



**Proceedings of the Seventh Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.**

The ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 12th March, 1940.

*Present*

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers and 89 members.

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**Re loitering of Press Reporters in unauthorised places in the Assembly building.**

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before we start with the work of the day, I wish to bring to your notice certain facts. A notice, I understand, has been issued by our Secretary, I mean the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly. Sir, the notice is that Press Reporters have been banned not to move from their seats in the gallery and they are not to loiter in any part of the Assembly building. It is stated that "attention is invited to Rule 7 of the Admission Rules under which visitors including the Press Reporters are not permitted in any part of the Assembly Building except the galleries marked on their tickets and the Press Reporters' room in the case of the latter." So far as the Press Reporters are concerned, I submit to the Hon'ble Chair that these people have got to perform certain public duties and it is known to all that their duties are onerous. They may have to come out to see members on occasions and they will have to go into the tiffin room for taking a cup of tea.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Tiffin room is not meant for the Press people. Their duties are in the gallery and if they have got anything to do in the office they may go straight there. Loitering in the verandah is not permissible.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** The circular of the Secretary is not quite clear that they can go to the office or to any member when they have work.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Secretary has explained these matters to them personally that they can go to the office or to any member but that they should not be found loitering.

**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN:** All right, Sir, that is all I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Chair.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

## Number of Haj pilgrims from Assam

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY** asked :

\*146. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing year by year for each port separately, the number of Haj pilgrims from the Province of Assam who sailed for the Hedjaz from the three ports of India, i.e., Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta during the last ten years ?

\*147. Will Government be pleased to state if there are representatives of the Assam Government or the Assam Muslims on the Calcutta Port Haj Committee to look after the interests of the pilgrims from Assam ?

\*148. If the answer to question No.147 above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of such representatives ?

(b) Whether they are elected or nominated ?

\*149. If the reply to question No.147 is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they ever urged on the Bengal Government the necessity of such representation ?

(b) Whether they propose to take steps to have Assam represented on the Calcutta Port Haj Committee ?

\*150. Is it a fact that fees charged and realised by the three Haj Committee, viz., the Haj Committees of Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta for the issue of pilgrim passes from those pilgrims who fail to get passes from their respective District Magistrates before they start for pilgrimage are remitted to the respective Provincial Haj Committee ?

\*151. (a) If the answer to question No.150 above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts received by the Assam Provincial Haj Committee from the Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi Port Haj Committees during the last ten years (the figures being shown separately year by year and Port by Port) and state how the money has been disposed of ?

(b) Do Government propose to utilize this money in re-organizing the Assam Provincial Haj Committee ?

\*152. (a) Is the balance at hand referred to in the foregoing question inadequate to re-organize the Assam Provincial Haj Committee on a proper basis ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to augment the funds by a liberal grant for the purpose ?

\*153. Do Government propose to make necessary arrangements for hiring a house in Calcutta at least for two months every year, i. e., the lunar months of *Shawal* and *Zil-Qad* to accommodate the Assam Pilgrims and appoint or depute some responsible officials as Haj Officer to look after the welfare of these pilgrims ?

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

146.—A statement is laid on the library table.



147 and 148. —There is one co-opted member to the Calcutta Port Haj Committee from this province, *viz.*, Dr. M. Sharafat Ali, L.D.Sc., Founder President, Assam Arabic Students' Association and the Khadamul Hujjaj Society, Calcutta.

149. (a) and (b)—The representation was secured at the instance of this Government.

150.—According to the existing arrangements one-third of the amount of the Haj pilgrim pass fees, realised by the Port Haj Committees are to be sent to the Provincial Haj Committee concerned. The matter is still under investigation.

151. (a)—During the last ten years, so far as Government have information at present, the Assam Provincial Haj Committee received a sum of Rs.29 in 1938 from the Port Haj Committee, Calcutta, and a sum of Rs.35 from the Port Haj Committee, Bombay. Of the total amount of Rs.64 thus received only a sum of annas 11 has been spent as contingency.

(b)—It is for the Haj Committee and not Government to decide how the money should be utilized.

152. (a)—Government are enquiring into the matter.

(b)—No. Government have first to determine whether the funds obtainable from fees realized at the ports are fully credited to the Committee and what other sources of revenue there may be.

153.—No such proposal is in contemplation.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY :** Do Government propose to nominate or select some more members for the Haj Committee at Calcutta ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** It is not within the power of this Government to nominate any one to the Committee at Calcutta.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Do Government propose to consider the desirability of sending any Haji of this House to that Committee ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I do not think that this question arises, Sir.

#### **Grant of holidays to Educational Institutions by the Hon'ble Ministers**

**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** asked :

\*154. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Ministers, other than the Education Minister can grant holidays to educational institutions ?

(b) If so, what is the maximum number of days for which they can grant such holidays ?

(c) Whether they can grant holidays to educational institutions even without visiting them ?

(d) Whether the then Hon'ble Minister of Industries Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali granted holidays to the Karimganj Government High School and the Karimganj High Madrasa during his last tour there, though he did not pay any visit to these institutions ?



**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

154. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The rule does not cover the point : it merely provides that the maximum total number of holidays that any visitors except His Excellency the Governor and the Minister for Education can give between them during the year, without deduction from the ordinary holiday list to make up shall be four. Government are considering whether in present constitutional circumstances, the rule requires amendment.

(c)—The reply is in the negative.

(d)—The reply is in the affirmative.

†**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** : What is the existing rule regarding this ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : I have already stated that in my reply. There is no hard and fast rule.

†**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA** : Is there any bar for any Minister other than the Education Minister to give holidays to Educational institutions ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : There is no bar.

†**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : In view of the reply to (c) may I take it that the then Hon'ble Minister of Industries did an illegal thing by granting holidays to the Madrassa and Schools ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : That is a question of opinion.

†**Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN** : The answer to (c) is in the negative and the answer to (d) is in the affirmative. Does it not, therefore, appear that the actions of the then Minister of Industries was illegal ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : The hon. member may judge for himself. The rule has practically been stated.

†**Maulavi MABARAK ALI** : Is it not a fact then that he granted the holidays without visiting the school ? Does it mean that the Minister can do whatever he likes and is he not bound by any rule ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : This question does not need any reply, I think. It is apparent.

†**Babu DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI** : With regard to (d), what is the source of the knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : An enquiry was made of the school and I think the Hon'ble Minister concerned has himself said that.

†**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** : Do not the present Hon'ble Ministers grant such holidays to several schools without visiting ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : If the question is about me, I can definitely say, No.

†**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA** : Did not the Hon'ble Minister grant holidays to certain schools without visiting Nowgong ?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** : None whatsoever. I took particular care not to do so. This matter was brought to my notice before (*laughter*).

†**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA** : Is the Commissioner of Divisions entitled to inspect and grant holidays to educational institutions ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : This is a new question.

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



†**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA**: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several of the schools in Nowgong were granted holidays after his recent visit to Nowgong?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: Holidays were not granted by me to any schools without my visiting them.

†**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA**: Will the Hon'ble Minister then make an inquiry if any holidays were granted on the occasion of his visit to Nowgong?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: If the hon. member gives me more details about this I shall make an inquiry.

#### **Appointment of a Lecturer in Botany in the Murarichand College**

**Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR** asked :

\*155. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Babu Kalyan Kumar Purkayastha, M. sc., was taken in temporarily as a Lecturer of Botany in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, and that he acted as such for about a year and that he organised Botany classes in the Murarichand College for the first time?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that when the question of appointing permanently a Lecturer in Botany in the Murarichand College came in, Babu Kalyan Kumar Purkayastha was given the first nomination by the Public Service Commission, and, the Hon'ble Minister for Education of the Congress-Coalition Ministry passed order appointing him as a permanent Lecturer of Botany?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that before the said order of appointment was published in the Gazette or communicated to the person concerned, the Congress-Coalition Ministry resigned and the present Ministry came into power?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that when the present Ministry came into power, the Hon'ble Minister for Education cancelled that order and appointed Srijut Madhab Chandra Das, a gentleman of the Assam Valley as a Lecturer of Botany in the Murarichand College, Sylhet?
- (e) If so, why?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

155. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Srijut Madhab Chandra Das secured the first nomination of the Assam Public Service Commission when the permanent vacancy was advertised. While his appointment was under the consideration of Government certain allegations were made against him and in view of these the Hon'ble Minister then in charge decided to refer the matter to the Public Service Commission. As a result of this reference the Commission reviewed their original recommendations and gave the first nomination to Babu Kalyan Kumar Purkayastha. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

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



(c)—Yes.

(d)—As orders had not been issued, the case came up for consideration before the Hon'ble Minister and he appointed Srijut Madhab Chandra Das.

(e)—Because Srijut Madhab Chandra Das originally secured the first nomination on grounds of his superior qualifications and was entitled being a member of an under-represented community to get the first preference under the orders in force. Moreover, the allegations against him were not substantiated and he held at the time a permanent post in the Department.

†**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to disclose to the House the nature of the allegations that were made against this officer by Dr. Bani Kanta Kakoti?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I personally am not in favour to disclose those allegations because no importance was attached to those allegations by my predecessor and they were not supported by any evidence.

†**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA:** Does the allegation reflect on his character?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** As these allegations were not borne out by evidence I do not want to say either way.

†**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Did Government make any inquiry?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, an enquiry was made.

†**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Who made that enquiry?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** When the allegations were received the application was sent to the Public Service Commission and I found on the record that my predecessor who passed the order stated clearly in that order that he did not attach any importance to the allegations which were not borne out by evidence.

†**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Did the Hon'ble Minister make a searching enquiry in this matter in the interest of public morality and public service?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Not after I have taken charge.

†**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Does this change the aspect of the case at all?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Because whatever allegations were made before were disposed of by my predecessor.

†**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Does the Hon'ble Minister subscribe to the views held by his predecessor in this matter.

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Yes, entirely.

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



**Temporary Assistant Masters appointed in the deputation vacancies from the Assam Valley Districts in the years 1936-37 to 1939-40**

**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED** asked :

\*156. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of temporary Assistant Masters appointed in the deputation vacancies from the Assam Valley Districts in the years 1936-37 to 1939-40 ?
- (b) How many of these appointments were made from the Mangaldai subdivision in each of these years ?
- (c) The names of the teachers, if any, appointed in each of these years from the Mangaldai subdivision ?
- (d) Whether there were any Muslim candidates for the deputation vacancies in the Assam Valley Districts for the year 1939-40.

\*157. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing district by district the names of the permanent Assistant Masters in Class III of the Assam School Service, other than the science teachers, appointed in the year 1939-40 from the Assam Valley Districts ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

156. (a)—1936-37

1937-38 ... .. 8

1938-39 ... .. 8

1939-40 ... .. 6

(b)—1936-37 ... .. 5

1937-38 ... .. None.

1938-39 ... .. None.

1939-40 ... .. 2

(c)—1938-39—Srijut Krishnaram Sarma, M.A., Maulavi Sham-

suddin Ahmed, B.A.

1939-40—Srijut Krishnaram Sarma, M.A.

(d)—Yes.

157.—A statement is laid on the table.

**Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.157 asked by Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed at the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1940**

**STATEMENT SHOWING DISTRICT BY DISTRICT THE NAMES OF THE PERMANENT ASSISTANT MASTERS IN CLASS III OF THE ASSAM SCHOOL SERVICE OTHER THAN THE SCIENCE TEACHERS, APPOINTED IN THE YEAR 1939-40 FROM THE ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS**

Name and designation

District

1. Maulavi Abdul Mannan, B.sc., Assistant Master, Government High School, North Lakhimpur. Sibsagar.
2. Maulavi Nazibur Rahman, B.A., Assistant Master, Government High School, Golaghat. (Now transferred to Shillong High School.) Sibsagar.



Name and designation	District	
3. Srijut Ambika Charan Chaudhury, B.A., Sub-Inspector of Schools, Garo Hills.	Kamrup.	
4. Srijut Atul Chandra Hazarika, B.A., Assistant Master, Government High School, Barpeta.	Nowgong.	
5. Srijut Anandaram Gohain, B.A., Assistant Master, Government High School, Barpeta. (Now transferred to Shillong Government High School).	Nowgong.	
6. Maulavi Shahabuddin, M.A., Islamic Teacher, Government High School, Nowgong.	Goalpara.	
7. Srijut Prabhat Chandra Srutikar, B.A., Second Master, Kakajan Government Middle English School.	Sibsagar.	
8. Srijut Charu Chandra Doloi Miri, B.A., (Tribal), Sub-Inspector of Schools, Jorhat. (The Majuli Circle).	Sibsagar.	Formerly he was a Sub-Inspector of Excise.
9. Rajkumar Sureswar Gohain, M.Sc., Assistant Master, Government High School, Goalpara.	Sibsagar.	
10. Maulavi Bahrul Islam, B.A., Assistant Master, Government High School, Dhubri.	Kamrup.	
11. Miss Sushila Bhuyan, B.A., Assistant Mistress, Government Girls' High School, Dibrugarh.	Lakhimpur.	
12. Srijut Bandhuran Kachari, B.A. (Tribal), Sub-Inspector of Schools, Dhubri.	Darrang.	Appointed temporarily against a permanent vacancy.
13. Srijut Krishnaram Sarma, M.A., (Scheduled), Sanskrit Teacher, Government High School, North Lakhimpur.	Darrang.	
14. Srijut Troloikya Nath Goswami, M.A., Assistant Master, Government High School, Jorhat.	Kamrup.	Appointed to act against a permanent vacancy.

†**Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED**: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether Maulavi Baharul Islam was acting as Assistant teacher before the permanent appointment?

†**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI**: I want notice of this question. I know when Maulavi Baharul Islam was appointed on the recommendation of the Finance Minister he was working in the Nalbari Gordon High School.

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

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

## The Nalbari Small Town Committee

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

155. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government aware that the Nalbari Small Town Committee in the Kamrup district is very much handicapped for want of funds in their endeavours for necessary and proper development of the Committee ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to make provision for an adequate grant to the said Town Committee in the next year's Budget ?

156. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government aware that the Nalbari Small Town Committee contains a population of 3,587 and that it has not got sufficient funds to make adequate and suitable provisions to give proper educational facilities to its inhabitants ?

(b) Do Government propose to help the Committee in this matter by making adequate educational grant from the beginning of the next financial year ?

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

155. (a)—The want of finance is a trouble common to most local bodies and the remedy is taxation to the limit of the powers of the people to be benefited.

(b)—Government find it difficult to consider such a question in the absence of any definite scheme of imperative necessity which cannot be financed from the Town Committee's ordinary income.

156. (a)—The hon. member's attention is drawn to the reply given to his question No. 155 (a) above.

(b)—The case of this Town Committee will be considered along with that of other such bodies if and when the provision of Rs. 13,000, vide page 94 of the Budget Memorandum, is passed.

## Assam Mass Literacy Campaign

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

157. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) The progress made in the Assam Mass Literacy Campaign planned by the last Congress-Coalition Ministry ?

(b) Do Government propose to push the plan and put the scheme into action ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

157. (a)—Posters, Charts, Primers, etc., have been prepared.

The Deputy and Sub-Inspectors have been trained in the new methods and local committees are in process of formation.

**\*Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH** : Will the Hon'ble Education Minister please state whether he and the Director of Public Instruction issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, that as the present Government have not decided to take up the mass literacy campaign there is no necessity to form local committees ?

\* Speech not corrected by the hon. member.



**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The present Government have issued no such instructions.

**\*Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that no local committees have been formed there?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** No.

