

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M., on Monday, the 5th March, 1945.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Basanta Kumar Das, Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers and fifty hon. Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Licenses for exporting Oranges

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

*47. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that two licenses were issued in the names of two dead persons for export of oranges from Chhatak this season?
- (b) If so, what are the names of those persons and the officers who issued the licenses?
- (c) How many licenses for exporting oranges from Chhatak, Dwarabazar and Sunamganj were issued for this season to persons who are not residents of this Province?
- (d) How many of such licenses were issued to 'Dalals' and who issued these permits?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

47. (a)—No. A permit was granted to an Association of traders on the basis of business done in the preceding five years. As two of these traders were not alive their quotas were allotted by the Secretary of the Association to their representatives in interest.

(b)—The first part does not arise. The permit was issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet.

(c)—Permits were issued to one Association each at Dwarabazar and Sunamganj. For export from Chhatak one permit each was issued to two Associations of traders and four Associations of Khasi growers. All the members of the Sunamganj Dwarabazar and the four Khasi growers' Associations were natives of this Province. As to the two traders' Associations at Chhatak some members of each Association were natives of the Province and others were traders of Bengal temporarily resident in Assam.

(d)—No separate permits were issued to any *dalals*. In one case four *dalals* were given a small quota in one Association on the basis of export financed by them in the preceding five years and in order to enable, by not disturbing the usual channel of business, persons normally dependant on them to continue in business.

Maulavi Muhammad MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Is it a fact that permit for export to Bengal was issued to an individual who was not a member of any Association?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: May I know the place?

Maulavi Muhammad MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Sunamganj.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware of that, Sir. I want notice of that Question.

†Speech not corrected.

Purchase and Transport Superintendent

†Babu BIPIN BIHARI DAS asked :

*48. (a) Is it a fact that for improving the procurement of rice and paddy Government have recently appointed one Purchase and Transport Superintendent in the Surma Valley ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state (i) who is that officer, (ii) his past experience in the line, and (iii) the works he has been doing since his appointment ?

(c) Is it a fact that this officer was previously working in the Excise Department ?

(d) If so, what were the special reasons for his being appointed in this new post ?

(e) What special improvement he has made since his appointment as Superintendent of Purchase and Transport ?

(f) Is it a fact that the said officer introduced some new schemes which met with total failure resulting in loss to paddy growers ?

(g) Are Government aware that he encouraged the creation of a party named "the Growers' Syndicate" who are the special license-holders in the district of Sylhet for procurement of rice and paddy ?

(h) If so, what were the terms and conditions on which the said Syndicate was allowed to purchase paddy ?

(i) Is it a fact that the said Syndicate purchased paddy from the poor cultivators at a very low rate and also on credit ?

(j) Are Government aware that the cultivators have suffered extreme hardships in the hands of these special license-holders ?

(k) Do Government propose to enquire into the credentials, responsibility and *bonafides* of the members of this Syndicate who are allowed to purchase paddy from the cultivators ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

48. (a)—Yes. The Government have appointed one Deputy Director of Supply (Procurement) to be in charge of procuring of paddy and rice in Surma Valley from 1st January 1945.

(b) (i)—Mr. Saiyid Maqsd. (ii) Previous to this appointment, he was Superintendent of Purchase and Transport at Sylhet from 4th August 1944 and as such he supervised purchase operations of the Syndicates and also organised despatches. (iii) He is organising procurement and is also arranging taking over stocks of the Syndicates on termination of their contracts on 31st December 1944.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—On grounds of administrative experience, availability and suitability.

(e)—Improvements are expected soon. At this stage the spade work has just begun.

(f)—No. It is with the intention of safeguarding the interest of the growers that Government have done away with the Syndicates and taken up procurement through officials.

(g) & (h)—The Growers' Syndicate at Shaistaganj applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet to permit them to collect paddy from the growers for making over to the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate who at the time were not able to receive all quantities offered. This officer had no concern with it.

(i)—No such complaint was received.

(j)—Government have no information.

(k)—Government do not consider an enquiry necessary.

†The Question was put by Babu Kamini Kumar Sen on authorisation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Incarceration of Congress Members of Provincial Legislatures

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI asked :

17.(a) Are Government aware that the Home Member of the Government of India recently denied that the Central Government was interested in the continued incarceration of Congress Members of Provincial Legislatures ?

(b) If the reply to question (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why Government do not release the Congress M. L. As. now detained in Assam ?

(c) Are Government aware that the feeling in the country on this point is that Government are keeping them under detention and restriction in order to prevent them from attending meetings of the Assam Legislative Assembly ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to remove this feeling by ordering their release immediately ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

17.(a)—Government have been unable to trace such a statement or denial..

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Government feel assured that their own action in permitting attendance in the Legislature by *ex-detenus* is sufficient to dispose of the suggestion, if it is entertained.

(d)—Government are not and have not been actuated by any motive of the kind alleged but by the needs of security for which they are responsible.

Re Veterinary Surgeons and Field Assistants

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN asked :

18. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of Veterinary Surgeons and Field Assistants in the Province, district by district ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Veterinary Surgeons have generally got to perform their duties over large areas consisting of several Mauzas, tea gardens, and in some cases, political areas and Military Camps ?

(c) Are Government aware that they cannot cope with their duties over such extensive areas ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to appoint more Veterinary Surgeons and Field Assistants ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA replied :

18. (a)—Lists of names of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Field Assistants, district by district, are placed on the Library table.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—Government are aware of the need for more Veterinary Officers but are faced with the dearth of qualified personnel at present.

Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN: Do Government propose to start a Veterinary College in the Province ?

†The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DATTA: It is an entirely separate Question, Sir.

Adjournment Motion regarding failure of Government to protect the unarmed villagers of Koimari village in the Barpeta Subdivision from indiscriminate shooting by the Police, etc.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, I shall take up the Adjournment Motions. Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing an urgent matter of public importance,

†Speech not corrected.

namely, the failure of Government to protect the unarmed villagers of Koimari village in the Barpeta Subdivision from indiscriminate shooting by the police on the 6th of February, 1945, and looting of their property after their detention in Hajat, indecent assault on women and burning of the Holy Quoran.

বরপেটা কৈমারী রিজার্ভ অঞ্চলে ৭৫৪টা রুমক পরিবার বহুদিন যাবত বাস করিয়া আসিতেছিল। তাহারা তথায় ঘরবাড়ী নির্মাণ করিয়া চাষ-বাগ ক্রমে জীবিকা নিব্বাহ করিতেছিল। গত ৩রা ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে স্থানীয় সাব-ডিপুটী কালেক্টর, বরপেটা থানার ভারপ্রাপ্ত অফিসারকে সঙ্গে লইয়া একদল সশস্ত্র পুলিশসহ উক্ত কৈমারী গ্রামে উপস্থিত হন। তথায় কতকগুলি ঘর ভাঙ্গিয়া দেওয়া হয়। ৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী পশ্চাচরণকারীদের সহযোগীতার সশস্ত্রবাহিনী বলপ্রয়োগে লোকজনকে তাহাদের ঘরবাড়ী হইতে তাড়াইতে আরম্ভ করে। বিপন্ন লোকজনের নৌখিক প্রতিবাদের উত্তরে বেপরোয়াভাবে তাহাদের উপর লাঠী ও বন্দুকের গুলি চালান হয়। পুলিশের গুলির আঘাতে দুইজন সাংঘাতিকভাবে জখম হইয়াছে; তাহারা লোকের ঘরবাড়ী ভূমিস্মাৎ করিয়া আগুন ধরাইয়া দিয়াছে, সম্পত্তি লুণ্ঠন করিয়াছে পবিত্র কোরাণ-শরিকের অবমাননা করিয়াছে এবং উহা পোড়াইয়া দিয়াছে।

৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী শ্রীযুক্ত গণেশচন্দ্র কুকন, ই.এ.সি, পুনরায় পুলিশবাহিনী সহ উক্ত স্থানে গিয়া গ্রামের লোকদিগকে জমি ও আশ্রয় দেওয়ার আশ্বাস দিয়া নিজে ডাকিয়া নিয়া তিনি ভিন্ন স্থানে চলিয়া যান। পুলিশ তাহাদের ৬৫ জনকে—তাহাদের মধ্যে দুইজনের বয়স ৬০—৭০ হইবে—গ্রেপ্তার করিয়া স্থানীয় হিন্দু মহেশালাদের মহিমের খুটিতে নিয়া উক্ত মহেশালাদের সাহায্যে তাহাদিগকে মহিমের রসি দিয়া বান্ধিয়া পুলিশ ও মহেশালাগণ উক্ত সমস্ত লোককে লাঠী দিয়া মার-পিট করে ও বুট ছুতা দিয়া লাথি দিয়া গুতাইয়া ভীষণ প্রহার করে। একই সময়ে এতগুলি রুমকের অনুপস্থিতির সুযোগে পশ্চাচরণকারীরা তাহাদের ঘরবাড়ী লুট করিয়াছে, জীলোক ও ছেলে মেয়েদিগকে মাইর পিট করিয়াছে। দুঃখের বিষয়, এই সব লোকজনের উচ্ছেদের কোন আদেশ ছিল না।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : আপনি কেবল ঘটনার কথা বলুন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : আমি ঘটনার কথাই বলিতেছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ঘটনার কথা সংক্ষেপে বলিলেই ভাল হয়।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : ১০ই ফেব্রুয়ারী স্থানীয় পশ্চাচরণকারীরা ও পার্শ্ববর্তী গ্রামের হিন্দু বাসিন্দাগণ ৭০৮০ জন একত্র হইয়া লাঠী, দাও ইত্যাদি অস্ত্রে সজ্জিত হইয়া ফেদুরা গ্রামের ৩০ ঘর লোকের বস্তি সদলবলে আক্রমণ করিয়া ২৬ খানী ঘরবাড়ী পোড়াইয়াছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে যে সব ঘটনা হইয়াছিল কেবল সেই সব বিষয়ে আলোচনা করিতে পারিবেন। আপনার মোশনে ৬ই তারিখের কথা উল্লেখ করিয়াছেন সেইজন্য ১০ই ফেব্রুয়ারীর কোন ঘটনার কথা আলোচনা হইতে পারেনা।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : ১০ই তারিখের ঘটনা ৬ই তারিখের ঘটনার সহিত সংশ্লিষ্ট এবং ইহা Definite matter of public importance.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : ১০ই ফেব্রুয়ারীর ঘটনার কোন বিষয়ে আলোচনা করিতে দিবনা। ৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারীতে কি হইয়াছিল তাহাই বলুন।

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA : মাননীয় রাজস্ব সচিব মোলভী মনোয়ার আলী সাহেব উক্ত ৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে বরপেটা গিয়া ৯ ফেব্রুয়ারী পর্যন্ত তিনি তথায় অবস্থান করেন। বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় যে তিনি বাঙ্গালী নিরস্ত্র মুসলমানের প্রতি গুলিচালান ও তাহাদের আহত হওয়া, তাহাদের বাড়ীঘর লুণ্ঠন—পোড়ন—জীলোক ও ছেলে মেয়েদের প্রতি অত্যাচার এবং সবেবাপরি পবিত্র কোরাণ শরিকের অবমাননা ও উহা পোড়াইয়া ফেলা ইত্যাদির বিষয় জানিয়া শুনিয়াও মাত্র ৯ মাইল দূরবর্তী-ঘটনাস্থলে তিনি নিজে তদন্ত করিতে যান নাই। মানবতার খাতিরেও উৎপীড়িত ব্যক্তিগণকে কোন প্রকার সাহায্য সহায়তা তিনি নিজে করেন নাই ও অপরকেও করিবার কোন আদেশ উপদেশ দেন নাই বরং তিনি বিবৃতি দিয়াছেন যে উক্ত ঘটনার সহিত eviction এর কোন সম্বন্ধ নাই। তৎপর অর্থ সচিব মাননীয় মোঃ আব্দুল মতিন চৌধুরী সাহেব বরপেটায় নিজে স্থানীয় তদন্ত করিয়াছেন বটে কিন্তু তিনি কাহাকেও কোনরূপ আর্থিক বা অন্য কোন প্রকার সাহায্য করেন নাই। তিনি কোন বিবৃতি দিয়া ঘটনার বিষয় কাহাকেও জানিবার সুযোগ সুবিধা দেন নাই। সুতরাং দেশবাসী তাহার বিবৃতি জানিবার জন্য উৎকণ্ঠিত চিত্তে তাকাইয়া আছেন। দেশবাসীর পক্ষ হইতে আমি তাহার নিকট উক্ত ঘটনার বিষয় অদ্য এই হাউসে তাহার বিবৃতি দানের দাবীর আবেদন পেশ করিতেছি। আশা করি তিনি নিজে সরজমিনে গিয়া বাহা দেখিয়া ও জানিয়া আসিয়াছেন তিনি অবশ্য অবশ্য তাহা প্রকাশ

করিবেন। এই নিরন্ন অসহায় চাষীদের প্রতি গুলি চালনা, ঘরবাড়ী পোড়ান, মাইরপিট, লটতারাভ ও পৃথিবীর মুসলমানের অমূল্য বস্তু শ্রেষ্ঠ ধর্মগ্রন্থ পবিত্র কোরান-শরীফের অপমানের ও তাহা পোড়ানোর জন্য আসাম বাঙ্গালা এমন কি সমস্ত ভারতের মুসলমানের মনে, অতীব দুঃখ, ক্ষোভ ও সর্বত্র ভীষন চাঞ্চল্য এবং উত্তেজনার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছে.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: This is argument. The hon. Member will please take his seat. He has placed facts sufficiently before the House. আমি আপনাকে কয়েকটি কথা জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই। এই মোশন কি গভর্ণমেন্টকে ভৎসনা করিবার জন্য আনিয়াছেন?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: ভৎসনার জন্য নয়। সমস্ত বিষয়টার একটা আলোচনার জন্য এই মোশনটা আনিয়াছি।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Adjournment Motions are generally intended to censure Government. The way in which the Motion has been put and the way in which the facts have been placed before the House show that the hon. Member is going to censure Government. Is it not so?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: Yes.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid we cannot discuss this Adjournment Motion, for the subject-matter of it is now before the Criminal Court. The matter is *sub-judice*. But as my hon. friend has given only one side of the unfortunate incident of the 6th of February, I want to place before the House through you, the two versions, as has been reported to Government. The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup district received certain telegrams from the Graziers of Koimari that there had been encroachments—very recent encroachments in the Koimari Grazing Reserve by some immigrants and that there is an apprehension of breach of the peace. On receipt of that telegram the Deputy Commissioner wired to the then Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Chakravarty, who deputed the Officer in-charge of the Barpeta thana, a Hindu officer and the Cricle Sub-Deputy Collector of Barpeta, a Muslim officer, to a spot. They were accompanied by six constables of the armed branch with a Hawaldar at their head. The place is full of dense jungles and the two officers had to go to the spot on an elephant. It has been reported that some 70 families of immigrants had recently immigrated in the month of *Agrahayon* and they were building their sheds even on the day the Sub-Deputy Collector and the Police Officer went there. This was on the 3rd February, 1945. As is usual in case of Professional Grazing Reserves, which generally are low-lying land, graziers build their cow-sheds on the high land and the immigrants also who seek to erect their houses select the high land just along side the cow-sheds. The Sub-Deputy Collector remonstrated with the immigrants and told them to vacate the land. By some means he got an undertaking in writing from these immigrants to vacate this land and he without any authority from anybody, demolished two roofless sheds that were being erected on that land by trampling with elephant. The two officers returned to Barpeta leaving the armed constables there in charge of the Hawaldar. For three days nothing happened. On the 6th of February, unfortunately, there was some clash between the graziers and the Police on the one side and immigrants on the other. I will first give before the House the version of the immigrants, one of whom has filed a first information report. His version is that, on the third day, four constables went to his shed and accompanied by graziers wanted his family to vacate the house. They remonstrated saying that the Sub-Deputy Collector had given 7 days' time and that only three days had elapsed. But one of the constables went inside the hut and literally dragged the wife of that immigrant by the hand. During the tussle the *Sari* of the lady got loose and she became naked. Thereupon the immigrant said that he could not control himself; he hit the Police constable who was dragging his wife, on the head with a *lathi*. In the meantime when the constable was dragging his wife he screamed for help and his cousin came to his rescue. The Police party fired, these two people got buckshot wounds

on their thighs. This is the version of the immigrants. of what happened on the 6th.

The Police party and graziers' version is otherwise. They say that they were notified from Barpeta that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister would be at Barpeta from the 6th till the 9th and that if any one had got any grievance to lay before him they should come to Barpeta. The graziers wanted to proceed to Barpeta to lay their grievances before him about encroachments, and, as they had to pass by the houses of the immigrants, they were afraid to go alone and they requested the help of the Police. While some of these graziers along with four constables were going towards Barpeta, when they had just passed the house of immigrants, they were surrounded. At first, the number of immigrants is reported to be 100, later on, the mob rose to 300 and they obstructed the Police party and the graziers from proceeding towards Barpeta. There was exchange of words and from exchange of words there was *lathi* blows on the police, whereupon the Hawaldar ordered three shots to be fired by the three constables and these two people were hit. After the firing, the mob dispersed and the party proceeded to Barpeta. The same evening the police constables as well as the two gun-shot injured immigrants were admitted into the hospital at Barpeta where my Hon'ble Colleague the Revenue Minister went to see them and also to hear their version.

