

Proceedings of the Twelfth 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 23rd March 1943.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given).

Re Certain students not joining their Schools and Colleges

†Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

*68. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government ordered that students who did not join their respective schools and colleges before 15th of November, 1942 would not be allowed to join thereafter ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that a good number of students have been debarred from joining their educational institutions as a result of the above order ?
- (c) If so, the exact or approximate number of such students ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that in the district of Nowgong alone there are about five hundred students who wanted to join their schools and have not been allowed to do so ?
- (e) Do Government propose to pass immediate orders for permitting such students to join their schools ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

68. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Information has been called for.

(e)—The matter is under consideration.

Present system of promotion in the Assam School Service

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*69. Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the following Resolution passed in the tenth session of the Assam Educational Conference held at Shillong in May 1940 ?

"In view of the fact that the present system of promotion of Sub-Inspectors of Schools to Deputy Inspectorship involves supersession of officers senior to them not only in the same class III of the Service, but also those of class II, a distinctly senior class of the Service, it is resolved—

- (a) that a free exchange of appointments between teachers and inspecting officers be made as is being done in the Punjab ;

† The question was put by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee, on authorisation in the absence of the hon. Member concerned.

- (b) that both Sub-Inspectors of Schools and Assistant Masters be equally eligible for promotion to class II according to seniority ;
- (c) that no Sub-Inspectors of Schools henceforth be promoted direct to class I ;
- (d) that the posts of Deputy Inspectors of Schools in class I henceforth be filled up by promoting officers from class II only."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

69.—Government have not received any such resolution.

Outbreak of Malaria in Habiganj subdivision

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*70. (a) Are Government aware that malaria broke out in Mantail, Rarisal, Kurab, Shing-gaon and other villages in the Subdivision of Habiganj in the form of an epidemic from August 1942 ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of persons affected and who died due to this disease ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any timely actions were taken by the Public Health Department to prevent the spread of this epidemic ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a full report containing the nature of actions taken by them for prevention of the disease ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state when they first got the information of the outbreak of the disease ?

(g) Is it a fact that no action was taken in time to prevent the outbreak of the disease ?

*71. Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of quinine supplied from time to time and the dates on which it was supplied to the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, this year and the quantity which he supplied to Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj, specifying the dates of such supply ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

70. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Attacks ... 9,604
Deaths ... 458 (upto 30th January 1943).

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Medical Officers, Bamoi and Rajiura, reported the outbreak and 1 lb. and 1½ lb. of quinine were supplied immediately for those areas respectively. This was in the last part of September and the first part of

October 1942. A further supply of 1 lb. quinine was sent to each of those dispensaries. Assistant to the Director of Public Health, Surma Valley, visited the areas on 22nd November 1942 and reported the fact to Civil Surgeon, Sylhet. Director of Public Health also visited the areas early in February 1943. Five lbs. of more quinine were despatched with one malaria-trained Sub-Assistant Surgeon and one compounder who distributed quinine and took blood-slides. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the Epidemic unit and one epidemic Assistant were also deputed. A compounder also was entertained by the Local Board. The Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, visited the place in December 1942 and 13 lbs. of quinine were supplied. Five lbs. of quinine and cinchona were supplied from Shillong to the Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj. Two thousand tablets of Plasmo-quinine were also supplied. A further supply of 2 lbs. of quinine was made. Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department, Sylhet, visited the areas twice and organised relief measures.

(f)—On the 29th of December 1942.

(g)—No.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know what action was taken by Government before the Assistant Director of Public Health went to the place?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The Medical Officer, Bamoi and Rajiura treated these cases.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that in spite of the repeated requests to the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, by the Medical Officer, Habiganj, no quinine or doctor was sent to the place?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: No, Sir, our report is that the medical officers deputed there did not report any shortage of quinine.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that the disease first broke out in the first part of the month of June?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: It was first reported in the beginning of September.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: When did it break out in the form of an epidemic?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: When the Assistant Director of Public Health visited the place in connection with his other duties he detected the epidemic.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that long before the Assistant Director of Public Health visited the place, malaria broke out in the form of an epidemic?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That it was in an epidemic form, was discovered by the Assistant Director of Public Health.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know whether the Government called for any report from the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, as to the action he took on the outbreak of the disease?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I be permitted to put a Question to the hon. Questioner himself? He now says that malaria broke out in an epidemic form in the area in the early part of June. But his Question No. 70(a) states "Are Government aware that malaria broke out in Mantal *** in the form of an epidemic from August 1942,"

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI. Does the Hon'ble Prime Minister deny that malaria did actually break out in June 1942?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Malaria is endemic to the Province ; it became epidemic in those areas sometime in August, as my hon. Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman has stated in his Question. Immediately on the outbreak of the disease, officers of Government went there, and Government supplied $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of quinine. It was when the Assistant Director of Public Health went to the place that he discovered it to be raging in an epidemic form, and a further supply of $13\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of quinine was sent later.

I may state another fact ; while I went to Habiganj in the later part of January, some members of the public including my hon. Friend Mr. Abdur Rahman reported to me about the shortage of quinine and I was asked whether I could give them something stronger than quinine, *i.e.*, Plasco-quinine. A reference to the Director of Public Health, was made and he informed me at Sylhet that he had arranged to send Plasco-quinine from Gauhati to Habiganj. It will therefore be evident, Sir, that every possible step to stem the tide of this disease was taken by Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Will Government be pleased to state the period of time during which 458 deaths took place, and there were 9,604 attacks ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : The deaths took place from the time of the outbreak till the 30th January 1943.
Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is it not a fact that the requisite number of medical officers could not be sent, as some of them were deputed for war emergency ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : In spite of the deficiency of medical men every effort was made to meet the situation.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, I admit that the statement made by the Hon'ble Premier is true, but the fact remains that in spite of the timely note sent to the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, by the Medical Officer, Habiganj, no action was taken by the former till the Assistant Director of Public Health went to the place after two and half months, *i.e.*, in the month of November. The Civil Surgeon was asked to supply quinine. I want to know whether Government think it necessary to ask for an explanation of the Civil Surgeon why there was so much delay in sending quinine, or in making any requisition for the same to the Government here ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI : As I stated in my reply, as soon as the Medical Officers, Bamoi and Rajiura, reported the outbreak, 1 lb. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of quinine were supplied immediately to those areas respectively. This was in the last part of September, and a further supply of 1 lb. of quinine was sent to each of those dispensaries. That was before the visit of the Assistant Director of Public Health.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

71.—A statement showing quantity of quinine supplied is laid on the table. Exact dates not known.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.71 asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1943

Quantity		Time of supply		To whom or by whom supplied	
1 lb.	...	Last week of September 1942	}	Supplied by the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet.	
1½ lbs.	...	1st part of October 1942			...
2 lbs.	...	Last part of October 1942			...
5 lbs.	...	1st part of December 1942			...
3 lbs.	...	Ditto			ditto
10 lbs.	...	Last part of December 1942			...
2 lbs.	...	15th February 1943	...		
3 lbs.	of Quinine	}	16th February 1943	To Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj, Shillong.	
2 lbs.	of Cinchona				

Two thousand tablets of Plasmo-quinine were sent by the Assistant Director of Public Health on 13th February 1943.

Besides these 8 oz. of Acid Sulphate and 10 oz. of Mag. Sulphate were supplied to these areas by the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, on the 14th January 1943.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Do the Government think that 1 lb. of quinine was sufficient to meet the demand of over four thousand people?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: In all, 24 lbs. were sent.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Will Government deny that the Civil Surgeon was at that time absent from the station for a long time and after his return he found fault with the Subdivisional Medical Officer for supplying that quinine during his absence?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: This is absolutely a new Question, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: May we know whether the Civil Surgeon took the Assistant Surgeon to task for supplying the quinine?

(No reply.)

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: When there was such a serious outbreak of the disease, why Government officers were so much miserly in sending quinine say 1 lb. in one month?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: They were not miserly as will appear from the statement laid on the table.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it a fact that the Medical Officers attached to Bamoi and Rajiura Dispensaries are Local Board Doctors?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That may be the case.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Did not the Civil Surgeon think it necessary that one Public Health Department doctor should at once be sent there for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: As soon as the Assistant Director of Public Health reported the fact to the Civil Surgeon, one malaria-trained Sub-Assistant Surgeon with a Compounder was at once sent. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the Epidemic Unit and one epidemic Assistant with a Compounder were also deputed.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are we to understand that till the visit of the Assistant Director of Public Health on 22nd November no Public Health doctor was sent there?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Because it was not reported to be an epidemic till then.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Who is responsible for not reporting the matter for 2½ months?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The doctors in charge of Bamoi and Rajiura treated those cases.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Are not the doctors attached to Bamoi and Rajiura dispensaries responsible to the Chairman of the Habiganj Local Board and the Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj? Is it not a fact that they failed to send the report to their immediate superiors?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That may be the case.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, wanted medical men from the Director of Public Health and the latter pleaded his inability to send them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will Government care to enquire into the matter?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Yes.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is a fact that sufficient quantity of quinine as required by the officers concerned in the Subdivision of Habiganj, could not be supplied by the Civil Surgeon due to insufficient stock?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That is not the case.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that the Director of Public Health visited the affected areas only in the later part of February?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: He visited early in February.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Why did he not think it necessary to go there earlier?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: While a responsible officer of the cadre of Assistant Director of Public Health visited those places he did not think it necessary to do so.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Junior Special Scholarships for Scheduled Caste and Tribal students of Assam Valley

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

57. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Junior Special Scholarships are there in the Matriculation Course for Scheduled Caste and Tribal students of the Assam Valley?

- (b) How many of them have been awarded for the year 1942 ?
 (c) Whether they were awarded in order of merit ?
 (d) If so, what are the Matriculation results of the students to whom they have been awarded ?

58.(a) Are Government aware that a Scheduled Caste boy named Siva Ch. Kakati of Raha High English School, Nowgong, passed the Matriculation Examination in 1942 in the First Division with distinction ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any application from the said student for a scholarship ?

(c) If so, whether any scholarship was awarded to him ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

57.(a)—Five Special backward scholarships are available for Scheduled Castes and nine for Plain Tribal students.

(b)—All.

(c)—They were awarded at the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction to the poor and deserving 1st and 2nd Division candidates.

(d)—Four passed in the First Division and ten in the Second Division.

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI : Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the names of the scholarship-holders who passed in the second division ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :

Scheduled caste

Satish Chandra Malakar—Hailakandi Govt. High School.

Debendra Nath Saikia—Nowgong Govt. High School.

Plains tribal

Helsing A. Marak—Jorhat Christian High School.

Mahim Chandra Das—Gurdon High School, Nalbari.

Giridhor Thengal—Jorhat Govt. High School.

Harendra Chandra Barman—Silchar Govt. High School.

Muhinanda Kumar Miri—North Lakhimpur Govt. High School.

Joydhoj Brahma—Dhubri Govt. High School.

Bhadreswar Das—George Institution, Dibrugarh and

Chatra Sing Mikir—Nowgong Govt. High School.

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI : May I know the dates on which the names of special scholarship-holders were published in the Gazette ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That is a new Question of which I require notice.

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI : Is it a fact that no scholarship can be granted to a candidate whose guardian's income is more than Rs. 150 per mensem ?

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Will Government kindly care to go through the subsidiary rules where they will get the answer ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : The matter about the award of these scholarships is left to the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction.

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI : It is a fact that Debendranath Saikia is a brother of one of the Members of the Cabinet ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Does that Question arise, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied.

58.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI: May I know the date on which Siva Ch. Kakati was awarded the scholarship?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: He was awarded a special scholarship from 1st October 1942.

Caste Hindu Graduates appointed as teachers in Aided High Schools of Surma Valley

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

59. Will Government be pleased to state in a tabular form—

(a) The name, qualification (at the time of appointment) and the pay of the respective Caste Hindu graduates (excepting science teachers) appointed permanently in the Aided High Schools of Surma Valley during the period from March 1936 to January 1943 ?

(b) The ratio of Honours and Pass graduates (excepting science teachers) in those appointments ?

60. Will Government be pleased to state in tabular form—

(a) The name and qualification (at the time of appointment) of the Caste Hindu graduates (excepting science teachers) appointed permanently or temporarily in Government High Schools of Surma Valley for the period from March 1936 to January 1943 ?

(b) The ratio of Honours and Pass graduates (figures to include appointment both permanent and temporary excepting science teachers) in those appointments ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

59.(a)—A statement showing the particulars is placed on the Library table.

(b)—The ratio of Honours and Pass graduates in those appointments is 1 : 2·9.

60.(a)—A statement showing the particulars is placed on the Library table.

(b)—The ratio of Honours and Pass graduates in those appointments is 1 : 3·85.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The reply is “ The ratio of Honours and Pass graduates in those appointments is 1 : 3·85 ”. Do we understand that out of five appointments four went to the Pass graduates ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, that is so.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May we know the reason why so many Pass graduates were appointed though Honours graduates were available ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Reasons are many. As the Hindus of the Surma Valley are over-represented in the Assam School Service, they naturally seek appointments in the Aided High Schools and the number was so large that the Managing Committee could find ample scope for selecting the best men.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: My Question was with regard to appointments in the Government Schools.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: In case of Government Schools, there were three appointments made. One was a Sanskrit teacher and a man having M. A. degree was considered best suited for the post and two other appointments were filled by Pass graduates, as special cases, under the orders of Government.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: What was the reason for giving preference to the Pass graduates, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I cannot say that off-hand but I think, under special orders of Government these Pass graduates were preferred.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Is it a fact that a good number of B. T.s, M. A.s, and Honours graduates were available?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, that it so, but these Pass graduates were officiating for a long time and that is why they were preferred.

Announcement of the result of election to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. I am now announcing the results of election of the Members of the Public Accounts Committee. The members elected are:—

1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee,
2. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury,
3. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury,
4. Srijut Karka Doloi Miri,
5. Raja Ajit Narayan Dev,
6. Maulavi Mazaraf Ali Laskar,
7. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.

I may inform the House that as many as 6 ballot papers were found to be invalid.

Discussion on Supplementary Statement of Expenditure Charged on the Revenues of the Province during 1942-43

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The next item is discussion on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province during 1942-43.

(After a pause.)

Then I take it that there is not going to be any discussion on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

Supplementary Demands for Grants

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I come to the next item of business, i.e., Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1942-43.

Supplementary Demand No. 1

7.—Land Revenue

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 26,700 be granted to the Minister-in-Charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly

Rs.
... 16,93,700

II. Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for :—

Charges for Administration—

A.—General Establishment—

	Rs.
(1) Pay of Establishment	4,000
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	9,200
(3) Contingencies	1,600

14,800

C.—Management of Government Estates—

Colonisation Schemes 1,600

G.—Land Records—(b) District charges—

Allowances and Honoraria 9,390

1. Works—(a) Original Works—Land Records ... 265

(b) Repairs—Land Records 645

Total 26,700

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A.—(1)—Due to entertainment of temporary establishment for loan realisation and requisitioning work.

(2)—Due to increased provision for dearness allowance the rates of which have been raised from the 1st January 1943.

(3)—Due to increased expenditure on service postage and telegram charges owing to increased work and general rise in the prices of stationery.

C.—Due to the entertainment of temporary mandals to complete the survey of the Dalgaon and Nowgong Colonisation areas and also increased contingent expenditure.

G.—The total estimated expenditure for the grant of dearness allowance to low-paid Government servants comes to Rs. 39,950 against the Budget grant of Rs. 24,000 and thus an additional sum of Rs. 15,950 is required, of which Rs. 6,560 can be made by re-appropriation from savings in the Survey Department Budget within the same major head and a supplementary grant of Rs. 9,390 is, therefore, asked for.

1. (a) Required for the construction of a mandals' barrack at Kamalpur.

