

**Proceedings of the Fourteenth 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 Saturday, the 25th March, 1944.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Outbreak of cholera and small-pox in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts
Srijut SURENDRANATH BURAGOHAIN asked :

*114. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware of the extent of havoc caused during the past several months by cholera and small-pox in the District of Sibsagar ?
- (b) Whether they are also aware that the cause of the outbreak and spread of these diseases is the movement of unprotected imported labour employed in various Defence projects in the District ?
- (c) What measures are being taken to combat these epidemics and the results so far achieved ?

*115. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The date on or about which the present cholera epidemic in the Sibsagar Subdivision broke out ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that it started amongst the imported labour employed by contractors in Nazira area working for the Military, Public Works Department and Bengal and Assam Railway authorities ?

*116. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they are aware that cholera has taken a very large toll of lives in the District of Lakhimpur during the past several months ?
- (b) Whether they have filled up the post of Public Health Assistant Surgeon for the District provided for in the last year's Budget ?
- (c) If not, whether they propose to do it now and to provide for adequate Public Health Staff to cope with the situation now prevailing in the District ?

The Hon'ble Miss MAVIS DUNN replied :

114. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, it is one of the main causes.

(c)—Mass inoculation with cholera vaccine and Vaccination including

vaccination in roadside areas and in and around the aerodrome areas were pushed on. The total number of cholera inoculations performed was 85,750 and that of vaccinations was 3,089. All the available Sub-Assistant Surgeons, the Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department and the Health Officer attended the affected localities. The Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department has been constantly moving from one Subdivision to another supervising the duties of the Epidemic Units and other doctors engaged in the work visiting the badly affected areas.

115. (a)—Since the middle of November last.

(b)—Yes.

116. (a)—Cholera broke out in epidemic form in the Lakhimpur District since the first part of October 1943, but it was of sporadic nature since the middle part of November 1943.

(b)—The post of Assistant Surgeon of the Public Health Department could not be filled up for want of a suitable candidate. A selection grade Sub-Assistant Surgeon has, however, been posted to the Lakhimpur District to help the Civil Surgeon in Public Health matters.

(c)—Public Health staff posted in the Lakhimpur District is considered adequate to cope with the present situation. If more is required, additional staff will be provided.

Estates under the management of Court of Wards

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*117. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of Estates under the management of the Court of Wards with following particulars separately—

(a) Name or names of the proprietors of each Estate ?

(b) Liability of each such Estate ?

(c) The dates when they were taken up for management by the Court of Wards ?

(d) The approximate dates when they are expected to be free and released ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

117 (a)—(d).—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to Starred Question No. 117(a)—(d) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1944

Names of the Estates under the management of the Court of Wards	Name or names of the proprietors of each Estate	Liability of each Estate	Dates when they were taken up for management by the Court of Wards	The approximate date when they are expected to be free and released	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		Rs.			
1. Nripa Estate ..	Mrs. Ira Debi ..	8,900	29th April 1920	1947	
2. Sardar Bahadur Estate.	(1) Musstt. Rahima Banu (widow). (2) Maulavi Azizur Rahman. (3) Musstt. Ramiza Banu. (4) „ Faizunnessa.	425	8th July 1925	1950	
3. Majumdari Syedia Estate.	(1) Maulavi Monowar Bukth Majumdar. (2) Maulavi Farid Bukth Majumdar. (3) Maulavi A. T. Shahid Bukth Majumdar (minor). (4) Jahanora Begum (minor).	28,481	30th September 1929.	1956	

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
3. Majumdari Syedia Estate.— <i>concl'd.</i>	(5) Maulavi Abdul Moin Syed Bukth Majumdar. (6) Maulavi Abdur Rashid Majumdar. (7) Maulavi Ayub Bukth Majumdar. (8) Maulavi Ashof Bukth Majumdar. (9) Maulavi Eusuf Bukth Majumdar. (10) Maulavi Idris Bukth Majumdar. (11) Musstt. Mazeda Banu. (12) Musstt. Moymuna Khatun. (13) Musstt. Ayesha Khatun. (14) Musstt. Jobeda Khatun.	Rs. 28,481	30th September 1929.	1956	
4. Majumdari Baniachong Estate.	(1) Maulavi Monwar Bukth Majumdar. (2) Maulavi Abdul Mo-yeen Syed Bukth Majumdar. (3) Maulavi Forid Bukth Majumdar. (4) Musstt. Ayesha Khatun. (5) Musstt. Sayera Khatun. (6) Musstt. Moymuna Khatun. (7) Musstt. Safia Khatun.	6,609	30th September 1929.	1953	
5. Dastidar Estate ..	(1) Rai Bahadur Nalini Kanta Rai Dastidar. (2) Babu Rajani Kanta Rai Dastidar. (3) Babu Jashadhir Krishna Rai Dastidar. (4) Babu Jagadhir Krishna Rai Dastidar. (5) Babu Jnanadhir Krishna Rai Dastidar. (6) Babu Janadhir Krishna Rai Dastidar. (7) Babu Chittadhir Krishna Rai Dastidar. (8) Srijukta Niroda Sundari Rai Dastidar. (9) Babu Biroja Kanta Rai Dastidar. (10) Babu Dhorani Kanta Rai Dastidar.	1,01,707	1st May 1937 ..	1970	

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(1)	(2)	(3) Rs.	(4)	(5)	(6)
6. Dewan Manikchand Mr. G. R. Roy's Estate.	Mr. Gopika Ramon Roy.	8,11,243	31st Oct. 1938 ..	1964	
7. Dewan Manikchand Mrs. S. B. Roy Chaudhurani's Estate.	Mrs. Suruchi Bala Ray Chaudhurani.	18,700	20th April 1939..	..	No debt repayment scheme has yet been drawn up.
8. Dewan Manikchand Sreemau Gourish Ch. Ray's Estate.	Gourish Chandra Ray	..	2nd April 1939 ..	1964	
9. Munshibari Estate	(1) Babu Manmatha Kumar Das Chaudhury. (2) Babu Monoj Kumar Das Chaudhury. (3) Babu Chittaranjan Das Chaudhury. (4) Babu Chapalaranjan Das Chaudhury. (5) Babu Kshiroderanjan Das Chaudhury. (6) Babu Satyaranjan Das Chaudhury. (7) Babu Nityaranjan Das Chaudhury. (8) Babu Probharranjan Das Chaudhury.	79,603	19th April 1940..	..	Ditto.
10. Lakshmansree Estate.	(1) Dewan Hachinur Raja Chaudhury. (2) Musstt. Musharaf Jahan Imdadunnessa Khatun Chaudhurani. (3) Dewan Musharaf Hasan Ubedur Raja Chaudhury.	28,810	20th May 1940 ..	..	Ditto.
11. Sadhuhati Estate	(1) Babu Mohendra Kumar Dam. (2) Babu Sib Sundar Dam. (3) Babu Ananga Mohan Dam. (4) Babu Arabinda Mohan Dam. (5) Babu Apurba Krishna Dam. (6) Babu Arunuday Dam. (7) Babu Abani Mohan Dam. (8) Babu Nalini Mohan Dam. (9) Babu Anil Kumar Dam. (10) Babu Ashutosh Dam. (11) Babu Ramendra Sundar Dam.	32,954	24th October 1940.	1952	

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
11. Sadhuhati Estate. — <i>conold.</i>	(12) Babu Benoyendra Kumar Dam. (13) Babu Nikhilendra Kumar Dam. (14) Babu Jagadindra Kumar Dam. (15) Babu Fanindra Kumar Dam. (16) Sri.akta Chapala Sundari Dam.	32,954	24th October 1940.	1952	
12. Sukhair Bahadur Estate. Rai	(1) Rai Shaheb Mohini Mohon Chaudhury. (2) Babu Monomohon Chaudhury. (3) Babu Jatindra Mohon Chaudhury. (4) Babu Monoranjan Chaudhury. (5) Babu Chittaranjan Chaudhury.	68,151	1st November 1940.	1958	
13. Richi Estate ..	(1) Babu Kshitish Chandra Datta Chaudhury. (2) Babu Nerode Chandra Datta Chaudhury. (3) Babu Satyendra Kumar Datta Chaudhury. (4) Babu Soroj Kumar Datta Chaudhury. (5) Babu Jyatsnamoy Datta Chaudhury. (6) Babu Shasanka Mohon Datta Chaudhury. (7) Babu Saradindu Datta Chaudhury. (8) Babu Arabinda Datta Chaudhury. (9) Babu Indu Madhab Datta Chaudhury. (10) Babu Chandra Madhab Datta Chaudhury. (11) Babu Nagendra Chandra Datta Chaudhury. (12) Babu Ramesh Chandra Datta Chaudhury. (13) Babu Dinesh Chandra Datta Chaudhury. (14) Babu Jatindra Mohan Datta Chaudhury. (15) Babu Dwijendra Mohan Datta Chaudhury. (16) Babu Nripendra Mohan Datta Chaudhury.	28,683	26th December 1941.	..	Debt repayment scheme not yet drawn up.

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
13. Richi Estate— <i>concl'd.</i>	(17) Babu Ajit Kumar. Datta Chaudhury (18) Babu Satya Madhab Datta (minor.) (19) Mrs. Santi Sudha Sen Gupta. (20) Mrs. Charu Sudha Sen Gupta. (21) Mrs. Kshirode Bala Datta Chaudhury. (22) Mrs. Charubhashini Datta Chaudhury.	Rs. 28,683	26th December 1941.	..	Debt repay- ment scheme not yet drawn up.
14. Durga Prasad Estate.	(1) Babu Prasanna Kumar Datta. (2) Babu Purnenda Ku- mar Datta. (3) Babu Saradindu Ku- mar Datta. (4) Smritilekha Datta.. (5) Anima Datta .. (6) Ratna Datta .. (7) Anindya Datta	Not yet ascert- ained.	12th July 1943 ..	..	Ditto.
15. Golok Chandra Estate.	(1) Babu Juanendra Kumar Deb. (2) Babu Girindra Ku- mar Deb.	Not yet ascert- ained.	3rd August 1943 ..	..	Ditto.
16. Shah Banik Estate	Mrs. Sharashi Bala Shah Banik.	Not yet ascert- ained.	17th October 1943 ..	..	Ditto.
17. Mechpara Wards' Estate.	(1) Srijut Jyotsna Nath Chaudhury. (2) Srijukta Jagneswari Chaudhurani. (3) Rai Saheb Jatindra Narayan Chau- dhury. (4) Srijut Birendra Narayan Chau- dhury. (5) Srijut Hirendra Narayan Chaudhu- ry. (6) Srijukta Sucharubala Chaudhurani. (7) Srijut Sourindra Narayan Chaudhu- ry. (8) Srijut Kamal Kri- shna Chaudhury. (9) Srijut Nagendra Narayan Chaudhu- ry. (10) Srijukta Evelyn Chaudhurani. (11) Srijut Probhat Chan- dra Chaudhury. (12) Srijut Tajendra Na- rayan Chaudhury.	Rs.74,838	14th April 1917 ..	Not in near future.	

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		Rs.			
17. Mechpara Wards' Estate.— <i>concl'd.</i>	(13) Srijukta Promila Kumari Chaudhurani. (14) Srijut Jnenendra Narayan Chaudhury. (15) Srijut Sailendra Narayan Chaudhury. (16) Srijut Arun Chandra Choudhury. (17) Srijut Ranjit Narayan Choudhury. (18) Srijut Joy Narayan Choudhury. (19) Srijut Surya Narayan Choudhury. (20) Srijut Jagadindra Narayan Choudhury.	74,838	14th April 1917 ..	Not in near future.	
18. Bijni Raj ..	(1) Raja Bhairabendra Narayan Bhup.	Nil	5th December 1915.	The question of release is now under consideration.	
19. Salkocha Barua	(1) Srijut Sasi Nath Barua. (2) Srijut Sudhir Kumar Barua. (3) Srijut Jatindra Kumar Barua. (4) Srijut Nani Kumar Barua. (5) Srijut Phani Kumar Barua. (6) Srijukta Kamalata Baruani. (7) Srijut Rupendra Kumar Barua.	Not yet ascertained.	29th November 1943.	Too early to give an approximate date of release.	
20. Darrang Raj ..	(1) Kumar Bhupendra Narayan Deb. (2) Kumar Jitendra Narayan Deb. (3) Kumar Kulendra Narayan Deb. (4) Kumar Debendra Narayan Deb. (5) Kumar Dijendra Narayan Deb. (6) Kumar Gajendra Narayan Deb. (7) Kumar Mukunda Narayan Deb. (8) Kumar Puspa Narayan Deb. (9) Megh Narayan Deb (10) Surendra Narayan Deb. (11) Narendra Narayan Deb.	Nil	1st week of January 1936.	Proposal for release is being submitted by the Local Officers.	
					Minors

Stoppage of bus services on the Sylhet-Sunamganj and Sylhet-Chhatak Roads

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*118. Is it a fact that motor buses which are the only means of communication at present from Sylhet to Sunamganj and Sylhet to Chhatak were closed altogether for a few days during the early part of February 1944, due to scarcity of petrol ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

118. The Sylhet-Sunamganj Bus Association could not ply one trip on 3rd and one trip on 4th February, 1944 due to scarcity of petrol in the petrol pumps at Sylhet.

Government know of no other instance of stoppage of bus services on these routes.

(Starred Questions Nos. 119-124 standing in the name of Srijut Ghanashyam Das were not put and answered as the Questioner concerned was absent.)

Payment of Travelling Allowance bills of the Rice Control Officials, Sylhet

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*125. Will Government be pleased to state how many days or months after the submission of travelling allowance bills of the Rice Control Officials in the District of Sylhet the same have been paid for the first time ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

125.—A report from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet has been called for.

Rice and paddy settled and confiscated by Government

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*126. Will Government be pleased to state separately—

- (a) The quantity of rice and paddy seized by Government in the Province, District by District ?
- (b) The average price per maund of rice and paddy paid to the owners, Sub-division by Subdivision ?
- (c) The quantity of rice and paddy confiscated by Government, Subdivision by Subdivision ?
- (d) What quantity of the seized or confiscated rice and paddy has been disposed of and the rate at which they were so disposed ?
- (e) Whether any quantity from these seized or confiscated stock has been sent to Bengal ?
- (f) If so, what are these quantities (rice and paddy to be shown separately) ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

126.—The information is not readily available as rice and paddy are seized for contravention of the various control orders from time to time. Such stocks are made over to Government Agents at a fixed price where they are operating and such orders are subject to modifications by Courts. Both exports and internal demands are met by Government Agents from their stocks which include seized rice and paddy taken over.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As regards Question No. 126, Sir, can we expect a detailed reply in future to all the points that have arisen out of my Question? All my points have not been touched.

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, all the points have been touched, but only the exact figures have not been given.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What about the rates and the quantity of the seized or confiscated rice and paddy and at what rates they were disposed of?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is difficult to state the rates of them now, as they were disposed of last year.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I know whether the same price that was given to the owners of the rice and paddy was realised by Government or something in excess was realised?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The price was fixed at the time of taking delivery of the stock by the Agents. Some times the price was fixed over the price that was given to those owners of the seized rice or paddy.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: How the price of confiscated rice or paddy is accounted for?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The price given to the smugglers was generally lower than the market price as a measure of punishment.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Am I to understand, Sir, that in all cases price was given to the owners?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, unless it was forfeited by the orders of the Court?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, was there any case of forfeiture?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: There was only one case in the Habiganj Subdivision.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I know how the price of forfeited rice or paddy was accounted for—under what head?

