

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 Thursday the 18th March, 1943.

PRESENT

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

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Payment of salaries to Members of Assam Legislature during the suspension of the Constitution

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

1. Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to pay any salary to the Members of the Legislature for the period during which the Constitution remained suspended ?

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

1.—The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN : Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken in this matter and what is its present stage ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** As replied to in the last November Sessions, we consulted the Advocate General. We have got his opinion. We are now in correspondence with another Province of India where a similar state of circumstances exist.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that all other provinces where the Constitution was suspended, the salaries of the Members were paid for six months ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I have got no information.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** May we know what is the opinion of the Advocate General in this matter ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** The matter is still under consideration. Therefore, I am not in a position to say what the opinion is.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Has not the Advocate General given any definite opinion in this matter ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Prime Minister has already replied that the matter is still under consideration.

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister or the Member.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Venture Primary Schools in North Sylhet Subdivision

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*28. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state the number of Venture Primary Schools recommended by the Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Legislative Council, of North Sylhet, for Government grants for the year 1941-42 ?

(b) Is it a fact that only six boys' and two girls' Venture Primary Schools out of the number so recommended received Government grants through North Sylhet Local Board in the year 1941-42 ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take for allotting grants-in-aid to those remaining Venture Primary Schools of North Sylhet, recommended for grants in 1941-42 ?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state as to why no Government grants were distributed this year (1942-43) to Venture Primary Schools of North Sylhet Subdivision ?

*29. (a) Is it a fact that the North Sylhet Local Board resolved to take up 24 Venture Primary Schools in 1940 ?

(b) Is it a fact that they are not getting Government approval to give effect to this resolution up till now ?

(c) Are Government aware that the number of Venture Primary Schools (both boys and girls) is increasing every year in the North Sylhet subdivision ?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take for furtherance of primary education among the children of both sexes in that Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

28. (a)—59.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government will consider when funds are available.

(d)—For want of provision of funds.

29. (a)—Yes, but no proposal was received by Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government have no information.

(d)—Primary education is the concern of the local bodies. Government however make liberal grants as far as funds are available.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : How long it will take the Government to come to a final decision ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : I think very soon we will come to a final decision.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Do the Government realise the difficulty in view of the change of the session ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Yes, Sir, the matter is under consideration.

Jute cultivation in the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*30. Will Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) The total area under Jute cultivation in the Province for the years 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942 ?
- (b) The price of Jute per maund for each of these years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

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

Statement referred to in reply to Starred Question No.30(a) and (b) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1943

Years	(a) Area in acres		(b) Average price per maund		
			Rs.	a.	p.
1938	...	3,02,600	4	14	0
1939	...	3,23,300	7	15	0
1940	...	3,56,200	6	7	0
1941	...	3,04,400	8	2	0
1942	...	2,70,500	5	8	0

Change of the present School Session

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*31. 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.

(C) This conference reaffirms Resolution No. 5 (Professional) passed in the 9th session of the conference held at Sylhet in 1935, viz., 'In view of the unsuitability of the present school session from March to February, this conference requests the Director of Public Instruction to change it from January to December' ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

31.—The resolution is still under the consideration of the Government.

Food Controller of Assam

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*32. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Mr. Johnson, the present Food Controller of Assam, was an employee of Messrs. Steel Brothers, the Government Agents for purchasing food-stuffs in the Province ?

- (b) If so, for how many years he served that Company and when he served them last ?
- (c) If not, where and whom he served before he was so employed by Government ?
- (d) The reason for his appointment as Food Controller ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

32. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Mr. Johnson had been an employee of the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation and had served in Burma.

(d)—An officer was needed to assist Government in building up a supply organization, and Mr. Johnson in view of his general business experience and his experience in Burma during the emergency period, was available to fill the need and was appointed during the Section 93 Administration. He had to be appointed Chief Controller, of Prices, temporarily on the transfer of Mr. C. A. Humphrey, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, until a successor to the latter became available.

****Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** May we know what post Mr. Johnson was holding while he was serving in the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation ?

****The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** I am not aware, Sir. I will require notice.

****Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :** May we know what are his qualifications, Sir ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** He is a business man, Sir.

****Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** What is his present pay ?

****The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** He is drawing one thousand rupees a month.

National War Front

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*33. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have got any connection with the National War Front Organisation in the Province ?

(b) If so, in what way ?

(c) Whether Government contribute any money for the said movement ?

(d) If so, what amount of money has been allotted to each of the Provincial Organisers, for the current year ?

(e) The amount of money spent by each of the Provincial Organisers, for the months of October, November and December 1942 ? (To be shown month by month separately.)

**** Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister or the Members.**

(f) The amount of money spent by the Provincial Organiser, Surma Valley, for the months of October, November and December 1942 for each of the Subdivisions of Sylhet and Cachar Districts? (To be shown month by month separately.)

(g) Whether they will lay on the table a comparative statement showing the amount of allowance drawn by each of the District Leaders in the Districts of Sylhet and Cachar for the months of November and December 1942 in connection with the said movement?

(h) Whether it is a fact that the Provincial Organisers themselves sanction and incur all expenditures in connection with the National War Front Organisation?

(i) Whether the Organisation is controlled by the Civil Defence Department of the Government?

*34. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The aim and objects of the National War Front Movement?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the National War Front Movement forms part of the Civil Defence Organisation in the Province?

(c) Whether this movement has any direct connection with the war?

(d) How this movement is functioning?

(e) Whether the Provincial Government have got any control over this movement?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the two Provincial Organisers of the National War Front are being paid by the Central Government?

(g) If so, whether the Provincial Government have any control over them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

33. (a) & (b)—The connecting features are that the Hon'ble Premier is also the Provincial Leader of the National War Front and the Organisers may be found from the Government staff.

(c)—Not the Provincial Government.

(d)—Rupees 53,800 have been allotted to each of the two Organisers, from funds provided by the Government of India.

		Rs.	a.	p.
(e)—October—Surma Valley...	...	2,718	5	0
Assam Valley ...	...	2,407	10	0
November—Surma Valley ...	...	11,509	12	0
Assam Valley ...	...	2,504	15	0
December—Surma Valley ...	...	7,627	10	0
Assam Valley ...	...	2,982	12	0

(f)—The figures are not available.

(g)—The matter is a domestic affair of the National War Front and does not concern the Provincial Government.

(h)—Yes, under the instructions of the Government of India who provide all the funds.

(i)—No. For convenience of co-ordination, before the assumption of charge by a Provincial Leader, the Civil Defence Department was given the duty of allocating the Budget allotments and receiving returns.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : With regard to Question (e)—the figures supplied for the months of November and December—may I know why there is such a difference between the two Valleys in the matter of increased expenditure for November and December ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** The reason is simple, Sir. In November there was a very big gathering at Golapganj for which money has been provided from this Fund. Also the Organiser of the Surma Valley with the permission of the Central Organiser started a newspaper and this represents the cost of paper which has gone up very high.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

34. (a)—The object of the National War Front is to do everything possible to help and maintain public morale ; to strengthen the war resistance of the people ; to eradicate all elements tending to undermine it ; to counteract fifth column activities of all kinds, including especially all talk, thought, writings and rumours likely to produce a defeatist mentality ; to inculcate faith, courage and endurance ; and to consolidate the national will to offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form, whether within or without the country.

(b)—No.

(c)—This is plain from the answer to Question 34 (a).

(d)—An answer was given to a similar Question in the November 1942 Session of the Assembly. The hon. Member is referred to Question 59 (c) of that Session.

(e)—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to his Question No. 33(a).

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No, except in so far as the Provincial Government may entrust the National War Front with the discharge of any function on their account.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Were these Provincial Organizers, servants of this Government in the Education Department ?

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

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : What has become of their substantive appointments ?

***The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :** They have got their lien and substitutes have been taken.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Minister.

Re Tour of the Hon'ble Ministers

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY
asked :

*35. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) On how many occasions each of the present Hon'ble Ministers went out of the station after they assumed office this time ?
- (b) The duration of their stay in each of the places they visited together with the names of places and the purpose of each such visit ?
- (c) On how many occasions more than one Hon'ble Minister toured together, the names of places visited, the purpose of each such visit and the names of the Hon'ble Ministers who toured together ?
- (d) The total amount charged as travelling allowance by each of the Hon'ble Ministers on each such occasion ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI replied :

35.(a)—

(1) The Hon'ble Prime Minister	...	6 times.
(2) The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Veterinary.		3 "
(3) The Hon'ble Minister for Judicial and General Departments.		3 "
(4) The Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Co-operative.		3 "
(5) The Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Public Health.		3 "
(6) The Hon'ble Minister for Finance	...	2 "
(7) The Hon'ble Minister for Education and Public Works Departments.		5 "
(8) The Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government, Excise and Labour.		4 "
(9) The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Forests.		4 "
(10) The Hon'ble Minister for Civil Defence.		8 "

(b), (c) and (d)—Two statements are placed on the Library Table.

****Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK :** May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers is going to visit my Constituency, i.e. Garo Hills? I have not so far seen any of the Hon'ble Ministers at our place.

****The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI :** If any suitable occasion arises, Hon'ble Ministers will surely visit the place mentioned.

****Speech not corrected by the Minister or the Member.**

****Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister please assure us that an Hon'ble Minister is going to visit the place in the middle of May next?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: I cannot give a definite date, but I may assure him that some Hon'ble Minister will visit the place when suitable occasion arises.

Education of Muslim Girls

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*36. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any representation signed by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman, M.L.A., Khan Sahib Maulavi Abdur Rahim Chaudhury, M.L.C., Maulavi Abdus Salam, M.L.A., Khan Bahadur Maulavi Gous Uddin Ahmed Chaudhury, M.L.C., and others, was submitted on the 18th February 1943 to the Hon'ble Education Minister, urging upon him to make provision for the education of the Muslim girls of urma Valley and appointing a Muslim qualified lady as Assistant Inspector of Schools?

(b) If so, what action, if any, had been taken on that representation?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

36. (a) — Yes.

(b) — The representation is under examination.

Realisation of Agricultural Loans in Sunamganj Subdivision.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

*37 Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount realised as agricultural loan till now from the different Thanas of the Subdivision of Sunamganj?

(b) Whether there was any representation to authorities for staying over the realization of agricultural loan till better days?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

37. (a)—The information is not available in Shillong and even if it could be collected in time, which is very doubtful it would be out of date by the time it reached Shillong.

(b) — Yes, only after the commencement of this Session signed by some of the hon. Members of this House from Sylhet.

Appointments in the Assam Civil Service

Maulavi MABARAK ALI asked:

*38. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The principle followed in fixing the salaries of the officers recruited by the Provincial Government for Civil Judicial works at the rate of Rs.400 per month each?

****Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.**

(b) The initial pay of a Munsif recruited by the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Fort William, Calcutta ?

*39. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Burma Government servants have been absorbed or appointed in this Province ?

(b) What is their pay per month ?

(c) Whether the same works could be managed with cheaper agencies ?

*40. (a) Are Government aware that due to the appointments of senior members of the Assam Civil Service as Subdivisional Officers or to various special posts, the magistracy in Assam, especially the major criminal works, are left to officers of not more than 14 years' standing ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Bengal Government appoint junior officers as Subdivisional Officers and that they adopted a resolution to fill up all vacancies in the Bengal Civil Service or such number of them exceeding 50 per cent. as the Governor may direct, by promotion from the Bengal Junior Civil Service, during the period of war ?

(c) Do Government propose to adopt a similar policy in this Province ?

*41. Are Government aware how appointments in the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) are made ?

*42. Are Government aware that 1st Class B.Ls. are appointed as Munsifs in Bengal on Rs.175 per month ?

*43. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for appointing persons from the Bar on Rs.400 per month as temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners to do civil works in Assam ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

38. (a) & (b) —The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Unstarred Question No.25 (b) and (d) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at the November 1942 Session of the Assembly.

39. (a) & (b) —The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Unstarred Question No.38 asked by Babu Lalit Mohan Kar, M.L.A., at the current Session of the Assembly.

(c) —No.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : On a point of order, Sir, can a reference be made to such Questions which have not been replied as yet ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : It is replied to-day.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It has not come before the House as yet, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We believed that those Questions would have been replied earlier than these Starred Questions. Unfortunately it did not come before to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But it is not in order to refer to replies to Unstarred Questions. I think the answers should be definitely given when Starred Questions are replied to without giving reference to the answers to Unstarred Questions.

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

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA
replied :

40. (a), (b) & (c) —The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Starred Questions Nos.16, 17 and 18 asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at the November 1942 Session of the Assembly.

41. —Yes.

42.—Yes.

43.—The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.25(c) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at the November 1942 Session of the Assembly.

Opening of Calico Printing Demonstration Class in Assam

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY asked :

*44. (a) Are Government aware that the Central Government have opened a Calico Printing Demonstration class in Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said class will be discontinued from the year 1943 ?

(c) Are Government aware that the demonstration was very popular in the Province and did a great service to the educated unemployed youths of Assam ?

(d) Do Government propose to take up the class and bring it under the Industries Department of this Province and start two classes, one in the Surma Valley and the other in the Brahmaputra Valley ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

44. (a)—Government are not aware of any Calico Printing Demonstration class opened in Assam by the Central Government, but presume that the hon. Member is referring to the peripatetic class maintained by the provincial Department of Industries under the handloom development scheme financed by the Central Government ?

(b)—As the Central Government have recently decided to continue their grant-in-aid during 1943-44, the class will for the present continue till the 31st March 1944.

(c)—The class has no doubt proved popular, but due to the shortage of dyestuffs, etc., passed students have not been able to take up the Calico printing industry on any considerable scale.

(d)—The question of financing the scheme out of the provincial revenues will be considered in the event of the Central Government discontinuing their grant-in-aid. Under the existing arrangements instruction is imparted at suitable centres throughout the Province and there is no question of starting two classes, one for each Valley ?

Procedure regarding administration of Justice in Shillong Courts

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY
asked :

*45. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether there is any provision for transferring decrees of the Indian British Courts other than those of Shillong to the Courts established in the Khasi States ?

- (b) If so, what is that ?
- (c) Whether there are any rules or laws which empower a Court in the Khasi State to execute such a decree on transfer and to transfer a decree of its own to those Courts ?
- (d) If so, what are those rules or laws ?
- (e) Whether there are any rules or laws which empower a Civil Court at Shillong to execute a decree of any other Civil Court established in other parts of British India where the Code of Civil Procedure applies ?
- (f) If so, what are they ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that only sections 1 and 155 to 158 of the Civil Procedure Code apply to Shillong and the rest of the said Code does not apply ?
- (h) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that in view of the repeal of the old Code of Civil Procedure by section 156 of the Civil Procedure Code of 1908 and in view of the fact that the said section applies to Shillong, the Civil Courts of Shillong cannot execute a decree of even any other Civil Court of British India ?

*46. Will Government be pleased to state why the provisions of section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code have not been embodied in the Bill entitled "The Shillong (Attachment of Salaries) Bill, 1943" ?

*47. (a) Are Government aware that the Commissioner of Divisions hears appeals and revision petitions arising from Khasi and Jaintia Hills at Gauhati ?

(b) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that such cases are heard at Shillong by the said officer on circuit like the Judges of Sylhet who hear cases of the Cachar district at Silchar ?

(c) Are Government aware that the present procedure followed by the Commissioner entails heavy expenditure to the litigant public ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Commissioner of Divisions does not give one month's notice in hearing cases ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Calcutta High Court gives a minimum time of one month in hearing cases ?

(f) Do Government propose to take necessary action so that the Commissioner of Divisions may also grant one month's notice in hearing cases ?

(g) Do Government propose to abolish the revisional powers of the Commissioner of Divisions in view of the fact that the Governor has the final revisional powers ?

(h) If not, why not ?

*48. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The number of cases in which the Commissioner of Divisions altered the judgments of the Lower Courts in the year 1942 ?

(b) The number of cases in which the Governor of Assam has set aside or modified the orders of all the Lower Courts down from the Court of the Commissioner in 1942 ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

45. (a)—As no notification has been issued under section 45, Civil Procedure Code, a decree passed by a Court in the province (other than a Court in Shillong) cannot be sent for execution to a Court in the Khasi States.

(b).—Does not arise.