(b) Required for repairs to Mandals' barracks at Kalaigaon and anticipated excesses in other districts an account of rise in prices of building materials.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 26,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Sir, before Cut Motions are taken up, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue one fact.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Let the Cut Motions be discussed then the hon. Member will find time for it.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.14,800 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment (total), at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementantery Demand of Rs.26,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I have tabled this Cut Motion to raise a discussion for stopping realisation of agricultural loans.

Sir, this subject was also particularly discussed while there was a general Demand on this head but the assurance which I received from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge was not satisfactory to the Members who ran after him for getting an assurance that no Demand whatsoever either in the nature of coercion or in any other way should be made in order to realise the agricultural loan which was advanced to the people of the Surma Valley, particularly during last flood but.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: At this stage I should intervene and ask the hon. Member to show how his criticism is relevant on the Demand.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: From the explanatory note, Sir, it will appear that there is an expression "A.—(1)—Due to entertainment of temporary establishment for loan realisation and requisitioning work". So, I think it will come here Sir, when they are going to provide some extra money for the purpose of entertainment of certain temporary establishment and that is for the purpose of realising agricultural loans.

Sir, the process of the Government to realise the loan is that orders are issued to the District authorities who in their turn issue them to the Subdivisional Officers but the Sub-divisional Officers do not personally look after all these things and depute Sub-Deputy Collectors who also do not go from village to village but fix a station. Then, ordinary peons and Chaukidars are sent to the houses of the people to make demands and realise the money. They realise the loans but what these subordinate officers do, *i.e.*, these peons and Chaukidars? They go to the individual debtor and on his failure to pay, they attach his cattle and other movable things and the poor cultivator is naturally put to great hardship. Sir, it is not unknown to the Hon'ble Minister—the serious crisis through which our country is passing and I would make an appeal to him that he should not ask for any realisation now. If he says that he will simply issue orders to the officers to make a modest demand, that will not do, Sir, because I have tried to show how the situation is mis-handled. The other day also, I made an appeal to him that he may pass an order that the realisation may be stopped altogether for the present. Only notice may be issued to the debtors demanding the money and if anybody repays by virtue of his own initiative, let the authorities have the money.

With these words Sir, I commend my Motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to oppose this Cut Motion.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. Motion moved :
"That the provision of Rs.14,800 under Supplementary Demand No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment (total), at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.26,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100."

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: I should like to oppose this Cut Motion, Sir, and would invite the Mover's attention to certain facts. On several occasions this session I referred to the large number of Speakers who were always prepared to speak without facts on behalf of the poor cultivators, poor

zeminders or the poor lorry-drivers. But I think a good deal of our criticisms of the Ministry ought to be related to the fact, if my memory serves me correctly, that the loans of which my Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman complains were given in 1941 when we heard a good deal of emotional discussion on the necessity for this loan. He stated then that the flood threatened a complete destruction of the *Amon* crop in Sylhet. Now, Sir, I have taken the trouble to look up the rice crop final forecast of 1941-42. I find that in Sylhet, the final forecast showed a yield of three and a quarter lacs tons; in 1942-43 in the final forecast, which was published on 17th March this year, the yield shown is just over three and three-quarter lacs tons. Therefore, the case for giving loans in Sylhet could never have been overwhelmingly strong because the loss of crops cannot be proved in this Assembly or outside the Assembly. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that the reasons which were given publicly for granting this loan in Sylhet, have not been proved by experience. In that view, Sir, it seems to me, equally reasonable to believe that the reasons now brought forward by my Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman for suspending the collection of these loans cannot also be proved. To defer payment or as my Friend would say "stop putting pressure," would only mean in practice, that the cultivators will hold up their paddy and will thus help to maintain the present extremely high price in the Surma Valley against all consumers of paddy. It seems to me, Sir, that in the public interest we must get away from the convention that agricultural loans are charitable relief and Government, far from being opposed for bringing pressure to realise these loans, should be congratulated on any step which brings back the business dictum that loans are loans and are not gratuitous relief. When we criticise Government, Sir, I suggest, as far as possible, we base our criticisms on some reasonable data and not on emotion. I think, Sir, if Government were to realise these loans, it would not only be in the public interest but in the interest of the cultivators themselves. Moreover, the price of paddy this year is double the price it was last year. Therefore, the burden of paying back these loans is really only half of what it was at the time the loan was given.

With these few words, Sir, I would oppose this Motion and trust that the Government spokesman will endorse the views that I have put forward.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: It was only on Saturday last that the European Group voted against the Government on a Cut Motion with regard to the statistical figures supplied by Government, and within a period of two days my hon. Friend Mr. Whittaker comes to say that we ought to have relied on the figures that Government has supplied for taking the statistics of agricultural produce in the district of Sylhet. I am sorry to say that the hon. Member should not have tried to mislead the hon. Members in the House in this way.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The word used by the hon. Member is not a proper word to be used.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: I mean Sir, the hon. Member is trying to create a misunderstanding in the minds of the hon. Members of this House by his speech delivered just now. The statistics supplied by Government are absolutely worthless. There is no relation whatsoever with the actual produce of the District. Moreover, Sir, the agricultural loans given to the cultivators of the Surma Valley were in most cases of no good to them, because of the repeated floods during the year in which the loan was given. With the help of the loan from Government, cultivators tried to re-sow their fields, but the seeds were washed away again and so people derived practically no benefit from the loan.

As regards the price of paddy, I may say, the whole matter has been rather misinterpreted. The cultivators who actually took agricultural loan

from Government are never in a position to get any benefit from the enhanced rate of price of paddy. They generally, do not in fact, get any paddy beyond what they require for their own consumption for the year. It is only a few well-to-do cultivators who are getting some benefit from the enhanced price of paddy and not the small cultivators who are generally relieved by this agricultural loan. Owing to this state of affairs, Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government should have come forward to realise the agricultural loan just at this moment on the ground of enhanced price of paddy. But the Government ought to consider what high prices the cultivators have got to pay to have their other essential commodities purchased. They cannot make their two ends meet and that is the real condition of the tillers of the soil to-day. I do not think, Sir, it would be advisable on the part of Government just now to try to realise the agricultural loan.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, may I say that I agree entirely with what Mr. Dev has said and I still condemn the Government statistics. But I think Mr. Dev must distinguish between two things. He must distinguish between the faulty manner in which the statistics are prepared, that is the first point . ,

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This is a discussion the hon. Member is really starting; the hon. Member may now only speak by way of giving personal explanation.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Yes, Sir, it is personal explanation. And secondly, between an error which is repeated year after year thus making it possible to make a comparison between one year and the next. It does not alter my view or Mr. Dev's view about the accuracy of the statistics. The manner in which the statistics is prepared is wrong, but it is still possible to make a comparison between one year and the next as the error is common to every year. Therefore, I submit that it is quite legitimate for me to compare 1941 with 1942 and 1942 with 1943.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I am surprised that Mr. Whittaker has opposed the Motion. That might be owing to a misunderstanding. He mentioned about *Amon* crop. From the statistics he found that the *Amon* had increased in the district of Sylhet this year. He has spoken on the basis of the statistics that were published last week. Mr. Dev has given a right reply on this point. I am myself a farmer and I know how this year's crop yielded. I can speak for the information, the crop has totally failed. It was because in the months of October and November there was no rain and due to this the cultivators could not derive the due result of their labour and as a consequence of this drought there was insect pest and that is why the outturn was much below the expectation, though it has been shown in the statistics that the *Amon* crop was increasing at Sylhet.

Mr. Whittaker has forgotten to mention about *Buro* growing areas. In the months of March and April the harvest takes place. And now the cultivators are in great want. The agricultural loan was not given only to the *Amon* cultivators but to the *Buro* cultivators as well.

Now, if Government would continue to realise agricultural loan with the vigour they have begun with, then the cultivators would be put to severe difficulties. I know personally and my Friend Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri will bear me out that the officers, with their zeal compete among themselves, for the amount realized, in order to top the list. In some cases cultivators had resorted to selling their milch-cows, boat and plough cattle in order to pay the loan to those officers. This state of affairs has not perhaps been brought to the notice of Government and so they are pressing for the realisation of the loan. Now, if, after these facts having been brought before

this House, Mr. Whittaker opposes the Motion, then it is nothing but unfortunate. What we want is that Government should postpone the realisation of the loan till better time comes, and I request Government to wait till the months of June and July, as at that time the cultivators will be able to sell their surplus paddy at a considerably high rate and then will be able to repay the loan with the least difficulty.

If time is not given to them and if all sorts of cruelty and harshness were taken recourse to realise agricultural loans, we will do severe injustice to the cultivators. In some places, I know cultivators require additional help now, because they could not get the proper yield from the *Amon* crop and because the price of ordinary necessities has gone so high that cultivators cannot purchase the necessary amount of cloth for their family members.

The Hon'ble Minister will be surprised to hear that in one thana an officer realised Rs. 14,000 within a course of 10 days only. How could he get so much money if the officer had not exercised his iron hand in realising the money? So, what I want is that Government should consider these facts dispassionately and give sufficient time to the cultivators in order to enable themselves to repay their loans.

With these words I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

Mr. R. A. PALMER: Are we to understand that the mover of this Cut Motion only asks for the suspension of the realisation of this loan for two months?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Are we also to understand that the Cut Motion only refers to *boro*-growing areas? The Motion was a general statement. (*Voices—Yes, general*). I took it for the whole district.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He has placed only his view.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Before the Hon'ble Minister replies I want to make one position clear. The Budget estimate for the year 1942-43 mentions an amount of Rs. 16,93,700; in the revised estimates we find the total amount that will be required for the year to be Rs. 16,88,509. From this I find that about Rs. 5,000 would have been saved, but Government is coming up for another Rs. 26,700. Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly make the position clear when he replies?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let me dispose of the Cut Motion. After the Cut Motion has been disposed of, I shall allow a debate on the general aspect of the whole Demand.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: It seems to me that the statistics are as regards the condition of the crop of last year. The condition among the cultivators which exists at the present time, is not found in the statistics. In certain areas in the Kamrup district and in the Khasi Hills with which I am acquainted, there is a real failure of the paddy crop and many cultivators are suffering. Even now they move from place to place to get paddy. They have not paddy enough to carry them along for a few months even now. In some tribal areas in the Kamrup district which I know very well and also in the Khasi Hills, there is a great hardship owing to the total failure of paddy. If there are agricultural loans in these areas, I think it will only be humane for the Government to see that the loans should not be realised at least for some time until matters become a little bit better. In these areas they have no other crop than one paddy crop. They have got nothing else to look to. So, I believe that in these areas people will be helped if agricultural loan will not be realised. Government would no doubt see that there are different conditions in different parts of the country, and there is a great deal to speak in favour of the amendment. I am sure Government will give a favourable reply that these things would be looked into and that also the people who are suffering hardship, should be helped

at this time. Of course, there may be other places where people do not need this help. We can depend on the discretion of the Government and on the officers of Government to see to these things.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never expected that this Motion would be debated at all to-day. It is as many as four previous occasions perhaps on which I gave a reply on exactly similar matter which each time satisfied also my hon. Friend the mover of the Motion, himself. It was in consultation and in agreement with my hon. Friend along with some other hon. Members from the Surma Valley, that a decision was arrived at which carried out in toto the meaning and sense which the hon. Mover has indicated in his speech. Orders have already been issued. What he wanted in essence was that our officers should be instructed not to use any coercive measures at all. This has been done. He further requested that notices should be issued to the debtors to make payments followed by persuasion. That also has been agreed to. I was wondering, Sir, if he had been supplied with any information from his constituency or any part of the Sylhet district which necessitated moving this Motion, I use 'necessitated' advisedly in this sense that it looked as if that these orders were so flagrantly being violated that there was no other alternative for the hon. Mover but to re-agitate the same question over and over again. But nothing of the kind! If he heard nothing of the kind, there is no case for any complaint whatsoever. If my hon. Friend would ask me to suspend realisation where realisation is possible, without coercion, I am sure it would not be proper on my part to agree to that, because, as I told the House the other day, during my tour in the Sylhet district, I came across persons who were willing to pay. Our cultivators would not keep his money in store for another occasion; he will certainly squander that amount. We shall simply be put to blame that we did not ask him to pay for which he did not pay and further that merely for the asking we would have got that money. I did not like that Government should throw themselves to such an awkward position.

As regards the Boro areas, Sir, orders have also been issued that in the Boro areas, if merely an application is made for the postponement of the realisation till the Boro harvest is over, that should be granted. So far as the hon. Mover of this Motion is concerned, I think, he is only reiterating over and over again what he demanded and what has been agreed to. I think, there should be full satisfaction to him. The debate took somewhat of a turn which was not a subject within the purview of this Motion. So, I do not propose to enter into that controversy—controversy over statistics.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of information, Sir. What is the net result of the issue of this circular by which the officers have been asked not to use coercive measures? Do the Government admit that their officers sometime use coercive measures in realising loans, etc?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Coercive measures have to be used, if that is necessary. There is a provision in the law.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Do the Government admit that their Officers use coercive measures in realising loans or do they think that their officers will admit that they were so long using coercive measures and that it will be stopped now?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: These are all hypothetical questions, Sir. If in the ordinary course of things, necessity arises, then coercive measures shall have to be had recourse to.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In that case, what would be the net effect of such a circular that coercive measures should not be used by the officers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: This is only theorising, Sir. I want to be quite business-like and I do not like to probe into theories like that. If in spite of our orders, the officers disobey our orders, we will then know how to deal with them.

As regards Mr. Mookerjee's point of order, the explanation is this that the figure for Supplementary Demand was based on ten months' actuals, whereas the revised figure has been based on seven months' actuals. Therein is the explanation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I inquire something in this connection? When the Budget was placed.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I said that I shall allow a general discussion on the subject after this Cut Motion is disposed of. I think, the Hon'ble Minister has finished.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Yes, Sir.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May we request the Hon'ble Minister that the relevant portions of the speeches delivered by the few hon. Members with regard to this Motion be sent to the District officers so that the officers might know what is the intention of the hon. Members with regard to the realisation of the loans?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is more than what I should do. Are they the authorities whom I should be going to move? Orders have been issued and, if officers do not carry them out they will be dealt with definitely and peremptorily.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.14,800 under Supplementary Demand No.1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment (total), at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.26,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The question was negatived.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister while moving the Supplementary Demand said that Rs.16,93,700 was originally sanctioned by this House? Now, Sir, I have heard that another sum of Rs.26,700 will be required and this is based on the calculation of ten months' actuals. My point is this that when the Budget was passed during the month of November, after 7 months' working whether there was any necessity for this revised estimate on the 7 months' actuals which are so very divergent and misleading. Now, this Supplementary is passed on the actuals of ten months but the money that has been provided in the Supplementary Budget has already been included in the revised Budget. So, Sir, the argument that has been placed by the Hon'ble Minister falls through. You will find, Sir, at page 31, under Temporary establishment, that originally Rs.3,000 was sanctioned and in the revised Budget it will be seen that Rs.7,300 has been shown. The Supplementary Demand is also for the amount of Rs.4,000. Again we find Sir, the estimate under the head Allowances and Honoraria is Rs.9,260. Now here in the Budget under Allowances and Honoraria, we find that the original Demand was for Rs.61,550 and the revised figure is for Rs.70,000. This revised figure was placed before the House along with this Supplementary Demand in the month of February. My point is this that after calculating and including all these items, under revised estimate Government came to the conclusion that there would be a saving of Rs.5,000 in this branch but now we find that instead of having a saving of Rs.5,000, another amount to the extent of Rs.26,000 is required. So, it seems ridiculous and becomes rather difficult for us to understand.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. As it is a Demand on the Head 'Revenue', I take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue (in-charge of Court of Wards) two instances of injustice done to officers committed to his care—one is Maulavi Maktal Hussain, the Sub-Manager of the Mechpara Wards Estate, and another Maulavi Majidur Rahman, Additional Superintendent, Bijni Raj Ward's Estate, where, in case of the former, he has been degraded, to my mind, without any just cause and in case of the latter, justice in his pay and prospect is being withheld, by withholding both of their representations from coming up to Government. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue please look into both these cases and see that justice is done?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. My hon. Friend has stated very meagre facts and as he has furnished so little, it will not be possible for me to take any step. I would therefore request him that if it is possible for him to give me sufficient details then I shall certainly look into this.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I shall supply details, Sir.

***Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI:** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 26,700 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head —7.—Land Revenue, at page 1 of the list of the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 26,700 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise Government for inclusion of Chenimari block in Gobha Mauza in the district of Nowgong, within the colonisation area and thereby causing harassment to the tribal settlers.

Sir, Government have agreed to deal with the problem of immigration in accordance with their Resolution on the Line System and settlement of waste lands in the province, dated 21st June 1940 which lays down the basic policy of planned settlement in the interest of indigenous people, particularly tribals, scheduled castes and other backward people. Settlement has been restricted to more or less compact areas instead of allowing indiscriminate squatting. Sir, after the resignation of the Congress-Coalition Ministry in 1939 the Saadulla Ministry which succeeded, it convened a conference of the representatives of the various parties in the Legislature. In that conference, Sir, it was agreed that the tribal classes needed special protection and that their claims to settlement of waste lands would in future receive sympathetic consideration. Now, this Chenimari block is situated in close proximity to the areas owned by indigenous tribals, and is virtually occupied by them. It is curious to find that this particular block has now been included in the colonisation area, and the tribal people who have been settled there for the last three years have been asked to vacate the block. In the meantime a number of Hindustani immigrants have been allowed to settle there and the local tribals are being considered as encroachers. I do not know what is the policy behind all this, but at any rate it indicates complete disregard of the policy, Government have hitherto pursued. There is an apprehension, and rightly so, in the minds of the local people that the introduction of these foreign elements would spell disaster to the population and be a source of constant trouble in future. I would therefore request the Government to exclude the Chenimari block from the colonisation area.

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

* Speech not corrected by the hon. member.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That the total provision of Rs.26,700 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.26,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position is this: Government adhere to the policy already enunciated in regard to the tribals and that they take every care to see that the policy is followed in action.

So far as this block is concerned, Sir, the Commissioner of Divisions, after a thorough examination, recommended the inclusion of this block in the colonisation scheme. When the Development Officer reported—he was particularly asked to report with a view to see that the policy of Government with regard to tribals was not infringed in any way—in his recommendations—he did not mention in his report anything of the kind, he did not mention that there was either resentment or objection on the part of any of the tribals; nor have we heard of any such objection, Sir, before the hon. Mover mooted his Motion. I shall of course, as I have already enunciated the Government policy, look into the matter and if any redress is found necessary that will be afforded.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member press his Motion?

Srijut DHIRSING DEURI: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs.26,700 under Supplementary Demand No. 1, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 1 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary Demand of Rs.26,700 do stand reduced by Rs.100".

The question was negatived.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: May I say a word in reply to what Mr. Mookerjee said? He wants to know why there has been a variation between the revised estimates and the figure put down in the Supplementary Demand. As Mr. Mookerjee must be aware, our revised estimates are formed on the figures of the actuals for seven months and estimates for five months. When the Supplementary Estimate is framed—it is framed after the expiry of about ten months—we are in a better position to judge from the progress of expenditure, the total amount that will be required. So, there is naturally a variation between the figures given in our revised estimates and those given in the Supplementary Demand.

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE: But, Sir, I have pointed out from the figures in this connection, under the same head, that the amount of the supplementary figure and the difference between the budgeted figure and the revised figure remain just the same. So, when these revised figures were calculated they were based on the same calculation as has been laid down for the Supplementary Demand.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: That only shows that there has been no variation in the estimates that we have framed.

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE: But, Sir, ultimately we find that the revised amount that will be required is less than the budgeted amount, in spite of this being included in the revised. The variation is there already. After all these being added, the difference between the revised and the sanctioned amount is less by Rs.5,000. But over and above that, Government now require another sum of Rs.26,700.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Which is less than Rs.5,000?

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE: The estimate is Rs.16,93,700, the revised is Rs.16,88,500; so the revised is less than the sanctioned

amount. Over and above that Government want another sum of Rs.26,000. My point is this: if necessity arises Government ask for money, and it is for the House to decide whether they should give money or not. I have no quarrel with that. But my point is when this revised was prepared the amounts that have been shown here under different heads were also included under the same head at the time of revision. So, these points have already been decided at the time of revised estimates; over and above that Government are now asking for this Supplementary Demand. My submission is this that when it has already been included in the revised estimates the amount ought to have been shown here.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amount for which vote is asked is over and above Rs.16,93,700.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: From the revised it will be found that the amount is in excess of.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But we are to go by the Supplementary Statement.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Mookerjee the other day placed before the House the relevant sections of the Constitution Act as regards the budgetary procedure. I may just remind my hon. Friend that in the Statutory provision there is no provision whatsoever of any "revised estimate". He will find the first original estimate and the supplementary estimate under Section 81. The "revised" is placed not under the Act but under the Audit Rulings in order to enable the hon. Members to see the progress of expenditure in the light of seven months' actuals. The "revised estimate" has not been placed in the shape of a Demand. On seven months' actuals, Government realised what amounts would be necessary, and so this motion has been placed before the House as a Supplementary Demand.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is most misleading. Sir, my point is this: when the budget for 1942-43 was placed before the House, the revised estimates were based on seven months' actuals and according to the actuals of that period the budget for the whole year was prepared allotting money under different heads. In the last year's budget you will find, Sir, that there were actuals only up to 21st August. So these revised figures instead of being helpful have become most misleading. This year is a peculiar one and it is a pity that Government should show these unreliable figures under the revised estimates in such a year wherein the Budget was prepared after 6 months' working. Why is there so much difference between the estimated amount and the revised amount?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Supplementary Demand, if passed, does not authorise Government that the entire amount will be spent; there will be some saving. All the accounts will be audited by the Auditor General and will be placed before the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Accounts Committee would submit their report pointing out their regularities, if there be any, and the House will then consider if there is anything wrong.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In this connection I may be permitted to say, Sir, that the money which will not be spent rather cannot be spent under this Supplementary head will be re-appropriated under different heads, for which Government will not dare to come before the House; the heads shown here are not the real ones.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question of re-appropriation and other things will be placed before the Public Accounts Committee and they will submit a report and that report will be discussed in this House.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I realise the difficulty, this will take a long time because as I said the other day from the actuals of

1941-42 there were several cases of excess and unnecessary Supplementary Demands and also a number of surrenders. So, I think, it is the duty of the Government to supply the hon. Members with correct figures under real heads as far as practicable.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So the hon. Member has said all this and I hope the House has followed him. If the House is satisfied that there is something wrong then they would have the right to refuse the demand.

I am putting the question.

The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs.26,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—7.—Land Revenue".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND NO. 2

10.—FORESTS

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.7,99,272 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "10.—Forests".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.	10,48,500
II. Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Forest Department—		
A.— <i>Conservancy and works</i> (non-excluded areas)—		

	Rs.
(i) Timber and other produce removed from forests by Government agency. ...	1,25,622
(ii) Timber and other produce removed from forests by consumers and purchasers. ...	9,940
(iii) Communications and buildings ...	18,800
(iv) Organisation, improvement and extension of forests. ...	5,650
(v) Miscellaneous ...	3,590
(vi) Suspense ...	6,00,000
Total A ...	7,63,602

B.—*Establishment*—

	Rs.
(a) Pay of Officers ...	9,525
(b) Pay of Establishment ...	9,720
(c) Allowances and honoraria ...	9,890
(d) Contingencies ...	6,535
Total B ...	35,670

Total Demand ...	7,99,272
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) The extra amount is required mainly to meet the cost of Departmental operations for supply of war timber and minor forest produce and for purchase of firewood for the charcoal kiln at Khowang in the Lakhimpur Division.

(ii) This excess expenditure is mainly due to the entertainment of extra temporary establishment in connection with the supply of war timber and special pay sanctioned by Government for establishment serving in the Ledo-Bogapani, etc., areas.

(iii) The extra money is mainly required for improvement of roads and bridges for extraction of war timber. This also includes Rs.4,000 sanctioned by Government for relief works in the Kachugaon division.

(iv) This is a part of the provision of Rs.8,200 subsequently sanctioned by Government for cinchona cultivation in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. This extra expenditure is partly met by reduction of expenditure under other detailed heads.

(v) This excess expenditure is partly due to dearness allowance sanctioned by Government and partly due to the purchase of 1,600 yards of Mazri cloth for forest subordinates' uniform. The cost of such cloth has risen.

(vi) The actual expenditure to end of December 1942 was Rs.9,56,987, viz., $\frac{\text{Debit Rs.14,41,076}}{\text{Credit Rs.4,84,089}}$ and it is expected that before 31st March 1943 this amount will come down to about Rs.6,00,000 by adjustment of the recovery of the value of sleepers and war timber supplied to Sleeper Controller and Military authorities. This amount of Rs.6,00,000 is therefore provided. The unrecovered amount of the current year will be recovered and adjusted in the accounts of the next year and will increase the revenue of that year.

(a) The excess expenditure is mainly due to entertainment of 3 Burma Officers, extension of service and grant of compensation to Mr. L. J. Delanougere, and grant of special pay at Rs.100 per mensem to Mr. C. S. Purkayastha. The total excess under this head is Rs.27,525 of which Rs.18,000 will be met from savings.

(b) This is mainly due to entertainment of extra temporary establishment to cope with increased work in connection with the supply of war timber.

(c) The excess is mainly due to dearness allowance which alone amounts to Rs.25,455 offset by a deduction in travelling allowance demand.

(d) This is mainly due to increase in the cost of service postage on account of increased correspondence, rates of postage, increase in the price of kerosine oil, orderlies' uniforms, dearness allowance to contingency menials and in rates and taxes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: When moving this Demand the Hon'ble Minister is not making any speech; but I think he should at least make a reference to the Supplementary Statement saying that the whole case in regard to this Demand has been stated there.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: In this connection I invite attention of the hon. Members to the Supplementary Statement and the Explanatory Notes on this matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

That an additional sum of Rs.7,99,272 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "10.—Forests".

There are some Cut Motions. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy wants rejection of the whole Demand. That will be taken up later on. Let the Member move his second motion first.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I am not moving the second* Motion. Maulavi Abdur Rahman will move the third Motion and I will speak on that.

*That the provision of Rs.3,590 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, Minor head—A.—Conservancy and works (non-excluded areas), Sub-head—(V)—Miscellaneous, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs.90, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.7,99,272 do stand reduced by Rs.90.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 7,99,272 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,99,272 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the hon. Members of this House proclaimed times without number before our Government the evil practices which are prevalent among the various forest officers but what benefit our Province has derived since those grievances were placed through the Legislature, I do not know.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was not this matter discussed in the House?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir, but I am coming to a very definite and recent one which up till now has not been brought before the Hon'ble Minister.

Sir, here in the explanatory note of the Demand, I find, an extra amount is required mainly to meet the cost of Departmental operations for supply of war timber and forest produce, etc., and then again this excess expenditure is mainly due to the entertainment of extra temporary establishment in connection with the supply of war timber and special pay sanctioned by Government for establishment serving in the Ledo-Bogapani, etc., areas.

Sir, very recently in the matter of distributing contracts by the forest officers with regard to the military supply serious complaints have been received. Even it was alleged by one hon. Member of the Upper House that the Divisional Forest Officer, Sylhet, in the matter of granting contracts for *chatai* or *dhara* did not spare to realise his share. This is a serious complaint, Sir. There is also strong rumour in respect of the conduct of Sylhet Divisional Forest Officer. If things like that go on, I do not know what is the necessity for our Heads here? This sort of corruption is being practised not only by the forest officers but by others also but I do not know why no actions are being taken against them and why proper justice is not being shown to the people. These officers are highly paid and they should not make an income like this which is not legal and I would simply urge upon the Hon'ble Minister that he must not spare these officers to go unchecked and that he would institute a sifting enquiry whether the allegations which are afloat, with regard to the distribution of contract during this abnormal time against the forest officer, Sylhet are true and if anything is found, I would request him to take proper step.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 7,99,272 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.* the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,99,272 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, the officials of revenue stations of Saktiarkhola, Halholia and Doloirgaon go from house to house of the poor agriculturists and harass them for royalties and for even the article extracted from other places than Government reserves, the poor agriculturists are sometimes detained in the revenue stations for unlimited period of time to their great inconvenience without food, sleep and at the risk of heavy losses owing to non-performance of other works. Until heavy sums are paid they are not allowed to go. Unfortunately, Government do not get all the revenues they realise from the poor agriculturists. Government have been informed about all these mal-practices times without number but nothing has yet been done. Government should take immediate steps for checking these corruptions.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to say something in connection with the Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, Sir, he has made a definite charge against the Divisional Forest Officer, Sylhet. Sir, I think, that the real difficulty lies in the fact that the gentleman who is in charge of this Division hails from the Assam Valley and most probably does not know the Jabbardast M. L. A.'s of the district.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: But he certainly knows Mr. Mookerjee.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am, Sir, a resident of the town of Sylhet but I did not hear anything against this gentleman. It is in all fairness that my hon. Friend, the Mover, should give out the name from whom he has heard this allegation and I should appeal to the Hon'ble Premier to make an enquiry and if the allegation is correct, he should punish the officer but if the allegation is not correct he should in all fairness punish the man who has brought such an ugly allegation against such a high official.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Mover for bringing to our notice certain facts and to Mr. Mookerjee for his having spoken what he has spoken. Against this very officer, Sir, certain persons in the Sylhet Circuit House almost besieged me with complaints—one of them happened to be an Assistant Secretary of an Association. I asked him to request his President himself to see me in this connection. The President came and gave a very good certificate to this officer as to his impartiality and fairness since as Mr. Mookerjee has done. And, it will be no news to you, Sir, that on further enquiry all those complainants were found to be *disappointed tenderers*! At any rate, Sir, it is our declared policy of this Government to nip corruptions in the bud and at the root. That is our ideal which we can achieve only if public will heartily co-operate, and with a view to this there is one Forest Amendment Bill which has been passed already by both the Houses. I think, if His Excellency the Governor would be pleased to give his assent to this Bill, most of the possibilities for corruption in this Department would be eradicated.

As regards the allegation made by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, I will certainly look into it provided definite allegation is made by him. As my hon. Friend has made that allegation on the floor of the House I should take it that he has not done that light-heartedly, but in all seriousness. I must therefore request him to come forward with definiteness about his allegation and I should assure him that Government will take most rigorous steps against the officer, if he can prove the charge. At the same time I should remind him that the charge is very serious which he should bear in mind and that he should discharge the onus.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs. 7,99,272 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,99,272 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The question was negatived.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 7,99,272 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be refused.

We are urging upon Government to open all possible forest reserves for cultivation to make the Grow-More-Food Campaign a success. Government should also open out such reserves, but some reserves should also remain as reserves for fodder grass. It is understood that Manai Sharpur Reserve under the Police Station Taherpur is going to be opened for cultivation.

tion, but if this is a fact Government should know that the agriculturists of that area extract fodder grass from this reserve every year. The scarcity of fodder is very keenly felt by the agriculturists who are handicapped in maintaining cattle, the scarcity of which creates a deadlock in the present system of cultivation. Thus the Grow-More-Food Campaign will be hampered if all reserves are opened out. I therefore suggest that the Manai Sharpur Reserve should remain as reserve

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 7,99,272 under Supplementary Demand No. 2, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 2 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be refused."

