

**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
Saturday, the 22nd March, 1941

Present

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the nine
Hon'ble Ministers and forty-eight members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Administration of Partially Excluded Areas of Assam

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*91. Will Government be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendation made by the Conference relating to the administration of the Partially Excluded Areas of Assam and Administration of Civil Justice by the British Courts within the area of the Shillong Municipality ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

91.—The recommendations are still under consideration of Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge gave the same reply in the last November session also ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, that is so, but the question is a very complicated one. It is under the special responsibility of His Excellency the Governor, and therefore it is being delayed.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know for how long it has been under the consideration of Government ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Most probably for about a year.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: May I know in what way it is very complicated ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: There are various difficulties. If we are to bring in High Court jurisdiction in the partially excluded areas then the orders of His Majesty in Council are required, on a joint recommendation of the Governments of Bengal and Assam which procedure is a complicated one.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble the Premier had agreed to bring in High Court jurisdiction in the Criminal Courts of the Garo Hills?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The question is being considered in the light of the recommendations of the Partially Excluded Areas Conference.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Is it not a fact that the Hon'ble the Premier had agreed to do this?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The position is not exactly such as my hon. friend Mr. Marak has stated. I agreed to the withdrawal of the Chin Hills Regulation from the Garo Hills, and I said that the question whether the Criminal Courts of the Garo Hills could be brought under the jurisdiction of the High Court would engage my attention.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know whether the Chin Hills Regulation will be abolished from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills also?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Chin Hills Regulation was abolished from Shillong long ago.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Was it not the recommendation of the Partially Excluded Areas Conference to abolish the Chin Hills Regulation from the whole of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, it was not the recommendation of the representatives of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the Partially Excluded Areas Conference. All the representatives of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills were against changing the *status quo* in the Khasi Hills.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not a fact that the recommendations of the Conference were sent to Government as long ago as May 1939?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. Probably my friend is aware that the Conference was convened by my predecessors, the Congress-Coalition Ministry. The Conference sat under their direction, and the report was submitted to them.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Then is it not a fact that the Government considered it not only for one year but for two years? Will the Hon'ble Minister revise his reply in view of that?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It may be, but this Government came into office only in November 1939.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: But does it not make two years?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: It may be so.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: How long more will they take to consider it?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I cannot say definitely.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will it be possible during the lifetime of the present Assembly to take action on this?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: I have nothing more to add to what I have said.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: In the reply given by the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, he says that his promise was in connection with the withdrawal of the Chin Hills Regulation alone, but I remember when Babu

Satyendra Mohan Lahiri moved a resolution in the Upper House, he definitely said that he would to bring all the criminal courts in the partially excluded areas under the High Court jurisdiction.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have already stated that in the Upper House on a motion by Mr. Satyendra Mohan Lahiri I replied that I was giving effect to the withdrawal of the Chin Hills Regulation immediately, but that the question of bringing the criminal administration of justice in that area under the jurisdiction of the High Court would be engaging my attention.

Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Premier

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*92. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The duties of the Private Secretary of the Hon'ble Premier appointed by the Government ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that no particular works have been assigned to the said Private Secretary ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the said Private Secretary simply regulates the visitors of the Hon'ble Premier ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

92. (a)—The Private Secretary assists the Hon'ble Prime Minister by regulating his interviews, receiving and answering his correspondence, and attending to routine matters for which he has no time.

All petitions to the Ministers are dealt with initially by the Private Secretary in consultation with the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether the Private Secretary has got a separate establishment ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: He has got a clerk.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether he has got an office ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, he has been allotted a room now in the extended Constitution House, and he has also got a clerk.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether he has got the same responsibility as other Secretaries of the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir.

(Starred question No. 93 standing in the name of Maulavi Mabarak Ali was not put by the questioner).

Title suit No.311 of 1936 of the Karimganj Civil Court

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*94. (a) With reference to the reply given to starred question No.157 at the last November Session, will Government be pleased to state whether they have received the information by now with regard to Title Suit No.311 of 1936 of the Karimganj Civil Court ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to give complete reply to that question ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

94. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The facts required by the former questions are :—

(a) The nature of the title suit and injunction are correctly described.

(b) Yes ; the Naib Nazir demolished the structure after the injunction had been served.

(c) Yes.

(d) Rupees 200 was paid as compromise in final settlement.

(e) The Subdivisional Officer at the time of demolition was Mr. M. H. Hussain, and at the time of the compromise Mr. A. Hye Chaudhuri.

(f) There were a number of mistakes and omissions by various officers in the Subdivisional Office, but the responsibility has not yet been fixed. The matter is in the hands of the Commissioner.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I point out that all the questions that were asked by me in the last session have not been answered ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : They have been answered, but the Government have subdivided the answers as (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) ; they ought to have done it as 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., but if the complaint of the hon. member is that all his questions have not been printed, I do not know whether all the questions were admitted and it may be that some of them were not admitted.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : Sir, all the questions were admitted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But they have been answered as parts of (a) and (b). However, I will look into this and see what has really happened.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : May I know at whose instance the building in question was demolished ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : It was through a mistake that the building was demolished. The guilt has not yet been located, and the matter is under enquiry.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : May I know after how many months this question has been answered ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I do not exactly remember, but it was put in the last session and it has been answered in this session and so it is probably 5 or 6 months.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: And during all this time Government have not been able to detect the culprit?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The Commissioner has been asked to make a thorough enquiry.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : May I know whether the compensation of Rs. 200 has been paid by the Government or by the officer concerned?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: It appears that it has been paid by the Government.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know whether Government will realise the money from the officer at fault?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The matter is under consideration.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: What has been done about the expenses incurred by the Government in conducting the case?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I have already stated that Rs. 200 was paid as compromise in final settlement and it includes the cost.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: That was paid as compensation, but Government incurred some expenditure as costs for conducting the case. Who will be responsible for that?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The matter is under enquiry.

Commercial Carrying Company, Limited

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*95. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have received any notice from the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, for termination of their present contract with Government regarding plying of motor vehicles on the Pandu-Shillong Road on the ground that permission has been given to private permit holders for carrying extra load?

(b) What was the total gross load permitted under the contract made with the aforesaid Company?

(c) Whether any deviation has since been made?

(d) If so what is that and why?

*96. Is it a fact that on receiving the aforesaid notice, Government has cancelled the permission for carrying extra load granted to private permit holders?

*97. Are Government aware that for such withdrawal, the private permit holders are suffering a great loss?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

95. (a)—Yes, on this and other grounds.

(b)—No gross load was specified in the agreement, but nine tons, which was and is laid down by rule under the relevant Act, was quoted in the original notice calling for tenders.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise. Government have however called for public criticism on a draft amendment to raise the limit to nine and half tons.

96 and 97.—The facts are not quite as suggested. On a representation, from eight outside permit-holders, dated the 25th May 1940, to be allowed greater loads, Government examined the question how the new Act affected loading and found that this matter is regulated by Section 37 and the seventh schedule.

The petitioners were informed accordingly on 21st October 1940 and told that any owner who wished to change his tyres might apply to have a new gross weight fixed on the axle basis. The orders did not purport in themselves to allow any greater load. The limitations imposed by the existing rule 203 was not then considered, and it was deemed desirable to cancel certain executive orders fixing the pay load, which might be inconsistent in particular cases with the section quoted which regulates gross load. The Commercial Carrying Company however protested against this decision by their letter of 8th November 1940, and the provisions of the rules were then considered. It was found on reference to the Public Works and Motor Vehicles Departments that culverts on the road are unable to bear a weight of ten tons. Though therefore both the Company and the outside permit-holders had asked to be allowed gross loads above nine tons, Government decided that it is impossible to raise the load above nine and half tons at any rate, and a draft amendment to the rules has been published for criticism, which will enable all parties to get fair treatment. As the orders of 21st October 1940 appeared liable to mis-construction, and the owners of four vehicles appear to have supposed that they could carry gross loads exceeding 9 tons in violation of the rule, Government have notified the fact to them and propose to cancel the letter at the same time.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know what is the maximum load that is allowed at present ?

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

Criminal Cases tried by Sessions and Assistant Sessions Judges of Assam Valley Districts

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*98. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of criminal cases tried by the Sessions and Assistant Sessions Judges of Assam Valley Districts in Goalpara and Kamrup districts in 1939-40 and 1940-41 for which Crown defence was allowed ?
- (b) The names of the pleaders who were appointed in each case as Crown defence during the said period ?
- (c) How many years of practice each pleader appointed as aforesaid had put in ?
- (d) The number of Muslim pleaders at Dhubri and Gauhati ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

98. (a)—The number of sessions cases tried by the Sessions Judges during the period from the 1st January 1939 to the 26th February 1941 in which Crown defence was allowed was 14 in Goalpara of which 4 were tried at Gauhati, and 19 in Kamrup.

Assistant Sessions Judges have no jurisdiction in those cases in which pleaders are allowed to the defence at the expense of the Crown.

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

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.98(b) and (c) asked by Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury

Statement showing the names of the pleaders appointed in Crown Defence Sessions cases of Goalpara and Kamrup tried by the Sessions Judge, Assam Valley Districts, from the 1st January, 1939 to the 26th February 1941

Pleaders appointed		Length of practice	Remarks
	Name	Years	
Goalpara...	Maulavi Wazed Ali, B.L. (Gauhati).	18	Tried at Gauhati.
	Srijut Umakanta Goswami, B.L. (Gauhati).	20	Ditto.
	Maulavi Harasat Ullah, B.L. (Gauhati).	21	Ditto.
	Babu Jatindramohan Roy, B.L....	27	
	Babu Apurbakumar Ghosh, B.L.	30	
	Babu Promothanath Chakrabarty, B.L.	27	
	Srijut Nilmadhab Barua, B.L. ...	26	
	Babu Nibaran Chandra Pal, B.L.	26	
	Maulavi A. M. Z. Sams, B.L.	24	
	Babu Sitalakanta Ganguli, B.L.	23	
	Babu Amalendu Sarkar, B.L.	2	
	Babu Surendramohan Datta, B.L.	23	
	Babu Bimolacharan Chakrabarty, B.L.	23	
	Babu K. P. Bhattacharjya, B.L. (Gauhati).	17	Tried at Gauhati.
Kamrup ...	Srijut K. P. Barua, B.L. ...	22	
	Srijut Krishnaram Das ...	23	
	Babu P. K. Gupta, B.L. ...	21	
	Srijut Padmaram Barua, B.L. ...	19	
	Srijut Habiram Deka, B.L. ...	16	
	Srijut Lakhinath Das, B.L. ...	9	
	Srijut Ramesh Chandra Das, B.L.	20	
	Maulavi Tayabulla, B.L. ...	22	

Pleders appointed	Length of practice	Remarks
Name		
	Years	
Srijut Debendra Kumar Sarma, B.L.	16	
Srijut Anandiram Kalita, B.L.	15	
Srijut Manik Chandra Chowdhury.	20	
Srijut M. K. Borkakati, B.L. ...	18	
Srijut Anandiram Bordalai, B.L.	17	
Srijut Bipin Behari Das, B.L. ...	13	
Srijut K. C. Goswami, B.L. ...	13	
Srijut Ramanikanta Choudhury, B.L.	13	
Srijut Joychandra Choudhury, B.L.	12	
Srijut Jogadish Chandra Medhi, B.L.	7	
Babu Paramesh Das Gupta, B.L.	6	

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

(d)—Five at Dhubri and 6 at Gauhati.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : With reference to question No. 98 (b) and (c), may I know if there is a standard regarding the length of practice of a pleader for giving him a Crown defence ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I have no information on that point ?

Zuhar prayers in the Law Courts

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*99. Will Government be pleased to state—

- If there is any circular directing the Law Courts to suspend work at the time of Zuhar (Mid-day) prayers ?
- If so, what is the time fixed for the purpose each day ?
- If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

99. (a) to (c)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at this Session.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I know whether Government is prepared to issue general orders for suspension of judicial work during Jumma and Zuhar prayers ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I think, in the reply it has already been stated that Government will consider that question.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Do not Government realise that people are experiencing real hardship for want of courts not being closed during this period ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : The hon member may be correct, but Government have received no specific complaints about that.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact that this question is coming before the Government very often ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : In this session I find there are two questions.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it not a fact that during previous sessions also there were similar questions, and attention was also drawn to by a cut motion ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : It may be so.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : May I expect a definite order to make it a general policy for suspending all judicial work during this period ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I have already stated that the matter will be taken into consideration.

Effect of change of Text-books

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked :

*100. Are Government aware of the effect of the frequent changes of text-books on the students of the poorer class ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

100.—Since text-books are prescribed for three years, Government are not aware of any adverse effect on students of the poorer classes.

†**Maulavi MABARAK ALI :** May I know why the text books are changed every three years ? Why not every five or ten years ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** We want to revise them in view of new ideas during that period.

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI :** Or is it to give accommodation to new writers ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** No, Sir.

†**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** Are Government aware that our primary schools in the Garo Hills are without text books for the last three or four years ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** No, Sir.

†**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** May I ask Government whether they will make an enquiry to see whether such cases exist ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** Yes, Sir, I will make an enquiry.

†**Maulavi MABARAK ALI :** May I know why text books are changed so frequently ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** In our opinion a period of three years is not a frequent change.

†Speech not corrected by the hon. member or the Hon'ble Minister concerned.

†**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN**: Are Government aware that in the course of the next three years there may be a great change in the world?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Yes, Sir, I am quite aware of that.

Classes of scholarships in Assam

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

*101. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The classes of scholarships in Assam that are granted on Valley basis?
- (b) Whether the special indigent scholarships were allotted on Valley basis previously?
- (c) Since which date and under what principle they were amalgamated?
- (d) The number that were awarded to Surma Valley and to Assam Valley Muslims year by year since such an amalgamation?
- (e) Whether out of these amalgamated total any number of such scholarships had been reserved for the Sylhet Government High Madrasa?
- (f) If so, how many and why?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

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

1. Middle Madrasa,
2. Middle English Madrasa,
3. Sanskrit College,
4. Senior and Junior College.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Yes, for all High Madrasas of the province, as a temporary measure.

(f)—Four. Because of the persistent demand for scholarships for the boys passing the High Madrasa examination and of the paucity of funds for additional provision.

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: Will it be possible to relieve this paucity of funds soon, Sir?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: I am not in a position to say whether it will be possible or not.

†**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI**: Will the Hon'ble Minister make efforts in that direction, Sir?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: I have been always making efforts to increase the number of scholarships, Sir.

†Speech not corrected by the hon. member or the Hon'ble Minister concerned.

Mymensingh-Jagannathganj-Calcutta Line**Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY** asked :

*102. (a) Is it a fact that the train between Sylhet and Mymensingh connecting the Mymensingh-Jagannathganj-Calcutta line through the King George VI Bridge has been discontinued?