(c)—As no notification has been issued under section 44, Civil Procedure Code, decrees of Courts in the Khasi States cannot be sent for execution to any such Courts.

(d).—Does not arise.

(e) & (f).—Sections 223 to 228 of the Civil Procedure Code of 1882 (corresponding to sections 38, 39, 41 and 42 and Order 21, rules 4 to 9 of the present Code) were extended to the Hill districts by Notification No.132, dated 22nd November 1888, in order to enable the decrees passed by the Courts in those areas where the Civil Procedure Code of 1882 was not in force to be executed by the Courts in other districts where the Civil Procedure Code of 1882 was in force, and *vice versa*. Section 157 of the Civil Procedure Code of 1908 which is in force in the Hill districts kept alive that notification.

(g).—Yes.

(h).—Please see the answer to (e) and (f).

46.—The provisions of section 60, Civil Procedure Code, as amended have been embodied in the Bill so far as attachment of salaries of public officers is concerned and the rest of the provisions relevant to Shillong is already in the Rules for the Administration of Justice referred to in the Bill.

47. (a), (b), & (c).—The Commissioner hears appeals both at Gauhati and Shillong. The Commissioner's Judicial functions are only a part of his many duties and the appellants must allow him to suit his convenience when fixing the place of hearing of an appeal.

(d).—Government have no information. This is entirely in the Court's discretion.

(e).—Rule 340 at page 105 of Civil Rules and Orders, Volume I, states that the date of hearing an appeal shall be fixed so as to allow sufficient time to every respondent to give notice of any objection he may intend to take to the decree. It may be a minimum of one month.

(f).—The Commissioner is expected to give sufficient time to every respondent. This is not a matter for Government to interfere in its executive capacity.

(g) & (h).—It will not be advantageous to litigants to abolish the revisional powers of the Commissioner.

48. (a).—Government have no information and the time allowed by the hon. Member is too short to collect information.

(b).—In one case the orders of the Lower Courts were set aside and in three cases modified.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Number of security prisoners detained in different Jails of Assam**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN** asked :

27. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the up-to-date number of security prisoners detained in different jails of Assam ?

(b) How many amongst them are getting family or personal allowance ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which the amount of such allowance is fixed ?

(d) Do Government take into consideration the abnormal rise in general price level and also the cost of personal amenities required to be supplemented in jail ?

28. (a) Are Government aware that in other provinces the security prisoners are gradually being released ?

(b) What is the policy of this Government about this question ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have released any security prisoner in pursuance of any such policy ?

(d) If so, how many ?

29. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Miss Uma Chakraborty, B.A., a security prisoner detained in Sylhet jail applied for a temporary release on 'parole' on the ground of her father's serious illness ?

(b) Whether her prayer was granted ?

(c) If not, why not ?

30. (a) Is it a fact that political prisoners asking for 'parole' are asked to sign an undertaking ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state their policy with regard to the granting of 'parole' to the political prisoners ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

27. (a)—Approximately 227.

(b)—Sixteen. Orders have however been passed for grant of allowances in other cases, and these are constantly increasing.

(c)—On a consideration of what is strictly necessary to maintain the family, in view of its numbers and ordinary habit of living.

(d)—Certainly.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The reply to Question No.27(b) is: 'Orders have however been passed for grant of allowances in other cases, and these are constantly increasing'. May we know the number of cases in which orders have since been passed ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I cannot give the exact number at the moment.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: May I know what orders have been passed in the case of the mother of Radharaman Das ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That is a new Question, Sir.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I know why no allowance has been given in 90 per cent. of cases ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: As I have already stated, cases are coming in large numbers. All cases are generally considered on their merits.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: The reply to Question No. 27(c), is: 'On a consideration of what is strictly necessary to maintain the family, in view of its numbers and ordinary habit of living'. Is not the actual income of the prisoner before his arrest, taken into consideration ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The reply is there. More than that I cannot say.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

28. (a)—Government are not aware of the affairs of other provinces.

(b)—Government are prepared to release security prisoners who will give an undertaking to abstain from, in any way promoting, the activities of any movement which aims at the subversion of Government, if their undertaking can be trusted.

(c) and (d)—Yes. Deputy Commissioners exercise discretion in the matter, and therefore the exact numbers cannot be stated at any time. But some 30 have already been released.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Does not an undertaking like this mean an indirect admission of the guilt on the part of the prisoner ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: That is a question of opinion.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Do the Government consider it fair to impose an undertaking like this where they deny having taken any part in any such movement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: If they give this in writing.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is clearly stated that Government are prepared to release security prisoners who will give an undertaking, etc. Is it in the case of all security prisoners ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: They will be considered on their own merits. If they give an undertaking, their cases will be taken into consideration.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My definite Question is: Are Government prepared to accept that or not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: The reply is quite clear. Government are prepared to consider all the cases.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question is: "what is the policy of the Government in this matter"? The reply is: "Government are prepared to release security prisoners who will give an undertaking to abstain from, and in any way promoting, the activities of any movement which aims at the subversion of Government, if their undertaking can be trusted". The Hon'ble Minister says the same thing: "Government reserve to themselves the right of examining each undertaking".

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: My Question is, if the person says that he did not take part in any such movement, are the Government prepared to release him ? Will they accept that statement ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : This is rather a hypothetical Question.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

29. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

30. (a) & (b)—Government are not ordinarily prepared to grant 'parole', since little reliance can be placed on persons who are not prepared to give a general undertaking to be of good behaviour in the respect already indicated, but desire release for particular private ends. Release on mere 'parole' is therefore confined to cases of proved necessity, where reliance can also be placed on honourable observance of the conditions, which must necessarily, as a rule, be stated in writing.

Number of Chowkidars, Thana by Thana, in Goalpara District

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

31. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The numbers of Chowkidars, Thana by Thana, in the Goalpara District ?

(b) The monthly rate of pay of each of these Chowkidars ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that in many cases, the pay of these Chowkidars has not been paid for the last six or seven months ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable discontent among the Chowkidars and that they do not perform their duties in the villages ?

(e) Whether Government are aware that theft and other crimes such as dacoities have since increased to a considerable extent in the district of Goalpara ?

(f) Whether Government propose to take immediate steps to put a stop to this ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

31. (a)—The number is given below—

Name of Police Stations				Number of Chaukidars
1. Bijni	...	...	...	95
2. Sidli	...	...	...	65
3. Kokrajhar	...	...	...	96
4. Gossaigaon	...	...	...	68
5. Bilashipara	...	...	...	99
6. Golakganj	...	...	...	131
7. Dhubri	...	...	...	73
8. South Salmara	...	...	...	79
9. Mankachar	...	...	...	46
10. North Salmara	...	...	...	130
11. Goalpara	...	...	...	47

Name of Police Stations	Number of Chaukidars
12. Dudnai	63
13. Lakhipur	67

(b)—Rupees 6 per mensem.

(c)—It is reported that this was the fact, but that all save a few have since been paid up to date.

(d)—It has been reported from Cachar and now, as a result of this question, from Goalpara, that Chowkidars are somewhat discontented seeing that their pay remains the same while wages and prices have been rising. Government have called for a report from the Commissioner. It must be noted that the pay of the Chowkidars is raised by local taxation, and Government desire to know the feeling among the taxpayers.

(e) & (f)—Theft and burglary have actually decreased, but there is a rise in dacoity cases which is engaging the attention of the district staff.

Grow-More-Food Campaign

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

32. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that huge quantities of seeds like potatoes, mustard, sugarcane setts, pulses, etc., supplied by the Agriculture Department under Grow-More-Food Campaign did not germinate in areas especially in Kamrup and Darrang districts ?

(b) Do Government propose to make enquiry about the total area thus affected and the number of cultivators, purchasing the seeds and suffering loss due to failure of crops ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

32. (a)—The actual position was :—

Potatoes.—Owing to delay in transport certain consignments were defective. Where this occurred, remission has been and will be given. About 20 per cent. were defective in stead of the usual 10 per cent. which is always expected with potatoes.

Mustard.—The Agriculture Department did not supply.

Sugarcane.—Setts are not easily perishable and the whole supply germinated normally.

Pulses.—The seed was satisfactory. In many cases where the seed germinated, the crop dried up later owing to drought.

(b)—No.

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI : Is it a fact, when Government have replied that 20 per cent. were rotten, that by distributing rotten seeds, Government are carrying on a Grow-Less-Food Campaign ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We do not distribute rotten seeds. As a matter of fact, we purchase good seeds. Some seeds might be defective owing to delay in transport.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT : It is said that these defective potato seeds are only due to the methods of transport. Will the Hon'ble Minister assure us that there was no diseases of potato exported from other provinces ? (Laughter.)

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN : How does Government procure these seeds ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The seeds are procured from different places.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Who grow them?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Government purchase these seeds from cultivators mostly, who grow them.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: In that case, how Government guarantee that cent per cent of these seeds will germinate?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Government cannot give any guarantee that cent per cent of the seeds will germinate.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, do the Government examine the seeds before they are distributed?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: They do it, Sir.

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: Will Government consider the cases of those cultivators who suffered?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Government will consider the cases of those villagers who have suffered due to the want of good seeds last time.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Are Government prepared to reimburse the villagers of other provinces who have purchased bad seeds in this Province?

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI: Is it a fact that in view of the Grow-More-Food Campaign, Government are going to open more reserves to the villagers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is not so, Sir.

Introduction of Land Development Scheme

Srijut RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked:

33. (a) Is it a fact that Government have contemplated to introduce Land Development Scheme in another form by throwing open the reserves in connection with the scheme under Grow-More-Food Campaign?

(b) Do Government propose to survey lands lying uncultivated and fallow, especially near tea gardens, which are still available for settlement under the Scheme?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied:

33. (a)—No. Government are instructing the Commissioner to extend the colonisation areas wherever possible, in accordance with the resolution of 6th March 1942 with particular reference to the importance of extending the area of land under rice in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign. It is possible that some land hitherto reserved for grazing or other purposes may be thrown open for cultivation if local officers consider it is no longer required for the purposes for which it was reserved.

(b)—No. Survey is not necessary before settlement is granted but Government have to encourage the extension of settlement wherever possible for food crops under the dire emergency of the situation, brought about by the war.

Officer-in-charge of the Baniyachong Police Station

Maulavi Dewan ALI RAJA asked:

34. (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to Notification No. APC-65/43/17, dated the 13th January 1943 published in the Assam Gazette Extraordinary of that date and state whether the present Officer-in-charge

of the Police Station, Baniyachong, Babu Pratap Majumdar, is a person authorised by the Chief Controller of Prices, Assam, for allowing export of rice, from Baniyachong to Bhairab, in the Province of Bengal?

(b) If not, are Government aware that he is allowing such export?

(c) Do Government propose to take immediate action on this matter?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any Notification banning removal of rice inside the Province of Assam.

(e) If not, are Government aware that the said Officer-in-charge of Baniyachong Police Station holds up "Paikars" while removing rice by Cart from Baniyachong to Ajmiriganj, in the Habiganj Subdivision?

(f) Did he send the rice so held up by him, with the owners, to the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the number of carts and amount of rice that he has held up altogether during the time from the 1st week of December 1942 till the 2nd week of January 1943?

(h) Do Government propose to change the said Officer-in-charge of the Baniyachong Police Station by putting another officer in his place immediately?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

34. (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Enquiries are being made.

(d) Yes, from Assam Valley to Surma Valley by the Railway.

(e) He held up some Paikers while removing Paddy by carts at dead of night under suspicious circumstances.

(f) No. They were asked to sell the paddy locally.

(g) No figures are available.

(h) Government see no reason at present to transfer the officer.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: The answer to Question No. 34 (c) is that "enquiries are being made." May we know from Government whether enquiries have already been finished or whether the enquiry is still going on?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As soon as we got notices of these Questions, we asked the Superintendent of Police to send a report. We have not yet received that report.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Then how did Government give the answer to Question No. 34 (b)? The answer is 'No'. How could Government give the answer when enquiry is still going on?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, Government ordered nothing should be allowed to be exported from the province and we have no reason to believe that our Officers were avoiding Government order.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: But when the enquiries are not finished, how could Government answer the Question? That is my point. The Question is 'if not, are Government aware that he is allowing such export?' The answer to this Question is 'No'. My point is that when Government have received no report, how could they give the answer.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government presume that all the Government servants will obey the orders issued by the Government.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Are we to presume that Government answer all Questions under presumption?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
As regards (b), I have answered under presumption but when a definite statement has been made by the hon. Member, I have started an enquiry.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY :
Did Government receive Question No. 34 (c) when they framed the answer to Question No. 34 (b) ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
As soon as we got notices of these Questions, Sir, we started the enquiry but we have not yet known the result of the enquiry and we presumed that Government servants are obeying Government orders.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Sir, with regard to Question (h), we find that the reply is "Government see no reason at present to transfer the Officer". Is it the final decision of the Government or till the result of the enquiry is known that the transfer question has not been considered ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA :
Sir, it is obvious that if we find after the enquiry that this Officer is guilty, then he will not only be transferred but punished.

Provision of Government quarters for Sub-Registrar at Sukhair

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

35. Will Government be pleased to state —

(a) Whether they are aware that the Sub-Registrar and his clerks at Sukhair in Sunamganj Subdivision, experience great inconvenience for want of Government quarters ?

(b) Do Government propose to build Government quarters for the Sub-Registrar and his staffs at Sukhair, Madhabpur and Patherkandi where private quarters are not available ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA replied :

35. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—If it be found in fact that private quarters are not available at the places mentioned, Government will consider that arrangements can be made.

Dhubri Branch of the Red Cross Society

Srijut JOGENDRA NARAYAN MANDAL asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the activities of the Dhubri Branch of the Red Cross Society ?

(b) If so, whether Government have considered the rural development scheme through Red Cross activities as started by the Dhubri Red Cross Committee ?

(c) Whether Government propose for public health and maternity welfare to patronise with reasonable grant such activities which are mainly dependant on public subscription and donation ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

36. (a)—Yes. A summary of the report of this Branch for 1942 has been seen.

(b)—& (c)—Government have not considered in detail any such scheme. They give an annual recurring grant to the Assam Provincial Branch of the All-India League for maternity and child welfare and applications for assistance should be made there which no doubt will receive sympathetic consideration.

Quantity of paddy produced in the Province

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

37. Will Government be pleased to state district by district—

(i) The quantity of paddy produced in the current year ?

(ii) The quantity of paddy produced last year ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

37. (i) & (ii)—The revised estimates for 1941-42 and the estimated figures for 1942-43 are given in the statement below:—

Statement showing district by district the quantity of paddy produced during 1941-42 and 1942-43

Districts	1941-42		1942-43 (Estimated)	
	Tons		Tons	
Cachar	...	163,700	...	149,900
Sylhet	...	788,800	...	881,900
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	16,600	...	18,500
Naga Hills	...	36,000	...	34,700
Lushai Hills	...	37,000	...	34,800
Goalpara	...	218,100	...	217,000
Kamrup	...	390,100	...	376,200
Darrang	...	167,000	...	194,000
Nowgong	...	188,800	...	207,100
Sibsagar	...	259,400	...	240,100
Lakhimpur	...	253,900	...	190,800
Sadiya Frontier Tract	...	4,800	...	3,600
Balipara Frontier Tract	...	1,000	...	1,400
Garo Hills	...	37,900	...	39,600
		<hr/> 2,563,100		<hr/> 2,589,600

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR : Am I to understand, Sir, that Government are not in a position to state the actual figures of 1942-43 still now ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We have not got the final figures from the Officers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May we know, Sir, who make these estimates ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : We get these figures from the District Officers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : How do the District Officers get these figures ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The District Officers in their turn get these figures from the Sub Deputy Collectors.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How the Sub-Deputy Collectors get these figures, Sir?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: They get the figures from the Mandals, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May we know how many Mandals Government have employed in the Surma Valley?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: That is a separate question, Sir. I want notice of that question.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please say how in the Surma Valley they get the figures?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: The Mandals in Assam Valley get these figures from the village Headmen and then they send them to the Sub-Deputy Collectors who in their turn send them to the District Officers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, what is about Surma Valley? May we know how many Mandals Government have employed for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: There are no Mandals, Sir, in the Surma Valley.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then how these figures are collected there?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: These figures are collected through some other agency, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What is that, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: They are best known to the District Officers.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, we don't mind whether the figures are collected by the Mandals or Collectors or Deputy Commissioners but what we like to know is that what is the procedure followed by them to get these figures.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We are following the same old procedure as mentioned already by me.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May we know what is the procedure adopted by the District Officers for collecting these figures?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Generally the figures are always collected by the District Officers through the procedure mentioned already.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are those figures, that are supplied, found always correct?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have no reason to disbelieve these figures.

Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN: What is the procedure followed — by mere guess or by actual survey?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: By actual survey to some extent.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: May I suggest, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister, instead of wasting the time of the House, should say that he does not know?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I have nothing further to add, Sir.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Are Government prepared to take from me that so far as Surma Valley is concerned, the figures are "andaji", I mean only guess work?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We don't think, Sir, that this is an absolute guess work.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister cannot say how these figures are collected and at the same time, he will not accept our opinion.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: So far as 1942-43 is concerned, these figures are not final figures.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How these figures are collected, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has explained that so far as Assam Valley is concerned, there are agencies for the purpose of collecting the figures but so far as Surma Valley is concerned, his answer is not yet clear.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I have said, Sir, that the District Officers get these figures through some other agencies in the Surma Valley.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, from the figures supplied by the Hon'ble Minister with regard to the produce of Sylhet, I find, that in 1941-42, there was 788,800 tons, whereas this year, the figures are 881,900 tons. It shows that the produce of the district of Sylhet is greater this year than the previous year. May I know from the Hon'ble Premier how could he come to the conclusion that Sylhet is a deficit district this year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have been distinctly referred to by the hon. Member who put the question, I have got to reply.

The hon. Members are aware that in the Land Record and Settlement Manual there is a distinct provision that all the Sub-Deputy Collectors should estimate the crops by an actual crop cutting experiment. The details of such procedure are given in this Manual. What is expected by Government from the Sub-Deputy Collector is that the Sub-Deputy Collector is to find out an average plot, have the harvesting done in his own presence, thrashed in his own presence and by actual measurement of the crop that is obtained from the area, he is to estimate the average of that circle. Each Sub-Deputy Collector has got to report this to Government, and as the Land Records staff in the temporarily-settled areas have got the other duty of reporting to Government annual extension of cultivation in their charges we know the area and by means of the average yield that has been given to the District Collector by the Sub-Deputy Collectors we arrive at the total production figures.

It is true, Sir, that in the Surma Valley, in parts of the permanently-settled areas, there being no record-of-rights, often times the figures differ. For example, Government have got no reason whatsoever to suppress the fact that in the preliminary forecast last year the area that was shown under cultivation had to be revised in the statement for final forecast, that the original area was mistaken and the area in the final forecast would be 70,000 acres less in Sylhet. It appears, therefore, as there is no record-of-rights, that it is very difficult in the Surma Valley, at least in the permanently-settled areas of the Sylhet district, to get very accurate statistics. But we have done our best; the Deputy Commissioners through their *patwaris* and *panchayats* try to get the area under cultivation in each village and from that these figures have been compiled. The final forecast figures of 1942-43 have been received by the Director of Agriculture, but as we insisted that those figures must be accurate he is taking time to find the correct statement of the crop we expect to get in 1942-43. He has not submitted to Government the final forecast yet.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is it not that Maulavi Abdur Rahman referred to a previous statement of the Hon'ble Premier stating that Sylhet district was a deficit one?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Since last year, through the endeavours of the Grow-More-Food Campaign, a very big area of *haor* lands has been brought under cultivation. Therefore, we expect that there will be an increased yield from the Sylhet district.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will it be a self-sufficient district in that case?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is expected to be self sufficient, and according to the present figures it is very nearly self-sufficient. If there be a deficit, the deficit would not be more than one per cent. but that is made up by Cachar being a surplus district and Cachar paddy and rice coming into the Sylhet district.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Then the announcement of the Hon'ble Premier that Sylhet will be a deficit district this year is not wholly correct?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have not, as I have stated already, got the final figures from the Director of Agriculture, and without seeing them I am not in a position to say whether Sylhet will be a deficit or a surplus district.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it not a fact that the figures are gradually coming down in every case?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Not in every case. As regards the Sylhet district the area has been reduced in the final forecast by 70,000 acres.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Does the Hon'ble Premier still stick to his previous statement that the Province has got a surplus of 21 lakhs maunds of rice this year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have got as yet no figures to resile from the said statement. As a matter of fact the Agriculture Department's estimate is 100 per cent. more. Taking every circumstances into consideration and having weighed all the available figures, I still stick to the opinion that probably the Province will have a surplus of over 20 lakhs maunds of rice.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not desirable that the Government should, through the district authorities, collect the actual figures of paddy crop which has already been stored in the district of Sylhet?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I must say that this is a very tall order. If every plot in the Sylhet district has got to be measured and its yield per *bigha* or acre has got to be estimated, we will require a host of Revenue staff which will be beyond the capacity of this Provincial Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a fact that the Winter crop has already been stored up by the farmers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am obliged to my hon. Friend for giving a clue to what I had missed. There are three crops, the Spring crop, the Winter crop and the Rainy Season crop. By estimating the crop of one season, I cannot give the estimate of the whole year. Therefore, if my hon. Friend wants to have the exact measure of the quantity of paddy that will be produced in the district of Sylhet, he will have to wait more than a year.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: What is the criterion followed by Government in estimating the total yield of a district per year?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As I have repeated three times the Sub Deputy Collectors have got a statutory duty to report to Government after performing what is technically known as 'crop cutting experiment.'

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: My point is this: the Hon'ble Premier was telling the House that there were three kinds of crops, Spring, Winter and Rainy Season crops. I want to know whether Government take the statistics on the produce of any one crop or all the three crops together.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The experiment has got to be performed for each seasonal crop.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: I have to ask a question which I hope will be found relevant to the matter under discussion. Will Government be pleased in future when publishing forecasts in the Gazette to see to it that normals are mentioned in terms of outturn per acre? At the moment we have great difficulty, at least I have personally, in forming any idea of the probable crop by reading the Gazette because the percentage outturn is always referred to in terms of normal.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the question of the hon. Member?

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: My question is this: will Government be pleased in future to indicate in the Gazette what is normal in terms of outturn in maunds per acre?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My hon. Friend, Mr. Blennerhassett, is not the only one who had suffered in the past when Government statistics stated that the crop estimated would be, say, 80 per cent. of the normal. But since then we have drawn notice of the Agriculture Department to the fact that it gives no idea. The Agriculture Department is now trying to give figures, in terms of hundredweights for average yield per acre. For example, if my hon. Friend looks into the Supplementary Assam Gazette dated March 17th, 1943, the very latest I could have, it is stated there "Taking 8 cwts. Winter rice as the normal yield per acre the total produce in Assam amounts to 24,726,400 cwts. against 23,945,500 cwts. on the basis of the actual area of last year". So, we are now trying to state in terms of actual hundredweights yield per acre.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do these figures agree with the figures which have been supplied in reply to question No.37? Certainly not, Sir, what is the reason?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: One set of figures is only for the Winter crop, while the other is for the crop of the whole year.

Appointment of Burma and other British Territory officers by Assam Government

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

38. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any person or persons who served under the Government of Burma or any other British Territory and evacuated therefrom after the Japanese attack, have been provided under the Government of Assam?

(b) If so, whether they propose to state in a tabular form the names of those persons, the posts they hold, their qualifications, and the pay they draw under the Government of Assam?

(c) Whether any new post or posts were or have been created by the Assam Government to make provision for any such officer?

(d) If so, what are those post or posts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

38. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—A statement giving the information wanted by the hon. Member is placed on the Library table.

***Maulavi MABARAK ALI:** In reply to 8 (a)—(d), I find that the questioner Babu Lalit Mohan Kar has been referred to the Library table. How are these questions going to be discussed and how are we to put supplementary questions if the answer is not before us?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The position is this: Library table does not actually mean the table in the Library. The statements are now always placed on the table just to my left. Hon. Members get answers to the unstarred questions just they enter the Chamber and it is expected that after seeing the answers to the unstarred questions they will see the statements placed on that table as forming part of the answers.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Will it not be possible to place a copy of the statement that is placed on the Library table before the hon. Members only to facilitate supplementary questions?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not possible. This practice has been followed for a long time. Hon. Members know that questions requiring long statistical answers are to be put as unstarred questions. The whole idea is that hon. Members will get the answer beforehand and be prepared to put supplementary questions.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Moreover, the questioner Babu Lalit Mohan Kar in question 38(b) wanted the answer in a tabular form. So we prepared the answer in tabular form and placed it on the library table.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** In the answer we find that at present there are 25 posts and these are all temporary. May we know from Government whether they are going to replace these temporary incumbents by their own men?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Surely, Sir, if we get suitable candidates to fill these posts from the Province, we will do that.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** May we know whether Government will try to find out suitable candidates from the Province for all these posts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Most of these posts, as my hon. Friends have seen, are posts needing technical qualifications. Unfortunately at the present moment, we have not got any one with suitable qualifications who is not employed.

***Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** But among those who are not employed there might be some persons who can be found fit to hold some of these posts. Will Government therefore advertise these posts and find out whether they can get qualified candidates for these posts?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: As an example, my hon. Friend will find that we have a very large number of forest officers and many engineers from outside. I doubt whether any forest officer of the Province with technical qualification is still unemployed. Similarly, I doubt whether there is any unemployed youth in the Province with technical qualifications necessary for manning these Public Works

*Speech not corrected by the hon. Members.

Department posts. If my hon. Friend can give me names of any, I shall surely replace the Burma officers by them.

Expenditure in connection with the National War Front

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

39. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) (i) The total amount of expenditure that has been incurred by Government up-to-date for the organisation of the National War Front in the Province of Assam and
- (ii) the average monthly expenditure incurred for the purpose ?
- (b) Whether they propose to make a statement regarding the progress of work of the National War Front hitherto made ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

39. (a) (i)—Nil. All expenditure is met by the Central Government.

(ii)—Nil, so far as the Assam Government is concerned.

(b)—I will consider making a full statement on the work done by the National War Front, of which no doubt the hon. Member is aware I am the Provincial Leader, when an opportune occasion arises.

Number of Tea Gardens and Tea Garden Labourers

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

40. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of tea gardens, European and Indian, in both the Valleys ?

41. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley according to the Census of 1941 showing if the number has increased or decreased from the number recorded in the Census of 1931 ?
 - (b) The total number of tea garden labourers in the Surma Valley according to the Census of 1941 showing if the number has increased or decreased from the number recorded in the Census of 1931 ?
 - (c) The total number of *Ex*-tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley according to the old as well as the new Census of 1931 and 1941 respectively ?
 - (d) The total number of *Ex*-tea garden labourers in the Surma Valley according to the old as well as the new Census of 1931 and 1941 respectively ?
 - (e) The total number of Indian Christians in the tea garden areas according to the Census of 1941 in the Assam Valley showing if the number has increased or decreased from the number recorded in the Census of 1931 ?
 - (f) The total number of Indian Christians in the tea garden areas according to the Census of 1941 in the Surma Valley showing if the number has increased or decreased from the number recorded in the Census of 1931 ?
 - (g) The total number of Indian Christians *Ex*-tea garden labourers in the Assam Valley according to the old as well as the new Census of 1931 and 1941 respectively ?
 - (h) The total number of Indian Christians *Ex*-tea garden labourers in the Surma Valley according to the old as well as the new Census of 1931 and 1941 respectively ?
42. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The total number of tea garden schools and the classes of

- schools at present existing in both the Valleys ?
- (b) Whether Government are taking steps to supervise and inspect these schools ?
- (c) The total number of pupils, males and females in these schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY replied :

40.—Twelve hundred and fourteen, according to the Census Report of 1941, including 815 in the Assam Valley and 399 in the Surma Valley. The Census Report does not distinguish between gardens owned by Indians and others. The Tea Culture Report, which omits gardens not working, shows that of 1,126 gardens 399 were owned by Indians at the close of 1941.

41. (a) & (b)—The Census tables do not give separate figures for *tea garden labourers*. The total population censused on tea gardens is tabulated as follows : —

	Assam Valley	Surma Valley
1931	... 6,54,243 ...	... 3,25,471
1941	... 7,77,888 ...	... 3,54,662

(c) & (d)—These figures are not given in the Census tables.

(e) & (f)—The figures are not available in the Census tables.

Approximate figures are available only for the 1941 Census in the village statistics, and are as follows :—

Assam Valley...	... 7,140
Surma Valley...	... 1,325

(g) & (h)—The figures are not available from the Census papers.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: May I know why these figures which are so important are not given in the Census Report ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: The fact is there that these figures are not included in the Census Report. Beyond that I cannot say anything.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: I think the figures are very important and they should be put in the Census Report.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: There is no remedy now. The figures are not available before us and nothing can be done before next Census.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: replied :

42. (a)—555 Schools were in existence according to the reports of the Education Department on the 31st March 1942 of which 10 are "A" class, 81 "B" class and 464 "C" class.

(b)—Yes, "C" class schools are inspected when the managements so desire.

(c)—The total number on the 31st March 1942 was 19,031. Separate figures for males and females are not available.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will Government have sufficient staff for supervision and inspection of these schools like the Government schools ?

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: Question 42(b) refers to "C" class schools in the tea garden area and they are entirely managed by the industry concerned. Government have no control over them but they are often inspected by our officers only on the request of the management.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Will Government have sufficient staff if all the garden schools are required to be supervised and inspected by the inspecting officers ?

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: The question is purely hypothetical.

The Hon'ble Srijut HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: We have sufficient staff and there is no difficulty in inspecting these schools by our officers if they are so asked.

Acquisition of Land for growing more Food

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

43. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The amount of excess land acquired from landlords for growing more food this year ?

(b) The amount of excess land given by Government to cultivators for growing more food this year ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

43. (a) & (b)—It is not understood what the hon. Member means by "excess land". No land has been acquired from landlords in the interests of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. It is proposed to push on the Colonisation Schemes by adding more land to the Colonisation areas existing in the Assam Valley and starting new areas with the object of bringing more land under cultivation with food crops.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: From the answer it appears "that no land has been acquired from landlords in the interests of the Grow-More-Food Campaign. It is proposed to push on the Colonisation Schemes by adding more land to the Colonisation areas existing in the Assam Valley and starting new areas with the object of bringing more land under cultivation with food crops". May I ask the Hon'ble Minister why Government do not think it desirable to start this Campaign by deforesting forest Illam land for settlement with the cultivators ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The whole question is under examination.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Is it not a very urgent matter and will not this Grow-More-Food Campaign come to an end by the time the Government take up examining the question ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Government consider the problem very very urgent and they are taking all measures possible to expedite.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: If there be suitable candidates for taking settlement of Government forest Illam land, will Government consider their case at an early date ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: It is not a question of suitable candidate alone, it is also a question of suitable area to be made available.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Am I to understand that no attempt has been made to grow more food in the Surma Valley districts ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: That is a separate question, but I can assure my hon. Friend that Surma Valley has not escaped our notice.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: What arrangement has been made by the Government ? Have they appointed any special officer for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: The Commissioner of Divisions has been asked to do everything possible and definite instructions have been issued and he has taken steps accordingly.

Election of members to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Hon. Members know that to-day is the day fixed for holding election of members to the Public Accounts Committee. For some reasons, which I do not like to disclose to the House, I have decided to cancel my previous order as to the time and place of voting. The election will be held to-day ; but it will be held on the floor of this House after 4 P.M.

Announcement of the results of election to the Bengal and Assam Railway (A. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee, the Bengal and Assam Railway (E. B. Zone) Local Advisory Committee and the Central Text Book Committee.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I now announce the results of elections to the three Committees which were already held.

Maulavi Abdur Rahman has been elected as member to the A. B. Zone of the Bengal and Assam Railway Advisory Committee.

Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has been elected as member to the E. B. Zone of the said Advisory Committee ; and the following members have been elected as members of the Central Text Book Committee :—

1. Raja Ajit Narayan Deb,
2. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury,
3. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali,
4. Maulavi Abdur Rahman, and
5. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No. 13

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 a sum not exceeding Rs.32,15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :
"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "29.—Police".
There are 6 Cut Motions. The first one stands in the name of Mr. Mookerjee. I do not think this Motion can be discussed, as the matter has already been discussed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am not going to move it, Sir. When I tabled this Motion, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Chaudhuri, did not bring that Adjournment Motion. This matter has been fully discussed now and we have heard the Hon'ble Premier also. So I do not like to move this Motion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : On a point of order, Sir, is it necessary to congratulate Mr. Mookerjee on the fact that he tops the list in all the Cut Motions ? Is it an accident or is it due to good luck in the ballot ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member knows the rule with regard to arrangement of Cut Motions. This is done according to the value of the cut. The cut of the highest value is put first according to the head of the Budget. Mr. Mookerjee is so clever that he adopted that.

In this connection I may point out that generally I find that in tabling Cut Motions instead of putting down the figure at a sum which is either Rs. 100 or below, a Member chooses a sum according to his own sweet will and I would urge upon the hon. Members that when tabling a Cut Motion, when the intention is to raise a discussion only the amount put down should not exceed Rs. 100. Re.1 cut should generally be accepted as a proper cut.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER : Do you think that is a very good method, Sir? We are very modest in this respect, Sir. We always propose a token cut of Re. 1 only.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I give this latitude to the hon. Members to go up to Rs. 100 and not beyond that.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : May I point out, Sir, that Mr. Abdur Rahman's Cut Motion No. 6 was higher in value than that of Mr. Mookerjee?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : That was according to the head of the grant. Mr. Mookerjee's Cut Motion is under head A but Mr. Abdur Rahman's Cut Motion is under head B. So according to the head to which Mr. Mookerjee's Motion relates, he has got preference.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I have already given way, Sir. My hon. Friends can do whatever they want to do with regard to this grant but not as regards the others.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Mr. Lewis' Motion also stands barred in view of the fact that the matter was discussed the other day. Now either the Cut Motion of Srijut Ghanashyam Das or Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari may be moved.

***Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 68,285 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force (a)—District Police, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 32,15,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to censure Government for undue police oppression.

Sir, in the course of the Budget discussion and in the discussion of the Adjournment Motion, I have heard many things of police oppression in the different districts.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Will the hon. Member come to the microphone, Sir?

***Mr. A. WHITTAKER :** Yes, we do not hear him Sir.

***Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS :** I do not like to dilate upon this fact. But I would like to bring a new fact of police oppression in the Mangaldai subdivision in the district of Darrang before the House. Sir, this is the oppression not upon the Congress volunteers, not upon the political agitators but upon, Sir, innocent persons and most loyal subjects of the Government. Sir, the victims of this oppression are some innocent merchants from Barpeta who have shops in the stations, Lota and Udalguri. Sir, most of them are rich and of high position. Some of them pay high income-tax to the Government and they contributed money to the War Fund. Sir, most of them are agents of Messrs. Steel Brothers and Company who supply

paddy to them for supply to the military. Under these circumstances, I think, no body of this Hon. House would deny that they are the most loyal subjects of this Government. Sir, the story of the case is this. It was alleged by the police that one Gojendra Nath Das purchased sugar from Benares when there was no sugar in the station. He sold a bag of sugar to one man who had a tea stall in Udalguri. That man sold sugar at annas 12 per seer. For the offence of that man Gojendra was held responsible. Sir, it was not proved that Gojendra actually sold sugar to that man. Sir, summons was issued upon him but as at that time, he was at home, the summons could not be served and then warrant was issued. On the 21st February, an ordinary constable named Chandi went to Lota, i.e., to the shop of Gojendra and demanded from him a sum of Rs. 40, else, the constable said, he would be put under hand-cuff. At that time Gojendra was present at the shop. Gojendra refused to give that amount and wanted to see the warrant. The constable could not show the warrant. Actually the warrant was not with him and still he insisted putting Gojendra under hand-cuff. Gojendra then wanted to furnish bail but the constable would not yield to that. In this way he passed three hours at the shop of Gojendra and took tea and *loocho* in his shop. After that Chandi went to one Bhimlal Nepali nearby. After an hour or so he returned and told Gojendra that he would be given bail if he would go to the station and that would be done before the Station Master. Gojendra went to the station and with him also went one Devendra, one Paramananda and one Damoodar. At that time the down train reached the station and there were two patrolling constables. Then Chandi, having seen them reported to them that these men would not allow him to arrest his convict. They ran to them and put all of them under arrest and bound them with ropes and hand-cuffed them and carried all of them to the Udalguri station by that train. When the train stopped at Udalguri one Jamadar Ajimuddin Chaudhuri and two other constables came running to help Chandi. These six men—police officers—dragged them like cats and dogs to the thana. When they reached the thana the police officer Rebati Mohan Shome ordered the Jamadar and the constables to teach them a good lesson. They then began to beat them mercilessly with stones and brasspots. They were beaten so mercilessly that their wailings could be heard from a distance. Then after 15 minutes this Chandi went to Udalguri *hat* and in this *hat* he had a talk with Mahananda Pathak and told him that he was wanted by the officer-in-charge in order to release his brother and his brother-in-law on bail. Mahananda went there with Rs. 600 with him. As soon as he reached the gate of the thana he was arrested and was dragged inside the thana compound. Brutality was committed upon him for the whole night. Thus Rebati Mohan Shome created there for the night a reign of hell. Mahananda Pathak vomitted blood and he is still under treatment at Mangaldai and all of them have got deep injuries. These unfortunate men under the police oppression got thirsty and begged the officer-in-charge water to drink. Then this Rebati Mohan Shome ordered the constables to bring urine from a tribal woman. Is it law, Sir? Can any hon. Member say that in a civilised form of Government people are arrested without warrant? We do not know for what offence they were arrested and that was done by the ordinary constables and they were beaten under the order of the officer-in-charge so brutally that they were to vomit blood.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member should finish now. ***Srijit GHANASHYAM DAS:** Yes, Sir, I am finishing. Sir, next morning they were taken to Mangaldai and were released on bail. Sir, next did not submit the charge sheet up to 7th March and the matter was reported to the Superintendent of Police but no step was taken up till then.

**Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.*

It is brutal oppression. Should not Government take step in such cases? With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 68,285 under Grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force—(a)—District Police, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 89 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 32,15,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 101".

***Srijut BEPIN CHANDRA MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that police oppression and excesses are rampant throughout the whole Province. Innocent persons are oppressed by police without letting them know the offence against them. The case just now cited by the hon. Mover is known to me also. Here constable Chandi refused to show the warrant to Gojendra probably because there was no warrant issued at all. Their assault on the persons of Gojendra, Paramananda and Damodar continued in the train till they reached the next station. On instructions from police one Mahananda of Udalguri went to stand as security for the arrested persons, but to his ill luck he was also arrested. The police began to beat them mercilessly and the result is that Mahananda is still bed-ridden. Sir, out of these arrested persons Gojendra and Mahananda are men of position, belonging to respectable families. They pay income-tax and have contributed handsomely to the war fund and I should like to mention here that Gojendra is a brother of an hon. Member of this House.

There are patrolling constables both in Tangla and Harisinga stations. It is alleged that they commit excesses in the neighbouring villages. They demand money and if the villagers refuse the constables threaten them with their guns they carry along with them. In November last, two patrolling constables in Tangla suddenly appeared in the house of one Rahial Jaldha, just by the side of the Railway road in Jalah village. It is alleged that the police demanded money and ordered Rahial to produce his grown up daughter before them. The daughter out of fear however fled before the constables reached their courtyard. Then the constables being disappointed both ways entered into his house and destroyed the catables. In February last, it is said that three patrolling constables of Harisinga went to one Ghasi of Kathalguri village in Harisinga Mauza. They demanded twenty rupees otherwise Ghasi would be sent to the war front. Also they asked him for his daughter. The girl was sent immediately to a neighbouring house. The constables exacted five rupees from Ghasi and left the place.

In November last, some villagers of Rangamati were arrested as they stopped one boat in which some maunds of rice were being exported to Gauhati. The rice was distributed among the villagers, and on complaint from the Mahajan, one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and some police constables were deputed to arrest the accused persons. This party consisting of 5 to 6 persons raided every house of Rangamati in search of rice belonging to the Mahajan. It is alleged that villagers were insulted and in most cases assaulted by the Sub-Inspector of Police and even women were not exempted. More than 20 persons including one woman were arrested and taken to Mangaldai. Sir, Rangamati is 5 miles from Mangaldai. The Sub-Inspector and his party were all in bicycles and the arrested persons had to run this long distance along with them. If some body fell back he was beaten with sticks.

Sir, such are the dealings and behaviour rendered by police staff in Assam. They have no right to assault and punish persons. There are law courts whose duty is to convict persons if allegations against them are proved true.

*Speech not corrected by the hon. Member.

Sir, I have no grudge against any particular individual of this Department. But what I say is that police in general have become oppressive throughout the whole Province. I appeal to the Hon'ble Premier that instructions should be issued forthwith so that policemen become really *shantirakkhiyak*.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Sir, all hon. Members of this House are, I think, entitled to know more after hearing of this alleged oppression. Would my Friend very kindly say whether any of the twenty persons who were assaulted took any further steps before the courts to file their complaints and asked for action? And secondly, might I suggest that no policeman can ride a bicycle and bring arrested persons alongside him? Only circus trick riders can do that. I suggest that part of the story is not worthy of belief by any hon. Member of this House.

***Srijut BEPIN CHANDRA MEDHI:** From the Rangamati area, Sir, more than 20 persons were convicted by the Magistrate concerned and the convicted men did not lodge any *ejahar* lest the police would oppress them again. As regards the second point, there were three constables who were on bicycles and the arrested persons had to run not after the bicycles but just in front of them. The constables, Sir, I may inform the House, had long sticks, *i.e.*, police clubs with them.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In this connection I like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Premier another alleged excess done by the police as reported to me. This is regarding the Shillong lock-up. Sir, I understand that some persons when arrested and kept in the lock-up remain hand-cuffed even inside the lock-up. If the Hon'ble Premier can enlighten us on this point after an enquiry, I shall be much pleased. It is really very much regrettable if such thing happens.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I crave your indulgence for a moment whilst I say something on this question?

Not only now but in the past we have heard many attacks on the Police; accusations of oppression, alleged acts of injustice, and so on and so forth. We do not for a moment deny that acts of excessive zeal and injustice on the part of individual members of Police forces throughout the world do take place. But now, we feel, the time has come for us to say something in praise of our Police. Generally speaking, Sir, the Police of this Province during the recent and deplorable acts of brutality, murder, and arson, committed by *goondas*, behaved in a tactful, brave, loyal and restrained manner. Had they behaved otherwise, I think, the disturbances would have assumed graver proportions and we should not be as well off as we are in these days. Specifically, Sir, we in the Golaghat Subdivision have had our full share, probably more than our full share, of these troubles, and I wish to pay a very high tribute to those members of the Police force on whose shoulders this particular burden was thrust. They quelled those disturbances in a manner which showed their tactfulness, bravery and devotion to duty. Their patience, loyalty and devotion to duty were strained at times beyond human ability to bear, and yet they stuck it. Contrary to censuring Government for acts of oppression committed by their Police, I for one congratulate them on having such a body of loyal men to assist them in maintaining loyalty, discipline and law and order in our province.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I got notice of these Motions, I was expecting that I would hear some discussion about the police being generally oppressive

*Speech not corrected by the hon. Member,

and having committed excesses throughout the Province. But fortunately I find that cases of such oppression have been related to this House by only two Members, and black spot seems to be the Mangaldai subdivision of the Darrang district. I was listening with great interest and amusement to the narrative of my hon. Friend, Srijut Ghanashyam Das. While he was speaking I believed that he was an eye witness to the occurrence, I was mistaken by the favour with which he spoke. I am thankful to him for giving me the details which probably he got either from those people who are alleged to have been oppressed or by means of a letter. Any way, as there is a complaint case already filed before the Magistrate of Mangaldai, who has taken some action, I will wait to see the result of this complaint. Whatever be the fate of that complaint, I will make an enquiry about this alleged oppression after the Court examination has been finished.

As regards the allegation made by Mr. Bepin Chandra Medhi, I need only say, Sir, that as regards the running part of the oppression is concerned, he said that he saw it from the Bar Library. I doubt, without casting any reflection on the veracity of the statement made by my hon. Friend, whether there is any police man who will dare do this kind of oppressive act in front of the Magistrate's Court and of the Bar Library which is full of pleaders and also other policemen. It is also curious that although 22 people were challenged by the police, they did not lodge any complaint against the police. If these people had really any case against the police, if these allegations of assault and insult made by them were facts, they would have taken the help of lawyer. The statements made by Srijut Bepin Ch. Medhi are far too general and I am unable to promise any enquiry into the alleged instance; but so far Srijut Ghanashyam Das's story is concerned, I have already promised to take action.

My burden has been very much lightened by Mr. Blennerhassett. I must admit that there are black sheep in every fold. There may be such men as alleged by Mr. Ghanashyam Das in the inferior ranks of the police. But they have behaved in a very troublous and provocative time in a manner which deserves all our commendations. (*Hear, hear.*) The police have been intimidated, their properties have been destroyed, threatening letters have been received by them and in certain district, Sir, an Assistant Sub-Inspector has actually been murdered by a set of people who have started a programme of arson and wreckage of both private and public property, but yet generally the police force has behaved with the greatest fortitude and patience.

My hon. Friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee has been told that in the Shillong lock-up under-tiral prisoners are kept hand-cuffed. I will enquire into this allegation, and if this is a fact, it will surely be removed.

I do not think that I need place any further material before the House regarding the allegation that the police have become oppressive. Only Srijut Bepin Chandra Medhi has made some allegation about the Managaldai Subdivision, but from that he made the generalisation that the behaviour of the police throughout the Province is intolerable. I don't think this will find general acceptance. The police have got to do very difficult work at the present moment. The enemy is at the gate; there may be bombardments in some places of the Province and there is disorder rampant even now within the Province. For example, the recent report is that in one particular spot called Sootia in the Darrang district there have been burning of four houses within a week. Similarly a very recent case of sabotage near about Rangiya took place. A goods train was derailed by the removal of one whole length of line. One fireman was killed on the spot; another died later on in hospital and the driver is still in a precarious

condition. In order to find out the culprits of this nefarious act which caused the death of two innocent men and the life of another now hanging in the balance, the police shall have to make enquiries, and I am sure I shall be faced with either another Adjournment Motion or with allegation of police *zooloo*, if the police did their duty. There would have been no occasion for a police enquiry or for an Adjournment Motion had not the initiative been taken by these so-called patriots who have taken to arson, murder and wrecking of property to wrest the independence of India.

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Discussion of this grant will continue till 12-40. Maulavi Abdur Rahman may move his Motion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.32,15,000 under grant No.13, Major head 29.—Police, at page 87 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.500, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.32,15,000 do stand reduced by Rs.500.

The object of the Cut Motion is to criticise the policy of the Department particularly with regard to transfer, etc.

Sir, the period through which we are passing now is an abnormal one because we are practically living under a regime which can well be styled as 'extraordinary regime'. The Defence of India Rules have been promulgated throughout the whole country and the acts which now govern the administration of the provinces—I am particularly concerned with my own province—are emergent Acts, and during this emergency period, the Police in general have understood that they are some important administrators of the Province. There are certain Police Officers who by virtue of their good fortune, have been promoted to higher positions, *i.e.*, from Constable to Sub-Inspector and from Sub-Inspector to Deputy Superintendent of Police and so on and so forth. These people have not, in their prime of youth, received proper education and by simply flattering the Government they are now getting higher posts. Sir, I will just tell a very funny story before the hon. Members of this House. Once in a particular case, one Daroga had to depose in a Munsiff's court and from his diary he was quoting "Janjalbad". This matter had a reference to the unhappy incident of "Jalianwalabagh" and this Daroga could not write out "Jalianwalabagh"; so in place of "Jalianwalabagh", he wrote down "Janjalbad". One gentleman spoke about 'Jalianwalabagh' but the Daroga could not pronounce it. This is the nature of some of the Officers; of course, I quite appreciate the remarks of Mr. Blennerhassett that the Police people are not at fault in general but there are some Officers who simply by sheer good fortune occupy higher positions. These things deserve some serious consideration of the Government. I will narrate two other incidents. During the 93 Administration, two cases were instituted under section 56(4) of the Defence of India Rules. I myself also was an accused in one case. When I came before the court, I was really taken by surprise when I heard that the things which I never uttered have found place in the diary of the Police Officers.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is the hon. Member defending himself?