**\*Sr. jut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Will the Hon'ble Education Minister issue instructions to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, to ask the educational officers at Dibrugargh to form local committees?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** The mass literacy campaign is being carried on as under the instructions which were laid down by the previous Government. The present Government have issued no instructions contrary to that. Whatever is necessary according to the present Government will be done under the instructions of the head of the department.

**\*Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Is it not a fact that in spite of the demand for orders from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education no such written orders have been issued for carrying on the scheme?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** That is not a fact. The instructions issued by the previous Government will go on as they have been going on and no contrary instructions have been issued. Hon. members will have seen that we are actually moving a motion for supplementary demand for the expenditure incurred under the instructions of the previous Government.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

157. (b)—Yes, as Government are in full sympathy with the objects of the scheme. The details of the scheme and the method of approach might, however, be revised as a result of the scrutiny undertaken by Government.

**\*Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** What is the nature of the scrutiny undertaken by Government?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We are going to examine the various details in the light of experience that we have gained and in the light of information that we have received.

**\*Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that there is an impression created in the minds of the Deputy Commissioner that the present Government is not going to take up the mass literacy campaign and hence he has stopped forming local committees?

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I am not aware of that. If such an impression has been formed, I think my hon. friend and his party are responsible for that.

**\*Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Are we to understand that the scheme has been carried on under the same policy laid down by the previous Government?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Let me call out the other questions.

**\*Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** I take strong exception to the remark made by the Hon'ble Minister that a very erroneous impression has been created in the mind of the Deputy Commissioner by my party.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** No, I have made no personal reference to my hon. friend Mr. Chanda.

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



**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA :** It is a very serious allegation made against my party.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** No, I have made no allegation.

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH :** Did not the Hon'ble Minister make an allegation against our party ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I am afraid my hon. friends have not listened to what I have said. I said that I am not aware of any such impression having been made. If such an impression has been actually created it might be due to the adverse propaganda carried on by the Opposition.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the Congress party said both in the platform and the press that they are willing not only to carry out the scheme to the best of their ability but they are also ready to give all sorts of co-operation to Government in carrying out this scheme ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I am thankful for that, Sir.

### Assam Mass Literacy Campaign

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI** asked :

158. Is it a fact that the last Congress-Coalition Ministry decided to inaugurate a mass literacy campaign and open training Centres throughout the province for removal of illiteracy from the 3rd of January 1940 and that with that object in view, a scheme was prepared and literature was printed and published ?

159. Have the various committees (*viz.*, Central, Subdivisional and local) as contemplated in the said scheme, been formed and approved by Government to take up the work ?

160. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state why no steps have yet been taken to open training centres and to render necessary help to those centres already opened by voluntary workers for running those centres as proposed in the scheme ?

161.(a) Are Government aware that about 40 training centres with more than 1,000 tribal illiterate pupils, had already been opened in November 1939 in the tribal area, within a radius of 15 miles from Barama under the auspices of the Local "Siksha Prochar Samiti" at Barama ?

(b) If so, have Government taken any steps to avail of this popular enthusiasm amongst the tribal people for removal of illiteracy and rendered any assistance or financial help to keep these educational centres going, for spread of education among the tribal people ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied :

158.—Yes.

159.—Some committees have been formed but pending examination of the details of the scheme their final constitution has not been approved by Government.

160.—Because the entire scheme is under the consideration of Government.



**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why the inauguration of the mass literacy campaign was not started on the 3rd of January as originally proposed ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I do not know what is actually meant by inauguration. If it meant any particular ceremony with music, etc., I thought that it was not necessary to have a performance of the ceremony but the fact is that work is going on.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** The reply to my question No.158 is 'Yes'. Now my question is why it was not started ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** The work has been going on very silently and efficiently (*laughter*).

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Educational Officers of the district wanted direction from the Hon'ble Minister ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I have no reason to think that the officers who have been entrusted with this work have failed in the performance of their duty.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Is it not the duty of the Hon'ble Minister to see whether the officers have carried out the order of the Hon'ble Minister ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** No such complaint has been received so far.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA :** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that all these schemes in the districts have not been working ?

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

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Sir, the answer to question No. 160 is that the scheme is under the consideration of the Government. Will the Hon'ble Minister please say what does it mean ? Will the Educational Officers of the districts carry out the programme before it is being considered by the Government ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** The scheme is being further examined only to find out whether any amendment of that scheme is necessary.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Has any instruction been issued to the officers to the effect that the scheme is being reconsidered by the Hon'ble Minister ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** There is no idea of doing away with the whole scheme altogether. The scheme is going to be further examined in order to find out whether any amendment is necessary to have more effective results.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** My point is that when the scheme is under the consideration of the Government, have Government sent any information to the District Officers that the scheme is under consideration ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** It is not at all necessary. Unless and until we decide to amend the scheme, we have no business to issue instructions to the Officers.



**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA :** Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the impression is gaining ground among these Officers that the present Government have given up this scheme ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I don't think so, Sir.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA :** Can the scheme have automatic action unless it is inaugurated ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** The scheme is already working.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Can the Hon'ble Minister give us any information at what place the scheme is being worked ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** I want notice of that question, Sir.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** We want a ruling from the Hon'ble Chair whether this question requires notice.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** From the trend of the answers, I feel that the Hon'ble Minister ought to have been prepared to answer that question.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** The question is asked regarding the number of centres where the scheme is working.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** We want to hear the name of any place where the scheme is working.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Minister ought to have mentioned at least one or two places where the scheme is being carried out.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** What my Hon'ble Colleague has said is this, that the present Government are considering how the scheme can be bettered but so long our own scheme is not ready, we have asked our Educational Officers to continue the scheme that was inaugurated by our predecessors. I said this also in my Budget speech and if anybody wants to know the name of any centre, he should give us time to enquire.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Is it a fact that under the scheme proposed by the previous Ministry no centre has been opened ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** In certain centres, the work is going on.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Will the Hon'ble Minister please mention one or two centres ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** As my Hon'ble Colleague has already said, we want notice of that question, Sir.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how long they will take to consider the scheme ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** It should not take very long.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA :** Is there any limit to the consideration like the limit to the consideration stage of the Budget ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The answer given to the question of Srijut Bishnu Ram Medhi disposes of this question.



**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister take it from me that the scheme is not working at Dibrugarh and the work has been stopped?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I shall make enquiry on that point.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** May we, Sir, have information to-morrow as regards the centres where the work is going on under the scheme proposed by the previous Ministry?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** To-morrow is a holiday.

**Mr. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The Hon'ble Minister may consult the Director of Public Instruction who is sitting there.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. members cannot be directed to take any notice of any one sitting elsewhere than the floor of the House.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI** replied:

161.(a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** The reply to question No.161 is, "Government have no information". Will Government say that on receipt of information about the centres they will give necessary help to these educational centres?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** We are making enquiry but up to now, no information has been received.

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** When the enquiry was started?

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I have stated the fact that I have no information.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** This question has been sufficiently discussed.

#### *Re Retention of Microphone in the Assembly Chamber*

**Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are greatly thankful to you for the arrangement you have made by putting Microphone here in this House. I understand the arrangement is not a *Pucca* one and this will be removed from here by this afternoon. The Secretary of the Assembly has invited the opinion of the members as to whether we are in favour of retaining the Microphone here. I know they are all in favour of it. May we know what is your view on this matter?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The matter has not yet come up before me. I have asked the Secretary to ascertain from every individual member as to whether this arrangement should be made permanent. When I shall get this information, I shall let the House know what is to be done. I may tell the hon. members that we are having microphones here for the last few days through the courtesy of a gentleman who undertook to make this arrangement free of any cost and if the arrangement is found to be a very successful one then of course Government will have to find funds for the purpose of making this arrangement permanent.

If the hon. members want that the temporary arrangement should continue till the end of this session, then the gentlemen who are doing the work now free of cost, should be paid. But I should tell hon. members that I



cannot pay anything from the money at my disposal for the Assembly Department. It is for the Government to say whether they will be able to pay for the arrangement to be continued up to the end of the session.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** May we know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister what is his opinion?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** We have not received any scheme up till now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If this temporary arrangement is to continue till the end of the session, then the gentleman who has been giving the demonstration free of cost all these days should be paid. The question is whether Government will be willing to give the amount necessary.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The money shall have to be found from the Assembly Department Budget. If there is any saving they can reappropriate. Otherwise I will have to come up with a supplementary demand.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** What is the harm?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** If there is a saving in the contingency budget of the Assembly, then it may be done.

**Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTT:** It is absolutely necessary, at least for the Lady Minister.

**Mr. D. B. H. MOORE:** May I know whether the present arrangement for broadcasting includes that for outside the building or is confined to the inside only?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The main object of this arrangement is to improve the acoustics of the House and it was only to avoid rush to the galleries that some arrangement was made for the purpose of broadcasting the speeches outside. If that is not wanted, then that will be removed and arrangement will be made only for the purpose of improving the acoustics of this hall.

With regard to other matter, I could surely pay from my contingencies, but the amount that is allowed for contingencies is not sufficient to permit me to pay the amount. There may be considerable savings under other heads, but I am not authorised to transfer expenditure from one head to another, unless I go up to Government.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** In case of re-appropriation, there may be some difficulty in the Public Accounts Committee. It would be better if the Hon'ble Finance Minister brings a supplementary demand.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** If there is excess of money available in the Budget, there will be nothing for the Public Accounts Committee to find fault with. The only question is whether the Finance Department would be agreeable, and when the Finance Minister has said that he is agreeable, there will be no difficulty about it.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am just now, not in a position to say whether re-appropriation from other heads would be in order. The Audit Department may object and the matter will find a place in our re-appropriation report. That shall have to be scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee and probably we will be charged with going beyond our voted supplies. In connection with this, Sir, I agree with my hon. friend Mr. Moore that, if any money is to be spent, it should be spent for improving the acoustics within this Hall. We will oppose any proposal for broadcasting speeches outside the House. There are various objections which I need not detail.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I quite appreciate the objections to making arrangement for broadcasting speeches outside the House. It is done in some other Legislative Assemblies and therefore I thought of having this arrangement here also. I wanted to ascertain the sense of the House with regard to making this temporary arrangement continue up to the end of the session. I think I should do it. I shall allot money from the savings under other heads and then seek for sanction from the Finance Department.

### DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

#### GRANT No. 18

(37.—Education—Other than European—*contd.*)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** We shall now continue the discussion on cut motion No. 2\* standing in the name of Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya under Grant No. 18.

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA :** Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Aditya has moved his cut motion with a view to raise a discussion about the educational policy of Government. But I confess, Sir, I have not been able to perceive even any seeming policy of the Government towards the educational advancement of the people. My friend Mr. Aditya would have been correct had he raised the discussion about want of any educational policy of Government. The innumerable cut motions under the grant that have been tabled by the hon. members of this House belonging to either side bear ample testimony to the fact that there is utter bankruptcy in the matter of policy or principle on the part of Government towards the solution of the burning problem of education. Sir, a little tinkering at Kokrajar, a little tinkering at Jowai may satisfy some of the members of this House but it will not carry the leaky boat of the Government any further and a disaster is bound to occur in consequence.

Sir, this failure of Government to pursue any definite plan or policy in the matter of education has failed to receive any blessing even from my hon. friend Rev. L. Gatphoh. My hon. friend, the redoubtable uncle of the House, I mean Mr. Jobang D Marak.....(*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I am in doubt as to whether the hon. member was justified in making a reference to Mr. Jobang D. Mark in the way he has done.

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA :** Is it a very condemning term, Sir. However, I withdraw it. My hon. friend Mr. Marak has pounced upon the Hon'ble Education Minister in a most merciless manner, and though the pitious look of the Hon'ble Education Minister and the Hon'ble Prime Minister succeeded in eliciting a benevolent "but" from him his speech has marred the enthusiasm of many of the hon. members of the Government benches. Again, Sir, my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury vehemently denounced Government for making a provision of Rs.12,000 for the mass literacy campaign. He advised the Government to drop the scheme altogether, and thereby censured them for the provision made. We the members on this side, Sir, want to criticise the Government for delaying the start of the literacy campaign and for inadequate provision in this matter. Though our view points are different, our object seems to be the same, that is, to censure the Government.

\*2. That the provision of Rs. 7,200 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.  
(To raise a discussion about the educational policy of Government and the inadequacy of provisions for the spread of education among the masses)



Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has rightly observed that in education lies the salvation of our province and that it is a subject which deserves their foremost attention. The foremost attention that has been bestowed up till now by the Government, has produced about 30 schemes. Many of these schemes are schemes of appointment and patronage (*a voice: also dis-appointment*). Yes, to some hon. members of the House. Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his Budget speech, has said that the Government would place a well-defined scheme for the establishment of a University in the Province. But no scheme without any budgetary provision for the immediate establishment of a University will satisfy the people.

Sir, the scanty amount that has been provided for the spread of primary education is only a drop in the ocean and as such it fails to satisfy the demands from any section of the people. Venture schools, both primary and secondary, are springing up, but the provision for the maintenance of these schools is very meagre.

There is evidently no principle in the distribution of the grants, I will cite only one instance. I do not grudge Gauhati in having a Girls' College. I feel the need for a Girls' College in the valley is a necessity. But I think, Sir, a substantial amount from the amount that was provided for that institution, can easily be saved if the classes are allowed to be held in the premises of the Cotton College in the morning and the amount thus saved can be easily granted to a very deserving college at BARPETA, *viz.*, the Madhab Chaudhury College. It seems, Sir, even in the matter of education BARPETA has been neglected. I understand, Sir, that there are only 3 students prosecuting their studies at present in the Girls' College at Gauhati (*a voice: six*). But about 27 students are receiving education in the BARPETA College and yet the Hon'ble Education Minister has thought it wise not to help the institution with any amount. A charitably disposed lady donated a sum of Rs. 10,000. It is almost unique in the educational administration of the province, but the Government have failed to encourage even the donor and other subscribers who have very generously contributed to the institution. I hope the Government will even now see their way to provide some help to the institution.

Sir, the recent policy followed by the Government in the matter of selection of the text-books deserves the serious consideration of the members of the House. I understand that some of the books that have been unanimously recommended to be included as text-books for this year, have been most unceremoniously rejected by the Hon'ble Minister for Education. And here in, Sir, the dignity and respect of the Central Text-Book Committee is involved and it is for the non-official members of the Committee to seriously consider what effective steps they should take so that their unanimous decision might not be disregarded in this way. (Mr. C. Goldsmith: Is that relevant to the point, Sir?) I am criticising the policy and selection of books which play the most important part in education.

Sir, certain rules which have been obtaining in the Educational Manual of the province are out of date. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Education Minister to see that the rules particularly the rules as regards the control and appointment of the Managing Committees of the Government as well as aided schools are modified.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member will resume his seat now.



**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Rabindra Nath Aditya is a comprehensive one. He has tried to enunciate the policy and programme of his party—I mean the Congress. I think my friends on the opposite will have no objection if I say that the speech of Mr. Aditya is the official view of his party. I thank him for this, as he has given us an opportunity of knowing what they think and what they want to do in future. He also tried to compare the outlook of the last Congress Ministry with that of the present Government. He also frankly admitted that it was the programme of the last Congress Government to introduce the system of basic education—popularly known as the Wardha System of education and to propagate the Hindusthani Prochar Samity in this province. Moreover, Sir, he made a serious charge against the Hon'ble Finance Minister for making no provision in the Budget for the Wardha system of education. Almost a similar motion (Motion No. 65) stands in the name of Mr. Gauri Kanta Talukdar to criticise Government for not making any provision for giving the Wardha Scheme of basic education a trial.