(b) Are Government aware that such action has caused great inconvenience to the people of Sylhet?

(c) Do Government propose to take necessary action for getting the line restored again?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

102. (a) & (b)—The information received by Government is that since opening of the King George VI Bridge on the 7th December 1937 no train ran between Sylhet Bazar and Mymensingh and through carriages with accommodation for inter and third class passengers which used to run between Sylhet Bazar and Mymensingh from the 1st May to the 30th September 1938 were taken off and transferred to the run from Silchar to Mymensingh with effect from the 1st October 1938 as the number of passengers making use of these through carriages from Sylhet Bazar was very small. It has also been reported that passengers from Sylhet Bazar—a number of whom come from Shillong—prefer to travel to Calcutta via Chandpur in through carriages attached to Nos. 268 Down and 2 Down leaving Sylhet Bazar at 19.0 hours after the arrival of the Road Service Vehicles from Shillong.

(c)—In view of the replies given to questions 102 (a) and (b) Government do not consider a representation to the Railway Board would serve any useful purpose.

Duties of the Publicity Officer**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** asked :

*103. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The duties of the Publicity Officer?

(b) What are the special works done by the said Publicity Officer since he has been appointed?

(c) What amount of money is to be paid annually from the Provincial Exchequer on account of the establishment of the Publicity Department?

(d) Whether the Publicity Officer is empowered to contradict in the press by himself any false propaganda made against the Government?

(e) Whether he has shown his existence till now by issuing any statement in the press against any false paper publication against the Government?

(f) If not, why not?

(g) Whether it is a fact that the Publicity Officer has been given no power to do any work independently?

(h) Whether it is a fact that he is not being supplied with materials by the Government for publication?

- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Ministers oftentimes attend public meetings and take part in the deliberations ?
 (j) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it is not the duty of the Publicity Department to give publicity of the Hon'ble Ministers' views expressed in such public meetings ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

103.(a)—To convey to the public through the Press and such other ways as are feasible accurate information regarding the activities of Government in all Departments, to enlighten the public as to the course of the War and its meaning for India with all particulars which may be of importance and advantage in connection with the War, such as recruitment facilities and defence investments, to correct false statements whenever observed and to gain contact between public opinion and the departments of Government.

(b)—He has been occupied with the duties mentioned in reply to question 103 (a), as described, and in building up the necessary organization for such publicity arrangements.

(c)—The Office has not yet been in existence for a whole year. The particulars of his establishment as provided for the current and next year, are given in the printed budget.

(d)—No. He is expected to submit his proposed communications for approval of Government.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—The question is not fully understood. Necessarily the Publicity Officer must work in co-operation with other departments.

(h)—No.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—Yes, and he is doing so.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, with regard to question No. 103 (d), the answer is that he is not entitled to contradict any false statement which appears in paper without obtaining the sanction of the Government. Does not the Hon'ble Minister consider that this involves delay ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Well Sir, there may be a little delay but if both the Ministry and the Publicity Officer are businesslike, they can have the same thing published in the same day.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know Sir, whether the Publicity Officer has or has not any special responsibility to discharge ?

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Has he got the power of initiative, Sir ?

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

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: In all matters ?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: With regard to question No. 103 (c), Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether out of this budgeted amount under the head "Publicity Department" any money is given to any other newspaper ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government subscribe a certain number of papers from the list supplied by the Deputy Commissioners.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it a fact Sir, that Government subscribe some newspapers owned by some of the Hon'ble Ministers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware, Sir, that there is any Minister who owns a paper.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know Sir, whether the Publicity Officer has got any programme of work?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have replied that Sir, in answer to question No.103(a). The whole thing has been stated there which will show that he has got a programme of work.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May I know Sir, how many copies of the *Assam Herald* and the *Jugabheri* are subscribed by Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I cannot tell the hon. member all these details.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does this question arise?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: It does arise, Sir, specially when we are discussing about propaganda and the Publicity Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. member wants figures, then for that a separate question must have been put down, so that the Government could come ready with all the minute details.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, as I mentioned in the replies, the Deputy Commissioners give a list of names to whom the papers should be supplied and according to that list, papers are subscribed within the limit set by the Government. I do not remember all these details but if any hon. member wants all these details, I shall be happy if he puts a substantive question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether any subsidy is given to any particular newspaper, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No subsidy is given but a certain number of papers are subscribed.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May we know Sir, what is the criterion for determining the papers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I would be very happy to reply the question if my hon. friend will put a substantive question. I won't mind even if it be a short notice question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The matter ends here. The Hon'ble Premier is agreeable to answer short notice questions, so hon. members may give notice of short notice questions to get the informations which they are trying to obtain by supplementary questions.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: My question will be shorter still. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, no. The Hon'ble Premier's assurance to answer short notice questions shortens the whole matter.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire from Government, Sir, whether they have drawn up any scheme....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: With regard to this question, I would ask the hon. members to put down short notice questions when the Hon'ble Premier has agreed to answer such questions.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Contractors under Dhubri Public Works Department

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED asked :

137. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The names and home districts of all the contractors under the Dhubri Public Works Department with the dates of their registering as such in the Dhubri Public Works Department office ?
- (b) The names of Registered Muslim contractors who are *bona fide* natives of the Dhubri Subdivision ?
- (c) How many Muslim and non-Muslim contractors were given works in 1939-40 and 1940-41 under the Dhubri Public Works Department ?
- (d) The total value of works given to Muslim and non-Muslim contractors respectively in 1939-40 and 1940-41 in the Dhubri Public Works Department ?

138. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The nature of works undertaken by the Public Works Department for the improvement of the Balajan-Golokganj Road (Dhubri) ?
- (b) The respective values of earth-works and repairs to bridges on this road ?
- (c) The name, home district and the rate of each of the contractors who have submitted tenders for these two works respectively ?
- (d) Whether the successful contractors in both these cases had undertaken any other works under the Public Works Department within the Dhubri Subdivision previous to the present works ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Government policy is to distribute works to the local contractors ?
- (f) If so, why this policy was not adopted by the Executive Engineer in the present case ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

137.(a)—A list as desired giving the year in which each contractor was first entertained is laid on the library table.

(b)—Nos. 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 and 34 to 46 of the list referred to above.

(c)—Muslims	...	...	...	...	18
Non-Muslims	...	...	...	...	27

(d)—		1939-40 Actuals	1940-41 Based on tenders
Muslims	...	18,677	34,558
Non-Muslims		34,514	92,167

138.(a) (i)—Earthwork and turfing.

(ii)—Repairs to bridges and culverts.

(iii)—Gravelling.

(iv)—Maintenance of road during its improvement.

(b)—Rs. 1,072 and Rs. 1,575 respectively.

(c)—The statements are laid on the library table.

(d)—One had done no work previously, the other is an old contractor of the Public Works Department.

(e)—Other things being equal, Government's policy is to patronise natives of the Province.

(f)—This policy has been followed in this case, both contractors being natives of this Province.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: With reference to question No.137(a) Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister with reference to No. 33 of the list whether this contractor is a domicile or a native of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think, Sir, this is a Bengali firm.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Then how is it that this company has been registered in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: There is no question of registration, Sir. A list of the contractors who work in the Public Works Department is maintained in the office.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: I want to know from the Government the names of the registered contractors at Dhubri ; that was my question.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: As I said, Sir, there is no question of registering the contractors ; only a list is maintained.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether anybody coming from outside the province will also get the contract ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Preference is always given to the indigenous contractors.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: But this Electric House was favoured with a contract in preference to the native contractors of the province.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: This question does not arise out of this, Sir.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Why not, Sir? My question is whether this company got any contract in preference to the contractors who are natives of the province.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: With reference to which contract?

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: The distribution of wiring of the Government buildings.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: In that contract, between the tender given by the Electric House and those of the indigenous contractors there was a difference of more than 5 per cent., yet half the contract was given to the indigenous contractor.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Do Government follow the principle that foreigners should not be given any contract in the province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Foreigners are not excluded, Sir, but in giving contracts preference is given to the indigenous contractors to the extent of 5 per cent.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Did not Government commit on the floor of the House that no preference will be given to foreigners?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Preference is not given to the foreigners.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I mean no contract should be given to the foreigners.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Government do not accept the position that no contract should be given to the foreigners.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is there any agreement between the hon. member and the Hon'ble Minister as to the meaning of the word "foreigner" (*laughter*)? Who are to be called foreigners?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Should not the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department take the efficiency of the contractor into consideration?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Efficiency and economy are always taken into consideration.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether this foreign contractor was a Public Works Department contractor before the date on which the contract was given?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: For petty works of small amount new contractors are entertained.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Did this contractor get any contract under the Dhubri Public Works Department before January 1941?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I shall require notice of that question, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that there is no dearth of efficient contractors in this poor province of Assam?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I inform the Hon'ble Minister that this foreigner.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I would like that the word "foreigner" should be changed.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: All right, Sir, I will change the word "foreigner" to "outsider".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is also not a happy expression.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Is it not a fact that this contractor, who has been given contract in preference to the natives of the province, was never a Public Works Department contractor?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: His tender was the lowest; the indigenous contractor who submitted his tender, tendered at a rate which was more than 5 per cent. higher.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether there is a rule in the Public Works Department Manual to the effect that not contract should be given to a contractor who is not a Public Works Department contractor?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: As I said, new contractors are entertained for petty works of small amount. Otherwise, how can they begin to work under the Public Works Department?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: May I know the amount of work that was distributed?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I cannot answer this question off hand. I think, Electric House got contract to the value of Rs.2,500 or near about.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Is it not a fact that there is a list of contractors in the Public Works Department offices everywhere?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir-

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Should not that list be confined only to the people of the province, and outsiders should be excluded?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: There is no such rule. As Mr. Whittaker suggested, in the circular we issued, it was laid down that the efficiency and economy would be taken into consideration.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Even when people of this province are available?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: A certain amount of preference is given to the people of the province?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What is that percentage?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: 5 per cent.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are Government aware that outside contractors are exploiting the money in the form of contract of this province?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I do not think that is the case.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: With regard to question No.138(c), may I know the names of the contractor who was given contract for this work?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The work was given to Srijut Golok Chandra Chakravarty.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Did he ever get any contract under the Dhubri Public Works Department?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I shall require notice of that question, Sir.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: What was the total amount tendered by Kazi Mazibur Rahman?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Rupees 880.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: And Srijut Golok Chandra Chakravarty?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Rupees 922.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Then why his tender was accepted in preference to Kazi Mazibur Rahman's?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That has been explained by the Executive Engineer in his note. I shall read that note for the hon. member's information:

"In case of earthwork, Srijut Golok Chandra Chakravarty's tender is the second lowest when item 2, i.e., rate for extra lead of 100, is excluded." The reason for the supersession of Kazi Mazibur Rahman has been stated to be that though he tendered lowest, the rate for item 2 was very high. It will be seen that he tendered at Rs. 4 for this item whereas Srijut Golok Chandra Chakravarty tendered at annas 14. The Executive Engineer adds "The person (Kazi Mazibur Rahman) whose rate comes lowest for the items excluding 2, tendered very high for this item and 10,500 c.ft. of earthwork out of the 1,83,000 c.ft. to be done, requiring lead over 100' will wash out the difference".

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister please read out the note of the Executive Engineer where he said that as item No. 2 was not determinable, the whole amount was not given?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The whole amount was not determined at the time the contract was given; when the work will be completed this will be determined. But from the calculation it appears that the tender of Mazibur Rahman was very much higher.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: What will be the position if it transpires after the work is completed that Mazibur Rahman's tender was not higher?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The difference between the two rates is so high, viz., Rs. 4 and annas 14, that it is evident that Mazibur Rahman's amount will be very much higher.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: May I know from which district does Srijut Golok Chandra Chakravarty come?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: From Kamrup, I suppose.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Who was given the bridge work over this road?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The bridge work was given to Srijut Nivarsha Ram Das from Kamrup.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Then both of them come from Kamrup?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Is there no note of the Executive Engineer to the effect that Baldeb Ram Kanu's rate was the lowest, but that he was excluded being a foreigner? The Executive Engineer used the term "foreigner", Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The rate tendered by Baldeb Ram Kanu was at Rs.1,416 while that of Nivarsha Ram Das was Rs.1,424. The latter's rate being higher by less than 5 per cent. his tender was accepted.

Dust nuisance at Kulaura

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

139. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) If he has recently received any representation regarding dust nuisance at Kulaura and for providing pitched road between Kulaura High School and the Sylhet Branch railway line level crossing?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to provide necessary funds for collasing the said portion of the road?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

139.(a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Managing Committee of the K. C. Middle English School, Nayabazar, South Sylhet

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

140. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the members of the Managing Committee of the K. C. Middle English School, Nayabazar, South Sylhet, made representation to Government regarding the appointment of the Headmaster of the School last year?
- (b) Whether the Deputy Inspector of Schools, South Sylhet, directed the members of the Managing Committee of the School by a letter, dated the 27th March 1940 (No.1539-G.) to approve the appointment of one Babu Satish Chandra Das, B.A.?
- (c) Whether the Committee in its meeting held on 12th May 1940 by resolution 2 gave formal approval of the said appointment of Babu Satish Chandra Das, B.A.?
- (d) Whether after a considerable length of time on a memorial from one Babu Gopendra Chandra Das the Government asked the said memorialist to work in the School as Headmaster?
- (e) Whether the Committee strongly opposed it as the said memorialist Babu Gopendra Chandra Das was not competent to work as Headmaster?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to state since then what action Government have taken in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

140.(a)—Some members of the Managing Committee made a representation about certain action taken by the Deputy Inspector of Schools after the appointment of Babu Gopendra Chandra Das by a majority of the Committee as Head Master.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government ordered that the original decision of the majority of the Committee to appoint Babu Gopendra Chandra Das should be approved by the Education Department.

(e)—Government are not aware that the Managing Committee have opposed the orders of Government, which were issued in January 1941.