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: No, Sir. In the Lower Court in one case some were imprisoned for one year and others for six months but when it came to Sessions Judge, the punishment was reduced and the culprits

were fined to the extent of Rs.10 each. The Sessions Judge remarked that the Police Officers should be punitive instead of being preventive.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information, Sir, is it relating to transfer?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let me see what he says.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Then I come to the question of transfer. Some Officers remain in particular places for more than eight years. That is, say one officer, was first a Sub-Inspector in one place and then was promoted as Inspector there. Now again he is put there as Inspector, Criminal Investigation Department branch. This practice is absolutely unhappy and undesirable. Particularly Criminal Investigation Department Staff should not be allowed to be stationed at a place semi-permanently so as to allow him to grow friends and relations there.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, I cannot allow the hon. Member to proceed further. We have reached the time-limit. I am putting the question.

The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.32,15,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '29—Police.'"

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 19

39.—Public Health

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,88,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,88,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health'."

There are six Cut Motions but I think, only two Cut Motions particularly No. 1 and No. 6 should be discussed. If any one of them is moved then all other Members, against whose names there are Cut Motions, may also take part in the discussion. I should also tell the hon. Members that discussions on this Demand would continue up to 2-30 p. m.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 40,809 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendent and other establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 131 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.211, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,88,100, do stand reduced by Rs.211.

Sir, I have tabled this Motion to criticise Government for their policy with regard to the Public Health Department.

Sir, every year we discuss about the wretched condition of this department and though we get some sort of assurance every year, in the practical field, we find that no improvement is being made. Sir, in 1941-42, Rs 9,24,000 were spent and so far as the current year is concerned, the amount that will be required under revised estimate is Rs.9,33,000. The provision for next year, i. e., 1943-44 is Rs.9,24,000. So we find, Sir, that the

amount that will be required for this year, even that amount has not been provided in the Budget for the next year. So, Sir, if I say that this Department is not getting proper attention, rather it is being neglected, I think, I shall be excused by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge. Sir, so far as the propaganda side is concerned, it was admitted by the Hon'ble Minister that this is the most important branch and in reply to my Cut Motion last year she also admitted that the remark made by me, *viz.*, prevention is better than cure should strictly be observed in this Department. She requested the hon. Members to make propaganda. Now Sir, I like to repeat the same remark and request her that not only in the working of this Department but also at the time of preparing the Budget of this Department to consult some representatives of the villagers—I do not mean from the Opposition Benches but from her own Group. The time and trouble of replying to our criticisms may be saved and better results may be obtained. Sir, I can quite realise that it is very difficult to imagine the real condition of the poor villagers while residing in this Capital Town of the Province a well-known health resort.

Sir, it will be found from the Budget that so far as the water supply project is concerned, the money allotted last year was Rs.38,000, but this year it is Rs. 29,000. Again the number of men engaged for propaganda work remains just the same; the amount allotted for village sanitation last year was Rs. 4,926 but this year it is Rs.3,000. These are the figures from which the hon. Members will understand whether we are making any progress in this Department. So far as the public health officers are concerned, the number is just the same. About the Golaghat Health Unit we heard many things on the floor of the House, but, Sir, we do not find any trace of it now. The number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for vaccination remains just the same. Sir, these are the persons required at the bottom who will really impart benefit to the villagers. Sir, I must admit that one Assistant Surgeon has been increased this year, but one point should be remembered and that is this: unless the present dual system prevailing in this Department is removed this increase of one, two or three Assistant Surgeons will not help. Sir, the present procedure is this: the Civil Surgeon is practically in charge of a district though there are two Assistant Directors of Public Health. Many times we have criticised them, but, Sir, now I find that those people have got very little scope to do any work because the procedure that is being followed at present is very anomalous. I suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that if she does not like to get rid of these officers (Assistant Director of Public Health) she should make three divisions and put them entirely in charge of these divisions so that people may be saved at the time of any epidemic; these officers should not wait for the orders that will first come from the Civil Surgeon, in case of whose failure it will go to the Director of Public Health who will write to them again. In the meantime many people will die. Sir, in this connection, I think, it will not be out of place to mention the Habiganj incident of last year; 500 men died in course of three months in the subdivision of Habiganj. So far as my information goes, this happened under one thana only, *viz.*, Lakhai thana and in 3 or 4 villages.

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am discussing the general policy, Sir, and I hope I will be allowed a little more time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But there are other Members who will speak. The hon. Member has already taken more than seven minutes.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, so far as the Assam Pure Food Act is concerned, it still remains only in the Statute Book. Dispensaries

are few and far between, and the stock of medicines is so meagre that these dispensaries exist only in name. Now I come to quinine and that is my last point, Sir. I wish to take advantage of what the Hon'ble Premier said last year on the floor of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There has been discussion about quinine on other days of this Session also.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I did not get replies to all the points raised by us from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests. The Hon'ble Premier spoke in one way last year and the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Forests has replied in another way this year; they are conflicting. The Hon'ble Premier said that it would be of no use unless we could have at least 100 acres under cinchona cultivation, but to-day we heard that not more than 25 acres would be taken up this year. The money budgeted this year is practically the same that was budgeted last year, and the Hon'ble Premier said that the amount was for the maintenance of the area under cultivation. If the maintenance cost is Rs.8,000 and the same amount has been budgeted this year, are we not entitled to think that this amount will go for maintenance only? How can the question of taking up new areas come in? These are very plain things, and I hope you will...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There should be some finality of these discussions about cinchona cultivation. The matter was discussed threadbare the other day and I think the hon. Members should not discuss a matter again which has already been discussed.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The Public Health Budget is the right place for discussing this matter, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But why did the hon. Member discuss this point the other day under General Administration?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I did not raise this point, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the hon. Member did not object to that point being raised.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Very well, Sir, as I told you before that this would be my last point though I had several other points to discuss and as I am not allowed to speak on this point I do not like to say anything more and I resume my seat commending my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.40,809 under Grant No. 19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—A.—Public Health Establishment—(a)—Superintendence and other Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 131 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.211, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,88,100 do stand reduced by Rs.211.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw attention to one particular point which was referred to by Mr. Mookerjee. Sir, in the months of August and September last, malaria broke out in certain parts of Lakhai thana in an epidemic form; in three or four villages the death roll mounted up to 500 and people attacked were much more. According to the report I received from the localities the number of persons attacked was about 700, and more than 500 people died. After I returned from the last November Session I got this information. I enquired of the local Assistant Surgeon, who said that in spite of his repeated requisition to the Government for immediate supply of quinine he did not receive any and so he could not cope with the situation. The Chairman of the Local Board also said that he sent timely requisition to the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, and having no response from the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet, he approached the Assistant Director of Public Health. The Assistant Director of Public

Health had the good sense to go to the locality. When he appeared there the death roll was already more than 500. This is a unique event in History. I have never heard that from malaria attack in three or four villages in one thana so many persons ever died. I put questions two months back for eliciting information regarding this matter, but you will be surprised, Sir, to know that no information has been supplied to me as yet. I want to know why the Civil Surgeon did not send quinine and other things timely to the Assistant Surgeon to enable him to cope with the situation. Of course, quinine was abundantly supplied later on, but not before the death roll exceeded 500. I have been told that in a family of 11 persons all the eleven died and no one was left to bury the corpses. One member left home after 10 people of his family had died, but he had to come back for the love of his property, and then he also died by the attack of malaria.

I learn that some people of the village went as labourers to work in some military projects, and there they contracted this type of malaria, never heard of before, and it was they who contaminated the villagers on their return.

Now, Sir, another very lamentable.....

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

After lunch

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I was referring to the horrible state of affairs which occurred at the River Lobha in the district of Sylhet. It is reported that the labourers engaged for collecting shingles for military purpose were attacked with cholera and many of them died. It was also noticed that some people died on boat and some dead bodies were floating in the river. That shows that no proper medical aid was rendered to those people. Sir, I shall conclude after referring to one or two more points.

As regards Habiganj affairs, the Habiganj Local Board recently adopted a resolution drawing the attention of Government that they should be more particular in supplying quinine wherever it was found necessary. The Chairman was also condemned for not purchasing quinine from open market.

Next point is who is responsible for the lives of more than 500 innocent cultivators of villages Montail, Karab and Singram, etc. So my request to the Hon'ble Minister is that she should find out the officers who failed to render medical help to those people in time.

With these words, I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to answer these questions.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than one thousand labourers were engaged at Lobha by the contractors and there was none to look after them from the medical side. It was found that some people died in boats floating in the river. Such being the state of affairs, should we not censure the Government? How can we be optimistic? But, Sir, as we have a lady Minister at the helm of these affairs we are modest enough to criticise her action.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why? The hon. Member can criticise her as strongly as he wants.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: We the people generally respect that feminine capacity.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: What does the hon. Member mean by feminine capacity?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order, let the hon. Member go on with his speech.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: We find that labourers were engaged where military operations were going on. But whenever Indian labourers are engaged, we find that there is want of medical aid. People have been found sick, people have been found dead not only of cholera but of malaria, dysentery and other diseases. I am only referring to these things to convince the House whether they should not censure the Government. Those who personally see this state of things cannot report to the authority because their hands are likely to be tied up by the police. With these words, I resume my seat.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall speak only for a few minutes. I like to make a request to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Health Department, to retain the services of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon who has been deputed to the malaria-affected area in Lakhai Thana, for some time more. Now that the disease has been checked, Government may withdraw the Sub-Assistant Surgeon from there. But it is certainly necessary that we should wait till the next malaria season is over and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will see that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon deputed there will be retained for some time more.

Then I have got another suggestion to make to the Hon'ble Minister. There is a provision of Rs. 7,500 for Chemical Examiner, Bengal. This amount goes to the Chemical Examiner of the Government of Bengal. We have got a chemical laboratory here in the Pasteur Institute and we should utilise this amount in our own laboratory and develop our own laboratory. It is no use sending this big amount year after year to another Government when we have a chemical laboratory of our own, where we can do a lot of things. Recently, Sir, certain tests were carried out by the Bio-Chemical Standardisation Laboratory, Calcutta, and it was found that 75 per cent. of the quinine now available in the Indian market is adulterated. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that Assam should remain satisfied with quinine obtained from outside. Our Public Health Department should see that without taking the help of quinine obtained from elsewhere we can extract some drugs from our own forest resources. The Kashmir Government has already engaged the services of Sir Colonel Chopra for extracting drugs from forest resources. Why should Assam lag behind in this project, I don't see? About water supply, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee has said something and I would also like to emphasise the same. Cholera and typhoid are having their own toll in the Province. These are water-borne diseases and due to want of supply of proper drinking water in rural and also in some town areas—these two diseases are not being checked as yet. I think, Sir, even the sum of Rs. 2 lacs is not too much for the purpose. If it is necessary, we should borrow the money for this purpose and see that our water supply is improved. With these words, Sir, I support the Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: At this stage I would ask Doctor Terrell to move his Motion so that the Hon'ble Minister may give one reply.

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 1,12,794 under grant No. 19, Major head—39—Public Health, Minor Head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 8,88,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of Government to the present serious and increasing shortage of supply of essential medicines for industrial and private needs in this province, which is already resulting in a considerable increase in sickness generally. It is fully realised that a certain shortage is inevitable in the case of imported

medicines; but this need not apply to indigenous drugs and those manufactured in this country.

Every encouragement should be given by the Central and Provincial Governments to stimulate increased production and manufacture of any of these items that can be produced in India.

Assam is particularly unfortunate in respect of allotments of medicines, and this is largely due to the fact that we have practically no large commercial firms whose business it is to cope with indents on any considerable scale and we have always been dependent on supplies from the big firms in Calcutta and Bombay.

It is a common experience now when a modest indent of requirements is submitted to any Calcutta firm for it to be returned largely uncompleted. We are told that common medicines, dressings and appliances, such as asperin, bicarbonate of soda, salicylate of soda, cotton wool, syringes and thermometers are not available. References to the Controller of Civil Supplies, Bengal, for assistance in the matter have been known to elicit the reply that certain supplies are reserved for Bengal only.

This compels the agent attempting to complete an indent to seek for his requirements in the black market where he is often partially successful at greatly increased cost, and such supplies are of course quite unreliable.

I am sure every one appreciates the difficulties and burdens of responsibility which are being shouldered by our Government and in particular by the Prime Minister, and I have no desire in any way to add to these unnecessarily. It is, however, of vital importance that this question should be faced and tackled without any further loss of time.

Certain of the most important medical supplies and drugs are controlled by the Government of India and as a preliminary step it will be advisable for arrangements to be made for block allotments through the Central Government. It is also suggested that the Assam Government arrange with the Controller of Civil Supplies, Bengal Circle, to release a portion at least of the requirements for industrial organisations in Assam. It is possible that a solution for our difficulties may be found in the establishment of a central distributing organisation placed on a proper business footing and under the auspices of Government. For commercial undertakings such as the larger industries, this might conveniently be centralised in Calcutta with another organisation, say in Shillong, to cope with the needs of the rest of the community.

Whatever is decided, I sincerely hope there will be no delay, and that the few remarks that I have made will help to convince Government of the real need and urgency for organising the purchase and distribution of essential medical supplies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was under the impression when I made these few notes that the question of supply of quinine was going to be separately discussed. May I be permitted, Sir, to impress upon this House the great importance of the subject of the supply of quinine?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I did not rule out the supply of quinine, but I ruled out the discussion of cinchona cultivation.

Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs.1,12,794 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,88,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my object in supporting the Motion moved by my friend Mr. Mookerjee is to draw the attention of Government to a fresh aspect of this question of the supply of quinine and in particular the position as it affects the province. The Government of

India to date have issued some 1,600 lbs. of this essential drug for use of private consumers including industries for the 6 months ending June of this year. The requirements of the tea industry alone have been estimated at some 3,500 lbs. for the half year which, I think, shows complete inadequacy of the issues made by the Central Government. These are apparently based on 70 grains being the amount of quinine required for one complete treatment. In our view of the fact, the minimum amount of quinine required for one complete treatment is at least 200 grains which is equivalent to 20 grains for 10 days. In the opinion of many Medical Officers, this treatment would be barely sufficient to effect a cure. We are aware that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given us an assurance that everything is being and will be done to bring the seriousness of the situation before the Government of India and this assurance we welcome. In the absence, however, of any marked increase in the supply of this drug from the Central Government we wish to stress two points.

Firstly, it is essential that the distribution of the available supply to private consumers should be executed promptly. The present system, we understand, is for indents to be submitted to the Director of Public Health monthly. We suggest that such indents should be submitted either after three months or better still half yearly for supplies to be made as they become available. This procedure, we think, should materially assist the distribution machinery in making prompt deliveries, the importance of which cannot too highly be stressed.

Secondly, we have reason to believe that the execution of hundreds of indents every month will place a very heavy strain on the office of the Director of Public Health and his Department whose staff may well be found to be quite inadequate for this huge volume of work. If such a situation should arise we would urge upon the Government the urgent need for providing additional staff so that the work of distribution may be carried out with as little delay as possible. I need hardly emphasise the fact that the stock of quinine in the hands of private consumers is either nil or at best extremely small. Undue delay from the Provincial supply centre will highly aggravate a position which has already become extremely serious.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: Sir, of the two Departments committed to the care of the Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn what strikes us most is her step-motherly treatment towards the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Public Health Department. Doctors of both Medical and Public Health Departments have got the same qualifications both academic and experience, yet the disparity in their service conditions is most marked. As this disparity is causing a good deal of heartburning and in order that it may not impair their efficiency in service I like to make a few observations so that steps may be taken for removing this disparity to ensure better and more willing service from them.

Firstly, Sir, Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Medical Department are entitled to promotion to the cadre of Assistant Surgeons but the Sub Assistant Surgeons of Public Health Department are not so entitled though the nature of their duty calls for more arduous work under difficult conditions and environment.

