বাধা দিয়াটো যুক্তিসঙ্গত হোৱা নাই আৰু তেখেত সকলে আমাক সেই বাধা দিয়াত আমি তেখেত সকলক স্বাৰ্থপৰ বুলিহে ক'ব পাৰোঁ। আমাক এই বিষয়ত সহায় কৰাই তেখেত সকলৰ উচিত বুলি ভাবোঁ।

তাৰ পিচত financeৰ কথা কৈছে। গৰণ মেণ্টে যেতিয়া বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পাতিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে মোৰ বিশ্বাস তেখেত সকলে financeৰ বিষয়ে নিশ্চয় এটা সুবিধা কৰি

লৈছে নহলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পাতিবলৈ কিয় আয়োজন কৰিছে? নিশ্চয় পাতিবৰ সুবিধা আছে, সেই কাৰণেহে তেখেত সকলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কৰিব খুজিছে। আমি India Governmentক Petrol dutyৰ বাবে কোটি কোটি টকা দিও। কিন্তু আমি তাৰ পৰা মাথোন কেই লাখ মানুহে টকা পাও। এতিয়া হয়তো গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই প্ৰাপ্য টকা পাবৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তাৰপৰা এটা অংশ পালে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় চলোৱা একো টান কথা নহব। কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় তাৰতৰ তিতবত শ্ৰেষ্ঠ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। কিন্তু কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰথমৰ পৰা এই অৱস্থা হোৱা নাছিল আৰু কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা সহায় পায় বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থা হোৱা নাই। দেশহিতৈষী বহুত মানুহে কোটি কোটি টকা দিছে। স্যাব বাসবিহাৰী ঘোষ আৰু স্যাব তাবকনাথ পালিত আদি মহানুভৱ পুৰুষসকলৰ সহায় নোপোৱা হলে কলিকতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ অৱস্থা আজি এনেকুৱা নহলহেঁতেন। আমি প্ৰথমতে তেনেকুৱা কৰিব নোৱাৰিলেও সামান্য বৰমে পাতিব দিহা কৰিব পাৰোঁ। আৰু আমাৰ দেশহিতৈষী সকলেও যদি সেইদৰে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় যাতে ভাল হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে সহায় কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়ে, তেন্তে সময়ত আমাৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ো ওৰ ৰাপলৈ উঠিব। আমি আগাম ভেলীৰ কথা জানো আৰু শুনিছো যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পতাৰ যদি ভাল বৰমে সুবিধা হয় তেন্তে বহুতে টকাকৰি দি সহায় কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰস্তুত আছে। আমাৰ উষ্টি অহা ডেকাসকলে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ নিমিত্তে টকাকড়ি তুলিবৰ কাৰণে উষ্টিপৰি লাগিবৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছে আৰু গিৰিলাকে ঠায়ে ঠায়ে কাম কৰিছেও। গতিকে financeৰ নিমিত্তে বিশেষ বাধা হব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস নহয়।

তাৰ পিচত কোনো কোনোৱে এই Bill খনত কিছুমান আগোৱাহ আছে বুলি দেখুৱাইছে। আগোৱাহ থাকিব পাৰে। বিলখন এতিয়া আবস্ত কৰিছেহে মাথোন। কাজেই তাৰ আগোৱাহ থকা একো অসম্ভাবিক নহয়। সেই কাৰণে এই Bill খন public opinionৰ কাৰণে পঢ়িয়াই বা Select Committeeত দি পিচত দোষ সংশোধন কৰি লব পাৰিম। যি বিলাক লোম আছে তাৰ নিমিত্তেই Bill খন পেলাই দিয়া কোনোবাকমে উচিত নহব।

আৰু কিছুমানে কৈছে যে বৰ্ত্তমান সময়ত আমাৰ এনেকুৱা বহুত কাম আছে যি বিলাক বৰ দৰকাৰী; সেই বিলাক কাম হাতত নলৈ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ দৰে এটা ডাঙৰ কাম হাতত লোৱা ভাল হোৱা নাই। অৱশ্যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় যে আইনবিলাক কামতকৈ বিশেষ দৰকাৰী নহয় সেইটো কোনেও কব নোৱাৰে। সেইদৰে কবলৈ গলে বহুত কব পাৰি। কিছুমানে কয় যে Primary Educationৰ বিস্তাৰ প্ৰথমতে হব লাগে। আকৌ কোনো এজনে কয় যে আজি কালি দেখা যায় গাঁওবিলাকত পানীৰ অভাৱত মানুহৰ বৰ কষ্ট হয় আৰু গাঁৱত এনেকুৱা পানীও আছে যি পানী খোৱা দুবৈৰ কথা ছুবলৈকে ঘিন লাগে। সেই কাৰণে প্ৰথমতে ভাল পানীৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰিব লাগে। এই দৰে কওঁ বুলিলে বহুত কথা কবলৈ আছে। সেই কাৰণে এই বিলাক কথা লৈ কাণ নিদি আমি চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে যাতে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় স্থাপন হয়। এই চেষ্টা যাতে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত হয় তাৰ নিমিত্তে আমি সকলোৱে অহোপুৰুষাৰ্থ কৰা উচিত। ইয়াকে কৈ মই বহিব খোঁজোঁ।

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the Bill that has been introduced. I will try to give expression of the feeling of the people of my part of the province from where I come. This, I hope, will help the Select Committee which has been formed to consider the *pro* and *cons* of the Bill under consideration. Of course, it may be said that I shall get an opportunity of having my say in the Select Committee. Still I feel it my duty that I should give the opinion of my people whom I represent. It is a fact that the province of Assam is full of heterogeneous elements in the matter of culture, language, manners and everything, but still then as legislators of the province we have got to look to the interests of all sections of the people, to the interests of all communities of the province, even though they may be in a minority and their divergences are quite different from each other. The people of the Assam Valley along with the people of the Burma Valley have been living together all this time in spite of these heterogeneous elements, and I appeal to all people that it is time to learn to give up all kinds of differences and to give up all kinds of hatred or anything of the kind which might have been prevalent so long in their minds. The Bill which is now before us is the most important legislation which a provincial body has to tackle. I say this because upon the deliberate and careful consideration of this Bill the fate of the future generations of the province fully depend and I am fully confident that our future generations will be moulded by this Bill because it is education which makes a man perfect, it is education which improves a country, and it is education which can make a country impoverished or wealthy. So my earnest appeal to the people, and more particularly to the people of my Valley, is that they should give their best consideration in framing this very precious and valuable legislation. Now when there is a difference of opinion between the people of the two Valleys over the question of the present Bill which seeks to establish a university in Assam, the people of my Valley have got a natural suspicion when their culture, language and manners are quite different from those of the people of the other Valley, that by the establishment of a university in Assam they may be deprived of their ancestral culture, language and manners. Though we feel that this is their genuine apprehension, I would make an earnest appeal that in framing this legislation the legislators should see that no section of the people of the province, no community—even though it may be a minority—is deprived of its ancestral language and manners. I believe if this much assurance can be given to the people that there will be no change in their culture or that nothing will injure them, I think, the agitation will disappear. We live in an autonomous province; it is also a duty on our part to see that we are masters of our own house. This is the only principle which can lead us to give our support to a legislation like this. It has been truly agitated and it has been truly remarked by some of the speakers who spoke a little before that the province of Assam is wanting in many things; many nation-building departments are still being untouched. If we look to the educational sphere of the province we find that Assam is still in want of a medical institution at Sylhet; she is in want of a commercial institution; she is also in want of an industrial institution. These are the most important institutions which can improve the condition of our people.