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: My thanks are due to the hon. Member who has brought this Motion and who has been persistently and consistently reminding Government of the all absorbing importance of the Grow-More-Food Campaign, urging upon them the imperative necessity for throwing open to settlement all possible waste lands, all extra and unnecessary grazing lands and all forest reserves which have now little forest value. He has also favoured us with constructive suggestions in his speeches for which I am grateful. As regards a reserve which he has styled Monai Sharpur Reserve, I am not aware if there is any such reserve in the Sunamganj subdivision. If, by Manai Sharpur Reserve, he means the Laurergarh Reserve, then I can understand it. I shall wait to hear from the hon. Mover.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: This Reserve is called Manai Sharpur Reserve.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Thanks. I have kept the final orders in abeyance about it although the Secretariat and the Conservator of Forests recommended its deforestation. I shall remember the request of the hon. Member when passing the final order.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 7,99,272 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "10.—Forests".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND NO. 3

11.—REGISTRATION

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 7,573 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "11.—Registration".

	Rs.
Grant originally passed by the Assembly ...	1,56,200
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for by the Registration Department:—	

A.—District Charges—

				Rs.
(a) Pay of Establishment	...	...	...	2,450
(b) Allowances and Honoraria	2,168
(c) Contingencies	1,200

B.—Works—

(d) Repairs	1,755
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Total	7,573
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

(a) The additional sum of Rs. 2,450 under the head "Pay of Establishment" is required to meet expenses for the staff sanctioned on account of increase in Registration work and entertainment of night Chowkidars in Sub-Registry offices owing to the present political situation.

(b) The additional sum of Rs. 2,168 under the head "Allowances and Honoraria" is required for (1) transfer of officers (2) encashment of pending travelling allowance bills of last year and (3) the original provision under "Dearness Allowance" proving inadequate.

(c) The additional sum of Rs. 1,200 under the head "Contingencies" is required for (1) meeting the arrear rent of Chunarughat Sub-Registry Office building (2) meeting extra expense due to increase in the price of service stamps money order commissions (4) shifting of Kazis' old Records from Jorhat to Sylhet and (4) loss of printing of Muslim Registrar and Kazis' Hand Book.

(d) The additional sum of Rs. 1,755 under the head "Repairs" is required for essential repairs to the Dhubri Sub-Registry building.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 7,573 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head '11.—Registration'."

There is only one Cut Motion in the name of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,168 under Supplementary Demand No. 3, Major head—11.—Registration, Minor head—A—District Charges, Sub-head (b)—Allowances and Honoraria, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,573, do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, it has been brought to our notice that there are no quarters provided for clerks of the Sub-Registry Offices of Sukhair, Madhabpur and Patharkandi and as a result the newly transferred clerks to these places experience great difficulties. When any clerks are transferred from those places they sell their temporary sheds to the newly transferred clerks who get no houses for their accommodation. So I urge upon Government to make arrangements for the construction of quarters for those clerks.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 2,168 under Supplementary Demand No. 3, Major head—11.—Registration, Minor head—A—District Charges, Sub-head—(b)—Allowances and Honoraria, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 7,573, do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The hon. Mover of this Motion put certain questions on this matter and satisfactory replies were given and in view of that I do not know how the hon. Member again come to move a Cut Motion. The reply was that Government had no information of such grievances which were put forward by the hon. Mover and it was told that if it were found in fact that the private quarters were not available at the places mentioned, Government would consider what arrangements could be made. I think, in view of this, the Motion should be withdrawn.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, with the leave of the House, I beg to withdraw my Motion.
The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs.7,573 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "11.—Registration."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.4

28.—Jails and Convict Settlements

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 2,27,179 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

II.—Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for.—

A.—District Jails—			
1. Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	2,389
2. Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	1,92,810
3. Contingencies (contract)	...	...	8,950
B.—Charges for Police Custody—			
Contingencies	...	...	5,380
D.—Jails Manufactures—			
1. Contingencies (non-contract)	...	...	17,550
E.—Works—Repairs—			
Charges for Police Custody	...	...	100
Total	...	...	2,27,179

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—1. Mainly due to grant of dearness allowances at the increased rates.
2. Due to purchase of food-stuffs such as paddy, dal, etc., at the prevailing market rate which is very high, rise in prices of clothing and bedding and uniform, etc., admission of security prisoners and prisoners convicted under Defence of India Rules in excess of anticipated Jail population.

3. Due to rise in prices of almost all the articles particularly kerosene oil, sagoo, etc.

B.—Increase in diet and conveyance charges of under trial prisoners the number of whom has increased and general rise in the prices of all commodities.

D.—1. Necessitated by rise in the prices of raw materials such as iron, yarn, etc., purchased for the Manufactory Department.

E.—The increased cost of repairs to lock-ups.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.2,27,179 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '28.—Jails and Convict Settlements'."

Will Maulavi Abdur Rahman like to move his Cut Motion ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : No, Sir.

*That the total provision of Rs. 2,27,179 under Supplementary Demand No. 4, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, at page 4 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs. 100, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 2,27,179 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To discuss about the condition of Jail population.)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, under D at page 4, we find that Government require for Non-contract contingencies Rs. 17, 550. Under this item a sum of Rs. 30,480, was sanctioned by this House and in this connection I am not going to raise the vexed question again. But Government under 'Revised' estimates showed that Rs.17,300 was required. Leaving that question aside, Government at present want Rs. 17,550, that means about Rs.48,000 and this will be required for Jail Manufactures. Now, Sir, under the head 'Receipt' we find that Government provided Rs. 36,000 in the original Budget which was sanctioned by this House, and in the 'Revised' estimate the amount was little less. My point in this connection is that, when, in other cases, the 'Estimates' relating to any kind of business Government have deducted the amount that will be recovered by sale of manufactured goods, this head with the 'Receipt' remains the same. So, Sir, unless the Hon'ble Minister can explain the position, I hope, the hon. Members will oppose this Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: The point raised by Mr. Mookerjee is not very clear.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My point is this, Sir, that Government wanted Rs. 30,480 for Jail manufactures. That was shown on the expenditure side, and on the receipt side.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Will he please refer to the page, Sir ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Page 85—Total Jail Manufactures.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Is it for the year 1942-43 ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Budget estimate that has been placed before us is for the year 1943-44. The amount that I am referring to has been shown under Budget estimate (revised) in the same Budget at page 85.

Please see also page 18 of the same book—Jails and Convict Settlements—Jail Manufactures. On the receipt side it was shown that Rs.36,000 would be realised.

Now my point is this, that Government are going to increase that Rs.30,480 by another Rs. 17,550. So the total amount required will be practically about Rs.48,000. But as in other cases like this, Government have deducted the amount that will be recovered by sale or grant from the India Government and from other sources ; here in this case under the Supplementary Demand it becomes rather difficult to understand why nothing has been shown on the receipt side. Sir, where Rs. 48,000 will be required, Government will get Rs. 36,000 in return after using the raw materials worth Rs.48,000, if we add to this the cost of labour, etc., the total expenditure will be much more than Rs.48,000. This position is not clear to me.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has misunderstood the whole thing.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I think the position is quite clear. Rupees 33,480 were based after taking into consideration recoveries from Jail and other Departments. In addition to that we shall require this amount of Rs. 17,550 which is necessitated by the fact that there has been increase in the prices of the raw materials, etc. I do not see what is the difficulty there.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards Mr. Mookerjee's complaints, he has referred to page 85. In the "Budget Estimates for 1942-43—(Revised)", for Jail Manufacture,

Rs.30,480 is shown. The total sum that was required was Rs.88,500. But recoveries from Jails have been shown a deduct entries Rs.44,000. The Hon'ble Minister has come up for Rs.17,550, as he finds that additional sum had to be incurred.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will not there be some more recoveries ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Recoveries have not been shown because we have not up till now received figures from the Jails. These will be received at the end of this year.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it has been admitted by the Hon'ble Premier that some amount will be recovered which will come to the receipt side afterwards. Hon. Members would have been able to understand better if Government said that out of this Rs.17,550, at least Rs.10,000 or like amount will be recovered. When it is on the business lines, certainly there will be recoveries from the sale of manufactured articles. So though exact amount could not be given some amount based on a reasonable calculation could have been deducted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards receipt from recoveries, the figures are duly checked by the Comptroller and the Auditor General. At the time of discussion in the Public Accounts Committee the hon. Members will get an opportunity of raising the matter. And the procedure can be regularised, if there be any short or over spending.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At page 9 of the list of Supplementary Demands, you will find that the amount that will be received from other sources has already been deducted. When money will be realised and Government know it perfectly well then why in this case nothing has been deducted ; in such a case there should not have been any difficulty.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. Friend is a mine of information for which we have all great admiration for him. In the Public Works Department, there is a definite provision that *pro-rata* recovery is to be made. It is probably 25 or 26 per cent. So for any work done, it cannot be said exactly how much money will be required. Here also we do not know what actually has happened.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then at page 13 under 'Police' Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Is this a case of sale ?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Government can estimate that they will get something out of this expenditure. My point is this that the sale proceeds of the manufactured articles ought to have been deducted. This is a plain point, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am putting the question then.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have not yet finished. Now Sir, I shall request the Hon'ble Premier to see at the bottom of page 7, whether this expenditure will be covered by receipts from the sale proceeds. The explanation was that it would not be included here, but the indication was there that this will be recovered from the sale but under Public Health nothing has been shown. The Jail manufacture is run on business line. Sir, a few minutes ago, we heard the Hon'ble Minister for Forests saying that he will speak on business like way and he will try to be practical. We hope that in real sense, they should try to be business-like.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am reminded of a certain line from Goldsmith's description of Village School Master but I will not repeat it. The hon. Mover is pointing out that at the bottom of the page, the explanation against this complaint is given. It is only mentioned that the expenditure for which the

vote of the House is now sought will however be recovered by receipts from sale but the amount of sale has not been shown.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Here the amount has not been shown but some explanation has been given that there is some chance of getting this amount. But in this case, this has also not been done. From various explanatory notes, I will be able to prove that what has been done in other cases has not been done in this particular case. I quite understand that due to some difficulty the amount has not been shown here but courtesy demands that there ought to have been a note explaining the situation so that the hon. Members could understand. I thought that the amount had not been shown here and that the amount would be recovered by sale but we find that in this case, nothing has been remarked.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am glad that the hon. Member is shifting his ground.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not shifting the ground, Sir. As usual the Government is shifting the ground. *(laughter)* It may be that I could not express my thought due to my defective language or Government conveniently pretends not to understand my point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKRR: The question is:
“That an additional sum of Rs.2,27,179 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head “28.—Jails and Convict Settlements”.

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.5

36.—SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI:

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.42 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head “36.—Scientific Department”.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly				Rs.
II.—Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—				5,600
B.—Museums—				Rs.
Contingencies	...	...	...	42
Total				42

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The additional grant is required to meet the contingent expenditure of the Assam Coin Cabinet.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:
“That an additional sum of Rs.42 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head “36—Scientific Department”.

Then I take no hon. Member is speaking on this.

The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs.42 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head “36—Scientific Department”.

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.61

38—Medical

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:
In the absence of the Hon'ble Minister for Medical due to ill health, I will move this, Sir.

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.29,485 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs.	11,78,400
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—		
1. A.—Medical Establishment—		
(a) Superintendence—	Rs.	
Contingencies (contract)	...	6,000
2. B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries—		
(c) Leper Hospital, Sylhet—		
Contingencies (non-contract)	...	2,180
3. Ditto—		
(d) Leprosy Survey, etc.—		
Leper Colony (Tura)—		
Contingencies (non-contract)	...	800
4. E.—Mental hospitals—		
(a) Mental Hospital, Tezpur—		
Contingencies (non-contract)	...	15,500
5. Ditto—		
Contingencies (contract)	...	2,000
6. C.—Grants for Medical purposes	...	2,925
7. H.—Charges in England	...	80
Total	...	29,485

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. Due to more use of service postage stamps in the Emergency Branch in the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals' Office in connection with war work and also due to incidental expenditure in shifting the office of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals under the dispersal scheme.

2. Due to rise in prices of food-stuffs, etc.

3. Due to rise in prices of all dietary articles.

4. Due to rise in prices of all articles for "Diet of patients".

5. Due to purchase of utensils such as iron "degchies", pans and plates, etc.

6. The Honorary Secretary, Tuberculosis Association of Assam, constructed A.R.P. surface shelters at the Shillong Tuberculosis Sanatorium at an estimated cost of Rs.2,925. These were constructed in October 1942 on the verbal sanction of the Controller of A.R.P. and under a genuine misunderstanding that the cost will be met from the Civil Defence Budget. It will however be irregular to meet the cost from the said Budget as the Institution belongs to a private association. The Tuberculosis Association are not in a position to meet the cost from their own resources. In the circumstances and in view of the nature of the Institution Government propose to give the Association a compensatory grant to cover the cost of construction of the A.R.P. shelters.

7. Due to publications supplied by the High Commissioner.

The reason for this Supplementary Demand has been detailed seriatim under the Explanatory Note and I have nothing further to add.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum of Rs.29,485 be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "38—Medical."

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.6,000, under Supplementary Demand No. 6, Major head.—38.—Medical, Minor head.—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head.—(a).—Superintendence—Contingencies (Contract), at page 6 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.29,485 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Sir, I do not understand why a big sum should be spent for the removal of the office from one house to another at Shillong. Subordinates and Menials could carry the furniture and Officers could carry the files and records. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister why no details regarding the expenditure of Rs.6,000 have been given.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member should be more explicit as to what he means by this.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : The office of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals has been removed from one house to another and the expenditure incurred for that has been shown as Rs.6,000. So I want that the Hon'ble Minister will please explain the details of this expenditure.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.6,000, under Supplementary Demand No. 61, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head.—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head.—(a)—Superintendence—Contingencies (Contract), at page 6 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.29,485, do stand reduced by Rs.100.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if my hon. Friend had read the Explanatory Note a little more carefully, he would have found that the entire sum of Rs. 6,000 was not required due to the shifting of the office. In the Explanatory Note, it is said "due to more use of service postage stamps in the Emergency Branch in the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals' Office in connection with war work and also due to incidental expenditure in shifting the office of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals under the dispersal scheme".

At the time of dispersal, records had to be carried from its original office to its present habitation. Moreover, Sir, another house had to be rented for housing the office of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals. So this extra sum has been necessary in order to meet this unforeseen demand. I don't think, Sir, I can add anything more than this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the hon. Member press the Motion?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : No, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member got the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion?

(After a pause)

The Motion was by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That a sum of Rs. 29,485, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly Adjourned for Lunch till 2.P.M.

After Lunch

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND—No.7.

39—Public Health

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 1,53,506 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "39—Public Health."

II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—

A.—Public Health Establishment—	Rs.
(a) Superintendence and other Establishment—	
Contract contingencies	1,300
C.—Epidemic diseases—	
(b) Other epidemics—	
Contingencies	25,000
E.—Pasteur and Vaccine Institute—	
Pasteur Institute	
1. Allowances and Honoraria	4,100
2. Contingencies	1,22,400
H.—Charges in England	706
Total—	<u>1,53,506</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.(a) Public Health Establishment—Superintendence and other Establishment—Contract Contingencies :—

The additional amount is mainly due to the increased rates of service postage and increased prices of miscellaneous articles.

C.—Epidemic diseases.

(b) Other epidemic—

Contingencies :—

The extra amount is required mainly to meet the increased expenditure incurred on account of cholera vaccine and bacteriophage owing to wide-spread and prolonged outbreaks of cholera epidemic in the districts of Sylhet and Nowgong.

E.—Pasteur Institute :—

(1) Allowances and Honoraria

The extra amount is mainly due to the payment of travelling allowance to Dr. S. R. Pandit on his appointment as Director of Pasteur Institute and to the sanction of overtime allowances to employees of the Pasteur Institute who were required to work extra hours to cope with the unprecedented demand for cholera vaccine and 'phage brought about mainly by the influx of refugees from Burma.