Secondly, Sir, both sets of doctors are provided with quarters for their occupation but, in cases mostly in towns, where no such quarters are provided Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Medical Department are allowed house rent at the rate of Rs. 20 per month whereas Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Public Health Department are given Rs. 10 per month even when we see that doctors in the Public Health Department when in town have got to keep two establishments—one at town and another in the Muffasil while on tour.

Thirdly, Sir, a word about their private practice. Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department are allowed private practice whereas the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Public Health are not allowed to do so. The reason urged is that the services of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Public Health are meant for prevention of diseases. Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Public Health are not even allowed to treat a sick neighbour professionally, but the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department are given facilities for private practice even in hospital hours. They must attend sick-beds on humanitarian grounds but the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department need go only when paid. To this I refer the Hon'ble Prime Minister's reply to my question on pages 773 and 774 of Budget Session of 1940.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: I am very thankful to the hon. Members for giving me an opportunity of speaking a few words in connection with the Public Health Department. Mr. Mookerjee, as usual, has criticised this Department and has condemned it. He has stressed the need for propaganda. For his information I may say that we do carry on propaganda through lantern slides and the subjects dealt with are cholera, tuberculosis, kala-azar, malaria etc. When Assistant Surgeons go out on inspection in the districts of Kamrup, Cachar, Darrang, Nowgong and Sibsagar they take advantage of public gatherings, give demonstrations and do as much propaganda as possible.

As regards water supply, this should normally come under Local Boards, but still Government give some grant for rural water supply. It is said that the Assam Pure Food Act is not effective. Government have, time and again, requested the Local Boards to see that it is put into operation but the Local Bodies are absolutely indifferent. If the hon. Member wishes Government to compel the Local Board under rules to send specimens for examination, that suggestion may be considered; but the best way is to create public opinion against food adulteration and make the Local Bodies up and doing in this matter. Mr. Rahman has referred to the Malaria epidemic which broke out at Habiganj. He put in several questions on this subject and they should have come before the House ere now. He alleged that due to lack of prompt action on the part of the Civil Surgeon, Sylhet Malaria took a heavy toll and that is responsible for so many deaths. I will make an enquiry into this.

The hon'ble Mr. Abdur Rahman has also raised the question of medical treatment of labourers employed by the military contractors. As a matter of fact the military authorities have made an agreement with their contractors that the contractors should be specifically responsible for the medical treatment of their own labourers. Even then as soon as information was received that cholera had broken out in the particular area referred to, Government took prompt action and sent 3 Sub-Assistant Surgeons to attend to those affected. Altogether 3,174 inoculations were done.

As usual the hon'ble Mr. Deb has made some constructive suggestions. I shall bear those in mind and see if effect can be given to them.

With regard to the questions raised by Dr. Terrell and Mr. Moore the whole thing requires a very long explanation and I am requesting the Hon'ble Prime Minister to make a statement on the subject when he makes his statement on the food question.

The Hon'ble the Speaker: Does any of the hon. Member press his Motion?

Dr. C. G. TERRELL: I do, Sir.

The Hon'ble the Speaker: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.1,12,794 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, Minor head—C.—Epidemic diseases, Sub-head—(a)—Malaria (total), at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the

amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,88,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

I hope Dr. Terrell will withdraw his Motion.

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

The Hon'ble the Speaker : The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,88,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 17

37.—EDUCATION—OTHER THAN EUROPEAN

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 not exceeding Rs.43,90,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "37.—Education (other than European)".

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : On a point of order, Sir, the Hon'ble Education Minister, the Mover of the grant, cannot move for granting a lesser amount, which is already provided in the Budget, *i.e.*, he should move for the grant of Rs.44,06,000 and not for Rs.43,90,500 and in this connection I may request, Sir, to refer to page 32 of the Budget Memorandum and page 109 of the Budget. It goes—"*Direct grants to non-Government Secondary Schools.*—The revised follows the current year's Budget and calls for no comments. The increase of Trs.14 in the Budget as compared with the current year's grant is due to the inclusion of the following new items totalling Trs.33, details of which are given in Appendix A, partly counter-balanced by smaller provision for recurring grants based on actual sanctions (Trs.11) and to the omission of certain non-recurring provisions."

Here we find an increase of Rs.14,000 in the Budget as compared with the current year. But if you open page 31, Sir, you will find that there is a difference of only Rs.4,000, *i.e.* 4,07,000 in the current year's Budget and in the revised Rs.4,31,000. Then I may draw your attention to page 32 of the Budget Memorandum under "Non-excluded areas".

	Rs.
1. Special grants to Government Aided High and Middle English Schools in Assam to compensate the loss of fees in granting of half free studentships to plains tribal pupils	3,000
2. Increased and capital grants to the Sylhet Harijan Hostel	1,344
3. Maintenance grants to new schools to be brought on to the aided list and increased grants to some existing schools and also for giving building and equipment grants	25,000
4. Provision for teaching Elementary Scientific Knowledge in Aided High Schools for boys and girls	9,000
5. Building grant to the Khowang High School, Dibrugarh	1,000
6. Building grant to the George Institution, Dibrugarh	2,000
7. Staffing of Government Middle English Schools for girls	1,200
Total	32,544

In the total there is a mistake, Sir, it should be Rs.12,000. Then, Sir, if you open page 109 of the Budget you will find that in 1942-43 in Recurring Grants for Boys' Schools the Revised Estimate is Rs.3,27,994 and the Budget Estimate is Rs.3,27,994. But in the current year according to the present Budget the amount has been decreased by Rs.9,000. We get no explanation for that amount—how the allotment has been diminished. Then again, Sir, for Girls' School.....

The Hon'ble the Speaker: I do not think any discussion is at all necessary. The Hon'ble Minister would come before the House for granting those sums which he has omitted now. If he does not come he will himself be in difficulty afterwards.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: With due respect, Sir, I say he cannot come for supplementary grants for that amount, as this has already been provided in the Budget.

The Hon'ble the Speaker: If the Hon'ble Minister is moving for a lesser sum than what has been shown in the detailed estimate he will have to come for the vote of the House for the balance. It is his lookout whether he would come again before the House with a Demand.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: It is seen that so much amount has been provided for Non-recurring Building grants.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: For the mistake the Hon'ble Minister will suffer.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Ultimately we shall suffer. We shall not get a single rupee for building grants.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble Minister is moving for a lesser sum I cannot ask him to move for a greater sum.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: With due respect, Sir, I want to point out that there is a provision already in the Budget and I submit that he cannot move for a lesser amount.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, that provision is not submitted to the House. It may be through mistake or for some other reasons. I do not know.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: It may be intentional, Sir, when so much money has been provided for non-recurring grants.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order. According to the rules of procedure I shall place the Motion for a discussion by the House and if the hon. Member likes to reject the Demand he can do so with the vote of the House.

Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.43,90,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head “37.—Education (other than European)”.

Mr. Mookerjee is to move Cut Motion No. 1 standing in his name.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Does not Motion No. 24 come first, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: All cuts are generally on the total Demand. Ultimately it is a cut on the total Demand. So any of the Motions can be moved. After the hon. Member moves the Motion other hon. Members may speak.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg, Sir, to move that the provision of Rs. 3,23,711 under Grant No. 17, Major Head—37.—Education, Minor Head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—I.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 225, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.225.

Sir, while replying to my previous Cut Motion, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Public Health remarked that, "as usual", I criticised her Department. But, Sir, I am fortunate enough that so far as this Department is concerned, I am not going to criticise the Government but I am going to give some suggestions, relating to a few important branches, which I think, for some reason or other, did escape the notice of the Hon'ble Minister for Education.

Sir, I must admit that some improvement has been made in the Education Budget not only this year, but last year also, we observed the similar tendency and I expressed my own opinion about this Department on the floor of this House. Now coming to my suggestions mentioned above, first I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister the case of the Sylhet Women's College. The Hon'ble Minister during last October was pleased to visit the college and made some remarks in the inspection report book. In the remarks he appreciated the progress of the institution and clearly expressed his opinion that the institution deserves and should get all possible sympathetic treatment from the Government. This year the College has applied for its affiliation up to the B.A. standard and fortunately the Inspectors' reports are in favour of it. In their report they have mentioned of the remarks of the Hon'ble Minister. They also were convinced that some material and increased help would be coming to this institution from this year but nothing has been done. So I think, the Hon'ble Minister will see his way to increase the grant of this institution from the next year. By next year I mean the year regarding which we are discussing the Demands for grants, *i.e.*, 1943-44.

Other non-Government Arts Colleges, I mean, (1) the Gurucharan College, Silchar, (2) Madhabchandra College, Barpeta (3) Brindaban College, Habiganj and the (4) the Madan Mohan College, Sylhet, should also be sympathetically considered. Madan Mohan College has been provided with a non-recurring grant, but this College has also applied for affiliation up to the B. A. standard. Unless an increased recurring grant is given, it will be difficult for this institution to maintain its standard. There is one special feature in this College, Sir, it is that it has got Commerce classes which is not existent in any other Government or non-Government Colleges in the Surma Valley.

Sir, as regards the salary and scale of pay of Assistant Lecturers, I raised this question last year and year before last also in this House, and got varieties of assurances. Sir, this is really a long felt genuine grievance. These Assistant Lecturers submitted several memorials to Government. They have got a scale of pay which is rather insulting to their academic qualification. Their prayer is that just after confirmation in the third year they should get automatic promotion and there should be one scale namely from Rs.150 to Rs.650 and those who will hold charge of departments should get some allowance for that. Everything is there in the memorials. I appeal to Government to accept their prayer.

Sir, I am tempted to thank Government for their decision to take up Earle Law College on a permanent basis, and it is high time that it should be done, but noticing the condition of the Lecturers, I hesitate to offer my thanks. I do not understand why Government has treated these Lecturers rather most unsympathetically. When first in 1914 the College was started their salary was Rs.200 per month, but in 1934 or 1935 on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee it was reduced to Rs. 150. Now, Sir, when the College is going to be taken up on a permanent basis, I think these Lecturers should get Rs. 200 which they used to get originally. Morning time is most valuable for the lawyers and these Lecturers have to deliver lectures in the morning which means professional loss.

Sir, as regards Bengali and Sanskrit Departments, our Government is rather unmindful; I welcome the decision of the Government in creating two posts for Professorship both in Arabic and Persian. I think in the fitness of things the Sanskrit and Bengali Departments also should have been made separate along with the Arabic and Persian and there should have been two Professors in charge of these two different departments.

Sir, last year, I raised a point regarding the creation of one more post of Professor of English in the Murarichand College. I find that Government has kindly paid their attention to this. But one thing is really amusing to note that three or four posts in class I of the Assam Educational Service have been created in different departments, and so far as the English Department is concerned, this will take effect from July 1943, whereas in other cases this will take effect either from the 1st of March or 1st of April. There must be some misunderstanding in the minds of the people. In all fairness I think this decision of Government ought to be changed and given effect to from the 1st of April next.

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved: "That the provision of Rs. 3,23,711 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 225, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 225."

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY : I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs. 43,90,500 under grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee began from the top *i.e.*, the College Education and I want to impress upon the House from the bottom of the Educational Institutions, *i.e.*, Primary Education. It is a well-known fact that the system under which the Primary Schools are being managed is a defective one. Generally the schools are started in venture system and the Boards give grants-in-aid to these schools according to their choice. Following this system, we find, Sir, that there are more schools in some localities while there are localities where there are few schools. For this reason, you will find, Sir, that in every Subdivision of the province, number of Venture Schools gradually die out. If a survey is made, it will be found that the distribution of the Primary Schools is very unsatisfactory. The other day we sat in a conference here in connection with the Mass Literacy Scheme and we were told by the Hon'ble Education Minister that compulsory education was a matter which we could not think of now under the present state of financial situation. In order to remedy the faulty distribution of the schools, I think, Government should adopt a policy of state management system. Schools should be opened and given aid to according to the necessity of the locality. All the localities should have schools and no locality should go without any school. The Mass Literacy Conference recommended to the Government for appointing a Committee in order to review the whole situation and in order to keep an eye over the expansion of the Primary Education. I do not know whether Government accepted those recommendations or not. In this connection, Sir, comes the question of the pay of the Primary School Teachers. It is only in this province that a primary school teacher is paid at Rs. 12 per mensem. In some Hill areas a teacher is paid at Rs.50 a month. (A voice.—No.). I will give it from

the Government of India's report. In Bombay, a primary school teacher is paid Rs.30 per month. Perhaps the Hon'ble Minister read the report published by the Sargent Committee. In that Committee, Mr. Sargent, the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India has recommended Rs. 40 to Rs.80 for the pay of Primary School teacher. Mr. Sargent said: "that if India wanted to keep pace with the civilised nations of the world, she must see her way to pay her teachers adequately". I beg, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister will make a statement in this House as to the attitude of Government with regard to the suggestions of the Mass Literacy Conference. Sir, I moved a Motion in order to abolish the scheme of Mass Literacy and as a result, a conference was called. Now I want a clear reply from the Hon'ble Minister in that connection.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir. What scale the hon. Member has suggested to Government?

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: If the Hon'ble Minister will please state it before the House then my hon. Friend Mr. Marak will be satisfied.

I want to bring another fact to the notice of the House. Sir, even the Chaprassis appointed in different offices are getting dearness allowance but it is most unfortunate that the Primary School Teachers who are getting Rs.12 each per month, are not getting a single pie towards dearness allowance. I will ask the Hon'ble Minister to take this fact into consideration and see his way to come forward with a Supplementary Demand.

I want to put forward a new suggestion before the House that is our girls should get admission in the Sylhet Government Madrassa. This may be objected to by some quarters but I have very great hope that my hon Friend Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury who is a great protagonist of female emancipation will also lend his whole-hearted support to this. Now-a-days we have got Muslim girls in Colleges, we have got Lady Members of Legislative Assembly, we have got Lady Professors. We have also got a Lady Minister as well as a Lady President. But it is unfortunate that we have got no female 'Maulavi' or 'Maulana' in this province (*Laughter*). With this view in mind I bring this fact before the House and ask the Hon'ble Minister earnestly to create such atmosphere so that the Muslim girls can take admission in the Sylhet Madrassa.

My next point is that in many Government School Hostels, there is no quarter for the Hostel Superintendent. This is a pressing need and more than once this fact was brought before the notice of the Education Department but I am sorry that the grievance has not yet been removed. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will look in to this matter.

Next point is that some Members of this House are appointed as members to different Universities. I want to know how long they are going to remain as members of those Universities. Is it for the whole life of the Assembly or for certain period?

In connection with appointments in the Assam School Service, I brought a Motion in the last session, and I was given an assurance by the Hon'ble Minister that B.T. passed candidates would get preference to B.A.s. I hope, Sir, that assurance has been given effect to. Only this morning I heard some complaints from some candidates, and on enquiry from the Hon'ble Minister I learnt that those complaints had got no foundation. I hope during the next Session we will not be given any opportunity of coming forward with such a complaint.

Last year, Sir, the members of Sunamganj Local Committee recommended a number of venture primary schools for aid, but only eleven schools were given help. This time I hope the Hon'ble Minister will see his way to

give us more money to take over more schools under aid. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to rise up to the occasion and take over all the venture schools in all the subdivisions that are struggling for existence.

With these few remarks I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs.43,90,500 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two Cut Motions in my name and I shall move both of them. I beg to move:—

"(i) That the provision of Rs.3,23,711 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101 ;

(ii) That the provision of Rs.23,518 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—O.—Grants to Local Bodies for Special Education, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101."

As regards the separation of Sanskrit and Bengali Departments in the Murarichand College Sylhet, my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee has said something. I think it is high time that these Departments in the Murarichand College should be separated for better administration and for giving proper attention to the Bengali Department. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will kindly look to it.

As regards Sanskrit education, of course Government have shown a tendency of sympathy towards the spread of Sanskrit education by giving some more grants this year. But something more should be done especially in view of the urgency of spreading knowledge of Ayurvedic system. In these days of scarcity of allopathic medicines, we should see that our Kaviraji system of medicine is properly encouraged.

Then, Sir, there is one difficulty about students having to go from one valley to the other owing to their guardians being transferred. Suppose a Government officer from the Assam Valley is transferred to the Surma Valley, his wards do not get any preference in schools in Surma Valley, and *vice versa*. This is not what it should be, the cause for grievance ought to be removed.

There are two or three Sanskrit writings of some Pandit which require Government help. Mention has already been made in this Hon'ble House about them ; I refer to *Brittamonjarie*, *Tatvachintamani* and *Pratakshya chintamani* by Pandit Dayal Krishna Tarkatirtha. Government should give some aid so that these books may be published.

Then, Sir, the Principal of the Sanskrit College, though the head of a college, does not get the salary of even the head of a school. I think it is high time that his services should be placed at least under Class I of the Assam School Service.

There is one more matter, and that is as regards the promotion of Sub-Inspectors to Deputy-Inspectors. Sub-Inspectors are in Class III whereas the Deputy Inspectors are in Class I of the School Service. This direct promotion from Sub-Inspectorship to Deputy Inspectorship does injustice to teachers who are in Class II of the School Service. I hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will look into this also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motions moved ;—

(i) "That the provision of Rs.3,23,711 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—University Education—A.—Government Arts Colleges, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101 ;

(ii) That the provision of Rs.23,518 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—O.—Grants to Local Bodies for Special Education, at page 104 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101".

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,26,232 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 109 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.100.

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, প্রথমতে মই কব খোজো যে এইবাৰ বাজেটত বিশেষকৈ প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে ট্ৰাইবেলৰ কাৰণে এটা ফুটা কড়িও আছুতীয়াকৈ ধৰা হোৱা নাই। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা প্ৰত্যেক জিলাৰ লোকেল বোৰ্ডলৈ General Provisionৰ পৰা টকা পঠিয়াওতে যদি গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট কোনো নিৰ্দেশ নিদিয়ৱে তেন্তে ট্ৰাইবেল স্কুল সমূহে তেনেকুৱা সুবিধা পোৱাৰ আশা নাথাকে। আমি সদায় কৈ থাকিম যে আমাক শিক্ষা লাগে আৰু শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে আমাক টকা লাগে বুলি সদায় চিঞৰি থাকিম। আসাম ব্ৰিটিশ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ অধীনলৈ অহা আজি ১০০ বছৰৰো ওপৰ হল; তথাপিও আজি ট্ৰাইবেল জাতি শিক্ষাত একেবাৰেই পিছ পৰি আছে—বোধহয় গোটেই আসামৰ ভিতৰত আজিলৈকে ২০ জন মানো Graduate হৈ উঠা নাই। বোৱা ১৯৪১ চনৰ census মতে দেখা যায় যে ট্ৰাইবেল জাতি কোনো বকনে আওকান কৰিব লগীয়া জাতি নহয়। এনে এটা পিচ পৰি থকা বৃহৎ জাতিক সকলোৱে সহায় কৰা নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ। সেই কাৰণে ট্ৰাইবেলৰ শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে সদায় গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সবহকৈ টকা আছুতীয়াকৈ দিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰো।

১৯৪০ চনৰ ২৪ অক্টোবৰৰ দিনা মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী স্যাব চৈয়দ মহম্মদ ছাদুল্লা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সভাপতিত্বত এখন ট্ৰাইবেল Education Conference বহিছিল। সেই সভাত ট্ৰাইবেলৰ শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ ভাবে আলোচনা হৈছিল আৰু কোৱা হৈছিল যে ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত ট্ৰাইবেলৰ পৰা স্কুল চৰ্-ইন্স্পেকটৰ বা এচিষ্টেণ্ট চৰ্-ইন্স্পেকটৰ নিযুক্ত কৰিব আৰু ট্ৰাইবেলৰ প্ৰাইমাৰী Educationৰ নিমিত্তে বেলেগকৈ এজন Special Officer নিযুক্ত কৰি ট্ৰাইবেল স্কুলৰ নিমিত্তে এটা scheme তৈয়াৰ কৰিব আৰু বাজেটত আছুতীয়াকৈ টকা ধৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় এতিয়ালৈকে ট্ৰাইবেল স্কুলৰ scheme তৈয়াৰ কৰিবলৈ কোনো Special Officer নিযুক্ত কৰা হোৱা নাই। সম্প্ৰতি যদি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে টকাৰ অভাৱ অনুভৱ কৰে তথাপি বৰ্তমানে ট্ৰাইবেলৰ পৰা D. I. gradeৰ দুজনমান অফিচাৰ ললেও ট্ৰাইবেলৰ educationৰ বাবে কিঞ্চিতমান সুবিধা কৰিব পাৰিব।

নগাঁও জিলাৰ দক্ষিণ অঞ্চল আৰু শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ পশ্চিম অংশলৈ মিকিৰ হিল area হৈছে। এই মিকিৰ হিল area ৰ নিমিত্তে এজন চৰ্-ইন্স্পেকটৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে

নিযুক্ত কৰিছিল। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় তেওঁক মিকিৰ Labour Corps ৰ Wing Commander কৰি আতৰাই নি মিকিৰ জাতিৰ বিশেষ অন্যায় কৰা হৈছে। তেওঁৰ ঠাইত মিকিৰ ভাষা নজনা অইন জাতিৰ মানুহ এজন দিয়াত মিকিৰ বিলাক উপায়হীন হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে মই কব খোজো যে মিকিৰ দোৱান জনা মিকিৰ মানুহ Graduate নহলেও Matric বা I. A. পাচ কৰা মিকিৰ ভাষা জনা মানুহকে শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ গোলাঘাট চৰ্ভিভিজনৰ নিমিত্তে এজন এচিষ্টেণ্ট চৰ্ভইন্স্পেক্টৰ আৰু নগাঁও জিলাৰ মিকিৰহিল অঞ্চলৰ নিমিত্তে আৰু এজন এচিষ্টেণ্ট চৰ্ভইন্স্পেক্টৰ নিযুক্ত কৰিলেই পাহাৰীয়া নগাঁও মিকিৰ জাতি কিছুদূৰ উৎসাহিত হব। যদি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভাবে যে মিকিৰহিলত দুজন চৰ্ভইন্স্পেক্টৰ দিয়া সম্ভৱপৰ নহয় তেন্তে মিকিৰ হিলৰ permanent চৰ্ভইন্স্পেক্টৰ জন মিলিটাৰীৰ Wing Commander কামৰ পৰা উভতি আহিলে তেখেতক মিকিৰ হিলত নিযুক্ত নকৰি Plains ৰ ট্ৰাইবেল area ত নিযুক্ত কৰিব পাৰিব। মই আশাকৰো মোৰ এই suggestion টি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিশেষ-ভাৱে বিবেচনা কৰিব।.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Member has finished. **Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI :** সেই Tribal Educational Conference ত এই বুলি প্ৰস্তাৱ হৈছিল — As regards free studentship, Primary Education is free. Mr. Small says that along with scholarships, proposals for free studentship reservation are also being sent out. Probably by the time we meet again the scheme will be ready. The Director of Public Instruction has proposed 50 per cent. of the total enrolment of the tribal pupils. The same rule will apply to aided schools. In these schools where the number of tribal pupils is 25 per cent. they will get 50 per cent. free studentships, but in those where the percentage of tribal pupils is half and half, they will get 25 per cent.

Sir, সাধাৰণতে ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহবোৰ টাউনৰ পৰা দূৰৈত বাস কৰে আৰু তেওঁ-বিলাক ইমান চহকী নহয় যে তেওঁবিলাকে সেই ৫০% ৰ সুবিধা লৈ টাউনলৈ ল'ব পাৰিব। যদি aided হাই আৰু মজলীয়া ইংৰাজী স্কুল বিলাকতো ট্ৰাইবেল কনফাৰেন্সত যি প্ৰস্তাৱ হৈছিল সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰে তেনেহলে সচাকৈয়ে দুখীয়া ট্ৰাইবেল বিলাকে ল'ব স্কুললৈ পঠিয়াবলৈ কিছুদূৰ ইচ্ছা কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই কব খোজো যে ট্ৰাইবেল ল'বৰ শতকৰা আঠোটা মাচুল মাফ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা কম হৈছে। আশাকৰো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই সম্বন্ধে পুনৰ বিবেচনা কৰিব।

সভাপতি মহোদয়, এই চেগতে মই এঘাৰ কথা উনুকিয়াই থব খোজো যে আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেল সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ নিমিত্তে আমাৰ মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী, মাননীয় অৰ্থসচিব আৰু মাননীয় প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰীক এই বাবৰ বাজেটত ট্ৰাইবেলৰ শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে কিছুমান সুবিধা দিয়াত আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেল ৰাইজ সমূহে নথৈ ধন্যবাদ দিছে আৰু লগতে আশীৰ্বাদো দিছে আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ দীৰ্ঘায়ুস কামনা কৰিছে। কিন্তু নগাঁৱৰ Schedule Caste Communityৰ ভিতৰত Matriculation Scholarship দিয়া সম্বন্ধে সেই মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ Scheduled Caste Communityৰ প্ৰতিনিধিয়ে প্ৰথম বিভাগত বিশেষ প্ৰতিপত্তিৰে অৰ্থাৎ distinctionৰে পাচ হোৱা নিচেই দুখীয়া মাউৰা ল'ব এটুকুৰ বৃত্তি নিদিয়াই দ্বিতীয় বিভাগত পাচ হোৱা নিজৰ ভায়েক আৰু ভাগিনিয়েকক বৃত্তি দিয়া বাবে সকলোৱে মৰ্মান্তিক বেজাৰ পাইছে। আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেল সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ ৰাইজ সমূহে মাননীয়

শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰীৰ প্ৰতি যি আশীৰ্বাদ দিছে তাতে অলপ বাধা পৰে বুলি ভয় আৰু আশঙ্কা হৈছে। আজি জনপ্ৰিয় অৰ্থাৎ popular গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত যদি এনেকুৱা অবিচাৰ হয় তেন্তে আমাৰ নিৰীহ গৰীব প্ৰজাৰ বিলাই বিপত্তিৰ সীমা নাইকিয়া হব।.....

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

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI : লগতে আমাৰ ট্ৰাইবেল সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়কো ধন্যবাদ নিদি নোৱাৰো। তেখেতে মাননীয় শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বাজে-টৰ scheduleত ট্ৰাইবেলৰ শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে কি কি কৰিব লাগে তাক পুৰানুপুৰণকপে উলুকাই দিয়া বাবে সমূহ ট্ৰাইবেল ৰাইজে তেখেতৰ ওচৰত চিৰকৃতজ্ঞ। কিন্তু তেখেতেও আগলৈ scheduled caste communityৰ মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৰে যদি তেখেতৰ পথকে অনুসৰণ কৰে তেন্তে আমি ট্ৰাইবেল ৰাইজ সমূহ নিগমে যাবিম। এই দুফাকি কথা কৈয়েই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

[Srijut Dhirsing Deuri, M. L. A. spoke in Assamese and in support of his Cut Motion said about the inadequacy of the provision made for Tribal Education.]

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved : " That the provision of Rs.4,26,232 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—F.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Secondary Schools (total), at page 109 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 100, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs. 100."

Srijut GHANASHYAM DAS : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 46,810 under Grant No. 17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101.

Sir, the Madhab Chandra College at Barpeta cannot stand if the Government do not cast a favourable look upon it. This College is of the utmost need for Lower Assam and for poor students. Last year, the I. A. examination result was good.

This College has undergone a series of unfortunate circumstances. My Friend Srijut Kameswar Das, on whose efforts it stood, is within the jail bars, and the building which was built as a hostel and which cost nearly Rs. 5,000 has been burnt down by the saboteurs. The Government have imposed a punitive tax of Rs. 7,000 upon the richer section of the people. But the Government have not given an understanding up till now that the amount when realised would be paid to the College authority. Sir, in this connection I put a question directly to the Prime Minister whether the amount when realised would be paid to the College authority. Will he kindly answer? The Government should look to it and should sanction as a non-recurring grant Rs. 4,000 for building purpose and should increase the recurring grant to Rs. 6,000 annually.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

"That the provision of Rs.46,810 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, Minor head—B.—Direct Grants to Non-Government Arts Colleges (total), at page 105 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.43,90,500 do stand reduced by Rs.101".

Maulavi MABARAK ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, amongst other Motions I tabled, it was No. 22 for the abolition of the Mass Literacy Scheme. But now I find that Mass Literacy Scheme is essentially necessary for the upkeep of this Government and I therefore do not like to move that Motion and my request to the Hon'ble Minister is that he should start at once one Mass Literacy School just near the Finance Department. (Laughter).

Maulavi Dewan Muhammad ANBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that my Friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury has honoured me by making a reference to me regarding the expansion of female education.

At the outset I like to clarify my points. I am a staunch supporter of female education, but I am vehemently opposed to the introduction of co-education not only in our Madrasas but also in schools and colleges.

As regards female emancipation, I, as a Muslim, always support the view that females should be emancipated from political, economic and social slavery.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I have got several cut Motions, but I am unfortunate. Just I will make a reference to the point which has been raised by Mr. Mookerjee with regard to the status of Assistant Lecturers in Colleges. My submission to the Hon'ble Minister is that he should see to raise the status of the Assistant Lecturers from that category and to place them in Class II of the Assam Education Service beginning from Rs. 150 and then promote them to the Lecturer's grade. Unless that can be done, these people will have to rot in that state and my request to the Hon'ble Minister is that if he cannot raise the status of those people, at least some time limit should be given to them and when they reach that time limit they should be promoted to the Lecturer's grade.

Another important point which I also raised in the Budget discussion is about the opening of Commerce classes in both the Government Colleges. Sir, we shall not require very much help from the Government in this respect; but by opening two Commerce classes in the two colleges, a lot of benefit can be done to the people and this being a very important subject, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see if he can accede to my request.

Then I have tabled a cut Motion to criticise the policy of the Government regarding the branch of Directorate and Inspectorate. Sir, it is very lamentable that frequent changes are made in the Directorate and Inspectorate staff which is not at all happy. In the Directorate staff, for the Madrasa Education alone, within one year there were three changes.

Then with regard to Government grant to non-Government secondary schools. During the present abnormal time, I think, Government should see that the teachers of non-Government schools may get an additional sum by way of grant-in-aid.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: My hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee was kind enough to give a list of schools and colleges where according to him Government aid is necessary. I hope, the Hon'ble Education Minister will kindly include in that list the Jagannath Barua College, Jorhat and the Jorhat Girls High School.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not surprised to find that a large number of cut Motions have been tabled against the Education Department because I know the fact that man's ambition grows naturally upon man's success. The Legislatures have been successful in getting a large amount for the Education Budget this year and this is why they have been encouraged and emboldened to put forward more and more demands before the House.

The criticisms have traversed a wide ground and it will not be possible for me to dispose all of them within the limited time at my disposal but I will make a passing reference to some of them which I consider most important.

First of all my hon. Friend Maulavi Mabarak Ali is for scrapping the Mass Literacy Movement altogether. Strangely enough this hon. Member is a member of the Central Mass Literacy Committee and it was only last year....

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: I have withdrawn that Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: It was only last year that the Mass Literacy Committee recommended that the Mass Literacy Movement should be placed on a permanent footing. This time also in pursuance of the assurance I gave to the House I called the Mass Literacy Conference to review the whole position and my hon. Friend was invited to that conference, but for reasons best known to him he did not attend that conference and now to-day he has come forward with the Motion that this movement should be scrapped altogether. I will just refer to the proceedings of that Conference, Sir, in which after a very threadbare discussion of the whole matter the Conference came to the conclusion and unanimously recommended "that the Mass Literacy Movement should be regarded as a part of Primary Education and should be continued subject to the following conditions: (1) That the Primary Education of the Province be placed on a sounder basis, particularly with an eye to the prevention of wastage and faulty distribution of schools and to this end, a committee be forthwith constituted to make definite recommendations. (2) And that the suggestions made by the conference with a view to remove the defects of the existing Mass Literacy Scheme be carried into effect."

Government have not yet formally got these recommendations before them but I can assure the House that we will try within the limited provision of our Educational Budget to implement these recommendations as far as possible. I think that will dispose of the criticisms that have been levelled against primary education.

Now another point in connection with primary education is that my hon. Friend Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury wanted that the salaries of the primary school teachers should be raised. He suggested that it should be at least rupees thirty.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: It is a Resolution, Sir. It has not yet come before the House.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: My hon. Friend may remember that there are about 8,000 Lower Primary teachers and if we go to increase their salary by one rupee per month that will involve a cost of about one lac of rupees.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: But what about the recommendations of the Sargent committee.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Conditions are quite different in Assam and it is impossible for the province to implement the recommendations of the Sargent Committee with its limited resources.

As regards the dearness allowance, Sir, I beg to state that this concerns purely the Local Boards and the Local Boards, if they want to help their employees, I think, should come forward to increase their income by raising the local rates or raising the incidence of cart tax. If the local bodies come forward to help their employees by increasing their income, then the Government will be only too glad to meet them half way by contributing half the cost in giving dearness allowance to the Lower Primary teachers. Some of the Local Boards I understand, are already raising their local rates at least I heard Sir, that Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahaman has already taken steps to raise local rates in North Sylhet Local Board and if every Board of the Province follows the lead given by him then I think it will be possible for the Province to meet this most urgent need of the Lower Primary teachers with whom I have the greatest sympathy.....

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: May we know, Sir, whether that increased amount from local rates can be spent for educational purposes?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Certainly it can be. They are entitled to spend a certain percentage of their income in education. Of course, the percentage varies in different Local Boards, but I think that is within their province.

Then, Sir, the hon. Members have referred to the question of increasing the pay of Assistant Lecturers. Government in pursuance of the wishes of both the Chambers have raised the initial pay of the Assistant Lecturers to Rs.125. Hon. Members will remember that this class was created only on 1st July 1940. It is premature for the members of this class to expect any promotion to Class II because it is not yet 5 years even and the two classes cannot be merged because it will involve Government in a large amount of expenditure. Then some hon. Members have raised the question of nomination of Fellows to the University. Well, I may tell that hon. Member that in the Calcutta University the term of office for each of the member is 5 years and out of the 5 existing members, I find the term of one gentleman, Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury, will expire on 29th April 1943 and the others are to carry on till 1945, 1946, and 1947. As regards the Dacca University, the term is 3 years only and only last year probably the nominations were made. Anyway, the suggestion that has been made by the hon. Member will be remembered.

As regards the separation of Assamese, Bengali and Sanskrit classes at the Murarichand College and the Cotton College we have taken up the question of separation in the Murarichand College, and also separation of Sanskrit and Assamese in the Cotton College. The details of the proposals are now being worked out in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction.

Then my Friend Mr. Mookerjee has referred to the question of raising the salary of Law College Lecturers. As far back as 1932 this allowance was reduced to Rs. 150 a month, to be exact, from January 1932. One representation was received for the increase of their salary in 1935 but it was turned down. This matter, as the hon. Members will realise, depends upon the question whether the pay offered is sufficient to attract suitable candidates. It is a question of demand and supply. However, in view of the representations made both in this House and in the Upper House and in view of the changed conditions, this matter will be re-examined and if possible we will restore the salary to its former level.

As regards Tribal education, the Government have done their level best in the matter and the suggestions of Mr. Deuri in this regard will have our sympathetic consideration.

Then the question of the co-education of the Muslim girls in the Sylhet Madrassa and other institutions has been raised. I must tell the House that there was no such demand before. There is no restriction under the rules for the admission of girls in the institutions. If there be public demand for it we will make provision even for that.

I think I have dealt with the main objections and I can assure the other Members that the suggestions made by them involve financial implications and they will be examined and duly considered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does any of the hon. Members who have moved their cut motions press for their motion? Members who

(After a pause).

I hope the hon. Members have got the leave of the House to withdraw the Motions.
The Motions were, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,90,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—37 Education (Other than European)".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 18

38.—MEDICAL

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,20,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head "38.—Medical".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 17,970 under Grant No. 18 Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—C—Grants for Medical purposes, Sub-head—Scheme for Government subsidized Medical Practitioners, at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 101.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this province it was not possible for Government to establish dispensaries according to the need of the people and the dispensaries that are existing are very thinly located. Government knew this fact and they established subsidised dispensaries in order to remove this want and give better facilities to the suffering public. But the numbers that are established up till now are not sufficient. By this cut Motion I like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to see her way to establish more dispensaries in the areas where there is not a single dispensary within a circuit of 30 miles. With these few words I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

"That the provision of Rs. 17,970 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—C—Grants for Medical purposes, Sub-head—Scheme for Government subsidized Medical Practitioners, at page 126 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 101, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 101."

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 12,20,100 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200.

My intention is to criticise the inadequate quantity of medicine.

Sir, it has been known during the course of the debate on this subject that Government is not up to the mark as regards supply to the charitable dispensaries with adequate quantity of medicine, more particularly of quinine. The only medicine that is of greater use for the poor class of people is quinine. So Government has got to supply this medicine according to the requisition of the dispensaries.

Sir, one word more regarding the demand for more subsidised dispensaries, as pointed out by my hon. Friend just now. There was a scheme for creation of more such dispensaries by Government. But I do not know whether that scheme has become a dead-letter at the hands of Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“ That the total provision of Rs. 12,20,100 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200”.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding my cut Motion* I want to speak a few words. All the hon. Members of this House know very well that leprosy is a dreadful disease. Once it attacks a person his life is gone. It is at present found that there are at least two or more leprosy cases in every village in the province, especially in the tribal areas. The tribal people know very little how to save themselves from this disease. I have seen myself in very many cases that people contract this disease from other lepers when these lepers visit other's houses. So, Sir, I think segregation is the only means to prevent the spread of this disease in the province. In this connection I like to offer a few suggestions to Government for consideration. First to open some leper colonies in the Tribal areas where leper cases are great in number so that they may be segregated. Secondly, sufficient plot of lands may be allotted for them and also to give them all sorts of cultivation facilities. And thirdly, to open a dispensary in every such colony for their treatment. To carry out annually, but, Sir, it will all be for the benefit of the poor people. I hope Government will consider this immediately and gladly agree to spend the money required.

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI : I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 12,20,100 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200.

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI : সভাপতি মহোদয়. ১৯৩৭ চনত যেতিয়া প্রথম Ministry formed হয় তেতিয়াই এই scheme তৈয়াৰ কৰিছিল আৰু subsidised dispensary কৰিছিল। তেতিয়াৰে পৰা সেই schemeৰ কোনো সংশোধন হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু দুবছৰ মানৰ আগতে যেতিয়া Hon'ble শ্রীযুত হীৰেন্দ্ৰ চন্দ্ৰ চক্ৰবৰ্তী ডাঙৰীয়া মেডিকেল বিভাগৰ মিনিষ্টাৰ আছিল তেতিয়া যদি কোনো এটা areaত subsidised dispensary থাকে আৰু যদি কেনেকৈ তাত মেলেরিয়া আৰু কলাজৰৰ epidemic হয় তেনে অৱস্থাতহে subsidised dispensaryৰ ডাক্তৰক পিয়ন দিব আৰু তাৰ বাহিৰে একো নিদিয়, এনেকুৱা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছিল। সেই dispensaryৰ ডাক্তৰক প্রথমতে ২৫ টকা কৈ আৰু তাৰ পিচত ৩৫ টকাকৈ দিছিল। অৱশ্যে এতিয়া উপকাৰীতা দেখি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে অনুগ্রহ কৰি subsidised dispensaryৰ ডাক্তৰৰ দৰমহা ৫০ টকালৈকে কৰিছে। কিন্তু, এতিয়াও compounder যে লাগে সেইটো অনুভৱ কৰিব পৰা নাই। গৰমৰ দিনত এনেকুৱা অৱস্থা হয় যে compounder নহলে কোনোমতে subsidised dispensary চলিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে সঁচাকৈয়ে subsidised dispensaryৰ নিমিত্তে একোজন compounderৰ দৰকাৰ আৰু এটা কথা এই যে সেই subsidised dispensaryৰ ডাক্তৰৰ দৰকাৰ বাগান আদি আছে। সেইবোৰ চাবলৈকো একোটা চকীদৰ লাগে। কিন্তু আজিলৈকে চকীদাৰ দিয়া হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই কব খোঁজোঁ যে এই subsidised dispensaryৰ scheme modify কৰি অন্ততঃ একোটা চকীদাৰ দিব লাগে। ইয়াকে

*Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI to move :—

That the total provision of Rs. 12,20,100 under grant No. 18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200.

কৈ মই মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক অনুবোধ কৰিলোঁ যাতে তেখেতে এই বিলাক কথাটো মন দিয়ে।

[Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese and in support of his Cut Motion said about the appointment of Compounders and Chowkidars in subsidised dispensaries.]

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved.

"That the provision of Rs. 12,20,100 under Grant No. 18, Major head—.38—Medical, at page 120 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs. 200 i.e., the amount of whole grant of Rs. 12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs. 200."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I beg to move that the provision of Rs.57,629 under Grant No. 18, Major head—.38—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence (total), at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.225, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs.225.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to add a few words. Last year when this question of scarcity of medicine was discussed before the House the Hon'ble Prime Minister, while replying to the cut Motions, promised us that he would come next year with a definite scheme for introducing Homeopathic, Ayyurvedic and Unani treatments. Sir, I shall read only 3 lines from the relevant portion of his speech. "We have taken up the question and it may be in the next session we shall be able to come before the House with a scheme for recognising all these systems of medicine and shall see whether our countryside cannot be provided with medical treatment of one system or the other". But nothing has been done.

As regards leper hospital, it has already been stated by my Friend Srijut Karka Dalay Miri just now on the floor of this House that such hospitals should be started and this disease should not be allowed to spread in any way as it is spreading at present. Sir, we got assurances, that leper hospitals would be started, but we see nothing has been done in this direction too.

Lastly as regards the vexed question of starting a medical institution at Sylhet. Sir, I am not going to read the speech containing promises and assurances, but I am referring to page 614 of the proceedings of this august Assembly of 1941, where it will be found that we got definite assurance from the Government that our unanimous desire would be respected, but as usual, Government have not worked up to their promises.

So, in these three respects, Sir, we got assurances, but nothing has been done. Sir, if the promises and assurances given by the first citizen of the province, I mean the Hon'ble Premier, are not kept, what impression can we form on him. For him I am really sorry. I doubt whether any of our new grievances placed before the Government will be removed. However, I must do my duty. With these words, I support the Motion.

Srijut KHORSING TERANG : মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, গোলাঘাট চৰাভিভিজনৰ অন্তৰ্গত মিকিৰ হিল area ৰ মহাঙিড়িয়া dispensary খনৰ কথা মই কব খোজোঁ। তাত ডাক্তৰ এজনৰ বাহিৰে কোনো assistant নাই। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুবোধ কৰি কওঁ যে সেই dispensary ৰ ডাক্তৰ জনক এজন compounder দিলে বিশেষ উপকাৰ কৰা হব। ১৯৪১ চনত His Excellency গভৰ্ণ ৰ বাহাদুৰে মিকিৰ হিলত tour কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে note ৰাখি আহিছিল যে সেই dispensary ত এজন compounder লাগে। কিন্তু আজি প্ৰায় দুবছৰ হৈ গল তথাপিও সেই note ৰ কোনো ফলাফল হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে অতি সোনকালে সেই dispensary ৰ কাৰণে এজন compounder দিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুবোধ কৰিলোঁ। সেইখন dispensary ত ক'লাজৰ হোৱা patient বিলাকে বহুত দুৰৈৰ পৰা আহি treatment কৰে। কিন্তু তাত থাকিবলৈ ঠাই নাই। তেওঁবিলাকে

ওচৰতে কোনোমতে থাকি treatment কৰে। তাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বছৰে প্ৰায় ২০০ টকা মানকৈ grant দিয়ে। বেমাৰী বিলাকে গাইপতি এতোলা তেল, দেৰ পোৱা চাউল আৰু একছটাক দাইল দিনে পায়। গতিকে diet সম্বন্ধে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন তেখেত সকলে বছৰেকীয়া grant বেচি কৰি patient বিলাকৰ খকাৰ অলপ সুবিধা কৰি দিয়ে। তেতিয়াহলে বাৰিষাৰ দিনত treatment কৰাৰ সুবিধা হব। সেই কাৰণে মই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি সেই dispensaryৰ কাৰণে এজন compounder দিয়ে আৰু patients বিলাক থাকিবলৈ এটা ঘৰ কৰি দিয়ে।

[Srijut Khorsing Terang, M.L.A., spoke in Assamese for the provision of a Compounder in the Mohangdijua Dispensary in the Mikir Hills.]

Rev. L. GATPHOH: One minute, Sir. I just want to draw the attention of Government to one item—a very small item in the Budget, at page 126. This is with regard to the grant to dispensaries for free supply of medicine to Government servants. The dispensary at the headquarters subdivision of Jowai and two other dispensaries come under this category. They get a grant from the Government and only Government servants are given medicine free. I cannot find any provision in the Budget made for the people at the headquarters of the subdivision from which I come, or for the people who live within a radius of 15 miles from the headquarters. It has been pointed out to me that provision has been made in this Budget for Government servants. It is clear therefore that Government has a duty only to the Government servants and not to the poor people at the headquarters of the subdivision and its neighbourhood. No poor man or woman can get medicine free. It has been said in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister that owing to the demands made by the Military, Government is unable to undertake new schemes. Every year money is spent by Government in the way of grant and pay of doctors not attached to Government Dispensaries in the Sub-division. My contention, therefore, is that if Government would reorganise the medical facilities using the means and the staff that are there already, the poor people would be benefited by it and thus the long standing grievances of the people would be removed.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to subsidised dispensaries, it has been criticised that doctors are not being given sufficient subsidy. I may mention here that we have increased the subsidies to these subsidised doctors from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45. This may not be very handsome, but still it helps.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: On a point of information Sir. It will be found in the explanation given in the Budget Memorandum that Government could not spend all the money allotted for this purpose in the current year because they could not get doctors with this salary.

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: Doctors find it more attractive to take up military service as the pay and allowance given there is much higher.

My hon. Friend Mr. Miri's suggestion to establish a leper colony in the Tribal areas will be duly considered.

With regard to the Sylhet Medical School, I need say right a way that although there are buildings, buildings alone will not be sufficient with which to start a Medical School at Sylhet. These are very abnormal times and the necessary equipment and doctors, etc., will not be available for the purpose. This is therefore an inopportune time to start a Medical School at Sylhet and I am afraid we shall have to wait till better times come.

Mr. Mookerjee has raised the question of encouraging indigenous system

of medicines. That matter has been duly considered, and he will know in time what is being done in the matter.

Before I resume my seat I am to tell the House that a certain sum of money was voted by the House for grant to the Tuberculosis Association. There is a recurring grant to the extent of Rs.44,038. The Honorary Secretary applied to Government to allow them to divert half the sum to non-recurring expenditure, because they found it difficult, due to abnormal times, to construct certain buildings. In anticipation of the approval of the House Government granted the request.

Srijut DHIRSINGH DEURI: On a point of information, Sir. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether they are going to appoint any Chawkidars to the subsidised dispensaries?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN: This will be duly considered.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does any of the hon. Movers press his motion?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I press my Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the provision of Rs.57,629 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—A.—Medical Establishment, Sub-head—(a)—Superintendence (total), at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Rs.225, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,20,100 do stand reduced by Rs.225."

The question was negatived.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,20,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1944, for the administration of the head—38.—Medical."

The question was adopted.

Election of members to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now voting for the election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee will take place.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was thinking of the procedure that should be followed in having the ballot papers marked by the hon. Members. I may allow the hon. Members to sign the ballot papers while remaining in their seats/provided they do not consult with one another and they do it as secretly as possible. (*A Voice*.—Thank you.) If the hon. Members do not like this, then the voting can be done in the lobbies. I have also made some arrangements for voting to be done in the lobbies. But that will of course take a long time. So the convenient way will be that the ballot papers should be marked by the Members while sitting in their seats without consulting one another and maintaining strict secrecy.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, should we sign the ballot paper?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is an old Member of this House and I think he should know it. The instructions are there on the ballot papers.

(The House then proceeded to vote for election of the Members to the Public Accounts Committee.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I hope every hon. Member has got his ballot paper and voted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A. M., on Saturday, the 20th March 1943.

SHILLONG: }
The 28th April 1943.

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