A few years back I could not conceive the idea of the establishment of a university in Assam. My hon. friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri a little before remarked on this. While he wrote first in his paper that a University in Assam should be established, really I was tempted to laugh. I thought that that might be the idea of an insane (*laughter*). I thought

it unwise and unsound to think of a University. Probably in 1939 a resolution was moved by my friend Mr. Nabakumar Dutta that a University should be established in Assam.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: There was no resolution.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: There was a cut motion, I believe?

However, the majority of the people of the province are in favour of the establishment of a University in the province.

Now on the question of location which has been found fault with by some hon. members lies the whole crux of the matter. Really it will be a bad day for the people of the Surma Valley if we accede to the request, if we accede to the feeling of my friends who come from the other side of the valley, that the University should be located at Gauhati, or at Dhubri or at Tura. If I am allowed to say, I may suggest that the University may be located at Sylhet. But I do not advocate that case. I hope we will be able to come to a compromise. While there is a demand from different parts of the province that the University should be located at different places such as Gauhati, Sylhet, Sunamganj or Karimganj, I think it may be located at a place where we all may meet together. Shillong being the capital city of the province is the only reasonable place in the way of a compromise where the University should be located, if any University is to be established at all.

Then I come to the report of Mr. Cunningham. In his report I find that he gave his primary consideration to certain factors as to the location. He said that the Muslims of Sylhet—I may say of the Surma Valley—were of opinion that first preference should be given to Sylhet. Failing that, it was the decided opinion that the location should be at Shillong. As for the Hindu community, he writes that they were opposed to the idea that there should be any University in Assam. The Hindus of the Surma Valley were of opinion that by the establishment of a University in Assam their connection would be severed from Bengal. They want to remain under the Calcutta University because of the fact that by custom, by manner, by culture and by everything they are more in touch with the Bengalees.

Then if I come to the question of the people of the other valley, I find that Mr. Cunningham has written in his report that there are voluminous opinions in support of the location at Gauhati. There were also certain opinions in favour of Jorhat. Probably that was the opinion of our veteran Khan Bahadur.

Sir, while there is a difference of opinion as to the location and while there are different kinds of demands, the easiest way is to come to a compromise and be unanimous in the matter of the establishment of the University in the capital city of the province. If I am allowed to argue on behalf of Shillong, I can amply justify my suggestion by adding these words that the natural resources of Shillong is most attractive. It is a place which attracts people from various parts of the country. The number of higher institutions in Shillong is greater than in any other place. I heard the Hon'ble Minister in his introductory speech saying that in Shillong there were as many as four colleges. For other purposes also this will be the best place because this will be the seat of the Chancellor, or the Vice-Chancellor, and the Registrar and other officials.

Now, I shall make one or two observations on the provisions of the Bill and then I will take my seat.

In item (4) of clause 9 where provision has been made for a Treasurer, I would suggest that no Treasurer should be appointed. The Registrar may function as Treasurer as well.

With this observation, I resume my seat.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had a mind to speak first and accordingly I stood up, but as I did not get my chance then, I was very much cautious to stand up for the second time. I was just watching whether any other hon. member was standing or not. Now I find that no one else is on his legs I am taking my chance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will perhaps get lesser time than he actually wants to get.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, so long you have heard practically one-sided version except in one or two cases. I hope I shall get sufficient time to deal with the various aspects of the Bill in detail.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated by the Hon'ble Education Minister, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that as the University of Calcutta which is now under the jurisdiction of the Government of Bengal and is subject to legislations by the Provincial Legislature of Bengal who are not bound by the opinions and sentiments of Assam, and is controlling the schools and colleges in the province of Assam, this Bill for the establishment of a University in Assam has been sponsored by the Hon'ble Education Minister. Sir, he thinks that our present position regarding the control of our schools and colleges is anomalous. So Assam, in these autonomous days, should have a University of her own. The idea of the establishment of a University in Assam is also associated with the laudable object of dealing with the special requirements and problems of the province. Sir, it has been nowhere said in the speech of the Hon'ble Education Minister that the Calcutta University cannot manage and control the development of education in Assam or that its management or control is insufficient, and inefficient and no case has also been made out for excluding the jurisdiction of the Calcutta University from Assam. Sir, so long as the Calcutta University does not refuse to extend its services to the students of Assam, how the position is a peculiar one, as stated by the Hon'ble Minister, is not really clear to me.

Now Sir, he has used the words 'opinions' and 'sentiments' because the opinions and sentiments of the people of Assam do not get proper regard by the University of Calcutta. The Hon'ble Minister thinks that we must have a separate University of our own. Sir, if that be one of the criterions, in that case may I ask the Hon'ble Education Minister, where is the guarantee in his Bill that proper protection should be given to all the communities of this province? Sir, no instance has been cited by the Hon'ble Education Minister that the opinions and the sentiments of the people of this province have been disregarded by the Calcutta University. Nowhere in his speeches delivered, either at the time of introducing the Bill or to-day when the Hon'ble Minister commended his motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, this point has been referred to. Sir, if we compare the number of Colleges and the number of colleges plus the Assam students reading in Bengal students in Bengal Colleges, we will find that no case has been made out for Calcutta University does not refuse to extend its services to Assam Colleges and Assam students. It cannot be said that the Calcutta University cannot manage and control the development of education in Assam or that its management and control is in the opinion of the Hon'ble Education Minister inefficient.