(2) Contingencies :—

The excess amount is due to the abnormal and unprecedented demand for cholera vaccine and 'phage brought about mainly by the influx of refugees from Burma. It is also due to the abnormal rise in prices of articles used in the manufacture of vaccine and 'phage. The expenditure will, however, be covered by receipt from the sale.

H.—Charges in England—Due to cost of publications supplied by the High Commissioner for which a provision of Rs. 400 only was made in the Budget.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.1,53,506 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '39—Public Health' "

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for the refusal of the whole grant.

In June 1942, epidemic malaria broke out in Rarishal area in the Habiganj Subdivision. The first report regarding the prevalence of malaria received in Director of Public Health's office was in the first week of October 1942, and the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, received the report in the last week of September. The Assistant Director of Public Health visited the affected area in the last part of November 1942, and in course of his supervision of cholera epidemic then prevailing in the Subdivision detected epidemic of malaria in a virulent form in that area. He immediately reported the matter to the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet. Then only, on the recommendation of the Assistant Director of Public Health, adequate staff and drugs were supplied to control the epidemic. There were 458 deaths out of 9,604 attacks in the area. The whole thing was due to the dual control of the system, and the negligence of the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, and the Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj was of no consequence. A timely action on the part of the Assistant Director of Public Health or the Public Health Department could save many lives out of these and with less cost and time.

Another instance of such negligence is of Sibsagar. A local gentleman of Sibsagar wired on the 18th March 1943 to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals asking for immediate steps to deal with an outbreak of small-pox in the Sibsagar town. But the Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar, is sitting snug in his chair and perhaps refusing to believe that there has been any case of epidemic at all in as much as he has not informed the Director of Public Health about this till to-day.

Instances of this nature can be multiplied but that argues a case of Public Health Department being left to its own resources to deal with the situation as best as they can. Civil Surgeons and Subdivisional Medical Officers of Medical Department are fully occupied with their own work. They have possibly neither inclination nor time to go into the work of the Public Health Department which is under the control of the Director of Public Health.

The control of Civil Surgeons and Subdivisional Medical Officers over the Public Health activities is simply a duplication of work. The same Public Health dispensary is visited by Civil Surgeon and the Subdivisional Medical Officer and then again the same dispensary is visited by the Assistant Surgeon of the Public Health Department, supplemented by the Assistant Director of Public Health and Director of Public Health. The entire spade-work of inspection is done simply on books and records. But the tapism is responsible for delay in many epidemics and sheer neglect of the civil medical authorities in some cases results in shocking death-roll.

Sir, this being the whole state of affairs, I see no necessity of voting any money on this Demand, and I beg to move that the entire Demand be refused.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. Sir, I am glad that after all at least one hon. Member has supported me in my suggestion that the dual control over the Public Health Department should be abolished. Sir, I am not blaming any particular officer ; the whole blame lies with the Government because the present arrangement is so very unsatisfactory that no benefit can be given to the people. Sir, from the figures supplied to-day in reply to a question put by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, it is quite clear to every sensible man that the quinine that was supplied to deal with the epidemic of malaria in the Habiganj Subdivision was most insufficient. It is not that quinine is required only when a man suffers from fever, but it is also required after remission of fever for at least a week or ten days.

Sir, it is a well-known fact that small doses of quinine are of no use for combating malaria. Where there were more than 9,000 cases in that particular area and about 500 people died, the quinine that was supplied was most insufficient and, I think, if Government could supply the proper quantity required and send adequate number of medical men to cope with the situation then many lives could have been saved. Of course, Government can say that those whose days have been numbered must die. That is of course a different thing. But when we are trying even in our own small spheres to give proper medical help and medicines according to the advice of the medical men, I think, we will not hear such replies from the Government. Sir, if this Department is to be kept in the proper way (and it must be kept in the proper way) then the dual control as I have already stated must be abolished. With these words, I support the Motion.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I wish to make some observations on this Motion. I do not see eye to eye with Maulavi Amjad Ali, the Mover of the Motion. He wants to refuse the whole Demand. He has spoken of Habiganj and Sibsaigar, but only these two are not the places that are affected by malaria. There are other places where people die in thousands from malaria. Last year in connection with the Resolution moved by some Friend of the European Group about the Public Health Department, it was found from the Departmental report that Cachar, Sylhet and Goalpara were the worst malaria affected districts in the Province. Sir, I can speak from the experience of my own locality. If there is any disease there at all, it is malaria and malaria alone. The Public Health dispensary that is located there goes sometimes without a doctor and some times without medicines. The Department cannot manage things satisfactorily. These facts were brought to the notice of this House more than once but it is regrettable that Government could not improve their management of the Public Health Department. I see no reason why the Public Health and Medical Departments should not be amalgamated. Sometimes we find if there be a doctor of the Public Health Department and if a person approaches him for treatment he says "this is not my business, this is the business of the Medical Department. I cannot treat a person unless I am permitted by Government. I have got some special duties and I cannot go beyond that". Sir, this is a source of trouble in many places. I hope Government will expand the scope of the Public Health doctors. As stated by my Friend, Maulavi Amjad Ali, we want that Government should make such arrangements whereby both the Departments can work in co-operation as one Department and I ask Government at the same time to make proper arrangements for quinine. I have heard from Maulavi Abdur Rahman that

for want of supply of quinine in time, hundreds of people die in Habiganj. This is the case with my place also where malaria takes a high toll. In last October we asked the Assistant Surgeon, Sunamganj, to supply quinine to some localities, but he said that quinine was not available. I asked him to send a requisition, he said it was useless to send a requisition because they were informed by Government that they would not get quinine if they required. If Government do not make arrangement for supply of quinine I take it that they cannot combat the menace of malaria. The reports of the Public Health Department show that about a lakh of people died every year of fever and most of them died from malaria. If malaria is to be combated, I think, they should place doctors very thickly in malaria affected areas properly equipped with medicines. In this connection I can cite one instance. Last November, when my son was seriously ill, I could not procure a particular medicine. I sent a man to Sylhet, he also could not get it at Sylhet. Then through the help of a doctor I procured the medicine from Calcutta but that cost me Rs.21-13-0 while the normal price of that medicine was Rs. 1-14-0. That also reached at a time when the stage for the application of the medicine had passed. My request to the Government is that they should establish more Public Health dispensaries fully equipped with medicines. With these words, I resume my seat.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: This matter was brought before the House during the discussion on Demands for Grants and it was unfortunate on our part that we could not make our strongest possible protests effective on the policy which has hitherto been followed by the Government in regard to the Public Health Department. While my hon. Friend Mr. Amjad Ali, has moved for the total refusal of the Grant I have got a few remarks to make in this connection. I do not want that the whole Grant should be refused but my point is that the House should record persistent and strongest possible disapproval of the policy with regard to the administration of the Public Health Department. The Mover has stated that the dual system of administration is solely responsible for these heavy toll of death every year. Here I shall cite only two instances of Habiganj and Sibsagar. On previous occasions, if I remember aright, demands were made on the floor of this House that this dual system should be removed. The present system is that the whole Department—both Medical and Public Health—is under the control of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health has not any independent voice of his own in the matter of administration of his own Department. This really creates considerable trouble. Unless there has been some defect in the general system of both the Departments particularly in the Public Health Department, I do not find any reason why the death roll each year rises so high. Then, Sir, with regard to Habiganj matter which my hon. Friend has referred to, it is really a curious and unheard thing that from malaria alone five hundred lives of the poor villagers were lost. Sir, the reply which we received this morning from one of the Hon'ble Ministers was not quite consistent with what actually happened in the locality. I do not know quite Government could not secure that report. I understand, the officers concerned have supplied them with things which are not facts just to save their own skin. Complaints from the local Assistant Surgeon was that in spite of his very timely and repeated requests to his immediate superior, in the Civil Surgeon of Sylhet, he was not supplied with adequate quantity, i.e., quinine. He had to refer the matter to the Local Board because the Local Board had some duty and the Chairman, Local Board also, being

deprived of any timely help had to approach the Assistant Director of Public Health and probably after requisition after requisition the Assistant Director of Public Health went to the locality after two and half months.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is the hon. Member speaking against the Motion ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Not against, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then is it in support of the Motion ?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : I am speaking so far as the dual control is concerned.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member is reverting to the question that was discussed on the floor of the House to-day.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Any way, Sir, the first point is to urge upon the Government that the dual control should be removed and both the Departments should be separated. This I endorse, Sir, but as for total refusal, I am not in favour of the Mover.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that such able, experienced and learned parliamentarians have raised the question of dual control of Medical and Public Health Departments officers while we are dealing with a Supplementary Demand. This question is very complicated and there is a vast literature whether the Public Health Department should or should not be divorced from the Medical. There are contrary opinions that there should be amalgamation of the two even in this debate to-day.

I am very glad, however, to note that we have been able to rise above parochial politics ; Maulavi Amjad Ali of Goalpara giving details of what is happening in Sibsagar and Habiganj which is so to say as far apart as the boundaries of east and west of the Province. It is unfortunate that Mr. Amjad Ali and Mr. Mookerjee have thought fit to move for the total refusal of this Demand. They may have got good cause for being angry but they have got to look whether there is any latch on the part of Government. I knew them to be men flowing with milk of human kindness ; they are all actuated by humanitarian motives but the result of the total refusal of this Demand will drown them in the sea of anti humanitarian policy.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is for assurance only, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am glad to know this.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : After last week's experience, Sir, you can well understand it.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I am not giving way, Sir. If hon. Members who have spoken in support of Mr Amjad Ali's Motion have taken the trouble of going through the explanatory notes, they will find that very nearly 95 per cent. of this Supplementary Demand is necessary for the preparation of cholera vaccine and bacteriophage which are in very great demand for which employees of the Pasteur Institute had to work over-time. The result of refusing this Demand will be that we will have to disband these workers, i.e., the benefit to the public from their productions will go in vain. Sir, whether this supports their advocacy for better control of the Department, better administration of prophylactic or preventive treatment is for them to judge, but I, for one, do not see any consistency in their professions and their preachings.

Maulavi Abdur Rahman, as usual, has charged Government that they are not in possession of facts as they are obtaining in the locality. He thinks that the figures of quinine supplied to Habiganj last year and even now as was placed before the House in answer to his question, did not represent the true state of fact. I will give him one advice that we have received this report.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: He spoke about the falsity of the figure of deaths.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As regards deaths? I see! I thought that his complaint was as regards the supply of quinine, the quantity and the dates of supply. I was going to suggest to him that let him give me a written report from the Subdivisional Officer, Medical Department in charge of Habiganj Subdivision, the dates on which he received the quantity of quinine. If I find that this Government figures and the figures of the Subdivisional Medical Officer, Habiganj, do not tally, I will know where the blame lies and in the estimation of my hon. Friends however high that medical officer be, he will be adequately and suitably dealt with.

Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury tried to improve upon the statement of Maulavi Abdur Rahman and he says that Mr. Rahman referred not to the quantity of quinine, the time of supply but to the number of deaths. The number of deaths in answer to the question given was 458, if I remember aright, up till 30th January 1943. Now as regards statistics of births and deaths, my hon. Friend knows that it is left to the local *panchayat* to report. It is he who has got to report at the first instance. If there is anything wrong with these figures, the Medical Department is not at fault but those who have got the duty of reporting or it may be that there may have been deaths but although people thought that it was due to malaria, the medical officers thought that it was due to some other complication but not malaria. Therefore, those deaths may not quite likely have been placed in these figures.

Lastly, Sir, there has been a general complaint about the shortage of quinine and other medicine. I am sorry to hear of the sad experience of Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury but he is not alone in that. We also have suffered. Most of these medicines are very necessary and yet unprocurable. Some of them used to come from Germany, Java and Japan. All the stock of German and other enemy medicines were confiscated by the Central Government and those have been dosed out to Provinces and now in the 4th or rather 5th year of the war, there is no stock of such medicines. There have been cases where a medicine, as my hon. Friend has said, costing rupee one has now gone up to Rs. 20 and yet unprocurable in many localities. It is extremely unfortunate that we had not had sufficient technical knowledge and machinery to produce these medicines. Now about quinine, every hon. Member knows very well that the bulk of the supply used to come from Java. But as Java is now in enemy's hands, no supply of this drug comes at present from there. Whatever reserve stock, the Government of India had, has been distributed according to necessity, and population to Provinces. Assam had its share and we have been able to distribute it to those places where it is needed. For example, this morning it was proved that as much as 14 lbs. or little more was sent to Habiganj out of the stock that the Government had. I narrate it from my personal experience that some medicine was taken from one Valley and sent to the other Valley, especially to Habiganj where there was heavy epidemic of malaria. Well, if this shows that Government is apathetic I cannot help it. The old adage is "You can take a horse to the pond but cannot make him drink". I can lay fact and figures before the House. It is for hon. Members to draw conclusion. At this abnormal time, if quinine had been procurable in sufficient quantities even at high price the Government would have surely, anticipating the vote of the House, spent lavishly to secure this medicine. But it is practically unobtainable for love of money in the open market. The Government controlled price of this medicine is Rs. 50 per pound and

I may inform the House that in the Black-market of Bombay it is selling at Rs. 300 per pound. In view of this position, and the abnormal times I may ask if it is fair to condemn Government for not being able to produce the required quantity of the medicine. I appeal to the sense of reason of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 1,53,506 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health'."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND—No.8

50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.91,311 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)'."

Grant originally voted by the Assembly	...	Rs. 38,68,100
II. Sub-heads under which this supplementary grant will be accounted for—		
A.—Original Works—Buildings—		Rs.
(i) Jails and convict settlements	... ..	87,311
(ii) Civil Works	... ..	4,000
Total	... ..	91,311

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) The military authorities have requisitioned the Jorhat Jail and it has been decided to make over the jail free of rent temporarily to the Army on condition that the Government of India, War Department reimburse this Government with the additional cost that may be necessary to accommodate the prisoners and undertrials. For this purpose temporary construction has been constructed in the Tezpur Jail at a cost of Rs.64,000 and a temporary lock-up has been undertaken at Jorhat at an estimated cost of Rs.17,335. Of the later amount Rs.10,000 will be required during the current year. Construction of temporary accommodation has also been undertaken in the Gauhati and Nowgong Jails at an estimated costs of Rs.11,000 and Rs.2,311 respectively to meet the increased number of prisoners due to recent disturbances. In all a sum of Rs.87,311 is necessary. This Government have already applied for reimbursement of the cost of construction at Tezpur and Jorhat Jails.

(ii) The office building of the Executive Engineer at Dhubri was burnt down on the 18th October 1942 and had to be reconstructed. A sum of Rs.4,000 will be required this year against an estimated cost of Rs.8,552.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.91,311 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)'."

There is no Cut Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"That an additional sum of Rs.91,311 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment)'."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND—No.9

50.—Civil Works—Provincial (Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Re.1 be granted to defray charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works—Provincial (Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)."

Grant originally voted by the AssemblyRs.5,45,600.

II—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Works Department :—

	Rs.
A.—Direction Charges—	
(a) <i>Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department—</i>	
(i) Pay of officers	4,034
(ii) Pay of Establishment	9,375
(iii) Contingencies	5,491
C.—Medical—	
(iv) Pay of officers	9,900
(v) Pay of Establishment	9,700
(vi) Allowances and Honoraria	4,800
(vii) D. Charges in England	4,100
Total	47,400
F.—Deduct on account of Establishment for services rendered to—	
(viii) Military Works and Other Central Departments. —	4,04,000
(ix) H.—Deduct Recoveries from other Central Departments. —	18,800
Total recoveries	4,22,800
Net total	3,75,400

EXPLANATORY NOTE

- (i) Due to leave salary of Registrar, Public Works Department, and appointment of a Special Officer in the Public Works Department Secretariat for which there was no budget provision.
- (ii) Due to entertainment of additional staff in the Public Works Department Secretariat to cope with increased work in connection with the war.
- (iii) Due to increased consumption of stamps necessitated by war conditions and rise in prices of stationery, etc.
- (iv), (v) & (vi) The sums are necessary to meet probable requirements on account of Medical Officers and staff employed to look

after the Public Works Department staff and labourers engaged on the India-Burma, Gauhati-Shillong and Shillong-Sylhet Roads. There was no budget provision for the purpose.