Neither in the *ejahar* nor in the statement to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, any mention whatsoever was made of any further demolition of houses or looting of property or burning of any mosque or tearing of the Holy Quoran. These have appeared later on in a telegram which was received by me from one of our colleagues of this House, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, who wired from Dhubri. The Subdivisional Magistrate immediately ordered judicial enquiry on the firing incident and the only available magistrate, Mr. Ganesh Phukan, was ordered to hold this enquiry. On the police case, some 60 immigrants have been arrested and charge sheet has been filed. I have not yet seen the complaint but I am told that the immigrants, whose case against the police has not yet been taken up, have filed a *naraji* petition. At any rate, Sir, the subject-matter of the firing is before a Court. It is very regrettable that this firing had been resorted to, but I must say that the firing was done not to kill because both the wounds are below the waist, but in the way of dispersing the mob. As the matter is *sub-judice*, Sir, I am afraid, the question cannot be discussed as an Adjournment Motion.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: উই তারিখ হইতে ১০ই তারিখ পর্যন্ত এইসব ঘটনা ক্রমাগত হইয়াছে। উই তারিখের ঘটনা যদি *sub-judice* হয় তাহা হইলে তারপর হইতে ১০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত যে সব ঘটনা হইয়াছে সেই সব ঘটনার বিষয়ে আলোচনা হইতে পারে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: না। আপনার Motion এ ১০ তারিখের কোনই উল্লেখ নাই। আপনার মোশনে এটা লিখেন নাই যে ৬ তারিখ হইতে ১০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত এই সব ঘটনা হইয়াছে। আপনার মোশনে লিখেছেন যে ৬ তারিখে যে সব ঘটনা হইয়াছিল সেই বিষয়েরই আলোচনা করিবেন। সেই জন্য ১০ তারিখের ঘটনার আলোচনা আপনার Motion এর বহির্ভূত।

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: It is a matter concerning the happenings of 6th February, that is the day on which the main incident of shooting by the Police took place.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He also says looting.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: So far as the tearing and burning of the Holy Quoran is concerned, I think my Friend has made it sufficiently clear that these things happened from the 6th to 10th.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not in the Adjournment Motion. He also does not say that. He also says that all these happened on the 6th.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister says that the matter is *sub-judice*. So far as my information goes, Sir, I know that an *Ejahar* has been lodged by both the parties and the matter is being investigated into by the Police. I think, unless the matter has been taken cognisance of by a Magistrate, the

matter cannot be said to be *sub-judice*. When the question is under police investigation it cannot be held to be *sub-judice*. Sir, even if the matter be *sub-judice*, there is no bar in ordering an enquiry into the matter.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The House is to discuss it and censure Government for their acts of omission.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: I think, Sir, that the Government can hold an enquiry into the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is quite another matter. When the matter is *sub-judice* and the Court has taken cognisance of the case, after the enquiry is completed by the Court, Government may hold another enquiry, if they like.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: My submission, Sir, is that it is under police investigation and the Magistrate has not taken cognisance of the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not so. The Hon'ble Premier has clearly stated that a judicial enquiry was ordered, the enquiry was held, a charge sheet has been submitted and there has been *naraji* petition. So, the whole subject matter of the Adjournment Motion is before a Court.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: ৬ই তারিখের গুলি চালান বিষয়টা যদি *sub-judice* হয় তাহা হইলে উহার আলোচনা না হইতে পারে কিন্তু উহার সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়—ঘরবাড়ী ভাঙ্গিয়া দেওয়া, মেয়েদের উপর অত্যাচার করা, কোরান শরিফের অপমান করা ও লুট পাট করা ও রসি দিয়া বাক্সিয়া মারা ইত্যাদি বিষয় গুলি *sub-judice* নয়। এই সব বিষয়ের আলোচনা হইতে পারে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: এই যে কোরান শরিফের অপমান করা বা মেয়েদের উপর কোন রকম আক্রমণ করা বা লুট পাট করা এই সব কি ৬ই তারিখে হইয়াছিল?

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: হ্যাঁ ৬ তারিখে ও কতকটা হইয়াছিল।
The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: আপনার এইসব কথা ও পুলিশের কথা সবই বিচার্য। এই দুইটির ভিতর কোনটি সত্য সেটার বিচার আদালতে হবে স্তরাং এখন Assemblies সম্পর্কীয় Rules অনুযায়ী কোনই আলোচনা হতে পারে না।

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: The allegation made by my Friend Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia is a serious one.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Of course, there is no doubt that all these allegations are serious but I am afraid that under the Rules we cannot discuss them now.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: May I ask the Hon'ble Premier to depute the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to make an enquiry, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He has already enquired into the matter.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Hon'ble Premier has stated the two versions of the case. I understand that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister had been to the spot. May we know from him, Sir, which of the two versions is correct?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister say anything?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, I refrain from making a statement in the matter, as I should not do so.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I quite see that the matter which the Adjournment Motion wants to discuss is certainly a very important one but having regard to what has been stated by the Hon'ble Premier, all these allegations the allegations of the people affected and also the counter-allegations of the police are before a magistrate for adjudication. So, I cannot hold that the matter is in order. The House cannot discuss this matter having regard to the fact that the Court is in seisin of the cases that have arisen from the incidents. The Motion is therefore out of order and I do not give my consent.

* Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY to move:

"This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss the following matter of public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the failure of Government to purchase directly the Buro and Amon Paddy and rice from the Surma Valley cultivators in December, 1944, January and February, 1945."

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY to move:

"This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss the following matter of public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the high-handed action of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Officer-in-charge, Fenchuganj Police Station and the Labour Commissioner, Assam in sabotaging the activities of the Fenchuganj Engineering Working Union."

I do not see Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy in his seat. So his Motions * do not come up and fall through.

Then the Motion of Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.

Adjournment Motion re: the forcible eviction of landless immigrants from Koimari.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have tabled this Adjournment Motion which is before the House to discuss a very urgent matter of public importance.

Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the forcible eviction of the landless immigrants from the Koimari Reserve on 3rd February 1945, with the help of armed force.

Sir, I have tabled this Adjournment Motion to discuss a very urgent matter of public importance. I am prepared to satisfy you as to its admissibility.

Firstly, Sir, the matter is urgent in as much as it is unique in its character. The Sub-Deputy Collector and the Officer-in-charge of Police, Barpeta, the armed force and the Assamese people were all taking part in it. It is again the first of its kind not only in the Subdivision but in the whole Province—being an act of extreme high-handedness by the local officers in total disregard of the Government Resolution and instructions.

Secondly, Sir, the matter is of public importance. That it is so, perhaps, goes without saying. It is the foretaste of the treatment which is going to be meted out to the millions of Bengalee immigrants both Hindus and Muslims. It is but the initiation of a series of inhuman oppression of a kind hitherto unknown in the Province. Thirdly, Sir, it is of very recent date—the occurrence taking place on 3rd of February last.

Sir, the Government land settlement policy.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member is arguing. I think these facts will do.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : I am saying, Sir, that in total disregard of the Government Resolution the eviction was carried out.

The Government Resolution was published in the form of a Resolution in the *Assam Gazette* of 15th January 1945.

One of the main points therein being the eviction from the grazing reserves of immigrants who came to Assam prior to 1938 and of immigrants who took shelter in the different reserves as a result of their lands being washed or eroded away by the different rivers irrespective of the length of the period of their stay in the Province. Government decided to give them six months' time to shift themselves to lands to be found out for them by Government in the meantime. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister then organised a tour in the different affected districts to explain to the officers of the Revenue Department, the implication of Government Resolution and to instruct them as to how they should work out the policy. His tour programme was duly notified and published, and he was to reach Barpeta on the 6th February 1945, and to leave the town on the 9th. Now, Sir, the first week of February was one of the coldest weeks this year. The Sub-Deputy Collector, Barpeta—an Assamese Muslim officer—in his zeal and eagerness selected the 3rd day of February to exhibit his power...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think the facts given by the hon. Member will do. Hon. Member will please resume his seat.

I wish to know what point the hon. Member wants to be discussed. As the Motion has been explained, it appears that the hon. Member wants to discuss the point of forcible eviction of the landless immigrants with the help of armed force. I think that is the point for discussion.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, another point Mr. Rouf has

expressed is the total disregard to the Government Resolution which was recently adopted by the Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then the other point is that having regard to the Government's recent Resolution Government is not entitled to use force for the eviction of the immigrants. That is the point.

There is another notice of another Adjournment Motion * which stands in the name of Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. He also complains that there has been forcible eviction on the 23rd February last, of some Assamese villagers from certain grazing reserve. Does the hon. Member object to this Motion being taken up now ?

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : I do not object, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then the hon. Member agrees that that Motion can also be taken up for discussion because that also involves the point of forcible eviction.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : But I can place before the House how the eviction was actually carried out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes. Any other facts ?

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : On this his 'D' day the Sub-Deputy-Collector crossed the Pahumara river with the Sub Divisional Officer's elephant. There, he was given a guard of honour by the Officer in-charge, Barpeta Police and a posse of armed force. The gentleman saw some eight hundred families in the Koimari Reserve and selected some eight houses on the river side as his bridge head. These were the houses of persons who are mostly born in Assam of course, of immigrant parents. They were men from Dhubri Subdivision taking shelter in the Koimari Reserve after they had lost everything they had there, in the bosom of the Brahmaputra. These men were so well protected by even the present Government Resolution and so certain of the Government favour proposed to be bestowed upon them that one or two of them had even on that day been constructing houses with high bamboo *khutis* in place of their low huts so that they might pass the rainy season by taking shelter in *Machangs* during the rains.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER; All these facts are not necessary at this stage. I have understood the whole case and it is only the forcible eviction which is the point for discussion. How that force was used, of course, would come afterwards if the Motion is permitted to be discussed. That point does not arise now.

Has the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue got anything to say in this connection?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I will speak on this.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF: Sir, I should like to say that the police force and the Officer in-charge Barpeta Police assaulted some persons present there and it was certainly far beyond their jurisdiction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not at all necessary now and I have repeatedly said to the hon. Member that these facts will come afterwards. The question is now whether the Motion is to get my consent and whether the House is to grant leave for moving the Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, Government denies that there was any eviction—forcible eviction—with the help of armed force on the 3rd February 1945. As I stated before the House in the earlier Motion of my hon Friend, Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia that the Sub Deputy Collector went to the locality on the 3rd and he found that some 70 new Houses were being erected on that date by fresh encroachers. He collected these immigrants and argued with them that they had no right to forcibly occupy the Reserve and that they should vacate. The immigrants came to an amicable settlement.

* Srijut SURENDRA NATA BURAGOHAIN to move :

This Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created by the forcible eviction on 23rd February, 1945, by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Jorhat Circle, of a large number of Assamese villagers from Randhanijan Grazing Reserve in Jorhat Subdivision in clear contravention of the provisions of the recent Government Resolution on Land Settlement.

They actually either signed or put in their thumb impression on a document which is still in the hand of the Sub Divisional Officer at Barpeta. I admitted that the Sub Deputy Collector went beyond his powers in having two roofless sheds, which were erected there, trampled by elephants. Beyond that no armed force was used.

Then again, as to the question whether these immigrants have the right to enter into this Professional Grazing Reserve, the Government Resolution on the subject makes it clear that no one will be allowed to go into the grazing reserve anew or afresh but those people who have entered the grazing reserve before the 1st January 1938, will be allowed to remain.

Then, another concession was made on humanitarian grounds for those who held Government waste land, but the land has been taken for military purpose or has been eroded by the river. My hon. Friend states that these people came from the Dhubri subdivision, but as Dhubri subdivision is a permanently-settled place, it shows that these people were not settlement holders under Government and as such, they had no right to come to the reserve in question. I submit, Sir, that no case has been made out about alleged forcible eviction on the 3rd February, and that even if there was forcible eviction, these people are liable to eviction, having had no right to the land.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then, there was no eviction on the 3rd February. That is what the Hon'ble Premier says.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : Sir, as two houses were broken down, it proves that eviction was carried out.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Does the Hon'ble Premier admit that two houses were broken ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Yes, Sir, two roofless houses in process of building were broken.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : Sir, the Officer-in-charge actually assaulted some people. This fact was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the question is now *sub judice*. As my version is quite different from the version of the Government, I hope the Government will accept the position that an enquiry into the matter is necessary to ascertain which version is correct. I hope there will be no objection to this from Government.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I speak a few words regarding the spirit of the Resolution which my hon. Friend Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf has quoted. It appears, Sir, that Government at their own initiative gave six months' time as a concession to the people to remove, but it appears that there was much high handedness on the part of the officer concerned to evict the people. In spite of the spirit and explicit wordings of the Resolution of Government, he himself took the law in his own hand. Further, although the Hon'ble Revenue Minister notified the date of his visit to that subdivision with a view to explain the policy of Government, the officer concerned, it seems, took the law in his own hand and acted on his own initiative two or three days before the visit of the Hon'ble Minister.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Premier may reply.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We will be pleased to make an enquiry in the matter. We have got the report from the Sub-Deputy Collector concerned, but have not yet taken any action against him. If, however, the hon. Member wants that a further enquiry is to be made, I will ask the present Subdivisional Officer, who was not in the station at the date of the incident because he took over charge on the 9th February, to make the enquiry.

Maulavi Syed ABDUR ROUF : In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Premier, Sir, I do not press my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member does not press his Motion for

leave before the House. So, it is not necessary for me to decide whether the Motion is in order or not.

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN : With regard to my Adjournment Motion,* Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy has already moved his Motion.**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : He has already moved.

Srijut Surendra Nath Buragohain may now move his Motion.

Adjournment Motion *Re* forcible eviction by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Jorhat Circle, of Assamese villagers of Randhanijan Grazing Reserve in Jorhat Subdivision.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to move that this Assembly do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the situation created by the forcible eviction on 23rd February, 1945 by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Jorhat Circle, of a large number of Assamese villagers from Randhanijan Grazing Reserve in Jorhat Subdivision in clear contravention of the provisions of the recent Government Resolution on Land Settlement.

Sir, the Hon'ble Premier has just re-stated the position that has been adumbrated in the Government Resolution in the matter of January last. It has been the Government's direction that among those persons who have settled in the grazing reserves those who have lost their land due to military requisition, will be given six months' time to go to new land which the Government will give them. Sir, these Assamese villagers in spite of the clear order of the Government in this matter have been forcibly evicted by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Jorhat Circle, on the 23rd of last month, with the help of an armed police party.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But in the Motion, the words "armed police" have not been stated.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : Sir, I said "forcible eviction" and thought that that would include "armed police".

The Sub-Deputy Collector visited the place with an armed police party and applied force to evict the people there. Their houses were pulled down and they have been made homeless. These people in spite of their utmost entreaties were refused even twenty-four hours' time to move the district authority. They live within ten miles from Jorhat town and the same day they approached me and my hon. colleague —Srijut Ram Nath Das and Mr. K. Chaliha, Member of the Central Legislature, and other persons.

We all in a body met the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Humphrey, and reported the fact to him. But until I left Jorhat on the 27th of last month and until my hon. Friend Mr. Das left Jorhat on the 2nd of this month nothing is known to have been done by the authorities at Jorhat in the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I think the Hon'ble Revenue Minister will say what he has got to say on this matter.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that the Motion is not in order. The hon. Member has not shown how his Motion is in order as he has no case in that direction.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Was there any eviction?

The Hon'ble MUNAWWAR ALI : It is not to our knowledge that any eviction whatsoever took place. The hon. Mover also has stated that those people who have

*Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN to move :

"This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of public importance, *viz.*, to discuss about the alarming situation arising out of mill cloth famine now prevailing in the Province and the failure of Government to tackle it."

**Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY moved :—

This Assembly do now adjourn to discuss the following matter of public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the failure of Government to supply mill cloth both to urban and rural population of the Sylhet district.

lost their land due to military requisition will get new land. Is there any such statement in his Motion, Sir? There is none. So, I submit, Sir, that this is not a fit case for an Adjournment Motion, and even if eviction had taken place, it ought to have been placed before the Assam Revenue Tribunal and not before this House. That is the law. If any eviction really took place, the hon. Member should ventilate the grievance before the Revenue Tribunal.

Srijut RAM NATH DAS : May I know from the Hon'ble Revenue Minister whether, after the receipt of the notice of the Adjournment Motion, he has sent any wire to the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar to know whether there was any forcible eviction?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : No, Sir, I only enquired of the hon. Mover and he told me, if I could understand him, that no eviction had taken place actually.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : I told him, Sir, that this eviction did take place, and I wanted the Hon'ble Minister to take speedy action in that matter because the authorities there were not doing anything.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : As regards this also, Sir, I have already made it clear to the House.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : Sir, up till I and also Mr. Das left Jorhat nothing had been done. So, I want the Hon'ble Minister to direct the District authorities to take the matter in hand and extend relief immediately to the people evicted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : Relief in what way, Sir?

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : I have abundantly made it clear, Sir, that those persons who have been made homeless and landless by the high-handed action, an action which was beyond the jurisdiction of the Sub-Deputy Collector, by forcibly evicting them and making them homeless and landless—those people are entitled to the utmost protection from Government, because their former lands were requisitioned for military purposes last year. It was during the last year that they were shown the present lands to come over and settle there. But now, after they had been there as settled villagers the Sub-Deputy Collector came and evicted them without allowing them 24 hours time to go to the Deputy Commissioner to represent their grievances. So, Sir, I ask what matter can be more urgent or definite or of public importance than this?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then may I take it that the hon. Member wants that Government should make an enquiry first whether there was eviction of those people? And then the Government should decide what relief can be given to those people? Is the Hon'ble Minister agreeable to make an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : That I shall do, Sir, and if the lands of those evicted people were requisitioned for military purposes I shall endeavour to give them lands, if they want.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : Sir, may I enquire of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister that if it is proved that the lands of those people were actually requisitioned for military purposes, they will be reinstated in the places from where they have just been evicted and whether he is prepared to compensate them?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI : About the first, Sir, I shall consider. But the second point would not arise.

Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN : In view of that, Sir, I do not press my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member does not press his Motion for leave. So I do not decide whether the Adjournment Motion is in order or not.

Presentation of the supplementary statement of expenditure for the year, 1944-45.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury is engaged in the Upper House

I may be permitted to present the *Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 1944-45. All Members, I think, have received a copy of the Statement that is going to be placed before the House. If they go through it they will find that most of the supplementary expenditure was due to the dearness allowances which Government have given to their officers and servants and in some cases due to certain Salary Bills having been passed by the House in November 1944.

General discussion of the Budget and discussion on charged expenditure.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Items Nos. 3 and 4 are taken up together. General discussion of the Budget and discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the revenues of the Province other than those relating to expenditure referred to in paragraph (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 78 of the Government of India Act, may proceed together.

I may inform the hon. Members that the time limit for each speech is fixed to be fifteen minutes. But the Hon'ble Finance Minister will have to be given much more than this time for his replies to the numerous points that are likely to be raised in the discussion.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, it may not be possible for some hon. Members, who would like to raise very important points, to finish in fifteen minutes.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, I will see to that. And I shall certainly relax the time limit wherever it will be necessary.

Mr. D. B. H. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last Budget Session, by means of a Cut Motion, I drew the attention of Government to the appalling annual loss which was occurring due to poultry diseases, and to the fact that since 1942 the total staff maintained by the Veterinary Department for the investigation of these diseases consisted of one ill-paid Assistant Investigation Officer, with one peon. I asked, in company with Mr. Abdul Bari Chaudhury, for information in regard to poultry breeding, and suggested that the Department should seek the immediate assistance of Mr. Hayley and the Publicity Department, and that the special Investigation Officer should be given a staff which would enable him to cope with the huge problem with which he was faced. Since then a year has elapsed, I have received no information; as far as I am aware the services of the Publicity Department have not been enlisted, and in this year's Budget again we find the same Assistant Investigation Officer, still with his staff of one peon. This is far from satisfactory, and my first target for to-day is therefore the Veterinary Department.

It is evident that the seriousness of this problem is not appreciated by Government. Every Member of this House knows well that every year some disease or other attacks poultry and as a result tens of thousands,—perhaps hundreds of thousands—die, representing a loss to the common man and to the Province which is staggering. At any time, such losses in poultry as well as eggs would be a serious matter. In times like the present, when food is scarce and malnutrition becoming an ever-increasing danger, this loss is little short of a national disaster.