Now, Sir, I like to deal with the provisions in the Bill regarding the special requirements and problems of the province. If we come to page 33 of the Bill we will find that the University may confer certain certificates and degrees. The special case that has been said by the Hon'ble Minister for establishing the University and as it is laid down in the body of the Bill, is that the University can confer the following certificates and degrees—Matriculation certificate, Intermediate in Arts certificate, certificate in Intermediate Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Education, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Law, Dr. of Philosophy, Dr. of Science and Dr. of Laws, etc. Sir, by this I fail to understand whether the Hon'ble Education Minister means to say that by conferring certificates and degrees he wants to meet the special needs and to solve the special problems of the province. I shall, of course, come to the real and special reason of bringing this Bill in proper time in course of my speech.

Sir, about its location I was just thinking whether a point of order can be raised regarding this point, but unfortunately myself not being a lawyer, I am sitting quite and only watching whether any member of the Bar of this province adorning this House will come up with a point of order. Sir, this University in Sylheti language may be called a "*Baital* University," having no house. Sir, under the Vagrancy Act "*Baital* persons" may be turned out of the province. But I do not know whether there is any such Act which can turn out this Bill out of this Honourable House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The word "*Baital*" may be taken as derived from the Sanskrit word 'विगत शूल.'

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, in Sylheti language this word is also used.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it parliamentary, Sir, to utter the word "*Baital*"?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has used this word by the way in order to advance an argument, and not as a term of abuse.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I doubt whether it is within the competence of this House to discuss such a legislation about whose "*Sakin* or *Thikana*" is not known. I think, Sir, that the question of location is the crux of the whole point. Now we are as if collecting materials for a building but we do not know where we shall build the House. Sir, I expected that my hon. friend Mr. A. Whittaker, the Leader of the European group, would deal with the clauses of the Bill in the same light as he dealt with the poor Shop Assistants' Bill yesterday. Because there was no definition of the word 'shop' in that Bill, he delivered a lecture extending over 15 minutes and with good grounds no doubt too. In my opinion it was on very reasonable grounds that he said that without the definition of the word 'shop' it was very difficult for any sensible man to give any opinion. Sir, it is really very curious why this point of location has been left altogether. It was said, in course of the speech, by the Hon'ble Minister that during 1937-38 due to some domestic trouble, a Bill of this nature, though prepared, was not brought before the House. I do not know whether there is any such domestic trouble at present amongst the Ministers themselves which has compelled them to keep this point altogether out. It has been said in the Bill that it is a corporate body and it will be incorporated and it can be sued or can sue, etc. Sir, as I said before, really it is difficult for me to understand whether without any provision in the Bill that where the University should be located—here or there—we can discuss this matter

fully. If there was such a provision in the Bill, I could have satisfied myself, but there is no such provision. It will be found in the Bill on the very first page against the head 'Short title'—“The Act may be called the Assam University Act, 1941”. It reminds me of some other points whether being very much doubtful of the fate of this Bill—the Hon'ble Minister has conveniently left out the figure 1 after 4 thinking that from 1 it may go over to 9, I mean the figure may be 1941 or any other up to 1949, and it may so happen that it may be called the act of '49'. However, Sir, as it has been done here I cannot understand why some provision like this even has not been made in the Bill for the location of the University. Though it is very painful on my part to criticise sometimes my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman, I think, I cannot but mention one point in this connection. The other day we read in the papers, and it was confirmed by him also, I am not taking advantage of the news papers only—a statement made by my friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman to the effect that as there is such a big building lying practically vacant in Sylhet which was built for the starting of the notorious Medical School at Sylhet, it might be used for a University. As long as he was at Sylhet he advocated for the cause of Sylhet, but after coming to Shillong he has been advocating for Shillong's cause. Sir, it is really surprising, that a man of his position, as we know him as the Chief Whip of the Ministerialist Party, will change his opinion so soon and in such a way. When he was at Sylhet he was feeling for Sylhet; now when he is at Shillong he is crying for Shillong and I am really very much afraid that if he goes down to Gauhati he will speak for Gauhati. That is to say wherever he will go he will plead for that place (*Loud laughter*).

Sir, it has been said by the Hon'ble Minister of Education that from no quarter he has heard any opposition to this Bill. He has quoted several letters and they are all in support of this Bill. But, Sir, may I ask the Hon'ble Education Minister whether he knows anything about the wishes of the Sylhet people? Of course, I mean that his knowledge has been gathered not after hearing in this House to-day but before this also. I dare say surely he knows, but I wonder why he did not mention even a single instance about the opposition of the Surma Valley people. Sir, I expected that the Hon'ble Education Minister who is reading newspapers everyday and receiving letters and telegrams, should mention at least a few of the innumerable protests that he has already received. I myself being an ordinary member among so many members of the Surma Valley have received a few which I shall read before the House afterwards.

Now I shall speak of the question of finances about which we are dealing practically everyday of this session.

Sir, we are to see whether the limited resources of Assam is capable of maintaining an elephant, I mean the University. Sir, from the very beginning of this session, times without number you have heard about the paucity of funds. Whenever any question from either side of this House has been raised for some kind of improvement or new scheme, we have always heard that due to want of funds the Government could not give effect to this project or that. The Sylhet Medical School project is a glaring instance of our paucity of funds.

Sir, in the speech delivered on the first day at the time of introducing the Bill, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned—about three or four times—not less than three times, I am confident, it may be four times,—that the same project was brought before the House in some form or other but due to want of funds the Government was compelled to give up the idea. But in his speech in both these days, Sir, he has never mentioned, even through

mistake, that at present the Government has got sufficient funds at their disposal so that they can start a University and that they can maintain it upto some such standard which will be recognised and looked upon by others with some respects. Right he has done because he does not dare to make such a glaring mis-statement.

Sir, it has also been said, as I have already pointed out, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Calcutta University is at present going to be under the Bengal Government and they can legislate in such a way that that may not be convenient or suitable for us. Sir, we know that a Secondary Board of Education Bill is before the Bengal Government at present. If our Hon'ble Minister or the Cabinet thinks that there is something to fear regarding that Bill, in that case I think it would have been proper for the Hon'ble Education Minister to come before this House with a Bill of that nature. Sir, if the University for name's sake is the real desire then that of course is a different thing. In that case we should not mention anything about the Calcutta University, relating to our advantages and disadvantages. At present our province is an autonomous one and as such we want a University; I can understand that. But we must not be satisfied by being a frog in a well. Sir, a University which is ungrudgingly giving service to our province for such a long time, should not be given such a bad colour at the time of severing our connection with it which will naturally bring in the minds of outsiders that the behaviour of the said University has become untenable for the people of the province of Assam. Sir, when I find that some of my Surma Valley friends who have already spoken are also in favour of having a separate University rather as they are not opposing this Bill, I as for one cannot but draw this conclusion. I think, Sir, if the Cabinet is really so very eager to establish a University of our own, it will be honourable and just for them to have two Universities for the two valleys. But, Sir, none of them has suggested like that. It may be that they being quite aware of the financial condition of the province dare not propose like this. Sir, if the financial condition stands on the way, in that case I suggest that let my Assam Valley friends, who are, as I find up till now unanimous in this point, have a University in their own valley and let the Surma Valley people be under the Calcutta University, as they are at present.