Now, Sir, the hon. members of this House may remember that during the discussion of the last year's Budget all the Muslim members of the House unitedly opposed the introduction of the Wardha Scheme, but the Congress Government did not care for the sentiments of the Muslims and broke the pledge of the Karachi resolution in which the Congress gave a pledge that they would safeguard the religion and culture of the minority communities in India.

Sir, I also gave a *duhai* of section 52 of the Government of India Act of 1935, which says: "In the exercise of his functions, the Governor shall have the following special responsibilities, that is to say:—(b) the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the minorities;" I made an appeal to His Excellency the Governor to come to our rescue. But the Hon'ble Speaker ruled it out and said—"If the House passes it His Excellency the Governor cannot do anything to alter the decision". Sir, our hopes are shattered and we can fully realise where we do stand now. It seems that section 52 of the Government of India Act is quite inadequate and cannot save us from the invasion of the Congress.

On the other hand, Sir, during the last Non-Co-operation Movement, the Muslims sacrificed their lives and property and merged their existence in the Congress and made it what it is now to-day. But what did we get in return? As a reward of our sacrifice, as a reward of our service and co-operation they wanted to establish a Fascist Raj in India and to wipe out our separate identity from the surface of the earth. If we want to save ourselves from annihilation, we must stand on our own legs and trust on the Almighty Allah, the creator and protector of the whole Universe.

Sir, Mr. Bardoloi, the late Prime Minister of the Congress Government during the last Budget Session, in his reply to our speeches said "All that has been urged before the House is that, it goes against the religious susceptibilities of the Muslims, but how does it transgress them nobody has explained". He.....

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** On a point of information. Is his speech meant for us or for his constituency?

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Yes, it is meant for the Congress. Sir, Mr. Bardoloi had thrown out a challenge to the Muslim members of the House. The time at our disposal was very short. Every one of us was given 5 minutes time to speak on the subject. Now just after the lapse of a year, we have got an opportunity to reply to the charge



of Mr. Bardoloi and shall try to explain how it has transgressed the religious susceptibilities of the Muslims.....

**Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** On a point of order, Sir. Is it relevant? Is the present cut motion directed against the previous Government or against this Government?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member is trying to advance the arguments of the other side, but I would ask the hon. member to finish his speech within the time-limit. I request him to be as brief as possible. Of course I have got another appeal to make to him, *viz.*, that he should wait to find out a proper occasion in the future to speak on all these.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Sir, Mr. Aditya wants to criticise the educational policy of this Government, and in this connection.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member would do well to finish his speech.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Sir, the Wardha Scheme is practically the working of the Mr. Gandhi's idea of education. The framers of the scheme at the very outset acknowledged his leadership and paid a tribute to the whole-hearted devotion with which he threw himself into the task of evolving a system of education which might be in harmony with the genius of the Indian people. Before we criticise the Wardha System of education, we should know what is the ideal of Mr. Gandhi. Mr. G. B. Kripalani, the Secretary of the All-India National Congress, in page 153 of his book "The Gandhian Way" declared "Every public worker in the Congress is supposed to have accepted the lead of Gandhiji in his life. Gandhiji is considered not only the political, but also the spiritual *guru* of national workers". Sir, Mr. Kripalani (*Interruptions, and voices:* What is the name? Are you sure?) is the Secretary of all-India National Congress and Mr. Gandhi in his "foreward" of the book endorsed the views expressed by Mr. Kripalani. The opinion of Mr. Kripalani may be taken as the official view, at least the rightist view of the Congress. He has made a sweeping remark and has made no distinction between the Muslim and the Hindu National Workers and has asked all irrespective of caste and creed to accept Mr. Gandhi as the spiritual *guru* of national workers. Mr. Gandhi is regarded by his followers as the messenger of truth and *Ahimsa* as an *avatar*, saviour, and even Sir Radha Krishnan of international fame called him "the embodiment of God".

The Zakir Hussain Committee in page 8 of their report says "Unlike, as in the West, in India the nation has adopted non-violence as the method of peace, for achieving all-round freedom. Our children will therefore need to be taught the superiority of non-violence over violence". Sir, I must clarify my views on this point. I do not like to quarrel either with the Congress or with the Hindu followers of Mr. Gandhi, who call him prophet, or *Avatar* or a *Bhagawan*.....

(*Interruptions and uproar*)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member will please note the temper of the House, and decide whether he should continue his speech.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** I obey your order, Sir. But the issue before the House, nay, before the whole of India, is this. What right have the Congress to thrust this unwanted scheme on the Muslims of this province?.....

(*Uproar again*)



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now I am compelled to say that the hon. member's speech is not perfectly relevant, and he is ruminating over his arguments. The hon. member has made sufficient criticism of the Wardha Scheme, and not only that, he has also brought in Mr. Kripalani and Mahatma Gandhi and has criticised their views.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY :** Sir, I am trying to show that this Wardha Scheme is not wanted by us—the members on this side of the House.

(*Interruption and voices :* Can you do it within your time-limit ?)

Now I come to a very vital point, Sir, (*Voices :* After all you have come to your vital point). You may like it or dislike it, I don't care for your opinion. (*Loud laughter from all sides of the House*). Sir, so long the Government followed policy of non-intervention in all religious matters ; but the Wardha Scheme really aims at "supplanting all other religions by a new religion—Gandhism (*Voices :* Is it ?)". The Muslims take strong exception to this and wish to emphasise that the most outstanding fact in the history of Muslim education in India is that the Muslims have all along insisted on the teaching of Islam as one of the most essential ingredients of the education of a Muslim boy. Moreover, in the words of Nawabzada Liakat Ali Khan, "A separate identity of various communities and welding them into a corporate state, as well as to propagate the political and economic principles of the party in control of the machinery of the State and for the conversion of the youth to the ideals of that party".

Sir, our point of objection is this. The Congress cannot interfere in our religious belief and compel us through this scheme to accept Mr. Gandhi as our spiritual guru. We have a separate religion, separate civilization and separate nationality of our own known as Islam and we believe in the creed of "*La ila ha illal lah o Muhammadur Rasul Allah*" that is, there is no God but Allah and Hazrat Muhammad (may peace be on him) is His messenger.

We want to point out that the distinction between common citizenship should not be lost sight of and the system of education should be based on liberal principles, where no particular political creed or philosophy is given undue predominance. The principle of non-violence on which the Wardha Scheme is based, has been conceived by the political philosophy of the Muslim Nation differently. Non-violence to them is not the absolute final truth, but has been accepted by them as valid under certain condition. To base an educational scheme on the creed of a leader of a political party and is clearly contrary to the sound principles of education. This will involve giving education a "religious garb". It will clearly imply the welding of two nations in one synthetic culture by means of a system of primary education and will only facilitate the conversion of the youth to the ideas of the Congress.....

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** On a point of order, Sir. Can any hon. member go on lecturing on any subject on the floor of this House ? (*Hear, hear*).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member is right. I told the hon. Maulavi Ahabab Chaudhury to finish his speech within the



time-limit. But as we are still in the question hour, let him continue and finish.

**Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:** Unless it is possible for education to be imparted on lines which would leave room for other ideals to flourish, this scheme of education cannot be accepted and the Muslim institutions will have to be separated.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. The hon. member must take his seat.

**Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not add a few words on this cut motion. In my opinion, the present educational policy of the Government is quite satisfactory to us (*hear, hear*)—satisfactory in this respect that they have given special attention to the education of the tribal and the scheduled caste people (*A voice: Where it is?*). But the fund provided for this purpose is quite inadequate. I want to draw the attention of Government to the necessity of increasing the grants, either by a supplementary grant or by any other means so that we can have a special impetus from Government to improve our education. Sir, out of the general grant of Rs.50,000 the tribal and the scheduled caste people get only one-sixth, which is very little. There are so many venture schools in our rural areas that one-sixth of this Rs.50,000 will give only about Rs.8,000 for scheduled and tribal schools, which is quite insufficient.

The second point is that sufficient scholarships for the different technical schools have not been specially allotted to us. And, moreover, for free-studentship the Government have not declared any definite policy as to what percentage we the scheduled and tribal people should get. At present the Educational Manual provides a certain percentage out of which the Muslim community is enjoying 8 per cent., and the balance is to be divided among the rest. I would therefore request that Government should come forward and amend the Manual.

Lastly, I will put one point, and that is, that the grant that will be distributed in the rural areas for primary education should be distributed through the Department in consultation with the local Members of Legislative Assembly, or some influential local people.

With these few words I resume my seat

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, সিদিনা আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত আমাৰ প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে, ধেমালীৰ চলতেই হওক কিম্বা বিজ্ঞপ্তি কৰিয়েই হওক, আমাক mutual non-understanding society ৰ member বুলি আখ্যা দিছিল। তেখেতে যি ভাবৰ পৰাই হওক, মই নিজে এজন non-understanding society ৰ member বুলি মানি লৈছোঁ। সংসদটিকেই বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ এনে কিছুমান কাৰ্য্য দেখাযায় যিবোৰৰ পৰা কোন মূলনীতি অবলম্বন কৰি সেই কাৰ্য্যবিলাক কৰিছে সহজে বুজিব নোৱাৰি। সেই কাৰণে মই প্ৰথমতে স্বীকাৰ কৰিলোঁ যে মই Education Budget ৰ ভিতৰৰ বহুত কথা বুজি পোৱা নাই।

এইটো সকলোৰে জানে যে কোনো এখন প্ৰদেশৰ বা দেশৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যি বিলাক দায়িত্ব কিম্বা সি বিলাকৰ যি কৰ্ত্তব্য তাৰ ভিতৰত বোধকৰোঁ শিক্ষাই অন্ততঃ দ্বিতীয় স্থান অধিকাৰ কৰে। মোৰ বিশ্বাস যিবিলাকে দেশৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা বৰ্দ্ধা কৰাকেই প্ৰথম



আৰু প্ৰধান কৰ্ত্তব্য বুলি ভাবে আৰু তাৰ পিচত আছে শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ, যিবোৰ দ্বাৰা অন্ধ আৰু মুক জংসাধাৰণ = সামান্য অলপ শিক্ষাৰ পোহৰ দি দিবিলাকক মনুষ্যত্ব দিব কাৰণে চৰ্চা কৰে। এই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ অপৰিহাৰ্য আৰু অত্যন্ত কৰণীয় এই যে কাৰ্য্য, এই কাৰ্য্যত যদি অন্যান্য কাৰ্য্যৰ তুলনাত অলপখানো কুপনতা দেখা যায়, তেনেহলে সেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কাৰ্য্য সমালোচনা কৰি দিবিলাকক নিন্দা নকৰি পাবোনে? শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে বৰ্ত্তমান যি বাজেট আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই সময়ে মই সাধাৰণ ভাবে বাজেট আলোচনা কৰোঁতেও কৈছো আৰু এতিয়াও কওঁ যে সচাসচিকৈয়ে ই আমাৰ আগত এনে এটা scheme এৰ বোণক বা অদৰ্শই বোলক বা প্ৰগতিশীল আকাঙ্ক্ষাকে বোলক জগাই তুলিব পৰা নাই বাৰ দ্বাৰা আমি আশা কৰিব পাৰোঁ যে এই লক্ষ্যত্মূলক মন্ত্ৰী সভাই আমাৰ দেশক কিবা অলপ দিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হৈছে। যি সকল লোকৰ দ্বাৰা বা সভাৰ দ্বাৰা এই মন্ত্ৰী সভা গঠিত হৈছে দিবিলাক আমাৰ পক্ষে “নিচিনা কাঠৰ হোৱা নহয়”। ‘সিবিলা’ৰ ভিতৰৰ কেইটোখনে ১৯৩৭ চনৰে পৰা মন্ত্ৰীৰ গাদী অলঙ্কৃত কৰি আহিছে; বাজেট ‘সিবিলা’ৰ মনে ভাব জানো। ইতিপূৰ্বে শব্দতঃ ১৯৩৮ চনৰ বাজেট আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত শিক্ষা বিষয়ে ‘সিবিলা’ক যি মনোভাব আৰি বুজিছিলো বা মই যদি ভুল বুজা নাছিলোঁ, সেইটো বিশ্লেষণ কৰিলে এনকুৱা হয় যে ‘সিবিলা’কে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত অত্যন্ত প্ৰাৰ্থমাৰী শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰৰ বিষয়ে আমাৰে দৈতে ‘সিবিলা’কৰ একমত আছিল। কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যপন্থী ‘সিবিলা’কে অলপ বেলেগ বাটে গব বুজিছিল। সেইটো কৈছে যে সপ্ৰতি টকাৰ মতাৰ বুলি বা অন্যান্য অৱস্থাৰ নিমিত্তে সম্প্ৰতি বাধ্যতামূলক প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ পৰিচালনা কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আমিও সেইটো মানি লৈছিলো। কিন্তু ‘সিবিলা’কে এনেকুৱা এটা ইঙ্গিত দিছিল যে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ যি বিলাক ৰাইজে শিক্ষাৰ অভাৱ অনুভৱ কৰি নিজে কঠোৰে ঘৰ কৰি শিক্ষক বাথি venture schools ৰাখি আছে, সেইবিলাকৰ যদি কিছুমান লবপাৰি তেন্তে সেই প্ৰান্তস্থান বিলাকৰ জৰিয়তে আমাৰ বাধ্যতামূলক প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা হব। কিন্তু আমি আজি হতাশ হৈছোঁ যে আট্ট বছৰৰ পিচত এই বাজেটত ‘সিবিলা’কৰ সেই মনে ভাবৰ অলপো পৰিচয় উন্নত দিয়া হোৱা নাই। ‘সিবিলা’কে মাথোন এই বছৰ লোকেল বডক দিবৰ নিমিত্তে ৪০,০০০ টকা, মিউনিচিপালিটিক দিবলৈ ১,০০০ টকা আৰু small town committee বিলাকক দিবলৈ ১৩,০০০ টকা বাজেটত ধৰিছে—মুঠতে এও ৬৩,০০০ টকা মাথোন প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে বাজেটত ধৰা হৈছে। এই ৬৩,০০০ টকাৰে সৈতে বৰ্ত্তমান গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পূৰ্বৰ পৰিকল্পনাতে নৈলাগে তাৰ-একচতুৰ্থাংশ ও পূৰ্ণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কংগ্ৰেছ হোৱালিছন মন্ত্ৰীসভাই যোঁতয়া এই প্ৰদেশৰ শাসন ভাৰ গাঁত লৈছিল, ‘সিবিলা’কে নিজ দায়িত্বত এই বিষয়ত কিছু কাম কৰিবলৈ হাতত লৈছিল। আমি যেতিয়া আমাৰ দেশত কিমান venture school আছে তাৰ figure গোটাইছিলো, তেতিয়া আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছিলো যে প্ৰায় আট্টহেজাৰৰ venture schools লোকেল বডে লব পৰা নাই। সেইবোৰ venture school লবলৈ ৩,৬০,০০০ টকা লাগে। সেই কাৰণে আমি



প্ৰনাৰ ভিতৰত যাৰা মন্ত্ৰী সভাই এটা আচনি কৰি ১,৬০,০০০ টকাৰ অন্ততঃ তাৰ আধা খিনি স্কুল লবৰ কাৰণে এটা আচনি ৰাখি থৈ গৈছিল ; কিন্তু দুখৰ কথা যে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী সভাই সেই আচনি গ্ৰহণ ন কৰিলে।

Mass literacy সম্বন্ধে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট আৰু আমাৰ ভিতৰত আজি প্ৰশ্ন কৰাৰ সময়ত যে বাদানুবাদ চলিছিল তাত এইটো স্পষ্ট হৈ ওলাইছে যে আমাৰ দেশৰ নিৰক্ষৰ বিলাকক সামান্য শিক্ষা দিবৰ কাৰণে যি অলপমান চেষ্টা আগ বাঢ়িছে, ঠিক সেইদৰে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰী-মণ্ডলীয়ে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কাৰণ তাত স্পষ্টকৈ লেখিছে যে এতিয়াও সেই scheme সিবিলাকৰ scrutinyৰ stageতে আছে ; আৰু যি স্থলত আগৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই কাৰ্য্যৰ বাবে প্ৰায় এক লাখ টকাৰ বাজেট কৰিছিল সেই ঠাইত ১২,০০০ টকা ধৰাতেই বুজা যায় যে এই কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিৰ প্ৰতি সিবিলাকৰ মনোভাব কি ? তদুপৰি প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষক সকলৰ বাবে আগৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে দৰ্শনা বঢ়াবৰ বাবে যি ৩০,০০০ টকা ধৰিছিল তাকো ধৰা নাই। মুঠতে সাধাৰণ ভাবে শিক্ষা প্ৰচলনৰ বাবে যি টকা বাজেটত ধৰিছে তাৰ পৰাই সিবিলাকৰ আমোলা-তন্ত্ৰী মনোভাব স্পষ্টকৈ বুজিব পৰা যায়। দায়িত্বশীলতাৰ অলপো আভাস ইয়াত নাই.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I hope the hon. member will finish his speech.