Government introduced a scheme in connection with poultry diseases as far back as May 1942. But what has been done during these last 3 years, what progress has been made in checking these diseases remains to the public a mystery. The Assistant Investigation Officer, with his loyal peon still appears in the Budget, but in the meantime disease continues to attack and wipe out poultry with disastrous regularity. When I came to Shillong to attend the last November Session, I had occasion to spend a night with a friend in the Nowgong District. This friend was a keen breeder of poultry and he had a fine collection of various breeds of birds. He had every reason to be proud of this collection and I was introduced to various breeds and

*Appendix C.

types and I was fortunate enough to receive some very valuable information on breeding. When I left to come up here, I had seen for myself what can be done in the way of breeding poultry. After the conclusion of the Session on my way home I again called on my friend only to find that he had become within a space of 10 days a very ill man. No less than 70 per. cent of his fine birds had died. That is not the end of the story. When I reached my own home, I found that a large number of my own poultry had died and the majority of the remainder was tottering around with internal disease or troubles. This was going on all round. A gentleman in the village who used to provide me with eggs lost nearly 80 per cent of his birds and this was happening on such a scale that the price of eggs in the district rose to 4½ annas to 5 annas each. Nevertheless, it is my belief that a great deal can be done to lessen this appalling annual loss by the application of certain simple rules in the housing and breeding of poultry, and the Veterinary Department should by now be in a position to give this information. Among other things, information is urgently needed by the layman on :

The construction of a simple, but efficient hen house (*moorgy-khana*).

The best type of floor, wooden, cement, earth or ash.

Whether lime washing of the interior is advisable, and if so, at what intervals should it be renewed.

The best types of birds to breed.

Details of feeding.

And, most important of all—treatment in case of illness, and a host of other similar details.

After three years of research, I cannot believe that the Department is not in a position to give this information, and it is here that they should most certainly enlist the help of the Publicity Department. Let them produce a pamphlet on poultry breeding and the treatment of their diseases, based on the latest available information, print it in English and the Vernacular, ensure the widest possible circulation, and the common man of Assam will at least have something to help him and some effort will have been made to check the ravages caused by disease. I am in no way exaggerating the seriousness of this problem. It can and must be tackled vigorously and at once. I am not asking Government to give this matter their consideration. I am asking for an unqualified assurance that action will be taken on the lines that I have indicated. If there are any serious practical objections to this suggestion, then I want to hear them.

I am fully aware that the Agriculture Department's budget contains the provision of Rs. 38,13,018 for the Grow More Food Campaign and that, of this sum, Rs. 3,95,080 has been earmarked for a poultry and breeding scheme. This sounds encouraging, but unhappily the House is left in ignorance as to the details of this scheme, or how this considerable sum of money is to be spent. Is part of this sum to be devoted to coping with poultry disease, or is the money to be devoted solely to poultry breeding? It is surely of little use to spend large sums of money on breeding poultry if disease will immediately wipe them out. We attach so much importance to this matter that I ask Government to give us some details of this scheme when replying to the debate.

Turning now to the subject of Local Self-Government, I must draw the attention of Government to the deplorable state of many of the Municipal and Local Board roads in the Province, with particular reference to conditions in the Dibrugarh area. It cannot be denied that conditions during the past year have been exceptionally difficult in the matter of repairs to roads, but there is no doubt that, had the genuine intention been there, local bodies could have done a great deal more than what has been done.

Let me take the specific case of the roads in Dibrugarh town. It is no exaggeration to say that the condition of certain of the main motoring roads through this Municipality are a public scandal, enormous pot-holes at a few feet intervals which make it impossible for a car or other motor vehicle to proceed through the town over these roads at more than 5—10 miles per hour. Compulsory speed restrictions in large towns may be very necessary and desirable for various reasons, but to enforce such restrictions by means of holes in the roadway, which might well be termed craters that shatter springs, burst precious tyres and seriously damage even more precious motor vehicles, is clearly shameful. The roads that I have in mind have been allowed to remain in this condition for the past two years, and in spite of repeated representations from the public, the Municipal Board has failed to effect any repairs except in one small area where some broken brick and earth have been used to part-fill a few of the worst craters. The plea put forward has been that as military vehicles caused the damage in the first place, the military should be responsible for the repair, and that, in any case, no materials are available for repair, all stone supplies, etc., being frozen for use by the military. It is true of course that to obtain stone and other road-repair materials, considerable difficulties are experienced. But I cannot believe that if the matter had been raised and a reasonable case put up to the proper Military Authorities, they would have flatly refused to co-operate. In any case, the roads in question could have been temporarily but effectively repaired during the cold weather months by utilizing a mixture of earth and broken brick, or even in emergency by using earth alone, but no such attempts have been made. The plain fact is that the Municipality has failed to make any serious effort to maintain the roads in repair, and a similar state of affairs exists in other Municipal areas to a greater or less degree, as well as on a number of Local Board roads.

It is high time that Government took firm action in this matter, and I suggest that in such cases as Dibrugarh, part of the non-recurring grant made to Municipal Boards of Rs. 29,956 should be ear-marked for use on repairs to important roads, and the necessary action on the part of the Municipal Boards insisted upon. In the case of Local Board roads, the same procedure can be adopted, ear-marking part of the grant of Rs. 2,67,513 for use in repairing the more important roads. I ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to take note of these suggestions and if possible implement them at the earliest possible moment.

Turning now to the Forest Department, we applaud the action of Government in relation to post-war reconstruction in putting back into Forest Capital some 50 lakhs either in the form of a Depreciation or Sinking Fund, or in the form of specific schemes of development. We also fully approve the adoption of schemes for the improved training of subordinate staff and the development of forest communications.

There is, however, one point in connection with the disposal annually of thatch and cane *mahals* to which I desire to draw Government's attention. The *mahals* are still sold by public auction, which results in their being allotted usually to the highest bidder, who, in many cases, may be, and, indeed, is an inexperienced or even an incapable man. Although *mahaldars* were warned that the prices for thatch and cane would be fixed at a rate which would not include more than a reasonable sum in respect of royalty, ridiculously high bids were made and have been accepted. I refer in particular to the Lakhimpur district. This practice will inevitably result in the public being fleeced at the expense of the Forest Department, or alternatively, if District Rates Boards stand firm and fix reasonable prices, *mahaldars* will appeal for a rebate on the prices paid. Extractions will in any case be poor and delayed owing to the uncertainty of *mahaldars* as to their position.

Under the present system, Government is in fact conniving at unfair profiteering—a situation which is far from satisfactory and needs careful examination and early remedying.

I must now offer a word of congratulation to the Publicity Department which has made considerable strides during the past year. In particular, I should like to congratulate the Department on the publication of its new weekly Publicity Bulletin—a very useful little pamphlet in which can be found communiques, Press notes and advertisements in handy form which otherwise require patient and too often long search through piles of Gazettes. May I again request that the assistance of this Department be obtained in dealing with the treatment of poultry diseases and poultry breeding ?

I cannot conclude, Sir, without a reference to the subject of rail travel in this Province. We may be backward, we may be poor, but the public of Assam does not deserve the scandalous conditions of rail travel with which they are now-a-days afflicted. War conditions naturally impose certain inconveniences and restrictions on the travelling public, but there is absolutely no excuse for rolling stock to be in a filthy, dirty condition—the glass of windows so dirty that in some cases it is not possible to see through them ; water to be unobtainable ; and upper class civilian passengers made to pay first class fares for third class accommodation. And yet these are the conditions of travel on the Bengal and Assam Railway, particularly on the stretch between Tinsukia and Pandu. It will be noted that I make no reference to the absence of electric light bulbs, and the wanton damage done by certain persons to the fittings in upper and inter-class compartments such as the removal of seat cushions, mirrors, cloth-hooks, basin and lavatory fittings. It can, I think, be argued with some fairness that the Railway cannot be held responsible for such acts and it must be admitted that replacement of the parts and fittings is in many cases impossible under war-time conditions. But Government certainly owes a duty to the travelling public of this Province to do everything in its power to bring about not only a marked but an *immediate* improvement in the conditions of present day travel on this Railway, conditions which are, and have been, for some time past, nothing short of a disgrace and a public scandal. It is a deplorable fact that, while conditions generally in Assam during the past few years have become progressively more and more difficult, the only assistance this Province has been able to squeeze out of a reluctant Central Government has been, in most cases, distressingly small grants and shockingly bad public services.

In conclusion, may I suggest for your consideration, Sir, that, in future, Members of this House who are elected to both the Eastern Bengal and Assam Bengal Zones of the Bengal and Assam Railway Local Advisory Committees should be invited to submit written reports on their activities during the year, and that copies of these reports should be placed on Members' tables at the commencement of each Budget Session ?

Srijut GHANA KANTA GOGOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my proud privilege to have a seat in this august Assembly in the midst of the learned and experienced hon. Members, who represent the people, and I venture to speak a few words on the Budget. It is happy to find, that owing to the war inflation, the position of Assam Finance has improved and some money is available for constructive works. We are in changing times, the country is advancing in different spheres and it is up to this Government to lay the foundations of a progressive Assam on sound lines, so that posterity may, in days to come, regard this august Legislature as the makers of Assam—rich, enlightened and great.

Any country that aspires to be great, must give its deepest and most serious attention for the spread of education amongst each and every one of its children. Democracy cannot but be a mockery, unless and until the masses receive suitable education. In this Province of ours—which is one of the most backward in India—education must be given the first consideration. It is happy that this House has, the

other day, adopted a Motion to introduce free compulsory primary education and it is up to this Legislature to find funds for this purpose. It is surely a bold step taken in the right direction. At the same time adult mass literacy is receiving the due attention of Government. I hope the learned Members of this honourable House and Government will evolve an efficient system of adult education, which will not remain content with the teaching of the three "Rs." Ignorance and illiteracy of the country must be attacked vigorously from both ends so that this mass waste of the most valuable asset of the country—namely, the brain power of its people—is checked and stopped at the earliest. Failing this, all progressive ideas and plans will have little chance of materialisation.

Next to primary and adult education, comes in the subject of secondary education. The large number of private and Government aided secondary schools should forthwith be raised to the status of the Government schools—*i.e.*, Sir, I suggest that, all secondary schools should be provincialised—if necessary by uniformly raising the rates of fees of all schools—not of the aided schools alone—and also by providing additional funds in the Budget. Under the system now prevailing, the country is having secondary education at the cost of the ill-treated and ill-fated aided school teachers. This system of injustice to the aided school teachers, the children of the tax-payers, and the ryots—who are our masters—should be stopped and justice should be done. In a democratic State, there cannot and should not exist two classes of people—one privileged and the other deprived of such privileges—who meet this differential treatment, for doing the same work. I think, Sir, provincialisation of all the secondary schools is possible, for this, again a bold step must be taken by this Legislature. If by uniformly raising fee rates of all schools and providing what additional funds that may be found from the State revenue, if it is found that more money is wanting. I would humbly suggest that the scales of pay of teachers should be revised—and all teachers are brought on to the same plane. If this plan is not possible for execution, I suggest that the other alternative, that is deprovincialisation of the secondary schools, should be done. But I think, Sir, the question of deprovincialisation should not come in, when the State is controlling everything and an important subject like secondary education must be under State control. I suggest, Sir, there should be provincialised schools in necessary areas, and any number of mushroom schools should not be allowed to grow. I say this with a view to eliminate the unnecessary growth of rival schools.

There should be, I think, two types of secondary schools—one for imparting academic education and the other for giving industrial and technical education along with general education. I think, Sir, the question of establishment of a University may wait, but the country cannot wait any more for the introduction of compulsory primary education for the children, adult mass literacy for the grown-ups and secondary education for its adolescents. This, I think, is the first duty and responsibility of the Legislature.

Now, Sir, descending from policy and principles, I come to some smaller matters. My subdivision, *i.e.* Dibrugarh is one of the most educationally backward areas in whole Assam. I insist on Government that if the introduction of compulsory primary education and provincialisation of secondary schools of compulsory sufficient money should be made available for taking up at least 40 primary schools in different localities of the Subdivision of Dibrugarh and Government aid should be forthwith granted to (1) Barpathar Boys' Middle English School, (2) Barpathar Girls' Middle English School, (3) Dhemaji Middle English School, and (4) Dihingmukh Middle English School in Sibsagar lying on the border of Dibrugarh Subdivision. I also draw the attention of this Government to the fact that two very important localities Rohmaria should have each an aided Middle English School. The people of the and perhaps the most backward localities in my constituency—namely, Sissi and localities concerned are making a move to establish the schools.

I also draw the attention of Government to the fact that my community—the Ahom Community—is educationally backward. The Ahom Members of the Legislature have been representing to Government that a reasonable quota of free student-ships and scholarships in all grades of educational institutions should be reserved.

I do not know what Government have done in this behalf. It is the request of my community that 30 per cent. of school children in Government and aided secondary schools should be given free-studentships out of the new scholarships provided in the Budget ; 25 out of the 305 primary, 10 out of the 40 Middle English scholarships, 5 out of 25 ten-rupees special scholarships and one 15-rupees junior competitive scholarships in addition to the one allocated to this community should be reserved. These educational privileges may kindly be granted by Government and incorporated in the Educational Manual. These privileges are being asked for, for all sections of the Ahom race, namely, the Ahoms, Morans, Motocks, Fakials, etc.

Then again coming to the sphere of female education, I take this opportunity to congratulate Government for making provision to educate 4 female teachers in the Women's College at Delhi. I think, it should be the policy of Government to provide one trained female teacher in domestic science, for every girls' secondary school in the Province.

Again coming to the sphere of technical education, I draw the attention of this Government to the late declaration of the Centre to send 500 students to foreign countries for technical education. Assam should move the Central Government to allocate funds and the due quota of students for training abroad, in view of the fact that Assam has immense post-war possibilities for development and also provide the 50 per cent. of its share of expenses for sending these students abroad.

Assam being essentially an agricultural country, agriculture together with animal husbandry should receive greater importance than it is receiving now. I suggest that Government should spend no time to start agricultural schools, and there should be a model agricultural and livestock farm in every subdivision. I would like to suggest that the Veterinary Department should be incorporated in the Agriculture Department and provision should be made for giving veterinary education in this Province.

The pay and prospects of the veterinary service should be raised to the level now enjoyed by the service that ministers for human health. I think the doctors of cattle, i.e., the Veterinary doctors render no less important service than the doctors of human health. They are, and should be, great friends of the people of the country and on them greatly depends the prosperity of an agricultural country like Assam. Hence to have the right type of man for the service, the pay, prospects and social status of the Veterinary doctors should be raised. I hope the hon. Members of this Assembly will agree with me.

Regarding irrigation projects and reclamation of culturable lands, this Government is undertaking laudable projects in hand. I request Government to provide for deepening the Asijan—a natural channel for the outflow of excess water from the paddy fields of the Barpathar area in Jamira Mauza of Dibrugarh, to the Brahmaputra. This operation will enable the people of about 15 villages to grow paddy properly in the now water logged paddy land of the area.

I also suggest that Government should see its way, even in war time, to raise the status of the Dibrugarh Berry-White Medical School to the status of a College.

I also suggest that the whole of the eastern portion of North Trunk Road, running from Sissi in Dibrugarh to North Lakhimpur Town, be taken up by the Public Works Department in the coming year and be improved.

The destiny of this Province is in the hands of the learned hon'ble House. Money should not be allowed to stand in the way of the Province's development and progress, even in war time. I believe the necessary money may be found out.

With these suggestions, which, I think, is for the best interests of the Province, Sir, resume my seat.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are in the throes of revolutionary changes in our history, geography and in all human values. This Province has attained, as never before, an importance in the map of the world. This obscure place-names of this Province were in the news in 1944 and will continue to occupy front page space even when the war recedes with a diminishing outline far away from our borders. The Ledo Road opens the door to China and Burma and

South East Asia. So Assam becomes the trijunction point for three countries, namely, India, China and Burma. The eastern gates of India closed for thousands of years under the hand and seal of Nature once unlocked, will be importing new problems and possibilities for the country generally and for Assam particularly.

We are not sure if our administrators are mindful about them. At least the Budget speech of the Finance Minister gave us no inkling to the prospects and problems with which we shall be face to face soon after the conclusion of the war.

Assam's defence will be India's defence against future foreign aggression. The nature of the terrain of India's eastern frontier raises special problems of defence quite unlike the western frontier. So naturally the attention used to be paid there would now mainly be switched over to this part of the country and its people. If martial tribes were delimited in the western frontier, new martial races will possibly grow up here as well, due to the exigencies of local defence. But this war has taught us, more than ever before, that it is not the business of the martial races alone to fight a total war of the present-day scale. It calls for contribution from all sections of the people in its different aspects and techniques. So the distinction between martial and non-martial tribes has lost much of its significance and the services of all classes of people are required to be harnessed to the problems of the country's defence.

Sir, we are not yet in possession of the plans of world security formulated in Dumbarton Oaks Conference or what is still up the sleeves of the Big Three about the destiny of the Asiatic Nations. But Yalta seems to have scratched the much trumpeted Atlantic Charter. The professed right of the people to choose their own form of Government has been given a go-by. Yet, the principle of regional security system will, to my mind, have to be adopted for the purpose of future world security, having regard to the increasing dangers of vulnerability of the ocean routes and air alleys of communication and supply. If regional security blocks are established, India has an important role to play as the arsenal of South East Asia. So in that context, the defence of India loses its insular or purely local character. The vastness of the problem of India's defence which could be advanced as a reason for denying India of her legitimate claim to independence, would now be the *raison d'être* for freedom and the dispersal of the defence system, the cogent argument for her rapid industrialisation. So, I believe, unless the vision of the British Government is blinded by their imperialist pride, they will have to admit willy-nilly before long the right of India to choose her own Government. And it will be to the interest of India, United Kingdom and the entire world.

Sir, having taken a cursory view of the Province in All-India and world context, let me come down to some local aspect of our problems.

With regard to the figures of our Budget Estimates, very little comment is called for, because we have seen from a comparison of the current year's estimate and the revised that the difference on the revenue side is of Rs. 1,29,27,000 and on the expenditure side of Rs. 89,78,000. When there is so wide a variation between our estimates and the revised, we cannot unreservedly commend the estimating capacity of our Finance Department. Hence it would do no good to base our comments on the next year's estimate supplied by the Finance Minister, which, I am afraid, is likely to lend itself to tremendous fluctuation on account of forces which the Finance Department cannot foresee or gauge correctly.

On the capital side, the true picture has been withheld from us as on the admission of the Hon'ble Minister himself, his closing balance is an illusory figure. As Government do not like to value their stock at the close of the financial year, we cannot rightly estimate our position on the trade transactions of Government. But the Hon'ble Minister cleverly throws a hint that there will be trading losses due to falling market and depreciation of stocks. As Government are the monopoly traders in respect of the controlled foodstuffs, we do not know why should there be any huge loss due to falling market. Moreover, every trading concern prepares its annual balance sheet and profit and loss accounts in spite of variations in the value of its stock, and so there is no justification for Government not to do so.

Anyway, Sir from all these factors it is crystal clear that the Budget Estimates as

presented to the House have been done more as a matter of form than of any real substance. It is therefore not worthwhile either to commend or condemn the Finance Minister on the Budget figures.

Although the revenue of the current year will reach the peak in the history of the Province, the perennial argument of want of funds is not wanting. What is wanting is not want of funds, but want of imagination and outlook. When the country is thinking in terms of hundreds and thousands of crores, our Ministry thinks in terms of thousands and lakhs and feel complacent over an allotment of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Post-War Reconstruction Fund. The Hon'ble Prime Minister looked up to us to find out 50 lakhs for introduction of compulsory primary education. If he cannot find out this money, what is the hope for Post-War Reconstruction—what is the hope for a better Assam to come in? If you really want us to find the way, we can help to find it for you. Our immigrant friends suggested more land revenue from more land settlement. While passing no opinion on the land settlement policy of the Government, I say land revenue is no revenue. It is more a liability than an asset. The land revenue does not cover the normal expenses of administration of those areas or people from whom it is derived. It leaves no margin to be transferred to what is called nation building departments.

The war has helped many people to accumulate fabulous money while others with inelastic income have been adversely hit by the inflation. National Saving Certificates cannot save the nation from the effect of a created inflation. It is the planned efforts to transfer the purchasing power from the hands of the few to the hands of the masses that may be the real remedy for it.

The question is what would be the planned efforts for the purpose. Borrowing for productive purpose is one of the methods. If the Government borrow money to invest in installing hydro-electric power, to invest in irrigation schemes, reclamation of waste lands, intensive cultivation programmes and in tapping the natural mineral resources of the Province, and in the process of industrialisation which can absorb the landless section of the people, there will be a transfer of purchasing power which will be reflected in the increased revenue for the Government. So long as the State is not in a position to guarantee employment for all, a balanced diet, an all round look up in the standard of health, housing and living for the entire population, it has no moral justification to demand further taxation from the people. "Give me money and I will give you"—this is what the people will say. A well-fed, well-clothed, well-housed healthy nation is the best revenue any State can expect. This is the new concept of revenue. In such a setting the communal question disappears. It matters not, who becomes the Deputy Commissioner or who the Inspector of Schools. I do not know whether this Government is willing to plan the future reconstruction of Assam in this way. But to my mind there can be no planning for reconstruction without the background of a national Government. So in all the hurry and hustle about post-war plans, the Government seem more to look over the plumes and overlook the bird.

The wartime control orders meant for the equitable distribution of commodities to the masses have served as the trump cards in the hands of the Government. The wide powers concentrated in their hands have been utilised for distributing favours to their rich patrons of the Ministry. New galaxy of dealers, agents and contractors has sprung up over-night in the Province with no experience of the job or the trade concerned. Their favouritism in the services have been drafted to guard all the strategic posts. And the poor cultivator is made to pay the black market price for almost all the necessities of life. So the rich get richer and the poor, poorer.

During the last November Session the Government showed anxiety to abide by the wishes of the House on their food policy. But how the Resolution unanimously passed regarding the fixation of a minimum price for paddy and rice has been honoured by the Ministry is too patent a fact to need reiteration.

The assurance of speedy attention to the cases of eviction and requisition for war emergency and payment thereof has not been redeemed. The schedule of rates of compensation which is an anachronism has not yet been revised to bring it to a par with the present price level. So we remain where we were. The Ministry think that they

have nothing to worry unless there is mutiny in their own camp. If they can pacify the revolt or pseudo-revolt there, they need not care what others say.

Whatever it might be, it is not certainly a popular or responsible Government. Some lucky people think they are beyond the Government, others feel they are without the Government and very few within it.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSET: Mr. Speaker, Sir, probably the most important of any subject provided for in the Budget which has been presented to us is what is called Post-War Reconstruction. I personally would prefer to call it Development, especially when referring to the task ahead of us in this Province. We hear a lot these days about Reconstruction or Development, and when humanity is struggling to find a way out of its darkness into light, it is not surprising that we do. But it is very necessary for us to know precisely what we, here in Assam, mean by it. If we mean, as I think we should and must, that on the lowest possible statement we think it is desirable to move towards a more balanced economy, there is no doubt whatever that we mean the development of the natural resources wherewith a bountiful nature has blessed us, and though I acknowledge and, indeed, acclaim that Government intends to set aside 50 lakhs of rupees for Post War Reconstruction in general terms, we feel valuable time is being squandered in the formulation of all kinds of unco-ordinated schemes to the detriment of the scheme which should tower head and shoulders above all the rest—I mean the harnessing of our vast and presently wasted water power. We feel the task of experts is being messed about by amateurs. It is, for example, far from reassuring to know that Assam's case for the Government of India scheme of a fertilizer manufacturing plant in conjunction with hydro-electricity to manufacture 350,000 tons of fertilizers a year within its borders has gone by the board and Orissa has been given the task, even though in the whole of India there is probably no Province better suited and potentially equipped for the job than is Assam. I am told we missed this golden opportunity just because the soil of Assam does not need Sulphate of Ammonia to help it grow good crops of rice. Did the Government who were thus advised forget that the post-war needs of tea alone in Assam will probably amount to 30,000 tons a year of that particular fertilizer: that tea gardens in the adjoining Province will need possibly 15,000 tons; that we have rail and river communication and that we could export the balance? However, as mistakes are sent us so to make that we may learn, let us hope this one has had the effect of showing Government how necessary it is for them to be up and doing. We shall not cease to urge on Government that they develop our water power until they really make a start in a big way; in fact, Sir, the blast from these benches shall not cease until Government raises its first dam.

Inextricably bound up with post-war, or for the matter, any other kind of national development in education, and the policy in connection with it, followed by Government. Unfortunately a careful examination of the Budget speech and the memorandum discloses the startling and deplorable fact that it is proposed to continue the same dead end policy of keeping the emphasis on academic instead of technical training. Anybody who has given ten minutes consideration to the problem of achieving a balanced economy in this Province is aware of the literally thousands of technicians, some of them of an extremely high order that will be required and this, *plus* the fact that we have no really advanced Assamese technician capable of leading this Province to such an end, and but a few—a very few—capable of joining the procession in humbler capacities underlines the need for a reversal of that policy here and now: we have no time to lose.

In the Medical and Public Health Departments, it is good to see the expansion of humanitarian projects, and we are glad to notice that, especially in the matter of leper colonies, Government's policy is to assist and foster those already in existence, proved and doing good work, rather than opening up new institutions of nebulous value.

Whilst on this subject, Sir, we would welcome signs that Government acknowledges the necessity and value of scientific research. There is so much to research these days in the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms that we believe a separate Scientific Research Department should and must be established, and not

only established, but set to work under the direction of a highly qualified and experienced Director, linked to, co-ordinated with, and co-related to every phase of national life to which research means anything. For instance, we have no Provincial Dietician. Here is one essential function for the Department to perform. Cattle, goats and poultry—very important parts of our daily life—are diseased and dying; human beings are similarly afflicted. All these and more also are matters for scientific research. It is useless to consider national development, post-war or otherwise apart from the fundamental welfare of the people and every item of their domestic economy. We in the Tea Industry spend between 3 and 3½ lakhs of rupees a year on our Scientific Department; we do not do that because we merely believe it is good to keep scientists alive, but we do it because we regard the expenditure as well spent—as a sound investment. Our Scientific Department spends most of its time researching ways and means for the development of bigger and better tea bushes. If we cannot afford to refuse our bushes the benefit of scientific research, can the Government of Assam refuse the same benefit to its people? A Scientific Research Department must come sooner or later—why not sooner?

To journey now, Sir, from these heights to the plains, I desire to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister concerned, to the appalling condition of some of the Local Board roads leading to and from tea gardens. Some Local Board Chairmen, taking advantage of the fact that the gardens must get their produce out and their stores in over these roads, seek to engage the garden Managers as Fiduciary Agents at absurdly low rates and the Managers in self-defence have to accept them. This game has been going on long enough, and we ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge if he will be good enough to blow his whistle and put a stop to it. If he could see his way to instructing the Commissioner to earmark part of his discretionary grant for the purpose of improving these roads, we would be grateful.

And finally, Sir, I must again voice a protest against the shocking state of the Post and Telegraph services in this Province. The telegraph and postal delays to which our correspondence is subjected is nothing short of a major public scandal. There is no such thing these days as an ordinary telegram, and though I must acknowledge a recent improvement in the time of delivery of express telegrams on certain routes, for the most part, express telegrams take almost as long to reach their addresses as a letter; and indeed, in some cases, longer. Now, for Posts, Sir, I hold in my hand a letter which took thirteen days to reach Badlipar Post Office from Dibrugarh. It was certainly censored, but what has that to do with it? This, I admit, is one of the worst examples of delay I have known, but it is fair to say that the rate of letter delivery is a great deal slower than it should be. Here is another specimen: a letter from Badlipar to Gauhati that took five days to be delivered. I am told, Sir, that every letter written in Shillong, no matter to whom it is addressed, has to be sent to Gauhati to be censored before it is delivered. So that if I were to write a letter to-day to the Hon'ble Premier or to Hon'ble Miss Dunn, it would first go to Gauhati and then be delivered to them. If this is true, Sir, and I ask Government to test my information, it surely is one of the most ridiculous and annoying farces that can be imagined. All sections of this House have at various times complained of these matters, and I suggest it is time the Ministry did better than simply to say, "this is a Central subject and we cannot do anything". It is a part of their job to preserve the interests of the people and I believe they could do this part of the job better. The creaking old incompetence called the Indian Post and Telegraphs stands in Assam almost where it did 50 years ago safe in the knowledge that we have to use it or burst. Will Government do its very best to awaken this moribund institution to a world-war of 1945 and relieve us of our grievances?

Rai Sahib DAULAT CHANDRA GOHAIN: মাননীয় সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে আমাৰ আগত যি বাজেট দাখিল কৰিছে তাত অহা বছৰ বাবে নতুন কামৰ

কাৰণে আন কেবছৰতকৈ বেলেগ্ বেলেগ্ বিভাগৰ কাৰণে সৰহীয়াকৈ টকা খৰা হৈছে। এইটো অৱশ্যে সন্তোষৰ কথা। কিন্তু এটা কথা মই নকৈ নোৱাৰো যে মোৰ অঞ্চল বা মোৰ জিলাত এই বিলাকৰ বিশেষ ভাগ একো পৰা নাই। মই যি অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সেই অঞ্চলৰ আহোম, মৰাণ, মটক, ফাকিয়াল, টাইবেল, কছাৰি, বস্তিৱলা, বনুৱা, আদি ন-পুৰণি বাসিন্দা বিলাক শিক্ষা দীক্ষা অৰ্থ-স্বাস্থ্য আদি সকলো বিষয়তেই শৌচনীয় ভাবে পিচ পৰা। এনে এটা পিচ পৰা অঞ্চলৰ কাৰণে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ উদাসীনতা দেখি মই দুঃখ আৰু বেজাৰ পাইছো।

শিক্ষা সম্পৰ্কে চাবলৈ গলে মোৰ সমষ্টিত সকলো শ্ৰেণীৰ স্কুলৰ সংখ্যাই তাকৰ। এই অঞ্চলত এটাও গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুল নাই। মই জনাত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে মাত্ৰ দুখন এম. ই. স্কুলক যৎসামান্য অৰ্থ সাহায্য দিয়ে আৰু এই মুঠ সাহায্যৰ পৰিমাণ মাহে ৫০।৬০ টকাৰ উৰ্দ্ধ নহব। মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী খান বাহাদুৰ মহোদয় ডিব্ৰুগড়ীয়া এজন হোৱা স্বত্বেও ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ এই অঞ্চলৰ এই দুৰৱস্থা হোৱাটো পৰিতাপৰ কথা।

মোৰ অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰধান কেন্দ্ৰ ডাঙ্গৰী, ডুমডুমা আৰু মাৰ্ঘেৰিটা এই তিনি ঠাইত একোখনকৈ হাই স্কুলৰ নিতান্ত প্ৰয়োজন। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত ডাঙ্গৰীৰ চৰকাৰি সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত মাইনৰ স্কুলটো হাইস্কুলৰ খাপলৈ ৰাইজে নিজ চেষ্টাৰে তুলিছে। এই ডাঙ্গৰী স্কুলক হাইস্কুল হিচাপে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যথেষ্ট বকমে সাহায্য দিবলৈ মই টানি অনুৰোধ কৰো। বাকী ডুমডুমা আৰু মাৰ্ঘেৰিটা মাইনৰ স্কুল দুখনো হাইস্কুলৰ খাপলৈ তুলিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সহায় কৰিব লাগে আৰু কাক-পথাৰৰ মাইনৰ স্কুলৰ কাৰণে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সাহায্য দিব লাগে।

এই বিলাকৰ উপৰি ডাঙ্গৰী অঞ্চলত যিটি লোকেলবোৰ্ডৰ Dispensary আছিল তাক আজি দুবছৰ মানৰ পূৰ্বে ডাঙৰৰ দোষত উঠাই দিয়া হ'ল। ডাঙ্গৰীৰ নিচিনা এখন ডাঙৰ গাঁৱলীয়া কেন্দ্ৰত এখন Dispensary নথকাত ৰাইজৰ অশেষ দুৰ্গতি হৈছে। এই Dispensary খনত এজন ভাল ডাঙৰ নিযুক্ত কৰি পুনৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক খাটিলো। এই কাম হাতত ললে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সৰহ টকা খৰচ কৰাৰ আৱশ্যক নহব কিয়নো আগৰ Dispensaryৰ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ সকলো এতিয়াও ভালৈ আছে।

এই খিনি চমু কথাৰেই মোৰ অঞ্চলৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাকৰ বিষয়ে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি আৰু তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰৰ অৰ্থে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওচৰত অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till five minutes to 2 p. m.

After lunch

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is said that in war, truth is the first casualty. But here in Assam education has been made the first casualty, while truth has been given the second place. We have seen, Sir, just after the declaration of war by Japan how almost all the educational institutions of the Province, excepting a few lying in out of the way places, have received the first blows at the hands of the military when they requisitioned and forcibly occupied the premises belonging to those institutions.

This merciless requisitioning of educational buildings caused very great hardship almost all over the Province and nearly stifled the educational progress of our youths. But it caused the greatest havoc at Gauhati.

Now, Sir, I propose to give a short description of the plight of Gauhati which will illustrate, I hope, the condition of other places similarly placed. Here Sir, the Cotton College has been made the first and worst victims of this ruthless military requisitioning. All the buildings were required to be vacated within a moment's notice as it were—regardless of consequences to valuable college properties. The Girls' College, all the High Schools, excepting the Kamrup Academy, which saved itself after a great deal of struggle from the clutches of the Military, and almost all other Schools, have been occupied by the Military. As a result these institutions have been compelled to continue their existence in huts and wretched houses scattered all over the town. The inconvenience and discomfort thus caused to the teachers and the taught can better be imagined than described. Sir, the plight of those boys and girls who have to reside in hostels is simply pathetic; most of them live in miserable messes without sufficient accommodation. A large number of Hindu boys of the Cotton College reside in four

thatched houses built on the bank of the Dighli tank. Each of these houses has a big hall without any partition wall and accommodates 25 souls. The walls are of split-bamboo, but not plastered even by mud. The authorities do not even care to partition the houses so that the boys can peacefully go on with their studies. The water supply there is very miserable. Boys have very often to go to college without taking their baths. The kitchen also is in a hopeless condition.

There is no Hospital arrangement. I have heard that even dysentery patients are not segregated. There is no segregation room and the patients are allowed to be in the midst of other boys. Sir, this is the condition of the Hostels.

The former common room of the Cotton College has been occupied by the Military and there is now no common room where boys can read books or magazines and play indoor games.

They have to spend their off-periods either by loitering in the dusty roads or by sitting in nasty tea-stalls. I am told that sometime ago when the Hon'ble Premier visited the college the students brought this matter to his notice and that the Hon'ble Premier gave an assurance that a temporary house will be built inside the college compound to be used as a common room. But I am told that nothing has been done up till now. Sir, it is said that the Cotton College is getting some Rs.36,000 per month as rent, but it is not known how that money is being spent. Under these circumstances how can we expect our boys and girls to carry on their normal studies not to speak of their competing with other students of the University not thus handicapped? Government should therefore, do their best to remove these handicaps.

It may be said that this Government have got no control over the Military. We cannot be satisfied with such explanations on the part of Government. Could such things happen in England or in any other free country? Our Friend, honourable Mr. Whittaker's remarks made in this connection during the last Budget session answer the question. There he said—

"In England, which has suffered much from bombing and which is now housing hundreds of thousands of troops from overseas I doubt very much whether the education of children is suffering for want of accommodation or whether the housing of Military personnel has been allowed to encroach on children's schools. In Assam, Sir, when no buildings have been hit by bombs, the education of our children is suffering and that suffering should cease forthwith".

Full one year has passed since Mr. Whittaker made this request. But we find things are where they were before. Even now if our Government be earnest and bold enough in their insistence, this unhappy state of things will not continue long.

I have recently come out of jail and I find that at Gauhati there are lots of decent houses of a semi-permanent nature built by the Military. I do not understand why the Military cannot vacate our educational buildings. If for some reason or other they cannot do so, I do not see any reason why the Military should not be asked to provide these educational institutions with good houses which they prepared for them.

What had been done during an emergency should not be allowed to continue indefinitely. The period of emergency is over. The enemy has receded to a great distance. Lots of good houses in the town of Gauhati are practically lying unoccupied by the Military. Some of the houses can certainly be allowed to be used for educational purposes.

Sir, after education, civil liberty happened to be the next war casualty in Assam. Just after the war against Japan began, our Government started banning of public meetings, public processions, and public hoisting of national flags; they made wholesale arrest and incarcerated a large number of men and women without any trial throughout the Province. Whatever may be the explanation of the Government for the arrest and detention of a large number of our patriotic people without any trial, we on our side believe that there was no justification for that. Supposing, for the sake of argument that Government had some justification for the arrests, where is the justification for continuing such detention even now.

Sir, even people who had undergone rigorous imprisonment for one or two

years have not been allowed to see their home on expiry of their terms of imprisonment. They are arrested at the jail gates after release and detained again in jail as security prisoners. Sir, law provides even for ordinary hardened criminals a period of liberty as *locus penitentiæ*; but in case of honest political prisoners Government will not give them even breathing time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has reached the time-limit.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I am finishing. Sir, this sort of encroachment on people's civil liberty is highly lamentable.

As I have said, Sir, there is absolutely no justification on the part of the Government to detain so many friends and true lovers of the country in prison as security prisoners. It is sheer cruelty and gross injustice to detain them in jail for years together and refuse to provide them with any family allowance or to grant a pittance. There are a large number of security prisoners who have not received any family allowance and the majority of those, who have been lucky enough, have received Rs.25 or Rs.30 per month even when the number of their dependents happens to be 8 or 10.

Again, Sir, a large number of people have been interned or externed within certain limited areas. Here, what is the justification for the Government's refusal to grant suitable family allowances for their being thus deprived of the liberty to earn their livelihood freely?

Sir, the Hon'ble Premier has congratulated himself by saying that he has released a large number of security prisoners. But may we ask him the length of time within which these releases took place and whether they were done gracefully? Sir, most of these releases took place on the ground of health. And even here most of the released people have been either interned or externed and have been placed under most humiliating terms and conditions with a spirit of vindictiveness as it were. Let us take the case of our Friend Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M. L. A. He had to be released from Tezpur Jail while he had been under a serious attack of typhoid fever. He was not allowed to select his place of abode. He was compelled to stay at his sister's house at Tezpur. He is a man of Nowgong town where he has got his old mother, wife and several children. He was not allowed to go there even to see his family members. How could a man be expected to live at his sister's place indefinitely? He had to break the externment order. And the result is that he is again in Jail. Sir, this indicates the manner in which releases of our political prisoners have taken place in majority of cases.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budgetary provision of the year under review depicts the activities of the Cabinet and gives a glimpse as to the breadth of vision and imagination of our Hon'ble Ministers. Elsewhere a band of honourable gentlemen on the eve of their laying down the reign of office gave out in despair that they were sandwiched between the Governor and the permanent officials. To the credit of our Hon'ble Ministers they seldom agreed to differ from the opinion of the permanent hierarchy of officials and thus they had no such unpleasant experience. They are fully conscious of the fact that they hold the office at the pleasure of the Governor. Constitutionally they may be responsible to the Legislature but they could no forget the aforesaid fact. That being the back-ground, the budgetary provisions can only be expected what they are. It is the same stereotyped thing to which we are accustomed. It is not criticism for criticism's sake that it reflects no bold measure which is intended for the benefit of the people. On the other hand, we find how little considerations have been paid to our suggestions. It reminds me of the fact that the caravan passes on irrespective of world-wide opinion. The executive which cares so little for the suggestions offered by the Legislature is hardly distinguishable from the autocratic machinery and as such our Hon'ble Ministers may be said to have merged themselves in the autocracy. Sir, the stiff-nakedness of the executive is too well-known to need any mention. Autocratic ways and obstinacy with a false notion in their power, were their tradition; of late they were going to adjust themselves with the altered form of Government but with the substitution of reign of law by the rule of ordinances they are once more vested with the tremendous power of law-making under the Defence of India Rules. We have a host of Hon'ble Ministers; could they

not consolidate and examine those rules for the Province? As regards the working out of these rules, the less said the better. Sir, the number of Defence of India cases instituted in various districts will speak for themselves. In some cases the prosecutors have taken a delight in prosecuting persons for offences which are not even contemplated by the authors of the ordinances. I will ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to call for the records of the cases disposed of in 1943-44 and have them examined by any member of the Public Service Commission or by any independent body to verify my statement. Sir, the present emergency in the country has demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt the incompetence and inefficiency of the much vaunted steel frame of the Indian administration. Fabulous and princely salaries have been justified on the grounds of efficiency; but the present-day problem could not effectively be tackled by them. Sir, to the great discredit of our local administration, officers from other Provinces came for rescue works, to carry on day to day administration; new posts were created and multiplied; retired and superannuated officers were re-employed but yet the administrative machinery could not function properly. It is not the criticism of a lay or of a visionary critic, but represents the sober popular feeling in the country. The litigant and the consumer public know to their cost the truth or otherwise of my statement. A mere complacency on the part of some will not remove their grievances. Sir, the creation of certain new posts with a comparatively higher salary and the appointment of outsiders to the new temporary posts and the re-employment of retired and age-barred officers have had their undesirable repercussions upon the permanent officials and the plea of ever-increasing work is the culpable sign of a growing discontent which is a growing menace for the administration. It should be stamped out at once; otherwise the whole machinery is likely to collapse in no distant time. The railway servants have got an increase in their salary above 50 per cent. while the Government servants find to their dismay that they are handicapped and for this reason some of them have taken recourse to *benami* contracts while others have taken recourse to some other undesirable avenues with the exception of a few. Sir, this is a growing menace which is threatening to engulf the entire administration. The Government should take a timely warning and try to counteract it. In this connection, Sir, I would like to suggest that Government would do well to examine the increased volume of works and try to adjust officers according to real need, and if possible, to discharge the retired officers when their present terms expire. The temporary recruits for civil works should also be discharged when their present terms expire and a new cadre be created in the scale of pay as the Bengal Judicial Service. It may be manned by brilliant law graduates of which there is no dearth at the present moment in the Province. Perhaps, it is high time that Government should try to explore the possibility of implementing the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee by examining the question of the creation of three different branches of Provincial Civil Service, *viz.*, Judicial, Executive and Revenue.

Now, I come to the Forest Department. This Department has existed for a long time, but its only achievement has been a cultivation of 6 acres of cinchona of late. Rubber plantation has been very little but for which tyres and wheels would not have been rationed so strictly. The fabulous price of quinine is a standing bolt and a slur on the administration. Government is unable to foresee things and it has a notoriety that it moves too slowly behind the time. When emergency arises it is always in confusion. Can there be anything more deplorable than this?

Sir, more medical relief is the crying need of the hour, but even in these days of inflation of currency our Government could not see their way to start the Medical School at Sylhet. Had there been more doctors and more quinine, thousands of people at Baniachong would not have died. It is no discharge of responsibility to assert that 'those who are destined to die must die'. If that is so, what is the necessity of maintaining a Department like A. R. P. at such a huge cost? All preventive staffs should be discharged.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member has got two minutes more.

Maulavi MABARAK ALI: Sir, the appointment to the highest administrative post in the Department of Education by way of a makeshift arrangement by sheer seniority

speaks of a blind policy without any idea. One certainly takes time before he can pick up a new line of work. This post requires a man of extraordinary merits and administrative experiences but to the surprise of us all it is being filled up even by those who simply plod. To do justice to the Department, an officer of outstanding merit and ability should be appointed, and if need be, should be recruited from outside. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister of Education will see his way to implement my suggestion.

Sir, as regards the National War Front and Grow More Food Campaign, I would like to say a few words. These are no doubt very noble plans but judged from utilitarian standpoint these are colossal failures. Only a mutual self-admiration society can find pleasure in their achievements. Higher price itself, is an incentive for growing more food. National War Front Organisation has given some activities to those who had absolutely little or nothing to do. Sir, on the plea that news may be of some help to the enemy there is an inland censor department. Preventive measures can be more effective if steps be taken to see that no letter goes outside. At present cent. per cent. letters except those of the members of the Heaven-born services are censored. This shows want of trust to others. Trust begets trust. If you consider the whole population to be enemy agents your position is not certainly an enviable one. If one and all do not require your presence better it is to leave them to their fate.

Sir, lastly I want to say a few words regarding security prisoners. Sir, no one would grudge to keep back the really dangerous elements behind the prison bar. But while these people were arrested, I think, the Home Department got their inspiration from the story of Ramayana where the Great Hero of Ramayana was sent to the mount of Gandhamadan to fetch the tree of Bishalyakarani, but he being unable to recognise that particular tree carried the whole mountain with him. So, Sir, our Home Department probably failing to recognise the real culprits caught hold of one and all they met and sent them to Hazat. I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to judge every individual case on its own merit and keep back those who are matter ends. Can we not expect the Cabinet to be more responsible to the Legislature by taking into consideration the various suggestions that are offered? If any of our suggestions be considered impracticable we may be told so. I do not believe that wisdom is the monopoly of only a class of persons or of a particular individual.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not much to say on the Budget, but only on some important points that are simple and straight-forward ones.

One hon. Member, Mr. Moore started his Budget Speech with poultry raising. In the way of supporting his suggestion in this matter, I like to cite one instance which happened at Tura. The Superintendent, Tura Government Normal School, started poultry raising, and he was successful for a time. But as soon as poultry disease broke out almost all of his poultry died, numbering some hundreds, including hens producing eggs; each hen valuing from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 and grown up chickens of a value of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 each. Sir, it is an unbearable loss to him, who spent some hundreds of rupees on this enterprise and the loss is too much for him who is drawing his pay only on the scale of the Assam School Service Class I. I also sincerely hope that the Government will be pleased to take measures to check the poultry disease which prevails Province-wide. Regarding travelling difficulties by trains, Mr. Blennerhassett has already said about his experience in the portion from Gauhati to Tinsukia. But that portion is not so difficult for journey as I myself found it when I went to Dibrugarh after the last Session of the Assembly. The most difficult portion is from Amingaon to Parbatipur. Last time when I was travelling to Amingaon with two servants who had third class tickets and I a second class one, I found there was no accommodation at all in the third class compartments, nor in the second class, so I had to enter into a first class compartment with my two servants and I had to pay extra Rs. 50. And this time too, Sir, when I was coming from Dhubri to Amingaon I had some trouble at the Golakganj junction. There was no

seat available in the second class and I was fortunate enough to meet one Missionary gentleman who was coming from Sealdah and was getting down at Golakganj whose seat I was able to take.

Sir, I will now speak a few words on the Education Budget. There is no new scheme in the Budget for the expansion of Primary Education but only for the Illiteracy drive scheme or campaign. There is provision also in the Budget for the production of Primary School Primer and Reader, etc., for the Illiteracy campaign which is good. But I would like to know from the Government if these text-books can be used in the ordinary Primary Schools. I want to know this because there is dearth of text-books for the Primary Schools in the Garo Hills, and if the Government make a provision for the Primary School text-books for the Primary Schools in the Garo Hills in the Garo Language there would be some persons forthcoming to compose and print them either on honoraria or remuneration basis.

I am glad, Sir, to note that Government has budgeted for the increase of various scholarships in their numbers. Here I may suggest, Sir, the value of the scholarships should be raised, say from Rs.3 to Rs.5 per mensem in the case of Primary scholarships and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per mensem. in the cases of the Middle Vernacular and Middle English Scholarships. Because, Sir, the present values of scholarships have existed for many years, say for 50 years or so, and they are now quite inadequate to meet the necessities of the stipend-holder. Therefore, Sir, they should be raised.

I also find that in the new scheme the Government have made provision for the fee remission of the scheduled caste people ; this is good, Sir, and I do not envy this ; but what about the Garos and the Khasis, Sir, who are more backward than the scheduled people. Their case also should be considered in this matter.

Then I come to the Tura Government High English School, which is the only High School in the whole of the Garo Hills District. We have not enough rooms in the main building to accommodate the classes, and many classes are being held in the temporary sheds off the main buildings, which may tumble down at any time by high wind. The monsoon season is nearing at hand, Sir, and these sheds will be blown away by storms and there will be no room for holding classes. There was proposal for extending the wings, etc., of the main building and this fact was pointed out when Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, the then Minister of Local Self-Government, visited Tura, who visited the High School, Hospital, Leper Colony, Kala-azar segregation camp and all other institutions, although he was Minister of Local Self-Government alone. And again this matter was pointed out to the then Hon'ble Premier, Srijut G. N. Bardoloi, when he visited Tura and again it was pointed out to the Director of Public Instruction Assam, Mr. G. A. Small, when he inspected the High School. But, Sir, up to now nothing has been done to the School building, and there is no provision in the Budget to meet the expenditure on its buildings. So, Sir, Garo Hills is neglected by the Government and Educational authorities.

The Hon'ble Education Minister visited the South Salmara High School recently, but he did not go to Tura, although the distance from there to Tura is only a few hours journey by motor in this season of the year, and I was personally disappointed to note this afterwards seeing his tour programme in the *Assam Gazette*. I mention this not as a complaint but to express my disappointment only.

There is no play-ground of a proper or ordinary size of it. The present play-ground is too small and there was a proposal to extend it to bring it to a standard size. Sir, without a play-ground a good development of physical culture of the students cannot be achieved, which is more essential than mere literary qualification. I proposed that about Rs.5,000 or so would be enough to do the needful ; but the Public Works Department submitted an estimate of a huge sum for this project and Government did not take the matter up. I pointed out this fact to Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy, Hon'ble Srijut G. N. Bardoloi and the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, who visited the School at the time of their visit. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Education to kindly see to this and expedite action on this particular item.

There is provision for eight new posts in Assam School Service, Class I in the new scheme, and here I say, Sir, at least two-third of these posts can be claimed for the Tura Government High English School. Because there is short of teachers in that School at present. The teacher who was taken to Tura from Kohima High English School has been taken back again to Kohima as the School there has been re-opened now. He was a qualified and good teacher, and it is a loss to us. There should be sections of classes III and IV as the enrolment in these classes is big and unmanageable by one teacher. I mention these facts, Sir, for the consideration of the Government. Further, unless some sections are opened in classes III and IV, these classes cannot be managed.

Now, regarding communications, Sir, there is no new scheme at all for the Garo Hills. I had a conference with the Hon'ble Minister concerned and the Chief Engineer in this matter during the last November Session. The Tura-Mankachar road is the most important road for the district, because it is the only supply route of the Tura town. During the term of Mr. Bardoloi as Premier I and my hon. Colleague Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin went to his bungalow to see him about this road. He called for an estimate for two bridges—one at the 15th mile and the other at the 20th mile. These bridges are very important. The Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Medical Minister know these places because the Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Medical Minister went to those places once. I spoke to the Deputy Commissioner proposals and estimates in that connection. If iron bridges are to be constructed it will not be practicable for want of materials, so my proposal is for plank bridges which would be practicable and economic considering the present crisis. So, Sir, this should be one of the items for the post-war reconstruction scheme.

As regard the Medical Department, Sir, I want to say a few words. Recently the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals had been to Tura when unfortunately I was somewhat ill and could not meet him. But after his departure I went to the Civil Surgeon's office to know something about the remarks left by the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and found to my surprise that he had proposed to reduce one of the two Sub-Assistant Surgeons who were working in the Tura Hospital, saying that one Sub-Assistant Surgeon would be quite sufficient. The Hon'ble Medical Minister has seen the locality and so she is quite capable to know whether one Sub-Assistant Surgeon is quite sufficient or not. One single doctor cannot attend to several institutions, viz., the Jail, the High School, Normal School, Military Hospital, Mission High School Hostel, etc. not to speak of the main Hospital duty itself. I appeal to Government and hope that Government will consider this and will continue to retain two doctors at Tura. Another point about this is that there is no Garo Doctor at Tura. We send boys and girls for medicine who do not know any other tongue than their own mother language. So also the case of the people at large who go to hospital for medicine, etc. So one Garo Sub-Assistant Surgeon is very necessary. I once spoke both to the Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon about this and the latter promised that he would bring this matter to the notice of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.

About Public Health I may say, Sir, that *Kala-azar* and other epidemic diseases are doing havoc in our places and a great many people have fallen victim to these diseases. Even my hon. Colleague and myself were suspected to be suffering from *Kala-azar*. This is due to the letting out *Kala-azar* patients free who visit private houses and shops, and also because that the *Kala-azar* segregation camp is almost in the very heart of the town. If possible it should be shifted elsewhere. There is also a leper colony in the vicinity of Tura town and the lepers are menacing the Tura bazar who do marketing freely. I hope the Government will be pleased to see to the safety of the public in these matters.

I have something more to say but my time is up and I obey the ruling of the Chair.

Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the general tradition of the House to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for a surplus Budget and to censure him for a deficit one. We are now

passing through a great crisis and even now Assam is in the war zone. In spite of such difficult situation created by the prolonged war a number of new schemes involving a total non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,13,775 and a total recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,40,248 have been included in the Budget. Although it is technically a deficit Budget, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for making provision for a number of bold schemes in the Budget. One of the greatest Indian leaders, I mean late Lala Lajpat Rai, was apt to say—"Swaraj can wait, but education cannot." I am at one with the Hon'ble Finance Minister when he observes that of all the nation building activities of the Government, education is admittedly one of the most important.

Sir, with the abolition of Persian as the Court Language of India, lakhs of Madrassa educated persons who were so long administering the country, over-night became helpless and unemployed, and fell upon the society as a great burden. The problem of these unemployed Maulavi Sahebs and Sanskrit educated Pandits became very tragic and acute. With the establishment of a Tibbi College at Sylhet and opening of an Ayurvedic School at Gauhati, oriental system of medicine will not only receive an impetus and patronage, but also will open a new chapter in the vocational education in India. The demand for a Tibbi College is a longfelt one and will, I hope, be the first Government institution of its kind in the whole of India. I must also thank our Hon'ble Minister for Education whose name will go down in the history of education of the Province as a great friend and patron of these unemployed Maulavi Sahebs and Pandits for making provision of the establishment of Tibbi College and Ayurvedic School in Assam.

May I also bring it to the notice of the Government that the Muslim Educational Conference held at Sylhet unanimously demanded for the establishment of two Islamic Intermediate Colleges—one at Sylhet and the other in the Assam Valley. I must confess that Muslims are backward in education and it is only in the name of religion that they can be attracted towards education. I am so glad to find that one of our hon. Colleagues of this House, I mean, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, has already taken a lead in the matter and paved the path for the Government. He started an Islamic Intermediate College at Hamidabad, Dhubri, in 1943. The founder and the leader of Muslim education should be encouraged with financial aids to the College by the Government. At the same time I urge upon the Government to start immediately a similar Government Islamic Intermediate College at Sylhet.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not place before the Government the grievances of the Muslim public regarding the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction for the introduction of Urdu as an optional or alternative language to Arabic in the Middle Madrassas. I like to clarify my view in regard to the propagation of Urdu in our educational institutions. I am a great lover of Urdu and great supporter of the Anjuman Tarakki Urdu in India and want Urdu to be the *lingua franca* of the country but, Sir, I cannot allow Arabic to be replaced by Urdu in our Madrassas. Sanskrit in Tols and English in schools and colleges are compulsory languages and a Madrassa without Arabic being taught in it will be a misnomer. It may be called an Urdu School and I shall be the first person to support if the Director of Public Instruction converts it into a Urdu or Islamic School. I will ask him not to put a wrong sign-board before it as a Madrassa and mislead the public. The proposal of the Director of Public Instruction will strike a death blow to the future Arabic learning in the Province which is the fountain head of Muslim culture and Islamic learning of Quran, Hadis, Fiqah and will, I apprehend, close the doors of the senior madrassas and title classes for want of feeder institutions. The teaching staff of the Sylhet Alia Madrassa have opposed the proposal and have, I understand, sent a memorandum to the Government for withdrawing it. It has created a great sensation among the Ulemas and the Madrassa-minded public of the Province. I voice the opinion of a great section of Muslim public when I place on record my vehement protest against the introduction of Urdu as an alternative language to Arabic and urge upon the Government to withdraw and not to put into practice the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction in our Madrassas.