Sir, the other day, my hon. friend Maulana Saheb used a few very valuable words: 'এরা অখাং Present Government পেনের ভিত্তিও নেবে মুখের ভাষাও নেবে।' Sir, really the Surma Valley people are afraid of this situation. Why they are afraid I shall show, Sir, from the very constitution of the Senate and the Syndicate. Sir, in this connection while dealing with the financial condition of the province, I think it will not be out of place to read a portion of the speech of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, the present Governor, while he addressed the students of the St. Edmunds' College, Shillong. (It is in the Edmundian 1937-38):—

"That Assam should have a university of its own is an ideal which, I know, a great many people in Assam, perhaps most, have very much in their minds and no one will dispute that it is highly desirable that a province should have within its own jurisdiction so to speak the whole structure of education from the elementary schools right up to the University standard. But I very much fear that I am not being unduly pessimistic when I say that I feel that the attainment of that ideal is still far distant. One great difficulty is that of finding funds for even a modest university scheme, and, as observers have doubtless noticed already, the recent trend of events in the Legislature makes the financial outlook even less encouraging than it was before.

As regards the methods of establishing an Assam University, Brother O' Leary has put forward a constructive suggestion, and in doing so I feel that he must have had in mind the proposals contained in Mr Cunningham's Report on that subject which was published last year. As Mr Cunningham points out, and it is a thing which I am afraid we cannot get away from, political and physical conditions forbid the possibility of a unitary university and if there is to be one, it looks as if it must be a distributed university with a branch at Sylhet for the Surma Valley, and some central co-ordinating organisation at Shillong. Whether that ideal will ever be realised it is difficult to say, but I do think something on those lines ought to be feasible and if only we can find the necessary finance.

Now, Sir, much has been said about the report of Mr Cunningham. Of course I have to be very cautious to speak about a gentleman who is absent not only in the House but from India. I must be very cautious while criticising his report. But there is some doubt in my mind whether a report of this nature has to do something with the notorious Cunningham Circular which he published. *(A voice: This has no connection with that.)* I am showing the connection. Will you, Sir, kindly ask my hon. friends to have patience? *(A voice: But we are concerned with the time.)*

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is no time limit in the discussion of a Bill. The hon. member may go on, but he will try to be relevant and at the same time as brief as possible.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I think, I am very brief and to the point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, up till now the hon. member has been to the point, but I shall see whether the point he is now touching is relevant or not.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Exactly, Sir. I am just explaining the idea. After issuing that circular, the then Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Cunningham, left this country; he retired. After that the object of that circular was nullified by the Calcutta University by granting affiliation to many schools which were in the bad book of Mr. Cunningham.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I now quite see the point which the hon. member is making out. He is trying to minimise the value of the report by ascribing motive to the gentleman who was the author of the Report. I think it would not be proper to say that Mr. Cunningham must have had a motive in recommending a separate University for Assam on account of the fact that the Calcutta University did not deal fairly with him. I think that is in the mind of the hon. member.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not exactly that, Sir. But I had some doubt that as he was a human being made up of flesh and blood, it might have occurred to him, as a natural desire, to sever Assam's connection with the Calcutta University which gave a death blow to his circular and acted against his desire; while he issued the circular he was the head of the Education Department in this province.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He was entrusted with a great task, and I do not think he had such petty considerations when he prepared the Report.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Is it not a fact that Mr. Cunningham was called from England by the Government of Assam, with the sanction of the Legislature, for framing the scheme?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, he was entrusted with the work by the Legislature so to say.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If you think it so petty, Sir, I am not going to touch that point any more. But, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble House to page 35 of his Report where he says, "In many of the States of America for example it is as simple a matter to start a University as it is in England to get married at a Registrar's". Sir, in his opinion the starting of a University was a so very easy matter. Yet, while he was for so many years the Director of Public Instruction he did not take any care to start a University in this province and why? If I am permitted, I would say, Sir, that it is extremely strange that the matter which he mentioned in his Report to be so very easy did never occur in his mind during his long tenure of office here so as to give a shape to it. He was never married, Sir, I understand, so how could he know whether it was difficult or not to get married (*laughter*)? But, Sir, as you have ordered me not to touch on that point, I mean the circular, I shall not utter a single word about it. Nevertheless Sir, a portion of his Report will show what he thought about the establishment of a University in so far as the financial aspect of the question was concerned. Now if we accept his version, Sir, am I not entitled to say that he was negligent in his duties while serving as Director of Public Instruction in the province.

Sir, from the newspaper reports we find that there is a very strong section—by strong I mean the intelligent section—of the public who are against this Bill under discussion. Sir, several public meetings have already been held in several parts of the country. I shall mention only a few about which I can authoritatively say something. Sir, in practically all the subdivisional towns in the district of Sylhet meetings were held protesting against this move. It is well-known to the hon. members that at present it requires seven days' notice to hold a meeting, as previous permission of the Deputy Commissioner is necessary.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI : Is it relevant, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What point does the hon. member want to make out?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : My point is that the number of protest meetings has not been overwhelming due to the fact that previous permission of the meetingi Deputy Commissioner having been necessary to hold and to have that, one is to apply seven days before the date of the meeting. Now I shall read some of the telegrams and letters:—

I have received a telegram from Maulvibazar sent by one Mr. Jatindev to this effect, "South Sylhet public meeting passed resolution opposing University move".

The Secretary, Habiganj Bar Library wires as follows:—

"Habiganj Bar assembled meeting to-day strongly protest Assam University which affect language, culture of Bengali-speaking people and cause breach in cultural affinity with Bengal by severing connection with Calcutta University and its high standard of efficiency. Paucity of funds unable meet growing needs of education." Then again there is another from Maulvibazar from the Secretary Bar Library, which runs:—"Pleaders' Association strongly protest proposal Assam University—urge effective opposition."

Then there is a letter written by Mr. C. K. Dey, Secretary Assam University Opposition Committee, Sylhet to the following effect:

"I beg to send you a copy of the resolution unanimously adopted in a meeting of the people of Sylhet held on the 23rd February. You are well aware that the Surma Valley people are unequivocally opposed to the idea of a separate university in Assam for reasons known to all. You are also aware that the Government of India gave a solemn pledge to the people of Sylhet that their connection with the Calcutta High Court and Calcutta University would never be severed. So far as the Assam Valley is concerned only a section of the people supports the idea. The Bill that has recently been published is a most reactionary measure. With one stroke of the pen a death blow has been aimed at the language, culture and tradition of the Surma Valley, in gross violation of the solemn pledge referred to above. Secondly, if the Bill be adopted, the province will be committed to huge expenditure beyond its limited capacity, and, lastly higher education of the people would be crippled."

Sir, I do not know whether the Hon'ble Education Minister will be ready to attach any value to all these meetings held by the responsible citizens of the district of Sylhet. Revolution runs thus.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: May I point out that the hon. member's each pause means one minute?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Every hon. member has got his own way of talking.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Without meaning any injury to hon. members, I should say that by the way the hon. member is proceeding we would require more time. May I suggest that we sit till 4-30 P.M.?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall have no objection if the House will agree. But the hon. member speaking has a right to choose his own way of speaking.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Not that I object to the hon. member going in his way, but we should see that we finish the business by extending the time, if necessary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am agreeable to accommodate the House. Let the hon. member go on. I hope he will finish soon.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I am trying my level best. I will finish as soon as I can, because I am touching all the points I have recorded here. It is not like the written budget speech, Sir. I have not got a written speech with me and so naturally I will require some time. When the Hon'ble Education Minister spoke, I do not think that he took less time than myself.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please go on.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Over and above the Sylhet resolution, Sir, I have got a letter from the Assistant Secretary, Pleaders' Bar Association, Maulvibazar, and another from Muktears' Bar Association Habiganj, another from Secretary, Muktears' Bar Association, Maulvibazar, another from Secretary, South Sylhet Divisional Students' Federation, another from Secretary, Dakshin Srihatta Hindu Mahasava, and another from

Secretary, Habiganj Bar Association, all protesting this Bill. As all are very eager to save time, I am not going to read them. Now, Sir, I shall go to the inner part of the Bill. What is the entire motive which I find behind this Bill? Sir, the Bill as it has been placed before us, clearly shows that Government control or rather political control over the University will be established. How that will be, I am just going to prove. But I must mention one point that, if the control of the University is left in the hands of the Government, in that case all the hon. members present in this House should seriously think whether it will be really dangerous or not, because with the change of the Government the educational policy of the Government may also be changed. So whether it would be a wise course to keep the University entirely under the control of the Government is a matter which I like to bring to the pointed attention of the hon. members of this House.

Then I come, Sir, to the constitution of the Senate. There are 10 *ex-officio* members. That means the Government officers and the heads of the Government. If I read it, it will be clear. It is as follows:—

Ex-officio members, class I under the Senate—the Chancellor, i.e., His Excellency, the Vice-Chancellor, which means a nominee of the Chancellor, the Prime Minister of Assam, the Minister of Education, Assam, the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, the Principal of the Earle Law College, the Principals of First-Grade Government Colleges, the Deans of the Faculties, the Registrar, and the Principal of the Government Madrassa, Sylhet.

These are the *ex-officio* members. In this connection, I think, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not touch one point about Sanskrit education. Of course, I know very little about Sanskrit education in this province. I only know about a few *tois* and a college which is situated at Sylhet. That when the Principal of the Sylhet Madrassa—a Government Institution—has got a place in the Senate, in the fitness of things, I think, the Principal of the Head of the Institution of the Sanskrit College, Sylhet, should also get a place there. But, Sir, that has been omitted and why?

Then, Sir, Life Members. Such members not exceeding 3, may be appointed by the Chancellor. So, these life members appointed by the Chancellor will be Government's men. All persons who make a donation of money or of property to or for the purposes of the University of the value of not less than Rs.25,000. There might be 1, 2, 3 or 4 persons in the province who may be able to donate Rs.25,000, who, of course, may not be said to be under the control of the Government. And there are other donors also and I do not like to comment anything about them. But in this connection I cannot but admire the novel way of raising money. But in class iv—Elected members. There are 10 members to be elected; then, another 2 members, and another 3 members to be elected; then, members will be elected. Now there is provision for nomination of 40 members. So, Sir, it comes to this that practically 53 members will be directly under the control of the Government and 20 members will be elected. In this connection, Sir, I would like to mention one thing. Under item (6) of Division (iv) at page 10, 2 members are to be elected by the Principals of second-grade colleges from among themselves. Why from second-grade colleges and not from first grade colleges? However, Sir, I hope the Hon'ble Minister will try to explain this at the time of his reply. It looks rather curious.

Then, again, Sir, the constitution of the Syndicate. There will be 17 members possibly as it stands at present, but all of them except 3 we can say are nominated members. By showing all these, Sir, I want to bring to

the notice of this Hon. House that we are going to establish a constitution of the University at the same time as we are going to establish the Government. Sir, I think that at least in the case of a Bill at which the representatives ought to have been greater than the nominated members. (Cries: "No-where!") At least why not here to vote on the Bill?

Sir, one-third of the reserved seats have been kept reserved for our Muslim friends. Well and good, I have nothing to say about that, but let us see why this has been done. Just suppose that our interests? Then there is no reserved seat for other minorities. Sir, at the very beginning, as I have said, if the Hon'ble Minister would have come out of the clutches of the Calcutta University, and the seats reserved for Muslims, I think, it would have been just and proper for him to reserve a seat for representation on the basis of the Valleys also; if communities are to be taken into consideration regarding this kind of reservation, I think, in Assam the Valleys' representation also should get a place.