†The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It went under Food-Grains Order, therefore under Capital Outlay.

Quantity of rice and paddy despatched outside the Province

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*127. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The quantity of rice and paddy (separately) which has been despatched outside the Province during the period from 1st April 1943 to 31st January 1944?

(b) The name or names of each such consignee showing the place of delivery?

(c) The average price realised per maund for rice and paddy separately?

*128.(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are under any obligation due to any contract or otherwise to export any quantity whatsoever of rice and paddy outside the Province?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—

(i) The quantity of rice and paddy separately to be exported?

(ii) The names of consignees?

(iii) The rate?

(iv) The date by which such export is to be effected under the terms of the aforesaid contract?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

127.(a)—The hon. Member is referred to a reply to Starred Question No. 48 asked by him in the last November Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Since then the following despatches were made to Bengal :—

	Rice	Paddy
Outside the Basic Plan	1,228 tons	865 tons.
Against 22,000 tons quota to Bengal under Kharif Plan (up to the week ending 3rd February 1944.)	1,770 „	3,371 „

(b)—The Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal or any Officer authorised by him. The consignments were sent to various places but their ultimate destinations are unknown to us as our responsibility ceases with despatch.

(c)—The average price realised per maund was Rs. 10 for paddy and Rs. 24-7-8 for rice.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What was the margin of profit derived by the Government under rice and paddy?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The reply will be under 128 (iii).

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

128. (a)—Assam has been declared Surplus area and under quota fixed by Government of India Assam is to supply 22,000 tons rice to the deficit Province of Bengal.

(i) 22,000 tons of rice to the Government of Bengal.

(ii)—The Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal or any other person authorised by him.

(iii)—Purchased price *plus* a cess of 6½ per cent. on all bills to cover Agents' commission and any other commercial loss.

(iv)—No fixed date has been laid down but the supply will have to be effected as soon as possible during the year.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is it a fact that some rice has been refused by the Bengal Government because of the high prices charged by the Assam Government?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, in the last consignment they have refused to take delivery of a part of the consignment on account of high price.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: What steps Government have taken in this direction?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Government has referred the matter to the Bengal Government as well as the Government of India and the Regional Food Commissioner has undertaken to take up this matter. I believe that an importing Province had no right to refuse rice if it is according to the specifications required, on grounds of price only.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When such a contingency has arisen will Government fix up the rates with the Bengal Government so that in future there may not be such controversy?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, the matter is under correspondence now.

Supply of Free rice and Clothes to distressed people of Baniyachong

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*129. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount they have spent for giving free rice and free new clothes to the distressed people of Baniyachong during the period beginning from 1st July 1943 to 31st January 1944?

*130. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the blankets given to the people of Baniyachong recently as a measure of relief were old or new?

- (b) The number of such blankets distributed free ?
- (c) The average price paid by Government for each such blanket ?
- (d) The total number of blankets indented for ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

129.—Rs.12,320 for rice and Rs.4,991-10-6 for standard cloth.

130. (a)—Generally old.

(b)—1873 pieces.

(c)—Fourteen annas each blanket from the Army.

(d)—5,000 blankets.

†Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY : Were these blankets properly sterilized ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Nothing was done in the Province. When it came from the Army we thought that it had been properly sterilized.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : How many pieces of these blankets have been distributed by the Government and how many were sold and at what price ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I have already replied that 1873 pieces were given free and the balance I ordered to be sold at half the cost price. I don't know whether any has been sold or how many has been sold. I know that some 700 pieces have been sent to Cachar to be distributed to the destitute immigrants living in the Silchar area.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Is the Hon'ble Premier aware that some of the blankets were blood-stained ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No, Sir, I am not aware of that. The report I got was that some of them were torn. No mention of blood-stain was made in the report that I received.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Defence whether he saw such blood stains in the blankets or not ? Some blankets were distributed in presence of him, I understand.

†The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : I had not seen any blood-stain but I saw that many pieces were torn.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Did anybody complain to the Hon'ble Minister about the blood-stain ?

†The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI : Nobody complained to me. At that time only distribution began.

Permits for plying motor vehicles as public carriers in Habiganj Subdivision

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*131. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of permits issued, and which are in force at present, to different parties for plying motor vehicles as public carriers in Habiganj Subdivision with the names of roads for which these permits have been granted ?
- (b) The total quantity of petrol granted monthly for (1) Habiganj-Shaistaganj, (2) Habiganj-Chunarighat, (3) Habiganj-Nabiganj, (4) Habiganj-Baniyachong, (5) Habiganj-Madhhabpur and (6) Habiganj-Ajmiriganj roads (to be shown separately) ?
- (c) The number of buses now plying in each of the said roads ?

†Speech not corrected.

††Starred Questions Nos. 131-134 were put by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury on authorisation.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

131. (a)—Two public carrier permits for the entire Habiganj Subdivision have been issued and they are in force at present. The vehicles run mainly on the Habiganj-Shaistaganj route.

(b)—(1) & (2)...	...	...	626 gallons per month.		
(3) ...	...	...	225	"	"
(4) & (6)...	...	...	100	"	"
(5) ...	...	...	105	"	"
(c)—Habiganj-Shaistaganj	...	...	...	...	11 buses.
Habiganj-Shaistaganj-Chunarughat	...	...	...	...	7 "
Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur...	...	...	...	...	3 "
Habiganj-Baniyachong-Ajmiriganj	...	...	...	...	4 "
Habiganj-Madhabpur	...	...	...	...	1 bus.

Discontinuance of the Shaistaganj-Habiganj Railway Line

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*132. Are Government aware that since the discontinuation of Shaistaganj-Habiganj Railway line the passengers traffic as well as goods traffic are suffering very much ?

*133. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Whether they have received public representations for making necessary arrangement of public traffic in the Shaistaganj-Habiganj road ?
- Whether they propose to place immediately adequate number of motor buses and motor trucks in the said road for carrying passengers and goods ?
- Whether they have received public complaints against the present arrangement of the existing bus service on the said road ?
- If so, do Government propose to remove the public grievances at once ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

132.—Government are aware of the inconvenience caused by discontinuation of the Shaistaganj-Habiganj line, but understand that measures have been taken by the Regional Transport Authority to augment the road services.

133. (a)—No, but Government are aware of the demand.

(b)—The Regional Transport Authority has called for applications for permits for this route from 1st July and will consider representations made under the Motor Vehicles Act. It is also anticipated that more new vehicles may be available in the near future for civil needs and Government trust that this will ease the situation to a large extent.

(c)—No, but Government are aware that improvement is wanted, and this is being undertaken

(d)—Does not arise.

Inadequacy of petrol rations in Habiganj Subdivision

†Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

*134. (a) Is it a fact that very often the motor service now in existence in the Habiganj Subdivision cannot regularly run buses for want of petrol ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to increase the allotment of the quantity of petrol for public carriages in Habiganj ?

†Starred questions Nos. 131-134 were put by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury on authorisation

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

134. (a)—As far as Government are aware the difficulty is not due to inadequacy of petrol rations, but due to occasional shortages of stocks of petrol with the local dealers. Government are however in correspondence with the Central Government about the provincial quota of Motor spirit. The local shortages have only now been brought to the notice of Government and they will enquire as to the cause.

(b)—Does not arise.

Price of rice and paddy purchased by Government Agents

Babu BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

*135. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The date from which the Government Agents began to purchase paddy and rice in the Surma Valley Districts and the date on which such purchase was stopped by the Government ?
- (b) The market rate at which paddy and rice were purchased by Government Agents in each of the Subdivisions of the Surma Valley Districts ?
- (c) The total quantity of paddy and rice to be purchased by the Government Agents ?
- (d) The total quantity of paddy and rice purchased by the Government Agents in the months of January and February 1944 ?
- (e) Whether any rate was fixed by Government for purchasing paddy and rice ?
- (f) Whether any payment was made ?
- (g) If so, the rate at which payment was made per maund of paddy and rice in each Subdivision (to be shown Subdivision by Subdivision).
- (h) Whether purchases were made by the Government Agents themselves or by their Sub-Agents ?

*136. Is it a fact that the rates of paddy and rice per maund were Rs.8 and Rs.14-4-0 only respectively from the 15th January to 31st January, 1944 in the Sub-division of Habiganj ?

*137. Is it a fact that the rates of paddy and rice per maund were between Rs.8 to Rs.8-8-0 only and Rs. 14-4-0 to Rs.15 respectively during the 1st week of February, 1944 ?

*138. Is it a fact that the rate of rice per maund went down to Rs.9-8-0 and the rate of paddy to Rs.7 to Rs.7-8-0 only at Habiganj when their purchase by Government Agents was stopped ?

*139. Is it a fact that the present market rate of rice for the last two weeks from 15th February to 25th February, 1944 varied from Rs.10-8-0 to Rs.12-8-0 only and the rate of paddy was stable at Rs.7 only per maund in the town of Habiganj ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

135. (a)—Government Agents in Surma Valley began to purchase from the following dates.—

Surma Valley Foodgrains Syndicate	... from last week of December 1943.
Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate	Ditto ditto.

Their purchases were not stopped by Government at any time.

(b)—Surma Valley Foodgrains Syndicate purchased at rates varying from Rs. 18-8-0 in December, 1943 to Rs. 14-8-0 in March, 1944 in all the Subdivisions of Hailakandi, Silchar and Karimganj. Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate purchased at rates varying from Rs. 20 in January to Rs. 15-8-0 in February-1944 in North Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Maulvibazar.

(c)—No limit.

(d)—The total quantity of purchases is—

Rice	...	...	...	...	1,34,769 Maunds.
Paddy	...	...	...	...	91,455 „

(e)—Yes.

(f) & (g)—The purchases are being made against the advances sanctioned by Government every now and then and no bill has upto date been adjusted.

(h)—It is not clear what is meant by Sub-Agents. The Agents are purchasing from cultivators direct and from traders.

136.—Paddy Rs.7-8-0 to Rs.8-8-0 and rice Rs.14 to Rs.15-8-0 per maund respectively.

137.—Paddy Rs.7-8-0 to Rs.8 and rice Rs.14 to Rs.15 per maund respectively.

138.—It is not known.

139.—Paddy varied from Rs.5-8-0 to Rs.7 and rice Rs.11 to Rs.13 from 12th to 26th February, 1944.

Appointment of non-British subjects in public services

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*140. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether they have appointed in public services any non-British subject residing in the Province of Assam ?

(b) If so, what are their names and nationality ?

*141. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Khasis fall under the category " Tribal " for the purpose of the communal table framed by the Government for filling up vacancies in public services ?

*142. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the following officers are British subjects :—

(i) Mr. Westlington Roy—Temporary Extra Assistant Commissioner of the Assam Civil Service ;

(ii) Miss Silverene Swer—Assistant Controller of Rationing ;

(iii) Mr. Tokin Roy Rymbai—A Sub-Deputy Collector in the Assam Junior Civil Service ?

(b) Whether these officers come from the States or from British portion of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

*143. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Rules for consulting the Public Service Commission for filling up vacancies in different services are followed in all cases ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

140. (a) & (b)—Yes ; subjects of the Manipur State and the Khasi States and also of the States of Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Tripura were made eligible for appointment in certain Departments by Notification No.3629-H., dated the 6th July 1937. If the names of all such persons are wanted as from any specific date they can be collected but this will take time.

141.—Yes ; Hills Tribal.

142. (a) & (b)—

(i) Mr. Westlington Roy is not a British subject. He was born and has been brought up in Shillong Administered Area.

(ii) Miss Silverene Swer is not a British subject. She was born and brought up in Shillong Administered Area.

(iii) Mr. Tokin Roy Rymbai is a British subject coming from Jowai Sub-division which is in British India.

143.—Yes generally, but in certain cases, appointments have been made without reference to that Body.

Distribution of seeds of paddy, wheat, etc., to cultivators

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*144. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What quantity of seeds of paddy, wheat, potato, sugar-cane and pulses were distributed to the cultivators during the year 1943-44 in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign (to be shown separately) ?

(b) What increased production has been made as a result of this work ?

*145. Will Government be pleased to state what quantity of country manures, viz., oil-cake, bone-meal, etc., were distributed in the year 1943-44 in connection with the Grow-More-Food Campaign ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

144. (a)—The quantity of seeds distributed under the Grow-More-Food Schemes up to 30th November, 1943 was as under :—

Paddy	...	...	...	...	13,974	Maunds.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	1,496	"
Potato	...	...	...	...	4,590	"
Sugarcane setts	...	...	...	...	(No.) over 20 Lakhs.	
Pulses	...	...	...	...	16,924	Maunds.

More seeds have been and are being issued since 30th November, 1943 and the figures are not available now.

(b)—The figures are as under :—

Paddy	...	...	...	...	3,09,420	Maunds (cleaned rice).
Wheat	...	...	...	...	13,500	"
Potato	...	...	...	...	28,944	"
Sugarcane	...	...	...	...	16,119	"
Pulses	...	...	...	...	3,08,421	"

145.—2,884 maunds of oil-cake and 2,000 maunds of bone-meal were distributed up to 30th November, 1943. Further quantities of manures are likely to be issued.

Buro growing lands in Sunamganj Subdivision

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

*146. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether 50 per cent. of Buro growing lands have remained uncultivated this year in the Sunamganj Subdivision ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

146. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Are Government aware that many cultivators, who are occupancy raiyats, did not come this year to cultivate their lands in Sanir haor and Halir haor ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have no information whether labourers came to work in Sanir haor and Halir haor. So far as our information goes not even 10 per cent. of the land remain uncultivated in the Sunamganj Subdivision.

Number of Dongs and Bunds made in 1943-44

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*147. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Dongs and Bunds were made in the year 1943-44 showing the localities, for irrigating paddy areas ?
- (b) What was the area irrigated as a result of the work ?
- (c) What amount of money was earmarked for irrigation under the Grow More Food Campaign in the year 1943-44 ?
- (d) The amount actually spent for the purpose ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

147. (a)—The exact number completed, cannot be readily given. The number of small projects (*bunds and dongs*) sanctioned upto 31st. January 1944, by the Department of Agriculture is as follows :—

Surma Valley—	120
Lower Assam Valley—	27
Upper Assam Valley—	6

Total—153

Public Works Department have taken up bigger projects, some of which have found place in this year's programme but could not be completed as yet.

(b)—The projects are undertaken during the dry season. Hence most of the projects sanctioned in 1943-44 are now under construction. The benefit from these will be derived next year in most cases. It is estimated that the projects sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture upto 31st January, 1944, will benefit the following acreages :—

Surma Valley—	88,280
Lower Assam Valley—	39,808
Upper Assam Valley—	8,482

50 sq. miles are likely to be benefitted by the bigger projects of Public Works Department.

(c)—The original estimate of expenditure by the Department was revised Rs.2,20,000. This has been to 1,40,000. But it appears that it will have to be further revised to 1,50,000.

(d)—The amount actually spent upto the 31st December, 1943, was about Rs.4,000 only. As the work has to be done during the dry season the expenditure upto this date was small. It is estimated that the total expenditure upto the 31st March, 1944 will be Rs.1,50,000.

Buro paddy cultivation at Baniyachong

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

*148. Are Government aware that there has been practically no Buro paddy cultivation at Baniyachong due to want of able-bodied men of the village and want of outside labourers ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

148.—The total normal Buro area owned by Baniyachong people is estimated approximately to be 3,500 acres of which about 55 per cent. has been cultivated this year. The remaining 45 per cent. cannot be cultivated owing to want of able-bodied persons in the locality. Outside labour was also not available as outsiders were afraid of staying at Baniyachong for fear of contracting malaria.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire from the Government what steps did they take to get the remaining 45 per cent. area planted?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: There is no time this year to get the area planted, but in order to give relief to the sufferers many relief operations have been started there.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That was not my Question. I want to know what steps Government took to have the remaining area planted.

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: No steps could be taken as outside labourers were afraid of coming to Banyiachong. We, of course, tried to procure outside labourers.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know through which source Government tried to bring labourers from outside?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Through the District Officers, Sir.

Distribution of Castor Seeds

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked:

*149. Will Government be pleased to state how many maunds of castor seeds have been distributed by Government up to 31st January, 1944 either free or on payment, in the Province separately, for each Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied:

149.—50 maunds of castor seeds were issued by the Department of Agriculture upto 31st January, 1944 as shown below:—

		Free supply	
Sibsagar Subdivision	...	5 maunds	} Sibsaagar District.
Jorhat "	...	5 "	
Golaghat "	...	10 "	
North Lakhimpur Subdivision	...	10 "	} Lakhimpur District.
Dibrugarh Subdivision	...	10 "	
Nowgong "	...	10 "	} Nowgong District.
Total	...	50 maunds.	

No castor seeds were distributed in the Lower Assam Valley and the Surma Valley.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government think that this will solve the problem of scarcity of kerosene oil in the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have been distributing castor seeds according to the demand of the people.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire whether any scheme is under the contemplation of Government for this important and urgent task? Do Government think this matter a very complicated one?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: We have been distributing castor seeds and exhorting the people to take to this plantation which will solve the problem to some extent.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Do Government think that there is no demand for sowing castor seeds in the Province? Do they themselves feel the necessity or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: No, Sir, there is a demand and that is why we have been distributing castor seeds as much as possible.

Filling up of vacancies in the posts of Textile Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant A. R. P. Officers

Mr. BAIDYANTH MOOKERJEE asked :

*150. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Public Service Commission was consulted in filling up vacancies in the following services—
 - (i) Textile Inspectors,
 - (ii) Textile Sub-Inspectors, and
 - (iii) Assistant A. R. P. Officers ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) What time was required in filling up the posts in each category (period to be counted from the receipt of the applications to the date of passing orders) ?
- (d) Whether the communal consideration was taken into account in filling up these posts ?
- (e) If so, how many from each community were appointed in each category of these appointments ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

150. (a)—N

(b)—Because, it was not necessary. The appointments being for purposes arising out of the war, were made under Regulation 25(VII) of the Public Service Commission Regulations with the concurrence of the Governor acting in his individual judgment. Staff was urgently required and they were filled up immediately.

(c)—It is not possible to answer this Question so far as Textile Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors are concerned as application from candidates were not all received at a time. As regards Assistant A.R.P. Officers, owing to the short notice given by the Government of India in communicating the allotment of vacancies in the courses of the Civil Defence College, selections had to be made from applications received and interviews granted from time to time by the Director of Civil Defence in filling up posts of Assistant A.R.P. Officers. There was hardly any time to advertise these posts.

(d)—Yes ; subject of course to the suitability of the available candidates.

(e)—A Statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in reply to Starred Question No.150(e) asked by Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1944

						Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors
Assam Valley	Caste Hindus	...	...	...	...	3	6
Surma	" "	...	...	...	...	2	4
Assam Valley	Muslims	...	...	...	...	4	4
Surma	" "	...	...	...	...	4	5
Tribal (Plains)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
" (Hills)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ahoms	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Assam Valley	Scheduled	...	...	...	...	2	...
Surma	" "	...	...	...	...	...	2
Indian Christian	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Domiciled	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
						18	26
							18
							26
							44
							1
							45

Textile Examiner—Assam Valley Hindu

						Assistant	A.R.P. Officer
Muslims	(Surma Valley)	...	...	...	...	7	
"	(Assam " )	...	...	...	...	1	
Hindus	(Surma " )	...	...	...	...	2	
"	(Assam " )	...	...	...	...	2	
Tribal	(Hills)	...	...	...	...	1	
Others	...	...	...	...	...	1	

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Recruiting of Personnel in the Supply Department

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

100. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether in any Department of Government other than Supply, Accounts work is carried out ?
- (b) If so, the names of the Departments ?
- (c) What are the qualifications of officers appointed in those Departments for all such works ?

101. Do Government propose to recruit personnel in the Supply Department from amongst permanent Government servants ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

100. (a)—Accounts work relating to preparation of pay, travelling allowance and contingent bills are done in all Departments of Government.

(b)—In all Departments.

(c)—No accounts qualification is essential for such routine accounts works.

101.—Permanent Government servants are given preference in the selection of personnel.

Account Officer of the Supply Department

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

102. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one retired officer has been appointed as the Account Officer of the Supply Department ?
- (b) If so, what is his name and pay ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to appoint an Extra Assistant Commissioner or any other officer of any other Departments to this post ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to replace this retired officer by a serving officer of Assam Government ?
- (f) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

102. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Mr. J. K. Datta Roy, on the scale of Rs. 600—40—800.

(c)—No.

(d)—They see no need for a change.

(e)—No.

(f)—No equally experienced or suitable officer is available.

Revision of the pay of Veterinary Field Assistants

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

103. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Veterinary Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Department has submitted any scheme revising the pay of the Veterinary Field Assistants ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to adopt the scheme in the near future ?
- (c) If the reply to question (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to take an initiative in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

103. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The hon. Member is referred to reply to unstarred question No.59(c) asked by Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas, M.L.A., during this Session of the Assembly.

(c)—Does not arise.

Royalty on Gravels and Boulders

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

104. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they realised any royalty on the gravels and boulders collected by the contractors ?
- (b) If so, at what rate and whether it is uniform all over the Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

104. (a) & (b)—The hon. Member is referred to the rules inserted by correction slips Nos.91, 193 to 198 and 224 at pages 53-54 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I.

Rates of Royalty on Forest Produces

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

105 Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The different rates of royalty charged and realised by Government on the forest produces sold or leased to the contractors ?
- (b) The prices paid by Government for purchasing the various kinds of finished products such as sleepers, beams, sawn timbers, logs, etc., from the contractors ?
- (c) The prices charged by Government on different forest produces sold to the Railway Companies, Central P. W. D., Provincial P. W. D. and others ?
- (d) Whether any profit is made by Government in this transaction ?
- (e) On what basis the royalty charged on the forest produces and the prices paid to the contractors for forest produces are calculated ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Schedule of rates for purchasing timbers from contractors is lower than that of Bengal ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the rates for selling timbers by Government to the contractors are higher than those of Bengal ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to control the cost of carting, sawing, etc., by fixing a uniform rate ?

106. Will Government be pleased to state the number of lorries supplied by Government to the contractors in Haltugaon Forest Division for extraction of timbers ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

105.(a)—The rates are given in the schedules at pages 176-200, Assam Forest Manual, Volume I, which may be seen.

(b)—The maximum prices of beams, sawn timbers, logs, etc., are mentioned in the Press Communiqué published in Part II, pages 715-717 of the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 18th August 1943, as subsequently amended. The prices of sleepers are fixed in consideration of the varying rates at which different contracts for supply are taken up by the Forest Department from the Sleeper Control Officer. The rates for minor forest produce are fixed from time to time by the District Rates and Wages Board in different districts.

(c)—The prices charged are different for different kinds of forest produce for the supply of which many contracts are taken up by the Forest Department.

(d)—A small charge is made for supervision and other incidental expenses.

(e)—The royalty when due is charged according to the schedules of rates referred to in reply to question (a) above and the prices are paid in accordance with what has been stated in reply to question (b) above.

(f)&(g)—The rates for Bengal are not known to us and comparison is therefore not possible.

(h)—Rates and Wages Boards are endeavouring to fix fair rates.

106.—12 lorries.

Cutting of immature sal trees in the Government Unclassed Forests and Sidli Estate Unclassed Forests

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

107. (a) Is it a fact that Government have given permission to the contractors to cut down immature sal trees to be sold as Ballies in the Government Unclassed Forests and Sidli Estate Unclassed Forests ?

(b) If so, what is the number of immature trees permitted by Government to be felled during the year 1943-44 in the (i) Government Unclassed Forests in Haltugaon Division and (ii) in the Sidli Estate Unclassed Forests ?

(c) Does any forest expert make the selection and mark the trees before they are felled ?

(d) Is it a fact that on the report of the contractors, of loss of some felled trees, fresh permits for new trees of the same number are issued free of any royalty ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi MUNAWWAR ALI replied :

107. (a)—Ballies are converted from the dominated and suppressed trees marked silviculturally as well as from tops of bigger trees from the Reserves, Unclassed State Forests and Estate forests

(b)—Fifty thousand ballies have been allotted to the Haltugaon Division for supply, but no separate allotment has been made for any of the 3 classes of forests mentioned in 107(a) above.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

Assistant Head Mistress Miss Soroj Bala Hazarika, B.A., of Dibrugarh Girls' High School

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

108. (a) Is it a fact that in November last the Assistant Head Mistress Miss Soroj Bala Hazarika, B.A., of Dibrugarh Girls' High School received contemptuous treatment from the caste Hindu Head Mistress of the School ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Head Clerk of the said High School insulted her further in the Office room on a subsequent occasion at the time of her receiving the pay ?

109. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any representation was made by the said Assistant Head Mistress either to the Head Mistress or to the Director of Public Instruction ?

(b) If so, whether any action was taken on that representation ?

(c) Whether Government propose to set up a non-official mixed committee of enquiry on the matter including two Scheduled caste representatives of the Legislature from both the Valleys ?

110. Are Government aware that the present Head Mistress of the said High School has shown administrative inaction on several occasions, particularly in dealing with Miss Bessie Thomas, B.A., T.D., while she acted as Assistant Head Mistress of that Institution ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

108. (a)—A representation from the Assistant Head Mistress, Miss Soroj Bala Hazarika alleging ill treatment by the Head Mistress of the School was received by the Director of Public Instruction.

(b)—Government have no information.

109. (a)—Yes, to the Director of Public Instruction.

(b)—The matter will no doubt be dealt with by Director of Public Instruction.

(c)—No.

110.—Government have no information.

Control on prices of cloth

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

111. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) The date from which control on prices of cloth has been given effect to ?

(b) Whether they have sealed all the cloth in different markets in the Province before that date ?

(c) If so, the quantity of cloth sealed in the Sylhet Town market ?

(d) The quantity of cloth generally stocked in the Sylhet Town market ?

(e) The quantity brought from Calcutta market to Sylhet market after that date ?

(f) Whether they are aware that the rates of cloth at Calcutta are higher than the Government controlled rates ?

(g) Whether they are aware that cloths are being sold at Sylhet in Black market at high rates than the controlled rates ?

(h) Whether Government propose to devise a systematic plan to control the cloth market ?

(i) If not, why not ?

112. Do Government propose to increase officers in the Textile Department ?

113. (a) Do Government propose to entrust the Food Committees with the management of cloth market ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

111. (a)—There were three stages in the fixation of prices. To begin with maximum prices, both *ex-factory* and retail, were fixed by the Central Government's Textile Commissioner for twelve standard (*i. e.* popular) varieties of cotton cloth in a

Press Note dated the 19th August, 1943, which was republished by this Government on the 31st August, 1943. The prices of other varieties corresponding to these basic varieties were to be fixed by the Provincial Governments with reference to the prices fixed for the latter. The second step in this direction was the stamping of maximum *ex-factory* and retail prices by the mills on all cotton cloth manufactured after the 1st December, 1943. The third step was the issue of several price lists, beginning from the 31st December, 1943, in which the *ex-factory* and retail prices of all varieties of cotton cloth manufactured by the mills in India are being gradually published. It is presumed that the question relates to the last of these three stages.

(b)—No cloth was sealed before any of the date mentioned above. The seizure of untexmarked cloth with a view of stamping it with retail prices equivalent to the *ex-mill* prices as fixed in the Textile Commissioner's price lists *plus* 10 per cent. began in January, 1944.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d) & (e)—The information is not available.

(f)—Government have received representations to this effect.

(g)—Government have received no reports to this effect.

(h)—Government have devised and are giving effect to a systematic plan to control the cloth market. The plan aims not only at controlling the distribution and prices of cloth, but also at solving the problem of procurement of supplies at reasonable prices.

(i) Does not arise.

112.—46 Officers have already been appointed and another batch of 96 is shortly going to be appointed.

113. (a) & (b)—The question of utilising Food Committees for advice regarding Textile Control is under consideration.

Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Textile

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked:

114. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names, community, native district and qualifications of each of the Inspector and Sub-Inspector of Textile appointed recently?

(b) Is it a fact that no Muslim or Hindu has been appointed as Inspector of Textile from the Cachar District?

(c) How many applicants were there from the Cachar District and what were their qualifications?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

114. (a)—A statement is furnished below.

INSPECTORS				
Name	Community		Native district	Qualifications
1. Srijut Sushil Ch. Dutta ..	Assam Valley Caste Hindu ..	..	Lakhimpur	M. A. (Second Class).
2. Srijut Bhabani Kumar Bhuyan ..	Ditto ..	..	Nowgong	B.Sc.
3. Srijut Nilim Chandra Bora ..	Ditto ..	..	Kamrup	B.Sc.
4. Maulavi Seraful Hussain ..	Assam Valley Muslim ..	..	Sibsagar	B.A. (Hons.)
5. Maulavi Kazi Saijuddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	..	Kamrup	I.A.
6. Maulavi Nawab Abul Hussain ..	Ditto ..	..	Sibsagar	B.A.
7. Maulavi Anwar Hussain ..	Ditto ..	..	Sibsagar	B.A.
8. Babu Jogesh Chandra Nath ..	Surma Valley Caste Hindu ..	..	Sylhet	B.L.
9. Babu Satyendra Ch. De. ..	Ditto ..	..	Sylhet	B.A.
10. Maulavi Sirajul Islam Choudhury ..	Surma Valley Muslim ..	..	Sylhet	B.A.
11. Maulavi Md. Abdullah ..	Ditto ..	..	Sylhet	B.A.
12. Maulavi Md. Abdun Nur ..	Ditto ..	..	Sylhet	B.A.
13. Maulavi Rashiuddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	..	Sylhet	B.A., LL.B.
14. Srijut Jugal Kumar Das ..	Assam Valley Schedule Caste ..	..	Kamrup	B.Sc.
15. Srijut Prabodh Kr. Das ..	Ditto ..	..	Kamrup	B.A.
16. Srijut Bandhu Ram Kachari ..	Plains Tribal ..	..	Darrang	B.A.
17. Srijut Kamala Kanta Barua ..	Ahom ..	..	Sibsagar	B.L.
18. Mr. Ronald Goldsmith ..	Indian Christian ..	..	Sibsagar	B.A.

SUB-INSPECTORS

Name	Community	Home district	Qualifications
1. Srijut Krishna Kanta Dutta ..	Assam Valley Caste Hindu ..	Sibsagar	I.Sc.
2. Srijut Promode Kr. Chaudhury ..	Ditto ..	Kamrup	B.A. (Hons.)
3. Srijut Probhat Chandra Das ..	Ditto ..	Kamrup	B.A.
4. Srijut Sibaprasad Barkakati ..	Ditto ..	Sibsagar	B.A.
5. Srijut Purna Ch. Sarma ..	Ditto ..	Darrang	B.A.
6. Srijut Hem Ch. Tamuli ..	Ditto ..	Nowgong	B.A.
7. Maulavi Nawab Rahat Hussain ..	Assam Valley Muslim ..	Sibsagar	Matriculate.
8. Maulavi Rafiquddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Kamrup	Matriculate.
9. Maulavi Jamiruddin Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Kamrup	Matriculate.
10. Maulavi Maqbool Ahmed ..	Ditto ..	Sibsagar	B.A.
11. Babu Rajendra Ch. De ..	Surma Valley Caste Hindu ..	Sylhet	B.A.
12. Babu Ajit Kumar Dutta Chaudhury ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A. (Distinction).
13. Babu Bimal Jyoti Roy ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A.
14. Babu Nareswar Pal ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A.
15. Maulavi Caocob Adil Chaudhury ..	Surma Valley Muslim ..	Sylhet	Matriculate.
16. Maulavi Ohid Ghazi ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A.
17. Maulavi Abdul Gaffur ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A.
18. Maulavi Golam Wajed Majumdar ..	Ditto ..	Cachar	B.A. (Hons.)
19. Maulavi Munazir Ali ..	Ditto ..	Sylhet	B.A.
20. Srijut Nabin Ch. Bora Gohain ..	Ahom ..	Sibsagar	B.A.
21. Mr. G. R. Smart Son ..	Hills Tribal ..	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	B.A.
22. Srijut B. K. Longthasa ..	Plains Tribal ..	Cachar	I.A.
23. Srijut Kusti Ch. Manta ..	Ditto ..	Nowgong	Matriculate.
24. Babu A. K. Sukla Baidya ..	Surma Valley Schedule Caste ..	Sylhet	B.A.
25. Babu Kailash Ch. Laskar ..	Ditto ..	Cachar	B.A.
26. Babu Pranendra Kumar Naba ..	Domiciled ..	Kamrup	B.Sc. (Distinction).

(b)—Yes. Government have however appointed 3 Sub-Inspectors of Textile from the District of Cachar.

(c)—23 :— 1 B. A., B. T.

13 B. A's.

1 B. Sc.

1 I. A.

1 I. Sc.

6 Matriculates.

New projects taken up by the Embankment and Drainage Department

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

115. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of new projects to be taken up by the Embankment and Drainage Department in the Sunamganj subdivision for facilitating Grow-More-Food scheme ?

(b) The names of different projects proposed by Government and those suggested by private organisations or private individuals in the whole district of Sylhet ?

(c) Which of these projects are being taken up by Government ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

115. (a)—Besides the two projects named below no other projects are proposed to be taken up in Sunamganj subdivision in pursuance of Grow-More-Food campaign—

(1) Re-excavation of Piyain river near Kalakta, Sunamganj (Boro Growing Area.)

(2) Sluice gates across Krishna Khal for cultivation in Halir Haor.

(b)—Two lists are placed on the Library Table.

(c)—The first four projects of each of lists I and II placed on Library table are being taken up by Government.

Articles of food included in the free ration scheme

Maulana ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

116. (a) Are Government aware that the articles included in the free ration scheme are not adequate for an Indian life ?

(b) Do Government propose to include all other necessary food articles such as vegetables, fish, meat, *ghee*, etc., in the free ration scheme ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

116. (a)—Government do not consider that the articles included in free ration are not adequate for an average Indian life.

(b)—No.

River and road communications in Habiganj Town

Maulavi ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

117. (a) Are Government aware that the Subdivisional town of Habiganj is cut off from boat communication during dry season owing to silting up of river Barak ?

(b) Is it a fact that since the abolition of the Shaistaganj-Habiganj branch Railway line the said town has also been cut off from road communication ?

(c) Are Government aware that want of river and road communications has affected the trade and business of the said town ?

(d) Are Government aware that from some time past there has been an agitation for opening the silted-up portion of the river Barak so as to join river Khowai with the river Balikhhal ?

(e) Is it a fact that the river Balikhhal which is just about a mile from the mouth of river Khowai remains navigable throughout the whole year ?

(f) Is it a fact that this project was once taken up by Mr. M. Khurshid, I.C.S., while he was the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj ?

(g) If so, what are the reasons for abandoning the project ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

117. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The town is connected with the Surma Trunk Road West through the Shaistaganj-Habiganj Feeder Road. Government have no information that the trade and business of the town has been affected for want of communication.

(d)—The silting up of the river Barak near Habiganj was a cause of grievance of the people of Habiganj but no concrete proposal has yet been taken up as to how the situation could be improved.

(e)—Yes. It is about two miles from the mouth of the river Khowai.

(f)—The proposal did not take formal shape.

(g)—Does not arise.

Number of wholesale and retail control shops in Goalpara District

Maulavi ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

118. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many wholesale control shops and retail control shops are there in each thana of the District of Goalpara ?

(b) The names of shops and number of villages and population served by each individual shop ?

(c) What monthly quota of each controlled article has been allotted to each individual wholesale control shop and retail control shop (figures for January and February 1944, to be given separately) ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

118. (a)—

Name of thana	No. of wholesale shops.	No. of retail shops.
Dhubri	6	45
Mankachar	1	19
South Salmara	1	44
Golakganj (included within Dhubri Police Station).		21
Gossaigaon	1	33
Kokrajhor	1	28
Bilasipara	3	38
Sidli (included within North Salmara Police Station).		18
Bijni	1	23
Goalpara	6	60
		(16 more shops of North Salmara Police Station get supply from Goalpara wholesale).
Dudnai	1	39
Lakhimpur	1	27

(b) & (c)—The Assam Controlled Commodities Distribution Order having been introduced of late, wholesalers and retailers are being reshuffled and quotas re-allocated, and full informations are therefore not available yet.

Registration of Co-operative Stores

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked—

119. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Whether a petition for the registration of a Co-operative Store organised by the residents of Kastagar, Chalibandar, Supanighat and Dupadighir Par (Sylhet town) was submitted in September 1943 ?
- If so, why this Store has not yet been registered ?
- Whether subsequently repeated reminders were submitted for the registration of the same ?
- If so, why no reply has been sent by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies ?
- Whether they propose to take immediate steps for early registration of the said Co-operative Store ?

120. (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Co-operative Stores started in each Subdivision of all the Districts of the Province during the period from 1st January 1943 up till now ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Supply Department supply Government controlled articles to the Co-operative Stores regularly ?

(c) If not, whether they propose to take immediate steps for a regular supply ?

121. Will Government be pleased to state—

- Whether they have devised any plan to start Co-operative Stores covering every village in the Province ?
- Whether they propose to increase the staff of the Co-operative Department to make the above plan successful ?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

119. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It has been registered.

(c), (d) & (e)—Do not arise.

120. (a)—A statement is laid on the Library table.

(b)—Yes. But complaints of irregular and inadequate supply are sometimes received from Co-operative Stores.

(c)—Government are trying to remove complaints of irregular and inadequate supplies received from some of the consumers' stores.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, is it a fact that there is no Inspector of Co-operative Societies at Sunamganj now?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: Does this question arise, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: To which question it is a supplementary?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: 120 (a) & (b).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How does this question arise?

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Very well, I will put it under question No.121.

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA replied :

121. (a)—Yes. Attempts are being made to organise stores in all suitable areas as far as practicable.

(b)—Government have already strengthened the staff for the purpose, and further additions will be made as and when necessary.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Sir, is it a fact that there is no Inspector of Co-operative Societies at Sunamganj now?

The Hon'ble Dr. MAHENDRA NATH SAIKIA: To which question this is a supplementary, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member says, it is to question No.121; but under this also it does not properly arise.

Area under Pyrethrum cultivation in Assam

Mr. R. A. PALMER asked :

122. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the present area under Pyrethrum cultivation in Assam?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government sanctioned a scheme to bring 200 acres under Pyrethrum cultivation in Government Farms at Shillong by the year 1943?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the scheme has materialised?

(d) If not, why not?

123. (a) Are Government aware that the product Pyrethrum is an essential material for anti-malarial control and that there is a world shortage of this article?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Central Government approached them to extend the area under Pyrethrum cultivation immediately and offered any financial assistance?

(c) If so, whether Government have taken advantage of this offer?

124. (a) Are Government aware that Assam grown pyrethrum compares favourably with that grown anywhere in India?

(b) Is it a fact that some private parties have approached Government for the lease of suitable land in the Khasi Hills with a view to grow pyrethrum on a large commercial scale?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of the parties who have applied for land or other kind of help for growing pyrethrum in Assam?

(d) Are Government aware that the Provincial Governments of Madras and the Punjab are rendering all possible help to private enterprise, in order to develop this industry in their provinces ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to help such private enterprise in this Province ?

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA replied :

122. (a)—The present area under pyrethrum cultivation in Assam is only 91·34 acres.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—The extension and maintenance of pyrethrum cultivation in Government farms are limited by the available supply of labour. Moreover Assam has a humid climate which encourages much weed growth in the pyrethrum fields and it becomes necessary to incur heavy expenditure on pyrethrum cultivation. Sufficient quantities of seeds are also not available at present for extensive plantation.

123. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No financial assistance was offered by the Central Government. India Government is going to realise from Assam every pie of the price of seeds supplied. They of course advised that the area for cultivation of pyrethrum should be increased.

(c)—Does not arise.

124. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Yes, one Mr. R. M. Purkait applied for the lease of lands in the Khasi Hills and this is still under the consideration of the Government.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Government have not yet been able to recommend the cultivation of pyrethrum on a commercial scale by private concerns on account of high cost of production. It is not yet known whether, and if so under what system of management, commercial cultivation of pyrethrum in this Province will be successful from the economic point of view. Ordinary cultivators in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are being encouraged to grow pyrethrum. Moreover it may be pointed out that pyrethrum does not grow successfully below an altitude of about 4,000'.

Maulavi Abdur Razzak, Assistant Maulavi of Deorile Madrasa in Karimganj

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

125. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Maulavi Abdur Razzak, Assistant Maulavi of Deorile Madrasa in Karimganj, has been dismissed from service by the Managing Committee of the Madrasa by its resolution dated 4th April 1943 ?

(b) Whether this action has been approved by the Education Department ?

(c) The reasons for his dismissal ?

(d) Whether the reasons of dismissal were communicated to him or any opportunity was given to him to explain them ?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied :

125. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The teacher was found incompetent in his work and failed to improve the quality of his teaching in spite of repeated warnings. He was also found guilty of insubordination and was found encouraging indiscipline among the students directly or indirectly.

(d)—An inquiry was held by the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley, who came to the findings noted above. It is presumed that the teacher must have been given an opportunity to explain and the reasons of dismissal must also have been communicated to him.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: With regard to (d), Sir, the reply given is "An inquiry was held by the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley, who came to the findings noted above. It is presumed that the teacher must have been given an opportunity". Why this presumption after an enquiry, Sir?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I am obliged to the hon. Member for putting this supplementary question because as a result of an enquiry made afterwards it was found that the reasons of dismissal were communicated to this gentleman with one month's notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, when was it communicated to him? Why there is the presumption?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: This is a mistake, Sir; later on it was found, on enquiry, that actually the result was communicated to him.

Khan Bahadur Maulavi MAHMUD ALI: Sir, will Government take it from me that the whole reply is wrong, the whole thing is false?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN: I am not prepared to accept the statement from the hon. Member.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is it parliamentary to use the word 'false'?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I was also thinking whether the word 'false' would be parliamentary in the way the hon. Member was using it.

Representation of Scheduled Castes in the Governing Bodies of Educational Institutions

Maulavi BADARUDDIN AHMED asked:

126. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether representation of the Scheduled castes has been given in the governing bodies of educational institutions of the Province?

(b) If not, why not?

(c) Whether they propose to give adequate representation of Scheduled caste people where there is want of such representation?

127. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Scheduled caste representatives in the Managing Committees of the Cotton College, the Earle Law College, the Murarichand College and all other Government and Government aided institutions of the Province?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi SAYIDUR RAHMAN replied:

126. (a), (b) & (c)—The hon. Member is referred to Section 26, Parts I, II, III, IV, VI, VII and VIII, Section 27, Parts I and II and Section 68, Part IV of the Education Department Rules and Orders. Governing bodies are not constituted on the basis of percentage of communal representation.

127.—The collection of this information from all the educational institutions of the Province involves an amount of labour which is not commensurate with the result the hon. Member may desire.

Returning of empty kerosene tins by retail dealers to the Sub-Agents or whole-sale dealers

Maulavi NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked:

128. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any order of Government to return empty tins of kerosene by the retail sellers to the Sub-Agents or the whole-sale dealers of kerosene?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take steps against the Sub-Agents or the whole-sale dealers who do not supply kerosene oil to retail sellers for not returning the empty tins?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

128. (a)—The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet issued orders to return empty tins by the retailers on receipt of annas ten for each tin when kerosene came in bulk. Now it is coming in tins and the question of return of tins does not arise.

(b)—Does not arise.

Supply of Kerosene to the people of Circle No. 9 of Sachna Thana

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

129. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Babu Sasi Bhusan Chakravarty of Marhalghat (Beheli) has been employed by Government to supply kerosene to the people of circle No. 9 of Sachna thana in the Sunamganj Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether he has been asked to pay war subscription at the rate of Rs.10 per tin of kerosene ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that he was threatened in the third week of February, 1944, that kerosene will not be supplied to him in case he failed to pay the war subscription ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

129. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

Distribution of Standard cloth

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

130. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The quantity of standard cloth received by Government during the period from 1st February, 1943 up to 31st January, 1944, out of the allotment of 2,93,38,450 yards for the said period ?
- (b) The quantity that was allotted to the district of Sylhet (Subdivision by Subdivision) out of the total quantity received during the period ?
- (c) The names of the agents by whom and the centres in which the standard cloth thus allotted to the South Sylhet Subdivision was distributed during the period ?
- (d) The total number of persons in the South Sylhet Subdivision who received the standard cloth by such distribution and the average quantity received by each of them ?
- (e) The procedure adopted by the agents in selecting deserving persons to receive the standard cloth in the said Subdivision ?
- (f) Whether distribution of standard cloth and kerosene is included within the functions of the Food Committees ?
- (g) Whether there are any areas in the Province where distribution of standard cloth and kerosene has not been entrusted to the Food Committee thereof ?
- (h) If so, what are those areas ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

130. (a)—Seven and half million yards approximately.

(b)—As in the Statement below:—

					Yds.
(1)	Sylhet Sadar	...	...	...	5,14,485
(2)	Karimganj Subdivision	...	...	...	4,39,606
(3)	Maulvibazar	„	...	...	3,98,544
(4)	Habiganj	„	...	...	5,67,614
(5)	Sunamganj	„	...	...	2,48,619
Total					21,68,868

(c)—No Agents are appointed for the distribution of standard cloth but it is sold by the District Staff with the help of Sarpanchas as detailed below :—

Name of the Officers	Name of Centres
1. Sub-Registrar, Srimangal	Srimangal.
2. Ditto Maulvibazar	Maulvibazar.
3. Babu G. C. Das, Sub-Deputy Collector	Kulaura.
4. Babu K. P. Chaudhury, Sub-Deputy Collector	Manoomukh.
5. Babu B. C. Das, Sub-Deputy Collector	Rajnagar.
6. Babu G. Purkayastha, E.I.	Dewandighirphar.
7. Sub-Inspector, Ware House, Srimangal	Katarkuna.
8. Maulvi N. A Jaigisdar, Co-operative Inspector	Kamalganj.
9. Supply Sub-Inspectors	Shamshernagar.

(d)—No permanent register of sale is maintained. The exact number therefore cannot be given. The maximum quantities sold to one person did not exceed the limits prescribed by Government. It was previously eight yards, but later on it was increased to 10 yards.

(e)—The Subdivisional Officer, South Sylhet selects the circle where standard cloth is to be sold. The Sarpanchas are informed of the dates and asked to communicate the news to the public. On the dates fixed for the sale the Sarpanch or his assistants come up with the people and the assessment list of their respective circle. First all persons who do not pay Choukidari tax are allowed to purchase and then persons who pay less than eight annas as Choukidari tax follow. Circles are selected in rotation.

(f)—Actual distribution is not their function but they will advise what method of distribution is best for the people of the locality.

(g) & (h)—Do not arise.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: With regard to (d), Sir, the reply is "No permanent register of sale is maintained." May I request the Government that in future they will advise their officers to keep permanent registers?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, Sir, I will act up to the suggestion of my Friend.

Re Supply of Assembly Proceedings to Members of Legislative Assembly detained in Jails as security prisoners

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, before you take up the next item may I be permitted to speak a few words?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Anything about question?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, about my question regarding the supply of Assembly proceedings to some of the hon. Members who have been detained as security prisoners in jails.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: In which jail?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Throughout the Province, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister promised to reply.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I know, Sir, to-day being the last day, whether I may get the reply. I gave notice of a short notice question but it has been disallowed as the Hon'ble Minister concerned has not given his consent to it.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have not got any notice to that effect, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It was given to the Hon'ble Premier.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Unfortunately the file came to me and as I am not in charge and as notice was given at such late hour I refused my consent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There were two questions—one related to Jail and the other to Home.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Notice was given at such late stage that there was no time to get material for reply and so I refused consent.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But there was the original assurance with regard to this.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Sir, I assured the hon. Member that I would let him know how the matter stands now. I enquired into the office and I had ascertained that after consulting the Government of India our Government after giving careful consideration in the matter have not thought it desirable to supply these to the hon. Members who are now in jail as security prisoners.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, in that case am I to understand that the Assembly proceedings were not supplied to any of the M.L.A. security prisoners ? Is that the position, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : Yes, Sir, that is so.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I am not going to accept that. It was supplied to some and it was not supplied to others. Sir, I also requested you to make an enquiry but unfortunately, the day on which you made some statement I was absent and I must suffer for that. But the reply that debates were not supplied to any hon. Member detained in jail is a down-right falsehood (*A voice :—again falsehood*).

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The other day you were pleased, Sir, to say that papers sent from the Assembly Department may not be delivered to the Members of this House who are now detained as security prisoners. But may I know, Sir, if the applications addressed to you for presentation before the House are held up or are sent to you ? I received some letters from some friends to the effect that letters sent by the Members of the Legislative Assembly were held up by the Inspector-General of Police.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I put a question exactly on this point. The Hon'ble Prime Minister may enlighten the House—it will take half a minute. We know that at present under the Ordinance—I think it is Ordinance III of 1944—nothing can be sent to the M.L.A. security prisoners from your Department, Sir. But may we know whether the same restrictions have been imposed on their right to correspond with the Assembly Department ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : There is no provision made in the Ordinance III of 1944, to the effect that nothing should be sent from the Assembly Department.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : What is the correct position, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The correct position is that if anything is sent from the Assembly Department to the hon. Members under detention that will not be delivered to them.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It comes to the same thing. The effect is the same.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : But that does not prevent the Assembly Department from sending. But it is upto the Jail Authorities to decide whether they should deliver the papers to the prisoners concerned or not.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If that be the position, Sir, may I enquire from the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether such an order has been passed on the Jail Authorities to stop the correspondence which the hon. Members under detention want to make with the Assembly Department ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, the order which was issued by the Government of India, and which the provinces have been asked to follow is that Members of the Legislature, who are detained as security prisoners, should not be allowed correspondence with the offices of the Chambers and any communication which is issued by the offices of the Chambers should not be delivered to them. The same policy has been followed in Assam as in other provinces.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Since when was this notice issued ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : About the middle of February this year.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, with regard to the query made by Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, I may tell the hon. Members that up till now I am not aware whether any communication addressed to the Assembly Department was withheld by the Jail Authorities. As a matter of fact, I got some communications from

some hon. Members under detention, but with regard to other Members under detention I do not know if they addressed any communications to this Department.

With regard to the question raised by Mr. Mookerjee, I may inform him, in compliance with what I told him the other day that after the Hon'ble Minister's reply I would place the information which was in my possession, that I received a communication from Government to the effect that Assembly proceedings were delivered to some hon. Members, who are in Jail but not delivered to some other hon. Members who are similarly detained.

Hon. Members must have noticed that today a copy of the rules, framed by His Excellency the Governor under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, III of 1944, has been laid on the library table. From those Rules the hon. Members will find that it has been provided that Congress security prisoners would be only allowed to write two letters and receive four letters in a week and that this right of correspondence with outsiders given to them will be confined only to their relatives. From that it follows that they would not be able to write any letter to, or receive any letter from the Assembly Department.

Now, there are two Adjournment Motions* which are to be moved today by Mr. Mookerjee.

Adjournment Motion re forcible extortion of rations from persons and molestation of Nepali women by a contractor with military personnel

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have not received any other communication than that on which I based my Adjournment Motion. The other day the Hon'ble Prime Minister requested you Sir, to postpone this till today, so that Government might get some information. May I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to clarify the position now. He was kind enough the other day to say that I did it with good intention. I received only a telegram and I have nothing more before me, so I cannot say more than what I said on that day.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In regard to which Motion?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The first Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have not received any further information up till now as regards the first Motion, but I have received a wire as regards the second Motion giving a very short detail on the subject-matter from the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As the hon. Member has not got full detail, I hope he is not going to press for leave to move this Adjournment Motion.

Adjournment Motion re forcible trespass into the compound of Srijut Jogendra Nath Kataki of Gauhati by some Labourers of the Telegraph Department with military personnel.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I beg leave of the House to move that the House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the forcible trespass into the compound of Srijut Jogendra Nath Kataki of Bharalumukh by some labourers of Telegraph Department along with some military persons and causing damage to his properties without authority and also depriving the inmates of the house to have their midday meal.

Sir, so far as this Motion is concerned, I have got a letter and have got some personal knowledge of it. Of course, I was not there at the time of the occurrence. The letter dated the 22nd February 1944, was addressed to me from Bharalumukh,

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

1. "That this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance of recent occurrence namely forcible extortion of rations from Kantioja Gorukhuti and from Nepali Khutials of Dimakhoa Shipajhar Mouza of Mangaldai and from Rowmari Panbari Mouza of Kamrup at day time and molestation of Nepali women by trespassing houses at night on Saturday last by one contractor with 40 workmen of Brahmaputra Bamboo flotilla including eight military personnel."

2. "That this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence namely forcible trespassing the compound of Srijut Jogendranath Kataki of Bharalumukh, Gauhati on 21st March 1944, by some Labourers of the Telegraph Department along with some military persons and causing great damage to his property consisting of both houses and trees and also depriving the inmates of the house from taking their midday meal."

Gauhati by Srijut Jogendra Nath Kataki and this gentleman personally saw me when I went down to Gauhati the other day and showed me the damages caused to his house and property. I saw a portion of that house which was damaged—the hedge was in a broken condition, and also some trees were cut down. As regards non-taking of the meal by the family members I had to rely on his statement. The house was old and thatched one, so when some portion of the trees and some cocoanuts were thrown over the roof, the food inside the room was spoiled by dust and broken thatch.

I think, these are sufficient grounds for my Motion being allowed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Has the Hon'ble Premier got any objection?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I object to this Adjournment Motion being admitted for two reasons. In the first place, both you as well as the hon. House know that the Telegraph Department is not under the local administration. It is a Department of the Central Government, and any action taken by their officers is beyond the jurisdiction of this Government. We have never authorised the Telegraph Department to do any illegal act. On the day when notice of this Motion was received, I sent a wire to the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati, for information. I will place his reply telegram before the House:

"Your wire of date. Some cocoanut, betel and other trees cut by the Telegraph Department without notice Jogendra Kataki's compound for urgent diversion of line. Matter taken—Deputy Commissioner." Our difficulty does not stop there. Neither in the Motion nor in the reply of the Deputy Commissioner, who these people were, has been mentioned. There is one Military Department doing these things. They are the Signal Unit. The Assam Government have no control over the military. The diversion was done without notice either of the Deputy Commissioner or the Local Government or Jogendra Nath Kataki himself. The Telegraph Department is beyond our control; therefore, the Assam Government cannot be censured for the action of a Department either of the Defence or of the Central Government.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is there any law authorising this Telegraph Department or military people to proceed in this way?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am not aware. I do not know if the Military Signal Unit under the Defence of India Rules is thus empowered. As regards the trespass, Deputy Commissioner has already written to the Divisional Telegraph Engineer to know whether his Department has committed this trespass, and mischief was caused thereby.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The other day while at Gauhati I saw that the trees of the house just opposite to that of Mr. Kataki were being cut.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, that may be true.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This was going on, on that day Sir, and it is being continued, so it is very easy to find out the persons who are doing this act of lawlessness.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It is not a question of finding out who are the people responsible for this act, but the question is whether this Government has got any authority over those people. The Adjournment Motion itself says that this is being done by the Telegraph Department and the hon. Member has himself created difficulty by saying that it was the action of the Telegraph Department.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have got no motive behind it, so, I did not like to hide anything so far as this Adjournment Motion is concerned. My point is whether we are so very helpless that even ordinary employees of the Central Government can do anything and everything they like and our Provincial Government has got no authority to check such unlawful activities. If we are so very helpless I would request them to get this House dissolved. What is the good of this show?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not be led by sentiment alone. The question is whether the Provincial Government is to be censured in the way the hon. Member wants to censure, for action of the people of a Department on which the Provincial Government cannot exercise their authority. I quite sympathise with those affected by this action, but the question is whether an Adjournment Motion should be allowed to be discussed on the floor of the House in which the Provincial Government is not involved.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: If the Provincial Government, that is, their employees, silently stand by, when the excesses are committed by the Telegraph Department, is not this House competent, to censure the Government Sir.....?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As the Provincial Government has no authority to exercise in any action of the Central Government, the people of the Provincial Government will have no other alternative than to stand by and report to the proper quarters about the injury that such an action may cause to some people.

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, could not this Motion of Mr. Mookerjee be translated into a Short Notice Question on which Government can make necessary enquiries and keep the House informed rather than by moving an Adjournment Motion? I have no doubt the Hon'ble Prime Minister would accept it. This procedure I think, is the better way of dealing with such a matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As a matter of fact the Adjournment Motion has served the purpose of Short Notice Question, The Hon'ble Premier was asked to as certain facts and the facts which he ascertained have been placed before the House. The hon. Member should specifically state what more he wants from the Hon'ble the Premier.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have written to the Deputy Commissioner and he has taken steps in the matter. He will no doubt take up the case with the Telegraph Department and will see if any compensation should not be paid for the loss. As I mentioned, Sir, my hon. Friend instead of moving this Adjournment Motion could write demi-officially to me and I would have taken action and I would have given him the same assurance,

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What does the hon. Mover propose to do?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have already expressed my views in the matter

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does not the hon. Member realise the difficulty of moving an Adjournment Motion on assumption and speculation in a matter in which the responsibility of this Government is very remote and in direct? We cannot proceed on assumption and speculation.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, my point is that it is the duty of the Provincial Government to see that people of the Province are not unnecessarily harassed due to the unlawful activity of any one whoever he might be.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Duty under what law?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Is there nothing written in the Government of India Act, 1935 or in any provision connected thereto by which a Provincial Government can see that the Central Government or its employees do not unnecessarily harass people of a Province? Has this Government enquired whether any authority was given to those persons to act so lawlessly? Is it their duty to stand by like a silent spectator?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why the Government should go and enquire into this matter?

Srijut ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Provincial Government has no control over the Army Department. But if any wrong is committed by the soldiers and if the Provincial Government fail to take action, are they not liable to be censured?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, in this case the aggrieved party should take recourse to law courts, for law courts are there to deal with cases of trespass and mischief and redress grievances caused by anybody who trespasses without authority.

I have treated this case as sympathetically as possible. I sent telegrams then and there to the Sub Divisional Officer, Mangaldoi, regarding Adjournment Motion No.1 and to the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati, regarding both Nos.1 and 2 I received reply from the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati and I have placed it before the House. The Deputy Commissioner says that he is taking action in the matter and if the Telegraph Department is really found trespasser I will certainly ask them to make amends. That is all I can say, Sir. But if my hon. Friend Mr. Mookerjee persists in the matter and wants to censure Government, I will say, let law takes its own course

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have heard the hon. Member who has tabled this Motion and also the Hon'ble the Premier and I do not hold that this Adjournment Motion is in order. The Motion itself states that the acts were acts of some labourers of the Telegraph Department, and, that being so, I do not think this Adjournment Motion is in order for the purpose of discussing the conduct of this Government which is very remote and indirect. Therefore the Motion is held to be out of order.

Presentation of the authenticated Schedule of authorised Expenditure for the year 1944-45.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the * authenticated Schedule of authorised Expenditure for the year 1944-45.

Presentation of the Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1943-44

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATIN CHAU. HURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the † authenticated Schedule of authorised Expenditure in relation to Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1943-44.

The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, the next item is the consideration of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944, clause by clause.

I find there are no amendments tabled.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944, be passed.

Sir, I have discussed the necessity for such an Act in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and I find that as no amendment has been tabled by any hon. Member, they accept the principle of the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1944, be passed."

I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

Amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now, the next item is the consideration of the amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles, Rules, 1940, item by item.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, be adopted.

Copies of the amendments have been laid on the tables of the hon. Members. Sir, it is a matter in which the public are interested and so I want to improve upon the Rules by bringing the Assam Motor Transport Organisation, A. R. P. and salvage services within the purview of these Rules.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That the amendments to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, be adopted." But I think it would be better if each amendment proposed, be separately moved. That will be more proper and convenient to the House.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that:

1. In the Fourth Schedule (1) insert within parenthesis the words "excepting North Lakhimpur subdivision" after 'Lakhimpur' against 'Upper Assam Region';
- (2) insert "North Lakhimpur" as entry No.6 against 'Lower Assam Region.'

*See Appendix D

†See Appendix E

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"1. In the Fourth Schedule (1) *insert* within parenthesis the words 'excepting North Lakhimpur subdivision' after 'Lakhimpur' against 'Upper Assam Region' ;

(2) *insert* 'North Lakhimpur' as entry No.6 against 'Lower Assam Region'".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not tabled any amendment but I think it is my duty to point out one thing with regard to this rule 1. (1) In the first and second lines it will be found that the words "excepting North Lakhimpur subdivision" have been put after 'Lakhimpur' against "Upper Assam Region". But in 1 (2) the words "North Lakhimpur" as entry No. 6 against 'Lower Assam Region' has been proposed.

I think, Sir, the word 'subdivision' also should have been put after the words "North Lakhimpur". Certainly there may be some kind of misapprehension, and therefore, Sir, Government themselves have used the word 'subdivision' in the former case but in the latter case where they are going to add this area they have omitted it. I hope my suggestion will be accepted by the Government to remove the future controversy and for better expression.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept my Friend Mr. Mookerjee's suggestion. What he complained is that the words "North Lakhimpur subdivision" appear in the first place but in the second one, the word 'subdivision' has been omitted and so this word should be added after "North Lakhimpur". I insert the word "subdivision" after North Lakhimpur.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

"1. In the Fourth Schedule (1) *insert* within parenthesis the words 'excepting North Lakhimpur subdivision' after 'Lakhimpur' against 'Upper Assam Region' ;

(2) *insert* 'North Lakhimpur subdivision' as entry No. 6 against 'Lower Assam Region'."

The question as amended was adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg, Sir, to move that the following be inserted as rule 76A :—

"76A. *Carriage of mails in stage carriages* :—

(a) The Regional Transport Authority while granting a stage carriage permit on a particular route or area may prescribe as one of the conditions of the permit that the holder shall, whether an individual, firm or an Association, if required, carry mails at such rates as the Authority granting the permit may fix in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned. In the event of any disagreement, however, in regard to the fixation of rates, the matter shall be referred to the Provincial Transport Authority whose decision shall be binding and final.

(b) The holder of the permit, securing the mail contract, shall obtain permission from the Regional Transport Authority to adjust the timings of his services to those required by the Postal Authorities to the extent necessary for the carriage of the mails and in the event of the Regional Transport Authority finding any difficulty in agreeing to such timings, a suitable set of timings satisfactory to all concerned shall be fixed by the Regional Transport Authority and the Postal Authorities in conjunction and if a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, the case shall be referred to the Provincial Transport Authority which shall decide the matter and this decision shall be binding and final."

The new rule is self-explanatory.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Motion moved :

"1. *Insert* the following as rule 76A :—

"76A. *Carriage of mails in stage carriages* :—

(a) The Regional Transport Authority while granting a stage carriage permit on a particular route or area may prescribe as one of the conditions of the permit that the holder shall, whether an individual, firm or an Association, if required, carry mails at such rates as the Authority granting the permit may fix in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned. In the event of any disagreement, however, in regard to the fixation of rates, the matter shall be referred to the Provincial Transport Authority whose decision shall be binding and final.

(b) The holder of the permit, securing the mail contract, shall obtain permission from the Regional Transport Authority to adjust the timings of his services to those required by the Postal Authorities to the extent necessary for the carriage of the mails and in the event of the Regional Transport Authority finding any difficulty in agreeing to such timings, a suitable set of timings satisfactory to all concerned shall be fixed by the Regional Transport Authority and the Postal Authorities in conjunction and if a satisfactory solution cannot be reached, the case shall be referred to the Provincial Transport Authority which shall decide the matter and this decision shall be binding and final."

Then I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the following be inserted as condition 11A in Form P. St. P.

"11A. Whether mails shall be carried in the vehicle and if so, on what terms."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"Insert the following as condition 11A in Form P. St. P.

"11A. Whether mails shall be carried in the vehicle and if so, on what terms'."

Then I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that after the first sentence of sub-rule (a) of rule 89 the following be added:—

"Of the two members so appointed by the Chairman, one shall be an official and the other a non-official."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"That after the first sentence of sub-rule (a) of rule 89 the following be added:—

'Of the two members so appointed by the Chairman, one shall be an official and the other a non-official'."

Then I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that after "Garo Hills AST 1....." in sub-rule (a) of rule 41 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules the following shall be inserted as a new item:—

"Assam Transport Vehicle (in any district of Assam).....ASX 1....."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"That in sub-rule (a) of rule 41 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules after 'Garo HillsAST 1' the following shall be added as a new item:—

'Assam Transport Vehicle (in any district of Assam).....ASX 1' "

I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that after Rule 6 in the Chapter II of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the following shall be added as a new rule:—

"6A. The licensing authority, if he is satisfied that the applicant previously held a licence and was by reason of his absence out of India on service in army units abroad prevented from obtaining or renewing a licence in accordance with the Act on the expiry of his previous licence, may exempt him from paying either in part or in full all or any of the fees payable for grant or renewal of a licence or fees for tests in that connection."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"After Rule 6 in the Chapter II of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the following shall be added as a new rule:—

'6A. The licensing authority, if he is satisfied that the applicant previously held a licence and was by reason of his absence out of India on service in army units abroad prevented from obtaining or renewing a licence in accordance with

the Act on the expiry of his previous licence, may exempt him from paying either in part or in full all or any of the fees payable for grant or renewal of a licence or fees for tests in that connection'.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to move that after clause (c) of the Rule 12 in the Chapter II of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the following shall be inserted as a new clause:—

"(d) No fee shall be charged for the test if the applicant previously held a licence granted or renewed under any provision of law which was in force in British India at the time it was granted or last renewed, to drive a vehicle of the class to which the application refers and was prevented, by reason of absence out of India on service connected with the present war, from obtaining or renewing a licence in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on the expiry of the previous licence."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"After clause (c) of the Rule 12 in the Chapter II of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the following shall be inserted as a new clause:—

"(d) No fee shall be charged for the test if the applicant previously held a licence granted or renewed under any provision of law which was in force in British India at the time it was granted or last renewed, to drive a vehicle of the class to which the application refers and was prevented, by reason of absence out of India on service connected with the present war, from obtaining or renewing a licence in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on the expiry of the previous licence'."

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move the following amendment:

"Amendment to Rule 33 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940:—

Substitute a 'comma' for the word 'or' between the words 'Police Force' and 'Fire Brigade' occurring in the first and second line and for the words 'when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them' *substitute* the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licences are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations'."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"Amendment to Rule 33 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940:—

Substitute a 'comma' for the word 'or' between the words 'Police Force' and 'Fire Brigade' occurring in the first and second line and for the words 'when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them' *substitute* the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licences are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations'."

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, so far this rule is concerned, I find some difficulty, to understand. Is this the intention of Government that, so far as Police Force and Fire Brigade are concerned, these two classes will be altogether omitted from this Rule 33, and in their place, as mentioned in the present Rule under discussion, "Assam Transport Organisation, A. R. P. and Salvage Services" will be substituted?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir. The idea is to include the motor vehicles of the Assam Motor Transport within the purview of this Rule.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But here it does not appear to be so. There is the word 'Substitute' and not 'addition to'. The word 'comma' is quite all right. This above noted words ought to have been inserted after the words 'Police and Fire Brigade'. But here it has been stated that they will be substituted. The intention is not clear, Sir.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: The original rule was "No fee shall be charged for the members of the Police Force or Fire Brigade when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them". The new rule will be "No fee shall be charged for the members of the Police Force, Fire Brigade or Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licences are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But that is not clear from this rule.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It is all right if it is read with the original Rule 33.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: The original Rule says "No fee shall be charged for the members of the Police Force or Fire Brigade....." Now we want to insert a 'comma' for the word 'or' between the words 'Police Force, and Fire Brigade'. Then it will read "when licences to drive Police, Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them". This is one amendment and if we read the latter part, i.e., occurring in the first and second line for the words, 'when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them' *substitute* the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licences are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations'. Here, instead of substituting the whole thing the necessary words could have been added after the words 'Fire Brigade', etc.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: A 'comma' for the word 'or' between the words 'Police Force' and 'Fire Brigade' is to be *substituted* and the words 'when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them' are to be deleted and in their place the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licences are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations' are to be inserted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, this portion takes the place of 'when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them'. Originally the rule was that Police Force or Fire Brigade would not be liable to pay fee when licences to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles were issued to them. And now the rule includes among other parties 'Police Force, Fire Brigade and Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation'.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: But, Sir, these two words have been omitted and they have not been added. They ought to have come before the words 'Salvage and A. R. P., etc.'

Mr. A. WHITTAKER: It is covered by the words 'respective organisations'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now the hon. Member will realise that the omission of the word 'or' is necessary on account of the fact that after 'Police Force' comes a 'comma' and 'Fire Brigade' after that. And again after the word 'Fire Brigade' in the first line of the original rule come the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation'.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it would have been clear if the word 'Police' and the word 'Fire Brigade' were not omitted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: They are not omitted from the new terminology.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: After 'Fire Brigade' there comes 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation.' So the word 'or' before 'Fire Brigade' is to be omitted and substituted by a 'comma'.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I think there should have been one 'comma' after the word 'Fire Brigade' and then comes 'Salvage, etc.'

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Yes, I think the hon. Member is right. After 'Fire Brigade' there should be a 'comma'.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes. Then comes 'Salvage and A.R. P. Services'.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have no objection. I think 'Salvage' and 'A. R. P. Services' will cover 'Fire Brigade'.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Premier read how it will stand after this amendment is accepted? Then every thing will be made clear. This is not only a 'comma'; 'and' and 'or' are also to be put.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: My Friend is contending that the word 'Fire-Brigade' has been omitted. I think that the word has been omitted because a new term has been used, *i.e.* 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Motor Transport Organisation'. 'Fire Brigade' comes under A. R. P. Services. If he now wants that the word 'Fire Brigade' should remain there, I have no objection. Now the rule will read like this:—"33. No fee shall be charged for the members of the Police Force, Fire Brigade, Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licenses are issued to them to drive vehicles belonging to the respective organisations".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then 'Fire Brigade' will remain there?

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

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then there should be a 'comma' after 'Fire Brigade'?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, there should be a 'comma'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Very well, we shall put a 'comma' after the word 'Fire Brigade' in the 1st line and for the words 'when licenses to drive Police or Fire Brigade motor vehicles are issued to them' substitute the words 'Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licenses are issued to them to drive vehicles belonging to the respective organisation'.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Then I am putting it as a question—

The question is:

"That Rule 33 of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 be amended as follows:—

"33. No fee shall be charged for the members of the Police Force, Fire Brigade, Salvage and A. R. P. Services or the Assam Transport Organisation when licenses are issued to them to drive motor vehicles belonging to the respective organisations'."

The question as amended was adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the following be added as rule 194(A):—

"194A. The signal to stop a Motor Vehicle may be given by any Police officer, both by day or night

(i) in the case of vehicles coming from in front of the Police officer, by raising his hand above the shoulder, the palm of the hand open and facing the on-coming vehicle,

(ii) in the case of vehicles coming from behind the Police officer, by raising the arm to the level of the shoulder, the arm being kept straight and the palm open,

(iii) in either case, by blowing short blasts on a whistle."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"That the following be added as rule 194(A).

"194A. The signal to stop a Motor Vehicle may be given by any Police officer, both by day or night,

(i) in the case of vehicles coming from in front of the Police officer, by raising his hand above the shoulder, the palm of the hand open and facing the on-coming vehicle,

(ii) in the case of vehicles coming from behind the Police officer, by raising the arm to the level of the shoulder, the arm being kept straight and the palm open,

(iii) in either case, by blowing short blasts on a whistle's."

I am putting this as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the following shall be inserted after the word "permit" where it first occurs in Rule 86 :—

"or any temporary permit"

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"That the following shall be inserted after the word 'permit' where it first occurs in Rule 86 :—

'or any temporary permit.' "

I am putting it as a question.

The question was put and adopted.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the following shall be added at the end of sub-rule (e) of rule 86 by inserting a 'comma' after the words 'Part B' :—

"and the fee for a duplicate temporary permit issued in accordance with this rule shall be Re.1."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The amendment moved:

"That the following shall be added at the end of sub-rule (e) of rule 86 by inserting a 'comma' after the words 'Part B' :—

'and the fee for a duplicate temporary permit issued in accordance with this rule shall be Re.1'."

I am putting this as a question.

The question was put and adopted

Government Motion re: extension of the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme

The Hon'ble Mr. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I beg to move that this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme, which will expire on the 31st March 1944, be extended till the end of the year 1944-45.

Sir, the term of the marketing scheme in this Province will expire on the 31st March 1944, and it is now proposed to extend it for another year, i.e. till 31st March 1945. It will be remembered, Sir, that this scheme was inaugurated with financial assistance from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

On the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture the Government of India announced their intention in 1935, to contribute Rs.2,00,000 a year for a period of five years, in order to enable the Provincial Governments to appoint staffs for their marketing schemes. This Province, Sir, took advantage of that offer and prepared a five-year scheme for the improvement of marketing of their agricultural produce and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research contributed Rs.50,000 to this Province. When that period expired the House extended the term for another two years, on the expiry of which it was extended again for one year.

Now, Sir, this scheme is of great help to the agriculturists and on account of its indispensable necessity, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research came forward with financial assistance.

I hope, Sir, the House will now extend the life of this scheme for another year. With these few words, I move my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Motion moved:

"That this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme which will expire on the 31st March 1944, be extended till the end of the year 1944-45".

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion.

Sir, one of the most difficult problems facing the average agriculturist in this country is no doubt that of securing a fair price for the commodity or commodities that he produces by the sweat of his brow. Sir, apart from the multitude of middlemen through whose hands a commodity must pass before it finally reaches the market and who in turn squeeze out of him his due share in prices, the Indian cultivator faces his worst ordeal from the middlemen *cum* moneylenders who rob him perpetually from his profit and his land is always just on the margin of profitable cultivation. Sir, in any productive concern three factors, *viz.*, land, labour and capital, manipulate the fine line between profit and loss, and of these only the labour which the cultivator puts in, so ungrudgingly in his enterprise, is in his favour and the other two factors are always at a deadliest war with him. Any Government which wants to bring a succour to the suffering tiller of the soil must first of all try to release him from the clutches of this octopus, by giving him a fair deal in the matter of distribution of land and capital. Sir, the problem of marketing, important though it is, can play only a second fiddle to that of production. Sir, the marketing organisation of this Province, or as a matter of fact of anywhere else, in India, has in my opinion, made a premature appearance in the Indian agriculture. Sir, it is just an attempt of building a superstructure without the foundation. When the production of agricultural commodities is in such a low ebb, the creation of a marketing scheme is just a superfluous luxury. If you really mean business and want to resurrect Indian agriculture from its present depression, do not please try to top-dress it for the sake of a mere show but attack it in its very foundation. Remove the hurdles one by one. First of all try to effect an equitable distribution of land, evolve a monetary system that will warrant a cheap agricultural credit and then go in for marketing. Sir, only this will ensure the harmonious working of the different processes of agricultural production.

Sir, it has already been mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister that this movement was taken up about eight years ago. The marketing organisation of this Province was taken up at the instance of the Government of India in 1935. Sir, during the November Session of 1942, when the Hon'ble Prime Minister came before this House with a Motion of the same nature, he enlightened us about the duties of this Department. Sir, I shall appeal to the hon. Members present in this House to go through the items of duties mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to give their conscientious opinion whether in the present circumstances there is any more necessity of extending the life of this Department.

Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said, "The duties of the marketing section are :—

- (a) furnishing information on marketing questions to interested officers and private parties ;
- (b) securing facilities from transport agencies for the movement of agricultural commodities at concessional rates,"

Sir, I shall touch these points one by one. There is no necessity of the former at present. During this Session it was admitted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and by the Finance Minister that so far as the railway administration in our Province is concerned, it is at present in the hands of the Americans. Sir, I think I will not be divulging any secret if I say that even the highest authority in the Province has failed to secure transport facilities in order to meet the dire necessities of this Province by importing foodstuffs to save the people of Assam. Sir, on several occasions it has been mentioned from all quarters of this Hon. House that due to transport difficulties we are not even getting our essential foodstuffs. Now, Sir, how can we expect that an officer of the status of Marketing Officer will be able to provide facilities to the cultivators of this Province for sending their goods to other places so that they may get better markets.

Now, Sir, as regards "(c) Improving packing of perishable commodities particularly fruits," Sir, so far fruits are concerned, I think, this may be applied only in two cases, namely oranges and pineapples. I admit that there was a time when these two kinds of fruits secured a market for only one season at Calcutta. Sir, the demand inside the Province for these two kinds of fruits is so very great at present that no sane-man will say that there is any more necessity

of exporting these things to other places. Cultivators now-a-days need not come out of their houses to sell their goods. Sir, in most cases it is found that they can sell these kinds of fruits and vegetables and other things even sitting in their respective houses.

Sir, then "(d) Exploring new markets for agricultural commodities". The same arguments may be applied in this case also, namely, there is no necessity for this at present.

Then "(f) Conducting marketing surveys for the Government of India". Sir, so far as this item is concerned, I refrain from making any remark. If the Government of India thinks that there is any necessity for them any more, *i.e.*, regarding survey let them finance the entire cost and in that case we shall have nothing to say.

Then, Sir, "(g) organising better marketing of agricultural commodities". Now, so far as I remember, my hon. Friend Mr. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury enquired of the Hon'ble Prime Minister as to what these agricultural commodities were and, Sir, in reply the Hon'ble Prime Minister said "in agricultural commodities we include various articles such as, rice, paddy, potatoes, atta, maida, suji, wheat, oranges, pineapples, linseeds, vegetables, gur, molasses, pulses, etc.". Sir, it is well-known to this House that except rice we are importing all other foodstuffs and if for the sake of argument we accept the statement of the Government that there is surplus rice in the Province (which I do not agree) there is, in that case, no other commodity except rice which can be exported outside the Province. Sir, it may be said that even inside the Province, if marketing facilities are given, the cultivators may derive some benefit. My reply to that will be to appoint agents throughout the Province for purchasing paddy and rice. This question has been answered by the Government themselves because the agents are sending their men to the villages and they are purchasing rice and paddy from their houses. Now, Sir, can anyone imagine that when the rate of rice and paddy has been fixed by the Government and they are being purchased by Government agents there is any more necessity of this Department to help the cultivators for getting better prices and bigger markets?

Then "(h) planning production according to market requirements". The Grow More Food campaign is there. When this is working, I think, this item can very well be taken up by that Department and if that is not done, I am compelled to say that Government is playing with that Department.

Sir, then "(i) organising producers for obtaining their necessities". Sir, nothing has been done in this direction up till now. If the Hon'ble Minister can enlighten this House even with a solitary instance that something has been done in this direction, I shall remain ever obliged to him. Sir, I have taken information from various places whether anything has been done by this Department in this direction and everywhere I heard that nothing has been done and it is well-known to the hon. Members of this House that so far as the necessities of the producers are concerned—if we divide their necessities into two categories, *viz.*, foodstuffs and implements for cultivation, we shall find, Sir, that one has been taken up by the Supply Department—the success or failure of this Department has been discussed threadbare and the hon. Members know and they are feeling it at their hearts what is the position. As regards implements, we always hear from all quarters that agricultural implements are not available and are not supplied to the cultivators because of iron and steel control.

Now, Sir, if this Department was really sincere to the purpose for which this scheme was taken up, certainly they could have done something for these people, but they do not care for all these. I do not know how these people are passing their days. If the Hon'ble Minister cares to call for the diaries of these officers, I can assure him, that he will be surprised to find from the notes in their diaries that they are passing their time without any work. Sir, I can quite feel and realise the difficulty of the Hon'ble Minister that when at the end of the year such a scheme is placed before him and at a busy moment, when the Minister is hard pressed by the Departmental Head, some how or other, just to get rid of the officers who catch like pests, he agrees and comes before the House and asks for our approval. I pity.

Sir, there is another item as mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, *i.e.*, "(k) adoption of measures for the passing of Acts calculated to improve the marketing of agricultural commodities". In this connection, the names of two Bills

were mentioned as far as two years back. Sir, in 1944 one of them has been placed before the House.....

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

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, there is sufficient time today. However, Sir I shall try to finish very soon. But before I finish, I shall appeal to every hon. Member of the Government Party and to the Ministry that as we are crying at the top of our voice throughout the Session in criticising the faulty action and policy of the Government and as we have failed to persuade the Government even to accept one of our suggestions, my present suggestion may be accepted on the last day of this Session so that we may go home with a consolation prize.

Sir, you very well know how very awkwardly we have been placed to-day. We have read and heard many things through newspapers and radios and we do not know what will be our fate after a few days. Sir, I may not come to say my say for the poor peasants of this country any more in this Hon. House. So, please allow me some more time. To-day you have got sufficient time at your disposal and I hope you will kindly give me the time I require.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: How long will the hon. Member take?

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want to convince the Hon'ble Minister that as a consolation prize to the oppositionists my suggestion may be accepted. I say, Sir, that there is no more necessity of this Department. If it is accepted by the Government, I will not waste even a moment of this Hon. House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It appears that the hon. Member is in despair. (Laughter.)

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not in despair, but my Friends who joined hands with me will be disappointed and disheartened, if this is not accepted. I am just appealing for other Members, who are fortunately or unfortunately sitting in the opposition benches that the Hon'ble Prime Minister will see his way to accept one of their suggestions and save the waste of some money which may be utilised for some better purpose and urgent cause.

Sir, when the Grow More Food campaign is there, the functions of this Department can easily be taken up by that Department. I shall be compelled to say once again that they are not tackling the food problem in proper lines and the Grow More Food campaign is an eye wash.

Sir, as I have already said, the Marketing Organisation of this Province had been created about eight years ago rather a mimicry of other Provinces, which were better placed so far as the agricultural produces are concerned; but even during this long span of its life it could not have been able to do any more than some survey work. During November, 1942, we heard that about 33 reports were submitted by this Department and still there were 26 items on which reports were to be made and then the survey would be completed. The Hon'ble Minister at the time of moving his Motion did not care to mention anything about the activities of this Department in this direction. Sir, we all understand, and surely you also do, that when the majority of the Members sit behind the Hon'ble Ministers, they pay very little respect to our (oppositionists) suggestions and at the same time they do not care to give us the real light of the thing. Sir, it would have been better on the part of the Hon'ble Minister if he would have explained the present activities of this Department as to what has been achieved by this branch in course of one year and a half. Sir, I must say that the Hon'ble Prime Minister when he moved this Motion during the November Session of 1942, gave us a detailed list of the activities of this Department and some of us were convinced that there was some justification and moreover as this scheme was taken up afresh during the 93 regime, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had no hand at the fag end of the year to stop it in the later part of the year, but after that, Sir, I do not know whether willingly or not he has left it in the hands of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Agriculture for the last two Sessions. Sir, if we could get some light just sufficient to understand that this Department has made a headway in the meantime we would have been pleased to accept his suggestion. But Sir, he has not made any reference on that line, only he has said that there is necessity for this Department and so he has come before this House with this Motion. Sir, if I remember aright, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the Central Government promised that two lakhs of rupees would be contributed by them for the first five years.

The Hon'ble Srijut NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Not for this Province alone.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, so far as next year is concerned, for which the Hon'ble Minister is moving this Motion, I find in the Budget that Rs.10,000 has been shown in the receipt side as contribution from the Central Government against this head but it is difficult to understand the real position and so far the expenditure is concerned it is more than Rs.31,000. Even if we get Rs.10,000 in that case also our Province shall have to spend at least Rs.21,000 for this purpose. If the contribution is less than Rs.10,000 we shall have to spend more. Sir, if the Central Government thinks that for some reason or other and for some particular purpose this Department should work in this Province, I appeal to our Government to so arrange that the activities of this Department may be restricted to the requirements of the Central Government and the expenditure may be met from the contribution which will be received from the Central Government.

Sir, as I have already stated that the only solitary constructive attempt that the Marketing Section had hitherto made is that of organising a market for oranges and pineapples in Calcutta. Sir, this was also a temporary one and due to transport facilities it failed. Last year, I saw with my own eyes in the Surma Valley how fruits were wasted in the station compound. Sir, it may be said that the cultivators got their prices. But those who purchased those fruits from the cultivators suffered a good loss. If Government think that only the producers should get their prices and so far as consumers are concerned Government have got no duty to help them by securing for them transport facilities and other such facilities, in that case, Government will be failing in their duty and it will be doing greatest injustice to one section of the people of the Province and ultimately the producers will suffer. Sir, so far.....

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M., of the clock.

After Lunch

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as survey work of this Department is concerned, I think, it will not be out of place if I mention here what the Hon'ble Premier said about it. He said:—

“The marketing section is at present concentrating mainly on the marketing surveys and activities connected with war efforts. It is hoped that when the marketing surveys for the Government of India are all finished and when the war is over, this section will be in a position to pay more attention to improve marketing of agricultural commodities which is the ultimate objective. Schemes for the organised marketing of paddy and jute were actually drawn up, but these had to be given up on account of the war situation.” Now let us examine the effect of the concentration on the marketing survey. Sir, this Department during its long span of life has not been able to complete its survey work, a survey not based on any reliable statistics, but on a guess figure only. The results of this survey have been embodied in many a typed and printed volume. I wonder what purpose these reports will serve, except probably decorating the archives of the Secretariat. Unreliable as they are even to reflect the present trade condition of an agricultural commodity, how utterly out of date this will be in future years when the conditions governing the production and distribution of a commodity will so vastly change. Probably the Government experts think that agriculture is a static thing taking its traditional bath in its stagnant pool.

This scheme has been placed under the charge of the Head of the Agriculture Department and it has been amply proved on the floor of this House by all sections of the House that this Agriculture Department has utterly failed to do any real good to the Province.

Sir, so far as this Province is concerned, I can say without any fear of contradiction that it is a net importing Province, and probably fruits are the only marketable surplus of this Province as already mentioned by me, and owing to the mismanagement and bad handling of this Department the whole organisation has toppled down. So, there is no justification of maintaining this show.

Sir, in my Budget speech, I mentioned about the nepotism and jobbery of this Department. When the Marketing Officer, who was appointed first by this Government, was transferred, the Seniormost Assistant Marketing Officer filled up the vacancy, but when that officer was transferred and promoted to the post of Assistant to the

Director of Agriculture, Assam, the previous procedure and principle of sectional promotion was given a go-by and there was advertisements for this post. Those advertisements were drafted in such a way that a particular person only might be taken in. Sir, here an Inspector of Agriculture Department having no experience about the marketing section has been pitchforked into the *Guddy* by the proverbial backdoor. Why the claim of the Assistant Marketing Officer having eight years experience behind him has been overlooked and why he has been ousted? I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister has any direct hand in this drafting and appointment. But certainly I can charge him of negligence for overlooking the claim of the seniormost officer in that Department. Sir, I think under all these ugly and useless circumstances there is no justification of continuing this section any more.

(Now, Sir, badly conceived, badly matured, badly manned and badly run does this marketing organisation deserve a fresh lease of life? I leave it to the hon. Members of this House; let me see whether they can with their conscience wide awake support the Motion. Sir, I again appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw his Motion and to utilise the money that has been provided under this head for some other purpose which will really be beneficial to the cultivators for whom he is trying to push through this Motion.) If the Government feel shy to dismantle it, they can at least utilise all these officers for a worthier cause, I mean the Grow More Food campaign.

With these observations I oppose the Motion.

Mr. F. W. BLENNERHASSETT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find myself regretfully unable to support the Motion that this section should continue in its present form. On another occasion I appealed to the Hon'ble Minister to revise the operations of work done by this section and put it on to the production side. As far as I can see all the problems of marketing have been solved. Marketing is no longer a problem. What is the problem? There are two enormous problems: production and procurement. Those two things stand first and foremost in the economic necessities of the Province of Assam today. There are, besides these two problems, other activities which could be performed by the personnel of this section.

We all know that we are short of such things as eggs, chickens, ducks, geese, green vegetables and the like. There is limitless scope for initiative and good work on these lines. The commodities I have mentioned are definitely short in production in this Province and widespread mal-nutrition calls for their immediate improvement. Marketing does not come into the picture. Markets are on our door step. We want more of the things which go to make up the necessities of the balanced diet.

Live-stock could well be looked into. Far more propaganda on the lines of the Live-stock Improvement Association could be gone in for and the greater production apart from such things as cattle could be encouraged—goats, we all know, are being eaten almost as rapidly as they can breed and that is saying something.

In conclusion, Sir, (I do not wish Government to take what I have said as in any form of censure but rather as helpful suggestion: but I do urge the vital necessity of stopping this Department in its present form and deviating the money to some other beneficial employment.)

Finally, Sir, I would like to pay a tribute to the activities of the Agriculture Department as a whole. During the past two or three years, whatever the shortcomings of the Department may be, there is no doubt about it that we have not been faced with a famine problem as faced Bengal and if the present rate of progress is maintained we need not fear that any such problem will ever face us. We have increased our areas under production and we have increased crop per acre. As long as the Agriculture Department works on those lines, on general principles they cannot be criticised very severely. I am sure the Department is working with a lack of personnel. It wants more men. It is under-staffed. I request the Government to make the staff adequate under the Agriculture Department; then the money proposed to be spent will be more than justified.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion. The Marketing Scheme is unnecessary now. Its intention was to help the producers to get better price or value of the commodities produced which is not necessary now. Prices of commodities have already gone much more than we expected. So, it is entirely out of question to maintain this section in its present form. The present activities of this Section in helping the producers to get more money, for the

commodities they produce and to encourage the producers to produce more of agricultural produce are not necessary now in view of the Grow More Food campaign. People are producing various sorts of commodities under this Campaign.

Our duty as Members of the Legislature is to swell the purse of our Provincial Exchequer, but by retaining this scheme, we shall be simply throwing out some money out of it. At least this scheme should be suspended for the war period.

I do not criticise the personnel and their qualifications but am only saying that the necessity of continuing this scheme does not exist now.

For these reasons, Sir, I oppose this Motion.

Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government is amenable to reasons or not we must register our disapproval of whatever we think to be not in the interest of the Province. In fact, we disapproved of such extension last year also and from what the Hon'ble Minister has said today, I don't find anything to revise my opinion on this question. Sir, as has been thoroughly discussed by my hon. Friend Mr. B. N. Mookerjee, there is absolutely no need for continuing with this Department any more. As for the selling side of it, our goods are all consumed at fair prices within the Province and so we need not seek for any outside market. As for purchasing, Sir, the Government has not thought it fit to give any responsibility on this Department and has in fact appointed several agencies for that purpose. Therefore, Sir, I submit that there is absolutely no reason for having a Department like this now and so we refuse to give our support to this Motion.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Mr. Mookerjee gave me a place of pride in his speech and quoted in extenso from what I said before about the activities of this branch, I propose to reply very shortly to the criticisms. I am obliged to each hon. Member who had spoken not with the idea of criticising Government but with giving constructive suggestions. We are all thankful to them.

We must not forget two things about this Marketing Department, I mean this branch of the Agricultural Department. Originally, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research wanted us to start this branch with a contribution—a substantial contribution for five years. The amount was Rs.50,000 total. That period of five years is over and it was open to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research of the Central Government to stop their contribution. However, they have been pleased to offer us Rs.5,500 towards the expenditure of this Department. My Friends have rightly said that at the present juncture the market is already existent. Therefore, the Marketing Section is not required to find new markets for Assam products. Superficially, they are correct. Although this Department is called the Marketing Section, besides its main duties, many other functions have been devolved upon it. To state only one instance, the grading of different commodities which is bringing quite a good amount of benefit to our cultivators is done by this Section of the Agriculture Department. The Military are not taking any eggs that have not been graded and those that have been graded by the Agricultural Department and "Agmark"ed only get market. Already 2 lakhs rupees worth of eggs, the Military have taken after being tested, passed and graded by the Marketing Section. While both my Colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and myself were at Jorhat in November last a Brahmin gentleman, hailing from Bengal, presented us with two boxes of eggs in the open meeting of the National War Front. He was the gentleman who had been entrusted with this duty of grading of eggs. In order to show how the grading of the different kinds of eggs benefited the public he put the different sizes of the eggs in different compartments of the box and he said, Sir, that if these eggs had gone to the market in an ordinary way without being graded, probably they would not have fetched a rupee or Re.1-8-0 per every 20. But after being graded, out of 20 at least 10 of bigger size are being sold at Rs.2-4-0 per score while eggs of second grade are selling at Re.1-12-0 and the third at Re.1-8-0. It is due to the activities of the Marketing Section which has introduced grading not only of eggs but of various other commodities including butter which the Military is taking in a large quantity that our people are getting some extra money. So, we have cause for satisfaction that a part of its expenses is borne by the Central Government while the Section is doing many other kinds of activities. As they are not to find any market owing to the present abnormal times, and as we cannot utilise them whole time for marketing

and survey we are putting up a report to the authority enquiring whether we can utilise their services for other activities of the Agricultural Department. We have already utilised the services of the personnel of this Section in the Grow More Food campaign. I know, Sir, the principal Marketing Officer Babu Narmada Kumar Das was sent by the Department to Patna in order to see that the seeds which the Department was bringing from Patna, for distribution to the Assam public were of the right kind. He also helped in the procurement of potato seeds which are being distributed by the Department for the Grow More Food Scheme. Then again, Sir, this gentleman and his subordinate staff were utilised for the distribution of those improved seeds and manure for better yield of the different food crops that are grown in Assam. It is unfortunate that this principal Marketing Officer has now been made the Assistant to the Director of Agriculture. In one sense we are fortunate that though his added long experience in this duty is a direct loss to that Section, but he is in close touch with the Director of Agriculture and so he is in a better position to guide and help this Section. He will after the war have to revert to his former position. In the mean time we have taken in, in consultation with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, an Inspector of Agricultural Department who had the best qualifications to become the principal Marketing Officer. He is a Muslim from Jorhat and is a graduate of Nagpur Agricultural College. He had a special training in statistics. I have heard on the floor of this House not only from Mr. Mookerjee but also from almost all the Members of the European Group that statistics in Assam are lamentably incorrect. This gentleman was specially trained in statistics and can devote his time also to the utilisation of his subordinates in compiling better statistics of agricultural products. So, Sir, it is the simple point before the House whether in the name of the Marketing Section we should continue this Department for another year and continue to get the monetary help which the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is offering us, or scrap the whole thing. My idea is to keep this section going instead of re-employing the staff entirely from Provincial revenue to help in the Grow More Food Campaign. I think, prudence, Sir, will say 'Get the money that is offered and utilise it in the best way that you can for the benefit of the Province.' I think that is the idea of Mr. Blennerhassett and that is the idea of Mr. Mookerjee.....

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, we want to go to the black market, instead.....

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Mookerjee, in his speech, was definitely urging the Assam Government to bag the money given by the Central Government and spend in the name of this Department upto that amount only.

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. I said, "Let the money which will be coming from the Central Government be utilised for the purpose which the Central Government wanted, i.e., the work of survey." I distinctly said this. The proceedings are there. I will be the last person to speak like what the Hon'ble Premier has just said.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not think my Friend has improved matters by his explanation. He distinctly said that "You continue this Department, get this money of Rs.5,500 from the Central Government and spend only upto that amount in the name of the Department." In the first place if we accept this amount of Rs.5,500 it is absolutely necessary and we are bound by the agreement with the Central Government that we spend from the Provincial revenues also upto the full Scheme approved by the Council of Agricultural Research.

Now we are to decide whether we are to scrap the whole thing and say that we do not want to take the advantage of the amount of Rs. 5,500 that we are offered. In that case we will have to give notice to the employees and discharge them, and having discharged them they will have to be re-employed to do the other functions which are now being done by this Section. What I am telling the House is giving not only my opinion but also the opinions from other sources which I have heard, that this Department is doing at least some kind of work which is relevant to the functions for which they were intended, and they are the means of bringing to our cultivators quite a large amount of benefit. So, why grudge this small amount involved in this Department for its existence for one year more? If we could not show any good

result or reap some benefit out of this Department the Indian Council of Agricultural Research would not have paid us any money for this purpose.

Some other Provinces have gone to the length of making this Department, permanent, for example Madras. We have not come before the House to make it permanent but only to continue its activities for one year more if for nothing else, for the grading purpose at least. After finishing this grading business if we find that there is no useful work for them we will scrap them ourselves. But for the present, I think, it would be to the best advantage of the Province if we continue this Department for one more year and direct the best part of their work in other activities of the Agriculture Department.

I think, I have placed the materials before the House in such a way that Members will be able to judge whether the constructive suggestion of my hon. Friend Mr. Blennerhassett could not be better carried out under the Motion that has been moved by my colleague.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves that the term of the Agricultural Marketing Scheme, which will expire on the 31st March 1944, be extended till the end of the year 1944-45."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—28.

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|---|---|
| 1. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla. | 13. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury. |
| 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta. | 14. Khan Sahib Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahabab Chaudhury. |
| 3. The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali. | 15. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklmur Roza Chaudhury. |
| 4. The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty. | 16. Maulavi Muhammad Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury. |
| 5. The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri. | 17. Maulavi Mabarak Ali. |
| 6. The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia. | 18. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman. |
| 7. The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri. | 19. Mr. F. W. Blennerhassett. |
| 8. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. | 20. Mr. D. B. H. Moore. |
| 9. The Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn. | 21. Mr. C. W. Morley. |
| 10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma. | 22. Mr. R. A. Palmer. |
| 11. Srijut Joges Chandra Gohain. | 23. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin. |
| 12. Srijut Surendranath Buragohain. | 24. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das. |
| | 25. Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan. |
| | 26. Rev. L. Gatphoh. |
| | 27. Mr. C. Goldsmith. |
| | 28. Mr. Jobang D. Marak. |

NOES—3.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 3. Babu Nirendra Nath Dev. |
| 2. Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. | |

The question was adopted.

Prorogation of the Assembly

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:

This finishes the business of the day. It is the order of His Excellency the Governor that the Assembly is to be prorogued at the conclusion of its sitting to-day. His order is to this effect:

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (b) of Sub-Section (2) of Section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Andrew Gourlay Clow, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting of the 25th March 1944.

*Shillong,
The 23rd March, 1944.*

A. G. CLOW,
Governor of Assam."

The Assembly was then prorogued.

*Shillong:
The 20th May 1944.*

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

APPENDIX D.

Authenticated schedule specifying the grants made by the Legislative Assembly and the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of Assam for the year 1944-45, as required by section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935

No. of grant	Description	Charged			Demand as presented to the Assembly (Voted)	Amount of cut made by the Assembly (Voted)	Amount included by Governor (Voted)	Authenticated amounts (Voted)
		Non-excluded areas	Excluded areas	Total authenticated amounts				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Taxes on Income other than Corporation tax.	....	....	....	41,400	....	....	41,400
2	Land Revenue	36,600	27,200	63,800	18,77,700	....	....	18,77,700
3	Provincial Excise	20,300	18,200	38,500	3,89,500	....	....	3,89,500
4	Stamps .. ..	....	100	100	47,000	....	....	47,000
5	Forests	1,64,300	2,02,200	3,66,500	14,49,200	....	....	14,49,200
6	Registration .. ..	....	....	....	1,73,500	....	....	1,73,500
7	Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	....	20	20	2,87,200	....	....	2,87,200
8	Other Taxes and Duties .. ..	....	....	....	6,400	....	....	6,400
9	Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.	18,700	....	18,700	7,31,700	....	....	7,31,700
	Interest on debt and other obligations.	7,68,700	....	7,68,700	....	....	....	....
	Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of Debt.	13,07,900	....	13,07,900	....	....	....	....
10	General Administration	11,28,000	3,68,700	14,96,700	26,19,000	....	....	26,19,000
11	Administration of Justice.. ..	2,53,300	900	2,54,200	9,04,600	....	....	9,04,600
12	Jails and Convict Settlements	2,100	9,400	11,500	11,40,100	....	....	11,40,100
13	Police	3,20,300	1,45,000	4,65,300	34,03,200	....	....	34,03,200
14	Ports and Pilotage .. ..	....	....	....	2,000	....	....	2,000
15	Scientific Departments .. ..	....	....	....	5,600	....	....	5,600
16	Education (European)	900	3,700	4,600	49,000	....	....	49,000

APPENDIX D.—*concl'd.*

17	Education (other than European)	..	1,53,900	1,53,900	45,51,100	..	....	45,51,100
18	Medical	1,12,700	2,63,700	3,76,400	13,18,300	....	....	13,18,300
19	Public Health .. ..	....	42,700	42,700	14,06,400	....	....	14,06,400
20	Agriculture .. ..	....	1,59,400	1,59,400	26,65,400	....	....	26,65,400
21	Veterinary .. ..	....	6,700	6,700	2,53,900	....	....	2,53,900
22	Co-operation	23,200	....	23,200	2,53,200	....	....	2,53,200
23	Industries .. ..	....	4,100	4,100	3,41,200	....	....	3,41,200
24	Miscellaneous Departments ..	....	100	100	1,20,400	....	....	1,20,400
25	Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment).	50,000	4,01,600	4,51,600	34,57,900	....	....	4,57,900
26	Tools and Plant and Establishment charges.	48,600	47,800	96,400	4,10,400	....	....	4,10,400
27	Famine Relief .. ..	....	500	500	50,000	....	....	50,000
28	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	8,00,900	....	8,00,900	18,95,000	....	....	18,95,000
29	Stationery and Printing	1,400	4,200	5,600	4,99,600	....	....	4,99,600
30	Miscellaneous	18,27,000	1,63,500	19,90,500	31,54,200	....	....	31,54,200
31	Extraordinary charges .. ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
32	Transfer to Revenue Reserve Fund	....	....	....	25,00,000	....	....	25,00,000
33	Civil Defence	41,700	85,000	1,26,700	14,92,200	....	....	14,92,200
34	Capital outlay on provincial schemes connected with war.	....	....	....	46,60,500	....	....	46,60,500
35	Loans and advances bearing and not bearing interest.	....	....	....	6,24,000	....	....	6,24,000
	Grand total	69,26,600	21,08,620	90,35,220	4,27,80,800	....	....	4,27,80,800

A. G. CLOW,
Governor.

The 22nd March, 1944.

APPENDIX E

Authenticated schedule of supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 1943-44, laid before the Legislative Assembly in the March Session, 1944, under section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935

Number of Grant	Heads	Supplementary amount laid before the Assembly in the Session					Amount of cut made by the Assembly	Amount included by Governor	Amount now authenticated				Remarks
		Charged			Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Charged							
		Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Charged			Non-excluded areas (Voted)			Charged				
			Non-excluded areas	Ex-cluded areas					Total	Non-excluded areas	Ex-cluded areas	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	4.—Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax ..	4,530	..	..	..	..	..	4,530	..	..	..	..
2	7.—Land Revenue ..	35,500	..	..	..	..	..	35,500	..	..	..	..
3,1&11	8.—Provincial Excise ..	52,000	17,840	3,200	21,040	..	..	52,000	17,840	3,200	21,040	..
4	9.—Stamps ..	13,386	..	..	..	..	..	13,386	..	..	..	..
5&12	10.—Forests ..	11,81,625	..	16,770	16,770	..	..	11,81,625	..	16,770	16,770	..
6	11.—Registration ..	12,707	..	..	..	..	..	12,707	..	..	..	..
13	12.—Motor Vehicles Taxation..	..	..	23,800	23,800	..	..	..	..	23,800	23,800	..
7	13.—Other Taxes and Duties ..	735	..	..	..	..	..	735	..	..	..	..
8&2	18.B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works ..	43,500	10,700	..	10,700	..	..	43,500	10,700	..	10,700	..
3	22.—Interest on Debt and other obligations ..	..	1,55,500	..	1,55,500	..	..	..	1,55,500	..	1,55,500	..
9,4&14	25.—General Administration ..	1,60,975	7,840	23,195	31,035	..	..	1,60,875	7,840	23,195	31,035	..
10,5&15	27.—Administration of Justice ..	1,27,262	43,818	600	44,418	..	..	1,27,262	43,818	600	44,418	..
11&16	28.—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	9,35,986	..	3,000	3,000	..	..	9,35,986	..	3,000	3,000	..
12,6&17	29.—Police ..	3,30,397	16,000	40,655	56,655	..	..	3,30,397	16,000	40,655	56,655	..
7	30.—Ports and Pilotage ..	..	17	..	17	..	..	..	17	..	17	..

APPENDIX E—concl'd.

Number of Grant	Heads	Supplementary amount laid before the Assembly in this Session				Amount of cut made by the Assembly	Amount included by Governor	Amount now authenticated				Remarks	
		Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Charged					Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Non-excluded areas (Voted)	Charged			
			Non-excluded areas	Ex-cluded areas	Total					Non-excluded areas	Ex-cluded areas		Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
13	36.—Scientific Departments	35	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	..	..	..
14	37.—Education (other than European.)	91,159	..	..	..	..	..	91,159	..	..	..	..
15, 8&18	38.—Medical	1,50,936	3,400	33,486	36,886	..	..	1,50,936	3,400	33,486	36,886	..
16	39.—Public Health	2,10,669	..	..	..	..	..	2,10,669	..	..	..	..
17&19	40.—Agriculture	8,62,988	..	37,150	37,150	..	..	8,62,988	..	37,150	37,150	..
18	41.—Veterinary	2,080	..	..	..	..	..	2,080	..	..	..	..
9	42.—Co-operation	..	900	..	900	..	..	..	900	..	..	..
19&20	43.—Industries	4,080	..	941	941	..	..	4,080	..	941	941	..
20&21	50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment charges).	1,07,709	..	25,100	25,100	..	..	1,07,709	..	25,100	25,100	..
21	Tools and Plant and Establishment charges.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
22	54-A.—Famine Relief.	..	..	2,567	2,567	..	..	..	..	2,567	2,567	..
22	56.—Stationery and Printing	91,650	..	..	..	..	..	91,650	..	..	..	..
23, 10 & 23	57.—Miscellaneous	29,86,755	6,60,927	1,98,043	8,58,970	..	..	29,86,755	6,60,927	1,98,043	8,58,970	..
24	85.-A.—Capital outlay on Provincial scheme connected with war.	2,77,18,008	..	..	..	..	..	2,77,18,008	..	..	..	..
	Grand total	3,51,24,573	9,16,942	4,08,507	13,25,449	..	..	3,51,24,573	9,16,942	4,08,507	13,25,449	..

The 24th March 1944.

A. G. CLOW,
Governor.

A. G. P. (L. A.) No.11-122+2-24-5-1944.