(f)—No further action has been taken.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : With regard to question No. 140(c), Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister why the Managing Committee gave two different decisions on two occasions, on the first occasion approving the appointment of Babu Gopendra Chandra Das and on the next occasion approving the appointment of Babu Satish Chandra Das ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : That was the Managing Committee's business. What the Government did was to approve of the decision of the majority of the members of the Managing Committee.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it not a fact that the Committee also approved the appointment made by the Deputy Inspector of Schools ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : That was not because the Deputy Inspector tried to force upon the committee his opinion about the respective merits of the two people.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know who are primarily responsible for appointing teachers in Middle English Schools ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : The Managing Committee.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Then why was the decision of the Managing Committee sent to the Deputy Inspector ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Because the approval of the appointment was necessary.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : Is it not a fact that when the committee has come to a decision the Deputy Inspector intervenes and makes his own appointment ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Not necessarily so. In this case, on examination of the facts it was found that the Deputy Inspector's interference was not justifiable.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : May I know why and how the Deputy Inspector of Schools interfered in the matter ?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : Because the matter went up to him for approval.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Is it not a fact that Babu Gopendra Chandra Das is a young man aged 20 years?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member is actually cross-examining the Hon'ble Minister.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** May I know on what consideration Government set aside the appointment of the Deputy Inspector of Schools which was approved by the Committee?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have been trying to explain the matter, but the hon. member is not following me. The fact of the matter was that the majority of the Managing Committee selected Babu Gopendra Chandra Das as the Headmaster, but the Deputy Inspector did not approve of that selection on the ground that Babu Gopendra Chandra Das was at one time a student of the institution and as such he might not be able to control the staff. That was the main ground of his objection. But the Government thought that was not a sufficient ground to disqualify Babu Gopendra Chandra Das.

***Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** How long after the appointment was finally approved by the Committee, did the case of Gopendra Babu come to the notice of Government?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Gopendra Babu as a matter of fact continued as Headmaster of the institution.

Bengali primary schools in immigrant areas

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

141. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Bengali Primary Schools in immigrant areas which are :—

- (a) Maintained by Local Boards ?
- (b) Aided by Local Boards ?
- (c) Venture Schools ?

142. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Assamese Primary Schools in immigrant areas which are :—

- (a) Maintained by Local Boards ?
- (b) Aided by Local Boards ?
- (c) Venture Schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

141. (a), (b), (c) & 142 (a), (b), (c)—The information has been called for but is not likely to be received before the end of this session.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** I would draw your attention Sir, to the answers given to questions 141 and 142. The answer is not given at all. Is it only to regale us that such an answer is given which is really no answer at all?

***The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** That is only just to show that we are not sitting idle on the matter and that we are making enquiries.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** The same could have been said about other questions also.

Appointment of Sericulture Demonstrator at Ghagmari

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

143. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Industries be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether there is any arrangement on behalf of Government in the Lakhipur, Mankachar and South Salmara thanas for imparting education in Sericulture ?
- (b) If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a Sericulture Demonstrator with his headquarters at Ghagmari ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

143.(a)—No.

(b)—No. Riparian areas are not suitable for sericulture.

Cases disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates and Benches

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

144. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the detailed information about the number of cases disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates of the province as promised by the Hon'ble Minister in charge in reply to Starred Question No.156 asked by Mr. A. K. Chanda, M.L.A., in the last November Session of the Assembly, has since been received ?
- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the particulars asked for ?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI replied :

144.(a)—Yes.

(b)—A statement is given below :—

Statement showing the number of cases disposed of during the last three years, viz., 1937, 1938 and 1939 in this province by Honorary Magistrates and Benches

Names of Honorary Magistrates and Benches	Names of districts and subdivisions	During the year 1937	During the year 1938	During the year 1939
1. Rai Bahadur Nalini Kanta Ray Dastidar.	Sylhet (Sadr)	111	44	133
2. Rai Sahib Pabitra Nath Purkayastha.	Sylhet (Sunamganj).	115	97	84
3. Maulavi Abdul Hannan Chaudhury.	Sunamganj	55	79	72

	Names of Honorary Magistrates and Benches	Names of districts and subdivisions	During the year 1937	During the year 1938	During the year 1939
4.	Rai Sahib Surendra Nath Sen.	Karimganj	11	19	18
5.	Bench of Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali, Khan Sahib Abdul Salam Chaudhury and Babu Birendra Mohan Das.	Karimganj	6	4	Nil.
6.	Srijut Jatindra Narayan Chaudhury.	Goalpara ...	1	15	20
7.	Rai Bahadur Golap Chandra Barua.	Kamrup ...	201	144	168
8.	Rai Bahadur Rajani Kanta Chaudhury.	Barpeta ...	51	34	2
9.	Rai Bahadur Ananda Chandra Agarwalla.	Darrang ...	...	44	55
10.	Rai Bahadur Padma Nath Gohain Barua.	Tezpur ...	28	76	131
11.	Babu Jyotish Ch. Bose ...	...	46	59	60
12.	Kumar Bhupendra Narayan Deb.	Mangaldai	4	3	25
13.	Rai Sahib Jogendra Nath Hazarika.	Nowgong ...	8	77	70
14.	Late Maulavi Muhibuddin Ahmed.	...	5	70	13
15.	Maulavi Azizur Rahman...	Nowgong ...	...	...	1
16.	Khan Bahadur Khiznur Ali	Sibsagar ...	56	51	...
17.	Khan Bahadur Bapjan Ali Bora.	Ditto ...	174	277	500
18.	Srijut Kali Prasad Katakya	Ditto ...	115	63	...
19.	Mr. H. J. Richardson ...	Ditto ...	1	...	...
20.	Mr. Muralidhar Barua ...	Jorhat ...	243	154	...
21.	Srijut Jagat Chandra Goswami.	Sibsagar (Golaghat).	...	535	146 664
22.	Bench of Khan Sahib Jama-yatuddin Ahmed and Srijut Fatick Chandra Gogoi.	Sibsagar ...	18	89	124
23.	Srijut Khagendra Nath Goswami.	North La- khimpur.	68	137	138
24.	Bench of Srijut Khagendra Nath Goswami, Srijut Kashi Nath Phukan and Khan Sahib Zubed Ali Hazarika and Srijut Biswaswar Changkakati.	Ditto ...	30	28	23
25.	Srijut Benudhar Rajkhowa	Dibrugarh...	360	360	591

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: May I know who is Babu Birendra Mohon Das? To my knowledge no Honorary Magistrate of that name exists in Karimganj.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: It is Babu Ritendra Mohon Das.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: In view of the fact that only six cases were disposed of in 1937, 4 cases in 1938 and none in 1939 by the bench at Karimganj, is there any necessity of retaining this bench at Karimganj?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Another bench, Sir, has been re-constituted at Karimganj and the old bench is no longer in existence.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know whether there are any other Honorary Magistrates outside the list that has been given?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, there are others, Sir, who do not try any cases.

Government motion to replace the detachment of Assam Rifles at Tura

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to move that this House recommends the Government to replace the detachment of Assam Rifles at Tura, Garo Hills, by a force of 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Head Constables and 51 Constables, all in the Armed Branch, with the usual reserve.

The necessity for this motion has been explained in detail in the explanatory note which each hon. member has got before him. Hon. members may have heard from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that, under orders of the Government of India, we are reconstituting the 5th Battalion of the Assam Rifles which existed till 1932. The reconstitution of this battalion has been agreed to by the Central Government on the condition that the section of the Assam Rifles that is stationed at Tura be withdrawn. We are taking advantage of this condition precedent of the Central Government in order to have our share of the expenditure on the Assam Rifles reduced. Hon. members may probably remember that Assam was saddled with the expenditure on 15 platoons out of the 55 in the province. Now under the new direction from the Centre the division of expenditure will be that Assam will bear the expenditure of 12 platoons and the Government of India will bear the burden of maintaining the remaining 46 platoons. By this new arrangement the Government of Assam will benefit to the extent of about Rs. 90,000. But out of this saving we have got to pay the force of Armed Police at Tura.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know, Sir, whether the saving is Rs. 60,000 or 90,000?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The net saving, Sir, is Rs. 65,000. The gross saving is about Rs. 90,000, of which we have got to spend about Rs. 25,000 for the police force which will replace the Assam Rifles. Therefore, the net savings will be to the tune of Rs. 60,000.

I hope, Sir, my hon. friends will see their way to accept my motion, because it gives a much needed relief to the provincial exchequer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House recommends the Government to replace the detachment of Assam Rifles at Tura, Garo Hills, by a force of 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Head Constables and 51 Constables, all in the Armed Branch, with the usual reserve."

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : Sir, I have already expressed my feeling (*laughter*). Whenever I stand to speak a word about Garo Hills (*laughter*) the House does not allow me to proceed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Laughter is sometimes a mark of appreciation. (*Loud laughter.*)

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : I want to point out, Sir, that no armed force is necessary in the Garo Hills. But as provision is made for armed police, one Sub-Inspector is quite inadequate, because even now with the military force we have two Sub-Inspectors of Police in Tura. Before I proceed to say anything further, I should like to know, Sir, the difference between Head Constables and ordinary Constables.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Head Constables are the leaders of the Constables. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : I think these are literate constables ; there are constables already who are called Head Constables.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. member oppose this resolution ?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : I am going to show the insufficiency of police force in Tura, this is the point of mine, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : With a view to oppose the resolution ?

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : No, Sir, I am simply showing that there should be a stronger police force in Tura.

Very recently one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police has been dismissed and another two are under trial. They also may be dismissed because the case has been proved against them. These Assistant Sub-Inspectors are not capable enough to administer their works to their utmost capacity. Again, in Tura there are beat offices and sometimes these ordinary Assistant Sub-Inspectors are sent out to take charge of these beat offices and it is why all the *golmal* takes place. I really think, Sir, that one Sub-Inspector of Police for the Tura town is totally inadequate, and I would suggest that two more Sub-Inspectors of Police or one Inspector of Police be given for the Tura town. In that case, the police force may become sufficient. Even the Tura town. Tura repeatedly asked me to move Government for one Inspector of Police because he thinks really that his force for patrol at Tura is very very inadequate. So my suggestion before the Hon'ble Premier is that either he should increase the force by one Sub-Inspector or give one Inspector at Tura.

With these words, I support the motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I will very carefully consider the suggestion for additional police force made by Mr. Jobang D. Marak. But probably his suggestion is out of place in this motion, because 'Police' Budget has already been discussed and finished. If he had any complaint to make about the inadequacy of the police force at Tura, he should have taken the opportunity at that time to raise this point. I doubt whether he is right in what he states now, because the resolution says :

"This House recommends the Government to replace the detachment of Assam Rifles at Tura, Garo Hills, by a force of 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Head Constables and 51 constables, all in the Armed Branch, with the usual reserve."

This force will be in addition to the civil police which is functioning at Tura and other parts of Garo Hills. There is no diminution. I hope the hon. member will be satisfied. I will also remember his request for an Inspector of Police at Tura.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House recommends to Government to replace the detachment of Assam Rifles at Tura, Garo Hills, by a force of 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Head constables and 51 constables all in the armed branch with the usual reserve."

The question was adopted.

Government motion to extend the whole of the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act, 1935, to certain temporarily-settled areas of Goalpara district

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the proposal for extension of the whole of the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act (Assam Act III of 1935) to the temporarily-settled areas of the district of Goalpara lying within mauzas Chirang, Ripu, Guma, Santal colony, Sidli (all parts), Bijni and Latka and the Churs near Goalpara town as published in the Gazette notification No.4395-R., dated the 3rd August, 1939 and No.5180-R., dated the 1st November, 1939, be approved as required under sub-section (3) (ii) of section 2 of the said Act.

Sir, the proposal has been started by a representation made in the Assembly as well as in the Council that temporarily-settled areas of Goalpara district should have a tenancy legislation. As hon. members know, about one-third of the district of Goalpara is temporarily settled and there is no legislation to govern the relationship between the landlord and the tenant. The question before the Government was whether the Goalpara Tenancy Act should be extended to these temporarily-settled areas or whether this Temporarily-Settled Districts Tenancy Act should be extended. Government consulted their local officers who were all unanimous in the conclusion that it will be more suitable to the condition of the tenants of the temporarily settled areas that the Assam Temporarily-Settled Districts Tenancy Act should be extended there. After getting that opinion Government also consulted the local members of the Legislature, and majority of them have favoured that this Assam Temporarily-Settled Districts Tenancy Act should be extended to these temporarily settled areas. Accordingly this motion is placed before the House for its approval.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the proposal for extension of the whole of the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act (Assam Act III of 1935) to the temporarily-settled areas of the district of Goalpara lying within mauzas Chirang, Ripu, Guma, Santal colony, Sidli (all parts), Bijni and Latka and the Churs near Goalpara town as published in the Gazette notification No.4395-R., dated the 3rd August, 1939 and No.5180-R., dated the 1st November, 1939, be approved as required under sub-section (3) (ii) of section 2 of the said Act."

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: On a point of information, Sir. The procedure required by section 2, sub-section (3) provides that in each notification issued, a notice intimating that the extension of the Act has been previously published in the area concerned, or part thereof in the prescribed manner and secondly that the Assam Legislative Council approves of the proposal for extension. It requires that a notice should have been previously published in the area.

May I know if a notice has been published in the area or the approval of the Assam Legislative Council obtained?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: This has already been published. As regards approval, the present motion has been made.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think one relevant point that has to be inquired is whether this notification is going to be placed before the other House.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, it will be placed before the other House.

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: Sir, does the Assam Legislative Council mean the Assam Legislative Assembly?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: We have got two chambers, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The old Legislative Council has been succeeded by the two Houses of the present Legislature; so, for the "Assam Legislative Council" mentioned in the Act in question the present Legislature consisting of two Houses is to be read in the Act.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the proposal for extension of the whole of the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act (Assam Act III of 1935) to the temporarily-settled areas of the district of Goalpara lying within mauzas Chirang, Ripu, Guma, Santal colony, Sidli (all parts), Bijni and Latka and the Churs near Goalpara town as published in the Gazette notification No.4395-R., dated the 3rd August, 1939 and No.5180-R., dated the 1st November, 1939, be approved as required under sub-section (3) (ii) of section 2 of the said Act."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No.18

(37.—Education other than European)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We shall now resume discussion on cut motion No.15* moved by Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali on the 18th March last.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. 1835 is a mile-mark in the History of Persian language and literature in India. In as much as it ceased from that year to be a court language with the introduction of English system of education in India as a result of Macaulay's minutes in the time of Lord Bentinck. Much of its charm having been lost it came to be relegated to the domain of fine language and poetry only. Having thus thrown overboard it has ceased to serve any useful purpose and without any practical use.

But the conservatism of Indian Muslims has kept it as a mark of relic and continued to culture it till to-day as a classic. That our treatment towards Persian has been very faulty is well evidenced by the fact that we are cultivating Persian at the expense of Arabic. For, our schools give you option to choose between the two—Persian and Arabic. Whereas I would

*15. That the provision of Rs.8,66,389, under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Educational, Minor head—Secondary Education—E.—Government Secondary Schools for boys (total), at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion about the desirability of taking steps to do away with Persian as a classical subject and replacing the same by Arabic in all Government High Schools of Assam.)

rather prefer Urdu in place of Persian. For it would enable us to cultivate the fusion of culture between Muslims of different provinces of India and bring them under one common brotherhood and growth of one nationality. We could justify this course from the broader point of view of bigger muslim India.

But the growth of Persian at the expense of Arabic is absolutely out of date. Arabic is a language of Quoran, of Muslim religion and Islamic learning ; our attitude towards it has never been a correct one. We are treating it as a relic of the dead past beyond the scope of critical study and modern research. We are out of literary contact and intellectual touch with the Islamic countries, where Arabic is a living language and a progressive literature. Even during the supremacy of Persian as the medium of expression in literary, scientific and religious books, scholars of renown like Ghazali, Avice, Imam Razi, Termizi, Moslim, Tusi, Tassizani, the author of Hedaya and others wrote their memorable books in Arabic though they were of Persian origin themselves. As a living language it has retained its connection with the classical age ; and while it is a spoken language throughout the whole of Northern Africa, Arabia, Palestine Syria and Iraq, it has interwoven its thought in a large proportion of its words into the very texture of Persian, Urdu and Turkish and even lent them its alphabetical character.

Quoran has standardised the Arabic tongue and made it the sacred language of the Muslim world, till it grew into a common medium of literary and scientific expression, and its language of administration, diplomacy, commerce, and every field of social and intellectual activities. Arabic was carried aloft on the wave of its conquests to the East and to the West up to Spain, where through their Universities of Cordova and Granada, the pioneers of European Universities held forth the torch of learning to benighted Europe, and prepared the ground for the great Renaissance which ushered in the Era of modern progress.

A vast literature of the magnitude, connecting the Past with the Present necessarily affords a profitable field for critical study and research and supplies the connecting link in the chain of human thought and progress.

Sir, apart from its literary value, Arabic is a language of our prayer. How nice it looks that a Muslim offers five times his daily prayer but not knowing what he has been telling his God throughout his life ! What an irony of fate that a Moslem reads the Holy Quoran throughout his life without knowing what he is reading !

It is no use blinking the fact that the man must know Arabic in order to understand the import of his daily prayer and know Arabic in order to understand the Holy Quoran which he reads. So the importance of the knowledge of Arabic can thus be well illustrated that our religious scriptures are written in Arabic and with the knowledge of Arabic we can understand the Quoran, the Hadis and Fekas.

An opportunity is afforded to him for learning it in schools and leaders of public opinion must be alive to this fact from the view point of expediency and must be also alive to the fact that a Muslim must be conversant with Arabic in order to be a Muslim.

Possibly, with this end in view, the Muslim Leaders and Educational Experts of Bengal met in a conference as back as the year 1914, and decided that Persian should be replaced by Arabic in all the high schools in the province of Bengal. And I don't see any reason why Assam should not fall in line with her sister province of Bengal in this respect. With these few words, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.8,66,389, under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Secondary Education—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys (total), at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. I do not see any reason why Persian should not be taught in high schools. What I really think is that we should allow every language to be taught in our schools if there is any demand for that language in schools. That is the principle followed everywhere. I would like that Garo language is also taught in high schools. For this very reason, Sir, I oppose this motion. I don't see any reason why Persian should be substituted by Arabic.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Mr. Speaker Sir, it reminds me of a poem which I like to read before the House.....

Sir, it means that 'oh, Arab, you have taken a path which will not lead you to Kaba but it will lead you to Turkistan'. Only reading Arabic will not help us at all if we do not follow it ;but alas ! we always fail to do so. Sir, I am very glad to find that the hon. mover has said that the classical language has been introduced in schools and colleges to teach the classical education to the boys and both Persian and Arabic have accordingly been included as such under the Calcutta University. I think, in other Universities also, these subjects are taught. The hon. member has said that in 1914, there was a conference in Bengal for the replacement of Persian by Arabic, but I think, Sir, still Persian is being taught in the schools and Colleges of Bengal. It would be better if Arabic be encouraged more than Persian and if Arabic be taught in the schools and colleges where only Persian is being taught now. We find that in some schools and colleges Arabic has not yet been taken up. I think it is advisable and desirable to introduce Arabic also in those institutions. But, Sir, I am not for the replacement. We know from the history that India has learned many things from this language and the history of India has been built by this language by this Pathan and Mogul emperors and books have also been written in this language. Sir, we should not do away with the Persian language. Arabic may be more important as the hon. member says, not for the purposes of history but for religious purposes. Sir, we speak of religion, we take recourse to it only in the interest of something, *i.e.*, for the appointments and other favours. But to know Islam, to learn Islam and to follow Islam is a very difficult task. The hon. mover has said that Hadis should be taught to our pupils, but Sir, it is very difficult to be taught and followed. So, Sir, without replacement at once we may follow this course *viz.* where Arabic is not yet included in the curriculum, it should be included there. Sir, there is one thing more.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will finish soon.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I shall finish, Sir. Hadis, Feka and Tafsir in India have been translated into Persian in Mogul time and we have many such books in Persian. One who can follow Persian can also follow Urdu. Urdu is the language freely used by the Muslim world in India. So, if a man knows Urdu, he can learn Persian

easily and if a man knows Persian he can understand Urdu as well. But Arabic is a very difficult language and it should be taught not for the sake of a language but to know Quoran, to learn Quoran and to follow Quoran. This is the only thing which our boys should be taught. My hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali said that there are people in Persia, Africa and other places who have written books in Arabic. Sir, I also admit that in our schools and colleges elementary education of Feka, Hadis and Tafsir is to be imparted. If our boys learn the rudimentary Islamic rules and regulations, I think, it would serve the purpose better.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I am in charge of this cut motion, so I have got to reply. Much of what has been said by my hon. friend Maulavi Amjad Ali is perfectly correct that for a Muslim knowledge of Arabic is far more essential than the knowledge of Persian, for in Arabic are written our religious books. Persian, as has been described, is really a language of culture. The policy of the Assam Government is dictated in this matter by the policy of the Calcutta University under which our school final examination or Matriculation examination is conducted. Under the curriculum of that University under the heading "classical languages" both Arabic and Persian find a place and in our Assam schools, where there has been a demand for teaching of both the classical languages so that our students may take up either of them, provision has been made for teaching of both languages but where there is no such demand, only Persian is taught. The question whether Persian should be entirely removed from our curriculum leaving only Arabic instead, thereby forcing or compelling every student to take up Arabic as the second language, is a question of ideal only; but it is entirely divorced from the practical field on various reasons. In the first place those who are so very religious minded as it was depicted by my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali who would like to see even lessons in Fekah which translated, is Jurisprudence and in Hadith which translated, is traditions and sayings of the Holy Prophet—subjects which are taught in the highest classes in Persian and Arabic theological colleges—should be taught, are carrying the point too far. Will it be within the competence of the secondary schools to undertake the teaching of these subjects? I would leave that side of the question out of my mind. As I have said, there are various difficulties in carrying out the suggestion made by the hon. mover of this cut motion. So long we have allowed certain classes of Muslim students—there are few Hindus also—to take up Persian as classical language and we must see that these students are enabled to appear in their Matriculation examination with that subject as their second language. That means that at least for quite a decent period, say for 6 or 7 years, we cannot remove Persian from the curriculum.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Gradually.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Next, we have a set of teachers who are specially appointed as Persian teachers who are not well-versed in Arabic, and if we remove Persian from the curriculum, these set of teachers will be thrown out of employment. Of course, as I said, Sir, the suggestion of my hon. friend is an ideal one, and it can be considered at the time when we consider the details of our University. If my hon. friend, and those who think with him, believe that it will be benefiting the Muslim public in not having a faculty of Persian in our University, then it will be up to them to recommend this course. For the present, I believe, the demand has not been so very great for Arabic at least in the Secondary schools—as my hon. friend desires. The reason

is obvious. The relation between Arabic and Persian is of the same nature as between Sanskrit and Bengali. Arabic and Sanskrit are very difficult languages and their grammar is most complex and complicated, and as students always like to adopt the line of least resistance, they prefer Persian to Arabic. Whether in these days of democracy, or in the words of my hon. friend the Khan Bahadur, "in these days of provincial autonomy," we would be justified in forcing our young Muslim students to take up the difficult subject of Arabic in place of Persian, is a matter which the leaders of the Muslim community should ponder over. My hon. friend said that as early as 1914, in a conference in Bengal they preferred Arabic to Persian to be taught in their Bengal schools, but as the Khan Bahadur has pointed out, that recommendation though still existing has not been given effect to and Persian is still being taught in Bengal schools. We, in Assam also, expressed a pious hope in the Educational Conference of 1914 that, if possible, Muslim students should be advised to take up Arabic. I know in the days when I was a student, we never had Arabic as second language in Assam schools, but since 1914, Arabic is being taught in various schools in the province. If the demand becomes greater, or more insistent, Government will see about providing Arabic teachers in those schools where there is need. What my hon. friend wants is that no choice should be left to students by keeping Arabic as the second language. When there is such a demand the matter may be taken up after giving due notice to the public, as well as to the student community, but it is not possible to take it up at once.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: In view of the assurance that the Ministry will take it up gradually, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think the most important cut motions have been discussed. As regards the others, I think, one motion out of them may be selected in order to discuss on the broad policies of the Department.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI: I wish to move my motion No. 52 about the Mass Literacy Campaign. This matter was opposed by some hon. members.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: I wish to move my motion No. 16.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I also wish to move my motion No. 17.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, then, I shall have to proceed in the order in which the motions have been arranged. Hon. members know that this demand will have to be finished by 2-15-p.m.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 8,66,389 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor Head—Secondary Education—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys (total), at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 41,44,900 do stand reduced by Re. 1. The object of my motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the long-felt necessity of providing the Dhubri Government High School with an additional Anglo-Persian teacher.

Sir, this question is not a new one. Since 1935 there has been a persistent demand from the Dhubri public for an additional Anglo-Persian Teacher at Dhubri. At present there are more than 200 Muhammadan

boys in the school to whom one persian Teacher is to impart instruction. To the boys of Classes V and VI he has to teach Urdu and from Class VII upwards Persian and Arabic, and on some days he has to take combined classes of two or three sections together. In a period of 45 minutes, it is impossible for one teacher to teach so many boys. Sir, in 1937 I put some questions, in which the Government admitted that there was the necessity for such a teacher in the Dhubri Government High School, but though the Government admitted this in 1937, up till now they have not provided any-teacher. So I have brought this cut motion in order to impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of providing an additional Anglo-Persian Teacher so that the education of the boys in Persian and Arabic does not suffer. As a result of this want of teacher, I think, the result of the boys in the Government High School is not so satisfactory. So I request the Government that they would provide an additional Anglo-Persian Teacher immediately.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 8,66,389 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—Secondary Education—E.—Government Secondary Schools—(a) Secondary Schools for boys (total), at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 41,44,900 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

The Hon'ble Srijiit ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. mover of this motion that there exists a necessity for an additional Anglo Persian teacher in the particular High School to which reference has been made. As a matter of fact, the Director of Public Instruction submitted a proposal for provision of an Anglo-Persian teacher for Dhubri School, but his proposal involved several other questions and the Finance Department could not examine the schedule as it was too late. But we shall try to make some temporary arrangement in the course of this year and if necessary we shall come before the House with a Supplementary Demand for this purpose.

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED : In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister, I do not like to press my motion.

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

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : Sir, I shall move cut motion No. 17 standing in my name.

"That the provision of Rs. 4,93,040 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring grants (total), at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101."

Sir, I do not find from the Budget that any sufficient and definite steps have been taken by Government for the improvement of Middle English Schools for Girls and boys and also for Middle English and Middle Vernacular Madrasas. Sir, people have limited resources and they cannot establish and maintain these kinds of institutions. In backward localities, it is not possible to start High Schools and High Madrasas. The people of backward places are not sufficiently helped and encouraged by the Government in maintaining these schools throughout the province. I may mention here some backward places in our side, viz., Ratabari, Patharkandi, Nilamsbazar and Kaziganj. Messrs. Terrel, Mookerjee and Sen and I think Mr. Balaram Sircar will also bear me out. They can speak things better than myself because they live nearer than myself. Only last year, Sir, a sum of Rs. 15 only was granted to the Middle English School of Ratabari. This is a big *thana* and only one school is there,

I mean, the Middle English School and it was granted Rs. 15 only. There are two Middle Vernacular Schools in that locality and no High School at all. The people are very poor. They cannot establish and maintain even Primary Schools. In that *thana* primary schools are very few. There is no question of Middle English and Middle Vernacular Madrassa. Sir, this is the condition in every place of the province and as the people now a-days require English education and as they have no financial capacity to establish school and to impart secondary education to their boys, they take recourse to this Middle English Schools. But, Sir, the grant made to that school by the Government is very meagre and the Government do not help that school as they should do particularly as this school is in a very backward locality. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 4,03,040 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary Schools, Sub-head—1.—Recurring grants (total), at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101".

Mr. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice of the Government the needs of the Hindi Middle English Schools. There are about 4 or 5 Hindi Middle English Schools and two newly started High Schools—one at Dibrugarh and one at Tinsukia. Sir, only Rs. 15 was sanctioned in the last year to the Middle English School at Gauhati and Rs. 30 to Dibrugarh. Sir, it is the duty of the Government to see that all people are educated and I do not see any reason why Government should not provide substantial grants for the Hindi Middle English Schools. I know, Sir, in some cases, private Middle English Schools receive Rs. 50 or 60 as grant, per month. I do not know why there should be a difference made. In this connection I hope that the Government will please see that these schools will receive their due share.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last Tribal and Scheduled castes Education Conference I suggested several things and this cut motion touches a very important point of my suggestion. Garos are very poor Sir, and the help of Government is urgent in the way of grant-in-aid and also for the up keep of the buildings of the Schools. Now there is only one complete High School in Garo Hills and we are badly in need of more good feeder schools. I suggested these things in the said conference, Sir, and I think both the Government and also the Department should take note of these needs. Grant-in-aid should be increased for the existing Government Aided Schools and the best schools at present among those should be taken over by the Government. With these words, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of Government.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Middle English Schools come under the heading of Secondary Schools and I will just state before the House the grant which the Government have been making for the Secondary Schools for the last 3 years :

					Rs.
1938-39	...	...	...	...	14,000
1939-40	...	...	...	...	20,000
1940-41	...	...	...	...	25,000

and in this year we have set apart a sum of Rs. 25,000 for grant to secondary schools. Sir, I am entirely at one with the hon. members of the House who expressed the opinion that they consider the grant to be inadequate; but, Sir, I think, we have done our best within the limited resources at our disposal, and, I can assure the House that should at any time Government would be in a position to give more money for this purpose nobody will be happier than myself.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. member press his cut motion?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs. 4,03,040 under Grant No. 18, Major head.—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to non-Government Secondary School, Sub-head—1.—Recurring grants (total), at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101".

The question was negatived

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, may I inform the House that as regards the cut motions dealing with local needs, I will take notice of these motions and see how far I can meet the hon. members' wishes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I remember to have once pointed out to the House that so far as local grievances are concerned the purpose is well served simply by tabling cut motions. So what is the use of losing the time of the House in discussing them. By tabling these cut motions the hon. members have drawn the attention of the Government to respective local grievances and Government would certainly take notice of them. With this assurance given by the Hon'ble Education Minister, that he would look into the respective grievances intended to be discussed by these cut motions, I think it is not necessary to move these motions.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I want to say one word regarding this. I note that Government took up some primary schools in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and they have provided building grants too. But some 36 Primary Schools have been taken over by Government in the Garo Hills without providing building grants. There are many schools in the Garo Hills for which we are not getting a single pie even for the maintenance of the buildings. I hope Government will also take this fact into consideration.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All these things will be taken notice of by Government.

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS: The Hon'ble Minister has given assurance to give his attention to local grievances. But there are some cut motions relating to the grievances of particular communities. Should not those motions be moved?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will also take notice of communal grievances.

I think motion No. 26 is very wide in its scope, and so this may be moved.

Maulavi MABARAK Ali: I want to move motion No. 25*.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think No.26 standing in the name of Maulavi Muhammad Maqbui Hussain Chaudhury is wider in scope than No.25. The hon. member may speak on that motion. I would now ask Maulavi Maqbui Hussain Chaudhury to move motion No.26.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.10,26,511 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education (total), at page 128 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs 101.

Sir, my object in tabling this motion is to criticise Government for making inadequate grant for the expansion of primary education.

Sir, it is not unknown to any hon. member of the House that primary education is now the greatest problem in the country. We find in the Budget that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has provided only Rs. 50,000 for the expansion of primary education. This was his new provision, but a sum of Rs.1,24,000 has been provided for mass literacy campaign. My idea is that the expansion of primary education should get preference over the scheme of mass literacy campaign.

Last year, in reply to a question, Government* informed the House that some 1,000 primary schools were in the recognised list, but those schools were not given any grant-in-aid either by the Local Boards or by Government. At that time also we pushed the case of these primary schools. Now, I see that Government have given more attention to the education of adults than the education of the boys and girls. Perhaps their idea is that when these boys and girls would grow up and become old they will get patronage of Government for attending night schools and learning alphabets, just before retiring from this world. I do not agree with Government so far as this question is concerned. My contention is that Government should provide such an amount as would make it possible to take up all the venture schools that are now in the waiting list at once and by doing this enhance the idea of compulsory primary education.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.10,26,511 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education (total), at page 128 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

*25. Maulavi MABARAK ALI to move :—

That the provision of Rs.10,26,511 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education (total), at page 128 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To draw the attention of Government for allowing the wards of Lower Primary School teachers free studentship up to Matriculation Examination.)

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got in my name a similar cut motion No.34*. So, I want to take part on this debate.

Sir, the tribal people of the plains are very backward in point of education. But we find that a small amount of Rs.8,000 has been earmarked for the expansion of Primary Education among the tribal people of the plains. This money is quite insufficient because on average only 4 schools from each of the twelve subdivisions will be benefited from this grant. But in each subdivision we have got more than 50 Lower Primary Schools. We are also neglected by the Local Boards, as we cannot be properly represented in the Boards. So, I request Government to earmark a sufficient amount for the expansion of education in the tribal areas of the plains, so that we may have a special impetus in education. With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

Babu BEPIN BEHARI DAS: Sir, I have got a motion, No.27†, for criticising Government for inadequacy of the grants earmarked for scheduled caste schools. May I therefore speak on this motion?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes.

Babu BEPIN BEHARI DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important movement for the elevation of the people to a higher cultural level is that of education. Without education no nation can rise, education is essentially necessary for an all-round improvement of human race. Due to spread of education there has grown up in our country a large number of educated people in different branches of learning, such as, art, science, philosophy as well as in different learned professions of law, medicine and engineering, etc. Their intellectual activities have been expressed in different organisations and have helped the growth of a new social consciousness in India, in one word, education is the first thing that we require for our moral and material development. It is therefore needless to say that all possible steps should be taken for the spread of education among the masses. Otherwise it is impossible to improve their condition. If the vast majority of the people remain steeped in deep ignorance and superstition all attempts to improve their lot are bound to fail. The spread of education will bring a message of relief and hope to the down-trodden, degraded and impoverished masses of the province. About the progress of education what do we find in England, America, Japan, Germany and other countries of Europe? 99 per cent. of the people are educated in those countries and as a result they have reached the zenith of power in all spheres of life. But to our misfortune the percentage of literacy in India has not reached even

* 34. Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI to move :—

That the provision of Rs. 36,740 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—K.—Direct grants to non-Government Primary schools (total), at page 128 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To raise a discussion for not providing sufficient money for expansion of Primary Education in backward Tribal areas of the plains.)

† 27. Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS to move :—

That the provision of Rs.10,26,511 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—J.—Grants to Local Bodies for Primary Education (total), at page 128 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.41,44,900 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

(To criticise Government for inadequacy of the grants earmarked for scheduled caste schools.)

10 per cent. It is also not unknown to the hon. members that the scheduled caste people are perhaps the most backward in the matter of education, and they certainly deserve more attention from the Government.

Now, Sir, when I look to the provision in the Budget for the education of the scheduled castes, my mind is filled with despair. Only a meagre sum of Rs.3,000 has been earmarked for the purpose. Will this small sum be adequate? Is it not a drop of water in the ocean? I may point out for the information of the Hon'ble House that the population of the scheduled castes is about 6 lakhs according to the old census and it will be considerably increased when the new census figures are published. I shall not be surprised if it is found then that 99 per cent of the scheduled castes are illiterate. This being the situation, I think I am quite justified in approaching the Hon'ble Education Minister for more grants for these unfortunate people who are steeped in ignorance. I am deeply concerned about the present condition of the scheduled castes and their future. The present Government have taken up many new projects for our improvement, but it is for the House to consider what little benefit we can derive from the paltry amount earmarked for our educational advancement. By this allotment, grants-in-aid can be given to one Venture School only in each subdivision, though a good number of schools are awaiting Government Memorandum it is stated as follows:—"There is still a large number of Venture Schools awaiting financial assistance for their maintenance which the Local Boards are unable to take over out of their own resources". So, Sir, how can the Government remain satisfied by making this extremely inadequate provision for scheduled caste education? I am sure the House will agree with me that justice has not been done to them and that a far bigger allotment is necessary for the purpose. If the spread of education among the scheduled castes proceeds at this slow rate, I am afraid that it will be impossible to educate the whole community within the next 50 years.

Now, Sir, a huge sum of money is being spent for the mass literacy campaign. In my opinion this will not do any good when the children of school-going age are left without education. The adults only attend the schools at their leisure hours and then too waste most of their time in unnecessary talks. So I am of opinion that this entire money should be transferred for the spread of primary education of the scheduled castes. My hon. friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury has spoken a good deal for transferring this sum for the spread of primary education and I fully agree with him. My only request is that this money may be transferred for the spread of education among the scheduled castes.

Lastly, I draw the attention of the Government to the deplorable condition of the Harijan Hostel, Sylhet, which is the only institution of its kind in Assam and urge upon the Government for making some recurring grant.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in support of this motion. The importance of primary education is well understood and I do not think that I should say anything about its value. It is unfortunate that in Assam, notwithstanding repeated requests for the introduction of compulsory primary education, little has been done in this direction. It is no doubt true, Sir, that Rs. 50,000 have been provided in this year's Budget over and above last year's Rs. 10,000 for municipal and town committee areas and Rs. 40,000 for rural areas.

Now, Sir, as my hon. friend Mr. Das has said, this amount is like a drop in the ocean. Sir, it has also been stated that we are going to spend a large amount of money for mass literacy campaign. I would request the hon. members to think about one point with all seriousness, viz, if we can introduce compulsory primary education, whether there will be any necessity for a mass literacy campaign after some time? Of course it may be said that those who are illiterate at present should also get the benefit of learning. Well and good, Sir. But what are we doing about the future? If we do not take care of primary education along with the mass literacy campaign then this mass literacy campaign will be continued for ever. A huge sum will be spent on a doubtful measure and it may so happen that it will die a natural death, because it has been said that adult persons go into the schools at their leisure period, in most cases at night, and their minds are not quite apt to take the lessons. I think, Sir, we must take special care of our primary education, and if we can give proper training to the school-going children, there will be no need for a mass literacy campaign.

In this connection, Sir, I think it will not be out of place to mention about the poor lot of the primary school teachers.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: The hon. member supported the mass literacy campaign last year.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJI: My point, Sir, is that the mass literacy campaign will be practically of no value unless we take care of our primary education.

Sir, it has been said several times on the floor of this House, and it was admitted by the Government also, that the pay of the primary school teachers deserves favourable consideration. But nothing has been done in this direction. I hope Government will give their attention to this matter also.

I do not think it will be out of place to mention about another matter also. My friend Mr. Marak stated that I supported the mass literacy campaign before and that now I am opposing it. My maxim is, prevention is better than cure' and it can be applied in this case also. If we give proper training to our children, which is the right course to be taken by the Government, in that case real benefit will be given by Government to the general public for whom they are here.

With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. members will please note that the discussion under the head 'Education' will proceed for further 15 minutes only.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: In supporting the motion of my friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Choudhury, I beg to say that his proposal to divert the grant under primary education to that, under literacy campaign is very suggestive (*laughter*)—I mean very important. I hope the House will agree with me and the Government will also kindly consider this point.

During the time of the Congress Coalition Ministry, this literacy campaign was taken up for the spread of education and for increasing the pay of teachers. I do not like to take up much time of the House, but I say this much that the grant will be better utilised if it is converted into a grant for the extension of primary education.

Another thing, Sir. Number of scholarships under primary education is going on as before. Schools have been increased in number, but scholarships for the encouragement of students are very few. Two boys in the same school cannot get scholarships even if they get higher marks. So I say that the number of scholarships should be increased and I hope Government will kindly consider this.

Maktab education is included in the primary education. In Maktab Government through local bodies pay only the salaries of the teachers, but they do not pay the salary of the teacher for Islamic education. As Government has taken up Islamic education in schools, they should pay for the teachers in these Maktab and schools. So I say that provision should be made for these teachers.

With these words, I support the motion.

Babu BALARAM SIRCAR: In the time of the Congress Coalition Ministry while they were not in possession of funds they realised these from taxation measures. We got 69 scheduled caste venture schools taken up for grants in Surma Valley. In the subdivision of Karimganj these schools where in the year following, this Ministry, with greater financial resources, has given grant to only one school. Nearly 40 venture schools in our Karimganj subdivision, in the scheduled caste areas, are still expecting grants from the Government. But I do not know what will remain in store for the scheduled caste boys with this petty sum of Rs. 3,000 to be sprinkled throughout the whole province. With these words I support the motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nobody is more sorry than the Ministry that they could not provide more funds for primary education. They have been criticised for their negligence in making provision for primary education and for their launching into the policy of adult education at the cost of primary education. That criticism is just behind the facts. Hon. members of primary education will probably be led to think in these lines by the very fallacious premises which my friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury started his speech. He said Sir, that for primary education Government made a grant of half a lakh as against one and a quarter lakh against literacy campaign. No hon. member seems to have looked up the pages of the Budget to find out what

the real figure for primary education is. I would therefore place the following figures for their consideration. At page 127 of the Estimates, my hon. friends will find a sum of Rs.97 thousand set apart for Government primary schools. At page 128, they will find under grants to local bodies for primary education a sum of 10½ lakhs.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of explanation, Sir. I said clearly that Rs.50 thousand were provided as a new provision.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Then again, they will find that as direct grant to non-Government primary schools a sum of Rs.36,000 is provided. So in all, for primary education there is a provision of more than 12 lakhs and we have added to it half a lakh more.

My hon. friends have criticised that a sum of Rs.1 lakh 24 thousand for mass literacy campaign is unwanted. I would just place one little consideration before the House. Our ordinary *pathshalas* or schools for primary education are meant for boys and girls between the age of 7 and 12. But our total population of the province does not consist only of these small children. My hon. friends who evince a great desire for making the children literate certainly forget that three-fourths of the population are of the age over 12. Would they like to see that these people should remain illiterate till they go to their cremation ground or to the graveyard?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly not, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am glad to hear my friend saying, 'certainly not'. Therefore, Government have devised a plan of bringing the torch of education to the minds of these unenlightened people and as I mentioned the other day, we have a great hope that with the expenditure of this small sum of 1 lakh of rupees annually, we will be able to make atleast one lakh of people, if not more, literate. Therefore I request my hon. friends not to urge on the Government to divert this small sum of 1 lakh of rupees meant for removing illiteracy from the adults; but they will be within their rights and justified in pressing Government to place more money for the expansion of primary education. Sir, we are quite alive to the subject and we can say that if that be the contention of my hon. friend, then that will be given every consideration in future budgets.

My hon. friends of the tribal and the scheduled caste complain that sums that have been ear-marked for them have not been adequate. Here again, Sir, I repeat my regret and inability to provide more. So far as the tribal people are concerned a sum of Rs. 8,000 has been ear-marked for them, but some of my hon. friends from the scheduled caste community complain that a sum of Rs. 3,000 provided for them is most inadequate, but I should say that the position of the members of the scheduled castes is quite distinct from that of the tribals. The tribals like to segregate themselves into areas where there are no other people living, whereas the scheduled castes who form part and parcel of the great Hindu society live inter-mixed with the General Hindu population. There are very few places which are specially reserved for the scheduled caste people only. Therefore, if a provision of Rs.3,000 has been made, it has been made only for those very rare localities where none but the scheduled caste people live. There are quite a large number of scheduled caste students reading in our general primary schools.

One word more, Sir, and I will finish. My hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee has said that if compulsory primary education is introduced, then there will be no need for spending money for the mass literacy campaign. Here too, Sir, the idea is wrong. The compulsory primary education will in future, make the entire population literate but the present generation of illiterate people who are above 12 years of age will go on without any chance of becoming literate. I hope my hon. friend will give credit to the Ministry that they have not lost sight of the importance of primary education for all sections of the people of the province. I can assure my hon. friends of the tribal and also those gentlemen who call themselves as immigrants that the needs of every community have been taken into consideration and some money, however small, has been earmarked for the spread of primary education in those areas. We will consider whether in future we cannot spend more money for primary education.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: What about Islamic education in Maktab?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: What can I do? The time is up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the hon. member want to press his motion?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the main grant. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.41,44,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '37.—Education (other than European)'".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 19.

(38.—Medical)

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.11,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.11,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'".

Hon. members, there are as many as 16 cut motions under this Grant. Now the time allotted for the discussion of this grant is up to 3 P.M. and I would therefore call upon the hon. members to economise the brief space of time allotted for the purpose.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.53,332 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head—(a) Superintendence (total), at page 138 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.111, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.111.

My object is to censure Government for not establishing a medical institution at Sylhet.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to rise on a point of order. This cut motion is on the wrong place and cannot be moved. I do not want to start discussion on this point. There is another motion in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rahman, i.e., motion No.15* and I think my hon. friend can speak on that motion. It is found that the cut motion has been raised under Sub-head (a) Superintendence (total) at page 138 of the Budget. Superintendence has got nothing to do with Medical Education. If I remember aright, medical education is specifically mentioned at the bottom of pages 142 and 143 of the Budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I agree with the Hon'ble Premier, and I would request Mr. Mookerjee to participate in the debate under cut motion No. 15 standing in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rahman as his cut motion is almost identical with that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, with due submission to your ruling may I know one thing? I think, Sir, my motion is perfectly in order, so I should be given a chance to explain my position.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is no use wasting time because this cut motion is almost identical with cut motion No. 15 tabled by Mr. Abdur Rahman.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will you, Sir, give me a guarantee that cut motion No. 15 will be moved first of all?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I realise, it is a very important cut motion. This cut motion, as I have held, is almost identical with cut motion No. 15 tabled by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, and as this motion (No. 15) relates to a very important matter, i.e. establishment of a medical institution at Sylhet, I would like to allow discussion on this at the very outset and I would call upon the hon. member to move his motion. Then, after some discussion having been made on that motion by the hon. mover, I would call upon Mr. Mookerjee to participate in the debate.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.77,179 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Schools and Colleges, Sub-head—(b)—Medical Schools (total), at page 143 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, it will be no news to the hon. members of this House that I am to begin with an old story—the story which narrates the opening of the proposed Medical School and the grievance for the delay of its starting is being demonstrated on the floor of this House since I have had the opportunity of entering into this Assembly. I remember that during the budget session of 1937 one of the members of the present Cabinet, Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali moved a cut motion and by a majority of votes of the members of this House it was decided that the Medical School Buildings constructed for the purpose of establishing a Medical School at Sylhet should be opened immediately. As far as I remember,

*15. Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN to move:—

That the provision of Rs. 77,179 under Grant No.19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Schools and Colleges, Sub-head—(b)—Medical Schools (total), at page 143 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To criticise Government for not opening the Sylhet Medical School).

in 1935 or 1936 in the pre-reform days a similar resolution was moved in the old Council and the recommendation of the majority members of the then Council was that immediate action should be taken up by the Government to open the Medical School at Sylhet. Again during the days of the Congress Coalition Government in 1939, in the Budget Session, we moved a similar motion and we had the assurance that the school would be opened at an early date. Sir, these are not the only instances which are in my mind and which lead to the serious agitation on the question of opening the school by the Surma Valley people. Even by putting questions almost in every session by some or other members of the Surma Valley, the feelings of the Surma Valley people are being demonstrated. Then again during the general discussion of the budget for the last few days, we heard the repetition of the same old story that the Medical School Buildings which the Assam Government had to construct at a cost of about 9 lakhs of rupees are the standing disgrace for this province. Some hon. members did not hesitate to describe it as a standing monument of disgrace for the Government. So, I think, it is high time for the Government that they should see their way to remove this standing monument of disgrace either by dismantling the buildings or by giving effect to the proposal for the purpose of which these buildings were constructed at such a huge expenditure. Sir, so far as my poor brain goes and so far as I understand, the recommendations of the majority members of this House are almost mandatory on the part of the Government which is functioning now. The Parliamentary procedure and the spirit of the constitutional law make it incumbent on the part of the Government that they should give effect to the recommendations made by the majority members on the floor of this House. If the Government do not respect the view or attitude of the hon. members of the House, this sort of constitution should be at once discarded or be bidden good-bye. Sir, I may be allowed to mention here that the feelings of the Surma Valley people are so high over the question of Medical School that it needs no description. Then again at the time of the Congress-Cealition Government a Medical Education Committee was formed and the Committee recommended to the Government that the question of Sylhet Medical School be looked into with sincerity. Now, let me not dilate on the question of the desirability of opening the school as early as possible, but let the feelings of the Surma Valley people be realised by giving attention to their grievances. During the budget discussion I heard some hon. members suggesting that the hostels which were constructed with a view to accommodate the students if a Medical School would have been started, are now lying vacant. Now the question is how the purposes of the hostels if the school be started can be served? I understand from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Medical that the Government is in need of certain buildings for the hospital.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. member, I am afraid, has already exceeded his time limit by 3 minutes.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am finishing within two minutes. For the purposes of the hospital the hostel buildings which were constructed for accommodating the students may be utilised, and for the purpose of accommodating the students whose number will not exceed, I think, 50, because we cannot admit more than that in the first year, arrangement can be made to accommodate them in certain private houses. There is no dearth of good houses in the neighbourhood of the school buildings and the cost approximately will not be more than one lakh to give start to the school. Sir, for the Government of a province the question of one

lakh is not a very big one and if there is any good house, they can take up the project at once. Now I would urge upon the Government to give a solemn assurance - not an assurance which we are in the habit of receiving before, but a sincere and a very honest assurance that they will open the school from next April. With these words I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.77,179 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—D.—Medical Schools and Colleges, Sub-head (b)—Medical Schools (total), at page 143 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,76,300 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will add only a few words because the time is very short and my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman has already touched some points. Sir, about the necessity of this institution nobody has ever challenged as it would be found from the proceedings of 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940. Sir, from the reply that was given in 1937 by Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, the then Minister in charge of this Department, when the Government was defeated in a cut motion moved by Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali, it will be seen that the Government accepted the principle and that they were quite alive to the necessity but due to want of fund they could not give effect to it. Now, Sir, I think, if I dilate this matter it will be wasting the time of the House because it has been very ably put by my hon. friend, the mover. But, Sir, in one point I am not at one with him. He has given an alternative suggestion either to start the institution or to demolish the building. I am not at one with him on that. I want that the institution should be started immediately.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: On a point of information, Sir. What institution does the hon. member mean, Sir?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I remind the Hon'ble Minister to take care the note of his original motion which I am discussing. His motion is for a Medical Grant. Sir, am I to remind him of this subject? It is really regrettable.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. member's observation seems to be very vague. His cut motion wants to criticise the policy of the Government for not establishing a Medical Institution at Sylhet, but, so far as I know, the Medical Institution has been already established there. The classes only are to be opened now. That is what the hon. member is probably driving at.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I bow down to your ruling, Sir. But the Medical Institution has not been established, only the buildings are there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That means the establishment is there, and the classes are to be opened now.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, those buildings are being used for other purposes. So how can it be said that the institution has been established?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: However, I call upon the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to elucidate this point, whether the institution has been established or not.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The Hospital has been located there, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, the hon. member has got only five minutes more.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member will cut short.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I was very brief, Sir. Only I was touching those points in which I did not like to join with my hon. friend and those that he missed. I have said that nobody challenged the utility and necessity of the school. The only point was the question of fund. Sir, as it was said the other day during this session by the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he asked the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to find out whether the present building which was built for the purposes of accommodating students might be converted with some additions and alterations for hospital purposes. Sir, this is a right move. I can tell the Hon'ble Prime Minister without any fear of contradiction that this may be easily done with a very small expenditure too. Now, Sir, the principle has been accepted and most of the members are willing, and I believe the Surma Valley members are unanimous on this point and in that case I appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he will be kind enough to give a word of solemn assurance that from the next session he will open the Sylhet Medical School by converting the present hostel into hospital. I want an assurance from the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I stand to oppose this motion, Sir. I have every sympathy with the Sylhet people that they need a Medical School at Sylhet. The hon. Mr. Mookerjee has referred to the proceedings of the previous sessions and said that the necessity of the Medical School was undisputable. But, Sir, from the facts we can gather very easily why this Medical School has not been established up till now. It is simply because this House consider that it is unnecessary, at least the majority of the House think so; otherwise why this Medical School has not been established up till now? If I remember aright, Sir, in the budget speech delivered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, he said that the question of establishing a Medical College had been dropped. A Medical College was going to be started at Dibrugarh. So, Sir, I think, this discussion on this Medical School is unnecessary and Government does not deserve any criticism at all in this respect.

Another point, Sir, if the Medical School is absolutely necessary in Sylhet, I think the Sylhet people are well-to-do enough to establish one Medical School at Sylhet. My hon. friend, Mr. B. Mookerjee can well afford to establish a medical School of the kind under discussion. Another point, Sir, there are so many Medical School passed men without employment.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In the Garo Hills!

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: No, not in the Garo Hills alone but outside Garo Hills as well, say, in Sylhet, Gauhati and in other towns. Many people are out of employment although they have passed. There are two Garo Lady doctors there who are still un-employed. There are require a large number of technically qualified men for the uplift of the general masses; we should rather strive to spread general education for that purpose. So the question of Medical School is not essential and so I oppose this motion.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I heartily agree with some of the observations made by Mr. Marak. We certainly do not deny the utility of medical men. But may I know from the hon. members who are pressing for the Medical School at Sylhet whether they know that all the passed candidates or passed student from the Dibrugarh Medical School are employed?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, Order.

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH : The establishment of another Medical School will mean only to swell the number of passed medical men who cannot be provided with employment. I do not think that another Medical School anywhere in Assam is necessary.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : What about Arts and Science Graduates, Sir, may I enquire?

Mr. C. GOLDSMITH : Many members have the idea that Government ought to spend more money to subsidise medical dispensaries and provide certain passed medical men with monthly grants and also some money for medicine.

Last time I remember that the hon. members wanted to increase the amount which should be paid to these medical men. There are many medical men with passed certificates who can do their work, but they are sitting idle. They absolutely do no work. They can render much help to the people in times of sickness and epidemics, etc., but still they idle away their time. They simply depend on Government for money. Therefore I say that by this we are simply trying to swell the number of unemployed youngmen. Unless we can solve the question of unemployment, I do not think it is necessary, particularly at this time of the war, to provide funds for the starting of the Sylhet Medical School.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Mr. Goldsmith said that we were trying to swell the number of unemployed youths by starting the Medical School at Sylhet. May I ask him whether by establishing a University and other colleges we are not increasing the number of unemployed graduates?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

At the outset I should like to make it clear that I do not agree with my hon. friends Messrs. Marak and Goldsmith. When Mr. Mookerjee was reading out what the former Medical Minister, Mr. Nichols-Roy, said about the establishment, of a Medical School at Sylhet, Mr. Marak said that the position had changed since then. I say, Sir, that the position has changed for the better. When that motion was moved, the reply we got from the Government was cold, but now we find by discussing the matter with the Government members that their reply is not so cold. Therefore, I say that the position has changed for the better.

Mr. Marak says that the House need not consider the question of starting a Medical School at Sylhet, but he forgets that a motion was moved in this House, as referred to by my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee, and was carried by a majority of two.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK : It was lost.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : I say it was carried. I am sorry that my friend Mr. Marak is arguing with such an unreliable memory. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Goldsmith says that the number of unemployed men will be swelled. I do not know what is the position in his district. But I say, Sir, in Sylhet the number of medical passed men is not so large that the question of unemployment may be thought of now. I may point out two cases. Two subsidised dispensaries were established, one at Selbarar and the other at Ganirgram, Silchar, but qualified doctors were not available for those dispensaries. I do not find my hon. friend Mr. Namwar Ali Barbhuyana

here ; otherwise he would have supported me. Mr. Goldsmith says that whenever the young men come out of Medical Schools with certificate they approach the Government for employment. Why should they not come to the Government? They know that this Government is their own Government and for everything they can approach the Government for guidance. Mr. Marak has approached the Government for many thing , and why ? Because he knows that Government will do something for the Garo Hills and also for himself. But he does not know the position of the district of Sylhet. The district comprises many low-lying areas where there is no facility of communications. It is difficult for the people to come to the town for medicines and medical advice. Therefore, it is essentially necessary that in every rural centre there should be medical men and more dispensaries.

Now, Sir, there are many benevolent men in the district of Sylhet who are ready to establish dispensaries ; but it is regrettable that for want of properly qualified medical men they cannot establish dispensaries. The other day we were told that for want of building for the hostel it would not be possible for Government to start the Medical School, and some gentlemen proposed that the office of the Inspector of Schools be removed to Silchar and that building be utilised for the hostel. I have talked about this matter with Mr. Mookerjee, and some other gentlemen of Sylhet. I can assure the hon. member who raised the question that private buildings will be available in Sylhet for the purpose of hostel. Mr. Mookerjee and some other benevolent gentlemen will come forward with funds to provide buildings for the purpose of hostel.

(Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee—We stand gurantee for that)

Under these circumstances, Sir, I see that there is no difficulty in the way of Government to start the school. What is wanted is the sincere desire on the part of Government. I understand that if the question of hostel is decided and the buildings constructed for the purpose of the hostel be remodelled to make them suitable for holding classes, it will not be very difficult for Government to open the school early. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to give us an assurance that the scheme will be materialised within a very short time, so that we may go to our people with the hope that we shall get our Medical School in the earlier part of the coming year.

With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the statement that I made on the floor of the House only a few days back, I am surprised to find so much heat generated on this motion, or the necessity for a cut motion, which means a censure motion. My hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman, which means a heat and eloquence, was hurling brimstones and fire upon everyone. He started by hurling fire and brimstone upon the empty Medical School buildings at Sylhet, then he tried to torpedo the party of which he is the Chief Whip and I am the Leader, and finally, the constitution itself.

The position is very simple. I am tired of repeating the same thing, but circumstances compel me. At the cost of about 9 lakhs of rupees fine buildings were erected and everything was made ready about 9 years ago for the school at Sylhet. The scheme for a hospital was also ready, which provided for 108 beds. It is well known that unless the students get clinical cases to practise on, their theoretical knowledge will not be worth much. But since then, for a variety of circumstances, Government could not find

money for building the hospital. I made this very plain that if Government could utilise the hostel buildings for the purpose of starting the hospital, then there is a very reasonable chance of the school being started from the next financial year 1942-43 (*Hear, hear*). But that means that room shall have to be found for housing the students. I wanted the Head of the Department to go into this question and report. I have not seen the report up till now. But if my hon. friends assure us that, apart from the question of whether there is hostel accommodation for students or not, they want a school, then we will try our level best to see whether the school can be opened in the next session. (*Hear, hear*). The session starts as in Calcutta some time in July. Within that period it may not be possible to convert the hostels into hospitals, because it will be necessary first of all to dismantle the hospital fitting from the present building and remove it to the hostel, at the same time all the necessary materials for the class rooms and also the various exhibits, shall have to be purchased. But I request the hon. members to rest assured that Government is very serious in this respect and will try their level best to implement the statement I have made on the floor of the House.

In the otherwise admirable speech of my hon. friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman, I find there is a small flaw. Mention has been made by more than one hon. member about the proceedings of the Committee on Medical Education which met in November 1939 and which was presided over by the then Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Colonel Phipson. I find, Sir, from the proceedings—the Congress-Coalition Ministry was functioning at the time—that both my friends Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee and Maulavi Abdur Rahman were members. But I am surprised to find that Maulavi Abdur Rahman said that they recommended the opening of the school, for the proceedings give just the opposite view. It says:—"The Committee recommended that in view of the recommendations already made at this meeting the proposal to establish a Medical School at Sylhet should be abandoned." That was carried by a majority.

Then, Sir, reference was made to the other recommendations. One of these was that, "the aim of the Government should be to establish medical education of such a standard as would satisfy the Medical Council of India." As regards this, Sir, these two hon. members are in a better position than myself to explain to the House. What the Medical Council of India recommended was to prescribe education of a higher standard that is given in our Medical Schools, but wanted institutions to teach to the Degree standard. One of their recommendations was...

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Five years' course.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Now, Sir, I find that my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee was a party to that recommendation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What recommendation, Sir?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The first one.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: We are ready to raise the standard.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I find that Mr Mookerjee is reported to have made the following statement:—

"At present we are considering the question of raising the standard of medical education in our province according to the principles laid down by

the Medical Council of India. Whether there is any possibility of raising the standard of the Berry-White Medical School to the standard of the Medical Council of India is the question before us .."

Then he said—

"For the time being we are not taking Sylhet or any other school in the province".

Then he said—"Now we should not mix up Sylhet with Dibrugarh." Then he suggested that they should follow the recommendation of the Medical Council. But on this specific point (item 3 of Agenda)—"To consider the possibility of establishing a Medical School at Sylhet and what part it should play in the general scheme of medical education in the province"—when my learned friend was cornered by the Chair, he said

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I was never cornered, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. friend said—"One point has been raised because we have accepted the principle that as the standard of the existing Medical School should be raised to the standard laid down by the Medical Council of India the question of school cannot be taken. I think this flimsy ground cannot keep us aside from discussing whether we can start a medical institution at Sylhet". Then the Chairman said—"I should like to ask you one question on which I found your views a little difficult to understand: whether you had in your mind the formation of an institution of collegiate status, or a Medical School?" Then Mr. Mookerjee replied:—"A medical institution according to the standard laid down by the Medical Council of India. If that is not practicable, in that case a *via media* may be suggested by our friends so that the people of both the valleys may be satisfied." I am very glad there is this change in his views.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I said 'institution' and not 'school'.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: If my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee thinks that, after recommending that all our schools should have a five years' course, he expects that the Sylhet Medical School should be such a one, I can tell him at once that the Government of Assam cannot bear the burden of such an institution. But if he wants a medical institution of the nature of the Berry-White Medical School to teach up to the Licentiate Medical Practitioners' standard, surely the Ministry will go ahead in their endeavour to see such a school started.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Something is better than nothing.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was not present at the meeting of the Medical Education Committee which was held on the 27th November. At that meeting the question of raising the present medical institution at Dibrugarh was discussed. On the 28th when the question of the Sylhet Medical School came up I was present and I pressed that question very much. It will be found in the proceedings that I pressed for the matter—that the Medical School should be started, but we lost of course by a majority of members in the Committee. I have also put in a strong note of dissent. After I have heard the Hon'ble Premier with regard to the idea of starting a Medical School from the next financial year, I have no reason to disbelieve the Government's sincerity to give effect to the project of starting the school at an early date. Government may take the help of the Sylhet people to find out some suitable hostel arrangement. I think my friends from Sylhet will be glad to render all help to Government. With these words, I like to withdraw my motion with the leave of the House.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I now put the main motion.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.11,76,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '38.—Medical'."

The question was adopted.

GRANT No 21

(40.—Agriculture)

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,47,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,47,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

There are as many as 10 cut motions under this grant. The first cut motion is in the name of Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.24,694 under Grant No.21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

My intention in making this motion is to raise a discussion about Government policy regarding the proposed regulation and restriction of jute cultivation within the province.

Sir, the statements made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech has filled our minds with apprehension and misgiving. We feel that the economic prosperity of the country depends to a large extent on the jute policy of the Government.

The hon. members are aware that Bengal has launched a campaign of regulating and restricting its jute cultivation and has also promulgated regulations and ordinances to enforce its decision upon the public. In Bengal for the last few years there had been a steady increase in the acreage under jute cultivation. Supply far exceeded the demand and Bengal jute has failed to fetch a good price in the open market. The world war that is raging outside has added new difficulties in the way of exports and the jute cultivators of Bengal have been placed in a very precarious condition. All these factors have contributed to lower the price of jute below the irreducible minimum. To avert the crisis, the Government of Bengal have assumed extraordinary powers to restrict, regulate and control the production of jute in the province.

Should Assam follow suit? This is the burning question that is agitating the minds of all. The Government of Bengal have already come forward with the bait that they are ready to finance the jute survey scheme in Assam with 4 lakhs.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:
It is a loan.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY :.....with a loan of 4 lakhs of rupees free of interest, provided the Government of Assam agreed to regulate, restrict and control their jute production as in Bengal followed by legislative enactments and ordinances to enforce the policy. The Government of Assam, it seems, have already swallowed the bait and have agreed to accept the proposal if an exception is made in the case of the cultivable waste lands within the province. The policy that the Government is going to adopt will be suicidal and detrimental to the best interests of the province. Such acceptance shall be nothing short of a catastrophe. I humbly submit that there is yet time. The offer from the Government of Bengal which is apt to strike at the very root of the economic life of our cultivators should be rejected in unequivocal terms.

The Government of Bengal have decided to reduce their acreage under actual jute cultivation by 10 annas in the rupee, i.e., by 62½ per cent. Circumstances prevailing at the moment in Bengal may justify such a drastic reduction. The acreage of jute in Bengal exceeds 75 per cent. of the entire area under actual cultivation of all kinds. The corresponding figure for Assam is only 12 per cent. Whereas in Bengal jute comprises 35 per cent. of the entire area under actual cultivation and cultivable waste lands, —it is only 2 per cent. in Assam. So if a flat ten-anna reduction is effected in Bengal as well as in Assam, while the Bengal production will be reduced to 24 per cent. of the acreage under actual cultivation and 13 per cent. of the entire area under cultivation and cultivable waste lands, the figure for Assam will be reduced to 4½ per cent. and 75 per cent. respectively. Should we adopt these drastic steps and jeopardise the prosperity of the province?

The vast waste cultivable lands of Assam afford immense possibilities for expansion of jute cultivation. The soil has been found to be pre-eminently fitted for the purpose. We should not mortgage the future of the province for a mess of pottage.

Those who have followed the debates on the floor of the Bengal Legislative Assembly about the Jute regulations there, will entertain genuine doubts whether the restriction and ordinances have been promulgated for the best interests of the country.

Sir, it cannot be gain-said that the war has caused a set back in the jute market. But war after all is a passing phase and Government policy vitally affecting the economic condition of the country should not be based on it.

There is another factor to consider. Post-war prices of jute after the last great war was much above the average. Who can say that History will not repeat itself?

Bengal is eager to conclude an agreement with Assam. But what about her other two neighbours? We would like to know whether the jute growing provinces of Bihar and Orissa have agreed to be parties to the agreement.

Sir, local condition in Assam, its acreage under actual jute cultivation and its vast cultivable wastes do not justify any restriction or regulation. The Government of Assam should decide their policy once for all.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.24,694 under Grant No 21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction, Sub-head—2.—Pay of Establishment (total), at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to find that my friend Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury thinks in this matter on the same lines as the Ministry. He is perfectly justified in saying that conditions in Bengal and Assam differ very greatly. He has given certain figures in his speech which are not quite correct. But even then the position he has taken up leads to the same conclusion. The actual figures as I get from the report of the Director of Agriculture are these : Acreage in Jute in Bengal is about 12 per cent. of the acreage of the whole crops, whereas in Assam it is only 5 per cent. Similarly in Bengal 75 per cent. is the acreage of cultivable lands to wastes. In Assam it is only 2 per cent. In Bengal the estimate for 1939-40 was 2,549,600 as against 323,000 acres in Assam. If a reduction on the basis of one-third is made, the acreage for the two provinces would be about 8 lakhs acres for Bengal while one lac for Assam under jute cultivation.

Then again Sir, we have got to consider whether Assam possesses one advantage over Bengal or shall I say one disadvantage so far as the restriction of jute crop is concerned. I find, Sir, from certain figures that appeared in the newspapers that in Bengal they had nearly 13 per cent. of culturable waste of total cultivable areas whereas the percentage in Assam is as high as 73 or in other words Bengal has got, practically speaking, no more lands for further expansion of cultivation of any nature whereas we have got almost two-thirds of the entire area of the province to be brought under the plough. Sir, the proposal of Bengal Government to Assam was that we should have the same system of reduction in acreage as Bengal. We should agree that this reduction will continue for ten years and in order to know exactly what is the real area under cultivation, they wanted us to start a field to field survey during the crop season and as I pointed to the representatives of Bengal that Assam finances would not allow to cope with this work, they offered to finance us by way of loan to the extent of 4 lakhs of rupees ; but as I mentioned the other day, as neither Bihar nor Orissa accepted this idea of compulsory reduction in jute area, Assam did not accede to the request of Bengal. The Government of Bengal approached the Government of India that Assam is a potential danger to their restriction scheme because Assam has got a vast field to be brought under plough—a fair portion of which will be suitable for jute cultivation. The Government of Assam refused to mortgage their future and the position still stands there. It took me great pains to explain this side of the question to the Hon'ble Commerce Member of the Government of India who discussed this matter with me and the other Assam representative, the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and also with the Bengal representatives at Lucknow in last December. They were all satisfied that Assam has got a good case in not following the lead of Bengal. The policy advocated by my hon. friend is the same as the policy adopted by the Ministry. Therefore, I hope the hon. mover will see his way to withdraw his cut motion.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY : Sir, after hearing the Hon'ble Premier, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. members it strikes me that out of the 10 cut motions, the motion Nos.3, 8 and 10 are more important than the others. If time permits, I would allow discussion of the other cut motions after these three motions just mentioned by me have been discussed. I would call upon Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury to move his cut motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.14,160 under Grant No.21 Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—B.—Superintendence, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,47,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

My object is to criticise Government for their failure in spending the amount received from the Government of India as jute duty for improvement of jute cultivation of the Province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope the hon. member will try to be as brief as possible. He should just mention his points briefly and that will be sufficient for him to get a reply from the Government. Hon. member should economise his time as far as possible just to allow other hon. members who have got some other cut motions to have a chance to place their grievances.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : On a point of order, Sir. With due respect to your ruling, I should say that I think my motion is the only motion on which every hon. member can take part. It seeks to criticise the policy of Government with regard to the Agriculture Department.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. member should wait now. He will get his chance in due course.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I shall be very brief, Sir. I have brought this motion before this House in order to criticise Government for their failure to spend the amount of 13 lakhs of rupees which they received from the Government of India for improvement of jute cultivation of the province.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : If the hon. mover is so brief, it will be difficult for the Government to reply because we have no tangible points to answer.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : The Chair was pleased to ask me to be very brief. I must abide by the ruling of the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not understand why the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will not be able to give a reply. The points that the Hon'ble Minister has got will be sufficient for him to give a reply.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the motion is not in order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question of the motion being in order or not does not arise now as the Hon'ble Minister is too late in coming forward with the objection,

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, if we look at page 14 of the Budget Memorandum for the year 1941-42, it will be seen that the share of jute duty which we got from the Central Government is not ear-marked to be spent for the improvement of jute cultivation in Assam. That goes to the general revenues of the province. Under the Central Government they have got a separate scheme for the improvement of jute cultivation which is operating also in Assam. There are two schemes concerning jute—one for grading of jute, and the other deals with the ways for the improvement of jute cultivation in Assam by giving demonstration to the cultivators as to how to have improved variety of jute; what better manure can be applied and where to get good jute seeds, etc.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What about marketing?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: The first one relates to the Marketing Scheme. As such, I think the motion is not in order, and yet, in view of the facts I have stated before the House, I hope the hon. member will be pleased to withdraw his motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: A ruling on that point is wanted.

The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: The point of order should be decided by the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What reasons have been assigned by the Hon'ble Minister in declaring the motion as out of order?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Nowhere in the Budget for 1941-42, that sum has been shown to be earmarked for spending for the improvement of jute cultivation in Assam. The money that we receive from the Government of India as a share of the jute duties, comes to the general revenues of the province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But this cut motion relates to a particular item of the Budget Memorandum. I do not see why it should be declared as out of order.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: However, in view of the facts that I have stated before the House, I hope the hon. member will withdraw his motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: But why the Hon'ble Minister should raise a wrong point of order (*laughter*)?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL RUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: In view of the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister on this question, I do not like to press my motion. So, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Mr. N. DAWSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.25,383 under Grant No 21, Major head—40—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(b)—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (total), at page 159 of the Budget, be reduced by Re 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason for this cut motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the need for some form of standardisation of weights and measures. This is not the first occasion on which this important matter has been before this House for as recently as the last November Session questions were asked on this very same subject. At this point it may help to refresh the memory of the hon. members if I quote some of the questions which were asked on that occasion and the replies which were given.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan asked: "What action, if any, Government have taken regarding the standardisation of weights in this province?" The answer was "the question of introducing a Bill on the subject is under consideration." Another question he asked: "Whether Government are aware that owing to the absence of any uniform standard of weight in this province, the cultivators are suffering a good deal at the hands of the traders?" The reply was: "Government are prepared to accept the hon. member's statement as correct." To a further question as to when Government were going to introduce a Bill, the Hon'ble Minister replied—"I am trying to expedite things so as to enable me to introduce a Bill of that nature in the next Budget Session, if possible".

Sir, you will observe that the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture said that he was trying to expedite things so that he could introduce a Bill in the next Budget Session. Well, Sir, here we are nearing the end of the Budget Session, but so far there is no sign of a Bill. We shall probably be told that owing to the ill health of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture it was not found possible to introduce a Bill during the present Session, but if this is to be the excuse, is it a satisfactory one? We all regret the indisposition of the Hon'ble Minister and sincerely hope that he will make a speedy recovery from the accident in which he was unfortunately involved a short time ago, but even if a Minister falls ill it is surely possible for his Department to carry on business during his absence.

We appreciate the answers given by Government to the questions just quoted, but we are disappointed to find that the promises implied therein have not been fulfilled. How much longer time do Government require for the introduction of a Bill on this subject; how much longer time do they require for consideration? Consideration, it appears, is a slow and laborious process.

Meanwhile in the absence of any standardisation of weights and measures, things go from bad to worse especially in the 'hats' in the countryside. The unscrupulous trader eagerly takes advantage of the opportunity to give short weight to the poor and often ignorant buyer who, although aware that he has been given short weight, has no redress because there is no one to whom he can appeal.