As to how it will be self-sufficient, it has been said by my hon. friend Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, that we have no Medical College, no Engineering College, no Agricultural College or any Training College for Industries, etc. So we shall have to depend either on the Calcutta University or some other University for most of our vital needs. Sir, it is quite evident from the speech of the Hon'ble Education Minister that only for granting certificates and degrees this University is going to be started, and the subjects that will be taught have also been mentioned. Now we should all seriously think whether our aim to establish a University in this province is really genuine and beneficial or something else. The problem has not been solved by bringing this Bill. How the problem will be solved if this Bill is passed into an Act? The most vital question will still remain unsolved. I would have been pleased if the Hon'ble Education Minister would have made provision in his Bill for the certificates and degrees of some technical institutions by simultaneously starting some technical institutions, but, Sir, he has not done that. Sir, at present there are only two Government Colleges in this province, and the Government have been severely criticised many a time for not properly equipping these institutions. Sir, last year I appealed to the Hon'ble Education Minister for starting a Biology class in the Murarichand College, Sylhet. He was kind enough to give me some assurance and afterwards in reply to a cut motion of my hon. friend Mr. Mahi Ch. Bora, he gave a promise to him that next year, i.e., in 1941-42 he would start a Biology class at the Murarichand College at Sylhet. But in this year's Budget I find that there is no provision for any Biology class in the Murarichand College. Sir, on enquiry I found that due to want of funds it was not taken up. Sir, if out of the two Government colleges at the credit of the Government we cannot have a Biology class at Sylhet due to want of funds, I wonder how the Government can venture to come before the House with a Bill for the establishment of a University for Assam.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When does the hon. member propose to finish his speech?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I shall take at least another hour.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I must protest against the way in which the hon. member is proceeding, Sir. He wants another hour for his discussion. In a certain Bill you were pleased to fix a time limit and I would request you to fix a time limit in this case also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He is really touching the principles of the Bill, and so long he will be discussing the principles of the Bill, I cannot prevent him from speaking. Other hon. members who have spoken on the Bill have discussed very little of the principles of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Therefore I request you to fix a time limit.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That request ought to have been made when the Bill was taken up. There is no specific provision in the Rules that there should be a time limit in the discussion of a Bill. There is a keen controversy over the Bill. How can I fix a time limit?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In a previous Bill time limit was fixed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If that request was made to me earlier I would have considered it. I do not remember to have fixed any time limit for speeches on any Bill previously.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It was made, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, in my opinion there is no speciality in bringing this Bill. Nothing has been said about the technical and technological subjects in the Bill which in my opinion are really the vital points to solve the problem of the province.

Sir, it has been said by one hon. member...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will please confine himself to the principles of the Bill.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I will try to do that in my utmost capacity. If there is any failure, it is sincerely due to my lack of experience or knowledge. If it be the desire of the House that I should not speak any more I am ready to sit down, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: There was, Sir, already a time limit in the discussion of the Agricultural Income Tax Bill. I think you will remember.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That was in the Joint Session to pass the Bill when time limit can be fixed. I have also known a Bill being discussed by a particular member for four days in the Central Assembly as far as I remember.

Hon. member may go on.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it has been pointed out by some hon. members that primary education is suffering for want of funds. In this connection I think it will not be out of place for me...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question of funds has already been discussed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am speaking of primary education. This may be taken up first. By this I mean that in the educational line it comes first. If this has not been taken up in right earnest by Government...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is no point for consideration by the Select Committee.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am criticising the Government for not taking up primary education first. At the beginning they have gone higher up. They are already aiming at the top. They are trying to climb up without touching the bottom and so there is the fear of falling down, Sir. All right, I won't dilate on this any more.

Sir, in the Bill a lakh and a half of rupees have been provided and there is the hope for future increment also; but nothing has been said about the non-recurring grant or a lump sum grant which will be required

at the very beginning. If they want to start a University, some initial cost must be necessary. We have not got any idea about it. There is no provision in the Bill about the money which will be required at the very beginning. We have not been enlightened as to how much money will be required and how that will be met. If we compare the case of the Calcutta and the Dacca Universities we will find that (subject to correction) about 10 lakhs of rupees is annually given to the Dacca University by the Bengal Government and still I think there is no body in this House who can say that the Dacca University is up to the standard. Sir, Calcutta University for which more than crores of rupees have been spent is still not fully equipped or up to the satisfaction of the people of the province. By this I do not mean that at the very beginning we should have the standard of the Dacca University or of the Calcutta University, but my point is this that while a recurring grant of Rs. 10 lakhs a year is not found to be sufficient for the Dacca University whether an annual grant of Rs. 1½ lakh will be quite sufficient for the maintenance of a University in Assam. Sir, if that be the case, I think the Hon'ble Education Minister should think very carefully whether he should proceed with this Bill any further. Sir, the University does not mean a few tables and chairs, some office rooms or a few officers. It is quite well-known to all the hon. members of this House that in our province there is not the requisite number of educationists. By educationists, I mean persons who will be able to take charge of the University. So, Sir, we shall have to go outside the province to bring properly qualified men for our purpose. In that case, our position will be worse because we shall have to spend more money than the other provinces, where there are sufficient number of properly qualified men for the purpose of running the University. I do not like that our Government should establish such a University which will be a University only in name; we want that there should be a University of substance, worth and reputation.

Sir, another point that I would like to mention in this connection is that too much power has been given to the Chancellor. In the whole Bill, clause 77 is the most dangerous one and I have got some doubts in my mind as to whether the question of location has got something to do with this clause or not. The section runs as follows: "The Chancellor shall have power to take any action necessary to remove any difficulty that may arise in giving effect to the provisions of this Act." So, Sir, I have got some fear in my mind that if the question of location is not settled beforehand, this question may stand on the way of starting a University and by this clause Government may get the desired effect now leaving us in darkness. I do not know what was the result of the Cabinet meeting regarding location—whether the Cabinet has arrived at any decision or not. So, Sir, it is quite natural on our part to be afraid of this clause. In my opinion there should not be a clause like this that if there be any difficulty in giving effect to this Bill, only the Chancellor shall have the power to take that action without any reference to this Hon'ble House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member will briefly mention the clauses to which he takes exception.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sub-clauses 1, 2 and 3 of clause 72 says, "(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the first Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor within two months after the passing of this Act. (2) Within one month after the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor not more than three persons may be appointed by the Chancellor as Advisers to assist the Vice-Chancellor in the preliminary work necessary for bringing the University into being. (3) The salary and remuneration of the first

Vice-Chancellor and of the Advisers, as well as the conditions and length of their service, shall be determined and fixed by the Chancellor. As regards the first Registrar's appointment the same procedure has been provided. Here I have got to say something about the power that is left to the Chancellor. In the first case, I can quite understand that it should be entirely left at the hands of the Chancellor to select his Advisers and to nominate his Vice-Chancellor and Registrar on the terms and conditions he thinks best. I have got nothing to say but about the time, I think, there must be a limit. A reasonable time should be mentioned. In that case, the unlimited power for giving the first Vice-Chancellor and the Advisers and Registrar should not remain there as it is.

Sir, I do not know whether any of my hon. friend will take any exception if I say that the culture of the Surma Valley people and that of the Assam Valley people is quite different. Sir, when the Assam Valley people are trying for the betterment of their culture, I would request them to think over one point whether by being in contact with the Bengalees they are going to lose anything or they are expected to gain something. That is a serious point which should be considered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not to be considered by the Select Committee.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But, Sir, my point is that they should consider this point so as to come to a decision whether this measure is a beneficial one or not.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Sufficient materials have been placed before the House and the point that should be considered is whether there is an actual necessity of it or not.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My point is different. Sir, I am trying to convince the Hon'ble Education Minister that there is no necessity of such a Bill at present and I am against it. So, Sir, if I do not express what I think best according to my opinion, the Hon'ble Minister may not consider all these points. It may be a hope against hope, but still I maintain some hope in my mind that the Hon'ble Minister will kindly give due consideration to my prayer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. member has got nothing to say about the principles of the Bill, I hope he will finish.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have many things to speak about the principles of the Bill. Sir, the University question is the question of higher learning and a very big one and of great consideration as it is mainly cultural. So, the views of the cultural section of the province should be taken into consideration and should be given preference to. The whole frame work of the University has been drawn up in such a manner that it is destined to play a second fiddle to the provincial Government. That is also a principle of the Bill. The progressive elements seem to be deliberately scared away by the constitution itself. The Syndicate and the Senate—the two executive bodies are not to be constituted, I think, with an eye to make the Government block stronger. I think, that should not be the principle of a Bill relating to the University. The meaning of the word University should always be kept in mind.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has already referred to this matter.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, Calcutta is the centre of culture and civilisation of the Bengalee people. So, as I have said before, that I have been rather ordered by the people of the Surma Valley to express here that this Bill is most inopportune, inequitable and a dangerous one. I pray that the Hon'ble Education Minister will not press to send this Bill to a Select Committee. Sir, in this connection I like to

mention another point that Dr. Rabindranath Tagore was not the product of the Calcutta University but rather the Calcutta University has been benefited by him and is getting many things from him. So, the principle of having a University of our own if we think we shall be able to create great men then I think we are mistaken. We require great men to build a University.

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: Should we not try to do so?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, we are adjourned till 5 p.m.

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: By the House is it so then?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The House adjourns till 5 p.m.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, before I occupy my seat I shall take 3 or 4 minutes more. I shall make only a few remarks before the Hon'ble Education Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Sir, by 'we' I mean the people of the Surma Valley. We have great apprehension that a University in Assam would materially affect our language, culture and tradition and would seriously be detrimental to the development in the province. There is, as I understand, already a danger that the Bengali language is not getting the proper assistance as it should get in the Assam Valley. Sir, there were several questions before this House regarding this matter; so it is quite well known to the hon. members. By mentioning this point I mean to say that our fear is not without any basis. There are some data before us by which we have come to the conclusion that even before the Bill has been passed or Government has got full control over the educational affairs, there is a move by some persons to lift the Bengali language in the Assam Valley. Sir, a University is no doubt a valuable addition to a province's equipment, provided it can be run at a decent standard. It is needless to say that it requires money, which aspect should be seriously considered. A University should not be created simply for the province's efficiency and reputation. In the present critical time the question of such a commitment by the Government should be considered without any bias and sentiments. So, I earnestly hope that the Hon'ble Education Minister while replying will kindly consider this matter without any bias and sentiments about this Bill; but if he cares for any sentiment or opinion of the Assam Valley, he should also care for the sentiment and opinion of his fellow brethren of the Surma Valley. With these words, Sir, I oppose both—the motion for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion and also the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I may be permitted to reply to the remarks which Mr. Mookerjee made against me? I advocated the cause of Shillong for the seat of the proposed University in order to avoid the parochial demands of many members of the House in the way of amicable settlement. Mr. Mookerjee forgets things according to his convenience. The statement I made in press for the seat at Sylhet—that was in my personal capacity. I, it rests on me, I still hold that view.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, this is a very important piece of legislation and unless I give my expression to it, I think, I shall be lacking in my duty, as I say that the Bill has been thrown upon us for discussion unwarrantedly, because had we been informed before we would have got time to consult our constituency and we could have our opinion formed. Now if we say anything and if any hon. member of this House also says and had said anything, I do not think that this is the opinion of the constituencies. But they are now speaking for themselves and if I say now anything that would be of mine only. By the amendment of Mr. Sen we shall have an opportunity of consulting our constituencies and I hope the House will allow us to consult our own constituencies before we give verdict.

Sir, about the Bill itself I have nothing to say. But I have heard my friend Mr. Mookerjee saying, "why one third members of the Senate should be reserved for the Muslims"? I think, Sir, the Government is justified. In doing so as they have followed the convention of the Dacca and the Calcutta Universities. So I think, Sir, they are right on this point. If there be any University in Assam, Sir, there should be some provision for the Muslims separately.

Regarding Islamic education and culture I do not think the Calcutta University has done some wrong at least for not making provision for the study of the *'Hadis'* and other religious teachings. I think there should be some provisions for the study of *Quranic* teachings for the *Hadis* and other religious teachings.

I think, Sir, the establishment of a University is a move in the right direction. This is an autonomous province and autonomy demands self-sufficiency. But, Sir, the province requires many other things which have been described by Mr. Sen and Mr. Mookerjee and so I need not trouble the House about all those feeder-qualifications viz., money and highly qualified persons, etc. Many improvements had been made by magic rod in the past in the pre-historic days. So also in Assam this may act as miracle as it is called a jungly place. If one goes to Iraq, United Provinces or Central Provinces they say that they do not know anything about Assam except that it is a jungle. Sir, with the changes in culture this idea may also be changed and everything may be managed in this way. There is no time mentioned in the Bill, as Mr. Mookerjee has pointed out '194' has been mentioned in the bill. Also about location nothing has been mentioned in it. I do not know where the university will be located. We must have some idea about the location of the University, Sir, before we cast our votes. If the question of location was settled, the sentimental activities either of the people of the Surma Valley or of the Assam Valley might have been minimised.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has finished.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: One minute more, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, in our school days we have heard that East is East and West is West. Here in Assam, Assamiya is for the Assamiyas and Bengali is for the Bengalees. These two will never reconcile. So, Sir, I think there ought to be some meeting point. Some of the hon. gentlemen suggested that the location should be at Shillong. But, Sir, Shillong is a very costly place and only big and few people can send their sons here and the poor people cannot send their children for education and thus very few will be benefited. If the masses can learn these things and the purpose, surely they will not agree to the establishment, I believe, of a university in the province at the present time. So, Sir, it will be thrust upon the people unwanted. As I say, Sir, the meeting point, Shillong, is very costly, the solution lies in having two residential universities—one at Gauhati and the other at Sylhet for the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley respectively. If the benign Government (I say 'benign') do not agree with my proposal, let the people of the Surma Valley be consulted and if they do not agree to my proposal I suggest, Sir, that we should go to Bengal. I for myself think that it is better to be a part of a big tree than to be a branch of a small tree. As for myself, I say we have vast field there for cultural, economic, agricultural and other improvements. Let us go there. With these words. Sir, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am replying on behalf of the Government and I will be very brief.

(At this stage Bahu Akshay Kumar Das and Rev. J. J. M. Nicholas-Roy rose to speak and drew the attention of the Hon'ble Speaker.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER I cannot help the hon. members. I have called upon the Hon'ble Premier.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, although we had a full debate on the matter, I think only three points have to be replied to. The first is the suggestion of Mr. Whittaker that the date for submission of the Report by the Select Committee should be extended to a later date so as not to coincide with the date for receipt of opinion on the provisions of the Bill. We in the Government Bench have got no objection to that. If the House is so willing, we can extend the date for submission of the Select Committee's Report to the 30th June.

The next point was raised by my hon. friend Mr. Kedarnal Brahmin who deplored the fact that the faculty of Hindi had not been included in the Bill. I can assure my hon. friend that if there are schools teaching through the medium of Hindi, we can very well put in Hindi in the list of faculties. As "other subjects" have been included, there need be no difficulty whatsoever to include Hindi in the list.

Sir, I cannot but respect the feelings which have compelled my hon. friends Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen and Mr. Mookerjee to speak in the way they have done. I wish they had taken a more business-like attitude. I can agree, Sir, that the speech which my hon. friend Mr. Sen delivered was full of constructive suggestions, but I am afraid, Sir, I cannot pay the same compliment to my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee whose industry and labour I always admire though some time I have to dissociate myself from the tactics he adopts. He started by saying that this Bill reminds him of a Sylhetee word 'baital'. I am glad that he used the word, for his criticisms seemed to me to belong to the same category. They seemed to me to be *baital* or *bigatasthal*. I won't ascribe any motives for he is himself a *bigatasthal*. But I can say that the other arguments he advanced in criticising the Bill are self-contradictory. I shall point out only three of them. He criticised that this University would be a Government-controlled University and therefore the Bill should be dropped. But in the same breath he himself said that let us remain under the mother of Universities, the Calcutta University, which is the best University in India. Has he ever looked into the constitution of the Senate of that University? Only 20 per cent. of the members are elected and 80 per cent. are nominated. If India I think he can very well submit to a constitution of the 'mother of universities' in nominated members and 30 elected and *ex-officio* members.

The next argument he advanced was that he was afraid that under this Bill either the Bengali culture will be swamped by Assamese culture or the Bengali culture will be contaminated by the lesser culture of the Assamese. Yet he does not see the fault of his own argument. While he wants to follow his own culture, he asks the Assamese people to submit to the Bengali culture and the Bengali-ridden University of Calcutta. If he can recommend to the Assamese people to submit to the Bengali culture and the Bengali-run Calcutta University, he should submit himself to the Assam University although we do not know whether the Assam University will be constituted in a way that his culture will be swept away.

Thirdly, he said that teaching will deteriorate though he admitted that the Calcutta University was not perfect. Another hon. member also said that in spite of its 72 years' existence, the Calcutta University could not provide an Agricultural College; therefore does it make the University defective? We have been criticised that Assam is too poor to have any College for giving professional education. But, Sir, there are many universities in India which have no technical colleges. I therefore submit, Sir, that in spite of the great labour which my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee has taken to enlighten the House on his view points I find that the House need not give any consideration to them because they are full of contradictions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The question is that the Assam University Bill, 1941, be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st August 1941.

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question now is:

"That the Assam University Bill, 1941 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members,—

1. Mr. A. Whittaker,
2. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn,
3. Srijut Karka Dalay Meri,
4. Babu Akshay Kumar Das,
5. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta,
6. Mr. C. Goldsmith,
7. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education,
8. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiyan,
9. Shams-ul-ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed,
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury,
11. Maulavi Abdur Rahman,
12. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali,
13. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali,
14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf,
15. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,
16. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal, and
17. Srijut Jogesh Chandra Gohain.

Seven members to form a quorum and that the Select Committee is to submit their Report by the 30th of June 1941".

The question was adopted.

Re : arrangement of the rest of the business of the day

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I find that many other legislative measures were placed for discussion to-day. As they could not be taken up to-day, the only other day on which they can be taken up is the 27th of March; in that case there will be some difficulty about the final readings, as we will close on the 29th. Therefore I would request you, Sir, to allow Government to use any unutilised time on Government business days to take up these pieces of legislation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I find that item Nos. 5 to 9 may be taken up and finished within five minutes because they relate to Bills which have been returned to us by the other Chamber. Only formal motions are to be made in regard to them. One advantage of making these formal motions now is that further amendments can be tabled in time. Unless these motions are carried to-day, there will be some difficulty in tabling further

amendments to the amendments made to these Bills by the other House. So, I think, these five items should be handled today.

The Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg to move, Sir, that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the amendments made by the Council are mostly of a verbal nature. I would request the House to agree to these amendments.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Only the motion for consideration will be taken up. Consideration of amendments separately will come up on the 27th.

Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put and adopted.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Even if we accept the amendments of the Upper House, will we have to wait up to the 27th?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The motion now moved is that the amendments made by the other House be taken into consideration. After that motion is carried, the question of accepting the amendments would arise. There is a definite rule to that effect and it has to be followed. Other members may table further amendments to the amendments made by the other House. Those amendments will be taken up on the 27th, because I shall have to give time to hon. members to table further amendments. That is the difficulty.

The Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put and adopted.

The Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1940

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put and adopted.

**The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments)
(Amendment) Bill, 1940**

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put and adopted.

The Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration."

The motion was then put and adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid the other items will have to be fixed for the 27th.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In that case we will have to await the time limit for tabling amendments. So it will be finished on the 29th.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall ask the hon. members to go on tabling the amendments from now. I direct the House to table the amendments to the Bills which will be coming up on the 27th from now. The programme in that case will not be disturbed. Because the Budget demands will be coming up and it will be very difficult to arrange this work on the days on which the Budget demands will have to be discussed.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th March, 1941.

SHILLONG:

The 30th April 1941.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.