**Srijut MAHADEV SARMA:** মাথোন মোক অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি আৰু ২ মিনিট সময় দিয়ক।

ইয়াত ওৱাৰ্দ্ধা স্কাম আৰু Mass Literacy Campaignৰ বিপক্ষে যি ৬৫টাৰিটা যুক্তি তুলিছে, মই সিবিলাকক অতি বিনীতভাৱে কওঁ যে শিক্ষা বিষয়ৰ কথাটোক যেন সিবিলাকে Party politics কথা বুলি ধৰি নহয় ; কাৰণ শিক্ষাবিস্তাৰৰ কথাত বোনো দলৰ মানুহে ৰাধা দিব বুলি আমি বিশ্বাস নকৰোঁ। ওৱাৰ্দ্ধা স্কীমে কি ? যেতিয়া দেখা হ'ল যে প্ৰচলিত শিক্ষা প্ৰণালীৰ দ্বাৰা আমাৰ দেশত unemployed youthsৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়িহে গৈছে, সেই unemployment বন্ধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এটা honest attempt স্বৰূপ এই ওৱাৰ্দ্ধা স্কীম প্ৰনয়ণ কৰিছিল। কিন্তু সি যে culture আৰু ধৰ্ম্মৰ ওপৰত হাত দিছে বুলি ধৰি লোৱা হৈছে সেইটো অতিৰিক্ত। শূনি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ, আশাৰ বিপক্ষদলৰ এগৰো কৈছে যে Mass Literacy Campaignৰ দ্বাৰা কেৱল টকাৰ অপব্যয় হ'ব কৰা হ'ব ; কাৰণ আমাৰ দেশত শিক্ষা পাবলৈ হেনো ৭০ ৮০ বছৰীয়া বুঢ়া মানুহহে মাথোন আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত আছে ডেকা গাভৰু নাই। এনে কাল্পনিক এখন দেশৰ কথা আমি নাজানো ? ছুটা আশাৰ চিনাক্ত আপত্তি কৰাটো Party politicsৰ প্ৰভাৱ নহয়নে ?

শেষত আৰু এটা বুজিব নোৱাৰা কথা এই যে সিদিনা,—যোৱা ২১ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী তাৰিখে, Text Book Committee এ কিছুমান কিতাপ প্ৰচলন হবলগে বুলি recommendation দিছিল কিন্তু, কব নোৱাৰোঁ। কিন্তু আমাৰ শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰীয়ে Text Book Committeeৰ সেই



অনুমোদন অগ্রাহ্য কৰিলে : গোটেইখিনি যদি অগ্রাহ্য কৰিলেহেঁতেন তেনেহলেও আমাৰ কবলগীয়া নাছিল; কিন্তু তাৰে বঙালা শাখাৰ কিতাপখিনি গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে কিন্তু অসমীয়া শাখাৰ খিনি গ্ৰহণ নকৰিলে? কিয় নকৰিলে তাৰ কাৰণ মই বুজ পোৱা নাই। মোৰ মতে উভয় পক্ষ dignity বলহেঁতেন যদি সেই বিতাক আকৌ বিবেচনাৰ নিমিত্তে Text Book Committee লৈ ঘূৰাই পঠিয়াই দিলেহেঁতেন। কিন্তু তাকে নকৰি মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে একেবাৰে অগ্রাহ্য কৰিলে। তেখেতে recommendation গ্ৰহণ নকৰি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা কণিটিৰ ওপৰত বিশেষ ৰকমে অন্তাৱ কৰিছে বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ।

সভাপতি মহোদয়ে, যদি একাদাৰ মাগোন কবলৈ দিয়ে তেনেহলেও কৰ পাৰোঁ যে বৰ্ত্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে সিবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰা Party politicsৰ উৰ্দ্ধলৈ উঠি শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে একা বাদস্থ্য কৰিব পৰা নাই। বৰং তাৰেইচে আভাস গোটেই বজেটেতে দেখা পাওঁ। যদি সিবিলাকে সিবিলাকৰ মান সম্বন্ধ কি মবলৈ টকা পাব পাৰে আৰু যদি সিবিলাকৰ স্বচ্ছন্দতা comfort বা আগ্ৰাসৰ বাবে টকা বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ বাৰণ কৰিব পাৰে, তেনেহলে সিবিলাকে শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে ও একলাখ টকা বাজেটত ধৰি venture school বিলাক লব পাৰিলে হেঁতেন। গতিকে মুঠতে সিবিলাকে শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে যি বজেট কৰিছে তাৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক নিন্দা নকৰি নোৱাৰোঁ।

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA** On a point of order, Sir, is it not breach of privilege of the House that the Education Minister is away when a cut motion on the Education Budget is being discussed?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Before you give a ruling, Sir, I like to mention that I am in charge of this cut motion and I will reply. My Hon. Colleague, the Education Minister has gone out to collect some figures, at my request.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** On a similar occasion, Sir, in the Central Legislative Assembly, I understand, it was held that it was a breach of privilege of the House if the Hon. Member of Government concerned was absent from the House ignoring the discussions relating to his portfolio.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I wish to assure the hon. member that every Hon'ble Minister will abide by that ruling that when a matter is under discussion, the Minister in charge will be present. But in this case I have taken charge of this motion while my Hon. Colleague had to go and get some figures. I am keeping notes of the points raised on this debate.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is also the question of joint responsibility.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI:** Sir, I must congratulate my hon. friend Babu Rabindranath Aditya for giving us a scope to speak and participate in the discussion of the education policy of the Government. I am agreeable and am of the same opinion that has been expressed by the last speaker that this is a matter in which we must not dabble with party politics as in the education policy of Government, the emancipation of the country when the whole future of the country is involved. It is a matter in which we should give our serious consideration. Experience has taught us that the education policy that has been handed over to us after the conquest



of India by the British people is no longer in tune with the needs and requirements of the country. I must say one word to my hon. friend Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury, that notwithstanding the fact that we are all zealous to safeguard and protect our culture and religious education we cannot ignore that the basic education is very badly needed in the country (*Hear, hear*).

Now, Sir, I cannot go so far as to say that the Wardha scheme is without any fault. But whatever that might be that scheme may be one in which we may all take interest. For the time being every well wisher of the country is agreed that we want proper education for the country and should be agreeable that along with proper education there should be some introduction for the inculcation of basic education and that should be the policy of Government. This, Sir, is a matter which cannot be ignored. If we now make a census of the students and our graduates who are now roaming practically outside the Assembly chamber, you will find that they are all waiting for service. For months after months they have been loitering either in the houses of Ministers or other members of the House simply because they want to earn a living. That is what it has degenerated to. There is no scope for them to get employed. I think this is an aspect on which the Government should direct attention and they should think of introducing basic education side by side with the general education. On this matter, I have both privately and officially brought it to the notice of the Hon'ble Education Minister that so far as Sylhet Madrassa is concerned one Muhammadan gentleman by his wakf dedicated a big property for the education of the Muhammadans. And I think that some fifteen or sixteen thousands of rupees are still lying with the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet as Mutawalli of the estate. If this amount is supplemented with some amount from Government there would be some scope for starting some sort of technical branches for the Madrassa students and after getting religious education in the Madrassa they can earn a decent living and in the name of Islam when we will be going from place to place, it will be realised that apart from the credit of Islamic education we have also technical education which will help us a great deal. Government, I suggest, should take up this question very seriously and immediately and see how this money could be profitably utilised by starting such institutions. My past experience of three years working in the Assembly, I should say, has been painful in this respect because I found that the Government grants or the Ministers' discretionary grants have always been given too miserly so far as my constituency is concerned. I do not know the reason for this. Is it simply because our people are very backward in education? So far as one thana is concerned *e.g.*, the Lakhai Thana, Government admitted in the year 1939 that Muhammadan education is very much backward there. In the whole thana there is only one Middle English School of 70 years' standing, but no serious attention has been given to this school.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I should remind the hon. member that in discussing the education policy of the Government any particular local grievance is not relevant.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI:** My submission is that the Government policy has so long been only pouring oil on oily heads. In the matter of Government grants there has been no equitable distribution. And from this point of view I should say that the educational policy of the Government ought to be changed. Again I have seen that the inspecting officers visit only those parts of the province where



their motor car can go very smoothly but those places where it is very difficult for them to get travelling allowance and which do not provide comfortable touring are never visited by them. So I urge upon Government to see that the inspecting officers do visit those places where the people are in need of education.

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

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI:** In this connection I would like to make another submission. Sir, I am not going to say this out of valley jealousy. It may be unpleasant to many but it is a fact. My submission is that in distribution of scholarships, Muhammadans of the Surma Valley have a grievance in this matter, that they have not been given the preference though they are backward so far as education is concerned. In the same matter I want to say that one of my friends of the Sylhet bar came to me and said that he has got a brilliant son who is now getting training in the Mining School at Dhanbad. This gentleman was trying for a scholarship for his son but I now understand that he did not get help although the scholarship has been awarded to a Hindu boy of the Assam Valley for years together but ultimately he failed to come out successful. I must say that from the stand point of regeneration of the province we should encourage training in an institution like the Mining School of Dhanbad.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, the whole motion has taken more or less of an omnibus character and everybody is giving vent to what has come uppermost in their mind. I want to add only few words to what has been said by the previous speakers and they are these. Sir, in all the countries which go by the name of civilised countries they have always a very decent proportion of their revenue allotted for the cause of education. Judged by such a standard, the present Governments' allotment is a hopeless failure. Whatever attempt the present Governments' might be making for making better allotments, I must say that the provisions have been definitely inadequate. It will be seen from the figures under the head "Education" that for the last three or four years that the allotment has never been more than 12-13 per cent.—a fact which should put any Government to shame. But with so many charges on the revenue, with such top-heavy expenditure elsewhere, I quite realise the difficulty of the Government in allotting more. But, Sir, here was a chance—the chance given to us by the passing of the Agricultural Income-tax Act and such other Acts which, in all, would bring 30 to 40 lakhs of rupees to the revenue of this province. Now even if we are to allot the amount of that revenue in proportion of what we have been giving all these three years, we should have allotted at least 4 lakhs of rupees for the expansion of education. But what has the present Government done? They have allotted Rs.1,50,000 for education as a whole on recurring charges and only Rs.46,000 or something like that for non-recurring charges. This I consider would be a very inadequate amount. Sir, for the short time I was in office we availed of the opportunity of adjusting the budget to increase the percentage of expenditure on Education even under difficult circumstances and the allotment we made on education was, I think more than what the present Government have allotted, or at any rate not much below what the earmarked a decent sum, 1½ lakh, for launching a scheme by which at least the primary education could have been very much increased. I definitely feel,



Sir, that the allotment on primary education should have been much more than what is provided by the present Government. It is only Rs.50,000. On the other hand we thought that we should take at least one thousand venture schools on Rs.12 monthly pay system. From the enquiries that we made, we found that there are 1,200 venture schools that are waiting to be taken up by the Government, or by the local bodies. We therefore thought that we could go a long way in solving the problem of primary education among the masses if we could take up a thousand schools. We therefore allotted a lakh and a half of rupees for this purposes whereas we find that only Rs.50,000 have been allotted of which Rs.10,000 have been particularly earmarked for the Municipalities. This must be considered to be a very inadequate amount. If the present Government had only taken care to allot even a fair amount of the revenue, that we have from the new taxation, for the cause of primary education, I submit, the grievances which have been ventilated from all sections of the House and for which Government have been charged of neglect, would not have been there. I think that Government have not done their duty in allotting such a small sum on primary education.

Then, Sir, I would speak only a word with regard to the special allotment which should have been made for the tribal, scheduled and other backward classes. We thought it our duty to allot special sums for the education of the backward people for the simple reason that they are so backward. We also thought, Sir, that those communities should not be deprived of the share of general allotment which is given on the score of this and other items of education. We also thought that special provision should be made for the cause of education of these communities ; but Sir, we find that there is no mention whatsoever for these people excepting a sum of Rs.3,000 or Rs.4,000 set apart for certain scholarships for the tribal, Scheduled caste and other backward students. I suppose, it has been stated in the House by the Hon'ble Premier that one-sixth of the amount is going to be utilised for the cause of education for the tribal, Scheduled caste and backward people. It must be said in the first instance that no such special allotment has been made and secondly, that must be considered very inadequate in view of the very big demands that are daily growing in these backward localities.

Then, Sir, one important thing which deserves special mention by me is free studentships for the tribal, Scheduled caste and the backward people. Sir, the principle of granting free-studentships has been recognised so far as Muslims are concerned and as a matter of fact, 8 per cent. of school free studentships goes to muslim students and only 5 per cent. is distributed among other communities. While we were in office we examined that question in detail and on close examination we found that only a sum of Rs.5,000 was necessary to accommodate the free students for these various communities. Sir, this is a very small amount and the neglect which the present Government has shown by not providing this small amount, I consider, to be highly deplorable. With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir. I hope you will kindly give me sometime more to speak.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Yes, we shall continue up to 1 p.m., and after that for sometime also ; because I see that with regard to other demands there are very few cut motions and so we shall be able to dispose of them in time.



**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Thank you, Sir. I have been set with the task of meeting what my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition just now characterised as an omnibus discussion. I know Sir, that this debate will take this turn and therefore, I had risen to a point of order that the present discussion should come on other heads rather than the one under which it was tabled. I don't know where to begin, for, like those big American shops where you can buy things from an aeroplane down to a pin, one is puzzled which branch to visit. I am set with the task of finding which stick my hon. friend is utilising to beat the present Government, but as usual I will take the last speech first not merely that my hon. friend who spoke last is the Leader of the Opposition but also as he was in charge of the Education Department and he was speaking with first-hand knowledge and from personal experience. Sir, from various corners of this House, I have heard the criticism hurled at my Government that the late Congress-Coalition Government brought in by various taxation measures, a sum of about Rs. 30 lakhs to the coffers of the State and therefore the present Government has the fortune of handling a big amount and they were expected to dole out a bigger amount for advancement of education. I yield to none in my own small endeavours towards improving education and I may let all know that being a son of school teacher, I was brought up in an atmosphere of educational activities. I started my carrier as also a school teacher and therefore I have got a soft corner for the Education Department. If my hon. friend will not take the trouble of taking things on their face value then I am at a disadvantage. My hon. friend Srijut Mahadev Sarma who had just now delivered an oration in his usual eloquent style but who had himself non-cooperated from the Education Department, said that I had described him and the members of the benches sitting on the opposite as members of the 'non-understanding society'. Probably I did not use that term but I have got the idea that either intentionally or by accident they would not consider the things as they are, even though figures are placed before them. Now to revert to the story of our flowing with milk and honey. No doubt various taxation measures of the last Government are expected to bring in a revenue of about 30 lakhs of rupees but are we getting these 30 lakhs of rupees in our hands? I think, I will not be far from the mark if I say that by their own extravagant action, they have left the province to face a deficit of 18 lakhs of rupees. This shall have to be met, either by borrowing from the open market or it shall have to be repaid from the resources at our disposal i.e., from our revenue receipt. Then Sir, the last minute remission of land-revenue at the time when the cultivators were getting good price for their agricultural produce, will take away the sum of 12 lakhs of rupees. So, very little remains out of this 30 lakhs and the whole thing goes away in payment of this remission to the raiyats and in wiping off the deficit that is likely to follow. Therefore we start from the same indigent position as before.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** On a point of information, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Premier going to meet that deficit from the revenue of the province? Has he already decided it?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have not yet decided it Sir, but it will be common sense that if we pay it from the revenue we shall save interest but if we borrow the sum from the open market, then we shall have to pay some interest, probably high on account of war market.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Budget has not provided that.



**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** We shall have to provide it in the next year's budget. Sir, my hon. friend the mover of this motion gave us some very interesting figures in order to illustrate that with the assumption of office by the Congress Ministries, educational expenditure in other provinces had gone as high as one sixth of total Provincial income. Sir, I had also looked into the figures and I can say that his statement is not quite borne out by budgets. Comparisons are always odious and it is much more so for me, to say that the Congress Government did not do this or that. I refuse to follow the dictum that we should be guided by what the Congress Government did. I must say that I want to cut my coat according to the length of cloth that I have got. Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Aditya has very kindly given me these figures for the year 1938-39. When the Congress administration was in full swing *i.e.*, before they left office, the provincial Government of United Provinces with little over 13 crores of rupees as total income, spent a sum of 2 crores 10 lakhs for "education". He placed before the House this figure to show that the Congress administration spent one-sixth of the total income on education. Sir, he also gave figures for Bombay and Bihar but I will not take the time of the House by detailing the figures for the conditions of Bombay and Bihar have changed since 1937. The Province of Sind has been created out of the former province of Bombay and similarly Orissa has been carved out as a separate province from Bihar. Therefore comparison of figures of those provinces during the Congress administration and the previous time would be misleading.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** The figures are those of 1938-39.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am giving the figures of 1935-36 for the United Provinces when the so-called bureaucratic system was in existence. Sir, I have culled these figures from the budget estimates of the years from 1935-36. In 1935, the total revenue of the province was 11 crores 73 lakhs, of which the expenditure under education head was 2 crores 6 lakhs odd. At that time the proportion of expenditure on the education budget was much more than one-sixth—it was one-fifth. In 1936-37, the total revenue was 11 crores 70 lakhs 96 thousand, and the expenditure on education was 2 crores 6 lakhs 99 thousand—which was also more than one-sixth. In 1937-38, the total income was 12 crores 54 lakhs, and the expenditure on education was 2 crores 7 lakhs and 53 thousand. Even then the proportion of the expenditure on education to the total Budget was higher than what my hon. friend has told us. Now the income has gone to over 13 crores and the expenditure on education remains only at 2 crores 10 lakhs. Thereby I do not say that the Congress Government has not attempted to introduce a mass literacy campaign or a mass literacy drive in their own provinces. Every one ought to see that the people of the country are educated. It is really a shame that even now our country-side cannot produce more than 5 per cent. of literates.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** 8 per cent.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It is 8 per cent. for the whole province and 5 per cent. for the rural area.

Therefore, Sir, I am at one with my hon. friends in their desire to see that we spread a net-work of institutions—call it by whatever name, primary School, night school or adult school—so that the entire population may be reclaimed from illiteracy and set on the way of being literate. The



main point is whether we have got the funds to start that. My hon. friends said that in their programme they had put in a lakh of rupees for the mass literacy campaign which they wanted to inaugurate from January this year. I admit that, Sir. But have I anywhere said, either in my budget speech or in the various explanations I have given before the House, that I have stopped that campaign or that I am not going to spend money for adult education?

**A voice** :—There is a provision of only Rs.12,000.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : The hon. members will please give me a chance to speak. They have had their chances.

I think my hon. friends will give me at least this credit that I have the longest experience of holding charge of education of anybody in this House. I may be able to work out a scheme, probably a better scheme than my friends opposite.

Then my hon. friend said that they had also a proposal to spend Rs. 60,000 for improving the pay of primary school teachers, provided they helped in the mass literacy campaign. I lay emphasis on the proviso which has been stated by my hon. friend. I hate repetitions, but as my hon. friends compel me to reiterate what I have already said, I cannot but say, Sir, that we consider the scheme of my hon. friends by which they wanted those gentlemen—whether in service or outside the service—to be recompensed by a four anna bit at the end of their labour when their students would pass the literacy test, is one which would not draw many workers or achieve the result which they as well as we have at heart. I mentioned the other day—and I have also mentioned it outside this House—that we are considering whether we could not utilise the services of our primary school teachers, of whom we have about 8,000 throughout our province, in furtherance of the cause, not by giving them one rupee, but by giving them a little more. If you want service from a man in these times he must be recompensed. I have not decided on the figure, but I can say this without any fear of contradiction that it will be more than one rupee in our proposal.

Sir, I am considering this subject from this angle and I am prepared to take the help—not to say the enthusiasm—of my hon. friends opposite in evolving the scheme. They should not criticise either the Education Minister or the present Government for delaying a little in shaping their own scheme.

Sir, various hon. speakers have already mentioned about the question of not taking more venture schools. We heard from one brilliant brain among my friends opposite that the number of venture schools to be taken over is more than 2,500. He was corrected by the Leader of his Party to the effect that that number stands at 1,200.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** : There are unrecognised schools.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : All schools that have not been aided by Government are unrecognised.

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** : They have not been approved although they are in the list.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA** : I thank my hon'ble friend Mr. Aditya for these interruptions. But I am not convinced. From my experience I can say that these venture schools remain unrecognised till they are taken over by Local Board with Government aid. Anyway, Sir, I agree that there have been more than a thousand



venture schools waiting on the list to be taken over. My hon. friend, the *ex-Education Minister*, said that it was their idea to take over 1000 venture schools, if possible. I enquired of my friend, the Education Minister, whether they had left any schedule for that purpose—I mean—schedule of new schemes. He said, that he could not find any from the previous records. So I sent him to get this information from the Director of Public Instruction. That was the time when my friend was absent, and my friend Mr. Chanda raised a legitimate point of order. The Director of Public Instruction said that no such scheme was prepared to his knowledge.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I contradict him, Sir. A scheme was submitted by me.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** It is a schedule that is wanted.

**Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** Tribalৰ. নিমিত্তে বাজেটত কিবা টকা ধৰা হৈছেনে?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** মই আপোনাক বুজাই কম; আপুনি অলপ বহকচোন।

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am sorry, Sir, I addressed the hon. member direct. These interruptions distract my line of thought.

I was saying that my hon. friend did not leave a schedule for new schemes. Well, I know that they want to spread education. The then Education Minister indicated his wishes that provision should be made for at least taking over a thousand venture schools. At that time there was probably no money in the Budget. Therefore, no money was provided. At the same time there was no schedule. If we had money, I would have come up for provision for these 1000 schools. I can assure the hon. members of this House that I am at one with them in the matter of spreading primary education. As soon as I see that there are funds available, provision will be made.

Sir, from various quarters the question of provision for our so called backward brethren, *viz.*, tribal and scheduled, has been raised. If such a demand had come from my friends of the Tribal Group, I could have met that in one word that every possible endeavour has been made in the Budget to meet their requirements.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Prime Minister will please deliver this part of his speech in Assamese so that hon. Mr. Miri may follow it.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I will do so later on. Mr. Karka Dalay Miri knows English and he can understand English.

**Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI:** I can understand English.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** If my friends opposite take up the cry themselves, then I shall have to use the old Assamese proverb that if a woman shows more love for a child than the mother, you must take that woman to be a *Daini* or a temptress.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** To which side does that term apply, Sir?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** To those that have taken up this cry.



Sir, as to the question about making provision for our so-called backward brethren, before I take that up, I must inform the House the procedure which has got to be followed. In order to make provision for new schemes, the Finance Department wants that every scheme for new expenditure should be submitted to them in the way of a schedule by 30th September (and this they want for giving them ample time for scrutiny). I find from the old records that as my hon. friends were otherwise busy at the time, they had the time extended to 31st October. Till 31st October, as every one knows, my friends were in office—they resigned on the 15th November—but no such schedule or no such scheme for extra expenditure for the benefit of my friends, the tribal and the scheduled people, were framed by the outgoing Ministry.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, I should contradict the Hon'ble Premier. We actually made a scheme and made provision of Rs.35,000 for the education of tribals, out of the total grant of Rs.1,50,000.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** We have not seen that.

On the other hand, we say that this Government has made ample provision, although interspersed in different parts, for the backward brethren of the tribal class.

Sir, since 1937-38 while I held the reins of administration, I had passed an order that of every new expenditure or new provision for spread of primary education, one-sixth of the amount will be earmarked for scheduled and tribal class. That order has been up till now in force. Even this year, out of the provision that has been made in the Budget, of half a lakh for spread of primary education amongst backward classes, one-sixth of the sum is meant for them.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** On a point of information, Sir. No reference has been made with regard to immigrants.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I had forgotten one thing which I wanted to mention. I thank the hon. member for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject.

My hon. friends of the previous Ministry made a provision of Rs. 25 thousand in the current year's Budget meant to be spent among the immigrants, the scheduled castes and the tribals.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I contradict the Hon'ble Premier again, Sir. Rs. 50,000 were allotted for education of backward communities of which Rs. 29,000 went for tribal, 15,000 for the scheduled castes and the rest for labourers and immigrants.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Although the Budget was passed in March 1939, the distribution did not take place during their time.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am afraid, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister is absolutely without any foundation on facts of which he is completely ignorant. He says that the grant had not been distributed, but the fact is that the grant has actually been drawn by these people in July last year. My tribal friends know it very well, and the Department concerned also knows it very well.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** My memory is still fresh, as only day before yesterday, I, as Finance Minister, had to pass an order for the provision made for the current year for expenditure through Local Board.



**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** That must be with regard to the general grant of Rs. 25,000 for primary education from which the tribal people are not excluded, as they will also get their due share from this general grant also.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I am speaking without the file before me.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I challenge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to look into the file again and say whether this is not the general grant. I am sure he is completely mistaken.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I have passed the order only two days back, and I can say without any fear of contradiction that it was meant for tribal people to be spent through Local Bodies, and although provision was made in the Budget about a year ago it was not distributed on the lines. ....

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** I am afraid the learned Prime Minister is making a mistake over this fact and is misrepresenting facts. Rupees 50,000 was specially provided for special education of the tribal people, and Rs. 25,000 for general primary education from which also the tribal people will get their due share, in addition to the special grant of Rs. 50,000, which has already been distributed. This would show, Sir, who is the *Daini*.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Does it include Rs. 10,000 from Mr. Birla?

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** The special grant of Rs. 50,000 includes Mr. Birla's contribution.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Well, Sir, I have already spoken what Mr. Birla had said.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Order, order. The question is: "That the provision of Rs. 7,200 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers, Detailed head—Principals, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

The motion was negatived.

### Adjournment

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

### After lunch

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,90,926 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

The object of this cut motion, Sir, is to urge upon Government the inadvisability of imposing heavy fines for absence upon the College students.

Sir, this year the situation seems to be very funny so far as th's Budget discussion is concerned—for every cut motion that is raised to criticise the policy of the present Government, all the blame is laid at the doors of the previous Ministry and the members of the previous Cabinet have to rise to defend the Government which they had left 4 months back. I think, Sir, the House should seriously consider, if it should not recommend a special allowance at least for the *ex*-Premier and the *ex*-Finance Minister for the



additional burden they have to bear even after they have left charges of the Government (*laughter*). Anyway, Sir, I would beg of the Government Benches not to raise that old plea in this case also. It may be or it may not be that the previous Ministry was at fault for this as well, but we are not concerned with the past—we want to rectify some wrongs from which Government College students are suffering to-day. Even if it was due to the fault of the previous Ministry, there can be no harm in rectifying them now. And I think, it will be all the more creditable for the present Ministry to set matters right wherever they are otherwise.

Sir, the demand made in this cut motion is not at all a big one. Students lose their percentage for any absence from College—for shortage of percentage they are to pay a penalty of rupees ten for appearing as non-collegiate students. In addition to this penalty for loss of percentage and the extra fees for appearing as non-collegiate candidates, another fine of annas 2 per diem is imposed upon ordinary students for absence without leave. In the case of scholarship-holders the fine is as heavy as annas ten and rupee one in case of Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 scholars respectively. When no application for grant of leave is made, the fine is Re. 1-4 and Rs. 2 respectively.

Sir, in all conscience it is really a very great hardship on students, particularly as we all know, the scholarship-holders in most cases are poor boys whose only means of prosecuting their studies are these small stipends. The Education Department seems to be bent on making a profit out of the fault of students. I do not think, Sir, the Provincial exchequer will be depleted to a very great extent if this heavy penalty is not imposed upon the students. Sir, the sense of justice and equity demands that the students should not be doubly taxed in this way. College students are supposed to have enough sense of responsibility about their task, and there is no reason, Sir, why such a heavy fine for absence should be imposed upon them in addition to the loss of percentage and the extra fees of Rs. 10 for appearing as non-collegiate students.

I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will give his earnest consideration over the matter, and do the little bit of justice demanded of him in this cut motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs. 2,90,926 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100”.

**The Hon'ble Srijiit ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI\* :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. mover has already anticipated what I might have said about this matter. This matter was disposed of as long ago as April, 1939 by my predecessor. He laid down that the rate of fine should be 2 annas for complete absence from the College, and in case of absence from each lecture the fine would be one anna. So the matter rests there at present. Since April, 1939 we have received no further representation, and as the hon. mover has now specifically brought to our notice the hardship of the scholars I shall give the matter my best consideration and shall see that the fines are substantially reduced.

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\*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister.



**\*Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 3,98,342 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts College (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I have tabled this motion only to criticise the Government for not providing money to open a biology class at Murarichand College, Sylhet. Sir, during 1937, when we were discussing the Budget, cut motions were tabled for opening classes both for botany and biology and I must thank the Government that the botany class has been started. During 1938, my hon. friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury brought a separate motion for biology class. This matter was discussed in detail, and as usual, we got the customary assurance from the Government side. Sir, I think that if I go into details to show the necessity of opening a biology class at Sylhet, some members may think that I am wasting the time of the House. Sir, from the budget speech of the Hon'ble Premier, we found that he was trying to prepare a scheme to establish a University in Assam. Sir, there are only two colleges in the whole of this province. And none of these colleges is self-sufficient. Though there are botany classes in both the colleges they are upto only the Intermediate standard and there is of course biology class at Gauhati.

Now, Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Education Minister to open the biology class at Murarichand College, Sylhet, from the next session. Unfortunately the Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here just now. I had a talk with him yesterday and he was kind enough to give me an assurance that so far as educational matters are concerned we can always expect full sympathy from him and I requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to convey his desire to the Hon'ble Education Minister but I do not know whether he has done so or not. However, I hope the Hon'ble Education Minister will take me at my word and give me the assurance that from the next session, the biology class will be opened in the Murarichand College at Sylhet.

With these observations, I beg to commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 3,98,342 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government as well as the Saadulla Ministry of 1937 are fully alive of the needs of the Murarichand College at Sylhet. I think the hon. mover of this motion is not aware that as early as in May 1938, when my colleague the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture inspected the Cotton College, he laid down a note that Biology Class should be opened in

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



the Cotton College and that 24 seats should be reserved for the Surma Valley students in the Cotton College. At that time there was also a demand for opening a Botany Class in Sylhet College and we are glad to be able to say that we have provided there not only a Lecturer in Botany, but also a Demonstrator. Now as regards the practical class in Botany, there is only a makeshift arrangement and it is located in the hospital building and the Inspector objects to this. So our first attempt ought to be to improve the Botany Class in Sylhet. The opening of a Biology class involves a large amount of expenditure. Fortunately at Gauhati, we had an empty bungalow which was formerly reserved for the Indian Education Service Officers and we have utilised that bungalow for practical class in Biology. Here in Sylhet there is no such convenience at the present moment. What I propose to do is, I think, that I should first of all give my first attention to the improvement of the Botany practical class at Sylhet and also try to provide for opening a Biology class in the Budget of 1941-42. More than that, I am afraid I am unable to promise any more.

**\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I could not exactly follow the Hon'ble Education Minister on one point. I want to know whether he is definite that in the Budget of 1941-42 he will provide for a Biology class.

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I shall try my best and the appeal of the hon. member will not, I hope, go in vain.

**\*Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** With this assurance, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,98,342 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 120—of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The object of my motion is to criticise Government for making no provision for Botany in the Degree Classes of the Cotton College at Gauhati. Sir, the motion speaks for itself and it does not require any very long speech from me to convince the hon. members about the necessity of a Botany class for the degree course of study in the College. It is really regrettable that the province which is known as the "Botanical Garden of the East" should be deprived of higher courses of study in Botany. I think, Sir, the cost to be involved in extending studies in Botany to the Degree Classes will also not be prohibitive. I therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Education Minister to satisfy the wishes of the province and the Valley in particular by providing such a course. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.3,98,342 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—A.—Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,91,500 to stand reduced by Rs.100."

**\*The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in making this motion the hon. member says that he wanted to criticise the Government for not making provision for Botany in the Degree Classes of the Cotton College at Gauhati. I want to make my position quite clear. He is quite at liberty to criticise me and if he think

\* Speech not corrected by the hon. member and the Hon'ble Minister concerned.



that I am satisfied with the limited grant for education that I have got, he is entirely mistaken. I am not satisfied with what I have got and I would have liked to get much more than what was actually allotted to the Education Department. Out of the whole allotment of Rs.4 lakhs which has been given for new schemes, the Education Department has been granted Rs.1,96,000. I would welcome any criticism on the ground that I have not made an equitable and prudent distribution of the sum which has been allotted to me.

As regards this particular provision of which the hon. mover speaks, I think he ought to know that I will be only too glad to provide anything in the Cotton College and to expand it as far as possible. But within the limited resources at my disposal it was not possible to make that provision this year. Of course, let us hope for better times. But I would not make a promise in a hurry. As I have already made one promise to my hon. friend Mr. Mookerjee who as the House well knows is a very captious critic, I shall now try to keep that promise. But I can assure my hon. friend the mover of this motion that I shall do my best to meet his wishes.

**Srijut MAHI CHANDRA BORA:** After hearing the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I beg to move that the provision of Rs.19,000 under Grant No. 18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this motion to criticise the Government and thereby to draw their attention to their failure to provide adequate funds for Non-Government Arts Colleges in the province. It will be found in the Budget that there is an increase under this head and that is only due to a grant for the newly started Girls' College at Gauhati and other Non-Government Arts Colleges have not received any increment whatsoever. Sir, it will be found from the list of cut motions how this callousness on the part of the Government has been taken to heart by the members of this House. Some hon. members have tabled motions for Barpeta, some for Habiganj and some for the Sylhet Girls' College and so on. Sir, I do not grudge, rather I thank the Hon'ble Minister that he has provided quite a reasonable and adequate grant for the Girls' College at Gauhati. But I am really sorry that he totally lost sight of the Sylhet Girls' College which was started long before the Gauhati College. Sir, the Barpeta College which is situated near the Hon'ble Minister's place—of course Sylhet might be on the other side of the big hills—but Barpeta was near at hand—has also been totally lost sight of. Sir, as I gave some hints while I was speaking on the previous motion, though there are only two Government Arts Colleges they are not properly equipped. Although the public are trying to spread education in the province, Government will not act according to the mark. At the same time, if public enterprise is also not supported by the Government then I think it is not creditable on the part of the Government and specially the Hon'ble Education Minister who is esteemed so highly in this province as an educationist for the scheme and his initiative for the University which is going to be established in this province. Sir, the real sufferers—I mean the two principals of the two unfortunate Private Colleges—are at the moment in this House—they will narrate their grievances in detail. But I hope that the Government while considering about the University education must always be very cautious and careful about the grants



which they give to the Non-Government Arts Colleges also. Sir, I want a simple answer from the Hon'ble Education Minister. Let him honestly say on the floor of this House whether he thinks that the provision he has made for the Non-Government Arts Colleges is quite adequate or not. (The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Certainly not).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. member should presume that what the Hon'ble Minister says he says honestly.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, that is not the case always. It depends on the man and on the temperament and the temperature of the House. Now the temperature is quite normal as it seems. If I find him replying, as he was replying to my previous cut motion, that he tried his level best to provide more money for these unfortunate institutions but he could not, I shall be quite satisfied. (The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:—Which College?) I mean the Sylhet Girls' College, Jorhat College, Silchar College, Habiganj College and Barpeta College.

Hon. members of this House always plead for the betterment of the lot of the so-called deaf and dumb. I am, also at times, one of the same class of the deaf and dumb for whom they usually plead. But I am now pleading for those who are in the real sense of the term deaf and dumb—for them nobody has pleaded in the House. Sir, there is only one institution for the deaf and dumb in the whole province which gets Rs.25 only per month as aid from the Government. Several times the inadequacy of this aid was brought to the notice of the Government but nothing has been done to increase that grant. Now I want to hear from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education whether he feels for the real deaf and dumb as he seems to feel for the so-called deaf and dumb and whether he can do something in this matter also. Sir, many hon. members have tabled various cut motions relating to their different constituencies and so I think I should not take much time of the House, but I hope the Hon'ble Education Minister, whom I found to be very kind to me to-day, has taken notes of all the points raised by me and will kindly meet them all. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.19,000 under Grant No.18, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.37,91,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a reference has been made to the Madhab Chaudhury College in the Barpeta subdivision and I having come from that subdivision would be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words in connection with that institution. Sir, it cannot be denied that the Government of to-day is committed to a policy of expansion of educational institutions, both for the masses as well as for the classes. We are glad to see from the report of newspapers that our present Hon'ble Education Minister is also in favour of establishment of a University for Assam. It being so, he cannot have a University without encouraging the establishment of new colleges and aiding the existing ones. In this connection, I want to say that the Barpeta College was started with a handsome donation from a generous lady of the locality. A sum of Rs.10,000 was offered by her for the establishment of this institution and is deposited in a Scheduled Bank. The general public are poor, but they all support the institution. Though poor they have up-till-now contributed more than Rs.2,000 in cash. Besides, there are promises from respectable and responsible people for about



Rs.5,000 more. Classes are being regularly held and efficiently managed. There were 29 students admitted in the 1st year class. The University Inspector who inspected the College in October last held that the staff is quite efficient. The report of the University Inspector was quite favourable and all these matters are well known to our Hon'ble Premier also. He is always found to be sympathetic in the matter of University education, but, Sir, we are very sorry to see that no provision whatsoever has been made for this college in the next year's budget. Applications were duly filed by the authorities of the college as early as in July last and it is understood that the Director of Public Instruction also recommended both recurring and non-recurring grants for the college. It is really very unfortunate that the Government should be so unkind to deny the little help that the authorities of the College sought.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** What is the source of information of the hon. member that it was recommended by the Director of Public Instruction?

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** I have only said that it is understood that it was recommended by the Director of Public Instruction.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** By whom and from whom the hon. member got this information?

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** I shall be glad if the Hon'ble Education Minister will deny the fact.

**The Hon'ble Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI:** I only want to know who gave the information—whether the Director of Public Instruction gave him the information?

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** I have already said, Sir, that I am not prepared to disclose the source. I take it to be a fact and shall be glad if the Hon'ble Minister will deny it. It is surprising to hear the Hon'ble Education Minister to say that he himself is not satisfied with the present educational budget. He complains about the paucity of fund. But is he really serious about it? We only hope that he will sincerely try to remove the various defects in the budget, which he has himself seen, and which have now been pointed out by various hon. members of this House. In this connection I appeal to him that he will not fail to find out some money for the Bārpeta College in the next financial year with a view to help the infant institution. With these words, Sir, I support the motion.

**Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Brindaban College at Habiganj is a first grade college. It was started in 1931 and got affiliation in 1932 in the following subjects namely English, Bengali, Sanskrit, Persian, History, Mathematic, Civics and Logic. In 1939 the affiliation was extended up to B. A. standard in English, Bengali, Sanskrit, Persian, Economics, History, Philosophy and Mathematics. The number of students is 254 including 15 female students, and the University results are uniformly satisfactory. I may mention here that the Brindaban College claims the honour of securing the first place in Assam among those who passed the I. A. Examination in 1938. The results of 1939 also compare very favourably with those of any other institution of this province. As the College has been extended affiliation up to the B. A. standard, the University put certain conditions that the Lecturers should receive an initial salary of Rs.100 per month. The College authorities have not been able to fulfil this condition and for that they apprehend that University authorities may take serious notice of the matter. With the opening of the Degree Classes, a few additions have been made to College library. The staffs have also been increased by



the appointments of two teachers and more teachers will have to be appointed next year. So under the circumstances, the College deserves some more additional recurring grant. The College has been now enjoying a recurring grant of Rs.2,400 per annum from the Government. So I urge upon the Government to make a further additional recurring grant to the College. With these few words, I beg to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Mr. Baidya Nath Mookerjee.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to say a few words.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The time will not permit. Very well the hon. member may speak for two minutes.

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** I am very sorry to speak on this motion because whatever I say it will go against our beloved Hon'ble Education Minister. Sir, I love him (*laughter*) and the people of my subdivision also love him and he professes to be very sympathetic to our subdivision.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI:** On a point of information, Sir. May I know from the hon. member for how long they are in love? (*laughter*).

**Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS:** The Minister himself will say that. Sir, by the refusal of a grant to this institution an impression has been created in the subdivision that the Hon'ble Minister has done so, because the *ex*-Premier Mr. Bardoloi opened this College. I do not believe it, Sir. (*Laughter*.) But that is the impression in the subdivision, *viz.*, that it is due to party politics that he has denied it. I should like to be cleared by the Hon'ble Minister.

**Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI:** Sir, I want to make one point clear and that is about the Jorhat College. This College was started only with public subscriptions and recently the B.A. classes have also been started. His Holiness the Adhikar Goswami of Dakshinpat has been kind enough to give a donation of Rs. 10,000 for starting science classes. So it is now up to the Government to extend its helping hand so as to enable the college to start science classes. I hope that Government will come forward to give some help to the college.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is no time.

**Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA:** Should the case of my poor College Sir, go by default? (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Sir, I am replying on behalf of Government and say that all the suggestions made by hon. members will be taken into consideration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Including the claim of Mr. Chanda's college? (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Yes, Sir. Mr. Chanda will I hope readily admit that his college as well as the Brindaban College, all got Government aid in my time. That shows that my policy is to give aid to these private colleges. The case of the Sylhet Girls' College, as I have already said, will be taken into consideration. The Hon'ble Minister says that there was no schedule prepared for this girls' college while one for the Gauhati Girls' College was rejected by the previous Ministry. I have already told Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee that in the next budget, provision will be made for the Sylhet Girls' College.



As regards Barpeta College, I think, I am responsible. I am always sympathetic towards Barpeta although my hon. friend hailing from Barpeta, the Kaviraj, "is in love" with the Education Minister. It will be news to my friends to hear that this college has not received university affiliation as yet. My friend Srijut Kameswar Das went to Calcutta for obtaining affiliation. I helped him to the extent of giving letters introducing him to different authorities of the Calcutta University and finally I personally took him to the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor and recommended affiliation of his college. It was also at my request that an Inspector of Colleges was sent to that college to see it and make his report. Knowing that they have not yet received affiliation, I did not want to make any provision in the Budget. Let him get the affiliation and he will find that he gets something in the Budget.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** As regards the Sylhet Girls' College, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister for a definite assurance.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** In view of the fact that the principle has already been admitted by us, we will make provision for the colleges that have not been helped this year if they get affiliation in the meantime.

**Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Has the Girls' College at Gauhati been recognised by the University ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** No, but that is a Girls' institution.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS :** The resolution of the Syndicate in the matter of affiliation is already to the effect that they will favourably consider the affiliation from 1940, *i. e.*, this year.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I want to get one point clear. About the Sylhet Women's College, the Hon'ble Premier has said that he will provide money in the next year's budget. But I want something for this year also. He can bring a supplementary demand for the same.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** It is impossible during the current financial year. My hon. friend is making a mistake between the financial year and the school year.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I mean the financial year 1940-41.

**The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** Then I can consider only if there be any saving.

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** I am quite satisfied, Sir (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Does the hon. mover withdraw his motion ?

**Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Yes, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

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

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,91,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head 37.—Education (other than European)".

The motion was adopted.



## GRANT No. 20

## (39—Public Health)

**The Hon'ble Srijit HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,25,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,25,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head 39.—Public Health".

**Srijit KAMESWAR DAS:** Sir, I am not moving the first\* motion. I am moving the second one which runs as follows:

That the provision of Rs. 2,640, under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head—(b)—Public Health propaganda (total), at page 146 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 5, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900, do stand reduced by Rs. 5.

Sir, the purpose of this motion is to criticise Government for meagre provision for public health propaganda purposes. Sir, only Rs.2,640 has been provided for this purpose. The people in the rural areas are quite ignorant and illiterate. The Hon'ble Premier has only this morning admitted that the percentage of literate people in the rural areas is only 5. That being so, and there being no facilities of communications, of education and of associations with advanced people, it is imperatively necessary that the Government should make serious attempt by means of propaganda work to improve the public health in rural areas. People in the interior are unclean; they do not know how to behave themselves when attacked with epidemic diseases. *Kala-azar*, Malaria and Small pox are rampant. They do not know how to combat them. There is large provision for superintendence and for salaries of officers at the top. Instead of patronising highly paid officials at the top, it would have been better if Government would have taken care and attention for the welfare of these people and made higher provision. Propaganda is certainly one of the means by which public health in the villages can be improved. The Assam Pure Food Act is wholly a dead letter. In the rural areas, in *hats*, and *bazars*, adulterated food-stuffs are freely purchased and sold. This certainly goes to deteriorate the health of the people who partake of these food-stuffs. It is unfortunate that in respect of improvement of rural sanitation and public health the Government have no definite scheme ready at hand as is quit: clear from this meagre provision. My earnest request to the Government is that instead of making larger provision for highly paid officials at the top, they

\*That the provision of Rs. 2,640 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head (b)—Public Health propaganda (total), at page 146 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 5, i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 5.

(To bring to the notice of Government the desirability of making grants to Local Bodies for public health propaganda purposes.)



should give some more attention also to this item of public health propaganda and employ more people at the bottom. Field workers can generally come in contact with the people and can imbue them with a sense of cleanliness and the methods of protection against avoidable diseases. With these remarks, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.2,640 under Grant No.20, Major head 39.—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishment, Sub-head (b)—Public Health Propaganda (total) at page 146 of the Budget be reduced by Rs.5, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs.5."

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, *Kala-azar*, malaria, leprosy and phthisis are the most dangerous diseases that have attacked this poor province of Assam. Sir, we thought that *Kala-azar* which once depopulated this province would disappear from the country with the appearance of Urea Stibamine.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** This motion is about Public Health propaganda.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** We were under the impression that there may not be time for discussing my motion dealing with *Kala-azar* and therefore I intended to take part in this motion and say my say here.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. member will see that there are notices of cut motions for discussing inadequate provision to combat *Kala-azar*. There will be time to discuss at least one of such cut motions.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** Very well, Sir, I will take part when the next motion is discussed.

**Srijut PARAMANANDA DAS :** Sir, I support the cut motion moved by my friend Srijut Kameswar Das. The maxim 'prevention is better than cure' is known to all, but I am sorry to say that Government have not up to this time taken any such preventive measure to combat epidemic diseases. Excepting vaccination at the time of small-pox epidemic and inoculation at the time of Cholera, we do not know what else the Government have done. People in the rural areas are ignorant. They do not know how to take care of themselves in times of epidemic. So it is the duty of the Government to demonstrate by means of lantern lectures all the facts connected with epidemic diseases and rural sanitation, such as removal of waste matter and efficient drainage system and so on. If this is not done, I see no necessity for keeping a Department such as Public Health as it is now. This Department did some good work in connection with *Kala-azar* when the major portion of Assam was affected. But I am sorry to say that when *Kala-azar* reappeared in the Goalpara district, Government have been rather slow in tackling the problem. With these remarks I support the cut motion.

**Maulavi ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY :** I must congratulate my hon. friend as he has touched a very important subject which concerns the life of the people. I come from a valley which is notoriously known to be the practical abode of epidemic diseases. And I am at one with him that so far as propaganda is concerned, Government should make some provision for it. But whether the amount should be handed over to local bodies, there I have got a difference. I think the amount must be spent through the agency of the students of the colleges. Their services should be utilised in this connection. I think the services of the Public Health Department will also be requisitioned. Party politics in local bodies



may, I should say, lead to utilising the amount for other purposes. Elementary hygienic principles may be taught to our people. This may be done through lantern lectures. They should be taught how to combat epidemics; they should be taught how their houses are to be constructed. Our professors and students are ready to utilise their time in propaganda purposes. With these words, I would draw the attention of the Government that a sum should be immediately provided. I also made a personal appeal to the Hon'ble Minister on this subject.

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must express my thanks to the hon. mover of this cut motion for bringing forward a very important matter for discussion before this House to-day. Sir, I admit that propaganda work is essential in the matter of public health activity, and, Sir, this Government is really doing that. Sir, at present the public health propaganda is being done by the Public Health Department in connection with cholera, small-pox, leprosy, tuberculosis, kala-azar and so on. The public Health Assistant Surgeon with the help of temporary lantern operators are doing that propaganda work during their visit to different dispensaries. Sir, it has been said by some hon. members that the provision of Rs. 2,640 is very inadequate for the purpose. Sir, I may draw the attention of those members to the fact that the provision made for the year 1939-40 was not greater than the present one—it was only Rs. 2,600. So, the present provision is a bit larger by a few rupees than what it was in the previous year. Besides this propaganda, the Public Health Department is from time to time issuing leaflets and posters to bring to the notice of the people the means of prevention of disease and about other things. Government is also considering a scheme for propaganda work. This scheme has already come up before the Government for consideration along with the scheme for re-organisation of the Public Health Department. Sir, in that scheme it is proposed that there should be a propaganda section entirely under the direct supervision of the Director of Public Health. So, I think, Sir, that Government is quite alive to the needs of the situation and they are doing what is necessary in this matter. With this assurance, Sir, I hope the hon. mover will see his way to withdraw his motion.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** After hearing the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,45,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes, Sub-head—Water-Supply and Village Sanitation (total), at page 146 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Sir, I am glad to hear the Hon'ble Public Health Minister saying that the Government are re-organising the Public Health section of the Department with a view to better and intensify work in the rural areas. Sir, Assam is an agricultural country and most of the people of the province live in rural areas. It is they who contribute the bulk of the provincial income in the shape of revenue and other things. But when we look at the provisions made for ameliorating their condition we are disappointed. The Government has of course admitted the importance of improving village sanitation, but from year to year we see that they are not making any attempt whatsoever to make suitable provision for the same. The reorganisation



of the Public Health section will not in itself do any good to the rural people. There must be sufficient provision for actual work in the rural areas. Appointment of certain individuals cannot bring in millennium to them. Sir, while the provincial revenue has increased owing to the imposition of certain taxation measures, what do we see regarding provision for this item in the Budget? Last year, there was a provision of about 1 lakh 40 thousand rupees under item "water-supply" and Rs. 21,000 under item "village sanitation". In the revised estimates the amount increased. This shows that there is urgent need for rural water-supply and village sanitation. Yet in the next year's budget we find that a provision of Rs. 1,30,000 only has been made. Instead of any increase, the provision has been reduced by about Rs. 18,000 so far as "water-supply" is concerned; under "village sanitation" also the provision has been reduced by Rs. 6,000. This clearly shows that Government is quite callous to the improvement of watersupply and village sanitation in rural areas. Sir, a few lines from the Government Report on Public Health Department for the year 1937, will make an interesting reading. "About 97 per cent. of the population of Assam live in rural areas; consequently the health and prosperity of the people of these areas is a matter of vital importance. The Local Boards should pay special attention to the provision of adequate and safe water-supply for villages". It is always easy to put the burden on the shoulder of others but unless and until the Government comes to the rescue of the Local Boards and make bigger provisions, the Local Boards with their limited resources are in a difficult position to effect any improvement in this direction. The Report goes on: "Until this is done no material reduction in the proportion of water-borne diseases can be expected". These things are mentioned in the Government Report itself. Yet instead of making bigger provisions they have reduced the grant for the next year. Under the circumstances, I hope, the House will support me by accepting the motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 1,45,000, under Grant No.20, Major head—39.—Public, Health Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes, Sub-head—Water-Supply and Village Sanitation (total), at page 146 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101."

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I spoke at length about this matter in the general discussion of the Budget, but I think no stress upon this matter is too much in consideration of the importance of the matter. Sir, I tried to give a picture of the countryside so far as water-supply is concerned, and I requested the Hon'ble Ministers to know from the officers under them who have to tour in the villages in connection with their official duties as to what is the real position in the villages so far as this rural water-supply is concerned. Moreover the matter is so urgent that I think it is high time that if the general funds be not sufficient for dealing with the problem we should float a loan of, say, ten lakhs for taking up a well-thoughtout plan for water-supply to the villages. Our Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes to float a loan of fifty lakhs of rupees, and I would not hesitate to request him to add another ten lakhs to the loan, in view of the urgency of the problem, and without wasting much time of the House I would again appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health to give their earnest attention to the matter. It is a very serious matter, and unless we are awake betimes, the problem may take the province very badly soon.



**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that the hon. mover of this cut motion has brought in this very important matter. From his speech I could gather that the only grievance of the hon. mover, as well as of the other hon. members who supported him, is that the provision is not adequate. But, Sir, if we look to the actuals of the year 1938-39 of the Department what do we find? We find only an amount of Rs. 73,528 was utilised. It is very doubtful that if we provide even 10 lakhs of rupees whether that amount can be utilised within the year. It is useless, Sir, to provide any sum which is not likely to be utilised. We should try to utilise the amount which we have provided. We know, Sir, that there are considerable difficulties regarding the question of water-supply; there are places in the country where there is no scarcity of tanks, ponds and wells, but still there is difficulty of getting good drinking water. These areas go under water during the rainy season. If we put up more tanks, that will not remove the difficulty; the only thing to be done there is to raise the banks or to make some such arrangement so that the water-supplying tanks and wells do not go under water, and to do that it will involve a very heavy expenditure and even Rs. 20,00,000 will not be sufficient for the purpose. So, I think, considering the actuals of 1938-39, that the provision is not inadequate. Government are very conscious of the matter, and will do whatever is possible to remove this difficulty gradually.

On this assurance, I hope, the hon. member will see his way to withdraw his motion.

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** Are we to understand that we cannot spend more money than is provided and that the provision is not to be increased?

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:**

That is a question of opinion. Had there been a provision of two lakhs of rupees even then there would have been a cut motion saying that the provision is not adequate.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. member intend to do? Is he going to withdraw his motion?

**Srijut KAMESWAR DAS:** In that case, Sir, I am not going to withdraw my motion.

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

"That the provision of Rs.1,45,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—B.—Grants for Public Health purposes, Sub-head—Water-Supply and Village Sanitation (total), at page 146 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 101".

The motion was negatived.

**Srijut GAURIKANTA TALUKDAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.76,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head (b)—Other Epidemics (total), at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, the object of my tabling this motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the danger of epidemic diseases like *kala-azar*, leprosy phthisis and malaria that are now spreading all over the province. Sir, there was a time when *kala-azar* almost depopulated this province of Assam, and with the discovery of Urea-Stibamine popularly known as Brahmachari injection



the disease has almost disappeared. But now the disease has again appeared in various parts of the province. Now the report goes that there are instances in which this treatment is not as effective as it was before, and therefore it has become a serious question. And our Government will have to find out other means to combat this fell disease. It has spread throughout the whole province, and we hear that in the subdivision of Golaghat it is causing great havoc. My hon. friends from the subdivision will probably support me when I say that it has become a great menace in that subdivision.

As regards leprosy, we have not yet been able to induce the Government to make proper survey with a view to ascertain the number of people suffering from this disease in the province. We have also not been able to hold a survey to ascertain the number of people suffering from phthisis not to speak of taking steps to cure or prevent it. It is true that some attempts have been made to tackle with malaria and I find that some provision, however small, it may be, has been made to fight it. As regards the other diseases I find that there has been provided only Rs. 3,000 for having research work in *kala-azar*. Is this a sufficient step for fighting this fell disease? Simply paying Rs. 3,000 to the Indian Research fund towards *kala-azar* research is not, I think, sufficient endeavour to combat this disease. I expected that better provision would be made for this Department for fighting these diseases. But I find that no adequate provision has been made in the Budget for this purpose.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs. 76,000 under Grant No. 20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(b) Other Epidemics (total), at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the district of Golaghat which is my district has been mentioned by the hon. mover, I rise to testify to the truth of this statement that *kala-azar* is definitely on the increase in that subdivision. Personally, I do not think that sufficient or strenuous enough measures are being taken to combat the evil. We were told a few years ago—I forget exactly by whom,—that there was a regular band of propagandists going round the district, who, by means of lantern lectures, were educating the people in such methods as were calculated to prevent the spread of the disease. I can assure you, Sir, that no such propagandists are moving in the district; nor do I know of the existence of any such thing as a magic lantern or anything of the kind which could help them in their efforts. I do most earnestly welcome the opportunity which has been given to me, on behalf of my fellows in Golaghat district, to offer any help we can possibly give to combat the disease. As a matter of fact I took the opportunity of my presence in Shillong sometime ago of offering the services of the medical staff of my company to the Director of Public Health. I think that was in 1939—Sir, last year. The Director of Public Health thanked me quite warmly but I have heard nothing of the matter since. Now I take the opportunity of again re-affirming my then made offer. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH :** I want to support this motion as *Kala-azar* is prevalent in Sibsagar district. Sometimes it was prevalent



in Nowgong and now it has spread into Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat. It is spreading in a virulent form and I have got reports from several mouzas that practically whole families have been victims of this fell disease. The ordinary injections do not give any relief. I wrote to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals in November that "In Golaghat-Jorhat subdivisions, of the Sibsagar district, a very virulent type of *kala-azar* is creating havoc and that the ordinary type of *Kala-azar* injection is of no use and it is incumbent upon the Medical Department of the Assam Government to take to research work". I have asked as to what the type of the disease was and as this appears to be a new type the Government should seriously consider. I have mentioned that the Mouzas in Jorhat are Atilagaon, very near to the town, the Lahing Mouza, Japi Sajia and several villages in Thangal mouza. In Golaghat, the Mouzas are Ghiladari-Dakhinhengara Mouzas. To this letter of mine I received a reply from the Director of Public Health *vide* letter No.579, dated the 13th January 1940, which reads as follows:—"With reference to your letter, dated the 6th November 1939, to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Assam, I have the honour to say that Atilagaon village has been surveyed several times during this year and that all positive *kala-azar* cases have been brought under treatment. This village will be surveyed once a month in order to prevent further spread of the disease. The Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar, is being asked to take necessary action regarding *kala-azar* cases of Ghiladari in Dakhinhengara mouza".

This sort of disease requires a very great attention on the part of the Public Health Department and at least in these mouzas *kala-azar* centres ought to have been opened. If a survey is made it will be found that at least three to four hundred people died out of this fell disease. So I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to take special measures to combat this disease in Sibsagar, Golaghat and Jorhat subdivisions. If this is not tackled at the very beginning it may spread and may prove dangerous and difficult to tackle later on.

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** As hon. members have already said the recrudescence of the disease is really alarming and we think that the Government of Assam should seriously consider whether they should not request the Indian Research Fund Association to take up some work here on the locality. There was a *Kala-azar* Commission for some time in Assam and some amount was spent by the Government to find out the real causes of the disease. But it was a failure. After that, research work has been confined, I suppose, in the Tropical Institute of Medicine in Calcutta and the Government of Assam is giving them Rs.3,000 annually for that. But in view of the recrudescence of the disease, they may be requested to take up research work again and see if they can find out the real causes of the disease now. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals has said in his report that the Government of Assam has spent more than Rs. 47 lakhs during the last 15 years for checking *kala-azar* disease. It is really a very heavy drainage on the public exchequer of this province. So far we have done something on the curative side of the disease only and some large amount should be spent on the preventive side also to see if the root cause of the disease cannot be found out by research work. With all earnestness I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health to be in immediate correspondence with the Indian Research Fund Association and take a bold step to check the disease in those localities where it is prevailing now. The Government should come forward with additional funds for the purpose. I think there is an idea that *kala-azar* in



some cases is also due to repeated attacks of malaria and Dr. Biswanathan of the Pasteur Institute in Shillong issued a pamphlet asking the Government of Assam to take up a bold scheme against this disease. I thought of tabling a cut motion in that connection also but I think I can take up the matter on this motion as well. It is high time that a bold scheme should be taken up for tackling this disease and I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Public Health with all the earnestness that I can command to give serious consideration to this matter. It is a matter of urgent public importance. It is not only a question of drainage over the public exchequer. It is a question of loss of human life and energy also. I think, I should say, the loss of human life and energy in this connection is almost incalculable. It is a very serious matter and I think the Assam Government will give serious attention to it.

**Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA:** সভাপতি মহাশয়, সিদিনা বাজেট আলোচনাৰ সময়ত ক'লাজ্বৰ সম্বন্ধে কিছু কৈছিলো। এতিয়া গোলাঘাটত ক'লাজ্বৰ কি ধৰণেৰে ভীষণাকাৰ ধাৰণ কৰিছে আৰু কি কাৰণেনো দিনে দিনে ক'লাজ্বৰ বাঢ়ি গৈছে সেই সম্বন্ধে দুআধাৰ কৈ এই প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ মই থিয় হৈছো। শ্ৰীযুক্ত কৃষ্ণনাথ শৰ্ম্মাই গোলাঘাটৰ দুটা মৌজাৰ সম্বন্ধ কৈছে। গোলাঘাটৰ বিষয়ে মই নিজে ভুক্তভোগী আৰু প্ৰত্যক্ষদৰ্শী। গোলাঘাটৰ ১৯টা মৌজাৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰায় ১৪ ১৫টা মৌজাক ক'লাজ্বৰে বেৰি ধৰিছে। যোৱা ছবছৰৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ১৫.১৬টা ক'লাজ্বৰৰ centre কৰি treatmentও চলাইছে আৰু প্ৰত্যেক centreত ১০০।১৫০টা ক'লাজ্বৰৰ বেমাৰীয়ে বেজী লৈছে। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ reportত যি বিলাক centreত বেজী দিয়া হৈছে সেইবিলাকত কিছুমান কাম হোৱা দেখা যায় যদিও, ক'লাজ্বৰ দিনে দিনে বাঢ়ি যে গৈছে তাৰ প্ৰমাণ নতুন centre যত হৈছে তাত যিমান বেমাৰী হৈছে তাতে পোৱা যায়। ঢেকিয়াল মৌজাত এটা centre খুলিবৰ কাৰণে ৬ মাহ মান চিভিল চাৰ্জ্জৰ লগত লেখা পঢ়া গৈছিল। চিভিল চাৰ্জ্জনে এচিষ্টেণ্ট চাৰ্জ্জক survey কৰিবলৈ পঠিয়াইছিল। তেখেতে survey কৰি তাত ১৯২০টা মান ক'লাজ্বৰ বেমাৰী আছে বুলি তাত centre কৰিব পৰা নহব বুলি কৈছিল আৰু সেনচোৱা গাৱঁৰ পৰা নগৰলৈ ৪।৫ মাইল মান হয়, সেই কাৰণে বেমাৰী বিলাকক নগৰলৈ আহিবলৈ কৈছিল। আকৌ লেখালেখি কৰাৰ ফলত ২।৪ মাহ মানৰ পিচত সেনচোৱা গাৱঁতে centre আৰম্ভ কৰিলে আৰু ডেৰমাহৰ ভিতৰতে সেই centreত ৮০।৯০ জন বেমাৰী হৈ পৰিলহি। ক'লাজ্বৰ বেমাৰী ইমান বেচি বৰুৱে বাঢ়িব লাগিছে যে তাৰ কাৰণ আজিলৈকে নিৰ্ণয় হোৱা নাই। ডাক্তৰসকলেও কয় যে ক'লাজ্বৰৰ research কৰি কিয়নো ক'লাজ্বৰ ইমান বেচি হৈছে তাৰ কাৰণ নিৰ্ণয় কৰিব পৰা নাই। অঞ্চল বাজেটত দেখা যায় যে ক'লাজ্বৰ researchৰ কাৰণে টকা খৰচ হৈছে। Indian Research Societyএ কলিকতাত research কৰে। সেই researchৰ পৰা কিবা শুনিবলৈ পাখ বুলি বহি থাকিলে ক'লাজ্বৰৰ দৰাণ প্ৰাপ্ত পৰা



মাহুহ কেনেকৈ বন্ধ পৰিব? এই বিষয়ে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট নিশ্চয় হৈ থকাটো আচৰিত কথা হৈছে। তাৰ কিছুমান প্ৰশ্নৰ পালেই আপোনালোক বুজিব পাৰিব। গোলাঘাটত ক'লাজৰ ভীষণৰূপ হৈছে বুলি যোৱা চৰ্ছৰ পৰাই আমি সন্দেহ কৈ আহিছোঁ। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছোঁ যে ক'লাজৰ ভীষণতা কিমান সেইটো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে আজিলৈকে উপলব্ধি কৰা নাই। আপোনালোক সকলোৰে ওপৰি আচৰিত হ'ব যে গোলাঘাট নগৰৰ ভিতৰতো প্ৰায় চাৰিওপিনে ক'লাজৰ বেড়ি গৈছেহি। গাৰ্ভৰ কথা বাদ দিয়ক—ক'লাজৰ বাবে গাওঁসোমাৰ নেদাৰা হৈছে নগৰৰ ভিতৰতো Girls' Middle English School য'ত মাইকীৰ ক'লাজৰ হৈছে। অলপতে মোৰ নিজৰ ঘৰতে এজনী ছোৱালীৰ ক'লাজৰ হৈছে। ডাক্তৰে blood examine কৰি কলে যে মেলেৰীয়া হৈছে। কিন্তু মেলেৰীয়াৰ quinine injection দিয়াত ১০৫°। ১০৬° ডিগ্ৰীলৈকে জ্বৰ উঠি গল। তেতিয়া ডাক্তৰে আচৰিত হৈ অনুমান কৰিলে যে ক'লাজৰ হ'ব পাৰে আৰু মোক কলে “আপোনালোকে যদি কয়, মই suspected case বুলি ক'লাজৰ injection দিব পাৰোঁ।” তেতিয়া মই কলোঁ যে মোৰ কোনো আপত্তি নাই। এটা বেজি দিয়াত জ্বৰ কমি আহিল আৰু ৫.৬টা বেজী দিয়াত জ্বৰ একেবাৰে এৰি গল।

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

**Srijut SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA:** গাৰ্ভতো সেই বকমে বেজী দিয়াৰ পাচত জ্বৰ এৰে; কিন্তু পিচত নিমোনিয়া বা ডিফ্টেৰী হৈ মাহুহ মৰে। তাৰ কাৰণ হৈছে যে গোটেই চৰ্ভ ডিভিজনটো ভাল বকমে survey কৰা হোৱা নাই। এবাৰ Director of Public Healthক আবেদন কৰা হৈছিল। Director of Public Health এ ডাক্তৰ দিব বুলি কৈছিল কিন্তু তাৰ একো ফল নহল।

**Srijut PARAMANANDA DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in connection with this cut motion. *Kala-azar* is again reappearing in Goalpara subdivision. But as far as I know, no systematic survey work is carried on there by the Department. There remain many cases undetected. These cases in their turn help to spread the disease to other parts of the locality. No serious attempt has been made by the Department in that place. No doubt a large sum of money has been spent in *Kala-azar* research, but I am sorry to say that the result obtained so far is not commensurate with the amount spent. Since the discovery of I. Leishman Donovan body which was done outside the province, no significant result has been achieved by research workers in the field. If the Government wishes the good of the people, let the Public Health Department apply to research work in well concerted—I should say—well concentrated way, so that something new may be discovered.

Unless the people come to know how the germ propagates and how parasites multiplies, no preventive measure can be taken either by the Government or by anybody else. So it is the duty of the Public Health Department to try its utmost to find out etiology of the disease. With these remarks, Sir, I support the motion.



**Mr. A. F. BENDALL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidence of malaria in this province makes *Kala-azar* and all other diseases so much more dangerous that there is no doubt that malaria is a very important problem and I welcome the suggestions made by various hon. members opposite that a bold scheme should be prepared to check this. I have one suggestion to make ; it is well-known that many of the tea gardens have extensive Malaria Control Schemes to check this, but they are very expensive and as we cannot control the outside villages under these schemes I would like to suggest to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that in starting a bold scheme he should take up the villages which are adjacent to those tea gardens and if he invites the co-operation of the gardens, these schemes of Malaria control will be made to extend over a very wide area and I can assure him that the Tea Estates would give him every possible co-operation in this matter (*Hear, hear*).

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure if the hon. members were aware of the desire of this Government and the policy that they want to follow in this matter, they would not have come forward with a cut motion like this ; rather they would have praised us for the action that we are going to take. Sir, the Public Health Department came in to existence in this province mainly to fight out the *kala-azar* but in some places it is found that some minor diseases are being treated only to give relief to the people of the rural areas. Sir, most of the speakers have concentrated their attention towards Golaghat subdivision where *kala-azar* cases are rising. Government are quite conscious of that and I can add that not only in Golaghat we are fighting out good many cases, but in the district of Goalpara also. Sir, Government have come forward with a supplementary demand for making provision for ten extra Doctors to combat this disease. I can assure the hon. members that a vigorous attempt will be made by this Government to fight out that disease and all possible measures will be taken in this regard. Sir, we have already started no less than 9 additional dispensaries in the Golaghat subdivision and one in Goalpara, one in Sylhet, one in Sibsagar, one in Nowgong and one in Darrang to combat this disease. Besides this, Sir, I had a long discussion with the Director of Public Health and I have already instructed him to depute a man specially for survey work in the Golaghat subdivision and I may assure that we shall do whatever is possible. I am grateful to my hon. friends, Mr. Blennerhassett and Mr. Bendall, to bring this matter to my notice. I can assure them that we shall do our best in all possible ways to remove this disease and I shall seek the co-operation of all the leading people of the different places such as members of the Legislative Assembly, and the tea planters of various gardens so that we can push up our scheme vigorously in those areas.

Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Talukdar mentioned about leprosy. I may tell him that we are taking action to combat that disease also. The Leper Asylums at Sylhet, Gauhati, Barpeta, Kohima, Dhubri and Tura admit leper patients and treatments are being rendered there. Besides this, Sir, we have got leprosy clinics almost in every subdivision and in some Local Board dispensaries too. The number of such clinics is also quite large ; towards the end of 1938 our number rose up to 170. I can assure the hon. member that my direct attention has been drawn to this matter. As I was touring in different parts, I myself felt that this is a serious disease and we must tackle it properly otherwise time will soon come when the whole of the population will be infected by this disease.

We are consulting with the Director of Public Health as to what proper steps can be taken in this matter. On this assurance, I hope, the hon. mover will see his way to withdraw the motion.



**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** I am sorry, I am not satisfied with the reply of the Hon'ble Minister. My motion was as regards the inadequacy of grants. So, I press my motion, Sir.

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

"That the provision of Rs.76,000 under Grant No.20, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic Diseases, Sub-head—(b).—Other Epidemics (total), at page 147 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,25,900 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

The motion was negatived

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,25,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

The motion was adopted.

## GRANT No. 19

### (38—MEDICAL)

**The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,77,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,77,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1941, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

**Rev. L. GATPHOH :** I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs.2,68,708 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I want to make it clear to the House that in moving my motion I do not mean to criticise or find fault with the present Government for the state of things prevailing in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, I am particularly concerned with the Jaintia Hills which may be taken as a district by itself in view of the fact that a few British villages in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are all scattered all over the wide tract of this country and interspersed between the Native States. This fact cannot be too often brought to the notice of the hon. members to enable them to see my point of view. I have found it necessary, Sir, to say a few words by way of introduction for fear of being misunderstood, as I was misunderstood yesterday in my speech. I did not mean to criticise Government. I was misunderstood because I had no time to wind up my speech. I was as I am always concerned with the policy and principles of Government. Yesterday I wanted to give my suggestions for Government to reconsider their policy in the matter of education as regards the backward tracts, and to-day also I follow the same line of thought in speaking about the Medical. In the matter of medical relief Government should follow a different policy in the backward tracts because the policy followed in the plains might not bring about the same good results.



I will now give a few facts about the medical facilities in the Jaintia Hills. There is only one Government dispensary in the Jaintia Hills situated at one corner of the subdivision near the border of Sylhet. I heard that Government is going to open another dispensary—whether it has been already opened or not I do not know. It will be very near to the already mentioned dispensary at a distance of about five miles only. I am very pleased that the people of my constituency, who have all along had only one dispensary to cater to the needs of 5,000 people are going to have another. I am very pleased that adequate provision will be made for the people in that corner of the subdivision.

But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the most densely populated parts of the Jaintia Hills. I shall begin from the headquarters of Jaintia Hills, Jowai. In the headquarters of the Jaintia Hills there is no Government dispensary. But there is one very good mission dispensary, to which Government gives a grant of about Rs. 1,500 a year. That money is spent in this manner. I stand corrected if I am wrong. I am told that Rs. 800 is spent for medicine for Government Officers and their subordinates, and if money is allowed to be spent out of that amount for a Compounder as it should be, Rs 360 at the rate of Rs.30 is required and also Rs.180 for a Chaukidar at Rs 15 a month is also necessary. Taking all these into account, there will be very little balance left for the benefit of the people. And since the Government has opened about 40 Government Primary Schools in the Jaintia Hills, the number of Government servants has increased by at least 50 and these people are entitled to free medicine from the dispensary. So there will be hardly any money to be spent for the people at the headquarters of Jowai—and in the neighbourhood of Jowai the population (approximately within an area of 10 miles) will be about 20,000.

If one goes from Jowai and takes the main road right through the country to the Nowgong border, a distance of 3 days' journey, by performing long marches, he will never find a single dispensary on the way. Similarly if he goes eastwards he will not find any dispensary on the way until he gets to Haflong, a distance of 5 days' journey.

These are the main trading routes through wide tracts of land in the subdivision not sparsely populated but no provision is ever made for having dispensaries in these places. But in between these two main roads there are two mission stations belonging to two different missions separated by a distance of about 2 miles only, and to both of which Government gives a grant-in-aid of about Rs. 900 a year. And they are situated at a distance of 20 miles from either of the main trade routes. These two missions have not what may be called proper dispensaries as there are no Doctors attached to them and therefore they are greatly handicapped.

There was an outbreak of epidemic disease last year, a few months ago, in a place called Barato, about 8 miles only from the two Mission centres. The people in that village had to wait for weeks before they got relief, because there was no Doctor in the neighbouring dispensaries. Many people fell victim to the disease before the Doctor who was sent from Sylhet arrived in the affected area. For weeks the people were left without any help or relief.

There is another point I want to speak about and that is about the subsidised dispensaries. I am told that Doctors have not come forward to start subsidised dispensaries. It has also been said by the Government that in cases where no Doctors come forward to start subsidised dispensaries, the Local Board will be given a corresponding grant if they undertake to open and maintain a dispensary. I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister, as to what he proposes to do if no Doctors come forward as there is no Local Board in the Jowai subdivision. Now, to sum up my points.....



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** It is not necessary that you should sum up your points.

**Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** On a point of order, Sir. I want to oppose the motion.

**Rev. L. GATPHOH :** There is another point.....

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

**Rev. L. GATPHOH :** Yes, Sir, I am finishing.

The Sutnga Dispensary has been in the waiting list of schemes since the days of bureaucratic Government. When the Ampani Dispensary was closed down, the old scheme of the Sutnga Dispensary was not thought of.

Therefore I want to draw the attention of the Government to the facts I have brought before the House to reconsider the policy of providing medical relief to the people of Jaintia Hills and Khasi Hills.

Another point I want to bring up is whether it is not possible to combine the two Departments of Medical and Public Health in this district.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order. Cut motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.2,68,708 under Grant No. 19, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A—Medical Establishment (Total) at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,77,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100".

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a. m., on Thursday, the 14th March, 1940.

*Shillong,  
The 3rd May, 1940.*

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