(vii) The sum is required to meet charges on account of the Overseas pay of some officers of the Burma Government employed temporarily in Assam, for which there was no budget provision.

(viii) & (ix) Due to anticipated increased recoveries from the Military Department for services rendered to in connection with the Defence works carried out by this Department.

It is anticipated that there will be an excess of Rs.47,400 under the heads detailed above but recoveries from the Military Department on account of various Defence works will be much greater than was anticipated in the original budget resulting in a net saving of Rs.3,75,400 after adjustment towards the close of the year as detailed above. The Assembly is, therefore, asked to vote a token supplementary grant of Re.1 only.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum of Re.1 be granted to defray charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '50.—Civil Works-Provincial (Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)'."

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, I do not like to move the Cut Motion *that stands in my name.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day also I raised a point about this token Demand. Under certain heads we find that for some items there was no Budget provision for the money that would be required and in some items there was Budget provision. My point is that, Sir, when Government know exactly what amount of money will be required it would have been better for them to ask for the sanction of the House for that amount instead of coming before the House with a token demand of Re. 1. To-day I raised another point also, that Government know that some money will be recovered under certain heads from different sources. My point is that so far as the new items are concerned Government should have come with those items and with the exact amount that will be required for those purposes. The items which have already been included in the Budget have again been shown here though Government know that there will be a saving of large amounts under the head "Civil Works". You will find, Sir, at (iii) of the Explanatory Note "Due to increased consumption of stamps necessitated by war conditions and rise in prices of stationery, etc." There has already been a provision for this. But so far as the item (i) is concerned there was no Budget provision, and Government can say that 'because this is a new thing they are bound to come to take the sanction of the House under this head.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, the reason for bringing this Demand now is that Government was not aware as to what recovery will be possible from the Central Government and they waited to see actually what recovery could be expected. It was not possible to foresee all this before.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My point is, Sir, why Government do not come before the House for the exact amount of money they want, instead of coming with a token Demand ?

*That the total provision of Re.1 under Supplementary Demand No.9, Major head—50. —Civil Works—Provincial (Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges), at page 8 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be refused.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It is, I think, the Hon'ble Minister for Finance to explain. It is really that point, that was raised the other day with regard to a similar Demand that was placed before the House as an Original Demand.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY : Sir, this has been explained at page 10 in the last paragraph. It is anticipated that there will be an excess, but recoveries from the Military authorities on account of the various defence works will be much.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : This may apply so far as new items of expenditure are concerned. But what about old items for which there has already been some provision ? If the amount of Rs. 3,75,400 is recovered, there will be a saving to that extent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : After hearing hon. Mr. Mookerjee and the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department, I must say something in amplification of what I said the other day in regard to a similar Demand of Re.1 which was placed before the House as an Original Demand. There is no statutory sanction under the Government of India Act, as I pointed out the other day, for a token Demand like this. I pointed out that day that such a Demand for Re.1 was all the same a Demand, and the Chair's duty was to place it before the House, and that it would be for the House either to pass or reject it. I also pointed out that the intention of Government was to get the vote of the House on such a Demand to be used as an authority derived from the House to spend the sums that were shown in the detailed Head under that Demand, which were much beyond Re.1. The duty of the House was, as I said, to take that intention into consideration in giving their verdict on that Demand. I also pointed out that if the House passed that Demand, it would be for the Audit Department to see whether the vote of the House would be a legal authority for Government to incur expenditure in the way planned by them. I am now to point out also that there is the Public Accounts Committee who would also see whether Government should be allowed to adopt such a procedure as a proper one for placing large supplies in the hands of Government. There seems to be some point in what Mr. Mookerjee has said. And I should point out to the House that a token Demand as Supplementary Demand is not contemplated by our Rules also, sub-rule (3) of rule 101 provides :—

"In cases where substantial unanticipated credits, due to additional recoveries which are accounted for as minus expenditure, are to be utilised to incur fresh items of expenditure, which would not otherwise have been sanctioned, the approval of the Legislative Assembly should be obtained in the same way as for items of Supplementary Grants".

It means that even when substantial unanticipated credits due to recoveries from extra sources are available for expenditure to be incurred as a supplementary expenditure beyond the expenditure shown in the Authenticated Schedule under section 81, a Supplementary Demand for the entire supplementary expenditure is to be placed before the House. But it appears that Government want to introduce the practice of bringing forward Supplementary Token Demands even in cases of expenditure contemplated by the said sub-rule (3) of rule 101 of our Rules. Whether the House should allow the Government to have that practice established, the House to decide. Here, in the Supplementary Statement, it is for the Government expect some recoveries to the extent of Rs.4,22,800. It appears that they want to incur an expenditure of Rs.47,400. Out of bringing forward a Supplementary Demand for Rs.47,000, Government have chosen to place before the House a Demand for Re.1. If the House

think that the procedure the Government have adopted is not the proper procedure, they can refuse the Demand. But as I have already said, the Chair's duty is to treat it as a Demand for Re.1 only; and if passed, the Authenticated Schedule will show that Re.1 has been voted by the House. That this is so would appear from the total that has been shown at page 18 of the Supplementary Statement for Grants. It would be seen there that the ultimate amount of expenditure has been shown to be Rs.5,45,601. The original amount voted was Rs.5,45,600. So adding Re.1 to be voted by the House the ultimate amount would be Rs.5,45,601. But there will really be an expenditure of Rs.47,400 or thereabout. Therefore the vote of the House passing Re.1 as a Supplementary Demand, will be considered to be giving authority to Government to spend up to the extent of Rs.47,400. In the last paragraph of the Government of India's letter to which I referred the other day, hon. Members will find that although Government of India also held the opinion that there was no statutory sanction for the procedure, Government have been adopting and Government might, however, adopt the practice of moving token Demands for Supplementary Grants until the Legislature objects. Government of India also held the opinion that there might not be any administrative difficulty as a result of such a procedure, if adopted and allowed by the Legislature. Now having explained the whole aspect of the question I leave it to the House to decide how to deal with this Demand.

Now I am putting the question.

The question is: "That a sum of Re.1 be granted to defray charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—50.—Civil Works—Provincial (Establishment and Tools and Plant Charges)".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 10

Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional Grant of Rs.46,22,379 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—"Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly Nil.

II. Sub-heads under which this Supplementary Grant will be accounted

for—

A. Food Purchase Scheme	40,00,000
B. Motor Transport Organisation	6,22,379
Total	46,22,379

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—The provision for food-stuffs, etc., was made in the current year's original Budget under the major head "57.—Miscellaneous" but under a recent ruling of the Government of India it has now been shown under this major head outside revenue account. In the original Budget a gross expenditure of Rs.1,68,43,000 was estimated of which Rs.1,42,20,000 was to be recovered by sale to merchants, etc., the sale proceeds being taken in reduction of expenditure. Experience has, however, shown that the time lag between the date of purchase and the date of sales is much longer than was originally anticipated and so a carry forward of Rs.40,00,000 instead of

Rs.26,23,000 as originally estimated is likely. This accounts for the net increase of Rs.13,77,000. A Supplementary Grant of Rs.40,00,000 is, therefore, required under this scheme. The provision of Rs.26,23,000 under "57.—Miscellaneous" will be a saving and will be surrendered.

B.—This head shows the capital expenditure on the Motor Transport Organisation scheme which was approved by the Legislative Assembly in the November 1942 Session. It is proposed to spend Rs.6,65,441 during this year of which Rs.43,062 will be spent from revenue for which a separate Demand has been asked for under the head "63.—Extraordinary charges." The net expenditure under this sub-head is Rs.6,22,379 and the Assembly is asked to vote this amount.

Sir, the history of this Demand was debated only the other day in connection with the bringing of a token Demand of Re.1, with regard to this item for the next financial year. I have tried to explain in the explanatory note why we require this sum, because we are afraid that the sum outstanding against the public out of the Food Purchase Scheme will be Rs.40 lakhs instead of Rs. 26 lakhs as originally estimated.

Then, Sir, as regards next item, though I had by means of a Motion, obtained the approval of the Assembly for spending and going ahead with the Motor Transport Organisation, I did not come for a vote then. So I have come with this Supplementary Demand for a sum of Rs. 6,65,441 of which Rs. 43,062 will be spent from revenue for which a separate Demand has been asked for under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges." The net expenditure under this sub-head is Rs. 6,22,379 and the Assembly is asked to vote this amount.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved: "That an additional Grant of Rs.46,22,379 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war".

There are some Cut Motions and the intention of the hon. Members who have tabled these Cut Motions is to raise a discussion about the food supply policy of Government and to censure Government for not entrusting any company or any person of the Province with the purchase of food-stuffs, and also to raise a discussion on the general policy of "Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war". In this connection, I may point out to the hon. Members that the Hon'ble Premier has agreed to of this Session. Will it not be better for the House to discuss all these points then? It is quite inevitable that all these questions will come up again when that statement will be made.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : Will the Supplementary Demand be taken up on that day?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, it must be finished to-day. If it is the intention of the House that the discussion which they would like to make, should start to-day and if they want to refuse this Demand, then of course, I may allow the hon. Members to discuss it to-day; but if the Demand be passed, then what is the necessity of discussing it to-day when the Members will get an opportunity to discuss this point thoroughly on the day on which the Hon'ble Premier will make the statement on the day situation of the country.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : There may not be time available to the Members to discuss it that day, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If necessity arises, I will sit up to 8 P.M. on the last day (*laughter*). It is a very important matter and I think, the Hon'ble Premier will not also oppose sitting late hours.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Sa'iid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Surely not, Sir. I would rather like to be benefited by the criticisms of my hon. Friends.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I wish to know what the hon. Members propose to do now.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I don't want to move my Cut Motion* then, Sir.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: I do not want to move my Motion†.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I will not also move my Motion‡.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is: "That an additional Grant of Rs. 46,22,379 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 11

56.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.35,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

Rs.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... 4,13,600

II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for:—

Rs.

(i) Printing at Private Presses ... 35,000

* That the provision of Rs. 40,00,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 10—Major head—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, Minor head—A.—Food purchase scheme, at page 10 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 46,22,379 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion about the food supply policy of the Government.)

† That the total provision of Rs. 46,22,379 under Supplementary Demand No. 10—Major head—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, at page 10 of the list of Supplementary Demands for grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 46,22,379 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To raise a discussion on the general policy of "Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war.")

‡ That the provision of Rs. 40,00,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 10—Major head—Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with the war, Minor head—A.—Food purchase scheme, at page 10 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 46,22,379 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

(To censure Government for not entrusting any company or any person of the province with the purchase of food-stuffs.)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The additional Grant is required for payment of contractors' bills and price of paper and binding materials required for forms printing. The excess expenditure is due to increased demand for forms owing to increase in work, opening of new offices in connection with war and abnormal rise in price of certain stationery articles.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That a sum of Rs.35,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head 56.—Stationery and Printing".

There are no Cut Motions. No hon. Member is also going to speak on the Motion. So I am putting the question.

The question is :

"That a sum of Rs.35,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head 56.—Stationery and Printing".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 12

63.—EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional Grant of Rs.43,062 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary charges".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly.....nil.

(II) Sub-head under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for—

A. Charges in India—	Rs.
Motor Transport Organisation ... ...	... 43,062

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No provision could be made in the original Budget for the current year for the Motor Transport Organisation scheme which was accepted by the Legislative Assembly on a Motion moved at the November, 1942 Session. As the scheme will be worked on a commercial basis all expenditure connected with its normal working will be a charge against the revenue account while the expenditure on the purchase of transport vehicles will be debited to the capital head. A sum of Rs.43,062 will be spent from revenue during this year and the Assembly is asked to vote the amount.

While moving Supplementary Demand No. 10, I had already stated that the expenditure of Rs.43,062 will be incurred for the Motor Transport Organisation and will be spent from the revenues of the Province and will be put to a separate vote of the House. In pursuance of that, I have placed this Motion before the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional Grant of Rs.43,062 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head —63.—Extraordinary charges".

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.43,062 under Supplementary Demand No. 12, Major head—63.—Extraordinary charges, at page 11 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs.62, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.43,062 do stand reduced by Rs.62.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member will please explain how his Cut Motion is in order. He wants to discuss about kerosene supply by this Motion. (*Laughter*). We find that this is a Demand on Motor Transport Organisation.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I may tell that owing to the transport difficulties, kerosene is not properly supplied.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I am afraid, the hon. Member cannot move this Motion. By this Motion he wants that the kerosene dealers should be given some facilities.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, in this connection, before the Grant under this head is passed, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members one important factor—at least in my opinion—that we have not been given the opportunity of discussing about motor spirit rationing scheme which directly comes under the head 'Extraordinary charges'. My hon. Friend, Mr. Whittaker, says that the amount of Rs.63,800 which will be required for this purpose, will be paid by the Central Government. This can be seen from page 189 of the Budget. He says that for that reason it has not been shown.

May I know from the Hon'ble Premier whether it is his idea that the money which will be paid by the Government of India does not require the sanction of this Hon'ble House for its expenditure? My idea is that for expenditure of money received from any source, Government must take the sanction of this House. Sir, I have spoken on this several times before and tried to impress the hon. Members about their rights, but I am sorry to find that they do not take notice of themselves. Sir, it is a fact that the Government of India will pay Rs.63,800, but why should not Government take our sanction to spend that money?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motor spirit rationing scheme had been framed by the Central Government, and we had no say whatsoever in this matter. In order to carry out the scheme of the Central Government, we had to employ extra hands as rationing officers in various districts. The Government of India promised to pay for this extra cost devolved on the Province. Now, for the scheme financed by the Central Government, no vote of this House is required; therefore the cost has not been placed before the House in the shape of a Demand.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As I see that in the Budget it appears that the amount has been shown as "voted"

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Voted by the Central Assembly.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then what is the idea of bringing this under this Budget? If you kindly look at page 189, you will find, Sir, "Actuals for 1941-42—voted amount is Rs.36,524". This amount was not voted by the Central Assembly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Was it then voted by this House?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Otherwise how can it come here? We find "Contribution from Central Government: Voted Rs.21,824, Charged—Rs.447", and this Government had to spend Rs.14,700 from the provincial exchequer. I am sorry, I can't understand what the Hon'ble Premier says.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It can be very simply explained, Sir. When originally the scheme was started by the Central Government, before financial adjustments came into operation, we were asked to carry out the scheme. We therefore started with the vote of this House; later on when we found that we were losing on this, we pointed out to the Central Government that they must provide money for whatever extra charge we have to incur on account of carrying out their scheme. Now, the Central Assembly votes the money and it is paid to us by the Central Government which has been shown as "Contribution from Central Government". Up to the current year, the expenditure is Rs.60,000; in the next year we think it will be Rs.63,800.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then what is the good of bringing this into our Budget? If everything will be paid by the Central Government and the scheme will be chalked out by them then what is the necessity of showing this amount here? My idea is that this amount will be spent from our exchequer at the beginning and afterwards it will be recovered. If that be the position I stick to my opinion that sanction of this House must be taken.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It has been shown in the Budget in order to disarm critics like Mr. Mookerjee who would otherwise come to the House and say Government had appointed so many petrol rationing officers, etc. It is in order to show that the money on this account come from the Central Government that we have shown in the Budget like this.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As I was listening to the Hon'ble Premier it appeared that the matter was a bit confusing. If we look to the whole scheme of the Budget it would appear that wherever money was shown as "voted" it conveyed the idea that the money was voted by this House. So, his explanation that "voted" here meant "voted by the Central Assembly" may not appear to the House to be convincing.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: You will notice, Sir, that in the last line it is stated "Total—Motor Spirit Rationing Scheme } Voted ... nil"
Charged ...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the impression is given that it is the vote of this House. Any way, it is Mr. Mookerjee who will know how to deal with the question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is: "That an additional Grant of Rs.43,062 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—63.—Extraordinary charges."