Sir, we learn that in addition Government have decided to spend 10 lakhs on new schemes and to increase provision for the Grow More Food Campaign from 23 lakhs in the current year to 51 lakhs in the next year. We no doubt appreciate the good intention of the Government but, Sir, the slogan of Grow More Food Campaign appears to our cultivators and producers who are the real backbone of the country, as a meaningless term. The poor producers can not compete in the present day market due to money inflation and many of them have been hard hit and ruined. As they could not sell their paddy they are not in a position now to buy bullocks for cultivation of lands. It is now month of Falgun and proper time of cultivation is passing away. The Government may take it from me that 50 per cent. of the producers of my subdivision have decided to abandon the cultivation and consequently paddy fields are likely to remain as waste and fallow lands. I apprehend, Sir, unless Government come to the rescue of the poor producers there will be a great famine and scarcity of food in the Bengali year 1353 B.S., i.e., 1946-47.

We now hear people speaking of post-war planning and reconstruction but I find that Assam is lagging behind in post-war schemes to all other Provinces in India. We are unable to keep pace with the rapid strides that other Provinces are making towards the economic expansion in the post-war period. Assam has rightly been observed by a great thinker and friend of her, as the cinderella of India. "India" as observed by Sir Thomas Ainscough, "is on the threshold of rebirth in her economic life at the close of which she would practically take her place as one of the foremost countries in the world with a national economic well balanced between agriculture and industry". But how to find out a place for Assam in the post war period and increase the revenue of the Province and protect her problem can be done by the settlement of the vast waste lands to the landless people who have cleared jungles, fought against the tigers and elephants and made Assam what she is now today. They have accepted Assam as their home and are ready to live in Assam and die for Assam.

Sir Robert Reid, K. C. I. E., our former Governor of Assam (1937-42) has rightly observed in his paper published in the journal of the Royal Society of Arts "on general grounds these immigrants deserve to be welcomed for they are good cultivators."

I admire the hon. Mr. Bardoloi, the Leader of the Opposition for his sincerity. In an interview to the reporter of the Orient Press published in the Hindusthan Standard of the 4th March, 1945 he observes:—"The question should have been and was originally tackled as purely an economic question but now it had definitely assumed a political colour and was being dealt with like that". "His party, his constituency and the country to which he owed allegiance" said Mr. Bardoloi, "had already begun complaining against his assenting to the Government resolution of January 15th, 1945".

The question of land settlement in Assam is purely an economic problem, but unfortunately for her, it has been converted by outside Congress and Mahasabha leaders as a fight between Pakistan and Akhand Hindustan. I speak on the report of the Press, that Mr. Gandhi has advised the leader of the Congress party to resist the land settlement of the Bengalee peasants non-violently and with violence if necessary. I do not know, Sir, why the outside Congress and Mahasabha leaders should poke their noses in our domestic politics. Even the Pegging Act of South Africa pales into insignificance in comparison with the line system in Assam, which on the ground of race and religion not only segregates Bengalee settlers and cultivators, mostly Muslims, and denies them the right of franchise and citizenship, the right to settle or own land, but even prevents them from cleaning swamps and jungles and building dwelling houses. It goes further, for it allows heartless officials to burn and destroy by fire whole block of dwelling houses, hamlets and villages of Bengalee settlers, only because they are Bengalee cultivators by profession and Muslims by religion. Our Congress and Mahasabha leaders prefer wild beasts to human beings, because while they want to preserve tigers, man-eaters, pythons and snakes, they serve to uproot and

annihilate Bengalee immigrant cultivators. Can insanity, bankruptcy of economic policy, blind racial prejudice and communalism, in the midst of a total war, go further?

The Congress has set at naught the famous Karachi Resolution of 1931 and also (Section 298) of the Government of India Act, 1935 which runs thus—"No subject of His Majesty domiciled in India shall on grounds only of religion, place of birth,.....be prohibited.....from acquiring....." holding or disposing of property. It was declared as *ultra vires* and illegal by Rai Bahadur P. C. Datta, C. I. E., the first Advocate General of Assam. It has been condemned by Professor D. H. Banerjee, Head of Department of Politics and Economics of the University of Dacca as anti-national and detrimental to the economic development of the country.

Now, Sir, let me conclude my speech in the words of Mr. L. A. Roffey, once a Leader of the European Group, who demanded the abolition of the Line System in 1937 and condemned it because it treated genuine and honest cultivators worse than criminal tribes. He said, "the density of the population in Assam is so low and that there are such vast tracts of land waiting to be cultivated that I say that we should do all in our power to encourage immigrants into the Province rather than discourage them by limiting them to confined areas."

With these words, I beg to resume my seat.

Srijut BIPIN CHANDRA MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget, as usual, has been presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister before us this year also. I should like to confine myself to the food problem only; others will be dealt with by the Members of my Group. Throughout the Province of Assam scarcity of salt is not yet overcome. During the last November Session of the Assembly, the Hon'ble the Premier definitely told us that every individual would be supplied with half a seer of salt, in which case, people would have got some relief. As regards my sub-division, that is, the sub-division of Mangaldai, Government have asked the authority to give half a seer of salt to every member recently; but, to our utter surprise, the sub-divisional quota remains the same as in 1944 and has not been increased. We require more salt as the population of this subdivision is increasing day by day, due to the coming of immigrants from East Bengal and the district of Nowgong. People of my sub-division have no other alternative than to purchase salt from the black market, the price of which is Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per seer. People who resort to black market go into the interior of villages and give two seers of salt for one maund of paddy.

Now, with the encroachment upon the professional grazing reserves and village grazing grounds and other reserves by the immigrants, milk supply has been greatly disturbed, as the Nepali and Assamese graziers are shifting their *bathans* to some interior places for want of fodder in the reserves. We are practically going without milk, and those who get, get only because of their high position. The chaparies of Barmuri, Moamari, Chereng and Gederimari in the Mangaldai sub-division, which were exclusively reserved as a Sylheti colony, it is learnt, have been thrown open for settlement with the immigrants by the Government. If it is a fact, the large number of Nepalis and indigeneous population, holding lands in those chaparies, shall have to vacate. I do not find any reason why Government are in a hurry in throwing open these areas to the immigrant encroachers, in violation of the principle enunciated in their recent Resolution dated the 15th January, 1945.

We have failed to get for our requirements mustard oil at controlled rates since November last. It is learnt that the quota of mustard oil for the Province of Assam from the United Provinces Government for 1944-45 is one lakh maunds, and Messrs. Shaw Wallace out of this big quota have only brought 15,000 maunds during these 11 months. The remaining 85,000 maunds have not been, and will not be, taken to Assam during the year, that is within the 31st March 1945. I think these 85,000 maunds will lapse by the end of this financial year. If it is a fact, I do not find the reason why Messrs. Shaw Wallace have been neglecting the acute demand of our Province. I also do not find any reason why our Government take the help of Messrs. Shaw Wallace for our foodstuffs instead of encouraging local individual traders by issuing permits to them to take our requirements

from outside. There are many willing local traders who often visit the Hon'ble Ministers for permits to bring mustard oil, Zagree and other requirements of the Province. Our traders do not get any scope. I would not have minded if our requirements were met by Messrs. Shaw Wallace.

As for my sub-division we have been supplied with standard cloth, by which the great demand has been partly satisfied. All our mauzadars are rather compelled by the Sub-divisional Officer to take standard cloth from Government stock, and distribute it in their mauzas. But the commission which they get is ridiculous and Government should increase the rate of commission at one anna per rupee. In other parts of the Province there is still scarcity of cloth.

So far I understand the quota of kerosene has been cut by 15 per cent. throughout the Province. In the district of Darang the town people get six seers of kerosene if the number in the family is six or more. But the village people have to remain satisfied with one *poa* or half a seer per month, whatever be the number of their family members. The Government should see to this unequal distribution and to the grievances of the village people.

We in our sub-division have been allotted a quota of 50 *bunds* of corrugated iron sheets. The instructions from the Excise Superintendent is that only cultivators are entitled to get these corrugated iron sheets and that only for repair works, and in no case more than two *bunds* would be supplied to one applicant. But to our utter disappointment we came to learn that out of that fifty *bunds* the Sreemanta Mill of Tangla has got a permit to have 40 *bunds*, depriving the public at large. In my opinion, the authority have done great injustice in issuing permits for 40 *bunds* from our small quota to Sreemanta Mill. I request the Government that Sreemanta Mill be allowed to take 40 or more *bunds* of corrugated iron sheets from somewhere else, leaving our whole quota of 50 *bunds* for the general public of our sub-division.

Last of all, I should like to say that in almost all cases concerning foodstuffs, corruption is rampant. There are hoarders and profiteers and other criminals. The Criminal Investigation Department should not remain always after us—the Congress people; they should see that other things also go on smoothly and criminals are detected and punished.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাঃবীয়া! পূৰ্বা ২৥ বছৰ জেলত থকাত আৰু নগাঁওৰ পৰা দূৰ দূৰ ঠাই বিলাকত বন্ধাৰ বাবে আত্মীয় স্বজনৰ লগত দেখাদেখি হোৱাৰ কোনো বন্দোবস্ত নথকাত আৰু এচেষ্টাৰ কাৰ্য্যাবলী (proceedings), গেজেট ইত্যাদি নোপোৱাৰ বাবে দেশৰ বৰ্তমান ৰাজনৈতিক (political) অৱস্থাৰ লগত মোৰ ভালকৈ পৰিচয় নাই। মাত্ৰ ১০ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী ৩০ৰত যি conditions দিয়া হৈছিল সেই বোৰ এই—(1) He should not leave the Nowgong town without the previous permission of the Superintendent of Police, Nowgong; (2) He shall not join Congress and other political activities and (3) He shall personally report to the Officer in charge, Nowgong Police Station, every Sunday, at 4 p.m. এনেকুৱা humiliating conditions দিয়া দেখি মই তাত চহী দিবলৈ মান্তি ন'হলো। পাছত নগাঁওৰ Superintendent of Jail Deputy Commissionerৰ লগত কথা পাতি restriction noticeত চহী নিদিয়াকৈ মোক খালাচ কৰি দিয়ে, কিন্তু Chief Secretaryৰ পৰা মোৰ যিটো release order আছিল তাত একো restrictionৰ order নাছিল। সেই দিনা—অৰ্থাৎ ১০ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীত—যিদিনা মোক এৰি দিছিল—সেই দিনা ৰাতি প্ৰায় ৮টা মান বজাত ডি, চি,ৰ এজন কেৰাণীয়ে মোক এখন closed cover letter দি যায়। তাত লেখা আছিল “I understand that you did not accept your restriction notice. It was however read by you. The notice is sent again. In consideration of the present state of your health, I have removed the duty of reporting at the Thana for the present”. This was signed by Mr. C. B. Paine. এই চিঠিৰ মই আজিলৈকে কোনো উত্তৰ দিয়া নাই।

Political prisonerৰ অৱস্থা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বাহিৰত যেনেকুৱা দেখুৱায় সেইটো ঠিক নহয়—সঁচাকৈ তেওঁলোকৰ অৱস্থা বৰ শোচনীয়। যোৰহাট জেলত যিটো ঘটনা ঘটিছিল সেইটো আপোনালোকে জানে। এই এচেম্বলীত সেই বিষয়ে আলোচনাৰো হৈছিল। এই বিষয়ে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কি enquiry কৰিলে আৰু publicক কি জানিবলৈ দিলে? আজিলৈকে একোকে জানিবলৈ নিদিলে। দোষী officer বিলাকক কি শাস্তি দিছে? জেলৰ Manual মতে alarm দিলেই পুলিছ, ওয়াৰ্ডাৰ ইত্যাদি বিলাকে বন্দুক, বেয়নেট, লাঠি লৈ গোলমালকাৰী বিলাকক প্ৰথমে command দিয়ে। সেই command দিলে যদি কোনোবাই সেই command নলয় অৰ্থাৎ হুকুম নামানে—যি ঠাইলৈ যাবলৈ কয় সেই ঠাইলৈ নেযায় তেতিয়াহে তাক subdue কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে তাৰ ওপৰত বল প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব লাগে, কিন্তু যোৰহাট জেলত কি কৰিছিল? প্ৰথমে নদৰ বিলাকত কংগ্ৰেছী বন্দী বিলাকক সোমোৱাই লৈ তাৰ পাছত এটা এটা নদৰ অৰ্থাৎ ward খুলিলে মাৰপিট কৰিছিল। এনেকুৱা অন্যায় অত্যাচাৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ কোনো জেলতে কৰা নাই।

মই আৰু দেখিছোঁ যে এটা vindictive attitude লোৱা হৈছিল আৰু কংগ্ৰেছৰ নামত যাকে তাকে—নিৰ্দোষী মানুহ বিলাকক—আনি জেলত সোমোৱা হৈছিল। যোৰহাট জেলৰ ঘটনাৰ পৰা জানিছে যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ মনোবৃত্তি কি?

তাৰ পাছত জেলৰ ভিতৰত খেলৰ কোনো ভাল বন্দোৱস্ত নাই। Badminton দিছে কিন্তু cock এটা মাত্ৰ দিয়ে—কেতিয়াবা তাকে নিদিয়ৈ।

আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছী বন্দী বিলাকৰ ওপৰত অনেক প্ৰকাৰ দুৰ্ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা হৈছে। তেজপুৰ জেলৰ এটা ঘটনাৰ পৰা এইটো বুজিব পাৰিব। তাত আমাৰ লৰা বিলাকক পানী কঢ়িওৱা কামত দিছিল অৰ্থাৎ কুঁৱাৰ পৰা পানী তুলি কমে কমে দিবলৈ হুকুম দিছিল। অৱশ্যে আমাৰ লৰা বিলাকে সেই কাম কৰা নাছিল। তেতিয়া ভয় দেখুৱা হৈছিল যে যোৰহাট জেলৰ নিচিনা কৰা হব। মই তেজপুৰ জেলত থাকোঁতে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় জেল চাবলৈ গৈছিল। তাৰপৰা উভটি আহি ১৯৪৩ চনত এই এচেম্বলীৰ বাজেট ছেশনত এটা statement কৰিছিল যে “শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণ শৰ্মা দেৱক প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে স্মৃতিছিল ‘তুমি নগাঁওত কোনো এখন মিচিং কৈছিল যে তোমাৰ হাতত ৫০০ বন্দুক আছে আৰু সেই বন্দুকৰে ইচ্ছা কৰিলে তুমি নগাঁও টাউনখন ১৫ মিনিটৰ ভিতৰত reduce to ashes অৰ্থাৎ ছাই ভষ্ম কৰি দিব পাৰা।’ এই বুলি কৈছিল নে নাই বুলি সোধাত শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণ চন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মা দেৱে হেনো কোনো উত্তৰ নিদি এটা মিচিকাই হাহি মাৰিছিল মাত্ৰ”। প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে এইটো এটা mis-statement দিছিল। আচলতে তেখেতে শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণ শৰ্মাক এনে প্ৰশ্ন কৰা নাছিল। তেওঁ শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণ শৰ্মাক কৈছিল—‘দেখা পূৰ্ণ মই নগাঁৱত যাওঁতে মোৰ লগত যেয়ে দেখা কৰিবলৈ আহিছিল সেয়ে তোমাৰ বিপক্ষে কৈছিল। Although you are not a guillotiner you are the Fuehrer of Nowgong অৰ্থাৎ তুমি নগাঁৱৰ হিটলাৰ।’ সেই কথা হওঁতে Hon’ble Miss Dunn উপস্থিত আছিল আৰু তেখেতে এই কথা জানে। সেই সময়ত এই কথাৰ পাচত—I enquired of the Hon’ble Premier whether he had any report against me about sabotage and violence and in reply he said that he did not receive any report against me to that effect. তেতিয়া মোৰ দৰ্জৰ rigorous imprisonment আৰু এহেজাৰ টকা জৰিমনা হোৱাত জেলত আছিলো। Special Court Ordinance invalid হোৱাত ডিষ্ট্ৰিক্ট জজে আগৰ sentence নাকচ কৰি retrial ৰ order অৰ্থাৎ পুনৰ বিচাৰৰ হুকুম দিছিল। কিন্তু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে পুনৰ্বিচাৰ নকৰি মোক security prisoner কৰিলে। তেতিয়া মই গভৰ্ণৰ মহোদয়ৰ ওচৰলৈ এখন দৰখাস্ত দিছিলোঁ। সেই দৰখাস্তত মই কৈছিলো যে মোক পুনৰ বিচাৰ কৰি দোষী সাব্যস্ত কৰিব লাগে নহলে খালাচ দিব লাগে। আৰু যদি বিচাৰ নকৰি বিনা বিচাৰত security prisoner কৰি ৰাখে তেনেহলে মোক sufficient allowance দিব লাগে—personal আৰু family allowance মোক দিব লাগে। আৰু সেই দৰখাস্তত মই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক challenge কৰিছিলো—কি হিন্দু, কি মুছলমান, কি Leaguer, কি Hindu Sabhite, কি অসমীয়া, কি বঙ্গালী, কি মাড়োৱাৰী—যি কোনো: সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহ—এজনেও যদি মোক শাস্তি ভঙ্গকাৰী বুলি কয় তেনেহলে মই দোষী। তেতিয়া মোক যি ৰকম শাস্তি দিব লাগে সেই ৰকম শাস্তি দিব পাৰে। কিন্তু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে মোৰ চিঠিৰ কোনো উত্তৰেই নিদিলে। তাৰ উপৰি I had to rot in the jail for 2½ years—জেলত পুৱা ২½ বছৰ পচিব লাগিছিল।

Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: নিজৰ কথা কব নেলাগে।

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: মই নিজৰ কথা এই নিমিত্তে কৈছোঁ যে মই তেখেতসকলৰ বন্ধু। The Hon'ble Premier আৰু মন্ত্ৰীসকল সকলোৱেই মোৰ personal Friends. মোকেই যেতিয়া এনেকোৱা ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে তাৰ পৰা ভাবিব পাৰিছে যে অন্য অন্য কংগ্ৰেছ-কৰ্মীসকলক কি ভাবে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে। শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণ শৰ্মাৰ কথা শ্ৰীযুত তালুকদাৰ ডাফৰীয়াই কৈছে আজিকালি কঠিন দিন। এজন মানুহ আন এজন মানুহৰ ঘৰত কোনো এলাৱেঞ্চ নোহোৱাকৈ কেনেকৈ থাকিব পাৰে। লোকৰ ঘৰত থাকিব নোৱাৰি পাচত শৰ্মা দেৱে অৰ্ডাৰ ভঙ্গ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছে ॥ আৰু তেওঁৰ তিনি মাহ নহয় চাৰি মাহ জেল হৈছে।

জেলত প্ৰথমে কানি কাপোৰ নিদিছিল কিন্তু পাছত যি কানি কাপোৰ দিছিল সেইটো কয়েদীৰ কাপোৰ। সেই নিমিত্তে আমাৰ মানুহবিলাকৰ বৰ কষ্ট হৈছিল। তেতিয়া কংগ্ৰেছীসকলে আপত্তি কৰিছিল যে—আমি Criminals নহওঁ, আমাক কিয় কয়েদীৰ কাপোৰ পিন্ধিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে। আজি কালি কিছু কিছু বাহিৰা কাপোৰ অৰ্থাৎ মিলৰ কাপোৰ দিছে কিন্তু তাকো সম্পূৰ্ণ ভাবে দিয়া নাই। পাক্কা berth ত কদল পাতি শুব লাগে। পাক্কা berth ৰ ঠাইত তজ্জাপোষ কিয়া iron cot দিব লাগে। ধুতি মাত্ৰ দুখন দিয়া হয়। এখন ধুবলৈ দিলে সেইদিনা গা নো-ধোৱাকৈ থাকিব লাগে আৰু বৰষুণৰ নিমিত্তে যদি ধুতি নুশুকায় তেনেহলে সেইদিনাও বাহি গাৰে থাকিব লাগে। জেলবিলাকত আৰু এটা কথা দেখা গৈছে যে প্ৰত্যেক জেলত নতুন নতুন নিয়ম। ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা যায় যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কোনো uniform order নাই। যাৰ যি ভাবে ইচ্ছা সেই ভাবেই চলে। তেজপুৰ জেলৰ Superintendent Dr. Gupta ই মোক এনেকৈ কৈছিল—“Mr. Bhuyan, I have got orders from Government to treat all Congress prisoners as ordinary criminals.” তেতিয়া জেইলাৰে ক'লে যে আপুনি খং কৰিব নেলাগে। Superintendent এ Hon'ble Minister-in-charge এ এনেকোৱা বেমেজালিবিলাকৰ অৰ্থাৎ rule, regulation, সম্বন্ধে অনাবেবল ব্ৰহ্মক নগাঁওলৈ যাওঁতে কোৱা হৈছিল কিন্তু আজিলৈকে কোনো সুবন্দবস্ত দেখা নায়। আৰু এটা কথা যে যিবিলাক কানি-কাপোৰ আজিলৈকে দিয়া হৈছে সেইবিলাক কোনো কোনো জেলত খালাচৰ সময়ত লৈ যাবলৈ নিদিয়ৈ আৰু কোনো কোনো জেলত দিছে। এটা মানুহ ২১ বছৰ জেলত থকাৰ পাছত কানি-কাপোৰ নিবলৈ নিদিয়াটো বৰ অন্যায়, কাৰণ জেলৰ ভিতৰতহে জাৰ, জহ বা লাজ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কানি-কাপোৰ নিবলৈ দিব লাগে। এলাৱেঞ্চ সম্পৰ্কে কব খোজোঁ যে এলাৱেঞ্চ দিয়াৰ নায়। যিবিলাকক দিছে সিও যথেষ্ট নহয়। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কওঁ যে, শ্ৰীমনেশ্বৰ বৰা, এজন ফুলগুৰি তেওঁৰ বৈধীয়েক আৰু এটি ছোৱালী কলেৱাত ঢুকায়। তেওঁৰ এটি সৰু চাৰি বছৰীয়া লৰা আছে। ঘৰত আন মানুহ নোহোৱাত সেই লৰাটোক তেওঁৰ শাহুয়েক খুলশালিয়েকৰ হাতত প্ৰতিপাল কৰাৰ ভাৱ দিব লগিয়া হৈছে। তেওঁক মাত্ৰ ১৫ টকা এলাৱেঞ্চ দিয়া হৈছে—I ask the hon. House attendants whether it is possible for a man to maintain his family with two other

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

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir. As the hon. Member can speak English, would it not be better if he continues his speech in English so that we can easily understand him?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I think he can express some ideas in English while some he cannot. (Laughter).

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: Sir, I am not ashamed to express my ideas in my provincial language. Though I know English, I do not like to express myself in any other language except in my own mother tongue, in which I can do better than in English.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, please try to finish.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : নগাঁওৰ বহুতে family এলাৰেঞ্চ পোৱা নাই যেনে শ্ৰীসতীন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মা, শ্ৰীশিশুৰাম বৰুৱা, শ্ৰীচন্দ্ৰক বৰুৱা, শ্ৰীপুষ্পকান্ত শইকীয়া আৰু শ্ৰীলীলাকান্ত বৰা, এম্. এ ; বি, এল্ (প্ৰীডাৰ) ইত্যাদি। আৰু কি principle ত যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এলাৰেঞ্চ দিয়ে আৰু নিদিয়ৈ তাক বুজা নেযায়। কেতিয়াবা কয়, ভায়েক, ককায়েক বা বাপেক থাকিলে নিদিয়ৈ কিন্তু বাপেক বা ভায়েক বা ককায়েক থকা মানুহকো এলাৰেঞ্চ দিয়া দেখা যায় আৰু নথকা মানুহকো নিদিয়ৈ। ইয়াৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে পুলিছক satisfy—সন্তোষ কৰিব পাৰিলেই ভাল এলাৰেঞ্চ দিয়া হয়। শ্ৰীসতীন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মা এজন বিবাহিত চিকিউৰিটি বন্দী—তেওঁক কোনো এলাৰেঞ্চ দিয়া হোৱা নাই গতিকে তেওঁৰ পৰিবাৰক এতিয়া তেওঁৰ শত্ৰুবেকৰ ঘৰত আজি দুবছৰ বাসিব লগা হৈছে। শ্ৰীচন্দ্ৰক বৰুৱাৰ ঘৰ পোৱা আজি ১০।১৫ দিন হৈছে আৰু তেওঁৰ লৰাটোৱেই ঘৰখনত ডাঙৰ ম'টা মানুহ। তেওঁৰ মাক আৰু দুজনী ভনীয়েক আছেন। তেওঁবিলাকক এলাৰেঞ্চ দিব লাগে আৰু ঘৰ পোৱাৰ বাবে মাটিৰ খাজনা মাফ দিব লাগে। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এইটোৰ বিচাৰ কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰো। এইটো নিদিলে বৰ ডাঙৰ অন্যায হ'ব। কংগ্ৰেছী নেতাবিলাকক বন্ধ কৰি বখাত বাহিৰত গোলমাল হৈছিল—সেই নেতা সকল বাহিৰত থকা হলে তেনেকুৱা গোলমাল নহল হেতেন। এতিয় কংগ্ৰেছৰ নেতা সকলক বাহিৰ কৰি দিয়াত কোনো গোলমাল হৈছেনে? যিবিলাকক এৰি দিয়া হৈছে সিবিলাকে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কিবা কৰিছে জানো? আৰু মহাত্মা গান্ধীয়ে যেতিয়া কৈছে যে, এতিয়া কোনো agitation বা আন্দোলন কৰা নহ'ব তেতিয়া কিয় এই সব মানুহক জেলত বন্ধ কৰি বখা হৈছে? এইবিলাক মানুহক বন্দী কৰি বখাত ৰাইজে যে ভাল পাইছে এনে নহয়। তেওঁলোকে অন্তৰত বৰ বেজাৰ আৰু দুখে পাইছে। এই কথা ভুলব নিমিত্তে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যি চি, আই, ডি, আছে, আৰু তাৰ লগতে দুই চাৰি জন যোগ দি তলে তলে খবৰ ললে জানিব যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কংগ্ৰেছী মানুহ বিলাকক বন্দী কৰি বখাত ৰাইজে কিমান বেজাৰ পাইছে। এই কাৰণে দিনে দিনে ৰাইজৰ মনত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰতি অসন্তোষ বাঢ়িছে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit. He has already taken 25 minutes.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : মোক কেই মিনিটমান সময় দিব লাগে। মই Land Settlement সম্পৰ্কে ক'ব খোজো। এইটো বৰ আৱশ্যকীয় বিষয়, কিয়নো—The district of Nowgong is badly affected by it. এই বিষয়ে মই এটা Adjournment মোশনও দিছিলোঁ কিন্তু সেইটো অহা নাই।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion will come up and he will be able to speak then.

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN : আৰু কওঁতা কোনো নাই। মোক দহ মিনিট সময় দিব লাগে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will any one of the hon. Members speak now?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI : I want to speak, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would begin my speech after reading out to the House a telegram that I have received just now from some Primary School teachers of my subdivision. It runs thus : "Immediate effect on Motion regarding Primary Teachers' Salary passed by Legislative Assembly on 14th November, 1944 solicited—Bipul Chandra Das, President".

Sir, I received some telegrams of this kind and I think all the hon. Members of the Surma Valley have also received telegrams like this. They are from the Primary School teachers. We have also our grievances in this matter. The Motion regarding increased salary for the Primary School teachers was passed in this House in the last Session, but the action that has been taken by the Government on the Motion is, I should say, very miserable and unsatisfactory. I think the action that has been taken on it by Government is unwarranted and there is no policy behind it. Some teachers have been given Rs. 20 a month and some Rs. 16 as the Government liked. So, the position of the Primary School teachers has remained the same as before. Those who had been getting Rs. 12 a month previously, have been given Rs. 16, those getting Rs. 16 have been given Rs. 20 a month.

(A Voice : What is the policy underlying this?) The policy behind this of

giving different salaries to the teachers is known only to the Government. It is not known to us, and it is simply surprising to us.

Sir, the Budget that has been presented to us, I find, is a surplus one (*Laughter*).

(A voice : No, no. There is a deficit). But, Sir, according to my reading of the Budget, it is a surplus one, (*Laughter*) when I consider other facts as to the resources.

Sir, I find in the Budget that there is a provision for some appointments with high salaries. The public who are passing through very difficult days will not be satisfied with this only.

Sir, regarding education, many things have been spoken and, I think, more will be spoken by other important Members. So, I leave it to them to speak on the general policy which should regulate education. But I like to speak something for the information of the House. Sir, I really congratulate the Government for the provision made for starting the Tibbi College in Sylhet which had been a long-felt want of the public. Sir, it will give medical help to the people much more than the allopathic medicine in these days. It is known to all that many people of our country take Unani medicine from Delhi incurring heavy expenses. Now, if we can train some men in the Unani system of medicine, it will save the people from heavy expenses of the medicine that they are now to incur. So, Sir, the college that is going to be started in Sylhet will really benefit the people and will be appreciated by all.

Sir, I have received some telegrams regarding the appointment of some professors in the Madrassa—Hadis class. They want that some all-India men should be appointed there and in that case provincialisation would not be necessary. I hope, the Hon'ble Education Minister will respect the opinion of the people and act accordingly. These Hadis classes have been started to impart the highest education in religion to the Muslims. Formerly, it was the only education that was prevalent in the world. Now, European education has replaced it and limited its scope.

But time will come when this education will be revived and people will take to its study. Sir, here I want to say that there should be some research scholarships provided for oriental education. I draw the attention of the Government to this fact. This will greatly help the people of Assam. But it is unfortunate that Government have made oriental education optional and it is given in the Junior Madrassas.

My hon. Friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury has already said about Arabic education. It appears that Arabic education is being slowly taken off from the country. If, Sir, Arabic education is taken off, the name of Madrassa should also be taken off and it should be like the ordinary school. In this matter Government did not take the opinion of the Muslim community but have decided in their camera meeting. I request the Government to take the public opinion in this matter.

Now, Sir, I like to speak something about the Medical Department which is very useful to us. We find, Sir, to our utter disappointment that there is no medicine in our dispensaries. In the Karimganj dispensary there is no medicine, the people simply go and come from there, in many cases, with prescriptions for purchasing medicines from some local firms. In the Karimganj dispensary there is a great scarcity of medicine. It is running with the subscription raised by the local Sub-Divisional Officer. This state of affairs is going on for some time past. After working in certain Military projects, in places like Lushai Hills and Dimapur, etc., the people of Karimganj return to their homes and bring with them various kinds of diseases and thus they are put to very much inconveniences for want of medicine. I personally know of a dispensary at Rathabari where there is not a single drop of important medicine of any kind. I am sure Dr. Terrell will bear me out that it is the same case with the Patharkandi dispensary. I am glad to state here that while Dr. Terrell was also in charge of this Patharkandi hospital started by Military, he not only helped the Military patients but also the people of the locality with medicine and for this we are really grateful to him, and to the Military as well.

I may now come to the grievances of the people of Karimganj regarding communications. On the Sylhet-Cachar Road there is a ferry crossing at a place called Sadakhal—some 18 miles from Sylhet—where a bridge ought to have been erected.

During the rainy season it becomes all the more difficult and inconvenient to cross this gap because while the ferry boat crosses the current takes it some way off from the main place of landing, and as a result it takes much time. During night hours the crossing takes much more time—from 1 to 2 hours at least, whereas during winter it takes only 20 to 30 minutes.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi KERAMAT ALI: Does it take the same amount of time when our hon. Member's car crosses and is it also taken away very far by strong current or wind?

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: The hon. Member living at Jorhat does not know, Sir, the real condition of this crossing (*Laughter*).

I may now come to Mewa-Beanibazar road at Karimganj. This is an important project to be taken up. Another important road to be taken up is Latu-Barlekha road. This road connects Maulavibazar and Sylhet through Karimganj and Cachar. Once this was a very important road before the construction of Karimganj-Patharkandi road. It will be economical in the long run if Government takes up this project in right earnest. There are two more roads, *viz.*, the Karimganj-Kaliganj road and Biskut road should be taken up.

As regards railways, Sir, recently, I saw an order that railway authorities would not allow the train to stop in many different stations in the Karimganj subdivision. I request this Government to move the Central Government to open this station if it is not in their jurisdiction.

Then, Sir, as regards post-war reconstruction project many things have been spoken of by my hon. Friends. I request the Government to introduce military training in the Province (*hear, hear*). Sir, I want military training so that our young boys will take to it. Sir, when our young men will be trained in military spheres people from America will not be required to come to our Province. Indians will be sufficient for the protection against the enemies of Great Britain (*Loud applause*).

Elections to the Bengal and Assam Railway Advisory Boards

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In modification of my previous order with regard to the date and time for holding the elections of representatives of the House to the Bengal and Assam Railway Local Advisory Boards I now announce that the elections will be held between 2 P. M. to 4 P. M. instead of at 4 P. M. on the 13th March.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A. M., on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1945.

SHILLONG:

The 20th March, 1945.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

Appendix C.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED ON THE REVENUES OF THE PROVINCE DURING 1944-45, LAID BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY, UNDER SECTION 81 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

(To be discussed by the Assembly on the 13th March 1945)

(Charged—Non-excluded Areas)

No. 1		Rs.
8.—PROVINCIAL EXCISE—		
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule		20,300
Additional amount now required	...	2,800
II.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—		
A.—Superintendence—		
Allowances and Honoraria	...	2,800

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The excess is mainly due to the necessity of more frequent touring by the Commissioner of Excise in connection with works relating to Drugs Control Order, Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinances, procurement and distribution of Consumer Goods, etc.

No. 2

10.—FOREST (NON-EXCLUDED AREAS) CHARGED—		Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule		1,64,300
Additional amount now required	...	8,347
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—		
B.—Establishment (charged)—		
1.—Salary of superior officers	...	900
3.—Allowances and Honoraria	...	7,280
C.—Loss or gain by exchange	...	80
D.—Charges in England	...	147
		8,347

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Mainly to meet the special pay sanctioned to the Forest Utilisation Officer at 20 per cent. of his pay.
 3. For meeting the cost of travelling allowance for extra touring of officers in connection with war supply and war allowance recently sanctioned by Government.
- C & D.—On the basis of actuals of last year provision has been made under C and provision under D has been made according to actual calculation.

No. 3

12.—CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACT—		Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated Schedule		Nil
Additional amount now required	...	10,000
II.—Sub-head under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—		
C.—Compensation to local bodies, etc.	...	10,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The construction of the Sylhet-Shillong Motor Road through the Khyrim State has brought about the fall of State revenues in the shape of bazaar tolls, etc. and so the Government decided to pay a compensation of Rs. 10,000 to the Khyrim State during the current financial year to compensate the loss. The decision was made too late to make any provision in the current year's Budget, so an additional appropriation of Rs. 10,000 will be required during the current financial year.

No. 4.

22.—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS (CHARGED)—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	7,68,700
Additional amount now required	89,667
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional grants will be accounted for—	
A.—Interest on ordinary debt—	
(1) Interest on permanent loans	15,800
(2) Floating loans—	
(a) Discount on Treasury Bills	34,000
(b) Interest on ways and means advances	34,367
3. Other items—	
(a) Expenditure connected with the issue of new loans ...	5,500
	<hr/>
	89,667

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Represents provision for payment during the current year of the cumulative interest up to 1943-44.

2. (a) & (b) The amounts represent discount on Treasury Bills and interest on ways and means advances taken to finance the schemes relating to purchase of food-stuff and standard cloth and motor transport organisation.

3. (a) The excess represents commission paid to the Reserve Bank of India for the management of Assam Government Treasury Bills to which they are entitled under the agreement with the Bank.

No. 5

25.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (CHARGED)—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	11,30,500
Additional amount now required... ..	34,635
II.—Sub-head under which the demand will be accounted for—	
H. Minister	30,000
P.—Director of Land Records—	
1. Pay of officers	4,485
2. Allowances and Honoraria	150
	<hr/>
Total ...	34,635

EXPLANATORY NOTES

H. Due to the increase of pay and allowances of Hon'ble Ministers.

P. 1. Due to leave salary of the Director for which no provision was made in the original Budget.

2. Due to larger requirement on account of increase in the rates of travelling allowance.

No. 6

27.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	2,53,300
Additional amount now required	13,121
II.—Sub-heads under which this additional appropriation will be accounted for—	
A. Share cost for the maintenance of the Calcutta High Court.	10,500
B. Law officers—	
(a) English Law officers (charged)	1,754
D. District and Sessions Judges—	
(i) Pay of Officers	533
(ii) Allowances and Honoraria	334
	<hr/>
Total ...	13,121

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. A sum of Rs. 1,35,500 was provided in the current year's Budget on account of the share cost for the maintenance of the Calcutta High Court on the basis of demand made in the previous years. The Government of Bengal have now reported that a sum of Rs. 1,46,000 is estimated to be payable to that Government for this purpose. An additional sum of Rs. 10,500 is therefore necessary to meet the expenditure.

B. (a) To meet the travelling allowance and fees of the Advocate-General who represented this Government before the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta, in some security prisoner's case.

D. (i) Represents proportionate leave salary of Justice Mr. Edgley debited to Assam.

(ii) Due to more tours on official duty.

No. 7

29.—POLICE (CHARGED)—	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	3,20,300
Additional amount now required	70,750
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—	
A.—Superintendence—	Rs.
Pay of officers	4,400
B.—District Executive Force—	
District Police—	
(1) Pay of officers	50,930
(2) Allowances and honoraria, etc.	10,100
M.—Charges in England—Expenditure of the High Commissioner.	5,320
Total	70,750

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Superintendence.—The excess is due to the adjustment of pay of special officers for which no provision was made in the Budget, e.g., Mr. Ali.

B.—District Police.—(1) The excess is due to the increase in the number of posts, viz., Commandant, Railforce, and the appointment of Mr. Dhar to the I. P. Cadre.

(2) The excess is due to the grant of war allowance and daily allowance at enhanced rates with effect from 1st December 1943 and 1st July 1944.

M.—This is required to meet the leave salaries of officers for which no provision was made in the original Budget.

42.—CO-OPERATION—

No. 8

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	Rs.
Additional amount now required	23,200
II.—Sub-head under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	2,000
A.—Direction charges—	
Allowances and honoraria—charged	2,000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Director of Industries' frequent tours outside the Province involved more expenditure than usual, with the result that, the current year's provision in the Budget has proved inadequate. A supplementary grant of Rs. 2,000 is essentially necessary to meet the excess expenditure already incurred and some unavoidable expenditure to be incurred during the remaining period of the year.

No. 9

50—CIVIL WORKS—ESTABLISHMENT AND TOOLS AND PLANT CHARGES—NON-EXCLUDED AREAS—(CHARGED)

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	48,600
Additional amount now required	19,200

II.—Sub-heads to which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Works Department—

A. Direction charges—

(a) Chief Engineer and Secretary, Public Works Department—

(i) 1. Pay of Officers	5,444
(ii) 3. Allowances and Honoraria	3,000

(b) Superintending Engineers—

(iii) 3. Allowances and Honoraria	500
(iv) D. Charges in England	10,256

Total ...	19,200
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

(i) Due to leave salary of Mr. G. W. Gordon, I.S.E., from July to October 1944 having been drawn in advance in India and debited to Direction charges.

(ii) Due mainly to the cost of passage of Mr. G. W. Gordon, I.S.E., for which there was no Budget provision.

(iii) Due to raising the rates of travelling allowance

(iv) Due to leave salary of Mr. G. W. Gordon, I.S.E., for November 1944 to February 1945 not provided for in the original Budget; also due to provision for leave salary of Mr. K. E. L. Pennell having fallen short of actual requirement.

EXCLUDED AREAS

No. 10

7.—Land Revenue

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	27,200
Additional amount now required	370

II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—

G.—Land Records (b) District Charges—Kanungo Establishment—

(1) Pay of Establishment	250
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	40
(3) Contingencies (contract)	30
(4) Works—Repairs	50

Total	370
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

(1) The excess is due to payment of leave salary to the Supervisor Kanungo in Sadiya Frontier Tract and payment of field allowance to the officiating Supervisor Kanungo.

(2) The excess is due to increased rates of dearness allowance sanctioned during the current year.

(3) The excess is due to payment of pay and cash allowance and travelling allowance to Supervisor Kanungo's Chainman in Balipara Frontier Tracts at enhanced rate.

(4) The excess is due to increase in the rates of building materials and labour.

No. 11

9.—Stamps—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	...	Rs. 100
Additional amount now required	... ..	15
II.—Sub-head under which the demand will be accounted for—		
A.—Non-Judicial	... ..	15

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Due to increased rates of fees paid to stamp vendors on account of rise in cost of living.

No.12

10—Forests—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	... ..	Rs. 2,02,200
Additional amount now required	... ..	1,09,510

II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—

A.—Conservancy and works—

I.—Timber and other produce removed by Government Agency	...	260
II.—Timber and other produce removed from forest by consumers and purchasers.		11,325
V.—Live-stock, store, tools and plant	... ..	39,160
VI.—Communications and buildings	... ..	14,080
VII.—Organisation, improvement and extension of Forests	... ..	21,190
IX.—Miscellaneous	... ..	5,935
Total A.—Conservancy and Works		91,950

B.—ESTABLISHMENT

2.—Pay of subordinates and office establishment	... ..	1,200
3.—Allowance and Honoraria	... ..	12,200
4.—Contingencies	... ..	4,160
Total B.—Establishment		17,560

Total ... 1,09,510

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. I.—More elephant tusks received unexpectedly in the Sadiya Division, hence more money is required for payment of rewards to the finders.

II.—The extra expenditure is mainly due to the construction of storage sheds for minor forest produce in 8 centres in the excluded areas of the Lakhimpur Division.

V.—The excess expenditure is mainly due to purchase of 4 lorries for the Working Plan Division and one truck for Sadiya Division and for purchase of paddy at the increased rates for elephant ration.

VI.—Mainly due to the construction of new roads in the Sadiya Division for speedy extraction of war timber.

VII.—The extra grant is required mainly for silvicultural and regeneration works in the Sadiya Division.

IX.—The extra amount is mainly due to meet the cost of free rations supplied to the staff engaged in Rangapahar area for departmental operations.

B.—ESTABLISHMENT

B. 2.—Mainly due to transfer of subordinate staff from Non-excluded to Excluded areas.

3.—Extra money is required mainly to meet the cost of extra travelling allowance for officers and subordinates and payment of dearness allowance at the increased rates.

4.—More money is required for meeting the cost of service postage for increased correspondence and for the maintenance of Departmental trucks.

No.13

25.—General Administration (Excluded areas)—					Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated Schedule	...				3,68,700
Additional amount required	...	...	...	...	33,191
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—					
S. General Establishment—					
1.—Pay of officers	...	...	...	...	5,100
2.—Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	...	11,607
3.—Contingencies	...	...	...	...	12,364
4.(a)—Works—Original Works	...	...	...	...	800
(b)—Repairs	...	...	...	...	1,000
X.—Charges in England—Expenditure by the High Commissioner					2,320
					<hr/> 33,191

EXPLANATORY NOTES

S. 1. Due to creation of some new posts.

2. Excess expenditure is due to the grant of war allowance at 10 per cent. and cash allowance at enhanced rates and also due to increase of travelling allowance.

3. Due to abnormal rise in prices of articles, etc., the original budget provision proved quite inadequate. Rs.5,000 was also incurred in connection with the purchase of a house for the residence of the Sub-Treasury Officer, Sadiya, for which there was no Budget provision.

4.(a)—Due to the establishment of an out-post at Khimyang, Tirap Frontier Tract.

(b)—Due to the repairs of the clerks' quarters of the Political Officer, Tirap Frontier Tract.

X.—To meet the leave salaries of officers going on leave in England.

No.14

27—Administration of Justice—

					Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	...				900
Additional amount now required	...	...	...	...	862

II.—The sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—

(C).—Mufassil Establishment—

3. Contingencies	...	...	...	...	Rs.
I.—Criminal Courts—	...	...	...	...	650
1. Allowances and Honoraria	...	...	...	...	32
2. Contingencies	...	...	...	...	180
Total					862

EXPLANATORY NOTES

C.—Due to increase in the number of criminal cases.

I.—1. This is required to meet the excess expenditure relating to “Remuneration to copyists”. The original Budget provision was not adequate.

2. This is required to meet the excess expenditure relating to “Diet and Road money to witnesses”. Expenditure under this item is of an uncertain nature and cannot be accurately estimated beforehand.

No.15

28.—Jails and convict settlements—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	...	Rs.
Additional amount now required	...	9,400
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—	...	10,051
A.—District Jail—		
(1) Allowances & Honoraria	...	1,729
(2) Contingencies non-contract	...	4,142
(3) Ditto contract	...	333
B.—Charges for Police custody—		
Contingencies	...	3,607
K.—Works—(b) Repairs—Cattle Pounds	...	240
Total		10,051

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A. 1. Due to grant of dearness allowance at increased rates.

2 & 3. Due to increase of jail population which was not anticipated.

B.—The additional amount is required due to abnormal rise in the price of foodstuffs, etc., and a large increase in the number of prisoners.

K.—The additional amount is required to meet the expenditure on account of repairs to the Lokra cattle pound for which there was no Budget provision.

No.16

29.—Police—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	...	Rs.
Additional amount now required	...	1,45,000
II.—Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—	...	28,933
B.—District Executive Force—		
(a) District Police—		
(1) Pay of establishment	...	8,920
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	...	10,900
(3) Contingencies	...	900
M.—Charges in England—Expenditure by the High Commissioner	...	8,213
Total		28,933

EXPLANATORY NOTES

- B (1) Increase is mainly due to increase in Force.
 (2) The excess is due to the grant of dearness allowance at enhanced rates and increase of daily allowance.
 (3) The excess is due to increase in the prices of clothing and use of more stamps for increase of correspondence.

M.—To meet the overseas pay of officers.

No 17

	Rs.
37.—Education (other than European)—	
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	1,53,900
Additional amount now required ...	11,388
II.—The sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for—	
1. Primary Education—Government Primary Schools ...	6,000
2. Direct grants to non-Government Primary Schools ...	5,388
Total ...	11,388

EXPLANATIONS

1. Rs. 6,000 is required for dearness and cash allowances granted to Government Primary School teachers.
 2. The total cost for grant of dearness allowance to teachers of non-Government Primary Schools in Lushai Hills (North and South) will amount to Rs. 5,388.

No. 18

38.—Medical (Excluded Areas)—Charged—

	Rs.
The amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	2,63,700
Additional amount now required ...	14,138
II.—The Sub-heads under which the additional appropriation will be accounted for :—	
B. Hospitals and Dispensaries—(a) Ordinary Dispensaries—	Rs.
(1) Allowances and Honoraria ...	5,415
(2) Contingencies (contract) ...	8,723
Total ...	14,138

EXPLANATIONS

- (1) Due to grant of dearness allowance at increased rates.
 (2) Due to increase in the price of miscellaneous articles and also due to grant of dearness allowance to contingency menials at the increased rates.

No.19

50.—Civil Works (excluding tools and plant and establishment)—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	4,01,600
Additional amount now required ...	73,122
I.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for—	
A—Original works—(a) Buildings—	
General Administration ...	17,252
Police other than Assam Rifles ...	970
(b) Communications—	
Ordinary Roads ...	15,800
B—Repairs—	
1. Buildings ...	10,700
2. Communications ...	27,600
3. Miscellaneous ...	800
Total ...	73,122

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A—Original works—

(a) Buildings—

General Administration—

1. Due to the increased transactions on account of Defence works in the Tirap Frontier Tract it has become urgently necessary to extend the Sub-treasury building and to construct a strong room. The work was taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,741.

2. No residential accommodation for the Treasury and Clerical staff under the Political Officer, Tirap, is locally available and hence the construction of some quarters estimated to cost Rs. 8,511 has been undertaken.

The full amount of the estimate will be required for expenditure during the year.

Police other than Assam Rifles—

As there is no housing accommodation at Kohima it has become urgently and imperatively necessary to requisition certain private houses for the Civil Police at Kohima. A sum of Rs. 970 is required for payment of compensation to the parties concerned.

(b) Communications—

Ordinary Roads—

(a) In view of increase in traffic and the necessity for transport of war timber and sleepers over the Lohit Valley Road it has become an urgent necessity to strengthen the existing bridges on this road to 6 tons capacity. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 30,900 and a sum of Rs. 15,000 is required for expenditure during the year.

(b) The removal of certain culverts on the Lohit Valley Road damaged by flood has become urgently necessary and hence the work estimated to cost Rs. 1,344 has been taken up. A sum of Rs. 800 is required for expenditure during the year.

B—Repairs—

Due to increased rates of labour and materials.

No.20

50.—Civil Works—(Establishment and Tools and Plant charges)—Excluded Areas—

	Rs.
I. Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule	47,800
Additional amount now required	34,750
II.—Sub-heads to which the supplementary grant will be accounted for by the Public Works Department:—	

B. Charges on construction—

	Rs.
(i) 1.—Pay of Officers	1,350
(ii) 2.—Pay of Establishment	3,000
(iii) 3.—Allowances and Honoraria	15,800
(iv) 4.—Contingencies	600
(v) G—Tools and Plant	14,000
Total	34,750

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(i) Due to opening of a new Division at Kohima.

(ii) Due mainly to the grant of advance increments to certain classes of Government servants, 33½ per cent. increase in pay of temporary overseers and opening of a new division at Kohima.

- (iii) Due to raising the rates of travelling allowance and other fixed allowances and grant of extra dearness allowance and war allowance to Government servants.
 (iv) Due to purchase of a type writer and increased cost of materials.
 (v) To meet the cost of a staff car and a 15 cwt. truck for Sadiya Frontier Tract.

No.21

54-A.—Famine Relief—

	Rs.
Appropriation originally included in the authenticated schedule ...	500
Additional amount now required	1,400

II.—Sub-head to which the additional appropriation will be accounted for :—

Gratuitous relief	1,400
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The additional amount is required to meet (1) the expenditure in connection with gratuitous relief to Baigo village in the North Cachar Hills and (2) the expenditure for the purchase of ploughing cattle in the Tirap Frontier Tract, for which there was no Budget provision.

No.22

57.—Miscellaneous (Excluded Areas)—

	Rs.
Amount originally included in the authenticated Schedule ...	1,63,500
Additional amount required	78,096

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

	Rs.
C.—Donation for Charitable purposes	42
E.—Petty Establishment—	
(a) Circuit and Sessions houses	244
(b) Other petty Establishment—	
(1) Transport and Commissariat Establishment ...	45,510
(c) Ledo Area Improvement Establishment	4,577
J.—Miscellaneous Durbar Charges	19,320
K.—Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges—	
Expenditure connected with the control and distribution of cloth and yarn.	2,361
M.—Works—	
(a) Original Works	5,757
(b) Repairs	285

Total ... 78,096

EXPLANATORY NOTE

C.—This is for “contingencies”. The original estimated provision proved inadequate.

E.—(a) This is due to the grant of dearness allowance at higher rates for which there was no Budget provision.

(b) (1) This is due to the following :—

(i) Increase of wages of Porters and Sirdars in the Sadiya and Balipara Frontier Tracts.

(ii) Fluctuation of market prices of articles and clothing.

(iii) Due to non-arrival of clothing from Bombay and late arrival of implements from Calcutta owing to Transport difficulties, the Political Officer had to purchase some clothing and implements locally to meet immediate needs pending arrival of the same from other Provinces.

(c)—There was no provision in the Budget for it. The expenditure had to be incurred in connection with the sanitary and hygiene arrangements made in places near military camps.

J.—This is for "contingencies." The excess expenditure is due to the high cost of scarlet broad cloth purchased for the presents to the hills tribes in large quantity. The Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, had to incur Rs. 3,000 in addition in connection with the purchase of rum for which there was no provision in the Budget.

K.—It has become necessary to appoint certain staff at Sadiya and Haflong, for the administration of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943. The amount is required to meet the pay, travelling allowance, etc., of the said staff.

M. (a) *For Ledo Area Improvement Establishment.*—There was no provision in the Budget for it.

(b) This is required to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the repairs to the Bhalukpung-Jamiri Road in the Balipara Frontier Tract for which there was no provision in the Budget.

No 23

63.—EXTRAORDINARY CHARGES (EXCLUDED AREAS)—

Amount originally included in the authenticated schedule

Additional amount now required

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

A. Charges in India—

(i) Loss due to enemy action	...	...	...	...	Rs.
				73,394	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This consists of two items—

(1) Loss of money in the Kohima Treasury due to enemy inroads into the Naga Hills in April 1944 (Rs.6,120).

(2) Government have decided to sanction the grant to Government servants under their control who are paid from Provincial revenues, of compensation not exceeding actual proved loss for their personal kit lost in enemy occupied territory in which they were on duty.

No provision was made in the current year's Budget as there was no question of such payment when the original Budget estimate was framed. The claims now received are large but after careful scrutiny Government have decided to sanction an amount totalling Rs. 67,274 for officers of the excluded areas, and an additional appropriation is necessary for this sum.

Statement showing by major heads the amounts of Supplementary Statement of expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province during 1944-45

Heads	Amount included in the authenticated Schedule			Additional amount now required			Amount as it will finally stand			Number of demand
	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amount	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total amount	Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total amount	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
7. Land Revenue....	..	27,200	27,200	..	370	370	..	27,570	27,570	10
8. Provincial Excise ..	20,300	..	20,300	2,800	..	2,800	23,100	..	23,100	1
9. Stamps ..	..	100	100	..	15	15	..	115	115	11
10. Forests ..	1,64,300	2,02,200	3,66,500	8,347	1,09,510	1,17,857	1,72,647	3,11,710	4,84,357	2 & 12
12. Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	..	..	..	10,000	..	10,000	10,000	..	10,000	3
22. Interest on debt and other obligations	7,68,700	..	7,68,700	89,667	..	89,667	8,58,367	..	8,58,367	4
25. General Administration ..	11,28,000	3,68,700	14,96,700	34,635	33,191	67,826	11,62,635	4,01,891	15,64,526	5 & 13
27. Administration of Justice ..	2,53,300	900	2,54,200	13,121	862	13,983	2,66,421	1,762	2,68,183	6 & 14
28. Jails and Convict Settlements ..	..	9,400	9,400	..	10,051	10,051	..	19,451	19,451	15
29. Police ..	3,20,300	1,45,000	4,65,300	70,750	28,933	99,683	3,91,050	1,73,933	5,64,983	7 & 16
37. Education (other than European) ..	..	1,53,900	1,53,900	..	11,388	11,388	..	1,65,288	1,65,288	17
38. Medical ..	..	2,63,700	2,63,700	..	14,138	14,138	..	2,77,838	2,77,838	18
39. Public Health ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40. Agriculture ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
42. Co-operation ..	23,200	..	23,200	2,000	..	2,000	25,200	..	25,200	8
50. Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants).	..	4,01,600	4,01,600	..	73,122	73,122	..	4,74,722	4,74,722	19
Ditto (Establishment, Tools and Plants).	48,600	47,800	96,400	19,200	34,750	53,950	67,800	82,550	1,50,350	9+20
54-A. Famine Relief ..	..	500	500	..	1,400	1,400	..	1,900	1,900	21
57. Miscellaneous ..	..	1,63,500	1,63,500	..	78,096	78,096	..	2,41,596	2,41,596	22
63. Extraordinary charges ..	..	..	..	..	73,394	73,394	..	73,394	73,394	23
Total	27,26,700	17,84,500	45,11,200	2,50,520	4,69,220	7,19,740	29,77,220	22,53,720	52,30,940	

