

### Proceeding 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 Monday, the 3rd March 1941.

#### Present

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

Correction Slip No. 2 of 1941.

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

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

SHILLONG:

The 15th July 1941.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

A. G. P. (L.A.) No.85-500-16-7-1941.

### STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

# Scholarship to the son of Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das, M. L. A.

# Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked:

- \*1. Will Government be pleased to state—
  - (a) What scholarship was awarded to the son of Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das, M.L.A., to prosecute his studies in Bombay?

(b) What are the qualifications of this candidate?

(c) Whether there were any other candidates for this scholarship?

(d) If so, what are their names?

(e) Whether the award of this scholarship was advertised for public information?

### The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied:

1. (a)—A special scholarship of Rs.50 per mensem tenable for six months was awarded to enable the candidate to undergo a course of training to qualify himself as a Sanitary Inspector.

(b)-Non-matriculate with three years' training in a Medical Institute.

(c)-No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e) — No.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: May I know why the award was not

advertised in the papers?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY Government advertised in the Gazette that some Sanitary Imspectors would be required for the Golaghat Health Unit and those who had not got the requisite qualifications should qualify themselves at the Samtary Institute at Bombay. This candidate was the only one who approached the (conethment for a special scholarship.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Was there any advertisement in the

papers?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: No such advertisement was published in the Assam Gazette?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHARRAVARTY

It was not considered necessary.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: How could the candidates know that

the Government intended to give a scholarship ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY No candidate knew whether the Government would give a scholarship or This applicant of his own accord applied for a scholarship

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Why did the Government change their intention and awarded the scholarship to the son of Srijut Bhairab Chandra

Das?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY

There was no change of intention.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Then why was it granted at all ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Because he belongs to a very backward community labour and it is the policy of the Government to help people belonging to backward communities wherever possible.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: When the Government thought it fit to help members of the backward communities, why was it not advertised in the press that members of those communities may apply for a scholarship?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: There was no time for any advertisement because the candidate had already applied to the Sanitary Institute at Bombay for a seat and also approached the Government for a scholarship, and in view of the fact that the post was for Golaghat, and he belonged to Golaghat, Government thought that he was the best person for the award of a scholarship as he was acquainted with the conditions prevailing in the Golaghat subdivision.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Am I not right in saying that this

scholarship was awarded just to please Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I cannot allow such a question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government give scholarships to members of the backward communities if they receive applications from them?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:

Their cases are always considered.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In that case will Government be pleased to advertise it in the Gazette?

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Otherwise it may be done by private

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
Certainly not; there is no question of any private arrangement.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: For what period will this scholarship be tenable?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:
I have already replied to that, Sir.

#### Election to certain Municipalities

### Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

- \*2. Will Government be pleased to state-
  - (a) The respective dates on which the elections of Jorhat and Shillong Municipalities were held?
  - (b) The respective dates on which the nominations to these two Municipalities were made?

### The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAU-DHURY replied:

- 2. (a)—The information is as follows:—
  - (i) Jorhat-16th May 1940.
  - (ii) Shillong-24th August 1940.
  - (b) (i) Jorhat—21st February 1941.
    - (ii) Shillong -28th January 1941.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: With regard to (b), why did the Government take such a long time to make nominations to these Municipalities?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAU-DHURY: The whole position is like this. In nominating members Government had to take into consideration the interests of the different communities, the sections of the communities, the area occupied by such communities, and the tax paid by each community, and above all the future sound administration of the Boards. So Government had to take time to take into consideration all these factors.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that only in the case of Shillong all these points were taken into consideration, or was it the case in the case of all Municipalities?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAU-

DHURY: With regard to all Municipalities.

Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: What was the special consideration

in case of these?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Government had to take all these factors into consideration before making the nominations.

## Collection of War subscriptions

## Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked

\*3. Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) The names of Government employees who have collected Wat subscriptions? (To be shown exhibit assots by exhibit assots
- (b) The amount realised by each of them up to 15th January 1941
- (c) The names of the subscribers who pand Re 20 and always . In be shown subdivision by subdivision.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

3. (a) to (c)—Government have not this information, and consider that it is for the Committee which is responsible for raising the fund to publish any such particulars that they doe in fit

### Medical Institution at Sylhet

### Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked

\*4. Will Government be pleased to state

- (a) Whether they have arrived at a decision regarding the opening of a Medical Institution at Sylhet ?
- (b) If not, will Government be pleased to state when they intend to decide it finally?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied:

4. (a)-No.

4

(b)—As soon as all facts and figures are available.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister please say when this Institute was built?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I think the construction of the main building was completed some time in 1931-32.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: At what cost?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: About eight and a half lakh of rupecs.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state

what is the reason why so little progress has been made?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:

Because no funds were available for taking up the project.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are we to understand that the Government has collected facts and figures for the last ten years and they have not yet been able to take action?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Government is collecting further facts and certain figures after the recommendation of the Committee that was appointed by the Government to advise Government as regards the possibility of starting the Medical School at Sylhet and as regards the raising of the status of the Berry-White Medical School.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that the voting on the matter was practically east on valley lines?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

Does that question arec, "ir

The Hom'ble the SPEAKER: I do not think this question is in

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government is taking advan-

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It contains insinuation. Therefore it

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know when Govern-

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

# Definition of "Assamese culture"

## Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

- 1. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Revenue Department be
  - (a) Whether he stated in a meeting at Nowgong that the immigrants should adopt Assamese language and culture if they desire to
  - (b) It so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to define what he

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

- 1. (a) -- No.
  - (b)—Does not arise.

# Special Officer for the scheme of a University in Assam

# Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

2. (a) Is it a fact that a Special Officer has been appointed to prepare a scheme for the establishment of a University in Assam?

- (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the hard officer has got any knowledge of Islamic Education so as to be able to make provision in the Bill for the education of Muslim boys specially suited to their needs?
- (c) If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a Muslim Officer specially to prepare a scheme for Muslim Education?

### The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied

2. (a)—Yes.

(b)-As regards the details of courses of study it will be a matter for the Board of Studies to be set up under the Act.

(c)—This does not arise.

### Ratio of Government services for Assam Valley Muslims and Surma Valley Muslims

#### Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

3. (a) Is it a fact that Government have fixed a ratio of Government service for Assam Valley Muslims and Surma Valley Muslims according to population basis?

(b) If so, while fixing the ratio of Assam Valley Muslims, whether the Immigrant Muslims were also included in determining the number of

Assam Valley Muslims?

(c) If the reply to question No. 3(b) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to give preserence to the lumigrant candidates for Government service?

(d) Are Government aware that the immigrants form an appreciably large number of the Assam Valley Muslims, that their representation in Government service is poor and that they are backward in education?

## The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

3. (a)—Not yet: the matter is under examination.

(b)—Does not arise. (c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Government do not dispute the hon, member's statement.

# Scholarships and Grants-in-aid to schools in immigrant areas

# Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

4. (a) Are Government aware that the immigrants are educationally

backward in this province?

(b) If so, do Government propose to provide special facilities for their education in the form of scholarships to individuals and grants-in-aid to the schools in the immigrant areas?

# The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

### 4. (a) - Yes.

(8)—Government is already giving special grants to schools in the immigrant areas.

The whole question of the provision of scholarships is under consideration.

### Agricultural Income-tax Department

#### Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked:

- 5. (a) Is it a fact that Government propose to recruit some officers for the Agricultural Income-tax Department?
- (b) If so, do Government propose to take some officers in that Department from the scheduled caste communities?

# The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

- 5. (a)—Yes, two Income-tax Officers and one Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural Income-tax.
- (b)—Government cannot hold out any promise but appointment will be made according to the decfared policy regarding communal representation, compatible with the applicant holding the requisite qualifications.

# Settlement of lands in Hakaluki and Langai Reserves

## Babu BALARAM SIRCAR asked:

- 6. Will Government be pleased to state—
  - (a) Whether it is a fact that some reserved land in the Hakaluki and Langai Reserve in the Karimganj subdivision of the Sylhet district will be thrown open for settlement to the public?
  - (b) If so, will Government be pleased to state how many bighas of land in Hakaluki and how many bighas in Langai Reserve will be thrown open for settlement giving the areas and the boundaries of each plot of land to be settled separately?
  - (c) Whether these tracts of land will be given in settlement to the landless poor cultivators directly by Government or through some Agencies?
  - (d) Whether Government are aware that the scheduled caste people are generally landless and poor?

- (e) Whether Government propose to consider the cases of the scheduled caste people who have applied or will apply for settle. ment of such land?
- (f) Whether Government prognose to consult the meaniness of the Legislative Assembly residing near these lands at the time of the said settlement !
- 7. Are Government aware that Habri Halaram Sarcar, with bringht to the notice of Government in the last Budget Session about the settlement of some reserve land in the Pargona of Velkurs under the Police Statute Chamkuri in the district of Nowgong ?
- 8. Are Government aware that some landless families of village librara. kuri under the above mentioned Police Station, applied for the same band and Government gave assurance in the last Budget beisson to consider their case, if the said land would be thrown open for scattlement if
- 9. If the replies to questions Nos. 7 and 8 are in the athirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the above mentioned reserve lated will be thrown open for settlement and whether the case of the saul laralless families will be favourably considered ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

6. (a)-(f)-The hon, member is referred to the toply given to unstarred question No. 144 asked by Bahu Rahmder Nath Adutya, M. 1 . at the November, 1940 session of the Assembly

7-9. Government gave no assurance in the last Budget Session that any grazing reserves would be thrown open to settlement, so the questions do not arise; landless persons should apply for land which is available for settlement under the Development Scheme.

Governor's message communicating allotment of days for the presentation of Budget, general discussion of Budget, voting on Demands for grants, etc.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I now announce the message from His Excellency the Governor regarding the allotment of days during the

(1) Presentation of the Budget;

(2) General Discussion of the Budget;

(3) Voting on Demands for Grants; (4) Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1940.

(5) Discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 of the Act;

#### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE RE ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR VARIOUS STAGES OF DISCUS-SION OF BUDGET

- (6) Moving for further Demands for Grants ;
- (7) Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants; and
- Il Presentation of the Schedules of authorised expenditure.

There the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 78, section 79, sub-section 2 of section 80 and section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and in purpose of rules 13, 15(1), 16(1), 17, 18(1), 18(2) and 19 of the Amain Logislature Amenday (Governor's) Rules, I Robert Niel Reid, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the Statement of Latinated Receipts and Expenditure of the Province for the real 1941-42 and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof and for the presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the Supplementary Statement of Lapsenditure for the year 1940-41 and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Legislative Assembly during its March Session, 1941, namely

Monday, the 3rd March

Thursday, the 6th March,

Friday, the 7th March, Saturday, the 8th March.

Saturday, the 15th March, Monday, the 17th March, Tuesday, the 18th March, Saturday, the 22nd saarch, Monday, the 24th March Saturday, the 15th March

Thursday, 20th March, }
Friday, the 21st March, }

Saturday, the 29th March

Presentation of the Budget for the year 1941-42 in the Legislative Assembly.

- 1. General discussion in the Legislative
- 2. Discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the province, other than estimates relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 78 of the Act.

Voting on Demands for Grants in the Legislative Assembly.

Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1940-41 in the Legislative Assembly.

- 1. Further Demands for Grants, if
- 2. Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure Charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1940-41.

3. Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1940-41.

Placing of the authenticated Schedules of authorised expenditure

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to

Shillong, The 27th February 1941. R. N. REID,

#### Allotment of days for private members' business by the Hon'ble Speaker

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I now atmospher the number of that: allotted by me for private members' business during the present session

In pursuance of rule 17 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with the Hon ble the Prame Manier the following days for private members' business during the present season of the Assam Legislative Assembly, 1941 :-

Monday, the 10th March (I Private members' Bills Tuesday, the 25th March. private members' resolutions

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

#### Statement " course of Government business

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement about the source of

Government business during this session

2. The Government business which is to be taken up to-day and to more row is already shown in the day's agenda, a copy of which has been placed on each member's table. I need not detail it again. If the motion for taking into consideration of the Assam Finance Bill, 1941, is arrepted by the House to-day or to-morrow, we propose that this Bill be considered clause by clause on the 27th March and then to move that it be passed. If the introduction of the Assam University Bill is also accepted by the House to day of the morrow we propose to move on the 11th March that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. On the same date we propose to take up, item by item, the Report of the Privilege Committee and also propose to move for taking into consideration the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the following Government Bills :-

(a) The Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939;
(b) The Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939;
(c) The Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1940

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

- (e) The Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940. We also prosent on this day (i.e., 11th March) the Select of Propose to present on this day (i.e., 11th March) the Select Com-
  - (i) The Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1940,

(ii) The Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940,

(iii) The Assam Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1940,

and to move for consideration of these Bills as reported by the Select Comand to move for consideration of these bills were referred to mittee. Hon, members will remember that these Bills were referred to mittee. Hon, includes the first November session of the Assem-We further propose to introduce on the same day the Assam Revenue Tribunal Bill, 1941, and to move for its consideration.

unal Bill, 1941, and 3. On the 27th March we propose to take the Assam Motor Vehicles. Rules, 1940, item by item, for consideration and adoption.

- 4 If the motions for taking into consideration, the amendments made by the Assam Legislative Council on the five Bills already mentioned are accepted by the House on the 11th March, we propose to take up the consideration of further amendments, if any, to the amendments made by the Amain Legislative Council on these Bills on the 27th March.
  - 5 If the motions for consideration of
    - the Amain (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy (Amendment Bill, 1940,
    - n the Assam Maternity Benefit Bill, 1940 and

m the Asiam Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1940 as reported by the Select Committee and the motion for consideration of the Assam Revenue Tribunal Sill, 1941, are accepted by the House on the 11th March, 1941, we propose to have these Bills considered clause by clause on the 27th and 28th March and then to move that they be passed.

6. We also propose to take up any unforeseen Government business on the 29th March after the disposal of Government business allotted for that

day.

### Committee on Petitions relating to Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under rule 112(1) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current session of the Assem-1.14:

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das,

2. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali,

3. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett, and 4. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy

Under the rules, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

#### House Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Under rule 126 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following members to Constitute a House Committee for the current session of the Assembly :-

1. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,

2. Srijut Ramnath Das,

3. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed,

4. Mr. N. Dawson,

5. Maulavi Mabarak Ali, and 6. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.

#### Governor's Assent to Bills

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Information has been received from the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam that, under the provision of section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency

the Governor has assented to the following Bell: which were print Chambers of the Assam Legislature -

(1) The Assam Local Board Electron: Fenergenes Francisco Edition

(2) The Civil Procedure Assum Amendment Ball, 1949

(3) The Assam Motor Vehicles Lagation Amendment 15 to 1940

(4) The Assam Provincial Legislature Removal of Indian above at the street. (Amendment) Bill, 1940

(5) The Assam Deputy President's Salary Amendment B. 1. 1940

(6) The Assam President's Salary Assessed ment fin 1144.

(7) The Temporary Postponement of Legisland of Decrees in 1938

Messages from the Assam Legislative Council on (1) the Coalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, (2 the Sylhet I chancy (Amend ment) Bill, 1939, (3) the Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 1940, (4) The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments (Amendmen) Bill, 1940 and (5) the Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940 copies of Bills, as amended by the Council, laid on the table

The SECRETARY to the Assembly his, unries rule lung a the Assam Legislative Council Rules, the Serretary to the Assam Legislative Council has informed me that the following Bills which were passed to the: House during the last November session of the Assemble were press I south amendments by the Assam Legislative Council on the dates as tell remort each:

1. Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1939, 15th January 1941

2. The Sylhet Tenancy Amendment Bill, 1939, 16th January 1941 3. The Assam Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's I Salarice and Allies ances) Bill, 1940, 14th January 1941

4. The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emolyments (Amendment) Bill, 1940, 16th January 1941

5. The Assam Embankment and Drainage Bill, 1940, 14th January

Sir, under rule 135 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I lay on the table a copy of each of the Bills as amended by the Assam Legislative

The amendments made by the Council have been indicated in the printed copies of the Bills. The Assam Legislative Council requests the concurrence of the Assam Legislative Assembly to the amendments

# Re: Loud Speaker arrangement to hear the Finance Minister's Budget speech from outside

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that the loud speaker does not operate here. Mr. Speaker, Sn., I and the Hon'ble Finance Minister reads his Budget speech, the request that when the Florible Finance Minister reads his Budget spece loud speaker should operate for the convenience of the public outside.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, I shall see to it.

The Hon bie the state of the state of the Hon bie the speaker for the speaker for the hon bie the speaker for the hon bie the speaker for the speaker hon, members know that generally we do not put up the loud speaker for the outside people, but if there is any important speech, I shall ask the Secretary to make the proper arrangement,

### Presentation of the Budget for 1941-42 and Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Finance

Minister will now present the Budget,

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAH-MAN: Mr. Spe. ker, Sir, under the provision of section 78 of the Covernment of India Act, 1935, the "Annual Financial Statement", or the Budget for the year 1941-42, is laid before the Legislature, and as usual I rise to introduce the same.

The hon'ble members will perhaps be interested to hear the history of the word "budget". The word "budget", is derived from the French bougette, a diminution of the old French bouge, meaning a small leather big or wallet. In its present sense the word was first used in 1733 in connection with Walpole's financial scheme in a satire entitled "The Budget Opened", Walpole was represented in this pamphlet as a conjuror, the budget being his wallet or bag of tricks. To this day, English newspapers publish photographs, on Budget Day, of the Chancellor of the Exchequer with an attache case in his hand containing his financial proposals while going to the House of Commons to make his budget speech. The meaning of the word "budget" has shifted from the bag to the documents which the bag contains, that is, to the financial proposals which the Chancellor of the Exchequer puts before the Parliament every year. of the Listing of India Act 1927 in sections 33 and The Allitan The Government of India Act, 1935, is "a statement of 78 of the Charles and expenditure for the financial year" and is generally known as the budget.

From the above historical genesis of the word 'budget', Sir, I do not wish to convey the impression that I am attempting to I do not we all a conjuror or to entertain you with a bag of play the I do not possess the fact and skill to treat you to a jugglery of figures but I shall attempt to present the budget in a

simple, humble and unpretentious way.

Hon'ble members may ask, what good it does the country having a budget. It only means worrying before you spend the money instead of after. The budget is the starting point of financial control by the Executive as well as by the Legislature. It is the basis of orderly finance, without which there can be no lasting social progress. Apart from financial control, the main object in preparing a budget is the enforcement of economy. The balancing of the budget is the first requisite of financial stability and occupies the same place in financial administration

tration. One or two deficit budgets in succession may not perhaps matter and may be condoned if due to conceptional carcumstances, but a Government which habitually budgetted for more expenditure than the revenue at its disposal would room suffer in financial credit. Unbalanced budgets are bound, sooner or later, to weaken the faith of investors and to head to monetary inflation, which, if uncontrolled, will terminate in national disaster.

These remarks have a direct bearing on the Budget I am going to present before you; as, I do not mind telling you at the outset that the current year's Revised Estimate shows a revenue deficit of Trs.2,96 and the Budget of the coming scar estimates a revenue deficit of Trs. 11,89. These deficits cannot be regarded with complacence, particularly when we have not been able to find ways and means to cover them. In the absence of any other measure of taxation due to the deplorable comomic condition of the people, the only other means of meeting this deficit is by retrenchment. I must confess that the consideration of the retrenchment proposals had been delayed on account of our preoccupations and mainly on account of the unfortunate illness of our Hon'ble Premier. But their consideration except the recommendations relating to scales of pay for the new entrants to various services has just been completed, and it is hoped that we will be able to give effect to our decisions in due course reducing thereby our deficit to certain extent. At present we propose to meet the deficit from our closing balance. Hon'ble members will remember that we have to maintain a statutory minimum balance of 18 lakhs - 13 lakhs in treasuries and 5 lakhs in credit with the Reserve Bank of India.

The Budget Statement usually has two parts one consisting of a survey of the past, and the other a forecast of the future. The budget for a particular year comes before the House three times—firstly in the form of estimates about a month before the commencement of the year, secondly with the necessary adjust-before the close of the year, and thirdly in its final shape precisely heads about eleven months after the termination of that year. Thus according to the usual convention, I am presenting today and the Actuals for 1941-42 with the Revised for 1940-41 and involved matters and will refrain from overloading my particulars in the Detailed Estimates and necessary explanations in the lucid memorandum of the Finance Secretary.

### Actuals of 1939-40

I will now go back to the year 1939-40. The Revised Estimates for the year 1939-10 placed the receipts for the year at Trs. 8, 26, 57 and the expenditure at Trs. 8, 33, 22, thus anticipating a deficit of Trs. 6,65. The final accounts of the year however showed that receipts amounted to Trs.8,62,84 and charges to Trs. 8, 43, 69, thus resulting in a surplus of Trs. 19, 15. This difference was due to better results under the principal revenue heads, especially under 'Land Revenue' and also to a drop in the estimated expenditure. On the whole, the excess of expenditure charged to revenue over revenue which was estimated at Trs. 18,26 in the Revised turned into an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to Trs. 1,00. This is the first time within the last thirteen years when the actual revenue exceeded actual revenue expenditure. The increase in revenue receipts was due to carlier collection of land revenue under 'Temporarily Settled Estates' owing to rise in prices, while the decrease in expenditure was due to expenditure on works financed from the petrol tax and other Central Government grants proceeding less rapidly than anticipated. I refer the hon'ble members to page 9 of the Memorandum of the Budget for the detailed account of 1939-40. I now come to the Revised Estimates for 1940-41.

# Revised Estimates for 1940-41

The estimates for 1940-41 showed a revenue surplus of Trs.4,98. The opening balance was Trs.20,59 and the closing 1940-41 a revenue deficit of Trs.2,96 is shown and the opening balance is raised from Trs.20,59 to Trs.46,39 and the closing balance from Trs.20,21 to Trs.51,47. The increase in the opening balance of the Revised Estimates is due, as I have already stated, months of the year 1939-40 owing to rise in prices and to the surplus of 4,98 shown in the original budget estimates is going variations in income and expenditure—

- (1) The revenue from customs is expected to fall from the estimate of Trs.13,68, to Trs.11,50 in view of the progress of actuals.
- (2) Under the head 'Taxes on Income' a fall of Trs.15,74 is expected. The current year's Budget estimated Trs.35,00 from Agricultural Income-tax, that is, Trs.10,00 for 1939-40 and Trs.25,00 for 1940-41. The actuals indicate that Trs.12,00

will be realised from this source for 1939, 40 But to 1940-41 assessments are just commencing, and in sign of this scar is experience, it is estimated that not more than Ir: " (a) will be realised in the current year. Against this, however, we repost to get Irs. 7,82 as our share of imcome-tax from the taxonment of India in place of the estimate of Tradian

(3) Due to the termination of the Stamp and Court Fees (Amendment) Acts and the establishment of Tache Commission

Boards, a fall of Trs. 1,07 in stamp revenue in expected

(4) There will be a decrease in receipts his In: 11 unilet Public Health, due to smaller expenditure anterpared trent the grant for the economic development of rural areas which is are vered by a contribution from the Constitution of India

(5) There will be a decrease in receipts by Tr. 2.96 under the head 'Civil Works' mainly due to smaller expenditure on Petrol-tax projects financed from the Central Road Development Fund as a result of restrictions placed by the Constitution of India on such expenditure owing to the war and to smaller expenditure on projects financed from the surplus of the Proximal Motor Vehicles Taxation Act owing to the progests and learns ready in time.

The expected deficit of Trs. 2.96 at the slowe of the year will justify itself when we take into account the fact that the revised revenue receipts show a fall of Tra 8,95 from the cattmated ones, but the revenue expenditure is kept below the extimated one by Trs. 1,01 despite the fact that we had to exceed

the estimated expenditure under the following heads:

Interest on debt and other obligations		100
Education (Mass Literacy Campaign,		1 . 1 . 1
Land Revenue	1.0	 90
Extraordinary charges (war contribution)	5.7.1	4()
The state of the s		

The closing balance is estimated to be Trs.51,47, i.e., Trs.5,08 in excess of the opening balance, and as there will be no treasury bills or ways and means advances outstanding on 31st March 1941, the province may be said to be in a fairly sound position. It must be pointed out, however, that this substantial balance is mainly the result of the loan of Rs. 50,00,000 floated

# Budget Estimate for 1941-42

Now I come to the Budget Estimate for 1941-42. It starts with an opening balance of Trs.51,47. The Revenue receipts are estimated at Trs.3,13,01 against the Revised Estimate of Trs. 3,15,27 and the Revenue expenditure is estimated at Trs. 3,24,90 against the Revised Estimate of Trs. 3,18;23. The capital receipts are estimated at Trs. 3,24,94 against the Revised for the current year of Trs. 5,33,93 or a decrease of Trs. 2,08,99 as detailed below:

Tis 50,00. As it is proposed not to issue any loan this year.

Trs 35,00 As it will not be necessary to issue treasury bills while it is estimated that ways and means advances to the extent of Trs.15,00 only will be necessary in the lean months of the year, i.e., November and December against Trs. 25,00 taken in the current year.

Trs. 4,39 - Decrease in subvention from the Central Road Develop-

Trs. B3 Decrease in the grant for the economic development of the

Trs.74.80—"Suspense" as from the Budget year the Reserve Bank suspense head will be adjusted by the deduct entry method instead of being debited and credited separately in the capital receipts and expenditure heads.

The capital expenditure is estimated at Trs.3,17,55 against Trs.5,25,89 in the Revised. The estimates under most heads practically follow receipt heads, except that the head 'Loans and Advances' shows an increase of Trs.70 mainly due to a provision of Trs.1,00 for a loan to the Provincial Co-operative Bank.

The notable items of expenditure during the next year are Trs. 90 for 'Prohibition Propaganda', Trs. 87 for charges of the second general election, Trs. 1,24 for the Mass Literacy Campaign, a sum of Trs. 10 for compulsory primary education in urban areas, a sum of Trs. 40 for expansion of primary education in rural areas, a sum of Trs. 18 for Madrassa education, a sum of Trs. 25 for secondary education, a sum of Trs. 15 for strengthening the subordinate inspecting staff, a sum of Trs. 84 for establishment of a Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic at Shillong, a sum of Trs. 33 for a health unit at Golaghat, a sum of Trs. 25 for widening the Dowki-Sylhet road and a sum of Trs. 25 for improvement of Local Board communications.

The estimates show a deficit of revenue receipts as compared with the expenditure charged against revenue of Trs.11,89. The Budget also provides for the continuance in 1941-42 of the further remission of and revenue totalling Rs.12 lakhs first sanctioned in 1939.

It is noteworthy that the Budget shows a closing balance of Trs.46,57 as against Trs.20,21 of the current year and Trs.51,47 of the Revised Estimate of 1940-41.

Since the Budget was framed, information has been received that in the current year our share of the Excise duty on jute is likely to be Trs.10,58 against Trs.11,50 provided in the Revised, while the Budget Estimate of Trs.11,50 has been raised to Trs.11,79. On the other hand, our share of Central Income-tax has been raised both in the Revised and in the Budget from Trs.7,82 and Trs.8,50 to Trs.8,32 and Trs.8,92 respectively. Again, the latest estimates from the Forest Department indicate that the Forest revenue in the current year is likely to be Trs.22,25 against Trs.21,18 in the Revised. The net effect of these variations will be to reduce the revenue deficit in the Revised from Trs.2,96 to Trs.2,31 and in the Budget from Trs.11,89 to Trs.11,18.

As regards the debt position of the Province, it may be noted that the loan of Rs.50 lakhs which was floated during the current financial year was partly utilised in the reparament of treasury bills of the same amount which were outstanding on the 1st of April 1940 and partly in enabling Government to carry on the ordinary activities of the Province without having recourse to the issue of ways and means advances or treasury bills. As the estimated closing balance for the year 1941-42 shows, most of the loan of Rs.50 lakhs is still available for expenditure for the purpose for which it was floated. During the lean months of the Budget year, however, it is estimated that ways and means advances to the extent of Rs.15 lakhs will be necessary to carry on the normal business.

A sinking fund for the repayment of the loan of Rs. 50 lakhs has already been started and in the current year the sum of Trs. 2,60 was invested in the Punjab and the United Provinces Governments' 3 per cent. loans, 1952. In the year 1941-42 the depreciation fund have been provided. This latter sum shich is equivalent to 1½ per cent. of the amount of the loan value of the loan. If not required for this purpose, it will be manner most advantageous to the province.

The unfunded debt of the province on the 1st of April 1940 amounted to Trs.1,04,03, which, it is estimated, will rise to debt represents the subscriptions to various Provident Funds, a came into being,

To sum up, the province has got to pay a debt of Rs.50 lakhs on account of the loan recently taken and an unfunded debt of

Trs. 1, 10, 19 on account of the Provident Fund deposits.

The Budget, as I have indicated before, is a deficit one, and this is for the single reason that a progressive Government in the discharge of its manifold responsibilities must necessarily go on increasing its scale of expenditure on nation-building activities. I am not altogether hopeless about the financial condition of the province, for I believe that, with the employment of our own staff, we shall be able to make up the loss in the receipts from agricultural income-tax within the next two years, if not in the next. Moreover, I expect a rise in the receipts from land revenue on account of the initiation of the contemplated development schemes and from Forest on account of the increased supply of timber for the war and a fall in expenditure in consequence of retrenchments to be effected as a result of our decisions on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

The Ministry, inspired by an ardent desire to effect an allround improvement in the moral, intellectual, economic and material condition of the people of the country and in the best interests of the province have provided a sum of seven Jakhs on new schemes, which have been shown in the Memorandum of the Budget from page 86 onwards. From Appendix A to the Memorandum of the Budget it will be seen that the nationbuilding departments have had a large share in the allotment—

r teration	{	Non-recurring Recurring	•••		Rs. 8,247	
Education			•••	•••	1,77,803	
Medical Public Healt	}	Non-recurring	***	***	40,045	
		Recurring	•••	•••	46,334	
	<b>1</b>	Non-recurring	•••	•••	20,815	
Public Treat	ر	Recurring	•••	•••	39,265	
Agriculture	J	Non-recurring	•••	•••	8,850	
	[	Recurring	•••	• •••	23,830	
Veterinary	5	Non-recurring	•••	•••	3,895	
	[	Non-recurring Recurring	•••	•••	13,215	
	$\int$	Non-recurring	•••	•••	29,650	
Industries	5	Non-recurring Recurring	•••	•••	21,717	

Land Revenue.—After this analysis, I now proceed to discuss the main heads of receipts and expenditure in detail. First of all, I come to Land Revenue.

The temporary reduction of land revenue granted for the revenue year 1939-40 cost Government about R: 12 laking apost and above the remission previously sanctioned, totalling about 28 lakhs. These remissions have been continued for the revenue year 1940-41 also. Though there were no serious floods in the current year and despite the rise in the prices of agricultural produce, Government, after enquiry, found that the same had not yet recovered from the effects of the calamities of the previous years and that the rise in the prices of agricultural produce is counterbalanced by the rise in the prices of other communities due to the War. It is hoped that this substantial measure of relief to the raights will enable them to build up their resources.

Besides this, remissions are also granted under the ordinary rules in cases of persons who, on account of their powerty, cannot pay the land revenue. The amount sanctioned so far in the current year is about Rs.10,000.

Government have come to a definite decision as regards the policy on the vexed question of the Line System and finding land for the landless people in a manner which, it is expected, will be satisfactory to all concerned. To give effect to the policy outlined in their Resolution of 21st June 1940 a Special Officer has been appointed for the constitution and opening out of development areas for providing land to the landless people whether indigenous or immigrant. The officer is now touring in four districts of the Assam Valley examining areas for the putpose. It is hoped that, when the schemes are brought into being, the problem will be finally solved. The Legislature and the public are expected to help to make this policy of Government a success.

For affording relief to the raiyats in the matter of indebtedness, as observed by the Prime Minister last year, Debt Conciliation Boards have been constituted in many districts. At Dhubri 1, Nowgong 1, Tezpur 1, Mangaldai 1, Sylhet 5 (one in Ministry have provided an additional sum of Rs.46,000 in the Budget over the current year's provision to cover the cost of Boards. It may be mentioned that the Boards in the Gauhati whole of the year ending 30th June 1940, settled 1,411 cases Rs.2,75,378. From July to November 1940 the Boards which agreement was reduced to have functioned settled 639 cases involving Rs.2,11,085 which by agreement was reduced to Rs.1,37,254.

To afford relief to the peasantry groaning under the load of any debts, the Ministry have enacted the Temporary Postmement of Execution of Decrees Act and are about to bring a Assam Money-lenders' Bill sponsored by Mr. Abdul Aziz on Statute Book. It is hoped that these debt legislations will attrially help the people in the country side.

The Tenancy Bills now before the Legislature have been undertaken with a view to place the relations between the land-

lord and the tenants on a more satisfactory basis.

It may be mentioned that Government are doing their best to save old families of landlords from ruin by taking over the management of their estates under the Court of Wards. During the current year seven encumbered estates in Sylhet have been taken over by the Court of Wards in spite of administrative difficulties. There are also five applications under enquiry.

It will be remembered that large advances were made in the past to cultivators under the Agriculturists' Loan Act. The balance of agricultural loans outstanding on the 1st April 1940 was T1s.6,56. Of this, due to hardship, a sum of Trs.1,15 had already been remitted in course of the year and it is anticipated that further remission will bring the total for the year to Trs.1,20 as shown in the Revised Estimates. In the absence of floods and other calamities during the year, the original estimate of Trs.1,10 provided for the grant of agricultural loans in the current year was not wholly spent. On the basis of actuals and in anticipation of a normal year, a sum of Rs.50,000 only has been budgetted for the next year.

Three small new schemes for the Revenue Department are detailed at pages 86 and 87 of the Budget Memorandum.

Excise.—Then I come to Provincial Excise. The total revenue budgetted for the current year was Trs.30,97. Revised for the same year is Trs.33,33 and the estimated revenue for 1941-42 Trs.33,06. There has not been a fall in revenue on account of the fact that there was an increase in consumption on accountry spirit due to the continued activities of the Excise of country spin matter of suppressing illicit distillation, excessive staff in the matter of suppressing illicit distillation, excessive manufacture of pachwai and shop mal-practices, the continued of the tea industry in checking illigit it continued co-operation of the tea industry in checking illicit distillation in garden areas by opening lessee-managed shops and by helping in carrying out excise raids and the resort of opium consumers to country spirit. (Hear, hear.) But there has been a marked fall in the opium revenue in consequence of the policy adopted by the Government. The effect of this policy is seen in the fact-that the revenue, which was Trs. 38,26 in the year before its adoption (1927-28), fell to Trs. 10,07 in 1938-39 and Trs. 5,20 in 1939-40.

The receipt from opium was estimated at Trs 2,26 for 1940-41, whereas the income is estimated at Try 1,13 for 1941-42. The consumption of opium was reduced from 626 maund: 18 seers to 183 maunds 6 seers in 1938-39 and is expected to fall considerably in the coming year, due to adoption of a policy of total prohibition in the included areas of the province.

When the Hon'ble Premier made the statement in the course of his last budget speech that, with the introduction of the accelerated reduction of rations the province should be free of registered addicts in about two years' time and that the desideratum of an opium-free Assam can be achieved without a costly prohibition scheme, my friends of the opposition received that statement with a certain amount of masgiving natural to them. (Hear, hear.) But I am in a position to tell the House to-day that that statement, having proceeded from a man who had all along been consistently and sincerely advocating the aborlition of opium revenue from 1912 onwards, was only too true. I may remind the House that the prohibition of opium, which is now a settled fact, had been achieved, not as a result of agitation by the Congress party alone, but as a result of dogged and sustained effort on the part of the public-spirited patriots. A coice like you) who adorned the old Assam Council of the pre-Montague-Chelmsford-Reform days. (Hear, hear.)

I crave the indulgence of the House for diving into the past a little in order to make a passing reference to their activities. As a result of public agitation, the Government of Assam appointed a committee to enquire into the opium and ganja habits in Assam in the year 1912, which was presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Botham. In pursuance of the recommendations of that committee, the Government, having already reduced the number of shops, in order to reduce the consumption of opium, devised the method of increasing the price of Then in 1918 Rai Bahadur Phanidhar Chaliha of hallowed memory raised the question of prohibition of opium. During the course of the general discussion of the Budget on the 6th April 1918 the Rai Bahadur said

The pernicious habit of opium-eating of the Assamese is in my opinion greatly responsible for the poverty of the people. The sooner the opium traffic is abolished the better."

Again on the 5th April 1919 he said—

"The sooner the opium traffic is stopped, the better for the people and the Government. The traffic has been encouraging immorality and indolence and is deteriorating the Assamese race and it is feared that, if the opium trade is retained, the

Assamese race will be almost extinct within about two hundred years hence. In my humble opinion, nothing short of a total prohibition of the opium trade will really and materially benefit the people."

These remarks evoked a spirited reply from Sir N. D. Beatson Bell who, in the Government resolution of 1918-19 on the administration of the Excise Department, laid down the Government policy in the following words—"If by some means it were practicable, without realising any excise revenue, to abolish all smuggling and vice and at the same time to safeguard the moderate consumer in his innocent recuperation, the Chief Commissioner would gladly forego the whole provincial income from excise, feeling sure that the resulting increase in general industry and general prosperity would more than compensate the provincial exchequer for any apparent loss of income." (A voice—please check ganja.)

On the 13th of March 1920 the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ghanashyam Barua moved a resolution to the following effect—"This Council recommends to the Chief Commissioner that, in order to suppress the opium habit amongst the people of Assam and ultimately to eradicate it or bring it down to an of Assam and dimum he may be pleased to introduce a system unavoidable minimum he may be pleased to introduce a system of personal registration of opium-caters at least in the plains of personal registration of the province." This resolution was defeated. But districts of the province of the mention that the Hon'ble Premier I am proud to be able to mention that the resolution I am proud to be about 1 am proud to be about (Sir Muhammad "I am not only for registration but also for on that occasion graduated time-scale and that it also for on that occasion a graduated time-scale and that it should be brought down to the minimum possible limit within a reasonble brought down to the Government policy enunciated by Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell, the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Nicholas Dodd Beats of the Sir Muhammad said—"You, Sir, in your last resolution on Excise, have boldly proclaimed that you are ready to sink the excise revenue boldly proclaimed that it would stop smuggling and surreptiprovided you are sure that and have elaborated a system of further tious sale of opium, and have elaborated a system of further tious sale of opium, but I am afraid, Sir, it will but be a restrictive measures, but I am afraid, Sir, it will but be a restrictive measures, by Example is better than precept, and repetition of the old tale. Example is better than precept, and repetition of the old tall resolve can very well be translated into action I think, Sir, your resolve can very well be translated into action I think, Sir, your resolution as the Temperance Act of the by adopting some such legislation as the Temperance Act of the by adopting some such solution are justly proud. If the home land of your birth of which for temperance could of whisky can do so much for temperance, could we not, backed by social opinion, which is undoubtedly with us, get rid of this by social opinion, which is a short time? I think, Sir, it is but a mere question of 'where there is a will, there is a way'."

The League of Nations was constituted just after the close of the last world war and the question of prohibition came up again to the forefront. The non-co-operation mercurent gave an impetus to it and in the wake of this the Hon'ble Mr. Rohim Kumar Hati Barua moved his resolution for a 10 per cent reduction of rations in 1927, which, with the active co-operation and help of the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad, was put into operation it imediately.

The present position is therefore only a logical consequence of the steps taken since 1912 in which our present Premier had

played a prominent part.

The experiment that was started in the districts of Sibeligat and Lakhimpur by the last Congress Coalition Ministry was continued this year. There may be dispute about the crast degree of success achieved in that experiment. But that the success achieved reached a substantial degree, there is no reason to doubt. We believe that the public welfare her in a courageous extension of the experiment and in harnesung and utilising the imagination, sympathy and effort of all well-wishers of the addicts and their dependants. It is in the confident hope and expectation of receiving wide public co-operation that this Government have embarked on this momentous measure, in spite of the great loss of revenue and increase of expenditure involved therein. There is no doubt that smuggling is rampant and big cases have been successfully detected. Government are confident that, with adequate prohibition staff this disquicting situation created by traffickers in this nefarious trade will disappear in no distant time. With the suppression of this habit of opium-eating, it is essential to check the addicts from diverting to the habit of taking excisable article like liquor and ganja, diversion is needed—which I think is very likely—it should be to the least injurious habits like tea drinking. (Hear, hear.) would earnestly solicit the attention of hon'ble members of the legislature and other public-spirited gentlemen of the province to this aspect of the matter. (A voice—a sound idea.)

The question of introducing total prohibition in the partially excluded areas is also under the consideration of Government.

When we have sacrificed a very big portion of our revenue for the benefit of our people, the question that arises in my mind as the custodian of public finance, is whether we should leave this loss uncovered or resort to some other taxation to recoup measures. In other provinces they have resorted to new taxation measures. Mr. A. B. Latthe, the ex-Finance Minister of Bombay, expatiated on the benefit theory of taxation and

said—"Prohibition is a revolution in the logic of our people, a new force which will transform our society into a morally much stronger body than we are today. Let us not look at it and its corollary of new taxation on property as a sectional interest or concern. Let us think of the removal of the evils and of the bearing of new burdens as duties towards the good of the country as a whole. For this social good those who can have got to pay, not necessarily for any individual return to themselves but because their capacity to pay carries with it the obligation to pay." I leave it to the hon'ble members to decide whether the time has not arrived when we must for the sake of the stability of the finances of the State make up the loss in opium revenue by some other taxation measures.