Mark, I am not accusing the trading community as a whole of being devoid of all sense of honesty and fair dealing. On the contrary, I am prepared to believe that by far the majority of traders give genuine weight in the products which they sell, but no one can deny that the scrupulous trader is too frequently met with and that complaints about short weight are far more numerous than they should be. Moreover, the fraudulent trader, by his dishonest actions, has a most unfair advantage over the trader who is content with an honest deal.

I remember some time ago, on receiving a complaint from a buyer, I walked into a shop to purchase some oil. This oil was measured out in a bamboo receptacle commonly called, in our district, a "*Bus chung*". It was supposed to contain a certain number of *chattaks* of oil, but what the shopkeeper had done was to plug up the bottom of the vessel so that short measure was given. This is only one instance of the sort of swindling which takes place, but there are many others.

Then again, in many districts in Assam there is a measure used for selling paddy called a "*Doon*". No one has yet been able to tell what the contents of this measure should be, but this I do know, that the size of the "*Doon*" varies considerably. Even in 'hats' lying only a mile or two apart "*Doons*" of different sizes are used. Some are called $1\frac{1}{2}$ seer *Doons*,

some $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and other again 2 seers. The hon. members will realise the feelings of mistrust and suspicion which this lack of uniformity creates. Complaints about short weight are widespread and will continue as long as no effective steps are taken to standardise weights and measures, and to prevent the various forms of sharp practice in which so many traders indulge.

This Government has on many occasions proclaimed itself to be the champion of the poor man. I respect that view and I would say, here is a golden opportunity to help the poor man by protecting him from the fraudulent trader. We have already had the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister that Government is considering the introduction of such a Bill. I would say to him, make haste for I am confident that a Bill of this nature would be a most popular measure and would receive not only the blessing of this House but also something which is much more important, I mean the gratitude of the masses.

There is one other matter relating to agriculture on which I should like to say a few words. As you all know, pineapple growing is a promising and an ever-increasing industry in Assam. The province, however, is situated a long way from the centres in which these fruits are sold and therefore the cost of railway freight is an important factor. Calcutta is the usual market, but there are other centres, amongst which I would mention the city of Lucknow. Freight on pineapples to Lucknow *via* Pandu and Naihati is at $\frac{1}{4}$ parcels rate, but I am informed that freight from stations on the Rangiya-Rangapara, North section of the Eastern Bengal Railway is charged at $\frac{1}{2}$ parcels rate. From this, members will realise the handicap under which growers of pineapples on the North Bank are placed. I would, therefore, ask the Hon'ble Minister to enquire into the matter and to approach the Railway Company with a view to obtaining for growers on the North Bank the same freight concessions as those enjoyed by growers in other parts of Assam.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.25,383 under Grant No.21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Sub-head—(b)—Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (total), at page 159 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL: I fully support the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Dawson. What is the actual situation of the *mufossil* areas will be found, if one goes to the *mufossils*. There, whenever a trader buys a thing he does so at a weight of 90 tolas a seer but whenever he goes to sell, he sells at a short weight, *i.e.*, at a weight of 60 tolas per seer. So it will be realised, Sir, how the public are being cheated by the fraudulent traders in this respect. I may say that there was a Bill in the Central Legislature—Standardisation of Weights and Measures Bill—and I think the Provincial Government have also the right to pass such a Bill. Standard Weights and Measures Bill should regulate weights in the province. In this connection questions were asked by me in the previous session of the Assembly and in reply to the supplementary questions Government said that they were trying to obtain the opinion from the public and the district authorities and I understand that the volume of opinion was for introducing a standard weight for the *mufossil* areas. I hope, Sir, to meet this demand and to check these irregularities in the *mufossil* areas Government will soon bring in the Standard Weights and Measures Bill.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: I am very much grateful to the author of this motion, Sir, for giving us a chance to record our opinion on this matter. We find, Sir, that this sort of corruption is going on everywhere in the rural areas. Different weights are prevalent in different localities and corrupt and fraudulent traders take advantage of this, and deceive the poor people. Sir, to check this corruption throughout the province there should be one standard of measurement and this should be done by the Government. If the Government take this up in right earnest, this difference in weights can be brought to an end and the poor people will be saved from being cheated.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Sir, this question of standardisation of weights and measures is being given due consideration by the Government. Government tried their level best to come forward with a Bill for the standardisation of both weights and measures and for the purpose, facts and figures were collected and were taken into consideration. But for certain difficulties, such as measure by capacity in different localities vary great deal and also for other reasons, it was found difficult to draft a Bill for standardisation of both weights and measures. At present we have already drafted a Bill, *i. e.*, Standard Weights Bill. The question of standard measures by capacity has been proposed to be taken up after seeing the working of the Standard Weights Bill after it has been passed into an Act, for sometime. The question of measures is more complicated than that of weights. Sir, we have given our best attention to this question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the hon. member press his motion?

Mr. N. DAWSON: May I have a reply on the question of pineapples, Sir?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: This is a question to be dealt with by the Marketing Section. The other day when I was moving the motion for the extension of the Marketing Scheme for a further period of one year I dealt elaborately about the duties of this Marketing Section. It is the duty of the Marketing Section to deal with the question of giving the benefit of concession rates of freight to the producers. The point raised by the hon. mover will be looked into by the Marketing Section.

Mr. N. DAWSON: In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion, Sir. The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.29,094 under Grant No.21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110.

Sir, I have tabled this motion to criticise the policy of Government with regard to the Agriculture Department. Sir, it has been admitted by every successive Government that agriculture is the most important of all our nation-building activities. So I need not go to explain the utility of this Department, but I should like to give some suggestions to the Government for their consideration, and to give effect to some of them at least.

Sir, last year it was urged that we required more experimental farms. The Hon'ble Premier gave us some assurance that he would see that the experimental farms were increased in number. Some hon. member suggested that there should be one experimental farm in each *thana*, but the

Hon'ble Premier said that it was not possible, but he would consider whether one experimental farm for each district could be started. But from the budget figures we find, Sir, that the Government has not been able to give effect to that proposal.

Sir, the number of the seed farms has been increased only by a few this year, but it had also been urged several times that there should be at least one seed farm in each district, so that the agriculturists in rural areas may derive some real benefit from the Department.

Sir, I admit that so far as Demonstrators are concerned, Government have increased the number to a considerable extent. I say 'considerable' because in comparison to the existing number, the increment is rather encouraging, and I hope the Government will see their way to increase the number in such a way that the people of all the parts of the province can derive the benefit of demonstration.

Sir, I think it is high time that Government should take care to save the cultivators of Surma Valley so far as *pan* creeper is concerned. It was stated during the last session, in reply to a question of mine, that the Government was quite alive to the matter and they have engaged an officer who was examining the subject with a view to eradicate the disease and to save the *pan* cultivation, which was in a most dilapidated condition.

Sir, so far as sugarcane is concerned, Government on the very floor of this House told us several times that in some experimental farms most probably Titabar, they were trying to introduce better quality of sugarcane, and the cultivators will be supplied with better setts but, Sir, I may say, without any fear of contradiction, that this also has not received the attention of Government to that extent which it really deserves. This kind of small experiment cannot be of any real use to the agriculturists.

Sir, some hon. members have already spoken about jute in connection with the first cut motion. As regards jute, I shall simply say that better seeds should be introduced in the province if Government really wants to see the jute-growing people in a better condition.

Cotton also requires the special attention of Government. Nothing absolutely has been done in this direction.

Sir, in order to improve the condition of our cultivators, we must help them with better seeds, improved implements and better type of bullocks and teach them the improved method of cultivation. They should also be taught about the utility of manuring and rotation of crop. So, Sir, in my opinion, some improvement scheme is necessary in order to improve cultivation. If we can improve the lot of the peasants, the money which the Government are granting in the shape of land revenue remission, to which there were criticisms even from the European Group, may be avoided or at least considerably decreased. I say this, Sir, because if the condition of the agriculturists can be improved they will not require the assistance of Government in the shape of land revenue remission.

Lastly, Sir, before I resume my seat, I appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to give due consideration to the points that have been raised by me. The Government say that they have given some consideration to this Department although it may not be adequate due to paucity of funds. I think, Sir, that this Department being the most important particularly Department is not at all adequate and I hope that we shall have some assurance from the Government that they will try to improve the condition of the cultivators very soon by paying due attention to this Department.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.29,094 under Grant No.21, Major head—40.—Agriculture, Minor head—A.—Direction (total), at page 157 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.110, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,47,100 do stand reduced by Rs.110."

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Sir, I support the motion though not with a view to criticise the Government. I am not acquainted with the different policies adopted, and work done by the local officers in different places. So, I cannot criticise them. As regards Demonstrators, Mr. Mookerjee has said good deal and I agree with him, that Government are taking steps to increase the number of Demonstrators. When speaking about Demonstrators, may I know something about Lac Demonstrators? To a question on this subject, the reply was that we have only one officer trained in lac.

May I know the name of the person who has been trained in lac production, for what period he was trained, what is he doing now, and where is he doing his demonstration work? So far as I understand, there is one such man, but I do not know where he is working.

As regards the policy of the Agriculture Department, Sir, I remember that two typical Nagas were sent to the Garo Hills to demonstrate terrace cultivation there, we had discussed the question of introducing this in the Garo Hills. I was somewhat against the proposal, because for terrace cultivation you want a good clay soil so that the land will not be washed away by rain water. But the Deputy Commissioner and other members of the committee approved the proposal and these Nagas were kept for some months. Afterwards the Deputy Commissioner said that it was a failure and these Nagas were sent back. So the money was wasted. They were paid Rs.20 or so each per month.

Then as regards the experimental fruit gardens, I do not know how many persons are trying to follow the methods adopted by them. The experimental farm in Upper Shillong has been existing since 1897 and is still going on as an experimental farm. We do not know how many people are trying to adopt their experimental schemes. As regards apple, that fruit cannot be grown throughout Assam. Certain selected localities will be required for its cultivation. So sometimes it is futile altogether on the part of Government to experiment in such cultivation. As regards orange and pineapple, these are more useful than the foreign fruits like apples, etc.

Sir, in the Garo Hills I have been laying stress repeatedly before the Deputy Commissioner that gardening scheme should be taught and introduced there, because the *jhum* cultivation is not in a promising condition now and also because *jhum* cultivation is now looked down upon by the authorities who say that it should be discontinued and substituted by the other kind of cultivation. That is a serious question, Sir, because some of the Garo Hills have been living on this kind of cultivation from time immemorial and unless something is found to replace it, it will go hard with us. So, Sir, this cultivation is the most important question for even uncivilised people without any sort of education can depend on this kind of cultivation for their maintenance. So, Sir, I say that this kind should be taken up seriously by the Government. Not only this they should look into every branch of cultivation, e.g., jute, mustard, etc., so that the lot of the agriculturists may be improved. For these reasons, Sir, I support Mr. Mookerjee's motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate my friend, Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, for his very constructive speech and the suggestions he has offered therein. The items for improving the lot of our cultivators which he has enumerated I have noted down from 1 to 10 and every one of those has received our attention.

My hon. friend advocates the policy of more experimental farms and at least one seed farm in every district. As he has already quoted me, I also want to adopt the same policy. I may say that I have personally known, Sir, that the seeds that have been evolved by experiment in our seed farms are of an improved variety from the point of view of yield as compared with the indigenous ones. If we could replace the ordinary seeds by the seeds of the experimental farms, I am perfectly certain that the cultivator will get at least an additional 20 per cent. more of crops than he usually gets. We are moving in the same direction as has been advocated by my hon. friend.

Now as regards the blight on *pan* creepers, that attracted attention as early as ten years ago. Since then, our local Entomologist has tried to locate the disease and to find out why the *pan* creepers die out, but he failed. We have also had advice from the entomologist of the Government of India and some one from their office came and studied the disease. We have appointed an Entomological Assistant especially to combat *pan* disease from last year. We have yet to see whether his researches will bring any beneficial results, that is to say to have a blight-free *pan* creeper.

My hon. friend then said that sugarcane of an improved variety ought to be introduced throughout the province. For this purpose we have got only the Jorhat Farm, and as I have already said many a time before this House, thousands of cane setts are annually distributed throughout the province so that people may have the benefit of this improved variety, which is not only much longer, stouter, and more juicy, but also has a much larger sucrose content than the ordinary cane. I may quite admit, Sir, that one farm alone is not able to produce the large number of setts that will be required to bring about a revolution in sugar cultivation in this province. But that there has been a steady progress will be found in the remarks in the Annual Reports of the Agricultural Department.

As regards jute, my friend says that we should introduce better variety of jute. I have explained many times before that Chinsura Green variety of seeds is the best. This gives fine silken fibre. It is long and does not branch like the ordinary variety at a height of 4 feet. But as I mentioned, our cultivators are unwise and foolish not to adopt that variety of seeds which cost them 13 annas as against 13 pice per seer. They prefer the local variety. I hope every hon. member will carry this message to their peasantry, so that they may experiment with these seeds in a small plot and find out the difference.

My friends very rightly referred to cotton. A reference about the improvement of cotton was made by my absent friend Babu Nirendra Nath Dev in one of his maiden speeches. If the Cotton Committee grants us money to carry on experiment, we may try to improve the breed of cotton that is grown in Assam.

Then, my hon. friends suggested that the best way of improving the condition of people would be to allow facilities to the cultivators to have a better type of cattle. As regards this, we are doing our level best, but for

the blight of John's disease, the farms that we have got at Khanapara and Sylhet would have been able to issue quite a number of bulls which should have produced the desired end, but as John's disease was found among the animals, we have stopped issue of bulls from those farms. But the Live Stock Association which has been inaugurated by His Excellency the Viceroy is doing as much as they can as a semi-Government agency.

My hon. friends have given some commendation for the increase in the number of Demonstrators. I am quite in agreement when it is said that we ought to have more Demonstrators. The proper type of Demonstrators can teach people how to manure their field, how to make compost of their cow-dung and use offals of kitchen, etc., for manure.

Mr. Jobang Marak has said about lac. He has a right to know about this lac as he is our representative in the Lac Cess Committee at Nagpur. It is grown in the Mikir Hills and also in the Garo Hills. We deputed a Mikir boy to the Namkum School for training and posted to Mikir Hills where he is doing his level best and we will see if his services can be transferred to the Garo Hills.

I hope, I have given sufficient indication of the Government policy on the very constructive suggestions made by my friends. And I hope, after hearing me, the hon. mover will withdraw cut motions.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In view of what the Hon'ble Premier has said, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me now put the substantive motion. The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,47,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1942, for the administration of the head '40.—Agriculture'."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M., on Monday, the 24th March, 1941.

SHILLONG :

The 23rd May, 1941.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.