The Motion was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 13

25.—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,90,190 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly

...

Rs.
20,63,200

II. Sub-heads under which this Supplementary Grant will be accounted for—

	Rs.
M. (a)—Civil Secretariat—Contingencies ...	3,850
District Administration—	
S. I. General Establishment—	
(i) Pay of officers ...	84,181
(ii) Pay of Establishment ...	14,592
(iii) Allowances and Honoraria ...	18,115
(iv) Contingencies ...	61,140
T.—Subdivisional Establishment ...	4,266
L.—Elections for Legislatures ...	4,046
Total ...	1,90,190

EXPLANATORY NOTE

M. (a)—Due to higher outlay on postage and telegram charges owing to increase of work and to expenditure incurred in the dispersal of Secretariat as a measure of safety.

S. I. (i)—The excess is due to acting promotions of Provincial Service Officers to the senior scale and re-employment of retired officers to cope with the increased work due to war.

(ii)—With the approach of the war to the borders of Assam a tremendous burden has been thrown on the district executive and clerical staffs with the result that it was necessary to provide for fairly substantial increases in staff as a temporary measure to cope with the work.

(iii)—The increase is due to more touring and to the increase in the rates for dearness allowance.

(iv) Due to larger outlay on postage and telegram charges owing to increase of work and general rise in the prices of stationery.

T.—Same as (ii) and (iii) above.

L.—For preparation of electoral rolls for the Legislative Council and Assembly and for holding triennial election to the Council.

Hon. Members will notice that the sum for which I now ask the vote of the House is a revised figure and not the one that is printed in the original agenda paper. I hope most of the hon. Members have got the correction slip subsequently issued by the Finance Department. It has been explained that originally it was thought that for the Debt Conciliation Boards a sum of Rs.6,100 would be necessary, but it has been reported that though Debt Conciliation Boards have worked, generally worked hard and some have overstepped their quota of expenditure, there have been certain other Boards which could not spend the money allotted to them. So, money was available from those Boards. Hence this extra sum of Rs.6,100 is not necessary.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs.1,90,190 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943 for the administration of the head—25.—General Administration".

Now, there are two Cut Motions.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I don't want to move my Motion*.

*That the total provision of Rs.1,90,190 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 12 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs.100, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,90,190 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise a general discussion on the Demand.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The other Motion stands in the name of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. He wants to discuss the war policy of Government. What does he mean by that?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : I want to point out some defects in the policy which are standing as a bar to the internal defence of the Province

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Very well, the hon. Member may give his point very briefly.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : I beg to move that the provision of Rs 3,850 under Supplementary Demand No. 13, Major head—25.—General Administration, Minor head—M(a).—Civil Secretariat—Contingencies, at page 12 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43 be reduced by Rs.50, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,90,190 do stand reduced by Rs.50.

It is very strange when Fascist Japan is knocking at the door of Assam and their bombers have been striking Assam's defences from time to time, the Imperialistic British bureaucracy has been ceaselessly arresting, convicting, interning and externing the anti-Fascist workers of the Province. Is there any denying the fact that the Congress, Muslim League, Jamait-ul-Ulema, Communist party, Kishan Sabha, Trade Union and Hindu Mahasabha are the political organisations who sincerely and whole-heartedly decry Japanese domination?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Will it come under General Administration?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I am afraid the hon. Member should have taken another opportunity. I cannot allow him to proceed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.1,90,190 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—25—General Administration".

The Motion was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.14

29—POLICE

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.3,88,168 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	Rs.
II—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for—	26,56,700

B.—District Police—

				Rs.
1. Pay of Officers ...	...	...	...	11,560
2. Pay of Establishment ...	...	...	...	2,83,595
3. Allowances ...	...	...	...	1,35,500
4. Contingencies ...	...	...	...	2,51,917

F.—Railway Police—

(a) Supervising Staff—

1. Pay of Officers ...	...	...	...	6,364
2. Pay of Establishment ...	...	...	...	1,401
3. Allowances ...	...	...	...	814

G.—Criminal Investigation Department—					Rs.
1. Pay of Officers ...	...	...	...	...	989
2. Secret Service Expenditure	...	...	...	...	2,500
K.—Works—					
(a) Original Works ...	...	...	...	...	25,362
M.—Charges in England—					
1. Expenditure of the High Commissioner for India—Stores ...	...	...	...	...	16,166
Total ...	...	...	...	...	7,36,168
<i>Deduct</i> —Recoveries from Defence Department ...					—3,48,000
Grand total ...					3,88,168

EXPLANATORY NOTE

B.—District Police—Pay of officers.—The excess is due to the fact that some posts in the Imperial Police cadre have been filled up by officers of the Provincial Service whose pay is debitable to this head.

Pay of Establishment.—The excess is due to increase of the force owing to the necessity for the internal security of the Province, for the protection of railways, for the guarding of railways and aerodromes now under construction, etc.

Allowances.—The excess is due to increased rates of travelling allowance, more touring and drawal of house rent, etc., by the increased force during the year and grant of dearness allowance.

Contingencies.—The excess is partly due to increase in the prices of clothing and other articles, purchase of clothing for the additional force, service stamps on account of increase of correspondence and purchase of motor vehicles for making the force more mobile.

F. Railway Police—Supervising Staff—

Pay of Officers.—The excess is due to the fact that the post of the Superintendent of Railway Police was held by an officer of the Provincial cadre for sometime against Budget provision for an officer of the I. P. cadre.

Pay of Establishment.—The excess is due to increase of force during the year.

Ditto ditto—Allowances.—The excess is due to increase of travelling allowance of officers and increased rates of permanent travelling allowance.

G.—Criminal Investigation Department—Pay of officers.—The excess is due to drawal of leave allowance by the permanent Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Secret Service Expenditure.—The excess is due to more expenditure under this head on account of the disturbances.

K.—Works—Original Works.—The excess is due to rise in the price of building materials and unforeseen expenditure in connection with the accommodation of the additional force recruited for the protection of central property.

M.—Charges in England—Expenditure of the High Commissioner for India—Stores (voted).—The excess is due to the purchase of felt hats for Police from England.

Deduct Recoveries from Defence Department.—This represents a part of the cost of the additional staff entertained for Defence works, etc., as explained against "Pay of Establishment".

Since this agenda was printed, there has been a correction slip and according to that correction, I made certain changes in figures and the actual Demand is as now I have placed before the House. The necessity for this Supplementary Demand has been explained in the Explanatory Note and I have nothing more to add.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That an additional sum of Rs. 3,88,168 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head 29.—Police".

There are as many as four Cut Motions, Nos. 1 to 3 standing in the name of Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy. One is a total refusal.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: I want to move No. 1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does Maulavi Abdur Rahman want to move his Motion?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to criticise the whole general administration.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I want to criticise the administration of the Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the hon. Member wants to discuss the policy involving this Demand of getting an additional sum then I can allow him to move his Motion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 3,88,168 under Supplementary Demand No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 13 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 3,88,168 do stand reduced by Rs. 100.

In the Explanatory Note you will find, Sir, that against 'pay of establishment' it has been stated as—"the excess is due to increase of the police force owing to the necessity for the internal security of the Province, for the protection of railways, for the guarding of railways and aerodromes now under construction". On this particular matter I have to bring to the notice of the Government certain grievances of the people.

Sir, probably it is well known to many hon. Members that the villagers living within two miles of the railway lines have been ordered by the district authorities to watch over the railway lines. This has created a panic in those parts of the Province where railway lines pass. The poor villagers during this winter had to go out at night with their own lanterns to keep watch over the railway lines and particularly the labour class are the worst sufferers. Lots of complaints are being received. The genuine grievances of the people are that had they been paid any remuneration for the labour of guarding the railway lines at night they would not have grudged. Particularly during the winter season those poor people had no clothes to protect themselves from the cold and they were not supplied with kerosene so that they could carry their lanterns to watch over the lines. Another serious thing which in my part of the country has created panic is a clash between the regular army and those villagers. It is perhaps known to many hon. Members of this House that regular army had also been posted in several portions of the railway lines. I can speak of Itakhola

Station and Rashidpur where armed police had been posted and there the villagers had also to watch over the railway lines at night. Those armed police carry guns and other weapons. There is no certainty that some seriousness might not occur. Actually a serious clash was about to occur between the armed police and the villagers who went at night to watch over the lines. The armed police suspecting these people to be mischief-mongers were about to fall on them and a serious clash was almost imminent. But fortunately this was averted by the timely detection that those people were also engaged under the orders of the Subdivisional Officer to watch over the railway lines. The fact was reported to the Subdivisional Officer who at once went there and, I believe, the Subdivisional Officer brought this to the notice of the Government. I bring these things to the notice of the Government with the hope that they will allow the villagers to wear some sort of marks whereby they may be distinguished as persons to be employed under the orders of Government. Now my request to the Hon'ble Premier is that the poor villagers may be exonerated from this duty because these people mostly come from the labour class who have to work for the whole day and again watch over the lines for the whole night. How can you expect them to work in the day time for their bread if you detain them for the whole night without sleep? Sir, if any sabotage is done that is not done by those poor villagers; but it is done by those people who are supposed to be educated and who are supposed to be sufficiently efficient in this art. It is due to the offence of certain class of people that most of our villagers are to suffer. This is a very serious complaint I have to make. I want an assurance from the Hon'ble Premier on this matter. I plead for these people that they may be exonerated from this duty.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.3,88,168 under Supplementary Demand No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 13 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs. 100, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.3,88,168 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall bring another point to the notice of this Hon'ble House. As regards "M. Charges in England-Expenditure of the High Commissioner for India-Stores" in the explanatory notes I find that the excess is due to the purchase of felt hats for police from England. Sir, will the Hon'ble Premier enlighten us who are these fortunate persons for whom these felt hats were brought here? Whether they are for one and all or for some particular class of officers?

Another point is this, Sir, that whether these felt hats for the policemen could not be had in India instead of being purchased through the High Commissioner from England.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, great minds had thought alike in the matter which had been raised by my Friend Maulavi Abdur Rahman. Only as regards the motive, we differ. The question of collective village responsibility, for patrolling the railway lines passing through their villages have been raised on an all-India basis and the system is in operation in other provinces also. When there was a few cases of wrecking of trains, it was thought that the normal custodian of law and order, that is the meagre police force of the Province will be able to safeguard the safe passage of trains over the railway system but when the number of such outrages increased, the Central Government conferred with both the Provincial Governments as well as the military and the system of joint responsibility of all these three categories was evolved, *i.e.*, the military will raise a special battalion of their own

whose sole duty will be to guard the railway lines ; the Central Government impressed upon the Provincial Governments specially to raise a certain number of armed police to guard the railways and the Central Government agreed to bear the cost of this special force, called "Rail Force". Then these two categories could not supply the total number that was required. Therefore, the system of collective village responsibility for safety to the lines, was also requisitioned. One may think that this is an infliction upon or an inquisition to our village people as my hon. Friend Mr. Abdur Rahman has stated. One may very well argue that this is the height of civic consciousness that the citizens or the people living in the neighbourhood should be charged with responsibility of seeing that the railway system functions properly, for, in it depends the safety of the Province and its inhabitants not only from aggression of the enemy but also for supplying the very necessary food-stuff that is being imported into the Province.

My hon. Friend Mr. Abdur Rahman was quite correct that there is every chance of an accident on account of these three categories serving simultaneously and at the same spot, for, the military, who has got no means of contact with the village folk, will not be able to distinguish between the guardian of peace like the villagers patrolling the railway line and the nefarious activities of the villagers who may be sabotaging, or one who may have gone there to wreck the train. In such condition there may be accidental outrages upon these poor villagers. I, as head of this Government, Sir, insisted on the Central Government that these villagers who have been entrusted with the duty of guarding the railway line should be provided either with uniform or some distinctive mark. The Central Government pleaded inability to supply uniform as the special cloth of which uniforms are made, are not available and what small quantity is available, is required for purely military purposes. The question of giving them some kinds of distinctive mark, say, metal plate or an armlet, is still being considered by the higher authorities.

My. hon. Friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman, has also stated that it tells very hardly on the poor cultivators or the labouring class people for having not only to guard the railway line at night, *i.e.*, pass sleepless nights but also to work for their livelihood by day ; but these people would not mind, if they were recompensed by the authorities for employing them, on guard duty. This question has also been raised by the Government of Assam and is still under the consideration of the Central Government.

Now, another point that has been raised by my Friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman, is that due to this system of collective village responsibility having been enforced, there is panic amongst the villagers. I am told, however, Sir, that since the question of payment has been mooted, these people are very willingly coming forward to serve. Even if there is panic, it is upto public leaders like my Friend, to remove that, and thereby discharge the responsibility that is placed on all good citizens.

My Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has sought information as regards felt hats. He being accustomed to use such kind of head-dress naturally has come to the conclusion that these felt hats are of the same naturally quality and very costly, as those he himself uses. Sir, these felt hats are meant for our Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police. These are not for superior type of officers. Felt hats are almost unobtainable in India and what little was obtainable could be had at a much higher price. So in order to minimise expenditure, these were brought from England.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is this for the first time ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Not for the first time, Sir. Eversince 'lalpugri' was abolished for this grade of officers.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May I enquire one thing, Sir ? There was a move on the part of the Assam Government that the duties of guarding the railway line should be placed under the charge of the National War Front Organisation. Is there a move like that Sir ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The matter is under consideration. The question depends upon how much the Central Government will be able to pay. If it is a regular payment, surely our labourers will volunteer themselves. But if it is only a small remuneration, then the National War Front Organisation probably shall have to bear the responsibility of the job.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: For the consideration of the head of the Police Department of the Province I want to say that if some sort of remuneration can be arranged to make them whole-time guards, they will surely and gladly perform their duties more sincerely.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I began by saying that we have already moved in that direction.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, non-controlling of Police excesses shows the blackest spot in the general administration of Assam. Police reports are blindly relied upon and accepted by Government. I know of many instances of police giving wrong reports and Government has acted upon these reports though quite contrary reports have been advanced from the public. Radharanjan De, my Secretary, was deputed to Jagannathpur Thana to counteract the political agitators there. But it is understood that the supporters of the movement, in order to remove obstacles from there reported to the police that Radharanjan and his colleague Jitendra Sarma and Nibaran Datta were the persons who were engaged in sabotage activities, hence they were arrested. Radharanjan on his way to Beheli where he was going to join me was arrested at Sunamganj. I reported the matter to the Premier and he only replied "What can I do, police report is against him". The police officials to maintain their prestige and to save their skin were sending the same report again and again.

Guns of Niranjana Roy and Nalini Nath Chaudhury of Beheli have been confiscated by a Sub-Inspector of Sachna Thana. Both of them are loyal to Government. Nalini Chaudhury is a supporter of hon. Member Abdul Bari Chaudhuri. Niranjana Roy is a close relative and supporter of Manamohan Chaudhuri, *ex-Member* of the Legislative Council. Both these gentlemen are never known to have joined any political activities for last few years.

I therefore suggest to Government to make thorough enquiry into these cases.

Again, Sir, that the police officials are assisting the greedy profiteering shop keepers is an open secret. To stop such profiteering and police excesses an all party food committee is the only remedy. If volunteers are allowed to work in the market everything will go on peacefully and people will get articles at controlled prices.