Forests. Then I come to Forests. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in last year's Budget speech was confident that the appointment of a Second Conservator of Forests would lead to a more carefully planned exploitation of our forest wealth, certain to result in a progressive increase of our forest revenue. The Junior Conservator has been able to tour much more extensively in the Surma Valley and Goalpara, which would not have been impossible for a Single Conservator; while the Senior Conservator has been able to devote more time to the Assam Closer check by inspection has enabled the existing staff to be utilised to the best advantage; for instance expenditure has been more closely scrutinised and this has resulted in Government obtaining fuller value for its money. But an even greater advantage will only be seen in the future when the fruits of regeneration, both natural and artificial, which is going ahead most satisfactorily, are reaped in the form of sustained and increased revenue. The visiting of plantations and regeneration areas and furnishing of advice to the staff in this most vital work is a task which has much benefited from the presence of a second Conservator. one of the chief factors which in fact have justified the Hon'ble Prime Minister's confidence by an increase in forest revenue of Trs.4,80, from Trs.17,46 in 1939-40 to an estimate of Trs.22,25 in the year 1940-41.

Another factor in this cheering increase of revenue is the activity of the Forest Utilisation Officer, who has enabled the Forest Department to take full advantage of the new markets opened up by war demands, though without the second Conservator the Department could not have undertaken to meet these large demands, which have been a great boon to the contractors and dealers, with such confidence apart from the special features due to the war. An enormous amount of propaganda and trade enquiries have been dealt with and many hitherto

commercially unknown species have been brought into prominence with the trade. We feel certain that this will create a continued demand in future years, to the lasting benefit of the province. Supplies through this officer for 1939-40 were Ir. 3,60 against Trs. 2,04 of the previous year, while the figure for this year will be very much higher. It has indeed been found necessary to vest the Forest Utilisation Officer with the position of officer in charge of a Utilisation Division in order to cope adequately with this great increase of work.

The Budget provides for the permanent retention of the staff for the Herbarium at Shillong which now contains more than 40,000 botanical specimens and about 2,000 wood specimens and has become a place of reference not only for Forest officers of the province but also for University professors and

students all over India.

Motor Vehicles Taxation.—It is satisfactory to note that the receipts under the provisions of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act are increasing. The Government of India have agreed that the cost of establishment for the better control of motor transport should be debited to the Provincial Government's share from the Petrol Tax Fund for a period of two years. The surplus of receipts over compensation payable to the local bodies is to be partly disbursed among local bodies and partly devoted to the improvement of the provincial roads. The distribution will be made when the actuals are available. The Budget provides Trs.66 for improvement of provincial roads and Trs.2,00 for local board roads and includes arrears of previous years.

Other Taxes and Duties.—The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax Act which came into force from the 1st of August 1939 has brought in Trs.65 to the provincial exchequer and the receipts accruing from the tax imposed on motor spirit and lubricants by Assam Act IV of 1939 is estimated to be Trs.3,10 during the Assam Act Iv of 1909 in continuous and Assam Act Iv of 1909 in continuous and the search Receipts from taxes on agricultural income have, as I have already mentioned before, been disappointing so far. In the year 1939-40 a sum of Trs.83 only was realised. In the current year, as already shown, only Trs. 17,00 is expected by the end of the year, and the estimate for the next year is Trs.27,00, i.e., Trs.20,00 being the arrears of income due on assessments for 1940-41 and Trs. 7,00 anticipated as the amount likely to be realised in 1941-42 on the assessments of that year. If the refunds are to be given, this income will be reduced by Trs.6,00. So the expectation of the optimistic Finance Minister who introduced the taxation measures in 1939 and anticipated a revenue surplus of Rs.12 lakhs is still in the air.

General Administration.—Then I pass on to General Administration. Hon'ble members will notice that there is a decrease of expenditure under the head ' Heads of Province and Ministers'. This is mainly due to the decrease in the number of Parliamentary Secretaries and to their late appointment. The delay in appointing Parliamentary Secretaries was due to the fact that enquiries had to be made from party members as to who were willing to be appointed as such. This caused considerable delay, and as a large number of members wanted to accept the post, some of them suggested that, instead of electing by measures of support, the posts should be given by amicable settlement. The party met during the November session, and excepting one post, all the other Parliamentary Secretaries were selected by other prospective candidates withdrawing from the contest. One member so appointed has delayed joining his post owing to domestic difficulties, while the only post which remains to be filled up is waiting the votes of the party members on the two contestants. This is expected during the month.

Since last June, Assam has had a Publicity Department; albeit on a small scale. It has been the aim of the Department to give prompt and correct information on the various activities of Government and on the progress of the war. Press notes, communiques and reports are being issued daily to newspapers and periodicals. Hitherto the Publicity Officer and his assistants have worked almost entirely through the ordinary press. There has of course been a good deal of criticism about the work done: this is by no means uncommon with Publicity Offices, but the other methods of reaching the public such as exhibitions, use of the radio and cinematograph, and lectures or distribution of publicity matter by other means in the villages, have been beyond our financial powers.

A promising scheme with the cinematograph is now however under experiment, and we have provided more money for publication and touring in the next year's budget. The useful thing done by the Department is the distribution locally of the large and valuable body of publicity matter that comes from the Central Information Bureau. The Department also draws the attention of all Government Departments to matters that concern them appearing in the Press or elsewhere. All these things will, we hope, be set going next year, with greater freedom of money, to the higher satisfaction of the public.

The Ministerial Officers Reorganisation Committee.—This committee has been set up in view of the fact that the growing burden of work has put great pressure on existing office staffs, and

led to many demands for increase in establishments. In concede to these demands necessarily involves further increase in the cost of administration, and Government therefore thought it desirable to go into the root of the matter, in order to discuss possible means of reducing the burden by abolition of unnecessary labour, improvements in system and cutting of any avoidable expense in the salaries and allowances of casting posts of in their number. A committee of gentlemen with large experience in ministerial affairs was therefore appointed at the end of September and is still engaged on the inspection of offices. It was made clear, on receipt of representations undicating some misunderstandings about the purpose of the committee, that if would have full authority to deal with all aspects of the question, including any difficulties and grievances of the minuterial staff. The report of the committee when received, as is imped, at the end of March, will be carefully examined by Concernment

Judicial.—The Ministry has been examining the question of having our own Judicial Services in Assam. Linked to this is the question of separating the executive from the pudiciary. a subject which has long caused keen public interest on the view that it is difficult for an officer with executive duties to dissociate himself from them when sitting in a judicial capacity. The Government therefore appointed Mr. Dhar as a Special Officer to investigate these difficult matters. His scheme is Officer to investigate by Government. It is a very comprehensive document and involves several important limanoist and administrative problems. The report was in any case not available in time for provision to be made in the budget for 1941-42, even if the financial requirements of the scheme be 1941-42, even if the means, and Government are therefore giving found within our means, and Government are therefore giving found within our models of the decision will, it is expected, soon be it the fullest study.

It is expected, soon be reached as to whether the advantages of the separation of the reached from the judiciary will be worth the separation of the reached as to whether the reached as to whether will be worth the additional costs executive from the judiciary will be worth the additional costs executive from the jack-of the increase in the cadre of the Extra Assistant Commisof the increase in the commissioners, which will be necessary if the scheme is adopted. As sioners, which was soon as this preliminary matter is settled, we will be able to soon as this preminded, so settled, we will be able to tackle with more certainty the question of creating a judicial

Jails.—The budgetted expenditure for Jails shows an increase due to the increase in the price of food stuffs. An experiment is going to be made in Silchar and Nowgong Jails outside sweepers

During the past year a number of minor reforms have been carried out in jails of the province. Out-door games like Hadu Dudu have been introduced and, as in the case of the B division prisoners, facilities for in-door games have been extended to C division prisoners. Should half a chhatak of oil not suffice for the hair of a female prisoner, she may be allowed up to one chhatak. The size of saris is being increased from 5 yards × 40 inches to 51 yards 15 inches, as the old stock of saris is used up. Newspapers are now granted to all C division prisoners. General knowledge is being imparted to prisoners by means of magic lantern lectures. Cooking pots have been replaced by brass vessels and iron plates and cups are gradually being replaced by brass. Better clothing, sheets and pillows are being provided. The supply of tea and buttered bread to A and B division prisoners is allowed at the discretion of the Inspector General of Prisons. The Budget for 1941-42 allows an increase of Irs,3 for purchase of new materials due to the introduction of certain small industries in Gauhati and Sylhet Jails. The questions of other reforms and revision of certain Jail rules are also engaging our attention.

Police. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's warning that he might be compelled to strengthen the Criminal Investigation Department has unfortunately been justified. Subversive ele-Department Department Bengal were found to be penetrating into this proments from Bengal were found to be penetrating into this proments from both to stir up, trouble here and to the proments from the stir up trouble here and to use Assam as a base for continuing their nefarious activities in Bengal. The a base for con-a base for con-province was indeed on the point of becoming a refuge. The province might pursue their schemes as the enemy are province was province was their schemes as the enemy agents do in plotters might pursue their schemes as the enemy agents do in plotters might be a staff for intelligence duties Government absence of a staff for intelligence duties Government were unabsence of a subsence of a sub able to learn the surface until plans were ripe for operation. This had been growingly realised for several years. Many societies and political organisations have several year several year in the province, whose harmless titles are merely sprung up action against the whole basis of society. Governcloaks for a society. Govern-ment would be failing in its duty towards the people of Assam if it did not make adequate provision for watching these orgaif it did not. The ordinary police establishment and the organisations. The partment staff employed for the investigation. Investigation Department staff employed for the investigation of ordinary crime was unable to cope with this extra burden. With the advent of the war came the likelihood of elements in the ordinary population being exploited by enemy states, and evidence was by no means lacking that this possibility had not been overlooked by hostile powers. The Government of India had adequately provided for surveillance of aliens, but cannot be responsible for the conduct of the people of the province. It is the

duty of a police force to secure internal peace and to charte that law and order prevail in the province. Assam was the only province in India without a Griminal Investigation Department Branch available for the investigation of other than ordinary crime. The Intelligence Branch of the Griminal Investigation Department was abolished in 1937 in pursuance of the vote of the Assembly. His Excellency the Governor, for the due discharge of the special responsibilities, has revised the Branch and sanctioned the staff. A sum of Trs 65 is therefore included in the Budget for 1941-42 under section 78.2 of the Governor ment of India Act.

There is a decrease in the cost of Assam Rifles from 1 or 1.91 to Trs.4,07 on account of the fact that, owing to the resconstitution of the fifth battalion, the Government of India have respect the proportion of the recurring cost to be distributed between Central and Provincial as 46/58ths to Central and 12 58ths to Provincial. We are looking forward to the time when the proximed will be entirely relieved of the cost of the Assam Rifles

dence on the widely expressed desire of the people of this province to take a combatant part in the Defence Services, an agreed solution of the problem was achieved at the end of 1940. The Defence Department has announced the formation of the first battalion of the Assam regiment. It will be recruited and receive initial training through the Assam Rifles which in the great wat of 1914-18 provided many men from Assam, of many different classes, to the regular army. The process of detailing the nucleus of the battalion and selecting officers is now under way, quarters, when it can be equipped and assembled, are being considered by Army Headquarters.

Financial stringency has not prevented us from initiating measures for the welfare of the masses. It is unnecessary to refer in this speech to each and every new measure or the expansion of old measures. I will dwell only upon the salient details to the Memorandum containing explanatory notes on the various grants and a list of new schemes included in the Budget.

Public Health.—In the matter of Public Health activities we are not only expanding our efforts on the old lines but are breaking new ground. In leprosy, pending receipt of the report the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association) who is touring with our Special Leprosy Officer through the greater part of the

province for the formulation of a plan for co-ordinating the activities of Government and non-Government agencies already in the field. We have confined ourselves to making substantial aid to those agencies which stood in need of such aid. In the matter of tuberculosis that insidious disease is suspected to have taken a permanent foothold in cramped and insanitary urban areas and to be making inroads in rural areas. I am happy to note that a big step is being taken in the matter of establishing a Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic at Shillong through the Assam Tuberculosis Association with major portion of Government grant. Apart from the treatment of patients, this hospital will afford facilities for training of doctors and workers for the districts and for dissemination of knowledge pertaining to the different aspects of the disease. Public Health work is being strengthened by of the discussion of the Pastern Institute permanent manufacturing section of the Pasteur Institute permanent, members' particular attention is invited to the Health Unit Scheme proposed to be started at Golaghat with the generous Scheme Propher Rockfeller Foundation. The Scheme is designed to help of the little public health work in a limited area where every condition likely to affect public health is studied in all aspects and practical methods of dealing with public health

The Government have been taking active steps for the The Government of India from Java 1 5 and to suppression suppression the Government of India from Java 1,500 lbs. purchase the purch of quinine distribution to indigent malaria patients, as the Government of distribution distribution to what is normally provided for in the P. This is India have stori in addition to what is normally provided for in the Budget for in addition to what is normally provided for in the Budget for the purpose and the arrangement has been made in view of

An anti-malaria scheme with regard to each of the districts of Cachar and Goalpara is under preparation and will in all

Every endeavour is being made to deal effectively with what appears to be a recrudescence of kala azar in some parts what appears of the province, notably in the Golaghat subdivision. In additional the usual steps of survey, treatment and a subdivision. of the provide the usual steps of survey, treatment and propaganda, arrangements have been made for in-door treatment of poor

Medical.—The hon'ble members from the Surma Valley will naturally expect me to say what has been done about the question of starting a medical school at Sylhet. The Medical School Education Committee recommended among other things

that the standard of equipment and training in the Berry. White Medical School be raised to that required for recognition by the Medical Council of India and that the proposal to establish a medical school at Sylhet should be abandoned. The travernment have not been able to come to any decision on the hard recommendations, but they have asked the Impector-General of Civil Hospitals to review the estimate of cost that will be required if Government should decide to open the school in the near future, since the previous estimate had become insufficient owing to the War. As soon as the estimate is available, the

Government will take up the matter in right carnest

The Government have adopted the policy of allowing the local boards to replace the Government Sub-Assistant Surgeons by their own doctors in the interior and transferring the compensatory grant to the dispensaries at district and subdivisional headquarters. The number of dispensaries being maurificient in the interior of the Jowai subdivision, provision has been made in the budget for the opening of a travelling dispensary in the subdivision. Sixteen subsidised dispensaries are now functions ing. In consequence of the raising of the monthly subsidy from Rs.25 to Rs.35 and the initial cost of medicines and instruments from Rs.150 to Rs.300 in the first year and to Rs.200 in the following years, and in view of the power given to local boards to open subsidised dispensaries at the places selected by the Government, the scheme is likely to be more attractive and successful year after year. The Government note with pleasure that two more subsidised dispensaries have recently been started—one at Rampur and another at Mukalmua in Kamrup district. It is hoped that the people in the countryside, while realising the impossibility of having costly and fully equipped dispensaries, in the interior, having costly and tany equipposed dispensaries and avail of will welcome the scheme of subsidised dispensaries and avail of them in a spirit of self-help.

Education.—You will see that Education still forms the chief nation-building activity and as such claims the lion's share of the money available. Excluded as well non-excluded areas been taken to see that tribal classes, scheduled castes and campaign will continue in full swing. In addition, a sum of among children in both urban and rural areas. It is hoped cation Act and make it work in the urban areas. In rural late private effort to start new venture schools elsewhere. In

the budget year a sum of Trs. 25 has been provided for grants to seen nears whools, many of which are still without adequate grants for maintenance. As regards higher education, increased facilities have been provided in Government Colleges and assistance to private colleges has been substantially increased. The mere ase in the number of postgraduate scholarships in general and of scars and scholarships for training in engineering in particular should help materially the students wishing to pursue higher education outside the province. Government have shown their desire to encourage practical education by subsidising entire vocational schools or mere vocational classes attached to ordinary schools. Lovers of ancient culture will find that both Islamic education and Sanskrit education have come in for increased help and I am sure it will gladden the hearts of all to know that special provisions have been made for encouragement of education among girls. For the edification of those who complain that female education had not been of those with attention it deserves from the Government in the past, I should like to mention specifically some of the items in past, I show The grants to Lady Keane Girls' College, R. H. the Budget. Gauhati, and the Women's College, R. H. Girls' College, Gauhati, and the Women's College, Sylhet, are Girls' College, Sylhet, are going to be increased by Rs.50, Rs.300 and Rs.200 per mensem going to the Government Girls' High Schools at Sylhet respectively.

respectively.

and Dibrugarh are to be provided with a sewing mistress each and Dibrugarh are to be provision is going to be made in and Dibrugara and Dibrugara Rs. 2,000. Provision is going to be made in all the at a cost of Rs. 2, we scientific knowledge. School School Fig. 14 is to be given to the Mission Girls Middle English School, Aijal. The Ujan to the Mission Constitution of the Mission School for Girls' is going to be raised Bazar Middle Status of a Middle English School. The Ujan Bazar Middle English School, The Women's to the status of a status of a status of the the status of the status of the the status of the the things of the status of the status of the things of the things of the things of the status of the s grant of Ks. 2.1. Additional primary and middle scholarships are going to be created for girls. On the top of scholarships are going to be created for girls. scholarships and stipends are going to be created for the all, 30 additional stipends are going to be created for the all, 30 action Vernacular School Mistresses in Assam, the spread of secondary education

For the spread of secondary education among the hill For the specific provides for establishment of two high

people at Kohima and another at Jowai,

ols, one at Jowai.

I might mention an omission inadvertently made in the list deemes under this head. A schools continue in the list. of new schemes under this head. A scheme for a sum of of new serious Rs.1,500 and Rs.500 non-recurring) pre-Rs.2,000 (recurring) pre-pared and submitted for establishing a Government Middle English School at Mohendijua in Sibsagar district for the education of the Mikirs was omitted through oversight. I can assure

and its cost will be met either by re-appropriate of the same other heads in the budget or by a supplementary legislation due course.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his last Budget speech hold out the hope that before long the Minister mould be able to place before the public a carefully thought out a house for the establishment of a University for Assam Much mater has flown down the Brahmaputra since. The Concentration of a Scheme of Rai Bahadur Dr. S. K. Bhus an and had a scheme drawn up by him. The Assam I miscratic bill has been drafted on the basis of that scheme. It will be placed before the legislature during this session and it is higher that it will have a warm reception from the hom ble members.

financed jointly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, India, and the Provincial Government was started at the Khanapara Cattle Breeding Farm near Gauhati for the information of those who think that no uneful purpose is being served by research establishment. I take this oppositionity of stating that, within the short period of its contends it has evolved 103 improved strains of crops 40 of padds. 20 of sugarcane and 43 of potato. This is an achievement of which

any department may feel proud.

During the year, agricultural marketing survey reports on sugar and lac were submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. These bring the total number of reports submitted to him to 29. Marketing survey of jute and cotton was under progress during the year, and several marketing development schemes were in operation.

The Rural uplift scheme was launched during the year and is steadily gathering force. The campaign is being concappointed. In every centre an advisory committee, composed appointed. In every centre an advisory committee, composed and influential non-official persons, has been formed for bringlar needs of the locality and for advising them generally. The locality, as the case may be, is the ex-officio chairman of the which intensive reconstruction work is being carried out. The of the village life. In every centre night schools have been established and the villagers are being taught in personal and

the prejudice against vaccination and inoculation. It is the aim of the rural reconstruction campaign to improve the earning capacity of the villagers. The villagers are being encouraged to grow money crops and arrangements are being made for disposal of their produce by introducing better methods of marketing. They are also taught to utilise their spare time in cottage industries such as weaving, spinning, etc. The striking success achieved by the scheme has encouraged the Government to provide for 15 additional centres during the next year. The Budget has provided for 20 additional Demonstrators and appointment of two Agricultural Demonstrators in the

live-stock section.

Some of the hon'ble members seem to be interested in the cultivation, growth and improvement of jute in the province, and particularly in regard to (a) regulation of the production of jute. (b) the marketing and improvement in price and (c) fixation of a minimum price. For the edification of those members I wish to state the Government position very briefly.

The Government of Bengal expressed their willingness to grant a loan of rupees four lakhs to this Government free of interest (repayable by ten annual instalments) for the purpose of making a survey and a record of the jute-growing area in of making a strong of making area in the province, provided this Government was prepared to obtain the province, possible from the legislature, whether by the province, possible from the legislature, whether by way of an as soon as possible from the legislature, whether by way of an Act of the legislature or by regulation or ordinance or otherwise Act of the legislating are necessary for controlling, regulating and such powers as are necessary for controlling, regulating and such powers at cultivation of jute. This Government, and restricting the restrict, regulate and control the growth while restricting the restrict, regulate and control the growing while agreeable to restrict, regulate and control the growing and agreeable to the jute crop in this province over the area under cultivation in the same manner and to the same cultivation of the same manner and to the area under actual cultivation in the same manner and to the same extent actual cultivation at position to concede the application as in Bengal, was not in a position to concede the application of the same principles to new waste lands to be reclaimed and of the same principle of the simple reason that the brought under jute cultivation, for the simple reason that the brought under Jassam are widely divergent from those of Bengal. conditions in Amelor jute in Bengal is about 12 per cent, of the The acreage under all crops including jute whereas in Assam it is acreage under all crops in Bengal the acreage under it is only 5 per cent. Whereas in Bengal the acreage under jute is only 5 per cent. of the acreage under cultivable waste, the about 75 per Cois only about 2 per cent. In Bengal the estimasame for Assam to is 2,549,600 acres as against 323,300 acres ted area for 1939-40 is 2,549,600 acres as against 323,300 acres ted area for 1930 acres Bengal produces 81 per cent. of jute in the in Assam. Whereas Bengal produces only 6 per cent. If the Government in Assam. White solution of produces only 6 per cent. If the Government of country, Assam produces only 6 per cent. If the Government of Bougal finally agree to our proposal of imposition of no restric-Bougal finally ag. to our province, we will avail of the loan tions on waste lands of the area under cultivation of and start a survey of the area under cultivation of jute by

individual growers and take all possible steps for carrying out such a survey. As regards voluntary restrictions, this traversement is already committed to take all possible steps as requested by the Committee of the contraction of the contraction.

by the Government of Bengal.

Field Assistants who have been found useful to supplement the work of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons for was exact in and other minor works. This has also gone a great was an extreme and partially the question of unemployment which is we assure now a days. As an extension of the activities of the Inchi Assistants has been found necessary, we have provided for appointment of 25 additional Field Assistants in the next year. We propose to have two epidemic units for the two valleys, who will be entrusted with the work of extensive vaccination of earth against rinderpest. The Veterinary staff is sought to be strengthened by the provision for award of 10 additional superids as the Veterinary College at Belgachia.

Industries.—In the Industries Department it has always been the policy to support and encourage all cottage industries of the province, particularly sericulture, silk, handloom, lautume making, bakery, etc. A number of important a hemer are lains

taken up, e.g.—

(1) Grant of subsidy to individuals who have received training in various industries but are unable to start business for want of finance.

(2) Appointment of a Designer for improvement of alk

(3) Installation of a silk throwing plant.

(4) Appointment of additional weaving instructors, and (5) Introduction of tanning industry in the proxinec.

The percentage of expenditure in this department on the provincial income was 848 in 1934-35, 770 in 1935-36 and 883 in 1936. It is proposed to spend only 817 per cent. for doing all that is possible in this direction with a deficit budget.

Co-operative.—The policy in the Co-operative Department is villagers and to encourage thrift and economy. Nine posts of department. A conference of certain selected members of the Legislature was convened in September 1940 to suggest ways Societies. After careful deliberation, the Co-operative the following conclusions:—

(1) To finance the Provincial Bank with a handsome loan if funds are available.

121 To increase the staff of the Co-operative Department.

3. To enquire into the assets and liabilities and also the repaying capacities of the individual debtors of rural we leties through Government agency.

The conclusions of the said conference are under the consideration of the Covernment and the Government hopes to take carly steps to rehabilitate the much-condemned Co-operative

Department.

The Ministry is not indifferent to the burning problem of unemployment among the educated classes. In pursuance of a desire expressed by the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1937, this Government have decided, after consulting various Provincial Covernments and considering various schemes, to open, as an experimental measure, a register of unemployed educated youths of the province in a simple form, in the Assam Secretariat, from the 1st of March 1941. At present the registration will be limited to candidates who are not age-barred under the service rules, possessing degrees or diplomas for any technical or industrial training, or those who have at least passed the Matriculation examination, The object of the registration is to bring together the employer and the employed.

In order to solve the problem of unemployment Govern-In order desired various industrial concerns with a request ment have address character and trained youths as possible. to absorb as many been awarded for training in different industries. Stipends have been granted to descrying conductives. Stipends have been granted to deserving candidates. Industrial loans has also been given in the agricultural farms. Industrial loans also been given in the agricultural farms at Jorhat Training has at Jorhat Training has at Jorhat and Sylhet in order to encourage educated youths to take to

agriculture.

Pertinent to this I should mention here the different Pertinelli the province agent was has opened up for the youths of the province.

The system of recruitment to the Defence services varies The system of the service concerned. Defence services varies with the nature of the service concerned. District committees with the nature appointed recruitment sub-committees have everywhere appointed recruitment sub-committees to interhave everywher, candidates. The Provincial War Committee view and assist candidates. Committee which view and assist Recruitment Committee, which meets regularly also appointed a distriction interviews candidates for Employment also appointed a difference candidates, which meets regularly every Friday and interviews candidates for Emergency Comevery Friday and Forces, Viceroy's Commissions in the Land Forces, Viceroy's Commissions in the Royal missions in the Ordnance Corps, Commissions in the Royal Indian Army Civil flying instruction for and the Technical Indian Army Civil flying instruction for entry into the Air Branches and Civil Recruiting office with Mr. A Technical Recruiting office with Mr. E. H. Bay as Honorary Assistant in charge has been established at Jorhat and Monorary as hoped, be shortly be established in Sylhet. A one will, it is not candidates for the ranks of the Ordnance

Corps, Hospital Corps and military eleckthings have already passed through these centres and they come muc to the her An endeavour is now being made to establish a commos them with the

Navy for the seamen of Assam

The National Service Labour Tribumal which was not up in Assam last year for operating the Texhine at Persegone! Ordinance is now selecting candidates for admission to the Technical Schools which have been selected for training mechanics for the Ordnance Services and other technical atims. The policed to far selected are the Covernment School at Sallier and the Don Bosco school at Shillong ; it is expected that the variation for the Jorhat school will shortly be received. I am glad to

announce that this has been tocc well

Welfare of Labour, The presence of a lag labour population in the province has made it instimbent on the Concinnent to look upon their welfare as a matter of primary concern The Ministry has therefore provided a sum of lively for establishing a machinery, it, the office of the Industry Counmissioner with a small staff, for collecting, compuling and analysing full facts regarding the conditions of Library The Controller of Emigrant Labour will function as a Labour Cammissioner. but will be assisted by an assistant from the Assam Casal Service of not less than it years standing. The Ministry is also spanisors ing a Maternity Benefit Bill for the good of the female labourers.

Navigation, Embankment and Drawage Works Then I come to Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works. The new Embankment and Drainage Division was started from April 1940. Certain schemes have been selected which, it is hoped. will benefit the cultivators by reducing floods and augmenting the area of cultivation by means of proper drainage and canals. The survey of schemes is well in hand and it is expected that they will mostly be completed during the current working season and projects for constructional works for which a provision of Trs.71 has been made in the Budget will be prepared in time

to be taken up during the coming year.

Civil Works.—Next I discuss Civil Works. The Revised and the Budget Estimates show that sums of Trs. 15, 45 and Trs.11,07 respectively will be received from the Central Road Development Fund. These estimates were based on the Road Improvement Programme framed by the Communications Board which estimated a cost of Trs.41,11 spread over a few years: The Government of India did not accept the programme and directed it to be reduced to Trs.33,00 and spread over a longer period. The late receipt of these orders together with the prohibition of the use of steel necessitating the calling of fresh tenders for reinforced concrete bridges has resulted in the drop

in the revised as compared with the original provision for the current year. The latter cause has held up the progress of work considerably and it is feated that even the sum of Trs.15,45 shown in the Revised will not be spent in full this year necessitating a corresponding increase in the provision of Trs.11,07 made next year.

The province has been well treated by the Government of India in the matter of grants from the Reserve kept at their disposal, but we have been warned that they may not be in a position to continue the same liberal treatment in the future owing to the demands from other provinces.

Owing to the necessity for recasting the programme of works financed from the Tea Rates Road Fund, as the original programme was found to exceed the money available, only Trs.1,35 is likely to be spent out of the provision of Trs.1,50 made in the current year. This saving, however, has been made good in the next year's budget which provides for an expenditure of Trs.1,75 against a normal of Trs.1,50.

Owing to the time taken in the survey and preparation of estimates for expenditure from the surplus proceeds of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, only Trs.68 is expected to be spent in the current year against the original provision of Trs.2,01. It is the current year will be good anticipated, however, that the progress next year will be good anticipated, and provision has, therefore, been made for an expenditure of and provision this source of which, as I mentioned before, is for Provincial roads and Trs 2 00 for I Trs. 2,66 its for Provincial roads and Trs. 2,00 for Local Board roads. A sum of Rs.25,000 was provided in the current year's budget for improvement of communications in the Local Boards.

Boards were asked to report about their budget for hope budget for hope asked to report about their requirements. The Local Boards were asked to report about their requirements. The Local theorem of the country of the Local Boards on account of this. The grant has been the Local Boards on account of this. The grant has been distributed accorddid not responded according to the demands made on the recommendation of the Coming to the Divisions. Another grapt of Page 27,000 the Coming to the dominant of the Commissioner of Divisions. Another grant of Rs.25,000 is provided in the next year's budget and it is hoped that the Boards not in the next year's grant will be considered and receiving a share from that allot more come in for a share from that allotment.

The War effort in Assam. My speech will be extremely parochial if I fail to refer to the World War that is raging and the little that the province is doing for the successful prosecution of the War. The War Purposes Fund Committee established on the appeal of His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Premier has now collected nearly 8 lakhs of rupees, while the separate Lakhimpur Fighter Fund has collected some two lakhs of rupees. Assam has thus four fighters actually engaged in fighting the

Sir, I hope I have said enough to explain the essential features of the Budget for next year, which I have the honour to place before the House for acceptance I have no doubt that this brief recapitulation will enable members to appreciate what we have been able to do within the limited resources at our disposal to expand the activities of the nation-building departments. I do not suppose that any budget will secure universal approbation. But I do hope that the Budget I have presented will be approved by the House

Before I conclude I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have assisted in the framing of the Budget. The first among them is the Finance Secretary, Mr. Patton, and next is Mr. Jones, both of whom had to do considerable extra work under great pressure. My thanks are also due to Messrs. Dennehy and Desai for their valuable notes, to the Head Assistant of the Finance Department and all the Assistants in the Budget Branch and to Mr. Chari, the Superintendent of the Press, and his overworked staff for their hard work in connection with the preparation and printing of the Budget.

# Re Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts for 1939-40

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next item of business is the year 1939-40 and discussion if any.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAIYDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to inform the House that this is not ready because the Accounts have been sent to the Auditor General and have not come back as yet.

## Presentation of certain Notifications under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI Sir, I beg to present the following notifications under section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923:—

Notification No. 8551-L.S.-G., dated the 14th November 1940.

Notification No. 8828-L.S.-G., dated the 29th November 1940.

## Presentation of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under section 133(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg Sir, to present the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under section

133(3) of the Motor Vchicles Act, 1939.

These rules are to be presented before the two Houses of the Legislature for 14 days and it is only after that period that these can be taken up for consideration by the Legislature. As I have already stated this morning, Sir, we propose to take up the consideration of these rules on the 27th March and you will have to fix a time for submitting amendments, if the hon, members of the House desire to make any on these rules.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire one thing, Sir? I understand that these rules have also been placed before the Council to-day. So what procedure will be adopted in this matter? It has been presented

to both the Houses on the same day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it so?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:

Yes, Sir, it is so.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: So, Sir, it is not clear to me what procedure will be adopted in this matter. Supposing we make some amendments in this House; on the same section there may be some amendments just on the opposite line in the other House. So what procedure will be adopted so that we may come to a final conclusion regarding these rules? I shall be thankful if the Hon'ble Prime Minister will kindly clarify.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Bearing on that might I ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether he has considered the suggestion made last session that to facilitate consideration of these rules we could not have a Sub-Committee from both the Houses to examine what amendments are suitable and presenting them to both the Houses for their acceptance or for

consideration?

It seems to me that the 27th is too late. If some amendments are contentious and if the small Sub-Committee cannot do the preliminary work we might be here for many days. Sir, is it possible to have a Sub-Committee with members of both the Houses? This procedure was adopted in Bengal.

<sup>\*</sup>Appendix "A"

<sup>†</sup>Appendix "B"

<sup>‡</sup>Appendix " C"

<sup>§</sup>See Assam Gazette Extraordinary of 1st and 12th March 1940 and Assam Gazette Part II, of 3r pril 1940.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE I thank it ma: duct a Sub-Committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER I quite understand the difficulty that will arise and that has been pointed out by the two hon members will certainly be some practical difficulties in getting an agreement between the two Houses with regard to the amendments that will be passed. It may be that this House may amend a certain sule in certain may and the other House may amend the same sule in some other was. Therefore, there will be conflicting amendments and unless reconciliation as attauned the rules cannot be put into operation. So I wish to know what prescribers the Hon'ble the Leader of the House mante to adopt much regard to this matter so that there may be a concurrence of both the Houses with regard to amendments that may be moved

Mr. Whittaker has suggested that a small Commuttee can be appointed. but I do not know how far a committee will be helpful in this matter. I have looked into the proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council and also of the Bengal Legislative Assembly and find that they formed a conference of some members of both the Houses To have a conference of looth the Houses, we have no definite rules in our Joint Sittings Rules In Bengal there is a definite rule in that behalf and on the strength of that rule they could form a conference of some members of both the Houses. The rous ference considered the various amendments, and the amendments that write adopted were placed before the Assembly by the Member in Charge, and also before the Council. Therefore, they could secure an agreed decision of both the Houses. I wish to know what procedure the Homble Leader of

the House likes to adopt in this matter here.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to the hon, member for raising this point We have also considered this point from various points of view. As you have been pleased to mention, there is no definite rule in our Assembly of Council Rules for a joint conference and they are deficient in this respect To have a joint conference of members of the two Houses, the difficulty will be that if Government follow the Bengal example and select a few members from both the Houses those members not having been elected by the Houses, their recommendations will not be binding in the respective Houses. If, however, I leave to the Houses the election of certain memory than the respective Houses. Houses. If, however, I leave to the Houses, is some chance that their bers to such a joint conference, probably there is some chance that their recommendations may be acceptable to both the Houses. But that is also what I think is that if this House make amendment. recommendations may be acceptant if this House make amendments also a probability. What I think is that if this House make amendments to the a probability. What I think is probability in the probability is probability. What I think is probability in the probability is probability. What I think is probability in the probability is probability in the probability in the probability is probability. What I think is probability in the probability probability in the probability in the probability is pr Rules, they will be complete ourning the Rules, they will be considering these rules in their adjourned session sometime in April, they be benefit of the amendments made by this House and April, they be considering these rules in their be considering these rules in their be considering these rules in their beautiful that will have the benefit of the amendments made by this House, and I have a will have the benefit of the annual the members of the Upper Have a hope that I will be able to persuade the members of the Upper House to hope that I will be able to perhaps the procedure laid before the House of that expectation that we have followed the procedure laid before the House. But if you can that we have longwest the think of any other suitable measure by which an unanimity of the two

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire about another point, Sir? If the Hon'ble Prime Minister think that he will be able to point, on the Upper House to accept the amendments, then why does he

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The idea is that this House may make amendments and those amendments will be placed before the Upper House by Government and that House will be induced by the Government to agree to them.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERIEE: Will there be no other amendments made by that House?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, they may also suggest some other amendments. So, it is a very difficult matter and I invite suggestions from hon, members with regard to the procedure that can be adopted, and I shall also try to think out a plan for the purpose of disposing of the Rules in a satisfactory manner. The Rules will be taken up on the 27th March and hon, members may go on tabling amendments which should reach the Assembly office by the 23rd March. In the meantime hon, members should try to evolve a plan to obviate the difficulties that are being anticipated.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May I ask what has happened to the amendments made by individuals who have already suggested to Government some amendments to the Rules when the draft was published? The Rules in direct were published in February and again in March and criticisms and suggestions were invited from members of the public. I know that certain organisations have already sent their criticisms and suggestions. Is it not for the members of this House to sponsor those suggestions, or will they automatically come up for consideration?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it a fact that Government have received criticisms and suggestions?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir. The draft rules were modified in the light of those criticism and Government have adopted these rules. The criticisms and suggestions received from individuals have already been considered. If the hon, member wants to sponsor the amendments the House will consider them.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will it not be better to place those criticisms on the table of the House for the use of the hon. members? Hon. members have a right to table amendments to the Rules. They will get light from the criticisms that have been offered by outsiders in regard to

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am afraid, Sir, it will cost a lot. The criticisms are voluminous and it will be necessary to print a large number of copies. But if it is the desire of the House, I shall see what can be done.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It will help us a great deal if those suggestions and criticisms are printed and supplied to us. It will help us to

suggest amendments to the Rules.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: In the interest of economy, may I suggest a small committee? If the committee is properly chosen, it will have the confidence of the House and also save Government a good deal of money. The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How many days the Government will

require to print these copies?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD I think ten days. In reply to the suggestion made by Mr. Whittaker I could SAADULLA: only say that if the House agree to have a committee of ten members consisting of seven from this House and three from the Upper House, and if it is agreed that their recommendations might be made acceptable in toto to the respective Houses, then in that case, it will be better to have a committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will it not be better for Government to place all the suggestions and criticisms on the Library table so that hon.

members may go through them?

Maulavi Sayied SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The Hon'ble Yes, it can be done.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think it wall be better for the hommembers to go through the suggesstions and criticisms in the L. bezz. They will get ten days' time to go through them and take notes

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY | I realise the difficulty of reading the suggestions and the criticisms in the Library It will not be communicated

for the hon, members.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Them, Government wall have to primt

the copies.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sayied Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: What happens to the recommendation made by Mr Whittaker about the appointment of a committee?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall controlled and give my whomas

after lunch.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, of the other items on the agenda are finished to-day me shall have no mork for to-morrow. Therefore may we not rue from and height again to-un-arrows?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I quite see the pount almost adjusts in the

the House till to-morrow.

With regard to the point of appointing a committee. I think that a resolution should first be brought before the House to appoint a conference, and to make a request to the Upper House to posturate some members to join this conference. That will be the proper way, but I shall give definite suggestions to-morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a. w., on Tursday, the 4th March 1941.

Shillong, The 22nd March, 1941.

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

#### APPENDIX "A"

#### The 14th November 1940.

No.8551-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(1) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following amendments in Part V of the rules published with Notification No.1041-E., dated the 8th March 1924, as subsequently amended.

#### AMENDMENTS

In rule 7, delete the second sentence and substitute the following for the existing proviso.

"Provided that this prohibition does not refer to the Medical Officer in charge of the dispensary. Such Medical Officer shall be eligible to become a Member, Secretary or Manager."

S. P. DESAL

Secretary to the Goot. of Assam in the Edn. & L.S.-G. Deptts.

#### APPENDIX "B"

#### The 29th November 1940.

No.8828-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 59 and 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following amendments in the rules prescribing fees on boats including steam boats and other vessels mooring within the Municipality issued with this Department notification No.5489-L.S.-G., dated the 29th November 1938:—

Add the following as clause (e) to rule 103B and renumber the existing clauses (e) and (f) of the same rule as (f) and (g) respectively:—

(e) no fees shall be charged on boats, dugouts or rafts carrying forest produce under the authority of a transit pass or trade permit of the Forest Department provided no ghat or mooring facilities provided at the cost of the Board are used.

S. P. DESAI,

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam in the Edn. & L.S.-G. Deptts.

### APPENDIX "C"

The 18th Designation 1940

No.9242-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rule :-

Add the following as rule 2A in Part VIII of the rules published with Notification No.1041-E., dated the 8th March 1924.

"The person (or persons) appointed under Section 294 is of the Assam Municipal Act may delegate in the manner and to the catent indicated in section 30 to the assistant or assistants appointed or appropriate by (covernment to assist such person (or persons) in carrying on Municipal administration, the powers of duties of a Board other than those which are directed to be exercised by the Board at a meeting.

The assistant or assistants shall, in the exercise of the powers or performance of duties delegated to him or them, not act in opposition to, or in contravention of, any order of the person (or persons) aforesaid.

S. P. DESAL.

Accome in the Edn. & 1 S. C. Deptil.

# ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

### GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

His Facellency Sir Roment Nier Reid, K.C.s.t., K.C.I.E., I.C.S.

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- 2. The Hon'ble Stijut Roman Kuman Chaudhurt, B.L., in charge of Education Department.
- 3 The Hon'ble Maulavi Menawwar All, B.A., LL.B., in charge of Agriculture and Veterinary Departments.
- 4. The Hon'ble Stijut Hirendra Chandra Charravarty, B.A., in charge of Medical and Public Health Departments.
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