Twelve members of the Communist Party were arrested on the 27th January as it was alleged that they hoisted the National Flag. But they

never hoisted the flag in a public place. At Daccadakhsin a flag was hoisted in a Maidan, but the persons arrested, Lal Mohan Roy and others, are not responsible for it. Some unknown persons did it. But these arrested persons are still rotting in Hajat, as the police has failed to submit their final report still now. I can cite another instance. When during the last political disturbances at Sylhet papers of the Income-tax office were burnt, some of our comrades, went to the place of occurrence for checking the saboteurs. One Anilkanta De, one of our comrades went there and subsequently he was arrested and after some days he was released. I can cite many more such instances. I now urge upon Government to make arrangements for stopping such police excesses. With these few words I oppose the whole Demand.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I deny, Sir, the charges that Government are blindly following police reports. A Government will not be a Government if they have to be ruled by the police. But it cannot be gainsaid that whenever Government want to have any enquiry made they have it done by two agencies—the District Magistrate or the District police. We have to get our facts from either of these sources sometimes the police is used and sometimes the other agency is used. As usual, my hon. Friend has jumped from the specific to the general grievances. He says that his private secretary, whose pay was Rs. 25 per month, Mr. Radharanjan De, was one of the "comrades" who worked very satisfactorily in anti-Fascist propaganda and it was the false fervour of the police which has removed such an earnest worker in the cause of war efforts, behind the prison bars. I had the case of this young man before me 3 times because it was pressed by my colleague, "Comrade" Karuna Sindhu Roy.....(Interruption)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order: The Hon'ble Premier has used the words "my colleague" and not "my colleague and comrade."

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: (laughter). Sir, my Friend is a Congress man, a Kisan Leader and a Communist.

We share the same view as regards India's war effort and so far as anti-Fascism is concerned. Whenever I get any set of information from my hon. Friend, Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy, I ask the Inspector-General of Police to give me his side of the story and when I get police report, I find that there is a lot of discrepancy between the two. It was under these circumstances that I was compelled to keep Mr. Radha Ranjan De in jail. I have reviewed the cases of many Communist who have received adverse police reports and whom the Magistrates put behind the prison bars. I have reviewed and give the credit that wherever I find that the police has reported on meagre materials, I have released those parties from the jail. But when I get sufficient evidence with documents to tally with the police report, such as the case of my hon. Friend's Secretary, Radharanjan De, I have been compelled to refuse release.

My Friend has also mentioned about the case of "confiscation" of guns of two gentlemen of Beheli village. He has put questions about this and I have passed the draft replies and it will be submitted before the House in a day or two. There was no confiscation but requisition of the guns from these two "loyalist" friends amongst others on account of the guns essential necessity of arming the police force as the Government armoury cannot meet the police demand for guns. In certain localities people were asked to surrender their guns so that the police can be armed with them.

It was not on the report of police but on the order of the Deputy Commissioner that the two guns from those two gentlemen were requisitioned. As soon as the police can get the proper guns from Government armoury, the two guns will be returned to the owners.

My hon. Friend also mentioned the case of some people having been mistakenly arrested for flag hoisting at a certain place. If really these people have been wrongly arrested, it is up to these people to complain to the Magistrate when they are produced before him. Up till now there has been no complaint to that effect.

Sir, as I mentioned the other day, I am not here to support action of illegalities committed by certain dishonest or mischievous police officers. I have already admitted that there are black sheep in every fold. There are certain police officers who due to overzealousness begin to "zooloom" the people. If I am given full evidence, I shall charge those officers either departmentally or commit them to criminal courts. I require no generalisation but specific evidence.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is: "That an additional sum of Rs. 3,88,168 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head 29—Police."

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 15

37.—Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian Education)

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN :

On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 77,688 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian Education)".

		Rs.
	Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	42,01,000
II.—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for		Rs.
(i) University Education—		
B.—Grants to non-Government Arts Colleges	...	16,720
(ii) C.—Government Professional Colleges—Earle Law College, Contingencies—Non-contract	...	1,112
(iii) General Charges—R.—Inspection—		
Allowances and Honoraria	... ..	6,000
Government Secondary Schools—		
(a) Secondary Schools for Boys—		
(iv) (A)—Contingencies—		
Other non-contract contingencies	...	11,945
(B)—Ditto—		
Contingencies—Contract	... ..	10,200
(v) (E)—Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools	... ..	25,558
(vi) Special Education—		
M.—Government Special Schools—		
(a) Normal or Training Schools—		
Contingencies—Non-contract	... ..	5,847
(vii) V.Charges in England	... ..	306
Total	...	77,688

(i)—An amount of Rs.10,000 is required for giving six months' advance grant-in-aid to non-Government Colleges in order to give relief to certain colleges who have suffered a heavy fall in fee income owing to the abnormal situation created by the war and a sum of Rs.6,720 is required for giving a grant-in-aid to the St. Anthony's College, Shillong.

(ii)—This amount of Rs.1,112 is required for hiring of houses for accommodation of Earle Law College, Gauhati, as the Government buildings of the College have been taken over by the Military Department.

(iii)—This amount of Rs.6,000 is required for meeting the increased mileage allowance, fixed travelling allowance and dearness allowance to the Inspecting Officers.

(iv) (A).—This amount of Rs.11,945 is required for hiring of houses for accommodation of Secondary Schools, whose buildings have been taken over by the Military Department.

(iv) (B).—The amount of Rs.10,200 is required for A.R.P. measures in Government offices and institutions. The total requirement for this purpose is Rs.24,857, of which Rs.14,657 will be met from the savings in the Education budget under different heads and a Supplementary Grant is necessary for the balance of Rs.10,200.

(v)—An amount of Rs.2,040 is required for giving grants to certain Secondary Schools in the Goalpara district maintained by the Scandinavian Mission, as the Mission finds it extremely difficult to meet the expenses during the war.

An amount of Rs.32,230 is required for giving six months' advance grant-in-aid to certain non-Government Secondary Schools in order to give them relief to tide over the difficulty of paying salaries to their staff due to war emergency. As however Rs.8,712 can be met from the existing provision under this head, the total amount required would be Rs.25,558.

(vi) The amount of Rs.5,847 is required for hiring of accommodation of the Normal Schools at Silchar and Jorhat, whose buildings have been taken over by the Military Department.

(vii) The expenditure represents costs of books and publications supplied by the High Commissioner.

The reasons for moving this Supplementary Demand have been explained as above.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs.77,688 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—37.—Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian education)".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : On a point of information, Sir, here we find at page 15 of the List of Supplementary Demand that there is going to be given certain amount as six months' advance grant-in-aid to non-Government colleges. Will the Hon'ble Minister explain if this sum is recoverable?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : That advance has been given to some deserving institutions that suffered loss of income owing to war situation and strikes. This advance will be recovered from the beginning of next financial year in easy instalments.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That an additional sum of Rs.77,688 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head ‘37.—Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian education)’ ”.

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.16

27.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 86,901 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head “27.—Administration of Justice”.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly ... Rs. 7,50,000.

II—Sub-heads under which the Supplementary Demand will be accounted for—

	Rs.
<i>D.—Districts and Sessions Judges—</i>	
(i) Pay of officers	31,900
(ii) Pay of Establishment	1,850
(iii) Allowances and Honoraria	2,000
(iv) Contingencies	7,500
<i>I.—Criminal Courts—</i>	
(v) Pay of Establishment	3,500
(vi) Contingencies	35,750
<i>B. (C)—Mufassil Establishment—</i>	
(vii) Allowances	3,386
(viii) Contingencies	1,015
Total	<u>86,901</u>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

D. (i) Excess due to continuance of certain posts of temporary Judges for which no Budget provision was made, posting of officers on higher pay than expected and appointment of an officer whose pay is voted in place of one whose pay is charged.

(ii) Entertainment of temporary staff to cope with increased work.

(iii) Excess due mainly to increase in rates of dearness allowance.

(iv) The excess represents loss of cash by fire in Sunamganj Munsifi office, cost of a fireproof iron safe for that office, pay of temporary chowkidars and higher outlay on “Allowances to Assessors and Jurors” and “Diet and Road money to witnesses” owing to rise in prices of all commodities.

I. (i) Excess is due to entertainment of temporary staff to cope with increase of work.

(ii) Higher expenditure on “Diet and Road money to witnesses” due to the rise in prices of all commodities, increased expenses on motor hire in connection with the maintenance of law and order and increased expenses on postage, is responsible.

B. (vii) & (viii) Due to increase in the number of cases the provision for fees to Government and other pleaders have proved inadequate.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 86,901 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head '27 Administration of Justice'."

There is no Cut Motion.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I be permitted to raise a point on this Supplementary Demand ? Should it be put in the form of a Cut Motion ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is no necessity.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS : In the explanatory note I(i) there is a reference to extra temporary staff to cope with the increase of work ; but in this explanatory note and in other explanatory notes there is no indication to show that the existing permanent staff is working any harder to cope with this increased amount of work. In fact from the list of holidays of 1943 published in the *Assam Gazette*, Part II, of the 9th December 1942, it would appear that there is no decrease in the number of days on which Government offices are closed. For instance, in 1943, Government offices are working only 241 equivalent full days. Business concerns in this year would, in peace time, be working 284 days against the Government 241 days. Similarly, Sir, working hours in Government offices are $33\frac{1}{2}$ per week—I mean official hours. The minimum business working hours in peace times will be 40 hours a week. I have compared Government working hours with business working hours, because Government is also a business. Many Government servants would hate this idea because they feel themselves far above business people ; but the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States have long recognised this fact. They have taken in business men who have introduced business methods and business hours of work. Even the Government of India have reduced their number of holidays and increased hours of work in Government offices. It seems therefore that it will profit this Government, in view of the increase of work, if hours of work in Government offices are increased and the number of holidays cut down. As an example of the delay as regards work in Government offices, the refund of the deposit which was paid when I put myself up for election to this House was applied for on the 28th May 1941, but was not received until the 5th of February 1943—529 days after repayment was due (*laughter*.)

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Only one word, Sir. I want to get an information from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of this Supplementary Demand. In the explanatory notes in item (iv) it is stated : "the excess represents loss of cash by fire in Sunamganj Munsifi office, cost of a fireproof iron safe for that office, etc., etc." Sir, on this particular matter, I remember that my hon. Friend coming from Sunamganj, I mean Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, put questions during the last November Session as well as this Session during the general discussion of the Budget. He made an aspersion on the Government for their failure to find out the real culprit to make good the loss. Sir, instead of finding out the real culprit for whose fault Government had to sustain a loss, we now find that our Hon'ble Minister has come forward before the House with a Supplementary Demand to be voted by the House. I do not understand his position. The hon. Members of the House are asked that they should give their votes on such a Demand ; but will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain why instead of recovering the money from the culprit, they are asking the House to vote on this Supplementary Demand ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Lewis has raised the question of curtailing the number of holidays and extending the working hours. As regards extending of working hours, I do not know how far it will be feasible to carry this suggestion into practice. But so far as the curtailment of holidays are concerned, I may tell the House that as far as I remember we have already curtailed some holidays.

Mr. E. H. S. LEWIS: May I know, Sir, how many holidays have been curtailed?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think, the number of holidays curtailed is five.

Then Sir, as regards the point raised by Mr. Abdur Rahman, I do not exactly remember what I replied to the question put by the hon. Member in the last Session. But so far as I remember, the real culprit was punished rightly.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Was the money recovered from him?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That I cannot say off-hand. Any way, I may look into the matter again and see what has been done.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Before the matter is decided finally, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to withdraw the Demand?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: There is the Demand and we must have the work done.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a matter of information. Might I point out to the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of the subject, who has just said that he does not know whether it will be feasible to increase the hours of work, that he has a fine field for experiment in the Secretariat here and if he carries out this experiment here with the idea of letting its results, success or failure, spread to the Province, I think, a great deal of good might be done thereby?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: This will generally concern all the departments.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. The question is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.86,901 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—27.—Administration of Justice".

The question was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.17

64B.—CIVIL DEFENCE.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs. 87,224 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head "64B.—Civil Defence".

Rs.

Grant originally voted by the Assembly 14,83,000

II.—Sub-heads under which Supplementary Grant will be accounted for—

	Rs.
A.—Expenditure on A. R.P.	5,500
B.—Expenditure on Civic Guard	8,667
G.—Fire-service	2,53,811
H.—Mortuary	21,000
I.—Staticdams.	50,000
Total ...	3,38,978
Deduct share payable by Central Government ...	—2,51,754
Net (voted) ...	87,224

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A.—The additional grant is required to meet the expenditure for the payment of allowances to the increased number of candidates sent to the Civil Defence School at Lahore.

B.—The additional grant is required to meet the expenditure on account of the extension of Civic Guards' activities in the Province.

G.—To keep pace with Military developments, a regular fire-service has been established in certain towns of the Province to cope with any outbreak of fire due to enemy action. This expenditure was not anticipated before and therefore a Supplementary Demand is necessary.

H & I.—These represent arrangements for the burial of the dead due to the enemy action and the storage of water for fire service respectively. Owing to Military developments, certain towns had to be given strategic importance and it is necessary to incur expenditure on these items. A Supplementary Demand is therefore necessary.

Deduct.—Share payable by the Central Government. This represents the proportionate share of cost payable by the Central Government. An increase of Rs.2,51,754 is anticipated owing to increase in the total cost under the head "64B.—Civil Defence".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

"That an additional sum of Rs. 87,224 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—64B.—Civil Defence."

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I am not going to move the Motion*, Sir, formally. But I may just ask the Hon'ble Minister to explain what is this branch—I mean 'Fire Service'? I cannot follow what does he mean by this.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR CHAUDHURI: This is a branch of service, Sir, to fight the fire if it spreads due to enemy action. This is a service which we have to maintain in the towns according to their strategic importance.

*That the total provision of Rs. 87,224 under Supplementary Demand No. 17, Major head—64B.—Civil Defence, at page 17 of the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1942-43, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs. 87,224 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

(To raise discussion about the activities of the Civic Guards and other employees.)

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know whether Government are maintaining Fire Brigades?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Yes, Sir, we are maintaining Fire Brigades also. Strategic importance has been given to some of our towns and for that we have to maintain fire service.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I understand certain constables have been taken by this branch of fire service for the purpose of plying motor vehicles. Most of these constables have been stationed in the town of Shillong. We have received complains from them that they are very poorly paid whereas their fellow brethren who are engaged in the Military Department are getting higher pay than they are getting.

Sir, they are very ill paid and we have got complaints about that. These constables have been employed as Drivers and I may tell that they have been given only Rs.30 per month or near about that. I may tell the Hon. House that those who have joined the Military Department have been given Rs.70 monthly *plus* Re.1 daily. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister will see that these poor people get some consideration in his hands because they have to live in Shillong town which is a very costly place.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I find from the explanatory note (A) that the additional grant is required to meet the expenditure for the payment of allowances to the increased number of candidates sent to the Civil Defence School at Lahore. May I know whether these candidates were selected by the Public Service Commission or they were selected by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge? My point is this that when they had been sent for training, it is naturally presumed that their services would be required for a considerable time; so I want to know whether these candidates had been selected by the Public Service Commission or selected at the whims of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: The selection was made under the rules of the Air Raid Precautions Ordinance and I refer Mr. Mookerjee to these rules. He will find from there as to how the candidates are to be selected.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Whether it is the Public Service Commission or anybody else?

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: It is done by the Department, Sir.

With regard to the request made by my Friend, Maulavi Abdur Rahman, I shall look into the matter. We have got Drivers for the Fire Services and his complaint is that they are given lesser pay in comparison with the pay which is being given by the Military Department. Any way, I shall look into the matter.

The Hon'ble The SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That an additional sum of Rs.87,224 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March 1943, for the administration of the head—64B.—Civil Defence."

The question was adopted.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 a.m. on Thursday the 25th March 1943.

SHILLONG.

The 5th May 1943.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam

